

Cross-LoC Shelling Peaks After Soldier's Killing

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The cross-LoC shelling intensified in Rajouri district of Jammu region on Saturday, a day after mortar shells fired by Pakistani soldiers left an army officer dead.

The Pakistan Army opened heavy fire and shelled mortars at forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district on Saturday, prompting Indian troops to retaliate, officials said.

"At about 1645 hours today, the Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Nowshera

● More On P6

8 Civilians Hurt In Tral Grenade Blast

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Eight civilians were injured on Saturday after suspected militants hurled a grenade on an ITBP vehicle in Tral township of South Kashmir.

Around 11:20AM, suspected militants lobbed a grenade towards the vehicle of ITBP 3rd battalion at Bus stand Tral, a police spokesperson said. The grenade, he said, missed the intended target and exploded in the market leaving at least eight civilians injured.

All the injured persons were removed to the nearby hospital, where their

● More On P6

J&K Conducts Dry Run Of Covid-19 Vaccination

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Bracing up for the roll out of much awaited coronavirus vaccine, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday conducted dry run for vaccination at three identified districts of Srinagar, Jammu and Kulgam.

● More On P6

Budgam Woman Dies Of Covid-19

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

Coronavirus claimed life of one more person in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, even as 244 fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected across the Union territory during the last 24 hours.

● More On P6

Vaccines Belong To Humanity: Omar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: COVID-19 vaccines do not belong to any political party, but humanity, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said on Saturday, hours after Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav termed coronavirus vaccines to be rolled out in the country as "vaccine of the BJP".

● More On P6

Slain Jeweller's Son Delinks Killing With Domicile Certificate

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Three days after unknown gunmen shot dead a non-local jeweller in Saraibala area of this capital city, his son on Saturday said that the killing has no connection with the domicile certificate obtained by his family.

WE STARTED ORNAMENT business in Kashmir in 1970. I don't know why my father was killed. We have no grudge with anyone nor rivalry at all. It is the job of police to investigate"

Lawaypora "Encounter" Father Digs Grave For Buried Son

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Four days after his militant son was killed by government forces in Lawaypora area of the city outskirts, the father of slain youth Ather Mushtaq on Saturday threatened to commit suicide if his son's body is not returned to the family.

"My innocent son was killed in cold blood. I am asking Indian government and particularly DC Pulwama to hand over the body of my son to me" Athar's father Mushtaq Ahmad said Saturday.

Ahmad, made these remarks while digging a grave for his teen son, who has already been buried by the authorities in Sonmarg area of Ganderbal district after the Lawaypora "encounter".

● More On P6

87% Drop In Stone Pelting Incidents In 2020: DGP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: There was a 87.13 per cent dip in incidents of stone-pelting last year as compared to 2019 in Jammu and Kashmir, according to Director General of Police Dilbag Singh.

In 2019, there were 1,999 incidents of stone-pelting, of which 1,193 took place after the Centre announced abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir

● More On P6

Court Rejects Bail Plea Of Two 'Extortionist' Cops

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: A court here rejected anticipatory bail plea by three persons including two counter intelligence policemen facing charges of misusing their official position to "extort money" from a person over "frivolous" allegations of militancy against him.

A per police report, on 10 December last year, police station Kothibagh received a complaint by one person forwarded by SSP CIK Srinagar for lodgment of FIR

on the allegations that Selection Grade Constable Bashir Ahmad, presently working in CIK along with Head Constable Ajaz Ahmad, made a telephone call to him that there are adverse reports with CID CIK against him for providing logistic support and financial assistance to the banned militant organizations for which his presence is required.

The complainant stated that he took along one of his friends and met with one Shamim Ahmad of Pulwama, friend of

● More On P6

HC Quashes 3 PSA Detention Orders

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The high court has quashed detention orders under Public Safety Act against three detainees.

The detainees whose detention orders have been quashed include Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat of Shopian, Ishfaq Ahmad Ganie of Pulwama, Amir Shafi Bhat of Pulwama and. Barring Amir's, the orders of detention were quashed by the court's single bench.

KASHMIR In Capital: Mother-Daughter Duo's Delicacy Durbar

In this second part of 'Kashmir in Capital' series, Kashmir Observer tells a story of a mother-daughter duo serving Kashmiri cuisine to the world away from their homeland.

