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#### NEWS DIGST

#### **Cop Injured After Being** Hit By Speeding Vehicle

SRINAGAR: A cop was injured after a speeding vehicle hit him in the Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar outskirts. Police sources said the driver of the vehicle managed to flee away from spot. The cop identified as Nisar Ahmed was shifted to hospital where he received treatment. Police in this regard have registered an FIR vide number 120/2021 under section 279, 337 at Police Station Pantha Chowk against the unknown driver. • More On P10

#### Two Injured In Kangan Accident

**GANDERBAL:** Two brothers were on Friday injured in a road accident that took place in Kangan area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Friday. An official said the accident occurred when a speedy two-wheeler turned turtle at Kachnambal Kangan, resulting in injuries to two brothers. He said the two bothers identified as Irfan Magray (30) and Yawar Magray (22), sons of Muhammad Sultan Magray • More On P10

#### **Ladakh Reports** 23 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh has recorded 23 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to cases in the union territory has gone up to 206, officials said on Thursday Ladakh has registered 211 Covidrelated deaths -- 153 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

Fourteen patients were discharged after recovery from • More On P10

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### **BIGGEST POLICY REVERSAL**

# **PM Modi Announces Repeal Of Farm Laws**



#### **Appeals Farmers To Call Off Agitation**

**Press Trust of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre will repeal the three farm laws, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Friday, marking a climbdown by his government to meet the unrelenting demand of farmers protesting in several states against the reform measures for over a year. Making the announcement

during a televised address to the nation on the occasion of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak's birth anniversary, Modi appealed to protesting farmers to call off their agitation against these reform measures and return home as he called for a new beginning.

The constitutional formalities to revoke the laws will be done in Parliament's • More On P10

#### **Hope Centre Reverses Changes In J&K Too: Mehbooba Observer News Service**

DP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said the Centre's decision to repeal three contentious farm laws is a welcome step and expressed hope that the Union government "course corrects" and "reverses the illegal changes" made in Jammu and Kashmir since August 2019. More On P10

#### **Restore August 4,** 2019 Position: NC PressTrust of India

he decision to repeal three farm laws is a clear shift from politics of arrogance to one of introspection and reappraisal, National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi said on Friday and called for restoring Jammu and Kashmir special status under Article 370. He demanded the revocation of the August 5, 2019 decision that nullified Article • More On P10



### Protest Will End When Farm Laws Repealed In Parliament: Tikait

harativa Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Friday said the ongoing anti-farm laws protest will be withdrawn only after the contentious legislations are repealed in Parliament. He also stressed that the government should talk to farmers over the issue of minimum support price (MSP) of crops and other matters. The BKU national spokesperson said this on Twitter soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced repealing the three farm laws, which were at the centre of the farmers' protest since November 26 last year. • More On P10

Paramilitary forces search the vehicle of a civilian amid a shutdown on Friday against killings of civilians.

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir valley observed a near total shutdown to protest the killing of civilians in an alleged encounter in uptown Hyderpora lo-

cality of Srinagar on Monday. All major markets remained shut and public transport was off the roads with police and paramilitary forces deployed in strength across Kashmir in anticipation of protests after Friday prayers. The call for strike and protests was given by the Hurriyat Conference

led by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq. This was the second strike called by the Hurriyat Conference since August 2019 when J&K's

special status was revoked and a massive security crackdown was launched against separatists and their sympathisers by the government.

The strike call evoked an overwhelming response. Shops, fuel stations and other business establishments remained shut in all major markets of Srinagar and other major towns, officials confirmed. Public transport was largely

off the roads, but private cars and auto rickshaws were seen plying in some areas of the city, these reports said. Srinagar's Grand Mosque was locked by the authorities

and no Friday congregational prayers were allowed there.

Earlier Hurriyat Conference in a statement said, "It regrets that as most peoples' leadership and political activists are either in jails or under house detention, to protest such inhumanity, and in solidarity with the devastated families of the slain civilians and their demand that the dead bodies of their loved ones be returned to them for burial."

Policemen and para-military personnel were deployed in the sensitive areas in Srinagar and other towns to thwart any possible protest. The bodies • More On P10

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### **Bodies of 2 Srinagar Civilians Laid To Rest**

### **Press Trust of India**

**SRINAGAR:** Bodies of Mohammad Altaf Bhat and Mudasir Gul, two civilians killed in controversial police operation in city's Hyderpora area, were laid to rest hours after they were exhumed here, officials said on Friday.

The bodies, which were exhumed at Handwara after sundown on Thursday, reached here around midnight, they said.

The officials said emotional scenes were witnessed as soon as the bodies of Bhat and Gul reached Barzulla and Pirbagh, respectively. Men, women and children waiting for the bodies broke down, wailing over the mortal remains as they caught the last glimpse of the slain before they were laid to rest. • More On P10

#### **Parties Demand Return Of Amir's Body**

fter the bodies of two civilians killed in the Civilians killed in trie Hyderpora shootout were returned to their families, the chorus for handing over the mortal remains of Amir Magray the third person killed and whose kin claim he was innocent — grew louder on Friday. Cutting across the political spectrum, leaders from the mainstream as well as the separatist camp demanded that Amir's body be also returned to his family in the Ramban area of Jammu for his last rites. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti tweeted that Aamir "is vet to be given a decent burial by his mourning family." 

More On P10

#### **Civil Society Group Calls For Judicial Probe**

he Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC), a Jammu and Kashmir-based civil society group, on Friday supported a judicial investigation instead of a magisterial probe into the Hyderpora encounter here. The GCC, a non-political, nonpartisan civil society collective comprising former vice-chancellors, public intellectuals, advocates, academics, scientists, social activists, former judges and civil servants raised the demand in a letter to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. According to police, four persons, including a Pakistani militant and his More On P10

### **PAGD Writes to President**

#### 'Punish Those **Involved In Killings' Observer News Service**

he People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) has appealed to President Ram Nath Kovind to ensure that the rule of law prevails in Jammu and Kashmir and those "erring officials" involved in the killing of civilians in the Hyderpora encounter are brought to book and punished. In a letter to the President that was issued to the media on Friday, PAGD president Farooq Abdullah said the tragic incident in Hyderpora has evoked enormous public anger. "In this unfortunate incident three civilians got killed in suspicious circumstances. 

More On P10

### **HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT**

### 7 Black Bears Captured In Ten Days

**Observer news Service** 

**ANANTNAG:** Amid increasing loss of habitat for wild animals, the wildlife department on Friday said it has captured at least seven black bears, native to Kashmir, in the last ten days.

DFO wildlife division Anantnag Rouf Zargar told a local news agency that around seven bears were captured and shifted to wildlife sanctuaries in the area in the last ten days alone.

The department captured a seventh bear on Friday in the Imooh hamlet in the Verinag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. The animal



was then shifted to a nearby wildlife sanctuary, officials said. In the last one week, black bears have been captured in the Achabal and Akingam areas of the district. On Thursday a bear was captured in Alhal Devsar area of Kulgam • More On P10

### JAMMU POLICE LAUNCHES APP

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### Tenant Tracking Made Easy

### **Observer News Service**

JAMMU: The Jammu Police on Thursday launched two smartphone applications and a web portal for registration and verification of hotel guests and tenants in the region, officials said.

Additional Director General (ADG) of Police, Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh launched the 'Tenant Sarthi' app and portal and the hotel guest registration app at the zonal police headquarters, they said.

The hotel guest registration app will provide an easy check on entry and exit of guests, and records can be submitted online. No hotel can access the data of

other hotels, the officials said. Moreover, owners can monitor

registration of rooms and guests from home while the 'Tenant Sarthi' app and portal aims to digitise the process of tenant verification, the officials said.

of Information tenants can now be registered online through the app or the portal for verification and with digitisation of tenant data, police can now easily search for any person, the officials said.

Moreover, tenants will no longer be required to report to local police stations and submit their documents, they added.

Pertinently, a large number of Kashmiris visit the region, particularly during winter months and largely stay in hotels and guest houses in the city.

With PTI inputs • More On P10

### Repeal Of Farm Laws Respect Of People's Opinion: LG Sinha

### **Observer News Service**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to repeal the controversial farm laws as respecting the people's opinion.

Sinha made the remarks while addressing a gathering in Jammu city on the festive occasion of the birth anniversary of Sikh guru, Shri Guru Nanak Dev.

"It is the beauty of democracy to respect people's opinions," Sinha said. "I welcome the Prime Minister's decision. There were several discussions between the farmers and the Centre. However, they could not come to a concrete solution following which the



laws have been repealed.' "In my personal opinion,

if one compares the statistical figures, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the agricultural produce have significantly increased in this sector since 2014. Despite this, the impasse remained. I do not wish to further speak

on the issue and welcome the decision," Sinha said.

On the auspicious occasion of Sri Guru Nanak Devji's Prakash Parv, Sinha had paid obeisance at the Gurudwara Sahib, Chand Nagar and prayed for sustained peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being of all.

#### Addressing the gathering, Sinha said Guru Nanak Devji placed the service of the people as first and foremost duty of human beings and that every single word of his teachings is as relevant today as it

was 500 years ago, he added. Sinha while lauding the efforts of Sikh community in J&K during Covid, said they have actively served humanity with the blessings of the Gurus. "The work done by the Sikh community to provide food and ration to the people during Covid is an inspiration for the whole country", he added.

Noting that many programs are being organized in the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Sinha underscored the need to spread the vision of Guru Nanak Devji to • More On P10

### **J&K Reports 193 More Covid Cases**

### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 223 fresh COVID-19 cases on Thursday, pushing the infection count to 3,34,823, while two deaths due to the virus were reported from the Union territory in the

past 24 hours, officials said. Thirty-two of the new cases were from the Jammu division and 191 from the Kashmir division, the officials said. They said Srinagar dis-

trict recorded a maximum of 74 fresh coronavirus cases, followed by Baramulla district which registered 54 new infections.

There are 1,581 active cases in the union territory, • More On P10

از نیابت گڈول ہاا جلاس ایگزیکٹیومجسٹریٹ درجیاول گڈول رخواست منجانب: زینه بانوز وجه مختاراحمد خاری ساکنهٔ گڈول تخصیل کوکرنا گ ضلع انت ناگ بغرض حصول ليگل مائيرسرفشكيك -اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام۔ عامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں سائلہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول لیگل ہائیر سرفٹکیٹ دفتر مذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سےعیاں ہے۔ كەساكلەشو بىرسىمى مختارا حمد كھارى مورخدا 202-05-01 كوفوت ہو يچكے ہيں۔ساكله كاكنبه آمدنی نمبرشار نام وولديت زینه بانوزوجه مختارا حمد کھاری 41 سال 1 گھربلوکام شادی شدہ رفيقه بانو دختر مختارا حمد کھاري 23 سال فاطمه بانو دختر مختاراحم 22سال زرتعليم 4 21سال شوكت احمد ولدمختار 14 سال شميمه جان دختر مختاراحمه 5 رياض احمه ولدمختاراحمه 09سال 7 محمد اسلم علد مختارا حمد 18 سال زینعلیم اس طور پرسائله کا کهنه 107 فراد پر شتمال ہے۔ لہذا سرفنکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوکوئی 08سال زرتعلیم عتراض موگاه ه اپنااعتراض ایک مفته کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنااعتراض پیش رے۔معیا دگز رنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ازنیابت رنبیریوره بااجلاس نایب محصیلدارامتیازاحمد ڈارصاحب۔ درخواست منجانب: همهميره غوثيه وثانيراحدمو چي اولا دن غلام قادرمو چي سا کندرنبير پوره دفتر میں پیش کریں۔معیاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول SC سرفکلیٹ دفتر ندامیں پیش کیاہے جو کہزیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے سکونت پذیر ہے اور اور سائل کے زات موچی ہے اور سر فیفکیٹا صل کرنے کے خوہاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔ ٢-ر فيقنه زوجه غلام قادر موجي ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کئی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دنوں کے اندراندر اپنااعتراض سپرانٹنڈنگ انجیز آراینڈ بی سرکل ابنت ناگ/ کولگام کھنہ بل کے اسطرح سایل اسابلہ کا کنبہ 10فراد پر شتمل ہے اور جسول سرٹفکیٹ کاخواہاں ہے قبل از کارداری ہرخاص وعام کو بدر بعداشتہارمطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہا گرکسی شخص کوسرٹفکیٹ حذاا جرا کرنے کے نسبت کو بی عتراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہرا خبار سات دن کے اندرا ندرآ پنے عذریاعتراض و دالت ھذا کو دفتری ا دقات کے دوران پیش کریں \_ بعد گزرے میعاد کو بی عذریاعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنامطلوب ہے ہرخاص وعام کومطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مظہر کوڈی کلاس ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ زکالنامطلوب ہے۔اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دنوں کے اندراندر ا پنااعتراض سیرانٹنڈنگ انجیز آراینڈیی سرکل اننت ناگ/ کولگام کھنہل کے نہیں ہوگا۔ عبدالرشيدكها نڈےولدعبدالسلام كھا نڈےسا كنہسا گام اننت ناگ

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#### Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian **NOTICE**

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Mohammad Younis Malik S/O Mohammad Rafiq Malik R/O Bongam Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle Regd. No. JK22A 0294

(Commercial/Non Commercial) covering under R/P NO:-And Mr./ Mrs Mukhtar Ahmad Najar S/O Gh Mohd Najar R/o Bongam Shopian (Parti No 2nd ) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. Ist to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection

regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the datte of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned . No any representation/ objection shall be enteretained after

stipulated period. No: ARTO/Spn/--/2021 Dated ----11-2021

S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian

زنیابت ساگام بااجلاس ایگزیکٹیومجسٹریٹ درجہاول ساگام ر خواست منجانب بشهیل احمد ژاروا قراء جان بهمیره جان اولدان نذیراحمد ژارسا کنه حالپوره بغرض حصول PSP سرفظیٹ ۔ اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام۔

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### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

l Ghulam Murtaza Malik S/o Abdul Raheem Malik R/ Shil vat Teh: Sumbal is applying for contractor card (civil / Sanitary -D- class in othe office of the Superintendig Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar/Budgam. Any person having any objection in this regard may please submit it in the offie of Superintnding Engneer (R&B) Circle Srinagar/ Budgam within three days . After that no objection shall

#### **Public Notice**

I have lost my Passport somewhere. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Mohamamd Riyaz Shah** S/O Abdul Salam Shah R/O Saidapora Payeen Shopian

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**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR** 

#### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, FLOOD MECHANICAL DIVISION Baramulla

Telefax No. 0195-235275e.mail ld: xenfmdbaramulla@gmail.com / fmd-baramulla@gov.in

Gist of Fresh Short Term e-NIT No. 23 to e-NIT No:18 of 2021-22 Dated:13/10/2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K Executive Engineer, Flood Mechanical Division Baramulla, invites tenders on item rate basis by e-tendering mode from the Registered and Experienced Mechanical /Automobile Workshop Holders/ Authorized Service Dealers for:-

Urgent repairs to be carried out to Departmental Inspection vehicle (Bolero) bearing No:-JK05A-8629 of Transport Sub Division Flood Mechanical Division Baramulla.

Providing and fitting of tyres for Departmental Inspection vehicle (Bolero) bearing No:- JK05A-8629 of Transport Sub Division Flood Mechanical Division Baramulla.

S.	No.		Estimated		Validity of Rates
			Cost of work	Allowed	
L			"Rs" in Lacs		
1		2	3	4	5
Г		Urgent repairs to be carried out to Departmental	0.95lacs	No	180 days from the
		Inspection vehicle (Bolero) bearing No:- JK05A-8629			date of opening of
ı.		of Transport Sub Division Flood Mechanical Division			financial bid.
		Baramulla.			
2		Providing and fitting of tyres for Departmental	0.33lacs	Yes	180 days from the
		Inspection vehicle (Bolero) bearing No:- JK05A-8629			date of opening of
		of Transport Sub Division Flood Mechanical Division			financial bid.
		Raramulla			

The bidding process shall be completed online in single covercontaining, prequalification, technical bid and fi-

Hancial bid in the prescribed boo.	
i Publish Date	16/11/2021at 1500 hrs
ii Document Download/sale start Date	16/11/2021 at 1500 hrs
iii Clarification start date	16/11/2021 at 1500 hrs
iv Clarification end date	20/11/2021 at 1200 hrs
v Bid submission start date	16/11/2021 at 1600 hrs
vi Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	22/11/2021 at 1600 hrs
vii Date and time of Bid opening	23/11/2021 at 1300 hrs

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on scheduled date and timeor any other date convenient to the tender opening authorityin the office of the Executive Engineer, Flood Mechanical Division, Baramulla.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 &33. Estimated Cost Rs:1.28Lacs

Position of funds ΔΔ Accorded No. FMD/TS/1817-21 Dated:-16/11/2021

DIPK-12908/21

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** Flood Mechanical Division Baramulla

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B **ELECTRIC DIVISION SGR**

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 175/e-tendering of 2021-22/R&B DATED: - 15.11.2021

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

S. No.		Est. Cost (In Ru- pees/lacs)	Doc. (In	Time of comple- tion	 Class of Contrac- tor
	Repairs / Renovation of Internal Electri- fication for work shop-3 of Kashmir Government Poly- technic College Goji	6.58 lacs	300.00	25 days	"A" class Electrical

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-11-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	15/11/2021 10.00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	15/11/2021 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	24/11/2021 up to 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	24/11/2021 at 6.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Sgr.

02. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Electric

Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority). All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below) . The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of adv. Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully. AAA/TS = Accorded

Position of Funds = available

DIPK-12946/21 No. 175/e-tendering/ERB/3707-14

Executive Engineer, (R&B) Electric Division Srinagar

### **JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

website:http://jkpsc.nic.in email; ceojkpsc2017@gmail.com Janrmu; 0191-2566533

Subject: Conduct of the Written Test for the post of Assistant Registrar Cooperative Socities in Cooperative Societies Societi erative Department-Deficiency reg;

Notice Dated: 16.11.2021

Whereas, vide Notification No.05-PSC(DR-P) of 2021 dated: 11.05.2021 online applications were invited from permanent resi dents of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, for the post of Assistant Registrar Cooperative Socities in Cooperative Department, in accordance with the relevant recruitment rules; and Whereas, in response 30,727 online application forms were received; and

Whereas, upon scrutiny of the online application forms it has been observed that some applicants have mentioned wrong date of result of their Bachelors Degree in their online application form. Besides, some other candidates have not uploaded their Domicile Certificate, claiming domciles of UT of J&K; and

Now, therefore it is hereby informed that:i. the candidates whose names are indicated in Annexure "A" to this notice are informed to submit the proof of having passed/ fully appeared in the Bachelor's Degree well within the cutoff date i.e. 16.06.2021. ii. the candidates whose names are indicated in Annexure "B" to this notice are informed to submit the Domicile Certificate issued

well within the cutoff date i.e. 16.06.2021. The candidates listed in Annexures A&B shall e-mail their documents on jkpsconline@gmail.com within a period of six days (i.e. by or before 22.11.2021) from the date of publication of this notice, failing which their candidature shall be rejected without

- The candidature of all the candidates appearing in the written examination scheduled to be held on 12.12.2021. shall be purely

- Claiming eligibility by misrepresentation, concealment of any material fact(s) or impersonation or fraud, his/her candidature shall be cancelled and he/she will be liable to disciplinary action by the Commission

The Commission reserves the right to cancel the candidature of any candidate found ineligible at any stage of Selection Process at which such ineligibility shall be detected.

