

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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**Quote!**  
The best revenge is massive success  
— Franck Sinatra

## NEWS DIGEST

### Mirwaiz Among 500 Influential Muslims

**SRINAGAR:** Senior separatist leader and chairman All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has once again been listed. **More On P10**

### LG Launches 'JKeCOP'

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday declared "much-awaited" CCTNS project of J&K Police "Go-Live" and launched "JKeCOP" Mobile App. "These citizen-centric technological interventions are aimed at creating a comprehensive, integrated system enhancing the efficiency, effective policing at all levels." **More On P10**

### Electric Shock Kills Woman

**SRINAGAR:** A woman died after receiving an electric shock in north Kashmir's Baniptara district on Wednesday. 27-year-old Muneera Begum, wife of Reyaz Ahmad received electric shock when she came into contact with a live wire at her home in Dardpora village on Wednesday afternoon, reports said. A mother of three. **More On P10**

### Man Held With Grenade In Kishtwar

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested a man with a grenade in Kishtwar district of Jammu division. Sohail Ahmed Bhat of Bathri Gandoh, Doda was arrested by a joint team of police, army's 26 RR and CRPF 52 battalion when he tried to escape from a checkpoint at Drabshalla Thathri. **More On P10**

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## Army Seminar Debates Rights Abuses By Militants

Why Don't Human Rights Groups, Civil Society And Media Speak-Up Now: GoC 15 Corps

**Auqib Javed**

**SRINAGAR:** The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's Srinagar-based Chinara Corps (15 Corps), Lt Gen D P Pandey on Wednesday questioned human rights groups, local, national and international media houses, for their "silence" on the recent spate of civilian killings in Kashmir. General Pandey was



addressing a seminar at Army's Badamibagh Cantonment in Srinagar. In the opening remarks, Lt Gen Pandey said that these groups come down heavily on the security forces for any wrong doings but **More On P10**

## 4 Militants, Soldier Killed In South Kashmir Encounters

Police Says Slain Militants Were Responsible For Killing Of Migrant Labourers

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Four militants and a soldier were killed and two army men injured on Wednesday in two separate encounters in south Kashmir's Shopian and Kulgam districts.

Police, army's 44 RR and the personnel of CRPF 178 battalion launched a joint cordon and search operation (CASO) in Dragad village of the district on the basis of specific input about the presence of militants, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. The holed-up militants, he said, were given repeated opportunities to surrender after their presence got ascertained.

"Instead they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter,"



the police spokesperson said.

In the ensuing encounter, he said, two militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

The police spokesperson identified them as Lashkar district commander for Shopian Adil Hussain Wani of Shirmal, Shopian and his associate Shakir Ahmad Wani of Litter Pulwama.

As per police records, he said, both the killed militants were involved in several terror crime cases including

civilian atrocities.

He said that the LeT commander was active since July 2020 and was involved in several "terror crime" cases, including the killing of Sageer Ahmad, a carpenter from Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh, at Litter Pulwama on Saturday last.

"One of the killers of said carpenter was resident of the same village and got active recently after joining terror folds. Reportedly, after committing the **More On P10**

### BATTLE OF POONCH

## Loud Blasts Rattle Forest Area As Operation Enters Day 10

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The massive search operation against holed-up militants continued for the tenth day on Wednesday in the dense forests of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Rajouri districts, where nine army personnel were killed in two separate attacks last week, officials said.

However, there was no contact with the militants as the joint search parties of the army and special operations group of local police moved cautiously



in the dense forests of Mendhar and Surankote in Poonch and Thanamandi in Rajouri, clearing a vast area during the day, they said. **More On P10**

## DCs To Transfer Agri Land For Non-Agriculturalist Subject

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday authorised the district collectors to alienate agricultural land to a non-agriculturalist for extending the primary activity on a larger commercial scale.

"The Administrative Council

(AC), which met here today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, authorised the District Collectors to grant permission to an agriculturalist to alienate land to a non-agriculturalist subject to certain conditions and procedure for extending primary activities on larger commercial **More On P10**

## J&K Logs 78 New Cases, 1 Corona Death

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 78 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while the deadly infection another life in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, Kashmir Valley registered 66 new cases of virus while the remaining 12 were detected in Jammu division, taking the number of people infected by virus in the Union Territory to 331299.

In Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported highest 48 new cases of virus followed by **More On P10**

## NIA Carries Out Fresh Raids In Kashmir, 4 Held

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The NIA on Wednesday conducted searches at multiple locations in four districts of Jammu and Kashmir and arrested four alleged militant associates in connection with a terrorism conspiracy case, an official said.

The searches were carried out at 11 locations in Srinagar, Pulwama, Kulgam and Baramulla districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Suhail Ahmad Thokar of Kulgam; Kamran Ashraf Reshi, Rayid Bashir and Hanan Gulzar Dar from Srinagar, have been arrested by the premier investigation agency, the NIA official said.

The case relates to conspiracy for undertaking violent terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir along with other major cities by cadres of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizbul-Mujahideen (HM), Al Badr and similar other outfits and their affiliates including The Resistance Front (TRF), People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF) among others, the NIA official said.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) registered the case on October 10 and has so far arrested nine accused. The searches have **More On P10**

## Rains, Snow In Kashmir From Friday

### Air, Surface Traffic And Electricity Likely To Be Affected

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** The meteorological department on Wednesday issued a weather advisory warning of widespread rain and snow that could lead to temporary disruption of air and surface traffic and cause damage to horticultural crops in Jammu and Kashmir from Friday evening.

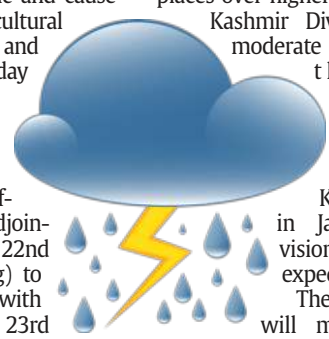
"An active Western Disturbance will most likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas from 22nd October (evening) to 24th October with peak activity on 23rd October," reads an advisory sent to divisional commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu respectively by Mukhtar Ahmad (Director/LACD MeT department) here.

"Under the influence of above system, widespread moderate rain/snow is

expected in Jammu. Kashmir and light rain/snow at many places of Ladakh region during 22 to 24 October," the advisory reads, adding, "Possibility of light snow in plains, moderate snow in middle reaches and heavy snow at isolated places over higher reaches of

Kashmir Division and moderate rain with thunder/lightning and gusty winds (30-40 K M P H) in Jammu division is also expected."

The system will most likely to cause heavy snow mainly in upper reaches of Kashmir (Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg (Zojila pass), Baramulla, Bandipora (Gurez & Tulial Valley), Kupwara (Machil and Karah Sector), Shopian, Qazigund-Banihal axis. **More On P10**



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Thursday|21-10-2021

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**از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کربوری**  
عنوان: بشمون درخواست خنایب رفیقہ بیگم زوچہ مرحوم فیاض احمد نجار ساکنہ چنانہ پورہ ربی پورہ برادھانی ڈیپنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ  
اشیہار ہمارا دا گاہی ہر خاص و عام  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست ہمارا عطا یگی ڈیپنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے اس بارے میں پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جسے عیاں ہے سائل کا خاندان مرحوم فیاض احمد نجار ولد صاحبہ لکھنار ساکنہ چنانہ پورہ (ربی پورہ) موہنہ 20-09-2021 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی کا نمبر بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

نام	عمر	پیشہ
رفیقہ بیگم زوچہ مرحوم فیاض احمد	47	گھریلو کام
عمران فیاض پسر	15	زیر تعلیم
فرقان فیاض پسر	08	زیر تعلیم
عروہ فیاض دختر	08	زیر تعلیم

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کم نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھما کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار  
ajj

**اطلاع عام۔**  
میری برویں جماعت کی ڈسپارچ سرٹیفکیٹ کی پیم ہوئی ہے اب اس کی ڈپلیکیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر پرنسپل گورنمنٹ ہائیر سیکنڈری سکول مٹن کے دفتر میں پیش کریں میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

گزارا احمد حجام ولد غلام نجی دین حجام  
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**THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS**  
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Subject :- Conduct of physical round of counselling for admission to B.Sc. Nursing / B.Sc. Paramedical/B. Sc. Technology Courses, 2021.  
Reference: (i) Notification No. 070-BOPEE of 2021 dated 08-07-2021.  
(ii) Notice No. 058-BOPEE of 2021 dated 26-07-2021.  
(iii) Notice No. 061-BOPEE of 2021 dated 13-08-2021.  
(iv) Letter No: SC/491-B.Sc-Nursing/7513 dated 11-10-2021.  
(v) Notification No. 087-BOPEE of 2021 dated 09-09-2021.  
(vi) Notification No. 104-BOPEE of 2021 dated 13-10-2021.

**Notification No. 111 -BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 18-10-2021**  
Consequent upon issuance of Notification No. 104-BOPEE of 2021 dated 13-10-2021, where-under the Provisional Merit List of the candidates, who had appeared in the Common Entrance Test held on 19-09-2021 for admission to B.Sc. Nursing/B.Sc. Paramedical / B. Sc. Technology Courses, 2021, it is hereby notified that the candidates, who have scored 25 points and above in the said Entrance Test, their physical round of counselling shall be held w.e.f. 25-10-2021 to 03-11-2021 as per following schedule at BOPEE Office, Srinagar/Jammu simultaneously:-

Day / Date	From Rank	To Rank
Monday/25-10-2021	01	300
Tuesday/26-10-2021	301	650
Wednesday/27-10-2021	651	1000
Thursday/28-10-2021	1001	1350
Friday/29-10-2021	1351	1800
Saturday/30-10-2021	1801	2250
Sunday/ 31-10-2021	2251	2700
Monday/01-11-2021	2701	3150
Tuesday/02-11-2021	3151	3600
Wednesday/03-11-2021	3601	4062

**NOTE 1**  
a) The candidates are advised to report at the BOPEE Office, Srinagar/ Jammu on their respective day/date of counselling at 8.30 AM to 10.30 AM for registration / attendance for submission of preferences forms.  
b) Candidates shall have to make the payment of Rs. 1000/= as counselling charges / fee, through POS Machines available in the BOPEE Office, Jammu / Srinagar on the day / date of counselling.

**NOTE 2**  
1. It is compulsory for all the eligible candidates, who have been called for counselling as per the above counselling schedule shall bring along with them the copy of Admit Card and Application Form submitted by them at the time of applying for the above courses.  
2. All the candidates including those whose forms are deficient have to bring all relevant documents like Domicile Certificate, 12th class qualification certificate and Reserved category certificate, if any, on the same day / time of the counselling at BOPEE office Jammu / Srinagar, failing which they shall not be allowed to participate in the counselling process on their own risk and responsibility and their candidature shall be cancelled abinitio.  
3. The Reservation Policy shall be applicable in respect of Government Institutions only under S.O. 127 of 2020 dated 20-04-2020, read with SO-249 of 2021 dated 23-07-2021.  
4. The list of candidates who have been awarded sports points by the J&K Sports Council vide letter No SC/491-B. Sc. Nursing/7513 dated 11-10-2021 is already available on BOPEE website www.jakbopee.gov.in.  
5. The candidates are strictly advised to follow the SOP's and guidelines issued by the Government with regard to COVID-19.  
Other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the e-Information Brochure and Notifications/ Notice issued by the Board from time to time on the subject.

E&OE.  
(Dr. Sunil Gupta)  
Controller of Examinations,  
J&K BOPEE.

No: BOPEE/Exam-06/2021 Dated: 18-10-2021  
**DIPK-NB-4356/21**

**از نیابت چھانڈل**  
عنوان: بشمون درخواست طفیل احمد ربی ولد عبدالغفار ربی ساکنہ بدرہ کوٹ ٹنگرگ برادھانی گیگی RBA تحت SRO294  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکنہ دختر بڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا ت ریکارڈ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع بدرہ کوٹ ٹنگرگ کا سکونت دار ہے کہیں کی مہمان آمدنی مبلغ 5800 روپیہ تک ہے۔ کہیں بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

عبدالغفار ربی ولد احدر ربی	مزدوری	52 سال
گھریلو کام	48	
زیر تعلیم	19	
زیر تعلیم	17	
زیر تعلیم	15	
زیر تعلیم	11	

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نائب تحصیلدار چھانڈل  
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Budgam Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office of the Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Budgam**

Subject:- Jammu & Kashmir Unified Building Bye-Laws 2021 Notification and adoption thereof.

**NOTIFICATION**

In exercise of the powers conferred under J&K Municipal Act 2000, and in view of the approval accorded by the Administrative Department (Housing & Urban Development Department) vide No. HUD-LSGOJMC/56/2021-01 (C.No 16560) dated 09.10.2021, conveyed by the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir, vide letter No. DULB/G/6/22698-22778 dated 12.10.2021, Jammu & Kashmir Unified Building Bye-Laws 2021, are hereby Notified for adoption and implementation within the limits of Municipal Council Budgam. The copy of Jammu Kashmir Unified Building Bye Laws 2021 is available at the Office of Municipal Council Budgam.

No. MC/Bud/ 2021-22/3905-11  
Dated:18/10/2021

Chief Executive Officer  
Municipal Council  
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**DIPK-NB-4362/21**

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHANSAHIB.**  
Email: eomckhansahib@gmail.com

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Subject:-Jammu & Kashmir Unified Building Bye-Laws 2021 Notification and adoption thereof.

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No. MC/KSB/ 2021-22/1260-65  
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**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE HAS INTENSIFIED ITS CRACKDOWN** against bikers here and seized hundreds of two-wheelers allegedly without any “reason or rhyme” causing much inconvenience to the city residents. Pic Abid Bhat

# Art-370 Abrogation ‘Best Thing’: Vijay Dhar



Auqib Javed

**SRINAGAR:** Prominent educationist Vijay Dhar on Wednesday termed the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir’s special status as the “best thing” to have happened as Kashmiris were “looked down upon” owing to it.

“You might not have faced it but I have faced it from the people of other states,” said Dhar, chairman of the Delhi Public School (DPS) Srinagar, addressing an Army organized seminar at the Badamibagh Cantonment

Board in Srinagar.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer on the sidelines of the event, Dhar further said: “people from other states would taunt and tease us.”

Commenting on the position of regional parties that the state lost its identity with the revocation of the special status, Dhar said: “If you are a shawl wala and go outside, people give you more respect if you are a Kashmiri.”

“Your identity can’t be with an article of the constitution. Your identity is your Kashmiriyat.”

Even as Dhar said that the no-

**YOUR IDENTITY** can’t be with an article of the constitution. Your identity is your Kashmiriyat.”

tion that Article 370 offered subsidies to the people of Kashmir was a misconception, he maintained that there was nothing good that the now deoperation-alised constitutional provision had for J&K. “For the new generation, he claimed, Article-370 “means nothing”, he claimed.

Article 370 was defanged and the state was bifurcated into two union territories by the Union Government on 5th August 2019 amid a clampdown that saw the longest shutdown of the internet and the detention of thousands across the region, including nearly the entire political class.

The two-day seminar, being organized by the Army’s Srinagar-based Chinara Corps, on “human rights violations by terrorists and how they affected Kashmiri citizens”, was attended by army personnel and a select group of journalists and local activists. A second session is scheduled on October 23.

## DC Approves 16 Cases Under Marriage Assistance Scheme

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** A meeting of the District Level Sanctioning Committee (DLSC) was held under the Chairmanship of District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad here today.

On the occasion, the DDC approved 16 cases under the Marriage Assistance Scheme in favour of eligible unmarried girls of Srinagar district involving an amount of Rs 7.63 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said the Marriage Assistance Scheme for poor girls is a Social Assistance Scheme meant for those un-married eligible girls living below the poverty line who may not find themselves in a position to marry due to financial constraint.

The DDC asked the concerned officers to widen its endeavour to reach out to the poor section of the district so that they take the benefits from the scheme. “Under this scheme, the Government is lending a helping hand to the poor families who could not afford to marry their daughters”, he added.

Giving details about the



scheme, the District Social Welfare Officer, Srinagar, Mohammad Ashraf Akhoun said that financial assistance of Rs 25000 and cost of 5-gram gold is being provided in favour of unmarried girls belonging to poor families for marriage under the scheme.