ROMAAN ARORA

It was late afternoon when I went to visit one of the most popular Kashmiri restaurants in the Delhi NCR, Kashmiri Kitchen.

The restaurant, which maintains an eye-catching name, was in front of me with all its glory; a giant billboard, a beautiful facade, and a fascinating window.

But, to my chagrin, it was closed with a lock attached to the door.

The next moment when I was about to leave, a woman in her mid-50s arrived. To my relief, she was Qamar Kamili, the owner of the restaurant.

● More On P8

We wanted to popularize the Kashmiri cuisine here among the locals, just like Chinese and other cuisines





# 'Vitamin D inexpensive, low-risk, can strengthen immune response to COVID-19'

There is no clinical evidence to prove low levels of Vitamin D lead to severe Covid-19 symptoms but there is a definite connect between the "sunshine vitamin" and immune responses to the disease, say experts as the pandemic spreads across the world and concerns mount over a new mutant strain. Stressing that Vitamin D is inexpensive and has negligible risk when compared to the considerable risk of Covid-19, global researchers on the disease have asked governments to make it part of their strategy against the novel coronavirus. Many factors such as age, being male and comorbidities are known to predispose individuals to higher risk from exposure to SARS-CoV-2, but inadequate Vitamin D is by far the most easily and quickly modifiable risk factor with abundant evidence to support a large beneficial effect, said Prof Afrozul Haq, former dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Sciences and Technology (SIST) at New Delhi's Jamia Hamdard University.

He is one of the 170 experts who earlier this month wrote an open letter on the matter. Calling for immediate widespread increased Vitamin D intake, the letter posted on the website

vitaminforall.org states that "research shows low vitamin D levels almost certainly promote Covid-19 infections, hospitalisations, and deaths". "This campaign group of Vitamin D and Covid-19 researchers, including myself, started the process to write this letter for the purpose to make all aware about the benefits of Vitamin D supplementation in Covid-19 infected patients and sending this letter to all health ministries, healthcare workers, governmental bodies and NGOs," Haq told PTI. According to the letter, which had 171 signatories by Wednesday, evidence suggests the possibility that the Covid-19 pandemic sustains itself in large part through infection of those with low Vitamin D and deaths are concentrated largely in those with deficiency.

"The mere possibility that this is so should compel urgent gathering of more vitamin D data. Even without more data, the preponderance of evidence indicates that increased vitamin D would help reduce infections, hospitalizations, ICU admissions, & deaths," it said.

As debate on the matter escalated, immunologist Vineeta Bal added a note of scepticism, noting that most of the experts are based in developed

countries where Vitamin D daily supplementation may be feasible, practical and affordable. "But that is not the case with India. Vitamin D deficiency is extremely common in India. Regular supplementation is not part of standard recommendations, not even for pregnant women," Bal, visiting professor at Pune's Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, told PTI. "If individuals are heavily deficient, supplementation as recommended in the letter is likely to take weeks or months to achieve desirable levels of Vitamin D in the serum," she said. The scientist added that this cannot be considered an emergency measure, when the country lacks manpower and facilities even for the vaccine programme. In her view, Vitamin D supplementation should be a long-term, non-emergency measure and something that could be useful in the Covid-19 scenario as well.

"Not just Vitamin D, other vitamins and micronutrients such as zinc have also shown beneficial effects," she explained.

According to Prof Srijit Mishra, another signatory to the letter, the recommendation is Vitamin D intake for adults of up to 4,000 international Units (IU) or 100 microgrammes (mcg)

daily. Those at an increased risk of deficiency due to excess weight, dark skin, or living in care homes may need higher intakes.

"The current evidence suggests that 25-hydroxyvitamin D serum levels over 30 nanograms per millilitre (ng/ml), a test to measure Vitamin D level is a widely endorsed minimum to reduce Covid-19 risk," Mishra, from Mumbai's Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), told PTI.

Bal said Vitamin D is generally known to have many beneficial contributions in immune responses, and added, "There are no reports, to the best of my knowledge, where there are radical improvements brought about by supplementation of Vitamin D in normal individuals." In her judgment, Vitamin D can have an additional role to play along with other medications but not a primary role. The linkage between Vitamin D and better immune competence does exist based on experimental data, and data on patients is almost invariably associative and does not prove a cause-and-effect relationship, she said.