DIPK-12837/21

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21010500516355

21010500503871

21010500501146

21010500522696

21010500522324

21010500523431

21010500526886

21010500517540

21010500523597

21010500519491

21010500531337

21010500530802

21010500530347

(Vinay Samotra), JKASI Deputy Controller of Examinations, J&K Public Service Commission

Annexure-A

No: PSC/DR/AR/2021 Dated: 16.11.2021

5 Na	Application No.	Name	Parentage
1	21010500504618	Abida	Abdul Qayoom
2	21010500516751	Ahtisham Ahmad War	Gh Ahmad War
3	21010500500466	Anii Singh	Babu Singh
4	21010500508476	Anzar Ahmed Khokhar	Mohd Mustafe Khokhar
5	21010500506537	Arjun Singh Rathore	Tara Singh Rathore
6	21010500512665	Bilal Farooq	Mohammad Faroog Chachi
7	21010500508581	Daud Hussaim	Munier Hussein
8	21010500506303	Dinesh Kumar Sharma	Naresh Chander
g	21010500506018	Farhan Ahmed	Khewaja Abdul Ahad
10	21010500525138	Fayaz Ahmad Dar	Mohd Sideeg Dar
11	21010500507310	Fida Yousuf Dar	Mohamad Yousuf Dar
12	21010500513101	Gagan Deep	Joginder Singh
1.3	21010500527677	Gulam Abass	Mond Younis
14	21010500503414	Hafeez Hackla	Haneef Mohd Hackla
15	21010500515708	irfan Ahmad Mir	Ab Rashid Mir
16	21010500511988	Karan Singh Jasrotia	Jagdev Singh
17	21010500512817	Kishore Kumer	Om Parkash
18	21010500511850	Malikzada Ovais	Malik Mohd Amin
19	21010500522210	Masooda Masarat	Malik Rehmatullah
20	21010500503037	Mir Asif Jameel	Mohd Yousuf Mir
21	21010500518658	Mohd Safeer	Mohd Rafiq
22	21010500521604	Mohit Verma	Sardhart Lail
23	21010500525135	Mohmmad Hussain Ganie	Gulam Ahamad Ganle
24	21010500524451	Musadiq Nabi Dar	Ghulam Nabi Dar
25	21010500525501	Najeeb Ahmad Bodha	Gulam Rasool Bodha
26	21010500531640	Naseer Ahmad Dar	Abdul Subhan Dar
27	21010500524547	Nisha Kumari	Mohan Lal
28	21010500532092	Nusrat Mohiuddin	Gh Mohluddin Dar
29	21010500525619	Ojasvi Sharma	Rajeev Sharma
30	21010500509745	Pardeep Singh	Dalbir Singh
31	21010500516127	Rayees Khatib	Mohd Ashraf Khatib
32	21010500513781	Sabreena Mansoor	Mansoor Malik
33	21010500517011	Sapna Devi	Anchel Ram
34	21010500504925	Sarita Devi	Sat Paul

Shozab Adnan

Sindhiya Sharma

Sonam Wangail

Tawseef Yousuf

Towheeda Nazir

Ummar Mahmood

Zaeem Ul Faroog

Umar Khalig

Vishal Digra

Zaira Tabasum

Syed Kousar Buithar

Talab Hussain Malik

Towseef Mohi Ud Din

Sumit Bhagat

		Willerante-P				
5 No	Application No.	Name	Parentage			
1	21010500512655	Ishfaq Ahmad	Ghulam Mohl Ud Din			
2	21010500522885	Shaheen Kousar	Mohd Yassin			
3	21010500521502	Stanzin Yangzom	Tsering Dorjai			
4	21010500528957	Zahara Bano	Gulam Haider			
		-	The state of the s			

(Vinay Samotra), JKAS 6 11 2 Deputy Controller of Examination

Ab Rashid Ganie Jughal Sharma

Skarma Tashi

Rashpal Dass

Nazir Ahmad

Ab Khalig Dar

Surinder Kumar

Irshad Ahmed

Faroog Ahmed Wani

Syed Khursheed Aalam

Gh Mohi Ud Din Sheikh

Ghulam Mohammad Wani

Mohd Hanlef Malik

Mohd Yousuf Lone



### **NIT Srinagar** signs two MoU's with IIT Ropar

**KO NEWS SERVICE** 

rinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with IIT Ropar and DST TIH - AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) to explore collaborative, academic research activities, joint supervision of Ph.D. students, workshops and seminars.

The MoU was signed by Director, NIT Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal, Prof. MF Wani in presence of Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Director, IIT Ropar to collaborate on different academic activities.

The MoU is a part of IIT Ropar's initiative to welcome meritorious students from NITs to spend their final semester(s) at IIT Ropar, pursue courses, and do a project.

The students will go through a rigorous selection process, and subject to their continued excellence, will be considered for early admission to PhD programs at IIT Ropar.

# **Ambitious metrolite project** for City to cost Rs 4892 crore

25-KM long network to have 2 corridors, 24 stations

Agencies

Srinagar: The completion cost of the ambitious metrolite project for Jammu & Kashmir summer capital Srinagar will be around Rs 4892 crore.

An official told the news agency that the much-talked about project would involve expenditure of Rs 4892 crore.

"The project is expected to be completed in four years. Its alignment has been already approved by the government," he said, adding that the J&K government had earlier this year submitted its revised detailed project report to the Government of India

He said the first phase of the project involving two corridors will have 24 stations.

"It will have two corridors. The first corridor spread over 12.5 kilometres will be from Indira Nagar to HMT. The second corridor with equal length will be from Hazuribagh to Osmanabad," he said, adding that



both corridors will have 12 stations each

The official said around 491 kanals of land would be acquired for the project.

"Of which, 12.76 hectares is state land, 11.85 hectares is private land and 0.24 hectares is central government land,"

It is worthwhile to mention

that the DPR of the project was submitted to the Centre for appraisal and funding last year after an administrative council

headed by then LG G.C. Murmu

approved in February 2020.

In the last week of August this year, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha had said that the UT administration was awaiting the Union Cabinet nod for

We have submitted the proposal for the metro rail, and the Housing and Urban Development Ministry has circulated the cabinet note in this regard," he had said—(KNO)

🕻 It will have two corridors. The first corridor spread over 12.5 kilometres will be from Indira Nagar to HMT. The second corridor with equal length will be from Hazuribagh to Osmanabad

#### **DIAL-EMMA**

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883



PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200

#### **AIRPORTS**

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

#### **RAILWAYS**



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

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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



through German lines

is founded.

returns from space

force against Iraq

**This Day In History** 

1817 - First Seminole War begins in Florida

1917 - Ukrainian Republic declared

leader to address Israeli Knesset.

1985 - Microsoft Windows 1.0 is released

1994 - Kosmos 2294/2295/2296 launches

embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania

Average reaches its lowest level since 1997.

economic rebound

Observer News Service

the matter in the morning.

Larnoo in Anantnag district last night.

1815 - 2nd Treaty of Paris: France & her allies agree France pay

indemnities after Battle of Waterloo, ending Napoleonic Wars

1917 - 1st successful tank use in battle, at the Battle of Camb-

rai in World War I as Britain uses the new technology to break

1940 - World War II: Hungary, Romania and Slovakia join the

1959 - UN adopts Universal Declaration of Children's Rights

1977 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat becomes the 1st Arab

1980 - United Nations Gulf War mediator Olof Palme makes

first unsuccessful peace shuttle between Tehran and Bagh-

1984 - SETI Institute (Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence)

1990 - British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher fails to de-

feat Michael Heseltine's bid for leadership of the Conserva-

1990 - ÚS 68th manned space mission STS 38 (Atlantis 7)

1990 - Saddam Hussein announces plans to release German

1990 - Soviet Union shows reluctance to endorse the use of

1994 - Angolan government and UNITA rebels sign the Lu-

1997 - Iraq's Revolution Command Council formally endorses

an agreement, arranged by Russia, that enables UN weapons

1998 - Court in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan declares Osa-

ma bin Laden "a man without a sin" in regard to the 1998 U.S.

2003 - After the November 15 bombings, a second day of the 2003 Istanbul Bombings occurs in Istanbul, Turkey, destroy-

ing the Turkish head office of HSBC Bank AS and the British

2008 - After critical failures in the US financial system began

to build up after mid-September, the Dow Jones Industrial

2009 - The Mexican government declares its econ-

omy technically out of recession after 2.93% GDP

growth in the third quarter of 2009; Mexico had been

in a severe economic crisis for over a year prior to its

2012 - Toshiba unveils a robot designed to help in nuclear di-

From KO Archives

2 brothers beheaded

RINAGAR: Two brothers of a slain police officer and a

raided the house of slain CIK inspector, Ghulam Hassan Wani

in Sadrpora locality of Keygam Kandi, Kupwara last night and

beheaded bodies were recovered from the Kaudi this morning.

back. Reports said a militant was killed in during an encoun-

ter with security forces in their house in May. NAFA agency

said the gun¬men equipped with machine guns and AK rifles

conducted house to house searches before abducting the duo.

Nazir Ahmad was an em-ployee of the Forest Department. The

agency added that residents had sought army help after the ab-

duction but forces refused to in-tervene saying they will tackle

by profession, at Qazigund in Anantnag district and injured two

persons Idrees Ahmad son of M Shaban Kumhar and Syed Qur-

ban son of Syed Akbar near Raina wari in downtown Sri¬nagar

A grenade attack on a bunker in Alamgari Bazar left at

last night. In a fierce encounter with security forces a foreign

militant of Lashker-eTaiba, Sadiq Hussain Abad was killed at

least six civilians injured. The grenade which reportedly was

hurled at the bunker at around 5.30 in the evening missed the

target. BSF person-nel stationed there later cordoned off the

area for searches .Several residents said they were severely

Gunmen killed a shopkeeper, Abdul Salam Bhat,a butcher

Mushtaq worked as a clerk in Education department while

abducted his brothers Nazir Ahmad and Mushtag Ahmad. Their

Ghulam Hassan alias Watali had been killed few months

militant were among four people killed and two injured

in violence in Jammu and Kashmir since last evening.

Reports said large number of unidentified gunmen

saka Protocol in Zambia, ending 19 years of civil war.

1965 - UN Security council calls for boycott of Rhodesia

**PRAYERS FAJR** 5:40 **ZUHR** 12:14 **ASR** 3:50 Magrib 5:30 **ISHA** 6:51

### **Devotees Throng Dastgeer Shrine Amid Shutdown**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: A large number of devotees converged at Dastgeer Sahab shrines in Khanyar and Sarai Bala in Srinagar on the Friday following Urs and joined in the congregational prayers.

The annual Urs of the 11th century Sufi saint, Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA), known as Dastgeer Sahib was observed with devotion on Wednesday. The Urs of Dastgeer Sahab is being annually observed on the 11th day of Rabi Al Sani—the fourth month of the Islamic Hijri Calendar.

The two shrines dedicated to Dastgeer Sahab witnessed a huge gathering throughout the day during which emotional scenes were seen while the relic of the revered saint was displayed after every obliga-

During the special prayers, the clerics threw

Srinagar: The Anjuman

Auqaf Jamia Masjid has

expressed its resentment

with the authorities after

they once again disallowed



light on the teachings of the revered saint. The devotees also participated in the special prayers today.

The shrines were decorated by the caretakers while the traders had also erected banners, displaying the greeting messages on

Outside the shrines, the cal and non-local business establishments had installed the carts and were seen selling the

**Auqaf Resents Bar On Prayers At Jamia Masjid** 

Srinagar.

Friday prayers at the his-

toric mosque in downtown

is extremely unfortunate and

disdainful of the authorities to

disallow Muslims of the Val-

Office of the Principal HKM

**Press Release** 

(A Great Achievement)

It said in a statement: "It

Kashmir traditional food stuff Pertinently, the Dast

geer Sahib shrine located at Khanyar was gutted in a mysterious blaze in 2012 following that authorities renovated it with a different look. The actual shrine of the revered saint is located at Baghdad in Iraq.

Even though the saint ver visited Kashmir in person, he is highly revered by the locals

ley from praying at the Cen-

tral mosque by use of brute

force and cause then hurt and

grief. Muslims of the Valley

denounce this injustice and

interference in religious free-

dom in strongest terms.

Dated: 18-11-2021

### Professional Academy Of Science & Arts

Opposite Boys Higher Sec.. School Magam

ree Details		
NEET/JEET	Rs 8000/ Subject	
12th Class	Rs 6000/Subject	
11th	Rs 6000/Subject	
10th	Rs 8000/ Syllabus Completion	
9th	Rs 7000/ Syllabus Completion	
8th	Rs 6000/ Syllabus Completion	

Contact; 01951-295979, 7006710430

**Faculty Detals:** 

Physics:	Er. Oazi Salman Khalig	M-Tech E&C
	Er Mohd Younis Wani	B Tech Civil Eng.
Chemistry:	Dr M. Maqbool Dar,	PHD Chemistry
	Ms Saka Tarig	M.Sc. Bed
ZOOLOGY:	Mr Gowhar Baba	M.Sc B.ed
BOTANY:	Mr Rameez	Mphill.
MATHEMATICS:	Mr. M Ashraf Sheikh	M.Sc . B.ed
ENGLISH:	Ms Rifat Nabi.	M.A . B.ed

MSK

#### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

#### JAMMU & KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Subject: Filling up of various posts of Health and Medical Education Department advertised vide Advertisement Notification No.02 of 2021 dated: 26-03-2021, seeking of prefer-

Whereas, the Health and Medical Education Department, J&K vide communication Nos HD/Drug/24/2020 dated 25-09-2020 followed by HD/Drug/24/2020 dated 07- 01-2021. HD/Coord/63/2020 dated 25-09-2020, HD/ISM/62/2020 dated 25-09-2020 followed by HD/Coord/64/2020 dated 05-03-2021, HD/Coord/64/2020 dated 25-09-2020. ME/NG/83/2020 dated 28.09.2020 followed by ME/NG/83/2020 dated

Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JK SSB) vide advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2021 dated 26-03-2021, issued advertisement for 2311 Divisional/District cadre posts relating to various departments, and:

Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JK SSB), conducted Computer Based Written Test (CBT) examination for 1202 posts of Health and Medical Education Department, advertised vide aforesald Notification No.02 of 2021 dated: 26-03-2021, in

Whereas, the Board vide Notice no SSB/COE/02/2021/5666-73 dated 17-08-2021, notified procedure for compilation of examination scores for multi session/slot pa-

didates in the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) examination held from 17.08.2021 to 25.08.2021, for different posts of Health and Medical Education Department advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2021 (except for the post of Social Worker/ Medical Social Worker, Item No. 204, Division Cadre Kashmir) vide No. SSB/COE/Health/2021/7191-99 dated 21-10-2021 and SSB/COE/Health/2021/7307-15 dated 25-10-2021, and;

Whereas, the JKSSB notified domain wise list of candidates falling in the consideration zone vide No. SSB/CDE/H&ME/2021/7477-84 Dated: - 02.11.2021 on the basis of final score/merit in the aforesaid CBT Examination. Subsequently, candidates falling under consideration zone were called for Counseiling-cum Document Verification Notice vide No.SSB/COE/Health/2021/7598-7606 Dated: -09-11.2021.

Now, therefore, in order to fill up all the advertised vacancies, all such candidates who are figuring in the consideration for various posts of Health and Medical Education. Department, advertised vide aforesald Notification No.D2 of 2021 dated: 26-D3-2021 are hereby informed to indicate order of preference for various posts / items through the link provided on the official website of the Board www.jkssb.nic.in from today i.e. 17.11.2021

Note: Candidate(s) who fails to indicate preference fully or partially, will be deemed to have agreed to any allocation of Cadre (s), in respect of such candidate(s), as shall be made by the Board.

By Order.

(Ashok Kumar) KAS Controller of Examinations J&K Services Selection Board

> thrashed by the angry personnel. (KASHMIR OBSERVER, 20 NOVEMBER, 2000)

#### Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar www.jkssb.nic.in

# OB.03.2021, forwarded the Indent for making recruitment to the 1444 posts, and;

multi sessions/slots papers from 17.08.2021 to 25.08.2021 and:

pers (Normalization procedure based on PERCENTILE SCORE), and; Whereas, JKSSB notified result/ score sheet based on the performance of can-

DIPK-12943/21

No. SSB/COE/Health/2021/7695-7704 Dated: 17.11.2021

No.: HKM/GDCB/21/648

**Observer News Service** 

#### Govt Degree College Bandipora Kashmir-193502 ا پچے کے ایم گور شمنٹ ڈ گری کالج بانڈی پورہ Website: www.gdcbandipora.edu.in, (NAAC Accredited-B) E-Mail: degreecollegebpr@gmail.com

The Principal, faculty and staff of HKM Govt Degree College Bandipora place on record the accomplishment made by one of our faculty by publishing his research work in the world's most reputed scientific journal "the Nature Communication". The Principal Dr Mohd Amin Malik and his team wholeheartedly congratulated Dr. Ghulam Hassan Dar, Assistant Professor in Biochemistry of the college for this achievement. Dr. Ghulam Hassan published his Research Work entitled " GAPDH controls extracellular vesicle biogenesis and enhances the therapeutic potential of EV mediated siRNA delivery to the brain" in Nature communication, which is one of the highly reputed international peer reviewed journals with impact factor 15. The part of the research work was already conducted while he was working as post Doc research scientist at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom. The work done by Dr. Ghulam Hassan has also got approved for a patent by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), international Bureau. In this Work, Dr. Ghulam Hassan has elucidated the role of GAPDH protein in biogenesis of extracellular vesicles and has developed the technology to load RNA-based drugs into these biological nano-particles for treating

Dr. Ghulam Hassan has also recently obtained research grant from JK Science Technology & Innovation Council (J&K) on thyroid disorders prevailing in the Kashmir Valley. We believe that this type of research work would help HKM Govt Degree College to get more research grants and develop collaboration with different research institutions. The college administration has been constantly encouraging research activities in the campus. Some other faculty in the college are already engaged in research projects and are publishing quality research papers in reputed peer reviewed research journals with college affiliation.

Huntington's disease (neurological disorder) in mice models.





### **Partial Lunar Eclipse To Be Longest Since 1440**



**Agence France-Presse** 

**UNITED STATES:** The longest partial lunar eclipse in nearly 600 years, which will bathe the Moon in red, will be visible Thursday and Friday for a big slice of humanity.

The celestial show will see the Moon almost completely cast in shadow as it moves behind the Earth, reddening 99 percent of its face.

The spectacle will be visible for all of North America, as well as parts of South America, Polynesia, Australia and northeast Asia.

Space scientists say sky-watchers in those parts who are blessed with a cloud-free view will see a slight dimming of the Moon from 0602 GMT Friday as it enters Earth's penumbra -- the outer shadow.

An hour later it will appear as if someone has taken a giant bite out of the lunar disc as it starts to pass into the umbra -- the full shadow.

By 0845 GMT the Moon will appear red, with the most vivid coloring visible at peak eclipse 18 minutes later.

The whole process then goes into reverse as the Moon slithers out of shadow and carries on its endless journev around our planet

The dramatic red is caused by a phenomenon known as "Rayleigh

scattering", where the shorter blue lightwaves from the Sun are dispersed by particles in the Earth's

Red lightwaves, which are longer, pass easily through these particles.

"The more dust or clouds in Earth's atmosphere during the eclipse, the redder the Moon will appear," a NASA website explains.

"It's as if all the world's sunrises and sunsets are projected onto the Moon." From the moment the eclipse proper begins -- when the Moon enters the Earth's shadow -- to when it ends will take more than three hours and 28 minutes.

That is the longest partial eclipse since 1440 -- around the time Johannes Gutenberg invented his printing press -- and won't be beaten until the far-off future of 2669.

The good news for Moonwatchers, however, is that they won't have to wait that long for another show -- there will be a longer total lunar eclipse on November 8 next year, NASA says.

And even better news for anyone wanting to watch is that no special equipment is necessary, unlike for solar eclipses. Binoculars, telescopes or the naked eye will give a decent view of the spectacle -- as long as the weather here on Earth plays ball.

### **US Senators Move To Block** \$650 Million Arms Sale To Saudi Arabia



**REUTERS** 

**WASHINGTON:** A group of U.S. senators are opposing the Biden administration's first major arms sale to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over with containers and support equip-Riyadh's involvement in the conflict ment, spare parts, U.S. government in Yemen, three senators announced on Thursday.

A joint resolution of disapproval to block a proposed \$650 million in U.S. arms sales to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was introduced by Republicans Rand Paul and Mike Lee, as well as Bernie Sanders who caucuses with Democrats.

While many U.S. lawmakers consider Saudi Arabia an important partner in the Middle East, they have criticized the country for its involvement in the war in Yemen, a conflict considered one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters. They have refused to approve many military sales for the kingdom without assurances U.S. equipment

would not be used to kill civilians. Activists have said Saudi Arabia has lobbied heavily against extending a mandate of United Nation investigators who have documented possible war crimes in Yemen by both the Riyadh-led coalition and

the Houthi movement. The package which was approved

by the State Department would include 280 AIM-120C-7/C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM), 596 LAU-128 Missile Rail Launchers (MRL) along and contractor engineering and

technical support. In a statement Paul said, "this sale that could accelerate an arms race in the Middle East and jeopardize the security of our military technologies."

"As the Saudi government continues to wage its devastating war in Yemen and repress its own people, we should not be rewarding them with more arms sales," said Sanders in the joint statement.

Raytheon Technologies makes the missiles. The Biden administration has said it adopted a policy of selling only defensive weapons to the Gulf ally.

When the State Department approved the sale a spokesman said the sale "is fully consistent with the administration's pledge to lead with diplomacy to end the conflict in Yemen." The air-to-air missiles ensure "Saudi Arabia has the means to defend itself from Iranian-backed Houthi air attacks." he said.