He informed that, so far under the scheme, more than one thousand and eighteen girls belonging to poor families of district Srinagar have been financially assisted and an amount of over Rs.4.22 crore has been sanctioned and disbursed in their favour.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, SDM West Srinagar, DPO, ICDS Srinagar and District Social Welfare Officer Srinagar.

**HE INFORMED THAT, SO FAR UNDER** the scheme, more than one thousand and eighteen girls belonging to poor families of district Srinagar have been financially assisted and an amount of over Rs.4.22 crore has been sanctioned and disbursed in their favour.

## Another Houseboat Sinks In Jhelum At Abi Guzar

Agencies



**ACCORDING TO** the news agency, CRPF personnel and River police rescued all family members and no one was injured in the incident.

**SRINAGAR:** A family of four members were rendered homeless on Wednesday after their houseboat sank in the river Jhelum at Abi Guzar on Wednesday.

According to the news agency, CRPF personnel and River police rescued all family members and no one was injured in the incident.

Owner of house boat Muzafar Ahmed Gasi told news KNO that his houseboat has got damaged completely and he has been rendered homeless along with other family members.

“We appeal to the administration for rehabilitation as we don’t have any other place to live. I have two small kids with me,” he said.

The house boat he was living in costs Rs 4 lakh. If somehow it will get repaired fully it will cost of Rs one lakh to repair it.”—(KNO)

## Retired JKSRTC Employees Stage Protest, Demand Release Of Retirement Benefits

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation retired employees Wednesday held a protest at Lalchowk press colony, demanding release of retirement benefits.

Talking to the news agency, protesters said that their retirement benefits are pending from the last 3 years.

“We are moving to every office and department but to no avail,” they said.

“If department is facing loss then how Mr Batnagar had provided an amount to existing employees while our retirement amount could not be released,” protesters said.

“We even don’t even have



money for oxygen cylinders while some have hopes to use the amount for the wedding of their kids,” a protester said.

“The protest is going on in both Jammu as well as in Kashmir. We are almost 120 employees from Srinagar and 140 employees from Jammu who are retired and are waiting for the amount to be released,” protesters said—(KNO)

## DC Hands Over Fully Loaded BLS Ambulance To CMO Sgr



KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** To further strengthen the health infrastructure in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday handed over a fully loaded Basic Lift Support (BLS) Ambulance to Chief Medical Officer Srinagar at

DC Office Complex, here.

The Ambulance was dedicated by National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) Government of India under CSR for the use of Patients and Trauma cases.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the Ambulance will help to provide people on-time medical services and will make medical care accessible to the patients.

On the occasion, CMO Srinagar expressed his gratitude to DC Srinagar and officials of NHIDCL. He said the Ambulance will provide highly beneficial in providing better healthcare to the patients in the district.

Among others, General Manager NHIDCL, Alok Saxena, CMO, Srinagar, Dr Jameel Ahmad and other concerned were present on the occasion.

## Govt Constitutes Four-Member Committee For Selection Of Dean SKIMS

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted a committee for recommending a professor to take up the charge of Dean Medical faculty at SKIMS Soura.

As per an order, a copy of which lies with a news agency the government has constituted a committee of four members for selection of the post.

“In suppression of all previous orders on the subject, sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of a committee, comprising of the following, for recommending a Professor of Dean Medical Faculty at SKIMS, Soura as per the eligibility conditions

prescribed for the said post,” reads the order.

As per the order the committee will be headed by Financial Commissioner(Additional Chief Secretary) Health and Medical Education Department.

“Prof M.S. Khuroo, former Director and Dean SKIMS Soura (Member, Governing Body, SKIMS) will be member of the committee. Two experts to be nominated by Prof. M.S Khuroo for the member post. Registrar Academics, SKIMS Soura selected will be member Secretary,” reads the order.

It reads that the committee shall submit its recommendation to the General Administration Department within a period of 10 days.(KNS)

### DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
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- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
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- BIJHERA: 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

- 1789 - French Revolution: The National Assembly declares martial law in France to prevent uprisings
- 1803 - English scientist John Dalton reads his paper on the absorption of gases by water to the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Soc - 1st outline of his atomic theory
- 1895 - The Republic of Formosa collapses as Japanese forces invade.
- 1899 - Battle at Elandslaagte Natal: (Boers vs British army)
- 1914 - Battle of Warsaw ends with German defeat
- 1917 - 1st Americans to see action on front lines of WWI: US troops enter front lines at Sommervillier under French command
- 1938 - Japanese troops occupies Canton
- 1944 - World War II: US troops capture Aachen, 1st large German city to fall.
- 1948 - Facsimile high-speed radio transmission demonstrated (Washington, D.C.)
- 1948 - UN rejects Russian proposal to destroy atomic weapons
- 1950 - Chinese forces occupy Tibet
- 1965 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Robert B Woodward
- 1966 - 116 children and 28 adults died as a coal waste heap slid and engulfed a school in Aberfan, South Wales
- 1967 - Egypt sinks Israeli torpedo boat
- 1967 - Tens of thousands of anti-Vietnam War protesters march on the Pentagon, besieging the military headquarters for two days
- 1969 - Maj Gen Mohamed Siad Barre becomes President of Somali
- 1970 - Nobel prize of peace awarded to Norman E Borlaugh
- 1971 - Nobel prize for literature awarded to Pablo Neruda
- 1975 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1975 - Venera 9, 1st craft to orbit planet Venus launched
- 1976 - Nobel prize for literature awarded to American Saul Bellow
- 1980 - Mikhail Gorbachev elected member of Politburo.
- 1985 - Qasim Omar (206) & Javed Miandad (203\*) make 397 stand v SL
- 1987 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to Robert M Solow
- 1993 - Military coup by Burundi President Ndayaye; 525,000 Hutus flee
- 2003 - Images of the dwarf planet Eris are taken and subsequently used in its discovery by the team of Michael E. Brown, Chad Trujillo, and David L. Rabinowitz.
- 2013 - The Parliament of Canada confers Honorary Canadian citizenship on women's rights and education activist Malala Yousafzai
- 2015 - German Chancellor Angela Merkel says German view of Holocaust will not change, after Benjamin Netanyahu says idea came from Mufti of Jerusalem

## From KO Archives

## ‘Missing’ ITI Instructor’s Body Found Buried

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A dead body retrieved from supposedly unused portion of a graveyard in Tangmarg has sent shock waves throughout Baramulla district and reliable sources have said the body is that of an instructor who, along with his brother, was picked up by security forces during a pre-dawn raid in September According to reports, the victim’s brother has identified the corpse. The ITI instructor, Muhammed Jamal Najjar and his brother, Abdul Rasheed, had been arrested by the 22nd RR during the night intervening 19th and 20th of September from Noorpur Jaagir, Sopore. While Rashid was dumped half-dead in Bandipora on the 10th of this month, nothing was known about his brother’s fate.

Tangmarg residents came upon the body while they were preparing a grave in a cemetery at Hardhoora, Tarhama. The discovery stunned residents as no one had been interred in the vicinity of the spot recently; and neither the body was not in advanced state of decomposition,, the locals Informed the police, It was soon that people began to connect the body with the September disappearance. Rasheed, who rushed to Taarhama on hearing of the corpse, identified the body as that of his brother.

Speaking to this news agency, IG Baramulla , Dilbagh Singh said that Muhammed Jamal and Abdul Rasheed had ‘mysteri-ously disappeared’ during the night Intervening the 19th and 20th of September, and when certain quarters raised the pos-sibility of the body recovered in Taarhama being that of Ja-mal, the body was exhumed by the civil and police authorities of the district. The incident is being viewed in the district as custodial killing. The body has been taken to Sopore, and anger against the security forces is palpable in the town.

(Kashmir Observer, October 21, 2000)



How New US Travel Rules Affect Various Countries, Including India

Josh Wingrove | Bloomberg

Washington: The new US travel policy will block entry to foreign nationals who have recovered from COVID-19 and then gotten one dose of two-dose vaccines – a standard that France and the European Commission consider full vaccination.

The US announced on Friday that it would open its borders to vaccinated travelers beginning Nov. 8, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said



that would include "any combination of two doses" from two-shot vaccines. An agency spokeswoman confirmed that people with just one dose would be excluded, regardless of whether they've also recovered from COVID-19.

That distinction could hobble travel plans across Europe, where people who've recovered and gotten one shot are considered fully vaccinated by some countries, at least for now. That standard is also one of the eligible scenarios for the EU digital Covid certificate, the bloc's widely accepted vaccine passport.

The US has never considered recovery from COVID-19 in its domestic definition of vaccination. US residents are required to have

both shots of a two-dose vaccine or Johnson & Johnson's one-shot vaccine to be deemed fully vaccinated, regardless of whether they've contracted the virus.

The Biden administration's plan to reject foreign travelers who've recovered but haven't received two shots, regardless of whether their home country considers them vaccinated, may become a fresh point of tension in the relationship between Washington and Europe – and with France in particular.

Ties were strained last month by Australia's announcement that it would abandon a deal to purchase French diesel-powered submarines to enter into a partnership with the US and UK to acquire nuclear-powered subs.

US President Joe Biden spoke with French President Emmanuel Macron on Sept. 22 to try and move past the eruption, pledging to "open a process of in-depth consultations, aimed at creating the conditions for ensuring confidence and proposing concrete measures toward common objectives."

**Varied Vaccination Rules**

Abroad, the definition of "fully vaccinated" varies. France and Norway each consider someone fully vaccinated after recovering from COVID-19 and receiving a single dose of a two-dose vaccine. Macron is among the residents of his country who are in that category.

In Greece, people who get a first dose within six months of recovering from COVID-19 are considered fully vaccinated. In Austria, people who've recovered from Covid and then received one shot can wait a year for their second shot and still be considered vaccinated in the interim.

Pak-American On Trial For 'Raping, Beheading' Former Ambassador's Daughter



The brutal murder had sparked protests across the country. (File)

**Agencies**

Islamabad: A Pakistani-American man accused of raping and beheading his girlfriend, the daughter of a former ambassador, went on trial Wednesday in the capital Islamabad.

The brutal murder of Noor Mukadam, 27, sparked protests across the country and calls for reform to Pakistan's gender violence laws.

Zahir Jaffer, 30, from a wealthy industrialist family, has denied killing Mukadam.

"The trial has formally started. Our first witness was examined today and we will produce five more witnesses at the next hearing", Shah Khawar, a prosecution lawyer told AFP outside the court in Islamabad.

The 27-year-old was attacked after refusing a marriage proposal, attempting repeatedly to es-

cape Jaffer's sprawling mansion in an upscale neighbourhood in Islamabad but blocked each time by his staff, a police report said.

Jaffer raped and tortured her with a knuckleduster before beheading her with a "sharp-edged weapon", it added.

"Her life could have been saved had the accomplices acted otherwise," the report said, which was presented to the court in a previous hearing.

Eleven others have also been charged in connection to the murder, including some of Jaffer's household staff, his parents, and others who were allegedly asked to conceal evidence.

Mukadam's murder received nationwide attention due to a growing, youth-driven women's rights movement in the country where victims of violence are often discouraged from speaking out and blamed for abuse.



Beirut: Volunteers putting final touches on the Memorial Wall portraying over 200 victims of the Beirut port blast.

US, India, Israel & UAE Join Hands to Form 'New Quad'

Trans Asia News

New Delhi: In what could mark the emergence of a new Quad, India, the United States, the United Arab Emirates and Israel recently sat down for their first 'quadrilateral' meeting on October 18, paving the way for a different geopolitical equation.

The new grouping is termed an international forum for economic cooperation. Israeli foreign minister Yair Lapid and Indian external affairs minister S Jaishankar joined the meeting from Jerusalem, while the others attended virtually.

"The three of you are among the closest relationships we have, if not the closest." He added, "I think it is very clear that on the big issues of our times we all think very similarly and what would be helpful would be if we could agree on some practical things to work upon," Jaishankar told the meeting.

"A fruitful first meeting with Israeli APM and FM@YairLapid, UAE FM@ABZayed and US Secretary of State [Antony Blinken] @SecBlinken this

evening," he tweeted after the meeting.

"Around this virtual table, there is a unique set of capabilities, knowledge and experience that can be used to create the network that we all want to see created," Lapid was quoted as saying by a news agency.

"I think the word we're looking for here is synergy, because this is what we're going to try and create starting with this meeting. Synergy that will help us work together on infrastructure, digital infrastructure, transport, maritime security and other things that preoccupy us all... The key to success is how quickly we can move from 'government-to-government' to 'business-to-business'," he added.

The group discussed the possibility of working together on joint infrastructure projects. The meeting also deliberated on each country appointing a senior level bureaucrat to be part of a joint working group to materialise these decisions. All four ministers promised to meet in person during the Dubai Expo in the coming months.

US state department spokesperson Ned Price in a statement said Blinken and his three counterparts discussed expanding economic and political cooperation in West Asia and Asia. "Blinken and the ministers also discussed people to people ties in technology and science, and how to support global public health in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic," the statement said.

The new arrangement has been formed at a time when China has been expanding its infrastructure projects, including the Belt and Road Initiative from Asia to Europe to Africa.

In his remarks, Blinken described Israel, the UAE and India as three of "our most strategic partners" and said that by "bringing friends together in new ways, we are making these partnerships even greater than the sum of their parts".

The US statement on the four nations expanding political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia and expanding maritime security is seen by observers as a very significant one.

US Surgeons Successfully Test Pig Kidney Transplant In Human Patient

Agencies

Washington: For the first time, a pig kidney has been transplanted into a human without triggering immediate rejection by the recipient's immune system, a potentially major advance that could eventually help alleviate a dire shortage of human organs for transplant.

The procedure done at NYU Langone Health in New York City involved use of a pig whose genes had been altered so that its tissues no longer contained a molecule known to trigger almost immediate rejection.

The recipient was a brain-dead patient with signs of kidney dysfunction whose family consented to the experiment before she was due to be taken off of life support, researchers told Reuters.

For three days, the new kidney was attached to her blood vessels and maintained outside her body, giving researchers ac-

cess to it.

Test results of the transplanted kidney's function "looked pretty normal," said transplant surgeon Dr. Robert Montgomery, who led the study.

The kidney made "the amount of urine that you would expect" from a transplanted human kidney, he said, and there was no evidence of the vigorous, early rejection seen when unmodified pig kidneys are transplanted into non-human primates.

The recipient's abnormal creatinine level - an indicator of poor kidney function - returned to normal after the transplant, Montgomery said.

In the United States, nearly 107,000 people are presently waiting for organ transplants, including more than 90,000 awaiting a kidney, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing. Wait times for a kidney average three-to-five years.

Researchers have been working for decades on the possibility of using animal organs for transplants, but have been stymied over how to prevent immediate rejection by the human body.

Montgomery's team theorized that knocking out the pig gene for a carbohydrate that triggers rejection - a sugar molecule, or glycan, called alpha-gal - would prevent the problem.

The genetically altered pig, dubbed GalSafe, was developed by United Therapeutics Corp's Revivicor unit. It was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in December 2020, for use as food for people with a meat allergy and as a potential source of human therapeutics.

Medical products developed from the pigs would still require specific FDA approval before being used in humans, the agency said.

Russia Hosts Taliban, Calls For Inclusive Afghan Government

Agencies

**Moscow: Russia has called on the Taliban to form a government that includes all ethnic groups and political forces in Afghanistan, as the group attended a round of talks in Moscow.**

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told Wednesday's conference in Moscow that the Kremlin recognises the Taliban's "efforts" to try and stabilise the situation in Afghanistan since taking power in mid-August.

"A new administration is in power now," Lavrov told the gathering. "We note their efforts to stabilise the military and political situation and set up work of the

Officials from 10 countries, including China and Pakistan, are participating in the conference. Representatives from India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are also attending.

The talks mark one of the Taliban's most significant international meetings since it assumed control of Afghanistan and underline Moscow's clout.

Lavrov said Moscow regretted the absence of the United States at the conference. Washington earlier said it would not join this round of talks due to technical reasons but planned to attend future discussions.

The Taliban delegation was



state apparatus."

But he urged the group to now assemble an administration "reflecting the interests of not only all ethnic groups but all political forces" in Afghanistan in order to achieve a stable peace in the country.

headed by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Salam Hanafi, a senior figure in the new Afghan leadership who led talks with the European Union and the US last week.

Abdul said the meeting was "very important for the stability of the entire region."