While no clinical trials have tested Vitamin D's efficacy as a treatment or a preventive measure, several studies have found an association

between low levels of Vitamin D and Covid-19. However, a review of five of these studies by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in the UK concludes that the studies provide no evidence that Vitamin D levels influence the risk of getting Covid-19 or dying as a result.

"There is no evidence to support taking Vitamin D supplements to specifically prevent or treat Covid-19," authors of the study wrote.

Mishra also noted that the evidence so far on risk-factors of Covid-19 with low Vitamin D level is associational, with some studies pointing out that low levels of the vitamin had a higher risk in infection and positivity rates.

He said a communication from UK-based NNEd-Pro Global Centre for Nutrition and Health has brought out a 10-point summary on diet, nutrition and the role of micronutrients for combating Covid-19.

"The note identifies the relevance of various micronutrients, including Vitamin D. However, as the NNEdPro write-up clearly points out, this advice on nutritional adequacy should not be constituted as a substitute for key public health and medical advice on prevention," Mishra said. -PTI

## Model predicts global threat of sinking land will affect 635 million people worldwide

Human activities such as ground-water removal and other natural causes are leading to sinking of the Earth's surface and the phenomenon will affect 635 million people, mostly in Asia, with a total exposed Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$9.78 trillion in the next four years, warn researchers. By 2024, 19 per cent of the world's population—accounting for 21 per cent of the global GDP—will be impacted by subsidence, the sinking of the ground's surface, said the study published in the journal Science. The results represent "a key first step toward formulating effective land-subsidence policies that are lacking in most countries worldwide," the authors noted.

Lead researcher Gerardo Herrera Garcia and his team performed a large-scale literature review that revealed that during the past century, land subsidence due to groundwater depletion occurred at 200 locations in 34 countries. The team developed a model by combining spatial and statistical analyses that identified an area's subsidence susceptibility based

on factors like flooding and groundwater depletion caused by human activities. "Notably, the model also revealed that most of the 635 million inhabitants in subsistence-susceptible areas are located in Asia, with a total exposed GDP of \$9.78 trillion," the findings showed. While the model does not consider existing mitigation measures, potentially resulting in overestimates of subsidence exposure, their results still represent a step forward to effective policies. During the next decades, factors including global population and economic growth, exacerbated by droughts, will probably increase land subsidence occurrence and related damages or impacts. "Policies that implement subsidence modeling in exposed areas, constant monitoring of high-risk areas, damage evaluation, and cost-effective countermeasures could help reduce the impacts of subsidence where it will hit hardest - namely, areas with increased population density, high groundwater demand, and irrigated areas suffering water stress," the authors elaborated. -Agencies

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that my Father Mohd Akram Lone S/o Ab Aziz Lone R/o Hadipora Sopore who passed away . Now I being his son intends to transfer the electricity connection bearing ID No: 0213010005211 to my name Ghulam Rasool Lone S/o Mohd Akram Lone R/o Hadipora Sopore. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the concerned PDD Office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Ghulam Rasool Lone**  
S/o Mohd Akram Lone  
R/o Hadipora Sopore.  
Cell: 9797235408

AMS

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my Vehicle bearing Regd No: JK01L 3183. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file hi/her objection in the office of Regional Transport Officer Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Nadeem Mir**  
R/O :- Patushay Bandipora

AJ KO

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

#### NOTICE

Where a application has been recieved from one. Shri: Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat S/O: Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/o: Namtehall Chadoora Budgam for issuance of duplicate driving license. D.L. No JK0420120014978

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the issue of duplicate driving license in respect of D.L No JK0420120014978 Shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this news. No submission /request shall be entertained after the expiry of stipulated period of time.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1720  
Dated 27-10-2020

**Assistant Regional Transport officer**  
**Budgam Kashmir**

MCB



## Government of Jammu and Kashmir Jal Shakti Department State Mission Directorate, Jal Jeevan Mission J&K

Civil Secretariate, Srinagar/ Jammu

Corrigendum/ ADDENDUM -02

Dated: 01/01/2021

**Subject:** NIT No. 04 of 2020, Dated: 16/12/2020 issued for "Engagement of PMC for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in UT of J&K".