State Department approval of a sale is not necessarily the indication of a signed contract.



MEDICAL PERSONNEL is seen at the intensive care unit with Covid-19 patients in a hospital in Freising near Munich, southern Germany, on November 16, 2021. (Photo by AFP)

### **Germany In 'National Emergency' As COVID Wave Sweeps Europe**

The German Health Ministry has announced that a new wave of coronavirus infections has plunged the country into a national emergency.

"We are in a national emergency," Germany's Health Min- by more than 60%. ister Jens Spahn told a news conference in the capital Berlin on Friday, adding that the pandemic situation has worsened over the past week and is now "more serious than last week.'

When asked about the possibility of imposing a new lock-down, Spahn said the fourth wave of COVID infections has seen case numbers reach record levels in Germany and that, "We're in a situation where we can't rule anything out."

Germany recorded on Friday 52,970 daily new infections, a day after registering over 65,000 daily cases, a record since the start of the pandemic, with health officials warning that the number is likely to at

least double in the coming days. In the past two weeks, the number of new coronavirus cases in Germany has jumped

**DESPITE MONTHS** 

of persuasion, we have not succeeded in convincing enough people to get vaccinated,'

Spahn was talking at the press conference together with Lothar Wieler, the head of the country's infectious disease agency the Robert Koch Institute (RKI).

Painting a dramatic picture of the coronavirus situation in Germany, Wieler said the seven-day incidence rate in over a quarter of districts nationwide is above 500 new infections per 100,000 people and that many hospitals are at breaking point.

"We need to turn the tide. There's really no time to lose," Wieler said, stressing the importance of vaccinations. "We need to close the vaccination gaps now."

The comments were made as Germany's upper house of parliament, the Bundesrat, approved new restrictions to curb COVID, a day after the lower house passed the measures.

Austria to reimpose full

Also on Friday, Austrian Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg announced plans for the re-imposition of a full lockdown across the country and making vaccinations mandatory – the first in the EU to take such stringent measures as coronavirus cases spiral.

Schallenberg said COVID-19 vaccinations will be mandatory from February 1 next year, while the lockdown will start from Monday and will be evaluated after 10 days.

"Despite months of persuasion, we have not succeeded in convincing enough people to get vaccinated," Schallenberg told a press conference in the western Tvrol state, blaming those refusing to be vaccinated for an "attack on the health system."

On Thursday, a new record of more than 15,000 new cases were recorded in the Alpine nation of nearly nine million people.

Demand for vaccinations has increased among Austrians in recent days, and 66 percent of the population is now fully jabbed, slightly below the EU average of more than 67 percent.

### S Jaishankar: India-China Ties Going Through A 'Bad Patch'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SINGAPORE: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday that India and China are going through a "particularly bad patch" in their ties because Beijing has taken a set of actions in violation of agreements for which it still doesn't have a "credible explanation" and it is for the Chinese leadership to answer where they want to take the bilateral relationship.

any doubt on where we stand on our relationship and what's not gone right with it. I've been meetnumber of times. As you would've experienced, I speak fairly clear, reasonably understandably (and) want to hear it, I am sure they would have heard it," Jaishankar said in response to a question at a panel "Greater Power Competition: The Emerging World Order" at the Bloomberg New Economic



"We are going through a particu-"I don't think the Chinese have larly bad patch in our relationship because they have taken a set of actions in violation of agreements for which they still don't have a ing my counterpart Wang Yi a credible explanation and that indicates some rethink about where they want to take our relationship, but that's for them to answer," he there is no lack of clarity so if they further said, in an apparent reference to the eastern Ladakh border clash with China.

> The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and ed States has been strategically Chinese militaries erupted on May contracting and yielding space to 5 last year following a violent clash others amidst a global rebalancing in the Pangong lake areas and both of power.

sides gradually enhanced their 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 north and south banks of the Pangong lake in February and in the Gogra area in August.

The last round of military talks on October 10 ended in a stalemate.

Meanwhile, on Thursday the two sides agreed to hold the 14th round of military talks at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement in remaining friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

Jaishankar also dismissed as "ridiculous" the notion that the Unit-

### **Instagram's Impact On Children Probed By US States**



**Agence France-Presse** 

WASHINGTON: Instagram's parentcompany Meta is being probed by a consortium of US states over allegations that it supplied the photosharing platform to children despite knowing of potential harm, in fresh trouble for the scandal-hit giant, officials said Thursday.

Facebook is battling one of its most serious reputational crises yet after a whistleblower leaked reams of internal documents showing executives knew of their sites' possibility for damage, prompting a renewed US push for regulation.

"Facebook, now Meta, has failed to protect young people on its platforms and instead chose to ignore or, in some cases, double down on known manipulations that pose a real threat to physical and mental health -- exploiting children in the interest of profit," Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey said in a statement.

The consortium of attorneys general -- states' top law enforcers and legal advisors -- includes New York, Colorado, California, Florida, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Vermont. A full list has not been released.

to a request for comment.

The investigation targets, among other things, Meta's techniques for increasing the frequency and duration of engagement by young users and the resulting harms, said California Attorney General Rob Bonta.

- Whistleblower crisis -

This probe cames after "reports revealing that Meta's own internal research shows that using Instagram is associated with increased risks of physical and mental health harms on young people, including depression, eating disorders, and even suicide," Bonta's statement said.

The leaked documents have underpinned a deluge of damning stories. including blaming CEO Mark Zuckerberg for his platform bending to state censors in Vietnam and highlighting how the site has stoked anger in the name of keeping users engaged.

They were leaked to lawmakers. a consortium of journalists and US regulators by former Facebook employee Frances Haugen, who has become a figurehead of criticism of the leading social media platform.

Haugen told AFP in a wideranging interview that she believes young people have more reason than anyone else to pressure social Meta did not immediately reply media companies to do better.

### **Hundreds Of Migrants** Arrive Back In Iraq On **Flight From Belarus**



**Agence France-Presse** 

SOKOLKA, POLAND: Hundreds of Iraqis who failed to enter the EU from Belarus returned home Thursday, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned that Belarus's attempt to 'weaponise migration" had to stop.

Blinken's comments came as Poland detained dozens who crossed its border in a crisis the West blames on Minsk. The European Union accuses

Belarus strongman Alexander Lukashenko of luring the migrants -mainly Iraqi Kurds -- to the border as revenge for sanctions slapped on his regime after its suppression of opposition protests last year.

We have in place authorities to, as necessary, add to sanctions," Blinken told reporters on a visit to Nigeria.

"This effort to weaponise migration has to stop," he added. "First and foremost, it is doing a terrible iniustice to these people that it has victimised by making them pawns." Lukashenko and his Russian ally

jected the accusations and criticised pland for not taking the migrants i

Thousands have been stuck in freezing temperatures at the border between the two countries for days. A Polish NGO Thursday reported that it had found a Syrian couple

the border for a month. Polish media say at least 11 migrants have died since the crisis began in August.

who had lost their one-year-old

child while sleeping in the forest on

"The woman said she had lost a one-year-old child a month ago, while in the woods," the Polish Center for International Aid said on Twitter.

The president of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, called for "the inhumanity" to stop.

"It is heartbreaking seeing a child die in the cold at the EU's doorstep," he said on Twitter.

Hope for de-escalating the crisis mounted this week, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel speaking with Lukashenko twice by phone -- his first call with a Western leader since President Vladimir Putin have re- disputed presidential elections last year.

#### NEWS MAKERS

### Rare Original Copy Of US Constitution **Auctioned For \$43 Million**

**Agence France-Presse** 

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES: An extremely rare original copy of the US constitution was sold Thursday for \$43 million -- a world record for a historical document at auction, Sotheby's said.

It is one of only 11 known surviving copies of the US charter, signed on September 17, 1787 at Philadelphia's Independence Hall by America's founding fathers, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and James Madison and ratified the following year.

The winning bidder was not immediately identified.

A group of cryptocurrency investors had raised \$40 million to buy the document but failed to secure the document, this consortium said.

A Sotheby's spokesman said the sale -- for \$43.2 million including commis-



sions -- was a world record for a historical document offered at auction. Selby Kiffer, a manuscripts and ancient books expert at Sotheby's, said in September that this copy was

probably part of an edition of 500 printed on the eve of the signing. This one was the only one in private hands, Kiffer said.

### **Worker For Israel Defense Minister Accused Of Iran Espionage**

**Associated Press** 

TEL AVIV: Israel has charged a domestic worker employed by the country's defense minister with espionage for allegedly offering to use his proximity to the minister to relay information to Iran, Israel's domestic security agency

Shin Bet said Thursday. The man, identified as Omri Goren, worked at Defense Minister Benny Gantz' home as a cleaner and caretaker.

The Shin Bet said he initiated contact with an unnamed "Iranian entity" though social media, sending photos of different items around the house including pictures of the minister's computer.

The Shin Bet said Goren discussed infecting Gantz' computer with malware, but was arrested before any plans were carried out.

He had no access to classified mate-



rial, or sent any, they added. This isn't the first time Gantz has had

a run-in with Iran. While campaigning for elections in 2019, the former military chief was warned by the Shin Bet that Iranian intelligence hacked his cellphone, putting "his personal details and addresses in hostile hands.'

A statement from Gantz's campaign at the time insinuated his opponents leaked the news to damage his political bid.

### Chinese President Xi Jinping's Book On Governance Published In Hindi

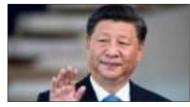
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

President Xi Jinping's book on governance, highlighting his doctrine of 'Socialism with Chinese Characteristics' for modern China and philosophy of addressing its pressing issues, has been published in Hindi and several other

languages of the Central Asian countries. The first volume of Xi Jinping: The Governance of China' was released in Hindi, Pashto. Dari, Sinhalese and Uzbek languages at a function at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on Wednesday, the staterun Xinhua news agency reported.

It has already been published in English and several languages, besides in Mandarin in the last few years.

Since he came to power in 2012, Xi, 68, has emerged as the core leader of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) on the lines of party founder Mao the second-largest economy after the US.



Zedong. He espoused a new ideological line called Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era.

It was broadly seen updating the Socialism with Chinese Characteristics' (SCC) line first proposed by party leader Deng Xiaoping who steered the party after Mao's death, diluting the hardline Marxism in the CPC's governance ideology.

SCC, which permitted market reforms and opened the economy in a big way, was largely attributed to the rapid economic development of China, helping it to become

### Will Do What People Of J&K Want Me To Do: Azad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Denying that he had knowledge of resignations of some state Congress leaders close to him, former chief minister Gulam Nabi Azad said he will do what the people of Jammu and Kashmir want him to do for the betterment of the Union territory.

Spelling trouble for the Congress in Jammu and Kashmir, four former ministers and three exlegislators, loyal to the group of Azad, resigned from party posts, saying they have not been provided an opportunity to be heard on party affairs in the union territory, sources said on Wednesday.

"I will do what the people of Jammu and Kashmir want me to do for the betterment of this state," Azad told reporters in reply to a question on whether he would contest as Congress chief ministerial candidate in the next assembly elections keeping in view the demand raised at a public rally in Kathua district.

The leaders, who shared stage with Azad at the rally and resigned from their posts in the Congress, saying only Azad is acceptable to them as the party's face in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the chief ministerial candidate, not state Congress chief Gulam Ahmed Mir.

'Mir is not acceptable to us. We want Azad sahib and he should lead the party. He has sacrificed a the ruling party, "we have more inlot for the party and this area," former minister Manohar Lal Sharma, who was among the leaders who resigned from party post, said at tussle) shouldn't happen. It is unthe Azad-led rally in Kathua. Azad fortunate that this is happening".



said he came to know about the resignations of Congress leaders only through newspapers today.

"I am not party to that (resignation by party leaders). I was not consulted. I, myself, read it in the newspapers," he said.

The veteran leader said that he did not talk to them as it is their personal point of view.

"For me, everyone is equal, I am not with one team or another team. I am not associated with one or another group," he said.

On the issue of grievances raised by his loyals in the state Congress, Azad said, "There have been grievances." Asked about the show of strength of his loyals in Jammu and Kashmir, he said this was not a 'shakti pradarshan'.

"I travel to internal areas of Jammu and Kashmir. For long it had not been possible because of the state's bifurcation and then due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is just to know about the people.'

On the internal tussle in the Congress, Azad said it is even there in ternal democracy (in the Congress). Even their ministers speak (against the government). This (internal

FARM LAWS REPEAL

### **BJP Only Responds To Cold Hard Numbers: Omar**

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Friday said anyone who believes the government repealed the farm laws out of the goodness of its heart was completely mistaken.

He said the BJP government only responds to cold hard numbers.

"Anyone who believes the government repealed the #FarmLaws out of the goodness of its heart is Modi, in an address to the nacompletely mistaken. This gov- tion this morning, announced ernment only responds to cold that the government has decidhard numbers - bypoll setback = ed to repeal the three farm laws, fuel price reduction. Poor internal which were at the centre of propolls numbers for Western UP & tests by farmers for the past year.



Punjab = #Farmlawsrepealed," Mr Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

Prime Minister Narendra

### **Govt Sets Deadline For** Updated Data On Introducing **Employee Friendly Reforms**

**AGENCIES** 

**SRINAGAR:** J&K government has repeated instructions in this reasked all the administrative sec- gard, a matter which is impedretaries and HoDs to ensure updation of data of all Officers and initiatives and has been viewed officials working in their depart- seriously by the authorities," the ment by or before November 30 to "enable" it to introduce various employee friendly reforms.

"The Government is contemplating introduction of various employee friendly reforms for simplifying the Government employee interactions, which importantly include e-filing of Property Returns and APRs," government said.

tion and data of employees is concerned DDO immediately." fundamental for successful im-

3 Held For

**Illegally** 

working in various departments has not yet been updated despite ing the introduction of these government said in an circular.

It is accordingly enjoined upon all the Admnistrative Secretaries and HoDs to ensure updation of data of all Officers/officials working in their department by or before 30h of November, 2021," it said, adding, "It is further informed that all employees shall check their particulars and Updated and correct informa- update their CPIS data with the

The government said that acplementation of these reforms, tion taken report in this regard shall be shared with the GAD by "It has however been observed all Administrative Secretaries by that basic data of employees or before November 25. (GNS)



### **Father Demands Body Of Teen** Son Killed In HMT 'Encounter'

**ZAID BIN SHABIR** 

of two businessmen were exhumed and handed over to the families following massive out- and two other young men, aged rage over the controversial Hyderpora encounter, the father of a teenager killed in an alleged gunfight in HMT area of the city outskirts last year, demanded on Friday the mortal remains of his son for a de-

cent burial. Mushtaq Ahmed Wani, a resident of Pulwama, released a video on social media seeking body of his son Athar Mushtaq, who was killed in an alleged fake encounter in HMT area of 22 and 24, were on December the city outskirts on December

30 last year. Wani, who was booked un-der the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) by the counter also immediately mired police for organising a protest to seek his slain son's body in rejected the claims of govern-February this year, said that ment forces that the three youth even after eleven months, the

grave he had dug to bury his

graveyard remains open. "If you all recall, I'd shrieked called and had also informed in Srinagar and stated that the media that about 60% of today, will happen to you all distraught face.

"This (Hyderpora shootout) had happened just as I feared **SRINAGAR:** A day after bodies and it was exactly what they

30 last year killed by army and

Police in HMT area in an al-

Like Hyderpora, the HMT en-

in controversy as the families

were involved in militancy.

leged fake encounter.

that the HMT encounter was a (Forces) had planned," he added. staged one, no one dared to lis-17-year-old Athar Mushtaq ten to me."

Wani's emotional plea comes a day after the authorities decided to exhume bodies of two civilians---Altaf Ahmed Bhat and Dr. Mudasir Gul---who were killed in the shootout of 15 November in Hyderpora area of Srinagar city. Notably, the controver-

"Even though I'd claimed

sial encounter that left Athar and two other youngsters dead had come just days after the chargesheet in the Shopian fake encounter case indicted an Army captain and two others.

"On the day of judgement, you all will have to face the Almighty and then, you'll be judged on whether you raised your voice for my son or not." Wani is heard saying in the video.

"I'm still longing for my son's dead body and his return can be made possible only if you people stand by my side," he adds

"The IG of Police and LG had He is further heard saying, tion into the matter will be "The way three innocent civilians were killed in Hyderpora is exactly how my son was killed whatever had happened to me evidence about my son being a in HMT. Now, it is you guys who militant was already available can deliver justice but perhaps, tomorrow," Wani said with a and the rest of the evidence you aren't able to understand will be shown in 10-15 days,"

#### FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

### NHM J&K Bags **National Level Award**

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The National Health Mission, Jammu and Kashmir received award for Swasthya Nidhi survey app in the Health Category at the fourth Digital Transformation Awards Summit titled 'Towards Integrated Digital Health Infrastructure' organized by Governance Now.

The project was appreciated at the National-level for leveraging digital approach to track suspicious COVID-19 patients and to take timely action, an official spokesperson said.

He said that Mission Director, NHM, J&K, Yasin M Choudhary, who was one of the key speakers in the Summit spoke on various aspects of Ayushman Bharat digital health Mission (ABDM) including HMIS, e- sanjeevani -Telemedicine, RBSK & ASHA ap-

He said that while giving details about the project, Choudhary stated that Swasthya Nidhi a survey app is an integrated health audit & intensive screening framework designed to col-

lect the health data of individuals from households in J&K and to take timely action to track suspicious COVID-19 patients.

'The data after collection is scanned by medical teams to take requisite action for preventing the spread of the virus. It is a unique initiative of the Government which helped to contain the spread of COVID-19. Under this initiative various teams were constituted to perform the health audit of the citizens. The teams captured health status of the people which helped to identify the symptomatic people and necessary containment measures were taken by the department," Choudhary said.

According to the official spokesperson, the Mission Director, NHM further said that the project had helped the administration at district, block and village level in risk assessment for suitable action and allocation of resources at all levels.

"He thanked all the officers and front line workers associated in making this project a grand

### **Gurupurab Celebrated** With Religious Fervor

**SRINAGAR:** Gurpurab, the birth in the evening. anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji, was on Friday celebrated with religious fervor across Jammu and Kashmir.

The main function was held at Gurdwara Chatti Padshahi at Rainawari here where hundreds of Sikhs from across Kashmir participated in special prayers.

Guru Nanak Sahib (the founder of Sikhism) was born on 15th April, 1469 at Rai-Bhoi-di Talwandi in the present district of Sheikhupura in Pakistan, now Nanakana Sahib.

Special 'langar' were also organized for the devotees in Gurdwaras. Similar celebrations were also held in other local Gurdwaras including Jawahar Nagar, Allochi Bagh, Barzulla, Tral, Rangreth, Pattan and Baramulla and

Gurdwaras were beautifully decorated to mark the occasion. Sikh community had also illuminated their respective houses

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Director General of Police and several political leaders including former chief ministers greeted Sikh community on the eve of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birth day and prayed for the peace and prosperity of J&K.

On the auspicious occasion, Sinha paid obeisance at Gurudwara Sahib, Chand Nagar and prayed for sustained peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being

He said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji placed the service of the people as the first and foremost duty of human beings. The divine Guru believed and propagated selfless service as a priceless virtue. Every single word of his teachings is as relevant today as it was 500 years ago, he added.

The teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji are showing way to the entire humanity for the last 500 years, the Lt Governor said.

### **Will Make Every Section Of Society Equal Stakeholder In UT's Development: LG**

deceased son in their native assured us that an investiga-

**OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** 

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday said that his administration is committed to make every section of the society as an equal stakeholder in the development process of the Union Territory.

The LG made these remarks while interacting with a 10-member delegation of Pahari Cultural & Welfare Forum, Anantnag, here on Friday, an official spokesperson said.

The 10 member delegation he said was led by Sheikh Muzaffar, President, Jammu & Kashmir Nationalist People's Front, comprising its president Sharief Bhukhari; Member, Syed Akhter Hussain; General Secretary, Suhail Khan; Imtiaz Khan and others and apprised the LG about the issues of Pahari speaking people of the UT.

The delegation, the official spokestheir issues and demands which in-

cluded development of pahari habitations, inclusion of pushto speaking people (PSP) in Pahari community reservation benefits, timely issuance of PSP certificates by concerned revenue offices, besides other welfare and development issues of Pahari community.

While interacting with the members of the delegation, he said, the LG assured them that all their genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned authorities for their redressal on merit.

'The Lt Governor observed that the UT government is committed to make every section of the society as an equal stakeholder in the development process of the UT," the official spokesperson said.