In Taliban-Controlled Kabul, Beauty Salon Serves As Safe Haven For Women

Agencies

Kabul: It is one of the last places in Kabul where women can meet outside their households, a bubble of freedom and even frivolity away from the gaze of men.

Mohadessa has kept her beauty salon open despite threats from Afghanistan's new rulers.

Since the Taliban seized Kabul in mid-August, many women have disappeared from public spaces, driven into private areas out of fear and sometimes very real threats.

But Mohadessa's beauty salon has, for now, remained a place where women can relax among themselves outside the household and share their pain -- or forget them in favour of fun and fashion.

The oasis of feminine industry provides income for the staff and moments of indulgence for the clients, but its days may be numbered.

"We don't want to give up and stop working," the 32-year-old entrepreneur told AFP over the hubbub of women getting ready for a wedding celebration.

"We love that we have a job, and it is necessary for women to work in Afghan society - many of them are the breadwinners for their family."

Customers are dropped off outside and whisked past posters advertising fashion and beauty brands that are now blotted out with white paint.

They quickly disappear into the shop through a heavy curtain.

Once inside, the women shed their headscarves and outer garments and their excited voices compete with the hum of hair-dryers as they choose their new looks.



Taliban Host Families Of Suicide Bombers, Give \$111, Clothes And Land

Kabul: The Taliban praised suicide bombers who died during the war against the former government and its Western allies, and offered their families sums of cash and promises of land, the movement's interior ministry said in a statement.

Sirajuddin Haqqani, a Taliban member considered the "acting interior minister," and one who has a \$10 million US bounty on his head as a "specially designated global terrorist", met the families at a ceremony at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, which was itself targeted by suicide bombers in 2018.

Official photographs of the meeting on Tuesday obscured his face.

"In his speech, the minister praised the Jihad and sacrifices of the martyrs and Mujahidin and called them heroes of Islam and the country," the Taliban's "act-



ing ministry" said in a statement on Twitter.

Families of the suicide bombers were given clothing, 10,000 afghani (\$111) and promised plots of land, spokesman Qari Sayeed Khosti said.

Haqqani took over from his father Jalaluddin Haqqani as head of the Haqqani network, a terrorist

group affiliated with the Taliban that was blamed by Western intelligence services for some of the bloodiest suicide attacks of the war.

He is wanted for questioning by the US' Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in connection with an attack on another hotel in Kabul in 2008 in which six people, including an American citizen, were killed.

Thanks But No Thanks UK queen turns down Oldie of the Year title

The 95-year-old queen has politely declined the honour of being named Oldie of the Year by a British magazine, saying she does not meet "the relevant criteria".

The Oldie magazine on Tuesday published the queen's response to its suggestion that she follow in the footsteps of former recipients, including former Prime Minister John Major, actor Olivia de Havilland and artist David Hockney.

"Her Majesty believes you are as old as you feel, as such The Queen does not believe she meets the relevant criteria to be able to accept, and hopes you will find a more worthy recipient," said a letter from her assistant private secretary, Tom Laing-Baker. He ended the letter "with Her Majesty's warmest and best wishes".



The queen, who was widowed this year, still keeps a busy schedule of royal duties. On Tuesday she held audiences with diplomats and hosted a reception at Windsor Castle for global business leaders.

The Oldie of the Year prize honours people of advanced age who have made a special contribution to public life. The queen's husband Prince Philip, who died in April, received the accolade in 2011, when he was 90.

Facebook plans to change its name

Social media giant Facebook Inc is planning to rebrand itself with a new name next week, the Verge reported on Tuesday, citing a source with direct knowledge of the matter.

Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg plans to talk about the name change at the company's annual Connect conference on October 28, but it could be unveiled sooner, the Verge reported.

In response, Facebook said it does not comment on "rumor or speculation."

The news comes at a time when the company is facing increasing US government scrutiny over its business practices. Lawmakers from both parties have excoriated the company, illustrating the rising anger in Congress with Facebook.

The rebranding would position Facebook's social media app as one of many products under a parent company, which will also oversee groups like Instagram, WhatsApp, Oculus and more, the Verge report added.



## Stuck Inside Well, Black Bear Dies In Lolab



AGENCIES

**KUPWARA:** Nearly eighteen hours after being found stuck inside a 20-feet-deep well, the black bear was on Wednesday morning retrieved dead by the local inhabitants in Kumar Mohalla locality in Wani Dorusa of Lolab.

Locals told GNS that they went to see the animal this morning only to find it motionless. As more residents poured in, the animal was retrieved from the well later on and found dead, they said.

The wild animal, as reported, had got trapped in the well, apparently while crossing over makeshift covering of the water source.

The incident has raised a question mark on the Wildlife Department, who are being alleged to have 'failed to save the animal despite being informed on time'.

It may be recalled that a Wildlife Department official had said that a team was on way to rescue the animal, even as saying, the chances of retrieving the bear alive were very high as they have dealt with such cases in the past as well.

A local, on condition of ano-

nymity, told the news agency that it was sheer failure of the Wildlife Department. "They were informed on time about it however they did nothing to save the poor animal leading to its tragic death", the local said.

When contacted, Wildlife Ranger Nissar Ahmad Rawa told the news agency that "prima facie there has been careless approach from the field staff adding action as warranted would be taken against the erring employees," Rawa said.

Chief Wildlife Warden Suresh Gupta told the agency that the matter will be looked into. "This shouldn't have happened, it is totally wrong", Gupta said adding they (staff) could have taken help from civilians or Forest Protection to save the animal. "If it is proved that the staff has been found careless in any way, necessary action will be taken", Gupta said.

Meanwhile SDM Lolab Aijaz Ahmad has said that the matter is being looked into. "The matter is under consideration however it apparently seems that the Wildlife Department employees have been lackadaisical in their approach in saving the life of the animal," he said.



Pic: Abid Bhat/KO

## Specially-Abled Persons Protest Against Social Welfare Dept

Allege GAD's Order Bars 9 Categories From Applying For Class IV Jobs

ZAID BIN SHABIR

**SRINAGAR:** Dozens of specially-abled persons staged a protest here on Wednesday against the Social Welfare department over its alleged 'discriminatory' order barring many of them from applying in the recently advertised posts by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB).

According to reports, dozens of persons with disabilities, including women under the banner of J&K Handicapped Association converged at Press Colony here and lodged a strong anti-government protest. The protesters accused the Social Welfare department and General Administrative (GAD) for upholding the order No.59 that bars nine of the 21 categories of disabled persons from applying Class IV jobs advertised recently by the SSB.

They also raised alarm against the government for ceasing the benefits of Indian Rights of Person with Disabilities Act 2016.

"The government has no clear policy for the education, employment and accessibility for persons with disabilities in Jammu and Kashmir" state President J&K Handicapped Association, Abdul Rashid Bhat told Kashmir Observer.

"On one hand the government calls us specially-abled and on the other they declare us handicapped by refusing our basic rights as to job," he added.

The whole issue augmented when more than a thousand persons with various disabilities recently applied for the Class IV

posts and were subsequently "denied the right to apply".

As per the Disabilities Act of 2016, there are 21 categories of disabled persons and out of these 21, the State Welfare department has only clarified nine categories as persons with disabilities.

"If there are 21 categories that the government has officially declared as disabled, then why are only nine being termed as disabled," Bhat said.

"That means, the 12 left out categories are neither normal nor are they considered disabled. The Social welfare department is our nodal committee and our job assurances are dependent on them but the department itself is creating hurdles for us," he added.

The protesters have also alleged that this "brutal move" by the authorities have once again raised the issue of how specially-abled persons have been denied employment opportunities within the government sector in the erstwhile state.

"When the disabled persons raised this issue, the State Welfare department constituted an expert bench and made an amendment in the basic application criteria but that too was a faulty one. Not a single specially-abled person was part of the expert committee, so, how can they amend the criteria for persons with disabilities while barring them from being part of an expert committee," Bhat lamented.

He further added, "That government should revoke those nine categories also or they should add the 12 disregarded categories in

order to provide justice to the persons with disabilities."

The protesters demanded an immediate implementation of Disabilities Acts 2016 with all of its applicable Rules as soon as possible in Jammu and Kashmir.

"If the Social Welfare department fails to revoke order No 59, then the disabled persons will call for a hunger strike till death," a female protestor told Kashmir Observer.

"The government keeps on calling us to educate ourselves but for what we should educate ourselves. The government is denying us our basic rights, so why should we educate ourselves?" she asked.

She further added, "If the administration can't provide us our rights, then it's better for them to kill us all. Almost all the persons with disabilities who had applied for this job have gathered here today, please kill us all."

It is pertinent to mention here that as per the Disabilities Act 2016, the government is entitled to provide low interest loans for persons with disabilities as well as it should be covered in subsidies, MGNREGA and all such types of works should be available for disabled persons also with 4 per cent reservation and 4 percent promotion policy.

"There should have been a proper special recruitment drive for qualified disabled persons and vertical reservation for persons with disabilities rather than horizontal in all Government jobs," Bhat said, adding "But, it looks like the government doesn't count us among humans."

## Union MoS Bhounik Visits Bandipora, E-Inaugurates Projects



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**BANDIPORA:** Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Pritima Bhounik on Wednesday visited Bandipora district as part of the Union Government's ongoing Public outreach programme.

The Minister participated in several activities, met public delegations and e-inaugurated various developmental projects including the academic complex of Higher Secondary School Sumbal constructed at the cost of Rs 11.18 Crore; road infrastructure and development of play fields, MGNREGA, Irrigation and Water Conservation projects.

While interacting with the delegations, the Minister said that the Central Government is implementing various developmental plans for the overall development of the people. She said that the Social Justice and Empowerment ministry has been entrusted with the empowerment of the disadvan-

tagged and marginalized sections of the society including Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, Senior Citizens and tribal Population. She added that the central and UT governments have launched several programmes with special focus on skill development and employment generation that will uplift the condition of these target groups.

The Minister also inspected stalls at Dak Bunglow Sumbal erected by different departments. The Minister also visited Indoor Stadium, Shadipora where several cultural programmes were presented by students.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad, Director General Social Welfare B A Dar, Additional District Development Commissioner Ali Afsar Khan, Senior Superintendent of Police Mohammad Zahid, Additional Deputy Commissioner Zahoor Ahmad Mir and other senior officers of the district were also present on the occasion.

## Stop Harassing Bikers, Adopt People-Friendly Approach: Azad to Govt

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Advising present Government to adopt people friendly approach, senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Ghulam Nabi Azad Wednesday said that it has become very vital to nab anyone involved in target killings so that their modus operandi is known and made public.

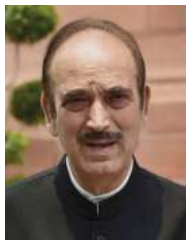
Addressing a news conference at his Hyderabad residence here, Azad said that the intense frisking and massive crackdown on the bikers was causing huge inconveniences to the general public.

While condemning the target killings in Kashmir, Azad advised government not to harass bikers and detain them. "Petrol prices are touching sky and, in these circumstances, people prefer two wheelers instead of driving a car. So, the seizure of bikes and harassment to bikers

should stop," he demanded adding that "such anti-people approach will further widen the gap between the government and common people."

Azad told reporters that two decades ago, Congress had not only curbed militancy but there was development as well. "Now there is no development. Unemployment graph has been showing upward trend. Price rise has broken the backbone of common men. Petrol prices have increased and same is the case with domestic gas. Construction work has come to a halt as there is tremendous rise in prices of sand, cement, bricks and other stuff," he said.

Ghulam Nabi Azad who had been the former Union Minister for Health said that people of Kashmir have immensely suffered from past 30 years. "Let the government take positive steps



to win the hearts and minds of the people. Instead of harassing people on the pretext of targeted killings, government should adopt people friendly approach and it should understand that people have faced a lot of

hardships. Almost every family in Kashmir have lost at least a member due to militancy," he said.

The former Rajya Sabha member in response to a question said that it is very important that an elected government should come into being so that grievances of the people are addressed. "It is not the job of bureaucrats to run the government. The job of bureaucrats is to follow the directions of the elected government and clear files. Statehood should be restored and elections conducted so that the existing gap between people and bureaucratic government should be bridged," Azad said.

## DSEK Asks Pvt Coaching Centres For Immediate Registration and Renewal Of Licenses

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The Directorate of School Education Kashmir has asked the private coaching and tuition centres for immediate registration of their centres and renewal of licenses under the District Monitoring Committee.

As per a notification, the DSEK has asked the private coaching and tuition centres to register their institutions.

"The validity in registration of private coaching and tuition centres has already expired and this office issued an advisory for information of the general public vide No. DSEK/Misc/2017 dated:10/11/2017 followed by series of advisories to the general public not to enroll their wards in un-registered coaching and tuition centres," reads the order.

It further reads that in order to follow up the registration process of private coaching and tuition centres for the year 2021-22 either for renewal of their registration or getting fresh registration, the following criteria shall be adopted for the registration process for the year 2021-22.

"The procedure for the same notified as; application forms either for renewal or registration of private coaching or tuition centres shall be submitted to the office of the District Monitoring Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner/ADC concerned by or before November 1, 2021," it reads.

It reads that t application forms on prescribed format are available on the official website of this directorate (www.dsek.nic.in) or can collect application form from this directorate or from respective chief education officers office and should also be supported with the relevant documents and no application form shall be entertained without these documents.

"Documents mentioned are as, publishing of class wise/ subject wise fee structure in the leading Kashmir based newspapers for information of the



general public especially to the aspirant candidates who intend to get coaching in the particular centre."

It further reads that publishing of details of faculty members to be hired by the private coaching or tuition centres in the leading Kashmir based newspaper and also make available the Aadhar based biometric details of each faculty member hired by the coaching or tuition centre.

"The private coaching or tuition centre shall ensure that no govt employee is imparting teaching in their coaching or tuition centre and shall submit an affidavit duly attested by the judicial magistrate, in case any violation is found from the particular coaching centre strict action under provision of law shall be initiated and also the action under J&K civil service conduct rule will be followed accordingly against the particular govt. employee," the notification reads.

It reads the private coaching or tuition centre should reserve the 10% of intake capacity quota for the students of community belonging to BPL/Orphan/ destitute for the year 2021-22 which shall be notified by this office separately on receipt of these application from the students.

"The time frame for conducting of inspection by the District Monitoring Committee headed by Deputy Commissioner/ADC is upto ending November 15, 2021 and submission of report by the district monitoring committee to this directorate is November 25, 2021 and after that no inspection report shall be entertained by this Directorate for registration or renewal purposes," it reads.

## Union MoS Shipping, Ports & Waterways On 2-Day Pahalgam Visit

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**ANANTNAG:** Union Minister of State for Shipping, Ports and Waterways, Shantanu Thakur on Wednesday arrived on a two day visit to Pahalgam.

The Minister interacted with beneficiaries and took stock of ground level implementation of various welfare schemes. Addressing a public gathering the Minister commented that he is pleased with the effective implementation of different schemes run by the Government. He underlined the commitment of the Central Government towards progress and prosperity of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Laying stress on revitalizing and promoting tourist activity to strengthen the local economy, the Minister said that the Government is already in the process of shaping some ideas to introduce electric vehicles in ecologically sensitive areas.

Assuring various delegations of the timely solution to the demands, the Union MoS informed the delegations that the public outreach



programme is aimed at listening to the voice of the common masses.

The Minister distributed cheques among SBM beneficiaries, wheelchairs and hearing aids among specially abled persons and gold cards among beneficiaries of Gold Scheme. The Minister also inspected Stalls of handicrafts and handlooms, Industries, Health and Medical Education, RDD/NRLM, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries departments and also interacted with local artisans.

Thakur also visited under construction 50 bedded Sub District Hospital at Pahalgam and the under construction NTPHC at Aru. The district administration assured the MoS that the PHC will be made operational before winter.

## 50 Fall Ill After Consuming 'Wazwan' In Bandipora Village

AGENCIES

**BANDIPORA:** Atleast 50 people have fallen ill after consuming Wazwan at a marriage party in Lawaypora village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday, officials said here.

Officials told KNO, that the around 50 wedding guests complained of vomiting and loose-motion after they consumed the feast at the marriage party at Lawaypora.

"Hearing this incident, the district Heath authorities took immediate action and dispatched the medical teams to the area for verifying the matter," they said.

"However, around 40 people who have complained of vomiting, diarrhoea and dysentery were admitted so far at District Hospital Bandipora, "the officials added.

They further said that so far, the information we are receiving seems to be due to food poisoning.

## People Of J&K Can't Be Subdued By 'Strong-Armed Measures': Farooq

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be "subdued by the strong-armed measures" and called for a "generous reach-out" to the people of J&K, saying it was the only way out to address issues concerning people.

Addressing a workers convention in Banihal, Abdullah said this while questioning the projected dawn of a new era in Jammu and Kashmir post August 5, 2019.

"Weren't we told that August 5, 2019 decisions would bring lasting peace? Where is it then? Where is the much touted new dawn

to bring job extravaganza for your educated and skilled youth? Where are those jobs? The projected Naya Kashmir by the ruling dispensation in New Delhi has proved to be a doomsday scenario for the people living on either sides of Chenab and Pir Panjal ranges," he said as per a statement.

Farooq said the claims of GOI on Jammu and Kashmir are far from reality.

"There has been a systematic disempowerment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly its youth. Having nothing to show, projects sanctioned by previous NC-led gov-



ernments are being shown as the outcome of abrogation. The reality on the ground is that the gap between the secretariat and the people is widening with each passing day. People, especially the youth of Kashmir, Chenab, Pirpanjal are feeling cheated. The alienation among the youth is at an all time high. The data released by various central agencies also attest to the ground realities in JK. Before August 5, 2019 unilateral decisions, J&K was doing better on various HDI indices nationally but post Aug 05 we are going downhill," he added.

Dr. Farooq further stated that consultations are better than coercion. He said that the corrective measures initiated by the PM were a good start but the need of the hour calls for carrying it forward. "Kashmiris, the People of Pirpanjal, Chenab, and Kargil cannot be subdued by strong-armed measures. Such things have proven abortive in the past and in the future also will prove vain. Democracies don't work that way. Democracies ought to have institutionalized debate, discussions, and consultation and reach-out mechanisms. A unanimous reach-out can only chart-out a new chapter of peace, prosperity and development in J&K," he added.

## Horticulture Deptt Issues Advisory For Fruit Growers

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** In view of weather forecast issued by Meteorological Department with possibility of heavy rains and snowfall from October 22 (evening) to October 24, 2021, the Directorate of Horticulture on Wednesday issued an advisory to fruit growers of Kashmir valley.

The advisory has requested the farmers to follow below mentioned points:

- 1) Speed up harvesting of fruit crop and its proper storage.
- 2) Ensure proper maintenance and cleaning of drainage channels, so that water logging shall not take place in the orchards.
- 3) Don't remove the stakes from the fruit trees.
- 4) Ensure proper support and staking of fruit trees and limbs damaged previous untimely snowfall.
- 5) Prefer pruning of the orchards in view of weather alert.
- 6) In case of snow fall visit your orchards and shake fruit trees and their limbs so that snow does not accumulate on fruit trees.
- 7) Those orchards where 50% of leaves of fruit trees have turned yellow spray with 4 to 5 kg of Urea per 100 litres of water for speedy leaf fall.

The fruit growers have been asked to contact concerned Horticulture offices/officers for further details.

## Bodies Of Elderly Brothers Found From Pond In Doda

AGENCIES

**DODA:** Bodies of two shepherds, who had reportedly gone missing after taking the sheep for washing, were retrieved from a pond in Gundoh Doda on Wednesday evening, officials said.

They said that police post Changa - falling under Police Station Gundoh - received information about the disappearance of two shepherds - Abdul Rashid (60) and Abdul Latif (58) sons of Ghulam Mohammad Malik of Thalaran.

The family and the officials told GNS, that as maintained in the missing report the two brothers left the Dhok on Tuesday evening to wash their sheep at a nearby pond in Merund Dhar. However they didn't return back, the officials citing the family said. While looking for the missing persons, the family members came across the clothes near the pond, presuming the duo drowned.

The police were intimated which with the assistance of locals retrieved the bodies from the pond, they further said.



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K O V I E W

Breaking The Deadlock

India is likely to invite Pakistan National Security Advisor along Moeed Yusuf along with those from China, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan for a meeting on Afghanistan in New Delhi next month. The invitation has reportedly been extended to Pakistan's NSA, though there is no official confirmation. Pakistan has also not confirmed its participation yet. But should Yusuf visit India it would be the first of a senior Pakistan functionary to India following the withdrawal of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. And such a visit by a Pakistani official would unlikely remain confined to just a discussion of the situation in Afghanistan. The two neighbours are certainly going to make use of the opportunity to hold a bilateral dialogue too and which, under the circumstances, would be a welcome development.

However, as is the case with Indo-Paki ties, while India is mulling a meeting on Afghanistan which also includes Pakistan, the bitterness in their relations lingers. On Tuesday, Pakistan's navy claimed it "detected and blocked" an Indian military submarine from entering Pakistani territorial waters earlier this week- the third such reported incursion by an Indian submersible vessel since 2016.

But it would be great if somehow the two countries could get back to dialogue and put their relations on an even keel. But this is easier said than done in regards to the two countries. After re-affirmation of the 2003 ceasefire agreement in February, the two neighbours have failed to build on the goodwill. There have been no further measures, nor does it look likely there will be in the near future. New Delhi seems in no hurry to do this. If anything, this only goes on to show that India feels little pressure to relent. Nor does it want to push the current engagement with Islamabad beyond a point. The unmistakable signal to Pakistan is to temper its expectation about the extent to which India can accommodate it on Kashmir. New Delhi, for sure, will not reverse the revocation of J&K autonomy. It remains to be seen whether it restores statehood to J&K anytime soon. As always, India wants the terrorism to be the central issue in any dialogue with Pakistan and the latter doesn't accept it backs terrorism.

A sustained, meaningful dialogue between the two countries has the potential to lead to a positive outcome. But it looks unlikely that such a dialogue would take place for now and even if it does, it may not be easy to sustain it. In the past many such attempts have been aborted by a major attack in India traced to elements in Pakistan or sometimes due to the rigid negotiating positions of the two countries. It would be thus interesting to see how the two countries negotiate their respective conditionalities before reaching out to each other.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Many Questions

New India does not encourage questions. Answers, even when they come, are inordinately delayed too. An analysis by the Satark Nagrik Sangathan has revealed that the national backlog of cases before the state and Central information commissions has crossed 2.55 lakh, up from 2.2 lakh last year, which marked 15 years of the conception of the Right to Information Act. This rising pendency is particularly significant as these commissions are responsible for hearing appeals related to RTI pleas that have been denied, sometimes wrongfully, by government bodies. Delays obscure transparency and dilute the effectiveness of the RTI Act itself. Although the reasons behind this problem are clear - shortage of personnel and inefficient operations have been cited by the report - redressive steps remain few and far between. Even after filling four vacant positions nearly a year ago, the CIC has three vacancies left and has not functioned at the full, required strength for almost five years. Of the 29 commissions examined in the report, at least three - Tripura, Jharkhand and Meghalaya - were found to be defunct while 21 did not hold a single hearing during the first three stages of the national lockdown in 2020.

The increasing backlog is, however, merely the tip of the iceberg. The infrastructure surrounding the RTI Act has been crumbling for some time. Last year, it was found that penalties for wrongful denial of RTI pleas were imposed in only 2.2 per cent of cases in spite of violations accounting for approximately 59 per cent. By downplaying the threat of serious consequences, it promotes a culture of impunity that is harmful to the very fabric of democracy. The law has been tampered with by politicians of all hues. Notwithstanding the CIC's stand that political parties should come under the ambit of the Act, the United Progressive Alliance government amended it in 2013 to exclude them from its scope, a change that persists till date. This goes against the spirit of the Supreme Court's ruling to bring even the office of the Chief Justice of India under the purview of the Act. In 2019, the Act was amended - this time by the Narendra Modi-led government - without public consultation to give the Centre greater say over the terms of service of information commissioners, a move that could reduce the institution's ability to function independently. Transparency is a cornerstone of democracy. Swift redressal of the gaps in the machinery tasked with upholding this principle is essential to hold governments accountable.

Telegraph India



Kashmir Observer

Fueling Suicides

Amir Suhail Wani

**KASHMIR HAS ALWAYS BEEN**  
an abode of serenity and tranquillity – so romanticised in Oriental literature. The beauty nature had endowed this place mitigated and lessened the miseries and worries of people. A well-developed culture was in place and people used to discover for themselves the means of entertainment, solace and mental peace. This freed them of their routine worries and the grindstone of a politically strained climate

No conscious individual can bypass the spree of suicides that have become commonplace in Kashmir. Suicide rates have indeed gone up worldwide and Kashmir hasn't been an exception. The recent spike has generated worry as well as concern in social circles. What is however important is to go beyond numerics and trends and look at the issue qualitatively – evaluate the problem, underlying causes and possible measures of mitigation.

A renowned twentieth-century philosopher and writer Albert Camus has famously said, "There is only one really serious philosophical problem and that is suicide". Philosophical or not, it certainly is a psychological and existential problem of the first order. It is indeed unnerving to imagine somebody crossing the threshold and taking one's own life. After all, why should one end their life – the most cherished and priceless possession remains a deeper mystery in the field of psychology. But here, we shall scale down from the bigger issue of suicide itself to the question of prevalence and exponential growth in suicide rates in Kashmir.

Despite our long history of political instability, Kashmir has always been an abode of serenity and tranquillity – so romanticised in Oriental literature. The beauty nature had endowed this place mitigated and lessened the miseries and worries of people. A well-developed culture was in place and people used to discover for themselves the means of entertainment, solace and mental peace. This freed them of their routine worries and the grindstone of a politically strained climate. Any possible attempt or inclination of suicide was neutralised and mitigated by the heightened religious sensitivity of people, who saw this act in direct conflict with religious ideals and therefore restrained

**SEVERAL CASES STAND** reported and recorded where the trigger for suicide was directly or indirectly related to prevalent uncertainty. The absence of job opportunities, the ever-rising spiral of unemployment and throat-cutting competition on social and academic turf are some other factors that have fostered suicidal tendencies.

from the same. But in the wake of social changes, all these restraining and corrective agencies and institutions have lost their importance and commanding nature. What remains is an era of chaos, anxiety and meaninglessness.

To begin with socio-political changes, the valley of Kashmir has witnessed the worst form of political uncertainty in the last three decades. This political uncertainty has translated itself into social instability and economic depravity. These cascading events have made people in general and youth in particular vulnerable to mental disorders and suicidal tendencies. Several cases stand reported and recorded where the trigger for suicide was directly or indirectly related to prevalent uncertainty. The absence of job opportunities, the ever-rising spiral of unemployment and throat-cutting competition on social and academic turf are some other factors that have fostered suicidal tendencies. Equally important are those isolated and specific causes that trigger suicidal episodes and may include familial tensions, parental pressure, a failed relationship or a host of such causes. These social and individual causes are reinforcing the phenomenon of suicide and playing a role in augmenting the crisis.

Having spoken of causes and triggers, let us now turn to possible remedial measures. The point of departure starts with our negligence towards mental health, whereby we, as a society have made it taboo to get our mental health evaluated and redressed.

The trend may be changing now, but the overall scenario remains disappointing and people are still reluctant when it comes to mental health. If anybody gathers the courage to discuss their mental health issues, they are condescendingly called pagal/ mad. How this indifference towards mental health fosters suicidal rates is by way of prolonging the underlying psychiatric disorders and finally translating them into suicide.

Early identification and intervention could have not only reduced the suicide rate but would have allowed people to enjoy a healthy life. We need to open up and discuss our problems with our friends, parents and mental health providers and this will provide a proper vent to our mental chaos. The second point, which may be a corollary to the first, is that in our schools and colleges, we are taught very little about our mental health and as we grow and evolve, we find ourselves incapable of dealing with the issues confronting our minds. Our religious teachings and practices, which are antidote both to mental health issues and suicidal tendencies, have unfortunately not been presented in this light. If acted upon and implemented in our lives, these teachings and practices can save us not only from the gloomy phenomenon of suicide but enlighten and adorn the entire spectrum of our life.

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

The author is a writer and columnist



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Power Outages

Even before winters have knocked our doors, it seems that we're already being shown a trailer to the dark days ahead. Electricity has always remained an issue, especially, during days of heavy snowfall but we have just had our first taste of the electricity outage in Shivpora. On 20th of October, we witnessed a power outage from early morning as electricity supply was erratic. While this may be the first of the season, one can only hope that it is the last. We urge the power development department to ensure that the winter ahead is easy on us with respect to a steady and strong supply of electricity.

Junaid Sheikh

Hold Workshops On Land Revenue For Officers

This refers to the well researched legal article by Dr Raja Muzaffar titled "Operation of J&K erst-while laws post article 370". As a lawyer I fully agree with the author about lack of legal knowledge among Revenue Officers. Most of the officers not only lack information about the newly extended central laws but they are even unfamiliar with J&K's own land revenue laws.

The Institute of Management and Public Administration (IMPA) as the

**THE INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AND** Public Administration (IMPA) as the author suggested should hold frequent workshops on land revenue laws. The Revenue Training Institute (RTI) in Srinagar also has a great role to play.

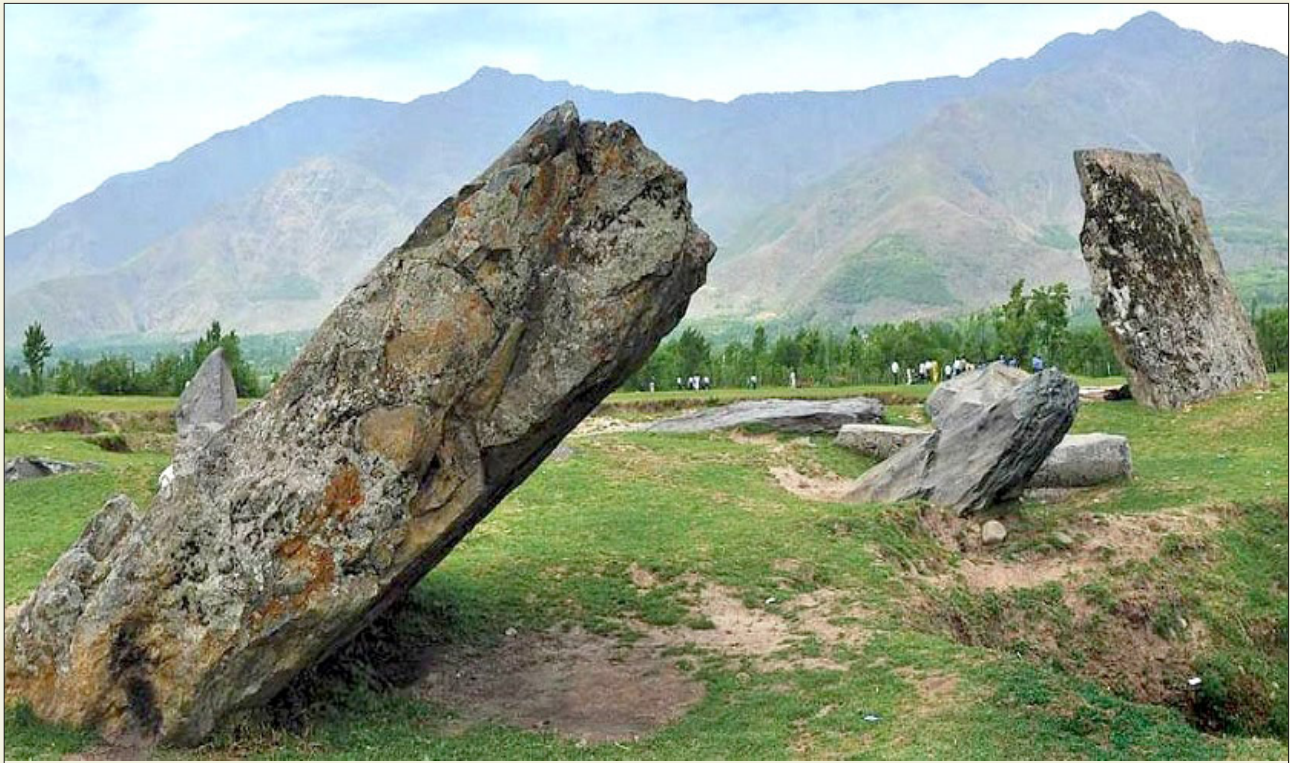
author suggested should hold frequent workshops on land revenue laws. The Revenue Training Institute (RTI) in Srinagar also has a great role to play. The institute instead of training Pawtaris, Girdawars or Naib Tehsildars must also hold workshops on newly extended central land revenue laws to J&K as well.