"He impressed upon the members of the delegation to spread awareness and motivate their community to get connected with various welfare and development schemes being run in person said also presented to the LG J&K aimed at its holistic and equitable

### Reference:

### THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL **ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)** 1616/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu

website: http://www.jkbopee.gov.in/www.jakbopee.org, email: helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com/coejakbopee@gmail.com

Provisional selection list of eligible candidates for admission to GNM course 2021: Subject: (Upgradation/allotment 2nd round of physical counselling thereof).

Notification No. 052-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10-04-2021.

Notice No. 045-B0PEE of 2021 dated 05-05-2021.

Notice No. 051-B0PEE of 2021 dated 28-05-2021. Notice No. 053-B0PEE of 2021 dated 11-06-2021.

Notice No. 055-B0PEE of 2021 dated 29-06-2021. Notification No. 072-B0PEE of 2021 dated 24-07-2021.

Notification No. 078-B0PEE of 2021 dated 20-08-2021. Notification No. 083-BOPEE of 2021 dated 05-09-2021.

Notification No. 084-B0PEE of 2021 dated 07-09-2021.

Notification No. 085-BOPEE of 2021 dated 09-09-2021.

Notification No. 117-BOPEE of 2021 dated 03-11-2021. **NOTIFICATION NO. 128-BOPEE OF 2021** 

#### DATED: 19-11-2021 Pursuant to Notification No. 117-BOPEE of 2021 dated 03-11-2021, the Board conducted 2nd round of upgradation/

allotment (physical) counselling of eligible candidates who have applied for GNM Course 2021 from 08-11-2021 to 18-11-2021 at BOPEE office, Srinagar/Jammu simultaneously. The candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been allotted seats as per their merit cum preferences are hereby provisionally selected for admission to GNM course 2021 in various colleges of UT of J&K as per Annexure-"A" to this notification which is available on website of the Board www.ikbopee.gov.in only. The candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted colleges/institutions from, 20-11-2021 to 29-11-2021 upto 4:00 P.M positively along-with the following documents/certificates:-

Marks card of 10+2. Date of Birth certificate of 10th class.

Domicile certificate.

Category certificate if any

Medical fitness certificate

Any other certificate/document as required by the college authorities.

It shall be sole responsibility of the colleges/institutions to ensure proper check and verification of documents/eligibility as per Indian Nursing Council (INC) guidelines before the candidates are allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents the same shall be reported to the Board for further course of action under rules:

In order to complete admission process within the prescribed cut-off date (29-11-2021) the colleges/institutions shall keep their admission counters open even on holidays/off days and designate Nodal Officers to facilitate the candidates to complete the admission process well in time. However, the candidates should in their own interest avoid waiting for the last date to complete the admission formalities since delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only. The Heads of the Colleges/Institutions are requested to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail at helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com/jakbopee@gmail.com/ coejakbopee@gmail.com on 30-11-2021 upto 5.00pm.

The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false/fabricated, and action as warranted under law shall be initiated against such

The concerned college/institutions shall ensure that, any person with disability, if selected in open merit or some other reserved category, constitute a Special Medical Board to assess such candidates and make recommendations based on which colleges shall take further necessary action. In case any such candidate does not fulfill the bench marks of eligibility, he/she shall not be admitted to the course/college and the matter shall

For fee/documents required for admission in the College/Institute, the provisionally selected candidates are advised

to contact concerned college/institute before the last date of admission as fixed by the Board (29-11-2021). Pursuant to the circular No. JKPMC-21/131/7386-7456 dated 13-09-2021 issued by the President, J&K Para Medical Council, Jammu, the Heads of the Institutions are advised to release the documents/fee to the upgraded candidates who are shifting from one institutions/College to other in GNM Course without any loss of time

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in notifications/notices issued by the Board

No: BOPEE/Exam-10/2021 DIPK-NB-5150/21

E&0E

from time to time in this regard.

(Dr. Sunil Gupta) J&K BOPEE

### investigation has been initiated," the police spokesperson said.

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday arrested three people on charges of illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Mohammad Arif Deenda and Ashiq Hussain,

**Extracting Minerals** 

**OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** 

both residents of Raiyar Ich and Jeevan Jote of Kathghar Gurdaspora were arrested for their involvement in illegal extraction and transportation of clay from government land at Kralpathri Budgam, a police spokesperson said Friday. He said three vehicles including 2 tippers and a JCB have also been seized from the spot

have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a Case vide FIR No. 243/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Khansahib and further

by cops from police station Khansahib "They

### **Govt Orders Constitution Of Covid Inspections Teams**

### Div Coms Asked To Ensure Social Gathering Limit Is Followed

**OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** 

JAMMU: The Union Territory administration on Friday asked the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir to conegy of the government against stitute Covid inspection teams probable third wave," he said. and to take strict measures for ensuring the social gathering

limit is rigorously followed. These decisions were taken during a series of meetings of Covid Task Force, DCs and SPs in which a comprehensive review was taken to assess the public health response system being implemented by the administrations at district level, an official spokesperson said.

District Administrations, he said, were directed to trict levels for conducting ranadopt systematic and innovative means for effective clini- lic places and health institutions. to implement the directions cal management measures in a

'Vaccination, increased tar-

planned manner.

geted testing, intensive contact tracing, strict containment measures remains key strat-"High-risk groups, micro con-

tainment, adherence of Covid Appropriate Behaviour, mass awareness, identification of positive cases, and robust isolation measures will remain core focus areas to contain the virus," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the Divisional Commissioners were directed to constitute Covid inspection teams at the Divisional and Disdom inspections of various pub-

is rigorously followed," he said The meeting, he said, also discussed the preparatory measures to be taken in view of fu-

ture health emergencies including training of paramedical staff, stocking of essential drugs, conducting the audit of functionality of oxygen plants, and reviewing emergency Covid action plan. As per the official spokesper-

to take strict measures for en-

suring the social gathering limit

son, Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed briefing on the district-wise analysis of Covid-19 situation & threat level, present status of positivity rate, testing, and vaccination across the UT, besides measures taken "The officials were instructed passed in previous meetings.

# **OBSERVER**

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#### Twitter Talks



"They did it to win elections" and "protests work" are not mutually exclusive ideas

@asmitabee

"Oxygen support demand at SRO showing substantial uptick. #COVID cases rising. Today J&K logged 193 fresh cases.

#FollowSOPs #OxygenKashmir"

@sro\_kashmir

"the muslim urge to not watch anything with gal gadot in it"

@namelus

### Islamic Studies Academics Must Know Arabic



slamic Studies academics have recently taken to social media to critique certain aspects of their field. One major criticism was that Islamic projecting various theories onto Islam without justifying why they are doing so. Although this assessment was ironically made by an academic that has fallen into the same trap via projecting Schuonian Perennialism onto Islam, the critique stands. The discussion has since taken a turn to focus on theory and its utility, and that is beyond the scope of this piece. Another major criticism was the lack of language skills among many Islamic Studies academics, which drastically limits their engagement with Muslim texts. In response, one Islamic Studies academic took to social media making poorly thought out responses to this, varying from accusations of sexism, racism, classism, to ignorance of the corpus of Muslim texts.

I have taken Islamic Studies courses at more than one university. At the time, I had my own critiques and skepticism of the capabilities of the professors in the Arabic language, but I would never have imagined that it would be considered unproblematic by some to have absolutely no engagement with Arabic. I spent many days in class correcting my professors when they misread or mistranslated an Arabic phrase. I was left in a state of confusion. How is it that these are tenured or tenure-track professors at top universities that are so incompetent in the primary language of the Muslim tradition of

which they are purpotedly experts? One particular academic claimed that limiting Islamic Studies to people with knowledge of classical Arabic will make the field more white, male, and wealthy. This statement is loaded with problems and assumptions, but I will highlight just one. Assuming the statement is true, there seems to be an implicit prioritization of diversity over standards and quality. If there is a perceived limitation on access to classical Arabic, then the goal should be to expand the level of access rather than waiving Arabic off as some unnecessary perk. Unsurprisingly, proponents of cancel-culture

and identity politics can't seem to get this through their heads. Academia as a whole is characterized by inaccessibility, which is itself the problem. The issue is not a racial or gendered one, but a class one. There's more to be said about this, but other questions arise.

Does the academic who brandished the flag of anti-racism realize that her approach to Islamic Studies is completely reminiscent of standard orientalist whitewashing of other fields of study? Coleman Barks 'translated' Mawlana Jalaluddin al-Rumi's poetry without knowing a lick of Persian. The result was a whitewashing of a Muslim theologian's love for Islam at the hands of Westerners ready to cite Mawlana Rumi to justify beliefs he would have rejected. It is true that there are many works about Mawlana Rumi written in various languages, but the core works are in Persian. Erasing the requirement of Persian to engage with Mawlana Rumi produces something repugnant to anyone who speaks Persian, anyone who values Mawlana Rumi as a Muslim figure, or anyone with a semblance of academic integrity. To suggest a similar route regarding Arabic in the field of Islamic Studies is asking to open the door to things that are an anathema to me, an Arabicspeaking, Muslim student of traditional Islamic Studies.

Even if one were to make the argument that many Muslim texts are in Persian, Urdu, and Turkish (among other languages), this provides no recourse for the problem at hand. The core text that informs all other texts in the Muslim tradition, whether directly or indirectly, is the Qur'an. The Qur'an is in Arabic, and one will never be able to grasp it without having mastered Arabic. Translations are not considered the Qur'an by Muslims. An academic would never consider someone who has never read Shakespeare in his original early English (as opposed to a translation) an authority on Shakespearean literature, so why should anyone pay mind to a proclaimed authority on Islam who has never read the Qur'an, a

text that is only in Arabic?

Traversing Tradition

# **Kashmiri Childhood — A Collateral?**

Children In Kashmir Steal Moments From Life To Live What's Touted As The Standard Of A Joyful Childhood. They Live The Normal In The Abnormal.



A GIRL WALKS PAST AN ARMY PERSONNEL in the alleyways of Downtown srinagar reading into a notebook. File Photo by Abid Bhat for Kashmir Observer (July 6, 2020)

#### Tooba Towfiq

Kagaz ki Kishti, a romp in the rain and a plunge into a dirty puddle — these flash in our mind's eye at the very first request for childhood's recollection.

Childhood has dominantly been a symbol of hope, innocence and ecstasy. It has remained the most enduring metaphors for joy and life. This symbolism associated with childhood is so pervasive that all recollections and nostalgia are tainted by these expected connotations.

However, even with the inevitable impact of this formidable symbolism, this representation of childhood is unrepresentative. It has always been.

When we demystify our expectations, we face the bitter truth. We see the dust of poverty on the faces of children, bones of hunger all over their skin and in some cases, we see them resting on their grand pa's stomach on a random road — a beautiful template — disturbed by death. He has been killed in a crossfire between the army and suspected militants. Childhood's loss — a collateral.

The dehumanisation of kashmiri children starts with the nomenclature itself. They're called Children of "conflict"; an identity which reduces them to their immediate political fate and implicates them immortaly in a cycle

### TIT SEEMS TO BE A NEVER ENDING ROAD

of woes for Kashmir. There is no tangible source of reassurance, only an optimistic hope. However, in this forever postponed quest for peace, children have lost and continue to lose their chances at a dignified and

of violence.

Children are not deemed agential in the matters of electoral democracies. This stage is often taken to be "apolitical". However, Kashmiri children do not even have the privilege of having this apolitical innocence. While the Greta Thunbergs of the world fight climate change, Kashmiri children had to switch their placards from "Save the Planet" to "Return my Baba's Dead Body".

Baba's Dead Body".

Following this week's Hyderpora shootout where four people including civilians have been killed. The children of these colossal collateral damages have had to endure too much, too soon. Of the four killed in the shootout, only two were reportedly civilians. The meddling with numerics hides behind it the human cost of such events. These two civilians have left behind five children who would have to live their lives without a father now. Even before they reached the adolescent or adult existential dilemmas of "What's life", they met the

question, "Whose bullet was it?"

In a world where social media builds up expectations of a beautiful life, Kashmiri children mourning the killings of their loved ones are interrupting the timelines of the privileged world.

They have cameras flashed in their

faces and a world waiting for them to say the right things. Children, trying to find the right words, not to fight a case for justice but to just evoke enough empathy in powers that be, to see the face of their dead father. Consequently, instead of New York

dreams, Kashmiri children wonder whether they'd be the next in line to mourn or next up in the line to be frisked. Kashmir is a minefield of political

manoeuvres and is a dangerous flash point of geopolitics. But do children here deserve to suffer? In Kashmir, children have barely had

a smooth sail in school life ever since the Abrogation of Article 370 and the subsequent covid-19 lockdowns. They

### CHILDREN ARE NOT DEEMED

agential in the matters of electoral democracies. This stage is often taken to be "apolitical". However, Kashmiri children do not even have the privilege of having this apolitical innocence

do not even have the privilege of having the naive hope of escaping these restraints.

This political crisis has left an indelible impact of trauma on Children here. The cases of trauma have been rapidly increasing. According to statistics, 84.7% of people from rural areas and 15.3% from urban areas have depression. From among these, a study revealed that psychiatric morbidity has increased dramatically in the age group of 15 to 25, with the highest prevalence rate of 66.7%.

Children in Kashmir steal moments from life to live what's touted as the standard of a joyful childhood. They live the normal in the abnormal. In other parts of the world, youth is defined by demographic cohorts like Millennials and Gen Z whereas Kashmiris have childhoods defined by political happenings interspersed in these decades. From kids who lived through the armed insurgency of the 1990s, to the ones who skipped school due to the Amarnath row, and now to the ones who lived through the event of the Abrogation of Article 370 - politics delineates Kashmiri childhood.

It seems to be a never ending road of woes for Kashmir. There is no tangible source of reassurance, only an optimistic hope. However, in this forever postponed quest for peace, children have lost and continue to lose their chances at a dignified and healthy childhood.

A child's right to a dignified life, education and safety should not stand in jeopardy no matter the political situation.

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

The author is the Opinions Editor of Kashmir Observer

### Beyond The Obvious: Repeal Of Farm Laws

Harikishan Sharma

rime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday (November 19) announced the repeal of the three contentious farm laws. Farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, have been protesting against these laws at the borders of Delhi since November 26 last year.

### For how long were these laws in effect, then?

The journey of the three farm laws — The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 — began on June 5, 2020, when the President of India promulgated three ordinances that were the precursors to these Acts.

These three ordinances — The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020; The Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020; and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020 — were replaced the aforementioned Acts that were passed by Parliament in September 2020.

The implementation of these laws was stayed by the Supreme Court on January 12, 2021. So, these laws were in effect for only 221 days.

#### What will be the next step to withdraw these laws?

Parliament has the authority to enact, amend, and repeal any law. The government will have to move motions to repeal the three farm laws in the coming session of Parliament. These motions will be moved by the same ministries that piloted the Bills to enact these laws.

But why did the government decide to repeal these laws after defending them solidly for so long?

While no official reason has been cited, the decision comes just ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament that is scheduled to commence on November 29. In the last session of Parliament, the opposition attacked the government strongly over the laws, and it led to acrimony and impacted the functioning of the Houses.

Also, the Prime Minister has made his announcement before the announcement of crucial Assembly elections in five states — Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and

Goa. The BJP's performance in the civic

polls in Punjab earlier this year, and in

Assembly byelections in Haryana were

The farm laws were billed as part of

historic reform in agriculture. What

will be the impact of their repeal, now?

laws that it loudly, vehemently, and re-

peatedly proclaimed as "historic", the

government will doubtless have to walk

The Modi government's image

among its supporters is that of reso-

lute strength and invincibility. Has it

had to back off in this manner earlier?

Narendra Modi government withdraw-

ing similarly. During its previous term,

the Modi government had withdrawn

a contentious ordinance, which was

brought to amend the Right to Fair

There is one earlier example of the

the path of reform very cautiously.

After being forced to take back these

dismal.

Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013.

What happened in this case? The ordinance was withdrawn in the face of stiff opposition. When the government introduced a Bill to replace this ordinance in Lok Sabha on February 24, 2015, the Opposition attacked the government over the proposed changes in the Act. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha on March 10, but it failed to clear Rajya Sabha, where the government's position

was weaker at the time.

Although a notice for motion for consideration and passing of the Bill was given on March 13, it could not be taken

up for consideration as Rajya Sabha was

prorogued on March 28. When the Bill

again failed to get approval of Parliament

during the first leg of that year's Budget

Session, the government promulgated

it again as the RFCTLARR (Amendment

Meanwhile, the Opposition continued

its protests outside and inside Parliament.

What were the political consider-

ations before the government on

that occasion?

tacked the government in Lok Sabha

on April 20, 2015. Making an interven-

tion during a discussion on the agrarian

situation, he said: "... Your government

is ignoring the problems of farmers and

does not listen to the voice of workers.

Your government is the government of

industrialists... Your government is a

government of big people. Suit-boot ki

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at-

Ordinance, 2015 on April 3.

WHILE NO OFFICIAL REASON HAS BEEN CITED,

the decision comes just ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament

Parliament, the opposition attacked the government strongly over the laws,

and it led to acrimony and impacted the functioning of the Houses

that is scheduled to commence on November 29. In the last session of

sarkar hai. We all understand that... On one hand you are weakening farmers and labourers, and when they are able to stand on their feet, you will hit them with the axe of your Ordinance."

In the second leg of the Budget Session, the Bill was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for examination. On May 30, the government reissued the Ordinance, as the RFCTLARR (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2015.

So how did the government's aboutturn come about on that occasion? Amid continuing anger against the

Amid continuing anger against the amendment, Prime Minister Modi announced the decision to withdraw the Ordinance in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme broadcast on August 31, 2015.

"I have always said that the government is open to all views and suggestions on the issue of Land Acquisition Act, on which a debate is going on. I have reiterated again and again that I am open to any suggestion in the interest of the farmers. But today, I want to tell all my farmer brothers and sisters that the request to reform the 'Land Acquisition Act' was raised by the states very emphatically... And hence this reformed proposal was introduced," Modi said.

"But I saw how the farmers were being misled and a fear psychosis created. My dear farmers, you should not be misled and definitely never be scared. And I do not wish to give anyone the opportunity to mislead you and scare you. For me, every single voice in the nation is important but most important to me is the voice of the farmer. We had issued an ordinance. Tomorrow, on August 31st the deadline for this ordinance ends. I have decided that let this ordinance be lapsed," he said.

Eventually, the Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.

Indian Express

# Adele '30'

### The Psychology Of Why Sad Songs Make Us Feel Good

Simon McCarthy-Jones

dele's new album, 30, is finally available. Last month, hundreds of millions of us streamed its first single, Easy On Me. This song evokes feelings not easily put into words. But we can probably agree it is a sad song.

It isn't obvious that we should like sad music. Sadness is usually a feeling we try to avoid. An alien might expect us to find such music depressing and dislikable.

Yet, sad music pulls us in and lifts us up. So, why does hearing sad music feel so good?

#### The biology of sad music

Let's start with biological theories. When we experience real-life loss, or empathise with another's pain, hormones such as prolactin and oxytocin are released within us. These help us cope with loss and pain. They do so by making us feel calmed, consoled and supported.

supported.
Feeling Adele's pain, or recalling our own, may cause such chemical changes within us. Clicking on Adele's song may be like clicking on our own metaphori-

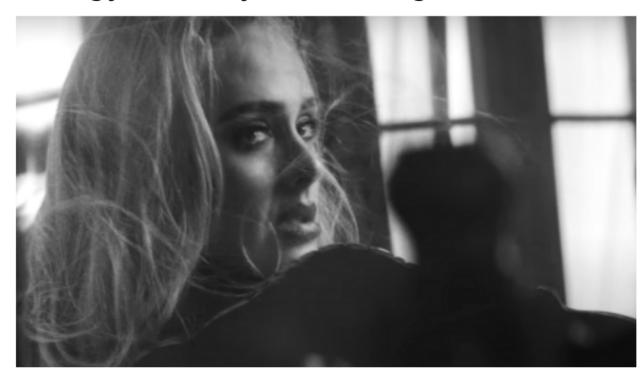
cal morphine drip.

The jury is still out on this theory.
One study found no evidence that sad music increases prolactin levels. Yet, other studies have hinted at a role for prolactin and oxytocin in making sad music feel good.

#### The psychology of sad music

A key reason we enjoy sad songs is because they profoundly "move" us. This experience is sometimes called kama muta, a Sanskrit term meaning "moved by love". Feeling moved can involve chills, goosebumps, a flood of emotions (including romantic ones), a warmth in our chest and elation.