They must devise a training module for senior revenue officers like those posted in civil secretariat revenue department, SDMs, ACRs and land acquisition collectors as well

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# Cultural Collapse: Why's Kashmir's Central Asian Link Fading?



Burzahom.

Aaqid Andrabi

UNDER the autumn sun, a swarm of rustic crickets are locking horns over a highland pitch with historical significance. The 'turf-war' played in the garb of the gentlemen's game is being praised by keen spectators. Some of these cheerleaders are sitting atop big stones which among other things reveal Kashmir's Central Asia connection.

The adrenaline rush triggers plumes of dust along with an unaddressed anguish over the possible obliteration of Kashmir's historical link.

"There's a need to preserve this significant space from further eroding," says Suhail Bhat, a local history scholar who frequents the ruins for his own research. "It's one thing to designate this place as protected, but other thing to ensure its preservation."

Apart from the routine play, there's fear among Bhat's tribe that the significant site might lose its status to the growing human habitation around it. "Places like these need extra care and protection," the scholar says. "They're our windows of past and our link to civilization."

A few miles away from the venue, historian Abdal Hassan is blaming the absence of literature for Burzahom's gradual fading.



Children on ruins.

Keeping new generation oblivious about their heritage sites, he argues, is accelerating the cultural decay. "I believe conveying the importance of Burzahom shall serve a crucial role to the process of the evolution of humans in general and Kashmiri society specifically," Hassan says. "It'll also be fairly advantageous to history as an academic subject in our valley, which unfortunately doesn't have as many takers."

People have to start from the beginning to infuse and emphasise a sense of responsibility and drive home the importance of not just Burzahom but various such places of the land, Hassan continues. "We need to educate our kids from an early stage to understand what it means to discover a part of our past and how it can help us to evolve in our present and the future, too."

In a bid to boost the sense of history, Hassan says, captive chronicles must be told and retold to make young mindful about the importance of Burzahom.

One such story starts from circa 2075 BCE, when in the Himalayan foothills, the evening is nigh, and the sprawling urban centre of Burzahom is bustling with the hustle-bustle of everyday life. Covering a vast lush green meadow, it's a foraging community. The ones tasked with gathering food and other essentials are almost done with their chores, ready to settle down around the community fire. The elders and kids are seated—it's storytime.

One of the elders leads the eager kids surrounding her on a journey, an adventure in her stories, the kids trotting alongside her merrily. The hunters are returning from their quests, on their backs the spoils of the day.

Subterranean pit dwellings of the locals mark the inhabited area. The oval or circular homes dug into the soil, as deep as 6 feet, with long stone celts are narrow at the top and wide at the base, having (wooden) post holes on the ground level suggesting a birch cover protection against the harsh weather. These homes possess a well-defined structure, designated spaces and niches for their respective purposes. Some of the pits are shallower than the others, marked for storage purposes and used as dwellings during warm weather.

This glaringly important historical site came to the fore during a short excavation.

cial setup in the valley, tells the story of the ever-evolving humans.

Apart from pottery, bones and stone tools like harpoons, needles with or without eyes, awls (probably used for stitching skins), spearheads and picks, among other devices, were used by the Neolithic settlers in this period. Besides the use of stone, antlers were typical for tool fabrication. This layer of history reflects a stark absence of any burial system as well

**AT BURZAHOM, THE CENTRAL Asian structural similarity is marked by the presence of dwelling pits, oval, rectangular or square in plan, provided with postholes for supporting the superstructure to cover these houses with birch barks. It's this connection which makes many believe that Burzahom as a historical landmark needs to be preserved as a signpost of Kashmir's silk route odyssey**

as cultivation.

"The Burzahom site in its sense isn't much relevant to Kashmir valley mainly, concerning its origins or evolution as a social setup, but is more about it being a means to an end to reach the sub-continental plains," says Saleem Beg, Convener, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, J&K and former Director-General Tourism, J&K.

"When this site must have come into being, the geographies weren't well-defined enough to establish Kashmir as a particular region. Kashmir fell on the way of their assumed route to the mainland subcontinent."

The revelations of second period of the Neolithic age ascribe a dramatic evolution of a civilisation that would recently identify as an elementary pool of humans concerned mostly about fundamentals of survival. The artefacts belonging to this period associate evidence of intricate burial processes that had begun to take shape. Graves dug into the house floors and plastered with lime, and bodies placed in them with red ochre on the bones. As many as eleven skulls found with evidence of trepanning, some partial and some complete, mark the cosmic evolution of the Neolithic society delving into more complicated means of medicine and survival techniques.

More significantly, today, one can establish the practice of agriculture through the tools and findings of the palaeobotanic analysis. Periods I and II provide evidence for wheat, barley and lentil



The dig site at Burzahom, 16km from Srinagar.

cultivation. The presence of lentils in the Burzahom Neolithic further explains that the people of Burzahom had broad contacts with Central Asia, critical evidence of the human movement through mountain passes into the Kashmir valley.

"About 26 Neolithic sites have been reported from the valley, majorly from Burzahom," notes SL Shali in his Neolithic Culture in Kashmir with special reference to Central Asia. "Neolithic culture is the earliest known culture of the valley and many traits of this have their parallels on sites in Central Asia."

At Burzahom, the Central Asian structural similarity is marked by the presence of dwelling pits, oval, rectangular or square in plan, provided with postholes for supporting the superstructure to cover these houses with birch barks.

It's this connection which makes many believe that Burzahom as a historical landmark needs to be preserved as a signpost of Kashmir's silk route odyssey.

Back in 2019, a case to revive Central Asian linkages to Kashmir resurfaced when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Act East policy and a reach out to Central Asian nations for alternate market exploration gained ground. The move made

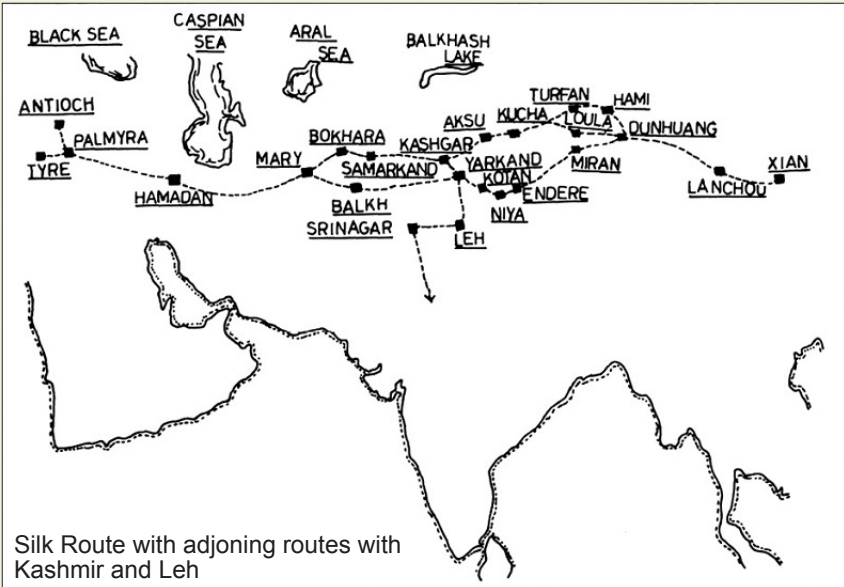
of 1947 when the drawing of the Cease-fire Line—which later camouflaged into Line of Control (LoC)—locked the region.

With glaring Central Asian influence, the Neolithic period precedes the Megalithic culture associated with the erection of massive stones or 'Menhirs', most probably commemorative establishments at Burzahom. The material culture recovered constitutes gritty redware pottery, manufactured on a potter's wheel; metal objects and few tools made of bone and stone continued.

Rubble structures associated with the Megalithic men have also been found. The last level of activity at Burzahom ascribes to the early historical period. It is dateable to 3rd-4th century A.D. Mud-brick structures, pottery manufactured on a wheel, and a few metal objects from this era were also found there.

Over the past few decades, this treasure trove of Burzahom has fallen prey to either encroachment by the surrounding populace or systemic neglect at the hands of an indifferent administration, speculating the place of its rarity and historical and cultural significance.

This apathy exists despite Neolithic men leaving their marks at Burzahom.



Silk Route with adjoining routes with Kashmir and Leh

many in Kashmir optimist about the revival of the historical and cultural link that got buried in the bloodletting partition of 1947.

Keeping the enchanting ruins of Burzahom in mind, many politicians and pundits have been petitioning New Delhi for years now to use the region to seek outreach with Central Asian states. "It's not impossible to revive these routes even though our geopolitical situation is not conducive enough," Mehbooba Mufti said as chief minister in 2018 when her government was apparently promoting Kashmir as Gateway of Central Asia. "The way opening the Muzaffarabad road used to seem impossible but this task was achieved finally. Similarly, I feel in days to come when we are working towards finding a way-out for the resolution of the issue of Kashmir issue, opening-up of such routes has an important role to play."

With its great geostrategic significance, Kashmir was an economic hub, linking South and Central Asia, until the early 20th century. Travellers Hieun Tsang and François Bernier talk about this link in their travelogues. A pile of Persian literature further notes how the Shah would swoon in ecstasy after King Budshah moulded Srinagar on Samarkand model:

*Az Shair Hafiz-e-Shirazi Me'Goyand Va Me' Ruksund / Siyah Chashman-e-Kashmiri Va Turkan-e-Samarkandi*

(On Hafiz Shirazi's melodious poetic notes and tunes / Rock and roll the brave Kashmiris and Samarkand Turks).

But the valley's deep and distinct Central Asian link got snapped with the dawn

An engraved stone depicts a hunting scene with a human and a dog and a sun path diagram. These delineations of an artist bygone reveal the significance of the place and the need for its immediate preservation.

"Contrary to the public notion, the archaeology department hasn't forsaken the place or the items discovered from there. Those artefacts of high historical value are intact and preserved in the S.P Museum at Rajbagh, and some are at other physical archives/museums in the country due to the lack of facilities in our union territory," Saleem Beg says.

"Nonetheless, they're safe and duly listed in the departmental archives of the ASI. In Kashmir, we lack the attitude needed to preserve and restore such historical places, and the discovered artefacts. Burzahom has, over the years, been infringed upon and its sanctity violated by the local population surrounding the spot. Not to mention the fact that when ASI put in a request of land allotment to establish a museum to showcase its history, the response was lackadaisical, to say the least."

According to Beg, an on-spot museum is necessary to establish, emphasise and educate the visitors about the importance of the discovered site and its remnants.

An even stranger facet of this mess is the absence of any kind of academic reference to Burzahom in the local curriculum. Be it onwards of primary level right up to the higher education academic literature, Burzahom and its significance has a rather suspicious absence within the academic circles.



# Study Shows How To Increase Kids’ Vegetables, Fruits Intake

**Agencies**

Parents, take note! Filling half of a child's plate with fruits and vegetables isn't just recommended by the United States Dietary Guidelines, it also helps increase the amount of produce that kids end up eating, according to a new Penn State research.

The findings of the study were published in the 'American Journal of Clinical Nutrition'.

In the controlled feeding study, the researchers tested two strategies for encouraging kids to eat more fruits and vegetables.

The first was simply adding 50 per cent more to fruit and vegetable side dishes at kids' meals throughout the day. The second was substituting 50 per cent more fruits and vegetables for an equivalent weight of the other foods. For example, if they added 50 grams of veggies to the lunch meal, they also subtracted 50 grams of mac and cheese.

The researchers found that adding more fruit and vegetable side dishes resulted in the kids eating 24 per cent

more veggies and 33 per cent more fruit compared to the control menus. Substituting fruits and veggies for some of the other foods resulted in kids consuming 41 per cent more veggies and 38 per cent more fruit.

Barbara Rolls, Helen A. Guthrie Chair and director of the Laboratory for the Study of Human Ingestive Behavior at Penn State, said the findings suggest ways parents, caregivers and schools can help encourage healthy eating.

"When deciding what to feed kids, it's easy to remember that half of the food should be fruits and vegetables," Rolls said. "If you start seeing that you're serving too much and have more waste, you could cut back the higher calorie-dense food while adding more produce. Experiment and have some fun trying different fruits and vegetables to see what they like and so you can serve meals with a sensitivity to their personal taste."

According to a previous study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 60 per cent of children don't eat enough fruit and 93 per cent don't eat enough vegetables, suggesting a need for strategies to encourage kids to eat more produce.

Since 2011, the MyPlate dietary guidelines have encouraged people to fill half their plates with fruits and vegetables, with the hope that this would also increase people's intake. But the researchers said that despite being a policy for a decade, the strategy had never been systematically tested in preschool children.

"For most foods, kids will eat more when served larger portions, so

For most foods, kids will eat more when served larger portions, so we wanted to test whether increasing the amount of fruits and vegetables that are served over five days would increase intake," said Liane Roe, a research nutritionist at Penn State. "We also wondered whether substituting produce for other foods would increase intake more than simply adding extra fruits and veggies."

For the study, the researchers recruited 53 children between the ages of three and five who were enrolled in Pennsylvania childcare centres. Each participant was served all their meals and snacks for five days during three different periods in a random order.

For the control period, they were served meals they typically got in their childcare centre, and for the period testing the addition strategy, the portions of fruits and vegetables were increased by 50 per cent. For the period testing the substitution strategy, fruits and vegetables were increased by 50 per cent and the other foods were reduced by an equivalent weight.

"We served the children all of their meals, snacks, and beverages for five consecutive days, and we weighed all the items we served, as well as the leftovers, to measure intake," Roe said. "We sent home evening and morning snacks for the kids, but the majority of the meals were served in the childcare center."

As a caution, Rolls said that even though the study was successful in getting kids to eat more fruits and vegetables, the majority of the kids still didn't eat the recommended daily amount of vegetables for their age group – about a cup and a half – although they did reach this target for fruits.

The researchers said that in addition to the strategies in the current study, there are additional things parents and caregivers can do to increase intake.

"Serving fruits and vegetables as a first course or snacks when kids are hungry can boost their intake, as can incorporating them into mixed dishes," Rolls said. "For example, you can blend some cauliflower or squash into a sauce for mac and cheese or add fruit puree into a brownie or cake mix. You don't decrease the palatability of the dish, but the kids are eating more produce. You should also encourage them to eat the whole veggies on their own, as well as incorporating them into other foods."

Christine Sanchez, Penn State; Alissa Smethers, Monell Chemical Senses Center; and Kathleen Keller, associate professor of nutritional sciences at Penn State, also participated in this work. The National Institutes of Health helped support this research.



## Srinagar MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

GIST OF Fresh ENIT  
NO: 04/2021  
DATED: 18/10/2021

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-Tenders are invited from Registered Dealers of various Petroleum Companies in close vicinity within Five Kilometres from SMC Transport Yard Tatoo Ground/JKLI, for Fixation of Annual Rate Contract for the year 2021-22 or till the date next ARC is fixed for supply of POL for Corporation's Transport Fleet. The approximate consumption of POL is mentioned here under which may increase or decrease as per our requirement. The interested parties shall quote the rate of rebate, to be offered by them, on the rates being fixed by the Ministry of Petroleum from time to time:-

1. High Speed Diesel = 79478 Litres approximately per month
2. Motor Spirit (Petrol) = 5007 Litres approximately per month

1.	Cost of Tender document To be deposited in the J&K Bank Branch Balgarden under Account No: CD-021601010000931 through pay in slip receipt, in favour of FA/Chief Account Officer, SMC, non refundable.	Rs.500/=
2	Earnest Money	As per the declaration form given at Annexure "A"
3	Uploading of Bids	20/10/2021 at 2:00PM to 10/11/2021 at 4:00 PM
4	Date & time of opening of Bid	12/11/2021 at 2:00PM

Detailed e-NIT with terms and conditions can be downloaded from [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

Sd-  
Purchase & Procurement Officer,  
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

No: SMC/PPS/ 779-788  
Dated:18/10 /2021

DIPK-NB-4338/21

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of Geology and Mining NOTICE

It is notified for information of the general public that in case of any complaint in regard to the illegal mining, overcharging Of rates Of minor minerals and processed minerals (Sand, Boulder, Nallah Muck, Crusher Bajri etc.) beyond the rates fixed by the District Level Multi Departmental Task Force Cell or cheating on part of Mining Contractors or Crusher Unit holders, the same be reported to the following officers on Whatsapp, through e-mail or landline number as indicated against each for immediate redressal, so that necessary action as warranted under norms is taken against the violators.

**1. Dr. Devinder Singh, Geologist Grade-I,**  
DDO-I, Jammu  
Mobile No. 9419224326  
Helpline (Landline) Number:- 0191-2477309  
E mail ID:-jtdgmjmu@gmail.com, dsandotra54@gmail.com

**2. Sh. Khurshid Ahmad Mir;**  
Mineral Officer, Kashmir  
Mobile No 9469514014  
Helpline (Landline Number):- 0194-2493605  
E mail ID:- jdkdaml2@gmail.com, geokhurshheed@gmail.com

The above mentioned officers shall forward the complaint on above account to the concerned DMOs for immediate necessary action as warranted under norms and report.

Director  
Geology & Mining Department,  
J&K Govt., Jammu

No :-92/MCC/DGM/Taskforce/15/5956-59  
Dated:- 18.10.2021

DIPK-10928/21

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Department Of Floriculture Kashmir Srinagar

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS  
e-NIT No: 43 of 2021-22 Dated: 20.10.2021.

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	Major A/c Head.
01.	Repairing of main gate and installation of barbed wire along the road side of Mali training School Raj Bagh Srinagar.	2.06	200/-	22- days	DEE	M&R (023) NP

Position of AAA : Accorded  
Position of funds : Available

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.Q.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	20/10/2021 from 02:00 PM to 27/10/2021 up to 04:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date.	20/10/2021 from 02:30 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	27/10/2021 up to 04:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	28/10/2021 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 MH: 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 1st. 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.

Any bid received beyond 15% above the advertisement cost of the work will be rejected.

5. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

1.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

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

1.5 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 August,

V. PAN Card

VI. Bid Security Declaration.

However, hard 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.

11. The successful contractor shall pursue and seek the material carriage permission himself from the concerned competent authority after obtaining the permission letter from the Divisional Office. (If applicable)

12. 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.F.O after obtaining handover/takeover letter from the AEE concerned.

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

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

No: EE/FDK/2132-37  
Dated: 20.10.2021

DIPK-10964/21

## Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag

SHORT TERM E-NIT NO.12 of 2021-22.

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jand K U.T , e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractor registered with JandKUT Govt. for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of TD	Major Head	Tender Receiving Authority	
1.	Construction of Flood Protection bund on left side of Veshow Nallah at Shalibanjer Kulgam U/S Kulgam Chambgund bridge spot ist.	6.53	BID SECURITY DECLARATION FORM To be sworn in on affidavit, duly Notarized as attached with notice	15 DAYS	CEE DEE	500/-	M&R	Ex Engineer F.C Division Anantnag	
2.	Construction of Flood protection bund on Sonman Nallah at village Tengan near Govt. Middle School Tengan .	6.44		15 DAYS	CEE DEE	500/-			
3	Anti Erosion work on Perin Nallah U/S Chowgund Quarry and Hallan near foot Xing Phase 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	6.81		15 DAYS	CEE DEE	500/-	CAPEX		
4	Construction of FP work on Aripath Nallah at Matigund Pad-derpora by laying of crates and widening of Nallah	4.92		12 Days	DEE	350/-	M&R		
5	Construction of Fp work by way of raising and strengthening of damaged bund on L/S of Liddar Nallah at village Anzullah.	3.34		10Days	DEE	250/-			

Position of funds = Available

Administrative Approval Accorded vide E Hyd. Circle Anantnag order No.SE/HY/DB/37of 2021 dated:- 14.7.2021

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information , eligibility criteria , specifications , bill of quantities (BOQ) set to terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from :-

1.	Publishing date	18.10.2021	At 6:00 P.M
2.	Download Date Starts	18.10.2021	At 6:00 P.M
3.	BID Submission Date Starts	18.10.2021	At 6:00 P.M
4.	BID Submission Date Ends	23.10.2021	Upto 6.00 P.M
5.	Date of opening of tenders	25.10.2021	At 11.00 P.M

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

1. The bids uploaded on the web site up to date and time will be opened on 25.10.2021at 11.00A.M in the office of the Executive Engineer FC Division Anantnag in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

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

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No.FCD/Amg/3165-87  
Dated:- 18.10.2021

DIPK-10915/21

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Flood Control Division Anantnag



## High Oil Prices Will Undermine Global Recovery, Warns India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, on Wednesday warned that high oil prices will undermine global economic recovery, and nudged Saudi Arabia and other OPEC nations to work towards affordable and reliable supplies. Petrol and diesel prices have shot up to record highs across the country after relentless price increases since early May. "If energy prices remain high, global economic recovery will be undermined," Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said at the India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK.

International oil prices had crashed to USD 19 per barrel in April last year as demand evaporated with most nations clamping lockdowns to control the spread of coronavirus. The demand recovered this year as vaccination against the infection revived economies world over.

International benchmark Brent crude has since rallied to USD 84 per barrel. This, he said, has made fuel expensive and stoking fears of inflation.

Puri said India's oil import bill has climbed from USD 8.8 billion in June 2020 quarter to USD 24 billion this year because of a spike in global oil prices.

"India believes energy access has to be reliable, affordable and sustainable," he said adding economic recovery after a

devastating pandemic has been fragile and it is further being threatened by high prices.

India, which imports almost two-thirds of its oil needs from West Asia, has told crude oil producers, including the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), that high oil prices will hasten the transition to alternate fuels and such rates will be counter-productive for the producers.

Puri has in recent weeks flagged the issue of high oil prices to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, the US, Russia and Bahrain?

He conveyed India's strong preference on responsible and reasonable pricing, which is mutually beneficial for consumers and producers. Puri said volatility in international prices is not just hurting India but also industrialised nations. While the world has begun the transition towards cleaner fuels such as electric-powered vehicles and hydrogen, most nations are still dependent on oil to fuel their economies. And high oil prices will hurt demand recovery.

India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and relies on overseas shipments to meet 55 per cent of the gas needs.

It is the only nation in the world that is seeing growth in oil demand on a sustained basis and without it the producers will also suffer.

## Decision On Air India Will Give New Energy To Aviation Sector: Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**KUSHINAGAR (UP):** With Air India set to be acquired by Tata group, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the decision on the national carrier will give new energy to the country's aviation sector.

His comments come weeks after Tata group emerged as the winning bidder for Air India paving the way for disinvestment of the loss-making carrier.

In an address after inaugurating the Kushinagar International airport, Modi said the decision on Air India will give new energy to the aviation sector of India.

Tata group has emerged as the winning bidder for Air India, and on October 11, a letter of intent (LoI) was issued to the group.



Earlier this month, the government accepted an offer by Talace Pvt Ltd, a unit of Tata group, to pay Rs 2,700 crore cash and takeover Rs 15,300 crore of Air India's debt.

After Tata accept the LoI, the share purchase agreement (SPA) for the sale will be signed. Along with Air India, Tatas will acquire low-cost carrier Air India Express and Air India's 50 per cent stake in equal joint venture AISATS.

## Petrol, Diesel Prices Hiked Again By 35 Paise Per Litre, Hit New Highs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** After two days of lull, petrol and diesel prices on Wednesday were again hiked by 35 paise per litre each, pushing rates to new highs across the country.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 106.19 a litre and Rs 112.11 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

In Mumbai, diesel now comes for Rs 102.89 a litre; while in Delhi, it costs Rs 94.92.

The rate hike comes after two days of no changes. Prior to that, for four straight days prices were hiked by 35 paise per litre each.

With this rise, petrol is now at Rs 100-a-litre mark or more in all state capitals while diesel has touched the level in over a dozen states. Diesel crossed the Rs 100-a-litre mark in Panaji and Ranchi.

The costliest fuel is in the border town of Ganganagar in Rajasthan where petrol comes for Rs 118.23 a litre and diesel for Rs 109.04.

Since ending of a three-week long hiatus in rate revision in the last week of September, this is the 17th increase in petrol price and the 20th time that diesel rates have gone up.



While petrol price in most of the country is already above Rs 100-a-litre mark, diesel rates have crossed that level in over a dozen states/UT including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Goa and Ladakh.

Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes.

International benchmark Brent crude is trading at USD 84.43 per barrel on Wednesday for the first time in seven years.

A month back, Brent was trad-

ing at USD 73.92.

Being a net importer of oil, India prices petrol and diesel at rates equivalent to international prices.

The surge in international oil prices ended a three-week hiatus in rate revision on September 28 for petrol and September 24 for diesel.

Since then, diesel rate has gone up by Rs 6.50 per litre and petrol price has increased by Rs 5.

Prior to that, petrol price was increased by Rs 11.44 a litre between May 4 and July 17. Diesel rate had gone up by Rs 9.14 during this period.

## Markets Skid For 2nd Day As Profit-Booking Takes Hold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MUMBAI:** The Sensex slumped 456 points while the Nifty closed below the 18,300-level on Wednesday as market participants pared exposure to overbought counters for the second straight session.

Midcap and smallcap stocks too saw heavy selling amid concerns over frothy valuations, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 456.09 points or 0.74 per cent lower at 61,259.96. Similarly, the NSE Nifty dropped 152.15 points or 0.83 per cent to 18,266.60.

Titan was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.97 per cent, followed by HUL, NTPC, L&T, PowerGrid, Bajaj Finserv and M&M.

In contrast, Bharti Airtel led the gainers' chart with a jump of 4.03 per cent.

SBI, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, ITC and HCL Tech were the other winners.

"Indices corrected quite meaningfully led by the expensive side of the market where valuations had got stretched," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

Almost all sectoral indices ended in the red, although PSU banks were seen bucking the trend with investors cherry-picking for value in that pocket, he noted.

Further, he said the street is taking note of the cost pressures



emanating from higher input costs in companies that do not possess the pricing power.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "The ongoing market correction is not an overreaction and can sustain in the near-term due to high valuations. However, in the future Indian corporates will benefit from the reforms and China plus one strategy which happened during 2020-21."

"Alongside, the long-term economy and market trend is intact due to further re-opening of the economy, low-interest cycle and fiscal and private spending. This correction will give leeway for value-buying..." he added.

Sectorally, BSE consumer durables, basic materials, metal, utilities and power indices lost as much as 3.36 per cent, while telecom closed in the green.

Broader BSE midcap and

smallcap indices plummeted up to 2.31 per cent.

World stocks extended their gains as healthy corporate earnings offset worries over high energy prices and supply chain bottlenecks.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong and Tokyo closed higher, while Shanghai and Seoul were in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading mixed in mid-session deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude slipped 0.82 per cent to USD 84.38 per barrel.

The rupee surged by 47 paise to close at 74.88 against the US dollar on Wednesday.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Tuesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 505.79 crore, according to exchange data.

## Govt Committed To Promote Cooperative Sector In J&K: MoS



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Union Minister of State for Cooperation and Development of North Eastern Region, B L Verma Wednesday visited Jammu under public outreach program of the Central Government.

During his visit, the Minister chaired a meeting with senior officers of the Cooperative Department to review the functioning of the Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the Union Government under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi is committed to promote the Co-operative sector in Jammu and Kashmir. He said several initiatives have been already taken to strengthen and revive the Cooperative Department. The Minister appreciated Cooperative Department administration for taking several bold initiatives to uplift the working of the department.

The Minister also sought suggestions from the stakeholders for the revival of defunct coop-

erative societies and diversification of business activities.

Earlier, Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal briefed the Union MoS about the various activities and achievements of the cooperative Department. The Minister was apprised about the various sectors including tier structure of Cooperative Societies, working and modernization of co-operative Super Bazaars for the augmentation of the businesses.

She informed that 4 new Bazaars approved for Udhampur, Kathua, Ganderbal and Kupwara districts, working of 9 cooperative Banks, and having 272 branches working in all districts. She also informed about the revenue budget 2021-22 financial year and implementation of E-Office in Administration Department and in the office of Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K.

Among others, Registrar Cooperatives Department, Shafqat Iqbal and other officers of Cooperative Department were also present on the occasion.

## 'Goa Wants Richest Tourists, Not Those Who Cook Food Inside Bus'



AGENCIES

**PANAJI:** Even as the tourism industry in Goa is looking hopeful, with the Union government recently lifting the ban on tourist visas, state tourist minister Manohar Ajaonkar said the state wants "richest tourists."

According to news agency ANI, the minister, on Tuesday, also said tourists should enjoy themselves "while respecting Goa's culture."

"We don't want tourists who consume drugs and who spoil Goa. We don't want tourists who come to Goa and cook food inside a bus. We want richest tourists," the minister said, adding, "We welcome all tourists but they should enjoy themselves while respecting

Goa's culture."

He said the government in the state is "completely against drugs."

In 2019, the state government had imposed a fine of 2,000 or imprisonment up to three months on those found cooking in Goa's beaches or consuming alcohol in public.

Meanwhile, the government's decision to allow travellers, who are fully vaccinated and coming from a country with which India has reciprocal arrangements for mutual acceptance of WHO approved COVID-19 vaccines, to leave the airport and continue on without having to undergo home quarantine is expected to further improve the tourism prospects.

### SHORT TAKES

## Elon Musk Will Become Trillionaire With SpaceX, Says Morgan Stanley

**NEW YORK:** Elon Musk has already become the world's richest person on the ascendancy of Tesla Inc. But it will be SpaceX, rather than the hyped electric-car maker, that lifts him to billionaire status, according to a Morgan Stanley analyst.

The private space-exploration company "is challenging any preconceived notion of what was possible and the time frame possible, in terms of rockets, launch vehicles and supporting infrastructure," Morgan Stanley's Adam Jonas wrote Tuesday in a note titled, "SpaceX Escape Velocity ... Who Can Catch Them?"

SpaceX currently makes up less than 17% of Musk's \$241.4 billion net worth, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. And that's after the company was valued at \$100 billion in a secondary share sale earlier this month.

Jonas, who has a \$200 billion bull-case valuation for SpaceX, wrote that he views it as multiple companies in one, encompassing space infrastructure, Earth observation, deep-space exploration and other industries. Its Starlink satellite-communications business is the biggest contributor to his valuation estimate.

Musk as the world's first trillionaire has been posited before -- but largely due to Tesla's predicted share performance. (Bloomberg)

## Gates Foundation Commits \$120 Mn To Support Access To New Covid Pill

**WASHINGTON:** The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced an investment of up to \$120 million in an effort to speed up low-income countries' access to a new anti-Covid drug.

The treatment, a pill called molnupiravir developed by US lab Merck, reduces the risk of hospitalization by half in COVID-19 patients who take it in their first few days of infection, the company has said and could be even more effective at preventing deaths from the virus.

The money from the Gates Foundation would be used to encourage the production of generic forms of the drug by other companies, especially in India, to which Merck has already granted such licenses.

"This commitment builds on the foundation's ongoing efforts... to increase access to COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and tests by supporting R&D, regulatory work, at-risk manufacturing, and product delivery," the foundation said in a statement Wednesday.

The drug, which as a tablet is easier to administer than other existing intravenous treatment options, could offer another important pandemic-fighting opportunity for countries that are still struggling to access enough vaccines for their populations.

## Gold Imports Expected To Rise Further In Coming Months: GJEPC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The country's gold imports are expected to grow further in the coming months on account of peak demand due to festive and wedding seasons, Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said on Wednesday.

Gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, zoomed to about \$24 billion during April-September 2021.

The council said that the imports have witnessed a fluctuating trend during the last six months and have come at par with the statistics of the pre-covid years.

Gold imports in May (12.98 tonnes) and June (17.57 tonnes) 2021 were severely hit by the second devastating Covid wave that resulted in nationwide lockdowns and paralysed several industries for a brief period including gem and jewelry, it added.

The imports, it said, picked up in August which recorded the second-highest gold imports of 118.08 tonnes.

## Rupee Rallies 47 Paise To Close At 74.88 Against Us Dollar

**MUMBAI:** The rupee surged by 47 paise to close at 74.88 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday on easing global crude oil prices.

A surging American currency in the overseas market and losses in the domestic equity markets put some pressure on the rupee, forex dealers said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 75.10 against the greenback and later gained strength to settle at 74.88, higher by 47 paise over its previous close of 75.35. The local unit moved in a range of 74.83 to 75.13 in the day trade.