But why do we feel moved? The American writer James Baldwin got at this when he reflected: "The things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever



INDEED, WHEN WE HAVE LISTENED TO 30 WE MAY TURN TO REACTION videos to see how others feel. This lets us share an emotional experience with others. A sense of

communal sharing boosts our feeling of being moved and triggers feelings of comfort and belonging

been alive." Similarly, feeling moved can come from us suddenly feeling closer to other people.

This may explain why the people most likely to feel moved by sad music are those high in empathy. Indeed, when we have listened to 30 we may turn to reaction videos to see how others feel. This lets us share an emotional experience with others. A sense of communal sharing boosts our feeling of being moved and triggers feelings of comfort and belonging.

A related suggestion is that Adele's sad music can be a friend to us. It can act as a social surrogate. Sad music can be experienced as an imaginary friend who provides support and empathy after loss.

Feeling moved can also result from memories being triggered of important moments of our lives. Adele's songs are

powerfully nostalgic. It may be nostalgia, rather than sadness, that we enjoy. Indeed, when people listen to sad

music, only around 25% say they actually feel sad. The remainder experience other, often related emotions, most commonly nostalgia. This feeling of nostalgia can help increase our sense of social connectedness, mitigate feelings of meaninglessness, and reduce anxiety.

A completely different type of psychological theory is that Adele's songs are emotional gyms. They give us a safe, controlled space in which we can explore simulated sadness. They are the emotional equivalent of Neo sparring with Morpheus in the Matrix movie.

Simulated sadness lets us experiment with and learn from this emotion. We can enhance our empathy, learn to

better see things from other people's perspectives, and try out various responses to sadness. This may make us better prepared for when real loss strikes. Such learning experiences may have evolved to be pleasurable to encourage their use.

#### Making sense of sadness

Alternatively, it could be that Adele's songs aren't pleasurable because they are sad or nostalgic. They may be pleasurable simply because they are beautiful. Sadness might just happen to coincide with beauty. Indeed, seeing acts of moral virtue or beauty have been suggested to provoke feelings of elevation and can touch, move and inspire us.

We can also think at the cultural level. Here we can view the pleasure

### **Editor's Note**

dele's much anticipated comeback finally happened and it did not disappoint fans. Her international fame had already reached Kashmiri music aficionados with her, "Someone like You", "Hello" and "Rolling in the Deep". Now, after six years, the world has reached for earphones and tissues, sure to be serenaded by the 15 times Grammy winner. What's it that irks a pan world sadness and joins everyone through her music?

Adele's songs give us in terms of the meaning she helps us make. Adele takes hard life experiences and helps make sense of them.

This is what much tragic art does. It takes the pain and the suffering and the sadness of the world and gives it meaning. As the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche once put it, someone who has a why to live can bear it almost anyhow.

Ultimately, Adele's songs will mean something different to each of us. We listen to sad music when we want to reflect, belong, or relax. We listen to experience beauty, receive comfort or reminisce.

But to all of us, Adele's songs say: you are not alone in your pain. They let us feel her pain, share our suffering, and connect with others' past and present. And in the sharedness of our humanity is beauty.

The author is an Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology, Trinity College Dublin. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

### **Best Feel-Good Books Of 2021**

### Some Books Are A Balm During Difficult, Uncertain Times

Angela Haupt

nother year of pandemic life is almost in the books — and once again, we needed soothing reads to get through it. Some of these titles are funny; others made us want to cry happy tears. All were tonics during a difficult, uncertain time. Here are 13 of the year's best feel-good reads.

#### "Good Eggs," by Rebecca Hardiman

An 83-year-old firecracker of a woman can't stop shoplifting, so her son hires a caretaker to monitor her — and gets more than he bargained for. Such is the premise of Hardiman's debut novel, which centers on three generations of a rowdy Irish family with a lot going on. There's joy, dysfunction and, ultimately, heartfelt second chances.

#### "Eight Perfect Hours," by Lia Louis

Depending on your reading speed, "Eight Perfect Hours" also might describe the time you spend with this novel. It's about Noelle, who gets stuck on the road in a blizzard with no food, drink or phone charger — but wait, who's that handsome man knocking on her window? Lest you think this sounds like the start of a horror story, it's a poignant rom-com about two strangers and the power of fate.

#### "Piglet: The Unexpected Story of a Deaf, Blind, Pink Puppy and His Family," by Melissa Shapiro and Mim Eichler Rivas

Piglet is a social media superstar. But before that, he was a two-pound deaf, blind pup without a home. Shapiro, a veterinarian, took him in and fell in love. This sweet story details Piglet's transformation from a traumatized, anxious puppy into a confident, spirited pink dog and his adventures with his new family.

"The Road Trip," by Beth O'Leary



Addie and her sister — a lovable pair — are road-tripping to a wedding when a car slams into the back of theirs. It's occupied by Addie's ex, Dylan, who's headed to the same place and soon sitting in the sisters' back seat, along for the ride. The next 300 miles are hilarious, awkward, frustrating and utterly charming. O'Leary's latest is an entertaining and quirky rom-com.

#### "When Sharks Attack With Kindness," by Andrés J. Colmenares

Colmenares describes his popular Instagram comics as "a big visual hug that tickles you at the same time," and this hardcover collection delivers the same. It's about sharks — ostensibly predators but, in Colmenares's world, cute creatures that strike only with kindness and positivity. Prepare to smile a lot, just as widely as those friendly finned fish.

"The Comfort Book," by Matt Haig

Do you ever wish your future self could pop in and reassure current you that everything is going to be okay? Haig's book is exactly that kind of tonic. For years, he wrote notes to himself that he intended to read in dark times; "The Comfort Book" is a compilation of those short meditations. It's a validating and hopeful gift.

#### "Miss Eliza's English Kitchen: A Novel of Victorian Cookery and Friendship," by Annabel Abbs

Step right into a Victorian kitchen in Abbs's new novel, which is based on the life of Eliza Acton, one of the first modern cookbook writers. In this retelling, Eliza — who wants to be a poet — is convinced to instead learn how to cook. She discovers she loves it, and she and her assistant develop a unique partnership as they evolve as humans and chefs.

"Little Pieces of Hope: Happy-Making Things in a Difficult World," by Todd Doughty

### TRESPICIO HELPS US

reevaluate what society has taught us we need, like passion and plans and a bucket list. It's quite liberating to realize that there's more than one way to live a life that means something, and that you can do so without leaving your comfort zone.

On the day the coronavirus was declared a global pandemic, Doughty made a list of the things that made him happy: the music that opens "All Things Considered," a juicy burger, yellow tulips. This joyful book features lists, essays, playlists and quotes that circle back to that central idea: finding the good in even the darkest circumstances. Keep it on your nightstand and read a few pages every day.

#### "The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot," by Marianne Cronin

Lenni, a terminally ill 17-year-old, meets Margot, who's 83 and wrestling with her own approaching end. After realizing that their ages add up to 100, the two set out to create 100 paintings that represent their combined century of life. While, yes, there's a terminal illness at the center of the novel, it's a beautiful, tender ode to friendship, love and our chosen legacies.

"The Party Crasher," by Sophie

#### Kinsella

After Effie's parents divorce, her dad rebounds with a significantly younger, money-grabbing woman. Then Effie's childhood home, Greenoaks, goes up for sale. She sneaks into the "house cooling" goodbye party to recover her beloved Russian dolls, and while she's hiding under tables and peeking through doors, she makes a kaleidoscope of discoveries. It's a delightful read, full of Kinsella's signature warmth and charm.

#### "Unfollow Your Passion," by Terri Trespicio (forthcoming Dec. 21)

At last, here it is: permission to ditch everything. Trespicio helps us reevaluate what society has taught us we need, like passion and plans and a bucket list. It's quite liberating to realize that there's more than one way to live a life that means something, and that you can do so without leaving your comfort zone.

#### "Carla and the Christmas Cornbread," by Carla Hall

This children's book by Hall is almost as comforting as digging into one of the chef's famous dishes. It draws on an event from her youth: On Christmas Eve, Little Carla eats a sugar cookie intended for Santa and then enlists her grandmother to right the wrong. Expect a cozy holiday read-aloud and a hankering for homemade cornbread.

#### "Bliss: Beaches," by Randall Kaplan

If you're beach-starved, Kaplan's gorgeous collection will help fill some of that void. Expect stunning coastline photos of California, Hawaii, French Polynesia and many other spots. Leafing through it is almost as good as meditating on a real beach — and who knows? Maybe you will be soon.

washington post

# **US Cars Mandated To Spot Drunk Drivers -- And Stop Them**

Δσencies

Breath-sniffing sensors and finger-scanning detectors are central to a landmark US safety mandate to fight drunk driving that is spurring tough questions about what technology can be trusted to do.

The federal law, which will require new cars to spot intoxicated drivers in coming years, could save thousands of lives annually with the potential to expand abroad, advocates say

Yet the legislation signed into law this week by President Joe Biden has also left skeptics to question whether vehicles could refuse to operate due to a false positive or effectively become witnesses against their owners in criminal cases.

Ultimately it is up to American regulators to decide what could become international precedent-setting rules. They have not said much so far, but have a potentially extendable three years to work with.

The initial reaction though was euphoria for people who battle against alcohol-related crashes in the United States, which permits drivers to have a higher level of booze in their blood than many other developed nations and consistently records a death toll over 10,000 per year.

"Tm crying tears of joy today," said Alex Otte, national president of anti-drunk-driving advocacy group MADD.

"This is the beginning of the end of drunk driving," she wrote in a statement after Biden's law signing ceremony Monday at the White House

The devil is in the details of course, and one of the best options for fielding functional technology to meet the mandate has been under development since 2008 in a collaboration between carmakers and regulators.

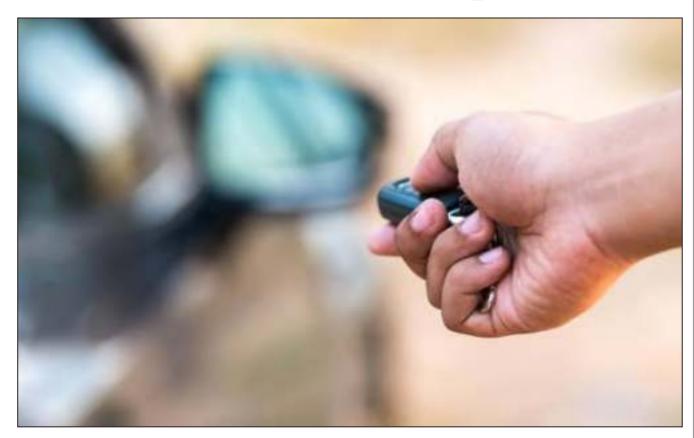
As part of the Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety (DADSS), researchers have developed tiny vent-like sensors that draw in a driver's exhaled breath and test it.

Or the driver pushes the ignition button, which measures blood alcohol levels under the skin's surface by shining an infrared-light through the person's fingertip.

Anti-cheat functions are built into the system, which could prevent the car from starting or keep it from moving for drivers over the .08 percent blood alcohol limit in most US states, said Robert Strassburger, president of the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety (ACTS), which is supported by carmakers.

#### 'Completely unconstitutional'

The DADDS initiative is a partnership between ACTS and the National Highway



Anti-cheat functions are built into the system, which could prevent the car from starting or keep it from moving for drivers over the .08 percent blood alcohol limit in most US states, said Robert Strassburger, president of the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety (ACTS), which is supported by carmakers.

Traffic Safety Administration, which did not respond to a request for comment.

"We all emit carbon dioxide as we exhale and as long as you are in a range of CO2, then we know that sample was coming from the driver and nowhere else," Strassburger told AFP.

As for the touch system, by pressing the ignition button the driver would complete what is effectively a circuit between their seat and the system

"If the passenger were to reach over and touch the sensor the circuit would not be completed and an (alcohol testing) measurement would not be taken," he said.

They are considered "passive" measures, unlike the already existing devices that require drivers to pass an alcohol test by blowing into a tube before they can operate a vehicle – devices that some jurisdictions require of people convicted of drunk driving.

While some experts see the new technology as ultimately positive with proper protections and communication, others see it as a worrying erosion of privacy.

Laura Perrotta, president of the advoca-

Laura Perrotta, president of the advocacy group American Highway Users Alliance, said the alcohol testing technology is a fine idea – as long as it works.

"Someone uses mouthwash and goes to turn on their car and can't get it to start, but then someone else has one too many drinks and it doesn't detect it," she said. "That could be a real problem."

Albert Fox Cahn, founder and executive director of the Surveillance Technology

Oversight Project watchdog group, said: "It's completely unconstitutional to have our cars commandeered to monitor us for the government"

"This is no less illegal than if the government mandated that the phone company installed wiretaps in everyone's home just to make sure that they don't commit a crime in the future," he added.

Strassburger, the ACTS president, said there are already privacy limits for other information-gathering technologies in cars and the police need a warrant to get access to them – yet he will not be the final decider of which way things go.

"Vehicle manufacturers are going to make that ultimate decision or they will be commanded by policymakers," he said.

### No More 'Sending Resumes, Checking Resumes', Says World's Top Job Finder

Bloomberg

he company behind the world's biggest employment portal says it has a solution to the labor shortage gripping the U.S.: getting rid of the traditional resume.

Despite the acute need for workers, "the hiring process is still resumes, sending resumes, checking resumes," said Hisayuki "Deko" Idekoba, chief executive officer of Japan's Recruit Holdings Co., which runs Indeed.com and Glassdoor.

"This is a great opportunity for us to move forward from oldschool, incumbent resume-profile culture to asking: what can you do?"

The U.S. is set to enter the tightest job market since the 1950s according to one estimate, and employers are struggling to fill both white- and blue-collar positions as jobseekers reevalaute their priorities post-pandemic. That demand for hiring saw revenue more than double at Recruit's hiring technology division in the quarter ended September, earnings figures released this week show. Shares are up more than 80% in 2021, a surge that has made it Japan's fourth-largest enterprise by market value.

Modern hiring processes need to adapt for the times, Idekoba said, with many small- and medium-sized businesses still seeking to fill jobs the way they did a decade ago. He raises the example of one restaurant which hasn't updated its job description for a entire decade. "You are requiring a college degree, why?" he asked. "Forget about it!"

Idekoba, who divides his time between Tokyo and Austin, Texas, where Indeed is headquartered, said he had to wait 40 minutes recently in a restaurant in the U.S. due to the shortage of serving staff.

Instead, Recruit suggests posing questions and assessment tests to job seekers to see if they know how to navigate the specific tasks the job will require. It also stores the answers, so unsuccessful job seekers can use them elsewhere.

For truck drivers, who are "needed desperately" in the U.S., Recruit has started offering a chat-based hiring process, according to Idekoba, because drivers spend most of their days on the road and tend not to have laptops.

In addition, "there are a huge amount of people who can't write resumes" or don't have the skills to fill one, he said, as well as the issue of the tens of millions of Americans with criminal records. Recruit is expanding its training options to help people write better resumes for jobs that need them, and aims to use technology to identify skills that an applicant might have that could be transferable to another area.

Recruit bought Indeed, then a startup, for a reported \$1 billion almost a decade ago. Idekoba ran the unit before being promoted to CEO of Recruit in April this year. In addition to recruiting and staffing, it runs sites to find properties, used cars, book hotels and restaurants in Japan, where it is looking to expand its its software as a service offerings.

Idekoba says Indeed.com now helps double the number of people find jobs as it did before the pandemic. "20 hires per every minute," he said, "but still we couldn't fix" the labor shortage.

E-mail:- techrbpul786@gmail.com

m Phone:-01933-295302,

# Government of Jammu & Kashmir(UT) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

### TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No:-296/EEP/RNB/of 2021-22/10307-10317

Dated: 17/11/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	Cost	Time of	Class of	Major	Administrative
		in (Rs.	of T/D	Completion	Contract		Accord Ap-
		Lacs.)	(Rs.)	in working		Accounts	proval No:
				Days			
1.	Upgradation of Interior roads of	7.08	300/-	10 working		D/S	45/DDCP of
	Khrew and Satapokhrun includ-			Days	DEE		2020 Dated:
	ing Shar Wahab Sahab road by						31.01.2020
	way of Drain and Path (BW).						
2.		3.15	200/-	10 working	DEE	D/S	44-DDCP of
	IR Rahmoo i/c IR Mitrigam and			Days			2020 Dated:
	Mitrigam Fresipora road, Putri-						31.01.2020.
	gam Chandpora road, Karimabad						
	to Murran via Wachpora and						
	Kamrazipora Karpora road i/c						
	IR Kamrazipora by way of WBM						
	Grade-II, Constt. of CC-Drain						
	BW-2.						
3.		2.53	200/-	10 working	DEE	Sheep	39-DSHK/Plan
	Sheep facilitating Centre and			Days			of 2019 Dated:
	boundary at Newa Pulwama					ary	30.03.2017.
1	(Paddock Part)		1		1		1

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

	,	<b>3</b> · · · · <b>3</b> · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17/11/2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding	From 17/11/2021 10:00 A.M.
	documents	
3.	Bid submission Start Date	17/11/2021 from 10.00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	23/11/2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	23/11/2021 at 4:30 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer
	(Online)	R&B Division Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security	Within 3 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest bidder has to
	(PS)	provide 3% of Contract Value Cost as Performance Security instead
	, ,	of EMD within 3 days after opening of Financial Bid)
		, , ,

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and Bid securing declaration instead of EMD as per format Appendex-1 below on Letter Head of Contractor/Agency/Firm in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama showing clearly the name of work along with NIT No. & S.No. failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders .gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama.
 The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in Head Draftsman Technical Officer

DIPK-12948/21 Executive Engineer, R&B Division Pulwama

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION HANDWARA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Short TERM NIT NO 65 /2021-22/RnB/KHND/E-tendering 7796-98 dated 16-11-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K Expression of Interest(EOI) are invited on Percentage basis (%age) from approved and eligible Bidders as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) and Terms of Reference at Annexure-I. The Bidder (Firm/Consultant/Agency/Company) should have the eligibility as per Annexure-II under Eligibility Criteria for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost of the Project (Rs in lacs) for which Consultancy	Doc. (in Rs)	Type of Consultancy
	Providing consultancy services for	is Required		
1.	Architectural/ Structural Design/ drawings including soil investigation with soil report and BOQ and third party structural vetting from NIT Srinagar/ DIQE for construction of New Bus Adda at Handwara	16.50	1100/-	Architectural/ Structural Consul- tancy

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated	ted		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		16-11-2021		
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	17-11-2021	(11:00 AM)	
	_	То	23-11-2021	(04:00 PM)	
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	17-11-2021	(01:00 AM)	
4	Bid Submission End Date	То	23-11-2021	(04:00 PM)	
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		24-11-2021	(11:30 AM)	
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Handwara			

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt(Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Handwra [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date).

2. All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per 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 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

4. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders. gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Handwra.

Executive Engineer, DIPK-12964/21 (R&B) Division Handwra

# Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir

Dr Aadil Fayaz Parray S/o Fayaz Ahmad Parray R/o 47 Bonzigam Beerwah District Budgam

Subject: - NOTICE.

Whereas, after being appointed as Medical Officer vide Government order No: -938-JK(HME) of 2020 dated: -31-12-2020, you were posted at D.H. Shopian.

Whereas, Chief Medical Officer Shopian vide letter No: - CMO-Spn/Dr-MO/PF/2255-56 dated:- 06-10-2021 has reported that you are absent from duties W.e.f 04-09-2021.

Whereas, you should note that unauthorized absence from duties tantamount loss of appointment in terms of Article 128.

Now, therefore opportunity is given to you to report for your duties at D.H. Shopian within seven days from the date of issuance of notice, failing which it shall be presumed that you are not interested to serve the department anymore and case shall be submitted to Administrative Department for termination of your probation, resultantly discharging you from Government services as you have resorted to absence during the probation period.

Sd/ Director Health Services Kashmir

DIPK-12903/21

## **Govt To Change Tax** Laws In Budget To Tax Cryptocurrency Gains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The government is mulling changes in the income tax laws to bring cryptocurrencies under the tax net, with some changes that could form part of the Budget next year, a top official said.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said that in terms of income tax, some people are already paying capital gains tax on the income from cryptocurrency, and in respect of Goods and Services Tax (GST) also the law is "very clear" that the rate would be applicable as those in case of other services.

"We will take a call. I understand that already people are paying taxes on it. Now that it has really grown a lot, we will see whether we can actually bring in some changes in law position or not. But that would be a Budget activity. We are already nearing the Budget, we have to look at that point of time," Bajaj told PTI in an interview.

Asked if a provision of TCS (Tax collected at Source) could be introduced for crypto trading, the Secretary said "if we come up with a new law then we will see what is to be done"

"But yes, if you make money you have to pay taxes... We have already got some taxes, some have treated it as an asset and paid capital gains tax on it," he said.