The currency market was closed on Tuesday for the 'Id-E-Milad' holiday.

Forex traders said the rupee's rise was mainly supported by softening crude oil prices in international markets.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.83 per cent to USD 84.37 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, surged 0.12 per cent to 93.84.

## Uk Fines Facebook \$69.4 Million For Failing To Supply Data

**LONDON:** Britain's competition watchdog fined Facebook 50.5 million pounds ( 69.4 million) on Wednesday for violating rules during the UK investigation into the social media giant's purchase of Giphy.

The Competition and Markets Authority said Facebook failed to provide required information during the probe. It said it gave the platform multiple warnings and considers that Facebook's failure to comply was deliberate.

The authority said it was the first time a company had been found to breach a so-called initial enforcement order by consciously refusing to report required information. Such orders are standard practice at the start of an investigation into a completed merger and are meant to prevent companies from further integrating while the probe takes place.

The company was fined 50 million pounds for breaching the order, and another 500,000 pounds for changing its chief compliance officer twice without consent.



## Jaipur Woman's Neck Cut, Legs Chopped To Steal Her Silver Anklets; Thousands Stage Protest

Press Trust of India

**JAIPUR:** Family members of a 55-year-old woman who was hacked to death in Jamwaramgarh here refused to hand over her body to the police on Wednesday and sat on a dharna along with local people, officials said.

The body of the woman with deep wounds to the head and the neck was found in Khatepura village on Tuesday. Her legs were chopped off and her silver anklets taken away. The severed limbs were found near the body.

The family of the woman staged a dharna on the very spot where the body was found, Circle Officer Lakhan Meena said.

"Their demands include immediate arrest of the killers, a compensation and a government job to one of her family members," he said, adding several teams had been formed to look for the assailants.

Efforts were under rway to pacify the villagers and the woman's family, the officer said.

Targeting the state government over the gruesome murder, BJP Rajya Sabha MP Kirodi Lal Meena said Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra should take note of crimes occurring in Rajasthan also.

"Priyanka Gandhi, who is giving the slogan 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon (I'm a girl who can fight)' in Uttar Pradesh, should come to Jamwaramgarh of Jaipur and see what kind of incident has happened here. She should take up the fight for the rights of women in Rajasthan," he said.

Thousands of people are sitting on a dharna with the dead body in Jamwaramgarh, the MP added.

"Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is busy glorifying the Gandhi family to save his chair. Women safety must be given priority but Gehlot and the Gandhi family are doing only politics," he said. PTI

# India Boosts Fire Power In Forward Areas Along LAC In Arunachal Pradesh Sector

Agenceis

Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh): India has deployed upgraded L70 anti-aircraft guns in the high mountains along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh sector in addition to its existing M-777 howitzers and the Swedish Bofors guns, officials said on Wednesday.

The deployment, which came months after induction of M-777 ultralight howitzers, is aimed at boosting the Indian Army's overall fire power in the face of China's aggressive posturing following the eastern Ladakh standoff, they said.

The upgraded L-70 guns were positioned around two months ago as part of a series of measures taken to bolster the Indian Army's operational preparedness to deal with any eventualities, the officials said.

India has a sizable number of Bofors howitzers in the eastern sector which have been the backbone of its fire power capability in the region.

As part of a high state of preparedness, the Army units including those of the 'integrated defended locality' have been undergoing strenuous physical training and military drills on a daily basis. The 'integrated defended locality' is a specialised unit comprising various arms of the Army including infantry, air defence, and artillery.

Military officials said the upgraded L70 guns were deployed in several key locations in Arunachal Pradesh in addition to other sensitive positions along the entire LAC and that their inductions have significantly enhanced the Army's air defence mechanism.

"The guns can bring down all unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned combat aerial vehicles, attack helicopters and modern aircraft. The gun has enhanced target acquisition and automatic target tracking capability under all weather conditions with high-resolution electro-optical sensors comprising a daylight television camera, a thermal imaging camera and a laser-range finder," said Capt Sariya Abbasi of the Army Air Defence.

"The gun is also equipped with a Muzzle Velocity Radar for enhancing the accuracy of fire. The gun has the ability to be integrated with tactical and fire control radars which give it more flexibility in its deployment," she said.



Capt Abbasi said the legacy gun has now been transformed into a sophisticated air defence gun. Another official said the upgraded gun system that operates along with a high-end Israeli radar can be counted among the best available air defence guns in its class globally.

In the last few months, the Army has deployed a good number of easily transportable M-777 ultra light howitzer guns which are at times moved from one place to another in Chinook helicopters depending on operational requirement.

The M-777 artillery guns, having a maximum range of 30 km and manufactured by the BAE Systems, were first received by the Army in 2018. The procurement had come after a 30-year wait for new artillery guns since the Bofors scandal.

"The addition of upgraded L70 air defence guns to the existing Bofors guns and recently inducted M-777 howitzers significantly enhanced the Indian Army's overall operational capability," said a senior official on condition of anonymity.

The L70 guns were originally manufactured by Swedish defence firm Bofors AB in 1950s and India has started inducting over 1,000 of them in the 1960s.

The guns have been upgraded by state-run Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

Following the escalation in tension in eastern Ladakh standoff, the Army has taken a series of measures to boost its operational capabilities in the eastern sector bordering China that included procurement of all terrain vehicles, precision

guided ammunition, high-tech surveillance equipment, radars and weapons.

Officials said enhancing combat capability is a continuous process and it will go in sync with operational requirements and overall security situation.

They said an equal amount of focus has been given to enhancing operational capability in the Northern as well as eastern sector.

Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Manoj Pande on Tuesday said that China has increased the intensity of military exercises and deployment of troops in its depth areas opposite the Arunachal Pradesh sector and that India has correspondingly readied contingency plans to deal with any eventualities. The commander asserted that the Indian preparedness to respond to any contingency is of a "very high order".

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

The tension escalated following a deadly clash in Galwan Valley on June 15 last year.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in the Gogra area in August and in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in February.

The last round of military talks on October 10 ended in a stalemate following which both sides blamed each other for the impasse.

## Lord Buddha Inspiration For India's Constitution Even Today: Modi

Press Trust of India

**KUSHINAGAR (UP):** Lord Buddha is the inspiration for India's Constitution even today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

Addressing a gathering at the Abhidhamma Day programme here, he also asserted that the 'dhamma chakra' on the Tricolour is the driving force for the country.

The day symbolises the end of the three-month rainy retreat – 'varshavaas' or 'vassa' – during which Buddhist monks stay in a monastery to pray and meditate.

"Even today, when someone enters Parliament (of India), they see the mantra 'Dharma Chakra Pravartanya'," the prime minister, who inaugurated a new international airport here, said while contemporising the message of the Buddha.

"Buddha is global because he talks about starting from within. Lord Buddha's Buddhata is the sense of ultimate responsibility," he added.

"Today, when the world talks about climate conservation and expresses concern over climate change many questions come up. But if we adopt the message of Buddha, then the path of what has to be done, instead of who has to do it, will be visible," he said.

Kushinagar, about 320 km from the state capital Lucknow, is the final resting place of the Buddha. This is where he attained Mahaparinirvana after his death.

The inauguration of the Kushinagar International Airport was marked by the landing of a flight from the Sri Lankan capital Colombo bringing a Sri Lankan delegation of over 100 Buddhist monks and dignitaries. PTI

## Tata Motors Launches Annual Customer-Engagement Program

**SRINAGAR:** Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, will celebrate 'National Customer Care Day' on 23rd October to commemorate the day when the first truck was rolled out from Tata Motors Jamshedpur plant in 1954. The company will also launch its annual customer-engagement program, the Grahak Samvaad, from 20th to 28th October 2021. The program aims to educate the customers about the company's innovative service and product offerings. Executives from Tata Motors will interact with customers to collect feedback and understand their expectations, key pain points and suggestions to further streamline its aftersales service and improve its product offerings for a hassle-free driving experience.

Commenting on this unique program, Mr. R Ramakrishnan, Global Head – Customer Care, Commercial Vehicle Business Unit, Tata Motors, said, "Grahak Samvaad acts as one of the major differentiators for

customers opting for commercial vehicles from Tata Motors. The exemplary aftersales service ensures maximum uptime and lower total cost of operations (TCO) throughout the vehicle's entire life cycle. National Customer Care Day, every year presents us with a golden opportunity to converse with customers, gather precious feedback for our initiatives, that helps us further improve the quality of our aftersales service and customer relationship. We look forward to the suggestions, views and market information received via our partners and customers and implement those learnings in the development of our products and services."

Tata Motors is leader in the commercial vehicle market and its range of vehicles are the top choice of the Indian logistics industry. Through Sampurna Seva 2.0, Tata Motors further offers best-in-class commercial vehicle value-added service, thus offering the customers a complete peace of mind.

### CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

#### 4 Militants, Soldier

crime both terrorists shifted from Litter to Dragad Shopian," he added.

The police spokesperson further said that during the exchange of fire, three soldiers also sustained bullet injuries and were shifted to nearby hospital for the treatment. However, one among them identified as Sepoy Karanveer Singh succumbed to his injuries.

"Incriminating materials including arms & ammunition were also recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," he said.

Hours after Shopian encounter, police claimed to have killed two LeT militants, including a district commander in a gun-battle in neighbouring Kulgam district.

IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar claimed that police and army killed LeT district commander Gulzar Ahmd Reshi of Kulgam and his associate, who were involved in the killings of two poor labourers from Bihar on at Wanpoh on Sunday.

Earlier, the police spokesperson quoted IGP Kashmir congratulating the joint teams for carrying out today's operation successfully and also complimented Police and Security Forces for working with great synergy and coordination on the ground that lead to 10 successful anti-militancy operations post recent civilian killings.

"It is pertinent to mention that, during past two weeks 15 terrorists were eliminated in the said operations and most of them were involved in recent civilian killings," he said.

"Police have registered case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

Slain Militant's Family Contest Police claim The family members of one of the slain youth in Shopian encounter refuted police claim that their son was a militant stating that he left his home at 9:30 in the morning to appear before a court in a royalty related case.

Muhammad Rafiq brother of slain Shakir was quoted by a local news gathering agency as saying that his brother, aged 22, was working as a driver. "My brother left home at 9:30 am, to appear before a court in a case related to geology and mining department," said Rafiq. "At 12 in the noon, they called him but no body received phone and later it went off." He said the killing of his brother in an encounter should be investigated. However, a top police official said that slain was a C-category militant who was involved in the killing of non-local carpenter Sagir Ahmad from UP. "Since last few years Shakir was working as OGW and was also detained in 2019 for some time in a militancy related case," the police official said.

#### NIA Carries

led to the recovery and seizure of electronic devices and incriminating jihadi documents/

Posters among others, the official said.

The four accused are terror associates/OGWs (Over Ground Workers) of various proscribed organisations and have been providing logistical and material support to terrorists, the NIA official said, adding that further investigation in the case continues.

#### Rains, Snow

Pirpanjal Range of Jammu Division, Drass (Gumri & Minamarg) and Zanskar subdivision of Ladakh.

Regarding probable impacts, the advisory says that weather system may lead to temporary disruption of air and surface traffic mainly on Jammu-Srinagar/Srinagar-Leh, Leh-Manali National Highway, Mughal road and other major hilly roads.

It said that landslides and shooting stones may occur in vulnerable spots of Jammu-Srinagar/Srinagar-Leh Highways.

There is possibility of electricity disruption and temporary water logging in low lying areas, it said.

The weather system is also expected to damage to horticultural crops and bring dip in day temperature.

Farmers have been advised to harvest their crops and fruits and carryout necessary pruning of trees also. Commuters have been advised to plan their journey according to weather advisory.

#### Loud Blasts Rattle

Loud explosions and gunfire rattled Bhata Durian earlier during the day which turned out to be the speculative fire used by the search parties to sanitise a suspected location deep inside the forest belt in Mendhar.

The army had on Tuesday intensified the operation against the holed-up militants in Bhata Durian forest in Mendhar, where the locals were asked not to venture out of their homes.

Also on Tuesday, Army Chief General M M Naravane had visited forward areas along the LoC to review the ground situation and ongoing counter-infiltration operations.

The operation in the forest areas in the twin border districts commenced on October 11 when militants ambushed a search party killing five soldiers including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) in the Surankote forest of Poonch before another gunfight in nearby Thanamandi on the same day. The militants fled both places after the encounters.

On October 14, the militants struck again and killed four soldiers including a JCO in Nar Khas forest in Mendhar as the security forces extended the cordon and search operation to neutralize the fleeing militants.

Drones and helicopters were pressed into service to assist the marching troops, which included para-commandos, in the jungle spread over nearly 8 km X 2 km area at a distance of four km from the Line of Control, the officials said.

The entire forest belt is still under tight security cordon to neutralise the militants, the officials said, adding the area is mountainous

and the forest is dense, making the operation difficult and dangerous.

Eight suspected persons including a mother-son duo were detained for questioning from Bhata Durian in connection with providing logistic support to the militants. However, it is to be seen whether the support was given voluntarily or under duress, the officials said.

The traffic between Mendhar and Thanamandi along the Jammu-Rajouri highway remained suspended as a precautionary measure for the in the wake of the ongoing operation.

Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region have witnessed a rise in infiltration attempts since June this year, resulting in the killing of nine militants in separate encounters.

#### DCs To Transfer

lines and reap benefits under economy of scale," an official spokesman said here.

The spokesman said there have been multiple demands by Mahajans, Khattris and Sikhs for right of sale-purchase of agriculture land for investment in agriculture and allied activities.

"Their resentment existed on the statutory provision that defined certain section of the society as agriculturist class who alone were eligible to own agricultural land under J&K Land Alienation Act SVT.1995," he said.

The spokesman said the decision fulfils the long pending demands from the civil society, seeking rights for sale-purchase of the agriculture land for investment in agriculture and allied activities.

"It is expected to assist in the revamping of the agriculture sector and aid economic growth to create employment in the primary sector of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

The union territory has a substantial potential for agriculture and allied sectors which usually require land up to 80 kanal, the spokesman said.

He said the decision allows the deputy commissioners to permit sale of land up to 20 kanals for agriculture and allied activities, and up to 80 kanal in case of horticulture orchards.

"The entire process will be completed within 30 days of making an application to this effect," the spokesman said.

The step will provide people from non-agriculturist class with the opportunity to acquire land for agriculture and allied activities and take up such activities as profession to systematically bring new investments in agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry sectors, he added.

#### Army Seminar

remain silent when militants commit the human rights violations.

"Why don't these human rights groups, civil society and media speak-up now," he said, adding "it is important to hold the militants accountable for the crimes".

Over 11 civilians have been killed since the last two weeks in Kashmir by suspected militants, most of them were non-locals.

The targeted killing of civilians evoked

massive condemnation across Kashmir baring the party lines.

The two-day seminar on "Human Rights Violations by terrorists and how these have impacted Kashmiri citizens in the last 30 years" started on Wednesday Badami Bagh cantonment in Srinagar.

According to the Army, twenty one subject experts, including research scholars, social activists, government officials and intellectuals from within and outside Kashmir, having proficiency in the subject, participated in the seminar.

Lt Gen DP Pandey said that while rightly the state is responsible and accountable for maintenance of high standards of human rights in all activities, it is a fact that human rights get curtailed in a conflict region due to security concerns.

"J&K has seen acts of curtailment of human rights violations by militants due to threats, killings, disrupting education and economic activity and denial of freedom of speech," the GOC said.

According to a statement by the Army, the GOC further exhorted the audience to question and hold the Pakistan affiliates responsible for the denial of basic rights of economic activity, education, entertainment and freedom.

He further remarked that the aim of the seminar is to discuss these and deliberate on the way ahead.

The Army said the seminar proceedings were broadcast live to civil and military audiences at Kupwara, Baramulla, Awantipur, Sharifabad, Delhi, Shimla, Nagrota and Udhampur. The talk by the panellists was also streamed live over Chinair Corps Facebook page.

Other speakers who spoke in the seminar included Bashir Assad, Editor, KZINE magazine, Lt Gen KJS Dhillion, Owais Nanda, Sheikh Younis Amin, Raja Muneeb, Tariq Rashid Malik, Aasif Umar, Arti Tikoo Singh, Prof Kulwant Singh, Rajeev Bhatnagar and Chairman, Delhi Public School, Srinagar Vijay Dhar.