Asked whether people involved in cryptocurrency trading would be categorized as facilitator, brokerage and trading platform and how the taxation would be done under GST, Bajaj said "there would already be such things available in other services also. So whatever GST rate they are taxed at, that will be applicable on them."

They have to get themselves registered. The GST law is very clear. If there is an activity, if there is a broker who is helping people and charging brokerage fee, GST would get charged," he said.

Separately, the government is likely to introduce a bill on cryptocurrencies during the Winter to suggest a model of the central Session of Parliament beginning bank's digital currency.



November 29, amid concerns over such currencies being allegedly used for luring investors with misleading claims.

Notably, there have been a rising number of advertisements, featuring even film stars, promising easy and high returns on investments in cryptocurrencies in recent times.

Currently, there is no regulation or any ban on use of cryptocurrencies in the country. Against this backdrop, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, last week, held a meeting on cryptocurrencies with senior officials and indications are that strong regulatory steps could be taken to deal with the issue.

Earlier this week, the Standing Committee on Finance, chaired by BJP member Jayant Sinha, met the representatives of crypto exchanges, block chain and Crypto Assets Council (BACC), among others, and arrived at a conclusion that cryptocurrencies should not be banned, but it should be regulated.

The RBI has repeatedly reiterated its strong views against cryptocurrencies saying they pose serious threats to the macroeconomic and financial stability of the country and also doubted the number of investors trading on them as well as their claimed market value.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das too earlier this month had reiterated his views against allowing cryptocurrencies saying they are a serious threat to any financial system since they are unregulated by central banks.

The Supreme Court in early March 2020, had nullified the RBI circular banning cryptocurrencies. Following this on February 5, 2021, the central bank had instituted an internal panel

# PM Modi Cancelling Farm Laws Is His Biggest **Policy Reversal Yet**

**BLOOMBERG** 

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will scrap three controversial farm laws that led to angry street protests over the last year, his biggest policy reversal since assuming power in 2014.

In a televised address to the nation on Friday, PM Modi apologized for failing to convince a section of farmers and said the parliament will repeal the legislation by end of the month.

"The purpose of the new laws was to strengthen the country's farmers, especially small farmers," he said. "We have failed to convince some farmers despite all our efforts.'

The announcement comes ahead of key provincial polls in the state of Uttar Pradesh an influential voting bloc. The long drawn protests by hundreds of thousands of farmers Janata Party's chances in both elections. The government had. so far, refused to budge from its position which the protesters lihoods, making it the longest stand-off since PM Modi swept to power seven years ago.

While PM Modi has backtracked on policy moves by his Sikh community is a significant government earlier, including on land laws, that move hadn't resulted in long drawn public protests.

take back a decision. And it is obviously because of the elections," said Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a "This is about Uttar Pradesh and Punjab elections and the fact that a decision that brought there for an entire year."



to the polls in the first half of 2022 though dates have not been announced yet.

The government had insisted the new policy would benefit the growers and refused to withdraw the legislation. The Supreme Court too had ordered temporary suspension of the and Punjab where farmers are laws, but the protesting farmers had refused to compromise. **Election Pressure** 

Farmers represent a potencould have hurt his Bharatiya tially huge vote bloc: Some 60% of India's nearly 1.4 billion people depend on agriculture in one way or another. Both Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have large claimed would ruin their live- farming communities. The announcement came on the day India is marking a holiday to celebrate the birth anniversary of the founder of Sikhism. The vote base in Punjab.

the agricultural reforms was the shift to a free market regime "It's a very un-Modi-like act to for sale of farm goods -- a move that farmers saw as a means to end a state price support system for crops and which they feared lyst and PM Modi biographer. of big corporations that would control the market.

reforms was an amendment to a 1955 law, that sought to cap The majority of the protest- prices during times of higher detar Pradesh, states heading vestment to increase production. touched.'

Farm leaders have reacted cautiously to the news, with Rakesh Tikait, a senior leader from Uttar Pradesh tweeting to say his supporters will wait to roll back the agitation until the day the laws are actually repealed.

"Just because the minister announced a repeal doesn't mean that we will pick up our tents and walk away from the protests," Mr Tikait said. "750 farmers have lost their lives in this agitation. We need to discuss all the issues." The protesting farm unions will meet and decide their next move, he added.

Rahul Gandhi, a leader of the opposition Congress party said that those "who feed the nation have peacefully defeated arrogance." He also linked to an earlier comment where he had said, "Mark my words, the govt The main contention about will have to take back the antifarm laws.'

The latest move by PM Modi "will require some new calculations by the farmers' movement and opposition parties," said Yamini Aiyar, president New Delhi-based political ana- would leave them at the mercy and chief executive of the New Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research. "Although it's diffi-Also, central to PM Modi's cult to say how much this will help the BJP in the upcoming farmers to the streets kept them the Essential Commodities Act, elections, it does send exactly the wrong message to all political parties: That power poers come from Punjab and Ut- mand -- which discouraged in- litical lobbies are best left un-

# **Implementation Of** Agriculture Schemes In Kashmir Reviewed



**OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** 

SRINAGAR: Union Additional Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, P.K Swain, Friday visited Agriculture Complex Lalmandi and had a detailed review of agriculture schemes being implemented in

Union Additional Secretary highlighted the importance of multiple cropping system. He stressed the need to educate farmers regarding various farmer friendly schemes which have been devised to transform rural economy for sustenance and economic prosperity.

Union Additional Secretary, said impetus is being given to increase farmers' income for which formation of Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) is being ensured for economic prosperity of farmers by way of transforming agriculture into a remunerative venture and farmers into agri-entrepreneurs.

He reiterated that the present policies of Government of India ncluding formation of FPOs are best suited to UT of J&K as the region is endowed with variety all support and help for upliftof agriculture products with ment of overall agriculture secexport potential with huge de- tor in the valley.

mand and relevance in national and international markets.

During the meeting, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal, gave a detailed power point presentation regarding different programs being carried out by the department. He said that organic villages are being established in Speaking on the occasion, a systematic manner. He added that high end value vegetable crops including exotics are also being promoted and covered under a holistic approach.

> The meeting was attended by all Joint Directors, Chief Agriculture Officers, Area marketing Officers of JK Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department, district officers besides all Sub Divisional Agriculture Officers.

Earlier, Union Additional Secretary visited Organic Vegetable Market at agriculture Complex Lalmandi.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Secretary said Kashmir valley having best agro climatic conditions for organic farming can increase employment opportunities for farmers as well as educated unemployed youth.

He further said that Ministry of Agriculture GOI will provide

### **Aviation Minister Urges States, UTs To Cut Tax On Jet Fuel**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Appealing again, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditva Scindia on Friday urged states and Union Territories to reduce the tax on jet fuel as it will help in increasing air traffic.

The civil aviation sector, which was significantly hit by the coronavirus pandemic that had also resulted in the suspension of scheduled domestic and international flights, is slowly coming back on the recovery path, and air UTs to facilitate new airports by traffic is nearing pre-COVID levels. swiftly handling the land allot-

Against this backdrop, Scindia has been urging states and UTs to reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), which accounts for a major chunk of an airline's operational costs.

Addressing the conference of the ministers of civil aviation from states and UTs here, he stressed the cooperation and support of all stakeholders for strengthening the civil aviation sector.

The minister has appealed to the states and UTs to bring down VAT on aviation fuel as it contributes majorly to the operational cost of the flights, according to an official release.

In recent months, there has been a surge in fuel prices.

Scindia also thanked various states that have drastically cut the rates, saying that they have gained larger air traffic movement within a short period of the reduction.

On Thursday, the minister said that seven states have slashed their VAT on the fuel, and he was expecting more states to follow suit.

very clear on that," he had said. The sector has a large cost- in the conference.

benefit ratio and also huge employment potential, he said on Friday, and asked states and

Officials at the civil aviation ministry on Thursday said the sector has almost reached the pre-COVID level in terms of traffic

and will continue to grow further. In October, domestic air passenger volume jumped 70.46 per cent to 89.85 lakh compared

to the year-ago period On Friday, the minister also said that the number of airports will be more than 200 by 2023-24 and also emphasised setting up at least one heliport in each district in collaboration with

About seaplanes, Scindia said states should provide capital support for the initiative, as per the release.

states/UTs.

A booklet 'Access: The Photo Digest-Demystifying accessibility in Civil Aviation' was released at the conference, with the aim

of creating awareness about accessibility needs and corresponding travel-related facilities for divyangjans. Minister of Social Justice and With the current tax struc- Empowerment Virendra Ku-

ture on ATF, "you cannot have a mar and Minister of State for robust civil aviation sector. I am Civil Aviation V K Singh (Retd), among others, also participated

### **Exports Of Agri, Processed** Food Products Up 14.7% To USD 11.65 Bn In Apr-Oct



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Exports of agricultural and processed food products rose by 14.7 per cent to USD 11.65 billion during the April-October period on the back of healthy growth in commodities including rice, and fresh fruits and vegetables, the commerce ministry said on Friday.

The export of rice has increased to USD 5.28 billion during the first seven months of this fiscal year as against USD 4.77 billion in April-October 2020, it added.

Similarly, exports of fresh fruits and vegetables rose to USD 1.53 billion during the April-October period of 2021-22 as compared to USD 1.37 billion in April-October 2020-21, it said. International Trade Fairs, and

Outbound shipments of meat, dairy and poultry products increased from USD 1.97 billion in compliance with the global food April-October 2020 to USD 2.28 billion in April-October 2021.

Cashew exports expanded by 29.2 per cent during the period under review to USD 265.27 million. "We continue to focus on creating infrastructure for exports from eastern, north-eastern regions and hilly states, where infrastructure was earlier not adequate," M Angamuthu, Chairman, APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export

Development Authority) said. Steps which have helped in pushing up exports growth include promoting geographical indications (GI) tag goods, virtual Buyer Seller Meets, recognising 220 labs across India to

provide services of testing. Further, financial assistance schemes of infrastructure development, market development, registration of meat processing plants and abattoirs for ensuring safety and quality requirements also helped boost exports.

### **Govt To Form Committee To Make MSP System Effective, Promote Natural Farming: PM** PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that a committee will be formed to make Minimum Support Price (MSP) system nore effective and transpar ent as well as suggest ways to promote zero budgeting based-

The committee will have rep-Modi said as he also announced the decision to repeal the three farm laws.

laws, a legal guarantee on MSP has been one of the major deunions.

government has decided to repeal the three farm laws, which ture. were the trigger for protests by farmers for the last one year.

or natural farming, to change crop pattern in the scientific make MSP more effective and transparent," he said.

The Prime Minister said that



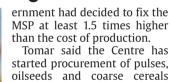
resentatives of the central gov- many initiatives have been ernment, state governments, taken for the farmers to get the farmers, agricultural scientists, right price for their produce in and agricultural economists, return for their hard work. The country has strengthened its rural market infrastructure.

By linking more than 1,000 Apart from repeal of the farm mandis through e-NAM (electronic-National Agriculture Market), Modi said the governmands of the protesting farmer ment has given a platform for farmers to sell their produce In his address to the nation anywhere. Alongside, it has mand-supply conditions, interin the morning, Modi said the spent crores of rupees on modernising the mandi infrastruc-

"We not only increased the MSP but also created a record "Today only, we have taken number of government proone more important decision curement centres. The procurerelated to agriculture sector. ment of the produce made by We will set up a committee to our government has broken the promote zero budget farming records of the last several decades," he said.

Agriculture Minister Narenmanner as per the changing dra Singh Tomar said the comneeds of the country and to mittee will submit the report, which will be beneficial to the farming community.

He highlighted that the gov-



Food Corporation of India, the nodal agency for procurement and distribution of food grains, has procured record wheat and paddy crops at MSPs during the last marketing years

apart from wheat and paddy at

of kharif and rabi seasons. Presently, the government decides the MSP based on the recommendation of the expert body the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)

The factors considered by the CACP for fixing MSPs include cost of production, domestic and international prices, decrop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and nonagricultural sectors.

MSP is announced for the kharif crops of paddy, jowar, bajara, ragi, maize, arhar, moong, urad, cotton, groundnut, sunflower seed, soyabean and sesamum. The rabi crops for which MSP

is announced are wheat, barley, gram, masur, rapeseeds & mustard, safflower and toria.

Besides, MSP is announced for copra, de-husked coconut, jute and Fair Remunerative Prices (FRP) for sugarcane.

### **Flipkart Forays Into Healthcare**

The Walmartannounced its entry into the healthcare segment and said it has signed an agreement to tasundar Marketplace Ltd, an online pharmacy.

The e-commerce firm said it entered into the sector through the launch of Flipkart Health+ and as part of this development, it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire a majority share in Sastasundar Marketplace Ltd.

The Kolkata-headquartered online pharmacy owns and operates SastaSundar.com.

It offers a digital healthcare controlled Flipkart on Friday and pharmacy platform supported by a network of more than 490 pharmacies and is backed by investors from Japan, acquire a majority stake in Sas- namely Mitsubishi Corporation and Rohto Pharmaceuticals. Flipkart, Sr VP and Head -

> Corporate Development, Ravi Iyer said, "We are excited to enter this space through this investment in SastaSundar. com, a company that has established itself as a trusted partner for lakhs of consumers through genuine products, a technology-powered platform and a wide network." (PTI)

### **Forex Reserves Decline USD** 763 Mn To USD 640.11 Bn

SHORT TAKES

MUMBAI: The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 763 million to USD 640.112 billion in the week ended November 12, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended November 5, the reserves had decreased by USD 1.145 billion to USD 640.874 billion. It touched a lifetime high of USD 642.453 billion

in the week ended September 3, 2021. In the reporting week, the decline in the foreign exchange reserves was on account of a dip in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)

weekly data released on Friday showed. FCA dropped by USD 2.094 billion to USD 575.487 billion in the reporting week, according to the data.

### **Dir Handicrafts Inspects Exhibitions At Pragati Maidan**

ful kick start of the India In- sale. ternational Trade Fair at Pra-Noida Haat NCR, Delhi.

Exhibition at Noida Haat will the National level. continue till 27th of this month and the artisans are expected to do a good business. From the Kashmir region crafts like pation of the artisans in various Pashmina, Sozni, Wood Carv-

SRINAGAR: After the success- would be on display and for

The Department has planned gati Maidan New Delhi, the another event in the Noida Department of Handicrafts & Haat in the month of Decem-Handloom Kashmir has started ber 2021 whereby the left out its 2nd physical exhibition at artisans/ participants will get an opportunity to show case The Kashmir Handicrafts their handicraft products at

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir is also sponsoring the particiother fairs like Delhi Haat, HGH, ing, Crewel, Paper Machie PITEX and Suraj Kund Mela.

### **IT Deptt Detects Rs 200-Crore Black Income**

**NEW DELHI:** The Income Tax Department has detected unaccounted income of about Rs 200 crore after it recently raided a Kolkata group engaged in cement manufacturing and real estate, the CBDT said in a statement.

The searches were carried out at twenty-four premises in Kolkata, Assam, Meghalaya and Delhi on November 16, it said.

The department seized Rs 1.30 crore cash and placed half-a-dozen bank lockers, unearthed during the raids, under restraint, The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said.

"The search action, so far, has led to the detection of total unaccounted income of around Rs 200 crore," it said in the statement issued on Thursday.

# 'Toolkit', 'Andolanjeevi': How Political Lexicon Targeted Farmers Protest

**Press Trust of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** The protests against farm laws saw a fair share of controversies as well with climate activist Greta Thunberg and pop sensation Rihanna making their way to India's prime time debates and terms such as 'toolkit' and 'andolanjeevi' entering the Indian political lexicon.

As farmers protested the enactment of the three farm laws and set up camp at entry points into the national capital since November 28 last year, it was controversies galore but the resolve of tillers to ensure repeal of the legislations, which they said would leave them at the mercy of corporations, remained unshakable.

The protests witnessed many dramatic moments from farmers facing water cannons, road blockades to the violence on Republic Day and alleged mowing down of farmers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced a rollback of the three agri laws at the centre of protests by farmers for the past year.

The three farm laws at

the centre of emotive protests and debates are the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

Weeks after the farmers set up camps at Delhi's borders demanding repeal of the laws, the national capital witnessed unprecedented scenes as farmers protesting against the farm laws clashed with the police during a tractor rally on Republic Day called by farmer unions to highlight their demand for the repeal of the legislation.

Many of the protesters reached the Red Fort and entered the monument. Some of them even hoisted religious flags on its domes and the flagstaff at the ramparts.

Hundreds of people, including security personnel, were injured and one protestor died after his tractor overturned.

Soon after the Republic Day violence, teen climate activist Thunberg and pop star Rihanna made an entry into prime time debates after they expressed support against the Centre's agriculture laws

India reacted sharply to the comments by the foreign celebrities and others, saying a very small section of farmers in parts of the country had some reservations about the farm reforms and a proper understanding of the issue was needed before rushing to comment on the agitation.

Thunberg had also shared "a toolkit for those who want to help" and soon the "toolkit" issue spiralled into a massive controversy with the Delhi Police later registering FIRs against several people for allegedly trying to tarnish India's image.

Climate activist Disha Ravi was arrested for allegedly being involved in sharing the "toolkit" on social media related to the farmers' protest. She was later granted bail.

Toolkit soon emerged as a new word for protest planning with the ruling BJP also accusing the Opposition parties of conspiring to malign India's image and the the Opposition slamming the Centre.

Also in February, Prime Minister Modi, while speaking in Parliament, had hit out at those behind the protests, saying a new "breed" of agitators called "andolanjeevi" has emerged in the country who cannot live without an agitation and the nation should guard against them. The Congress had hit back at PM Modi for his "an-

him "jumla jeevi". In March, gunshots were fired near the Singhu border protest site. No one was injured.

dolanjeevi" remark and called

Another controversy related to the protests had played put after a video of Ayush Sinha, an IAS officer of the Haryana cadre, had gone viral on social media in which he allegedly instructed policemen to beat protesting farmers.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had admitted that the choice of words by Ayush Sinha was wrong but had defended the police action.

A massive controversy related to the farmers' protests erupted when four farmers were killed in Tikonia area of Lakhimpur Kheri district, the native place of Union minister Ajay Mishra, in Uttar Pradesh on October 3 after they were allegedly mowed down by an SUV.

Later, the crowd lynched four other people, including BJP workers.

Over a dozen people, including Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, have been arrested so far by a special investigation team (SIT) which is probing the case.

The latest incident took place on October 15 when Dalit labourer Lakhbir Singh was brutally killed and his body strung to a barricade at the farmers' protest site at Singhu border with a hand chopped off and multiple wounds caused by sharp-edged weapons.

Four Nihang Sikhs were arrested in connection with the lynching of the Dalit labourer. The accused Nihangs had maintained that Lakhbir, who hailed from a village in Punjab's Tarn Taran, was punished for alleged desecration of a holy book.

With the announcement of the rollback of the farm laws, it seems the controversies surrounding the protests would come to an end, but the debates and legal processes related to the ones already created would continue.

### Farm Laws Repeal: Sacrifice Of Farmers Who Died During Stir Pays Off, Say Kin

Press Trust of India

**CHANDIGARH:** A 55-year-old Ferozepur woman who lost her 23-year-old son during the farmers' agitation against the Centre's three farm laws on Friday said his soul must be at peace now after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the announcement to repeal the legislations.

Lovejeet Singh was among around 700 farmers who lost their lives during the farmers' stir, according to leaders of the protesting unions.

These farmers died because of various reasons, including harsh winter, road accidents, cardiac arrest and ailments.

Modi on Friday announced that the government has decided to repeal the three farm laws, which were at the centre of protests by farmers for the past year.

Five farmers hailing from

Five farmers hailing from Punjab's Ferozepur district lost their lives during the agitation at the Delhi borders.

Though the families of the deceased farmers expressed satisfaction over the announcement of the farm laws' repeal, one of the major demands of the protesters, they said the loss of their family members cannot ever be compensated.

Ninder Kaur (55), a resident of Village Sawai ke in Mamdot block in Ferozepur, said her son Lovejeet Singh died at the Singhu border protest site. he died of fever.

"He was supporting the agitation from day one and used to tell me that the farmers will definitely win some day. His soul must be at peace after this news, she said.

Gurmit Kaur (58), a resident of village Pipli Chak in Guruharsahai sub-division, said her husband Jarnail Singh (60) died due to cardiac arrest at the Singhu border in June this year.

"His sacrifice has finally paid off as the union government decided to repeal the agrilaws. I am so happy that farmers who were fighting for their rights have finally won on the sacred day (on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev," said Gurmit Kaur.

Satnam Singh Pannu, Punjab state president of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, said this day will etched in history.

"We were not fighting for ourselves. We were fighting for the generations to come. Though we lost our few members, the entire nation will always be grateful to them," he said.

#### **CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE**

#### **PM Modi Announces**

winter session beginning from November 29, the Prime Minister said on Friday, nearly a week before the first anniversary of the start of the stir at several Delhi border points including Singhu.

The ruling BJP hopes that the government's decision will placate Sikhs, who are in a majority in the border state of Punjab, and Jats, a major demographic constituency in the western region of UP, and will cancel out political headwinds it has encountered in the two pollbound states besides Haryana.

The protests have been most intense in these regions of north India.

This will also ease the path for an alliance between the BJP and former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh, who lauded the announcement as "great news" and thanked Modi for acceding to the demand of every Punjabi.

The Prime Minister spoke at length about the benefits these laws were expected to bring to farmers, especially those with small landholdings, and his government's good faith in enacting these legislations.

The government brought them with full integrity and clear conscience in the interest of farmers and country, he added.

He then apologised to people of the country, saying he wanted to convey to them with a "sacred heart" that there may have been some shortcomings in the government's efforts that it could not convince some farmers about the truth which was "as clear as the light of a

He noted that many farmer bodies, agriculture experts and scientists, and progressive farmers backed the laws.

"Despite our efforts, we could not convince some farmers. Even though it was only a section of farmers who were opposing, but they were still important for us We continued to convince them wilth all humility and open mind," Modi said, noting that his government had offered to suspend the laws for two years and amend the provisions which had drawn

The Supreme Court has put the laws in abevance.

Noting that the day of Guru Nanak's birth anniversary was not the occasion to blame anyone, he said, "I want to tell you, the entire country that we have decided to repeal the three agriculture laws."

"I would request all my protesting farmer brothers, today is the auspicious day of Guru Purab, return home, to your fields and family and make a new beginning, let us move forward afresh," he said.

While farmers' unions described the announcement as a huge victory, opposition parties claimed that the upcoming state elections in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, which have a huge base of farmers, forced the decision.

The Prime Minister's decision to revoke the laws protests marks the second time his government has taken a decision of such magnitude in the face of popular protests since coming to power in 2014.

In 2015, it had allowed the land ordinance to lapse as opposition parties mounted a strong protest, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi using "suit-boot ki sarkar" jibe.

In his address, Modi also announced the formation of a committee to promote zero budget-based agriculture, a term for farming based on natural fertilizers and local seeds, to change crop patterns as per the changing needs of the country and to make MSP more effective and transparent.

The Committee will have representatives of the central government, state governments, farmers, agricultural scientists, and agricultural economists, he said.

The goal of the three farm laws was to empower farmers, especially small farmers, the Prime Minister said, asserting that in his over five decades of public life he has seen the difficulties and challenges facing farmers from very close quarters.

When the country gave him the opportunity to serve as 'Pradhan Sevak' in 2014, he gave top priority to agriculture development and

farmers welfare, he said, listing various steps taken for the welfare of small farmers and pointing out that the agriculture budget has risen by five times with over Rs 1.25 lakh crore being spent annually.

Many initiatives were taken by his government for the farmers to get the right price for their produce and rural market infrastructure was strengthened.

"We not only increased the MSP but also cre-

ated a record number of government procurement centres. The procurement of the produce made by our government has broken the records of the last several decades", he said. The Centre, which has held 11 rounds of for-

mal dialogue with the farmers, had been maintaining that the new laws are pro-farmer, while protesters claim they would be left at the mercy of corporations because of the legislation.

Several farmer bodies had been protesting

against the laws since they were passed in Parliament in September last year after being first enacted through ordinances.

They were encamped at Delhi's borders

since November 2020, seeking the repeal of the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

They also sought a new law to guarantee a minimum support price for crops.

### **Hope Centre Reverses**

"Decision to repeal farm laws & an apology is a welcome step, even though it stems from electoral compulsions & fear of drubbing in elections. Ironical that while BJP needs to please people in rest of India for votes, punishing & humiliating Kashmiris satisfies their major votebank," she tweeted.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief alleged that the decision on August 5, 2019 to abrogate the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcate the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into Union territories was taken by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) only to please its voters.

"Desecrating Indian constitution to dismember & disempower J&K was done only to please their voters. I hope they course correct here too & reverse the illegal changes made in J&K since August 2019," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

### Restore August 4,

370 of the Constitution and the repeal of the Reorganisation Act as well as other laws by virtue of which the erstwhile state's special status was ended and bifurcated into union territories

The decision to withdraw the three controversial farm laws after unreasonably defending and justifying these for one long year unmindful of the widespread outrage and 800 farmers deaths and huge loss to the property, is a clear shift from politics of arrogance to one of introspection and reappraisal, the NC leader said.

Masoodi, the Lok Sabha MP from south Kashmir's Anantnag, said the decision to revoke the farm laws also depicts a realisation on part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Centre that before pushing through a legislation on important issues on the strength of majority, it should be placed in public domain for wider discussion and deliberations in tune with the well established democratic practices.

"The decision also teaches us that there is nothing like 'hands of a clock cannot be moved back' assertion and decision taken can always be given a fresh look whenever the circumstances so demand," he said.

The Member of Parliament asked the prime minister to undertake a similar introspection in case of August 5, 2019 decisions and repeal the laws whereby Jammu and Kashmir was unilaterally, unconstitutionally and unethically denuded of its special status and dismembered and downgraded to a union territory.

"The August 5, 2019 decisions, like farm laws, have resulted in death and destruction,

uncertainty, and large-scale discontent. The decisions as admitted by the PM have widened the gulf between people of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and the rest of the country," he said.

Urging the prime minister to restore the

August 4, 2019 position to Jammu and Kashmir, Masoodi said the decisions also have caused a huge drain on precious and scarce resources of the country that rightfully belong to the millions of underprivileged and disempowered countrymen.

"I ask the prime minister to restore the August 4, 2019 position and thereafter facilitate internal dialogue amongst the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and also initiate a wider dialogue for durable peace in the region," he said.

He called upon the political parties and civil

He called upon the political parties and civil society groups at the national level to support just cause and political aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh like they extended unwavering support to the farmer's struggle, and support the demand for undoing August 5, 2019 decisions.

The farmers' long-drawn struggle also has a lesson for people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and political parties that steadfastness, perseverance and unity and not short term political gains, ultimately help us to succeed in our struggle for realisation of genuine political goals even when faced with arrogance, and resistance, he said.

### Protest Will End

"The protest will not be withdrawn immediately, we will wait for the day when the farm laws are repealed in Parliament. Along with MSP, the government should talk to farmers on other issues too," Tikait tweeted in Hindi.

Addressing the nation on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti, the prime minister said the three farm laws were for the benefit of farmers but "we couldn't convince a section of farmers despite best efforts".

The goal of the three farm laws was to empower farmers, especially small farmers, he said

### **Kashmir Shuts**

of the two civilians Muhammad Altaf Bhat and Dr Mudasir Gul killed in controversial Hyderpora police operation and hurriedly buried some 100 kilometers away in Handwara were exhumed late on Thursday and handed over to the families.

The bodies were buried here during the night as per police directive after their last rites were performed by the close family members.

### Bodies of 2 Srinagar

After sometime, the bodies were taken out in processions to the local graveyards amidst chanting of religious verses.

The authorities had told the families to limit the gathering and bury them quickly, the officials said

They said the bodies were laid to rest at their ancestral graveyards in Barzulla and Pirbagh after funeral prayers were held.

This is for the first time since the outbreak

of the Covid pandemic in March last year that

the body of a person buried under police watch was returned to their kin.

The exhumation came after tremendous pressure from the families as well as mainstream politicians, including former chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti,

and civil society groups.

On Thursday, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ordered a magisterial inquiry into the encounter in which four persons were killed.

### **Parties Demand**

Amir's body, she said, must be returned immediately. "The fact that these families are begging for mortal remains instead of asking for justice reflects their lack of faith in the system," she said.

Firebrand National Conference leader Ruhullah Mehdi while demanding the return of Amir's body also questioned the lack of clarity surrounding the fourth person allegedly killed in the shortout

"Is Amir Magray's body returned to his

family? And if not, why? Does the administration and also we (the society) think he was child of a lesser mortal? And what about the identity and details of the 4th one killed? Or was there a 4th one? Was there even a combatant among them?," he tweeted.

Even as the Altaf Bukhari led Apni Party has largely kept silent on the issue, the party's youth leader and Srinagar Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu demanded Amir's mortal remains be handed back to his family.

"As a citizen of India - Amir Magray of Ramban enjoys the same rights (in life and in death) under Article 21 of the Constitution of India as Altaf Bhat and Mudasir Gul. Request @manojsinha\_Sahab that his mortal remains too should be handed over to his family for last rites," Junaid tweeted.

CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami also urged the government to return the body without any further delay.

"It has been proven beyond any doubt that Magray is a civilian. His father Abdul Latief Magray is a state bravery award winner and now his son has been killed and falsely labelled as a militant which is highly unfortunate," Tarigami

"The least the J-K administration could do is to return the body of Magray so that his family could perform his last rites," he said.

"The government must ensure that those involved in the killing of unarmed civilians are brought to book and punished under law," the CPI(M) leader said.

Separatist Hurriyat Conference also called upon the authorities to return the body of Magray to his family.

In a statement, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led Hurriyat asked the authorities to "desist from the criminal practice of ceasing bodies and denying their families the right to a proper burial." "It is abhorrently inhuman. The Hurriyat calls

on the authorities to stop the wanton violence in

Kashmir," it said.

Bodies of Mohammad Altaf Bhat and Mudasir Gul, two civilians killed in the Hyderpora encounter, were handed over to their kin on Thursday midnight after they were exhumed following protests by family members that they were innocent and not linked to militancy as claimed by police.

Police had initially buried them in the Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

### Civil Society

local associate, were killed in the encounter but the families of the three locals claimed that their kin were innocent civilians.

On Thursday, the Lt Governor ordered a magisterial probe into the incident.

The GCC had earlier strongly condemned the targeted killing of civilians, including Kashmiri Pandits, by militants and demanded a thorough probe for bringing the perpetrators of the "dastardly crimes" to book.

Welcoming Sinha's order of probe into the Hyderpora killings and reasserting his government's commitment to protect lives of innocent civilians and to ensure that there is no injustice, the GCC said it is deeply shocked on the recent spurt in killing of the innocent civilians, the Hyderpora incident being the latest.

"and would make you an earnest appeal to institute an independent, judicial inquiry by a sitting High Court Judge instead of an executive functionary. Nothing short of that might lend the announced 'probe' the much-needed credence and conviction to be able to nail the truth," the GCC said in its letter.

"The GCC is of the firm belief if the rule of law were to be respected for real and the majesty of justice upheld as a must, the probe cannot be assigned to the very same executive (the police establishment included) that happens to be the only accused in the mass public and media outrage which the government has so quickly taken cognizance of," it said.

### 'Punish Those

The incident calls for a time-bound judicial probe so that true facts are unravelled and

brought in public domain," he said. PAGD is the alliance of six mainstream political parties in Jammu an Kashmir, including the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Abdullah, who heads the National Conference, said such unfortunate incidents widen the gulf between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the Government of India and, therefore, are to be avoided at any cost.

avoided at any cost.

"We would remind Your Excellency that the administration of Jammu and Kashmir is being run in the name of Your Excellency by the Lt. Governor acting as an agent and, therefore an onerous responsibility is placed on Your Excellency to ensure that the rule of law prevails and the involved erring officials are brought to

book and punished under law, he said.

He also raised the issue of the practice of taking away bodies of the victims of such incidents and depriving their families of the right to organise their burial in accordance with religious

"In the unfortunate incident of Hyderpora also, the bodies of three civilians have been taken away by the security forces and reportedly buried 100 km away from their residences. Your Excellency, the right to decent burial is well recognised in the Constitution of India as well as in the international humanitarian law.

The dead bodies cannot be denied the right to burial under any circumstances including the so-called law and order problem. The bereaved families likewise also have a right to organise burial of the dead body in accordance with their religious practices, he wrote in the letter dated November 18.

The PAGD alleged that in the past few years such rights have been violated with impunity .

"In the present case these rights are being denied. We would request Your Excellency to intervene in the matter and ensure that the dead bodies are returned to their families so that they can perform their last rites in accordance with their respective religious practices, it said.

The matter is of grave concern and calls for an urgent action, Abdullah added.

The bodies of the two civilians -- Altaf Bhat and Mudasir Gul -- killed during Monday's encounter in Hyderpora area of the city were exhumed at Handwara late on Thursday and were handed over to the families. The bodies were buried here during the night after their last rites were performed by the families.

### 7 Black Bears

which was later released in the Sedow forest area.

Local residents said despite the captures, there were several more bears wandering in areas that have now been converted into residential colonies by humans.

### Repeal Of Farm

every nook and corner of the society.

**J&K Reports 193**while the count of recoveries has reached

3,28,783, the officials said.

The death toll from the pandemic now stands at 4,459.

Meanwhile, the officials said, the number of mucormycosis (black fungus) cases remained unchanged at 49 in the union territory as no fresh infection was reported.

### Two Injured

of Aarigoripora Kangan were brought to Sub

District Hospital (SDH) Kangan.

He said that after the initial treatment, the duo was referred to SKIMS Soura for advanced

### treatment. **Ladakh Reports**

hospital in Leh. The total number of those re-

covered is 20,835, they said.
All the 23 new cases were reported from Leh, the officials said.

A total of 635 sample reports in Ladakh were found negative, they said.

There was no death reported due to Covid in Ladakh on Wednesday.

With this, the total number of active COVID-19

With this, the total number of active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh has gone up to 206, including 197 in Leh and nine in Kargil district. (PTI)

**'Best Player Of Our Times'** 

### **Tributes Pour In As De Villiers Announces** Retirement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**JOHANNESBURG: Tributes** poured in for AB de Villiers after the South African batter on Friday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, with Indian maestro Virat Kohli aptly summing up his greatness by calling him the "best player of

One of contemporary cricket's greatest batters, de Villiers has brought an end to his glorious 17-year career in top-flight, stating the flame within "doesn't burn so brightly" anymore.

India's Test and ODI captain Kohli, who has shared the Royal Challengers Bangalore dressing room with de Villiers since 2011, has always been an ardent admirer of the versatile South African cricketer.

"To the best player of our times and the most inspirational person I've met, you can be very proud of what you've done and what you've given to RCB my brother. Our bond is beyond the game and will always be," Kohli tweeted.

"This hurts my heart but I know you've made the best decision for yourself and your family like you've always done. I love you," he added.

The 37-year-old de Villiers Gujarat Lions (in 2016). made the announcement on Twitter, ending an illustrious career, which saw him play 114 Tests, 228 ODIs and 78 T20Is for the Proteas besides representing various franchises in T20 leagues tertainment. We salute your across the world. He walks into contribution to the game and sunset after dominating the wish you everything of the best game for nearly two decades with his 360 degree batting.

"The best I've ever seen, keeper-batter Sam Billings.



Former India batter VVS Laxman wrote, "Congratulations on a fabulous career. One of the true modern day greats and an inspiration for so many. Wish you the very best in your second innings.'

Former Sri Lankan captain Mahela Jayawardene said, "Congratulations on a fabulous career.. brilliant guy on and off the field. Wishing you all the very best in your future. Pure class."

De Villiers has played 156 matches for RCB and scored 4,491 runs.

He is the second all-time leading run scorer behind Kohli and holds the second and thirdhighest individual run total in RCB history with 133 not out against Mumbai Indians (in 2015) and 129 not out against

De Villiers had announced his retirement from international cricket in 2018.

"Thank you for the memories, the records broken and the enfor the future," Cricket South Africa (CSA) tweeted.

De Villiers has scored 8,765 and someone who I've always Test runs at an average of 50.66. looked up to! Took the game He has also taken two Test wickto another level singlehandedly ets. His highest score was 278 mr360," said England's wicket- not out and also has 22 centu-

### **Tim Paine Resigns** As Australia Captain **After Scandal**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**HOBART:** Australian Test captain Tim Paine on Friday stepped down from the post after being investigated by Cricket Australia for sending explicit messages to a female co-worker.

The messages date 2017, months before Paine was recalled to the Test team after a seven-year absence and a joint Cricket Australia and Cricket Tasmania investigation cleared Paine at the time.

development comes weeks ahead of the five-Test Ashes series against traditional rivals England. The first Test begins in Brisbane on December 8.

"Today I am announcing my decision to stand down as captain of the Australian men's cricket team. It's an incredibly difficult decision but the right one for me, my family and cricket." Paine said during a press conference.

"Nearly four years ago, I was involved in a text exchange with a then-colleague.

"Although exonerated I deepand I do so today. I spoke to my wife and family at a time and enormously grateful for their forgiveness and support," he added.

to be a part of the Australian

Reports claimed a Cricket Tasmania employee was offended by "Mr Paine's sexually explicit, enstein indicated Paine's deciunwelcome and unsolicited



photograph of his genitals in addition to the graphic sexual comments.'

The 36-year-old was promoted as captain following the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa in 2018.

The board accepted Paine's resignation and has started the process of identifying and appointing the next Test captain.

"I'm deeply sorry for the hurt and pain that I have caused to my wife, my family and to the other party. I'm sorry for any damage that this does to the reputation of our sport.

"I believe that it is the right decision for me to stand down ly regretted in incident at a time as captain effective immediately. I do not want this to become an unwelcome disruption to the team ahead of what is a huge Ashes series.'

He added, "I will remain a Paine will, however, continue committed member of the Australian cricket team, and look forward with anticipation to what is a huge Ashes tour. Thank you."

CA chairman Richard Freudsion to step down was his own.



### **US 'Considering' Diplomatic Boycott Of China Olympics**

a diplomatic boycott of next

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden said backing a boycott of Biden said Thursday that the the Olympics in February is United States was considering something we're "considering".

jing over China's human rights delegations to each Olympics.

hosted Canadian Prime Minister man Doug Emhoff led a delega-Justin Trudeau in the Oval Office, tion to the Paralympic Games. International

groups and some members of Congress have called for a The U.S. and other nations symbolic U.S. boycott of the year's Winter Olympics in Bei- traditionally send high-level games in Beijing over China's treatment of Uyghurs and its abuses, a move that would First lady Jill Biden led the crackdown on freedoms in keep American dignitaries, but American contingent to the Hong Kong. The participation not athletes, from the games. Summer Olympics in Tokyo of American athletes would be Speaking to reporters as he this year and second gentle- unaffected by the boycott.

### China Hits Out At Biden, Says **US Politicising Sports**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**BEIJING:** China on Friday lashed out at US President Joe Biden for considering a diplomatic boycott of the forthcoming Winter Olympic Games over China's human rights abuses, saying Washington is trying to politicise the international sporting event.

Biden's comment comes days after a virtual summit with Chinese counterpart XI Jinping on Monday, during which the two leaders said they should respect each other, co-exist in peace and pursue a win-win human rights issues. cooperation.

ter Olympic Games to be held in February next year.

The event makes Beijing the only city in the world to the increasing settlements of have hosted both Summer and majority Han Chinese. Winter Olympics. It hosted the Summer Olympics in 2008.

The diplomatic boycott by Kong and Tibet. the US and its allies could cast



ing ceremony being planned by China for the event as their official delegations will be conspicuously absent flagging the

The US and European Union Beijing is making grand countries have accused China preparations to host the Win- of widespread human rights countries have accused China allegations amounting to genocide against Uygur Muslims in Xinjiang, who were opposed to

human rights situation in Hong

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here on Friday that I want to stress that Xinjiang affairs are purely China's internal affairs which brook no foreign interference under any pretext or any means.

He said the US made false accusations on China about the socalled forced labour and genocide. It is nothing more than a

laughing stock in the eyes of Chinese people and other accusations made by the US are just as groundless as this, he asserted.

I want to stress that the Winter Paralympics and Olympic games are a stage for sports for players from all around the world, he opined.

Politicisation will only harm the Olympic movement and the interests of all athletes. We believe that with the concerted They are also critical of the efforts, we will surely present streamlined, splendid and safe games to the world and ad-When asked for his response vance the Olympic sports and a shadow over the grand open- to Biden's comment, Chinese the cause, he concluded.

### 'Missing' Chinese Tennis Star's **Email Raises More Safety Concerns**

**AGENCIES** 

TAIPEI: Chinese professional tennis player not seen in public since she accused a former top government official of sexual assault purportedly sent an email claiming she was safe and that the allegation was false, a message that only amplified concerns about her safety and dewell-being and whereabouts.

So far, those calls have been met by silence.