#### J&K Logs 78

Budgam with 9, Baramulla 5 and one new case each in Kupwara, Anantnag, Bandipora and Ganderbal districts. Three districts of Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian reported no new case of virus.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 8 new Covid-19 cases, Doda 2 and one each in Kathua and Reasi. No new case was reported in six other districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch and Ramban.

Also, officials said that 80 more Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 10 from Jammu Division and 70 from Kashmir.

Meanwhile, one more person succumbed to coronavirus in Kashmir Valley on Wednesday, raising the fatality count to 4429–2175 in Jammu and 2254 in Kashmir.

#### Mirwaiz Among 500

among the 500 most influential Muslim personalities across the globe by the Royal Islamic

Strategic Studies Centre, Jordan for 2022.

Mirwaiz has been listed among the world's 500 most influential Muslims and is categorized in the political group for the eighth consecutive year by RISSC, Jordan. Pertinently, Mirwaiz continues to be under house arrest by the state authorities for the last 26 months, for his political views, a Hurriyat spokesperson said Wednesday.

On Mirwaiz, RISSC Jordan, as per the spokesperson said, "He has been advocating dialogue with both India and Pakistan so that the aspirations of the Kashmiri people may be realised." Specifically mentioning Mirwaiz's arrest, it stated that he has been under house arrest since August 2019.

The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre is an independent research entity affiliated with the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic thought, an international Islamic non-governmental, institute headquartered in Amman, the capital of Jordan.

Topping the list, the Hurriyat spokesperson said this year is immunologist Ugur Sahin CEO of Biontech for developing Covid vaccine with Pfizer, he has been declared "Man of the Year" while Samia Suluhu Hassan the current president of Tanzania has been declared "Woman of the Year" other personalities include King Salman of Saudi Arabia, Ayatollah Khamenei of Iran, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and King Abdullah of Jordan.

#### LG Launches

CCNTS will provide multiple channels by simplifying process to access services from police, he said in a tweet.

"All mandatory Citizen Services made available through CCNTS Citizen Portal <https://jkpolice-services.gov.in>. About 222 Police Stations & 100 Higher Offices have been covered under CCNTS till date," he said, adding, "JK eCOP" Mobile App will provide all police-related public services. The App has been developed keeping in mind the needs of the public as well as smooth functioning of the Police department. Public can also register complaints, share information.

#### Electric Shock

Muneera was immediately shifted to a hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared her brought dead

After completing legal-medico formalities, her body was handed over to the family for last rites.

#### Man Held With

a police spokesperson said. Bhat, he said, was trying to evade checking and frisking during the search of vehicles and passengers when the naka party noticed his suspicious movement.

"However, alert Jawans of the Naka party immediately overpowered him and, on frisking/personal search, one hand grenade was recovered from his possession," the police spokesperson said.

He further said that a case FIR No.235/2021 has been registered in this regard.



## Thang-Ta Trials At KIC Tral On October 23

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) has announced that Thang-Ta selection trials for its Khelo India Centre at Indoor Sports Hall, Bajwani, Tral will be held on October 23.

The trials will be for U-14, 17 and 19 Boys and Girls, and will begin at 11.45 AM on the said date.

"Players interested in the

selection trials should submit their entries to Sajjad Ahmad, Thang-Ta coach at Bajwani, Tral at least one day before the scheduled date of trials. Further participants are directed to bring their Aadhar cards and two latest passport size photographs with them," the JKSC statement read.

It added that COVID SOPs must be strictly adhered to. "Players can call us on 9596467172," it concluded.

////////// **IND VS AUS WARM UP MATCH** //////////

## Rohit Finds His Groove As Captain, Enters Kohli As '6th Bowler'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** India fine-tuned their T20 World Cup preparations with a convincing nine-wicket win over Australia in their final warm-up game here on Wednesday but the sixth bowler's slot remained a worry as even Virat Kohli rolled his arm over going into the tournament proper.

Captaining the side with Kohli only taking the field to bowl, Rohit Sharma (60 retired off 41) showed sublime touch alongside opening partner K L Rahul (39 off 31) as India chased down Australia's 152 for five in 17.5 overs.

Suryakumar Yadav (38 not out off 27) came at number three in Kohli's absence and got valuable time in the middle which should boost his confidence going ahead.

Hardik Pandya (14 not out off 8) came at four to finish the game and he did it with a clean hit over the bowler's head.

Another plus for India was seasoned pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar finding rhythm after a poor outing against England. India had also beaten England in their earlier practice game.

The team management is hoping Pandya will be ready to bowl during India's World Cup campaign which begins with the marquee clash against Pakistan on Sunday.

Skipper Kohli kept things tight with two overs of medium pace but to expect him to do the job in high-pressure scenarios would be asking for too much from him.

India conceded 58 runs off the last five overs and that is something they would like to improve on.

After losing the toss, India put up a decent bowling effort.

Rohit mentioned at the toss that Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami were rested from the game but the skipper took the field to bowl a couple of overs in which he conceded 12 runs.

India had Australia on the mat at 11 for three after Aaron Finch opted to bat first. David Warner's barren run continued after a failed attempt at a reverse sweep had him trapped in front off Ravichandran Ashwin.

With his very next ball, Ashwin got rid of birthday boy Mitchell Marsh with a lot of work to do.

Steve Smith (57 off 48) and in-form Glenn Maxwell (37 off 28) tried to break the shackles with a 61-run partnership.

After Maxwell fell to a conventional sweep, Smith and Marcus Stoinis (41 not out off 25 balls) got together and provided a much needed final flourish to the innings.

After a bad day in office against England, Bhuvneshwar found his rhythm and was effective both at the start and in the death.

India, however, would be a tad disappointed to give away so many runs in the death overs and help Australia's recovery.



## Premier Division: J&K Bank, Novelty Register Wins

J&K Bank beat Iqbal Sports 2-1, Novelty FC win 2-1 against SCFA

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Wednesday witnessed two matches of the JKFA Khyber Premier Division Football League 2021 played at Synthetic Turf, TRC here.

In the first match, Novelty FC defeated Sports Council Academy XI 2-1. A must-win scenario for both teams, the match turned into a close encounter between two equally balanced teams. Novelty took the lead in 15th minute through Akib and maintained it till the end of first half.

In the second half SCFA dominated the proceedings and scored the equaliser in the 47th minute through Suhail. The match entered a state of attrition till the dying moments of the match when Novelty took the 2-1 lead through Owais, who scored a brilliant goal. The young SCFA team will be dejected with the loss as they created opportunities to score but failed to capitalise on any. For Novelty, however, it was a



vital victory.

In the second Premier Division match, J&K Bank XI defeated Iqbal Sports FC by 2 goals to 1. In what proved to be a difficult test for J&K Bank, touted as competition-favourites, the team had to dig deep to get the win.

It was Iqbal Sports who took a shock lead in the 25th minute of the match. The team defended as a group and made it dif-

ficult for Bank players to score. The first half ended 1-0 to Iqbal Sports, and they maintained the lead till the 58th minute when J&K Bank's talismanic striker Akif scored the equaliser for his team.

At 1-1, Iqbal Sports went into a shell, and ended up defending deep in their own half. The J&K Bank pressure resulted in a penalty awarded in the 75th minute of the match. J&K Bank captain Adnan coolly slotted the ball home to give his team the 2-1 lead, which they held on till the final whistle.

The victory meant that J&K Bank remain undefeated in the Premier Division League 2021.

Meanwhile, A-Division Annual League Football Tournament 2021 has entered its second round stage and Wednesday saw its second match played at Gindun Ground, Rajbagh between Alamdar FC Gopalpora and Seven Star Football Academy, which was won by Seven Star Football Academy by 2 goals to 1.



## First Ever Inter-School Badminton Tournament Concludes

DPS Srinagar win 5 gold, 1 silver

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** 'First ever' Under-15 Inter School Badminton Tournament concluded on Tuesday, October 19 at G. D. Goenka Public School Srinagar (GDGPS) campus here.

An awards ceremony was held on the final day in which Imtiyaz Kawoosa, Vice-Chairman GDGPS, was the chief guest. He congratulated all the winners and handed them

medals and certificates.

The three-day tournament began October 16 and was organized by the GDGPS. Players from Delhi Public School Srinagar, Doon International School, Tyndale Biscoe School, Mallinson Girls School and GDGPS participated in the tournament. A total of 30 players from all five schools took part in the event.

The competition was broadly divided into two categories:

singles and doubles, while no participant was allowed to participate in more than one category to increase the level of competition.

In an exhilarating performance, DPS Srinagar secured 5 gold and 1 silver medals in the tournament. The host school secured 1 gold and 3 silver medals while Doon International School secured three bronze, and Mallinson Girls School earned one bronze medal.

## If We Don't Get Results, We Start Searching For Scapegoats: Misbah



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**KARACHI:** Former captain Misbah-ul-Haq said that there will be no improvement in Pakistan cricket unless it changes its culture and stops hunting for scapegoats.

Speaking for the first time after his sudden resignation as head coach last month, Misbah said "cosmetic surgery" will not change anything in Pakistan cricket as the problems are deep rooted in the system.

"The problem is that in our cricket we only look at results and we don't give time or have patience for planning ahead and improving the system," he said on 'A-Sports' channel.

"We don't focus on the fact that we have to develop our players at domestic level and then in the national team and work on their skill development. We want results and if we don't get the desired results we start searching for scapegoats," he said.

Misbah, along with bowling coach Waqar Younis, announced sudden resignations soon after returning from the West Indies

last month.

"Unfortunately, looking for scapegoats is a norm in Pakistan cricket. After losing a match or series we look for someone as a scapegoat to save face.

"Nothing will change if we continue with this cosmetic surgery. You can change the coaches and players but deep down the problems will remain the same," he said.

Misbah also criticised the working of the national selection committee and the way it had made changes in the T20 World Cup squad.

"What is going on? First, you take decisions on bringing some players into the World Cup team and then 10 days later you take a U-turn and bring back players dropped back into the fold," he said.

After announcing an initial 15-member squad and three reserves, chief selector Muhammad Wasim later made three changes, including former captain Sarfraz Ahmed.

Later, another veteran player Shoaib Malik also made a return after an injury to batsman Sohaib Maqsood.

## It Should Be Spinners' World Cup, Says Rashid Khan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** The ICC T20 World Cup will belong to the spinners, Afghanistan's star leg-break bowler Rashid Khan has asserted, and said they can beat any team if they bat well in the showpiece.

Since being picked up by IPL team Sunrisers Hyderabad as an 18-year-old in 2017, ace leg-spinner Rashid has emerged as T20 cricket's leading wicket-taker in this period with 333 scalps and is wanted by franchises across the world.

Appearing in his second T20 World Cup, Rashid feels spinners are always "effective" on pitches at three venues in the UAE, where the Super 12s, the semi-finals and final will be played.

"Conditions here are always good for spinners and it should be spinners' World Cup," Rashid was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"Doesn't matter how wickets are prepared here, it is always helpful for the spinners. Spinners will play a huge role in this World Cup. "As we have seen in the IPL, spinners have brought back their team in the game. I feel that will be same in the World Cup as well. The best spinners will bring their team back in the game and win it."

Rashid feels Afghanistan, who are in Group 2 along with India, Pakistan and New Zealand,



would need to do "lots of hard work" considering all their opponents in the Super 12s are "good players of spin".

Afghanistan have played 14 T20Is at the three venues in the UAE and have won all of them.

Rashid was good in cricket at home, but he never thought he would be one outside, let alone become the world's leading wicket-taker in T20s at the expense of pursuing a childhood ambition of practising medicine.

Confined to his home due to strict instructions from his worried parents about their children's safety in a strife-torn Afghanistan and then Pakistan, it was within those four walls of his home, during those challenging times, that made Rashid "a proper cricketer".

"I mostly played cricket at home with my brothers. These were very competitive games and it was a challenge for me to get them out, to score against them, to win games. Those times made me a proper cricketer," Rashid said.

## Scrappy Bangladesh Stay Alive With 26-Run Win Over Oman



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**AL AMERAT:** Bangladesh kept their hopes of advancing to Super 12s stage alive with a nervy 26-run win over co-hosts Oman in their Group B match of the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday. Opener Mohammad Naim struck a fine half-century to help Bangladesh set a 154-run target before bowlers led by star pacer Mustafizur Rahman (4/36) restricted Oman to 127 for 9.

Both Oman and Bangladesh now have one win each, and will be vying for the only remaining spot to qualify for the Super 12 stage. Scotland, who

beat Papua New Guinea earlier in the day, have already qualified from the group.

While Oman will take on Scotland, Bangladesh next play Papua New Guinea.

Chasing a challenging target, Ludhiana-born Jatinder Singh (40 off 33) provided a solid start for Oman alongside Kashyap Prajapati (21) but the other batters struggled.

Like Oman, Bangladesh were also guilty of dropping catches. But under tremendous pressure, they held their nerves and thanks to some astute captaincy by skipper Mahmudullah and the spinners Shakib Al

Hasan and Mahedi Hasan they were able to make a strong comeback.

Left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman took four wickets.

Oman needed 54 runs in the last five overs. But with the boundaries drying up and the required run rate continuously increasing, Oman batters became desperate and went for the big shots, losing their wickets in the process.

Shakib, who starred with the bat also pitched in with the ball, ending with impressive figures of 3/28 while Mahedi Hassan (1/14) and Mohammad Saifuddin (1/16) took a wicket each.

## Messi, Salah Score 2 Each In Champions League Goal Rush

AGENCIES

**PARIS:** There was a goal rush in the Champions League on Tuesday night and it was hardly a surprise to see Lionel Messi and Mohamed Salah among the scorers.

By converting coolly taken penalties late in their games, Messi and Salah sealed 3-2 wins for Paris Saint-Germain and Liverpool, respectively, on a chaotic night when 35 goals were scored across eight group matches — at an average of nearly 4.4 goals.

Real Madrid and Manchester City grabbed five goals each away from home. Ajax produced perhaps the best performance of the lot in overwhelming Borussia Dortmund 4-0, with Sebastian Haller — the competition's surprise leading scorer — netting his sixth goal of the group stage in just three rounds of games.

MESSI'S DOUBLE

A typically bold Leipzig team dominated PSG for long spells, only to be hurt by one of the game's all-time greats. It was 34th time that Messi scored two or more goals in a Champions



League game.

Mbappe broke clear to score an opening goal that was canceled out by Andre Silva before Nordin Mukiele volleyed home in the 57th.

Messi then stroked in a square ball from Mbappe after Leipzig lost possession while the same pair combined for the winner, with Mbappe adjudged to have been pushed for the penalty.

Mbappe pointed straight at Messi to tell him he could take the spot kick and the Argentina captain made no mistake to keep PSG in first place, a point above City.

SALAH'S RECORD

Salah is in the form of his life and now has 12 goals in 11

matches in total this season after a double in the same stadium where he scored one of Liverpool's goals in its Champions League final victory in 2019.

Naby Keita's sensational volley added to Salah's eighth-minute goal, only for Griezmann to score in the 20th and 34th minutes as Atletico mounted a comeback.

The France striker was handed a straight red card for lifting his boot into the face of Liverpool's Roberto Firmino and another wild challenge, this time by Mario Hermoso on Diogo Jota, gave Salah the chance from the penalty spot. He sent Jan Oblak the wrong way.

Liverpool is five points clear of Atletico.

YOUNGSTERS SHINE

Two of world soccer's best young players inspired the heavy wins for Madrid and Man City.

Vinicius Junior, a 21-year-old Brazilian, scored two goals — including one from a wonderful, slaloming solo run — and an assist in Madrid's 5-0 win at Shakhtar Donetsk. Rodrygo and Karim Benzema, with his 73rd Champions League goal, completed the rout that started with an own-goal by Shakhtar captain Sergiy Kryvtsov in the 37th.

Phil Foden, another 21-year-old forward, might not have scored in City's 5-1 win at Club Brugge, but he was behind much of the team's best work, including a sumptuous pass from deep to set up Joao Cancelo for the opener.

Riyad Mahrez had two goals, including a penalty, Kyle Walker ran onto Kevin De Bruyne's pass to score the fourth and 19-year-old substitute Cole Palmer added the fifth two minutes after coming on for his debut in the competition.