Chinese officials have said nothing publicly since the accusation about two weeks ago by Grand Slam doubles champion Peng Shuai that she was sexually assaulted by Zhang Gaoli. The first #MeToo case to reach the political realm in China has not media and online discussion of it has been highly censored.

Steve Simon, the chairman and CEO of the Women's Tennis Association, questioned the



mands for information about her intended for him in which Peng says she is safe and that the assault allegation is untrue. It was posted Thursday by CGTN, the international arm of Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

"I have a hard time believing that Peng Shuai actually wrote the email we received or believes what is being attributed to her," Simon wrote.

The statement, he added, "only been reported by the domestic raises my concerns as to her safety and whereabouts." Serena Williams tweeted that she was "devastated and shocked to hear about the news" about Peng.

"I hope she is safe and found authenticity of what Chinese as soon as possible," Williams state media said was an email wrote. "This must be investigat-

ed and we must not stay silent." China has largely suppressed a #MeToo movement that flourished briefly in 2018. Asked repeatedly about the case, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said again on Thursday that he is unaware of it.

The 35-year-old Peng is a former No. 1-ranked player in women's doubles who won titles at Wimbledon in 2013 and the French Open in 2014.

She wrote in a lengthy social media post on Nov. 2 that Zhang, a former vice premier who was a member of the ruling Communist Party's top leadership committee, had forced her to have sex despite repeated refusals three years ago.'

The post was quickly deleted from her verified account on Weibo, a leading Chinese social media platform, but screenshots of the explosive accusation quickly spread across China's internet. She has not appeared in public since then, raising questions about her whereabouts and whether she is being detained.

### **Azeem Rafiq Apologises** For His Anti-Semitic Messages In 2011 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON: Former Yorkshire player Azeem Rafiq has apologised for using anti-Semitic language in 2011, saying that he has "absolutely no excuses" and is "ashamed" of the message exchange with another cricketer.

The 30-year-old Rafiq, who has described in graphic detail his experiences of racist abuse when he played for Yorkshire, on Thursday admitted he had sent anti-Semitic messages as a 19-year-old.

(Thursday). I have gone back to in 2001, had narrated his expericheck my account and it is me. I have absolutely no excuses," Rafiq said in a statement.

"I am ashamed of this exchange and have now deleted it so as not to cause further offence. I was 19 at the time and I hope and believe I am a different person todav."

The Facebook messages between Rafiq and former War- the issue has been heavily critiplayer Ateeq Javid was first reported by 'The Times'.

Rafiq is seen making dispar- take action against anyone. aging comments about an unnamed Jewish person in the screenshots shared.

community and everyone who is rightly offended by this."

"At no point will I ever try and defend the indefensible. For heartfelt and we have no reason those I have hurt I am sincerely to believe he is not completely sorry. I will continue to front up sincere.'



made," Rafiq added.

Earlier this week, the Paki-"I was sent an image of this stan-born former professional exchange from early 2011 today cricketer, who moved to England ences of racism at Yorkshire to the Digital, Culture, Media and

Sport (DCMS) select committee. Rafiq said that racism had destroyed his career. He accused Yorkshire of institutional racism in September last year, prompting the club to launch an investigation into the allegations.

However, their handling of wickshire and Leicestershire cised. A report found Rafiq was a victim of "racial harassment and bullying" but the club refused to

The Board of Deputies of British Jews president Marie Van Der Zyl said: "Rafiq has suffered "I am incredibly angry at my-self and I apologise to the Jewish cricket so he will well understand the hurt this exchange will cause to Jews who have supported him.

"His apology certainly seems

#### BAN vs PAK 1st T20I

### **Pakistan Rallies To Beat Bangladesh By** 4 Wickets



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DHAKA:** Pakistan recovered from a precarious 24-4 to beat team's specialist bowlers, only Bangladesh by four wickets on came to bowl in the last over Friday in the first of their three Twenty20s.

The match was in the balance with three overs to go, then Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz hit two sixes each and Pakistan reached 132-6 in 19.2 overs, knocking off Bangladesh's

Fakhar Zaman and Khushdil Shah launched Pakistan's reship for the fifth wicket. They scored 34 each, removed in quick succession when Fakhar chased a wide delivery of fast bowler Taskin Ahmed to edge to wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan, and Khushdil was undone by a slower ball outside off by pacer Shoriful Islam.

With the visitors needing 32 runs in the last three overs, Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz pulled off a blitz to break Bangladesh's stranglehold.

slog-sweeping legspinner Aminul Islam over deep midwicket. Aminul, one of the home

when Pakistan needed two runs for the victory. Nawaz was unbeaten on 18

Pakistan made a cautious start

on the slow pitch before fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman rattled the stumps of Mohammad Rizwan for 11. Captain Babar Azam dragged

one on to his stump on 7, but covery with a 56-run partner- Bangladesh failed to keep up that pressure to the end. The damage was ultimately

done when it was restricted to 127-7, continuing a poor batting record that haunted Bangladesh in the T20 World Cup. The team has lost six straight T20s. Pakistan pacer Hasan Ali, with

3-23, triggered a collapse, leaving Bangladesh at 40-4 in the ninth over.

Afif Hossain top-scored for the side with 36 and Mahedi Hasan was unbeaten on 30 to Shadab struck an unbeaten 21 help the side get past 100. The off 10, hitting the winning six by second match is on Saturday.

### Man City's De Bruyne Tests Positive For COVID

MANCHESTER: Kevin De Bruyne contracted the coronavirus while on international duty with Belgium and is isolating, Manchester City manager Pep

Guardiola said Friday.

Guardiola said De Bruyne found out on Wednesday that he had tested positive. He is back in England and is

The midfielder will miss the Premier as well as the Champions League group on Tuesday. game against Paris Saint-Germain on

Wednesday. "Hopefully the symptoms will be mi-



back and is negative, he will start again to train with us as soon as possible.' De Bruyne played for Belgium at home

League game against Everton on Sunday against Estonia on Saturday and at Wales Guardiola also said forwards Jack Gre-

alish and Phil Foden sustained injuries on duty with England's national team. nor and what's important is he comes Grealish is set to miss the Everton game back," Guardiola said. "When he comes but Foden hasn't been ruled out.

### NBC To Keep PL, Deal Worth \$2.7B+ For 6 years: Reports

AGENCIES

U.S. English- and Spanish-language broadcast rights.

MADRID: NBC has achieved one of The person divulging the financial figure spoke to the AP on its major objectives over the past year, retaining condition of anonymity because the terms were U.S. rights to broadcast confidential. the Premier League for another six years.

NBC won the rights to The Premier League England's top league in announced the deal on October, 2012, for \$250 Thursday. NBC will pay million over three years. more than \$2.7 billion When the new deal kicks in next season, it will averto continue showing the

world's richest soccer age \$450 million per seacompetition. A person familiar with son. The previous six-year deal, which the deal told The Associated Press began in 2016, was worth \$1.1 billion, it almost triples the value of the an average of \$183.3 million per season.

### **Bayern's Kimmich In Quarantine Amid Vaccine Debate** training that day because he had con-

**AGENCIES** 

tact with a person suspected of hav-BERLIN: Bayern Munich midfielder ing the coronavirus. Joshua Kimmich is in

quarantine again. The German club said Friday that the unvaccinated Kimmich would miss the team's game at Augsburg. Although Bayern didn't give any more details, the 26-year-old

for the team's Champions League

game at Dynamo Kyiv on Tuesday. Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann said Thursday that Kimmich missed

Kimmich also had to isolate last week and missed Germany's final World Cup qualifier after having contact with Bayern teammate Niklas Süle, who tested positive

> positive for the virus after returning from international duty with Croatia, are also in quarantine. Stanišić was fully vaccinated and had also previously contracted COVID-19.

for COVID-19. Süle and

Josip Stanišić, who tested



# With Decision To Repeal Farm Laws, BJP Hopes To Recover Ground In Punjab, Placate Jats In Western UP

NEW DELHI: As the campaign for the upcoming assembly polls gathers pace, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to announce the repeal of the three farm laws underlines the ruling BJP's imperative to make amends and infuse a fresh momentum in its political drive, especially in efforts to retain its dominance in Uttar Pradesh.

BJP leaders said that the decision also shows the party's genuine efforts to win over the Sikhs, who joined by sections of Jat farmers in Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh have been in the vanguard of the over-a-year-long protests against these laws, in the border state of Punjab where the party and former chief minister Amarinder Singh have highlighted security concerns and alleged attempts by pro-Khalistan elements and Pakistan to fuel disaffection.

That Modi made the announcement on the birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak, one of the holiest days in the Sikh calendar, quoted their last Guru Gobind Singh to stress on his intention to do good work and referred to the happy development of the reopening of Kartarpur Sahib corridor are a pointer to this.

While the party will hope to make a fresh political start in Punjab in an expected alliance with Singh, who has been urging



MODI MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT on the birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak, one of the holiest days in the Sikh calendar, quoted their last Guru Gobind Singh to stress on his intention to do good work and referred to the happy development of the reopening of Kartarpur Sahib corridor are a pointer to this.

the government to take measures to end the protests, its stakes are the highest in Uttar Pradesh where it had won an unprecedented 312

eral Jat leaders of the party admitting to slide in their fortunes in the western UP, where the community is concentrated, the region was seen as a roadblock in its efforts to repeat its 2017 show in the upcoming polls, more so as the Samajwadi Party had joined hands with the Rashtriya Lok Dal to pose a united challenge.

Adding to it has been the grouse of sugarcane farmers over relatively low returns on their produce. The killing of eight people, including farmers, in Lakhimapur in Uttar Pradesh last month had added to the BJP's woes as the opposition and farmer unions had alleged the role of Union minister Ajay Misra 'Teni', whose son remains under arrest in the case.

The decision to roll back the farm laws will go a long way in placating the community, which had backed the saffron party wholeheartedly in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls besides the 2017 assembly polls,

and may queer the opposition's pitch for forging a social alliance of Jats and several smaller communities with Muslims, another numerically strong group in the region, against the BJP, its lead-

However, an RLD leader claimed that the farm laws' repeal will embolden the opposition and drive home the message of unity against the BJP, as the decision shows the government can be made to bend by popular protests.

The BJP had lost its traditional ally Shiromani Akali Dal following the farm bills' passage in Parliament in September last year and was facing increasing marginalisation in the Sikh-majority state of Punjab.

Its leaders routinely faced protests in the state and, to a lesser extent, in Haryana as well where lats made a common cause with Sikh farmers against the laws which they alleged will leave them to the mercy of market forces and dismantle government support systems like mandis and Minimum Support Price mechanism, a charge repeatedly denied by the government.

With the laws now set to be buried, the BJP hopes to recover lost ground in Punjah with its likely new partner Singh. Besides Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Uttarakhand and Manipur are also headed to the polls early next year but these protests have had little impact in

seats in the 403-member assembly With sections of Jats seemingly angry with the BJP and even sev-

### **PM Hands Over India-Made Light Combat Helicopter, Drones To Armed Forces**

Agenceis

JHANSI (UTTAR PRADESH): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday handed over Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) designed and developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and other indigenously manufactured defence equipment to Indian Air Force in Jhansi.

PM Modi handed over LCH to the Chief of the Air Staff VR Chaudhari in the ongoing 'Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv' event from Red Fort.

LCH is a new addition to HAL's helicopter division. This twin-engine helicopter is a dedicated compat nelicopter of 5 to 8-tonne class.

The LCH incorporates advanced technologies and stealth features for effective combat roles and is designed to carry out roles such as destruction of enemy air defence, counterinsurgency, search and rescue, anti-tank, Counter Surface Force Operations etc.

The LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 m (16,400 ft) with a considerable load of weapons and fuel.



The Prime Minister also handed over drones and UAVs designed and developed by Indian startups to the Chief of the Army Staff.

Indian Army has decided to procure these drones from Indian industry and startups after detailed testing and trials. The deployment of Indian UAVs by the Indian Armed Forces is also proof of the growing maturity of the Indian drone industry ecosystem.

The Prime Minister later handed over DRDO designed and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) manufactured Advanced EW suite for naval ships including that for Indian Aircraft Carrier Vikrant. The Advanced EW suite will be used in different naval ships including destroyers, frigates etc. and marks a big step towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

### **Pakistan Eases Advance Intimation Norm For Kartarpur Pilgrims Till Nov 30: Report**

Agenceis

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has temporarily relaxed its mutually agreed limit with India of 10 days advance intimation before the arrival of Sikh pilgrims to the revered Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan for the 552nd birth anniversary celebrations of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, according to a media report on Friday.

Geo News reported quoting sources that the decision has been taken by Pakistan as a sign of respect for the religious sentiments of the Sikh pilgrims due to India's recent decision to reopen the Kartarpur Corridor ahead of the celebrations at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib.

Pakistan has given a relaxation till November 30 and expects the Indian government will follow the agreed process for visitors from December 1 onwards, the news channel reported on its website.

India and Pakistan are both required to process lists of Sikh pilgrims 10 days before their visit to Kartarpur to allow for necessary



procedural clearances.

iour Kartarpur Corridor, which links Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev. to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district, reopened on Wednesday.

The pilgrimage to the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara was suspended in March last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sikh pilgrims have been crossing the border into Pakistan from India and the rest of the world since Wednesday to celebrate the 552nd birth anniversary of

their religion's founder. The Kartarpur Corridor, a visafree crossing allowing Indian Sikhs to visit the temple in Pakistan where Guru Nanak died in 1539, first opened in 2019 for Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary.

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The white-domed shrine in Kartarpur, a small town about 4 kilometres inside Pakistan, had remained out of reach for Indian Sikhs for decades owing to hostile relations between India and Pakistan.

# Agra Hospital Treats Idol Of Hindu God Krishna

Agenceis

Agra: The staff at the district hospital here found themselves in a baffling situation on Friday, when a priest came wailing with a request to bandage the broken arm of an idol of Lord Krishna. The staff was faced with a

priest who came distraught to the hospital urging them to attend to the deity's idol, whose arm he accidently broke while giving it a bath in the morning.

After some reluctance, the hospital carried out a registration in the name of 'Shri Krishna' and also bandaged the arm of the idol back. A video of the crying priest

with an idol of 'Laddu Gopal'—the childhood form of the deitywith a broken arm also circulated on social media.

According to some eyewitnesses, the priest reached district hospital at about 9 am and insisted that the hospital staff tend to the idol.

Priest Lekh Singh said he broke the idol when he was giving it a bath. "When I was praying in the morning and giving bath to the

idol of the lord, the idol slipped and its arm was broken," he said. "I was deeply moved because I am attached with the god. In my desperation, I went to district



hospital to get it treated," he said. Lekh Singh said he is a priest at the Pathwari temple in Kheria Mod, Arjun Nagar, for the past 30 years.

"No one took my request seriously at the hospital. I was broken from inside and began crying for my god," he said.

The priest was also accompanied by the locals, eyewitnesses said. Dr Ashok Kumar Agrawal, the Chief Medical Superintendent at

the district hospital, told PTI that he was informed by the hospital that a priest had come with an idol with a broken arm and was crying to get it treated.

He said considering the priest's sentiments they made a registration in the name of 'Shri Krishna' for the idol.

"We also bandaged the idol for the satisfaction of the priest," Agrawal said. – PTI

### **Instagram Commences Testing New Feature That Reminds Users To Take Break**

**Agenceis** 

WASHINGTON: Photo and videosharing social networking platform Instagram's head Mr Adam Mosseri has announced that the company has started testing a new feature called 'Take a Break'.

According to GSM Arena, this feature will help users curb their Instagram addiction and encourage them to take a break after spending a certain amount

of time on the app.

It's an opt-in feature, which, after being turned on, will allow users to set in-app reminders to take a break from the Instagram app after continuously using it for 10, 20, or 30 minutes.

Mr Mosseri has said that the 'Take a Break' feature has been developed as a "part of the broader effort to try and give people more control over their experience of Instagram" and that there will be "more ideas like this coming in the future too."

Instagram has worked with third-party experts to develop the 'Take a Break' feature, and it will begin rolling out to a small percentage of users over the coming days.

As per GSM Arena, the company plans to launch this new feature sometime in December and if the testing goes smooth, 'Take a Break' will be available to all users in a month or two.



# Timeline Of How Farmers' Protest Against Farm Laws Unfolded

The announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday to repeal the three contentious farm laws will bring to an end the year-long confrontation between the government and the farmers, which has left more than 700 dead in its wake. The three laws raised concerns that this will lead to the abolishment of the minimum support price (MSP) guaranteed by the government on select crops and leave farmers at the mercy of corporates. Since these laws were promulgated, thousands of farmers gathered at the Delhi's borders demanding their repeal, pushing the SAD to quit the NDA government at the Centre. The protests, which have generated huge public sentiment, also evoked responses from teen environmentalist, Greta Thunberg, singer-activist Rihanna and lawyer-author Meena Harris, niece of US Vice President Kamala Harris. Timeline of events since the laws were introduced:

- June 5, 2020: The government promulgates three
- Sept 14: Three farm bills brought to Parliament.
- Sept 17: The bills are passed in Lok Sabha.
- Sept 20: The bills are passed in Rajya Sabha by voice
- Sept 24: Farmers in Punjab announce a three-day rail
- Sept 25: Farmers across India come out in protest in response to a call by the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC).
- Sept 26: The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) guits the BJP-led
- National Democratic Alliance over the farm bills. Sept 27: The farm bills are given presidential assent and
- notified in the Gazette of India and become farm laws. Nov 25: Farmers' unions in Punjab and Haryana give the call for 'Delhi Chalo' movement; denied permission by
- Delhi Police due to Covid protocols. Nov 26: Farmers marching towards Delhi face water cannons, teargas as police tried to disperse them at
- Haryana's Ambala district. Nov 28: Union Home Minister Amit Shah offers to hold talks with farmers as soon as they vacate Delhi's borders and move to the designated protest site in Burari. However, farmers reject his offer.
- Dec 3: The government holds first round of talks with representatives of farmers but the meeting remains
- Dec 5: The second round of talks between farmers and the Centre also remain inconclusive.
- Dec 8: Farmers give a call for Bharat Bandh. Farmers from other states also give their support to the call.
- Dec 9: Farmer leaders reject the Union government's proposal to amend the three contentious laws.
- Dec 11: Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) moves the
- Supreme Court against the agri laws. Dec 13: Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad alleges hand of 'tukde tukde' gang in the farmers' protests.
- Dec 30: Sixth round of talks between government and farmer leaders sees some headway.
- Jan 4, 2021: Seventh round of talks between the government and farmer leaders also remains inconclusive with the Centre not agreeing to repeal the
- Jan 7: The SC agrees to hear petitions challenging the new laws and those against the protests on January 11.
- Jan 11: The SC raps the Centre for its handling of the farmers' protest.
- Jan 12: The SC stays implementation of the farm laws; sets up a four-member committee to make recommendations on the legislations.
- Jan 26: On Republic Day, thousands of protestors clash with police during the tractor parade called by farmer unions. At Red Fort, property is damaged. A protester dies in the chaos.
- Jan 29: The government proposes to suspend the farm laws for one-and-a-half years and sets up a joint committee to discuss the legislation. The farmers reject
- Feb 5: Delhi Police's cyber crime cell registers an FIR against creators of a 'toolkit' on farmer protests, which was shared by teen environmentalist Greta Thunberg. Feb 6: Protesting farmers hold a nationwide 'Chakka Jam',
- or road blockade, for three hours from noon to 3 pm.
- March 6: Farmers complete 100 days at Delhi's borders. March 8: Gunshots are fired near the Singhu border
- protest site. No one is injured. Apr 15: Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala writes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to resume
- May 27: Farmers observe a 'black day' to mark six months of the agitation, and burn effigies of the

talks with farmers.

- June 5: Protesting farmers observe Sampoorn Krantikari Diwas (total revolution day) to mark the first year of the promulgation of the farm laws.
- June 26: Farmers march to Delhi to mark seven months of protest against the farm laws. July 22: About 200 protesting farmers start a
- parallel 'Monsoon Session', Kisan Sansad, near the Parliament House. Aug 7: Leaders of 14 opposition parties meet at

Parliament House and decide to visit Kisan Sansad at

- Delhi's Jantar Mantar. Sept 5: Months to go for the Uttar Pradesh election, challenging the BJP-led NDA, farmer leaders stage a
- major show of strength in Muzaffarnagar. Oct 22: The SC observes that it was not against people's right to protest even on matters that are sub judice, but makes it clear that such protesters cannot block public roads indefinitely.
- Ghazipur border where farmers have been protesting against the Centre's agri laws.

Oct 29: Delhi Police start removing barricades from the

Nov 19: PM Narendra Modi announces the repeal of the farm laws. PTI