Please read the following 'modified clauses/ paras' stated against each of these 'original clauses/ paras' of RFP document issued vide NIT No 04 of 2020, Dated: 16/12/2020 for "engagement of Project Management Consultants for implementation of JJM in UT of J&K". These 'modified clauses/ paras' shall be deemed to have replaced the corresponding clauses/ paras in originally floated NIT/ RFP. Further the new clauses/ paras mentioned at S No's 10, 11, 12 & 13 below shall be deemed to have formed the part of the NIT/ RFP document;

S No	Ref. to section/ Clause/ Page	Clause as per originally floated NIT/ RFP	Modified Clause/ New Clause
<b>A) Corrigendum;</b>			
1	Short Notice, Schedule of Critical Dates; S No's 7,8&9 Page No 04	7. Bid Submission End Date & Time; 12/01/2021, 05:00 PM. 8. Technical Bid Opening Date & Time; 13/01/2021, 03:00 PM. 9. Last date for receipt of hard copies of proposals (submitted online); 18/01/2021, 05:00 PM	7. Bid Submission End Date & Time; 18/01/2021, 05:00 PM. 8. Technical Bid Opening Date & Time; 19/01/2021, 03:00 PM. 9. Last date for receipt of hard copies of proposals (submitted online); 22/01/2021, 05:00 PM
2	Section IV-B; Financial Proposal Format, Format-2, BOQ. Page No: 41	S No (15): Provisional Sum.	S No (15): Provisional Sum ( <i>The amount to be quoted, against provisional sum in the Financial Proposal BOQ shall be Rs 30.00 lacs only, by all bidders.</i> )
3	Section III, Clause (2)- Requirement of qualification & Experience of Key Experts; S No 7; Consultant (Finance & Procurement), Page: 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MBA (Finance)/ ICWA/ CMA degree/ CA with experience of accounting/ auditing/ reporting and computerized Financial management</li> <li>Should have at least 10 years of experience in procurement of Goods, Services and Contract Management in infrastructure sector.</li> <li>Should have at least 1 project experience in Centrally/ State sponsored flagship program of rural area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MBA (Finance)/ ICWA/ CMA degree/ CA.</li> <li>Should have at least 10 years of experience in procurement of Goods, Services and Contract Management in infrastructure sector.</li> <li>Should have at least 1 project experience in Centrally/ State sponsored flagship program of <i>rural/ Urban</i> area.</li> </ul>
4	Section III, Clause (B)- Technical Evaluation Criteria, Para (3) under Firms relevant Experience, Page 23	Experience of working in similar geographic areas	<i>Experience of working in similar geographical areas in India with at least one (1) project completed.</i>
5	Section I- ITC (Instructions to Consultant), Clause 10.4, Page No. 14	4. <b>Volume:</b> Para (4): CV for proposed Key Expert – 'Not More than Five (5) pages for each Key Expert's CV.'	4. <b>Volume:</b> Para (4): CV for proposed Key Expert – 'Not More than <b>Ten (10) pages</b> for each Key Expert's CV.'
6	Section V- TOR, Clause: 4.3- Roles & Responsibilities of the staff; S No (1); Team Leader; Para (g) Page 20	(g) Shall issue instructions to contractor(s) and check the documents and drawings submitted by the contractor(s) and submit to SMD JJM J&K.	(g) Shall advice and assist the client in issuing of instructions to contractor(s) and check the documents and drawings submitted by the contractor(s) to the client.
7	Section V- TOR, Clause (3)- Implementation Arrangement Para 3.4, Page No 51	3.4 The Consultancy will directly liaise with SMD JJM J&K in enforcing the agreed procedures. However, liaison with <b>Supervision &amp; Quality Control Consultants (SQC)</b> , will be directly or through the DJJMs as directed by SMD JJM J&K.	3.4 The Consultancy will directly liaise with SMD JJM J&K in enforcing the agreed procedures. However, liaison with <b>Third Party Monitoring Agency (TPA)</b> , will be directly or through the DJJMs as directed by SMD JJM J&K.
8	Section VI- Form of Contract & Conditions of Contract, (b) GCC, Clause; 6.2- payments, Para (d), Page 71	(d) The costs towards travel expenses, boarding and lodging pertaining to site visits undertaken with prior approval of Client shall be reimbursed by the Client on production of bills with the invoices. The class of travel and stay shall be as per entitlement for the respective Experts as specified in Appendix A.	(d) The costs towards travel expenses, boarding and lodging pertaining to <b>visits outside UT of J&amp;K</b> undertaken in <b>connection with the services</b> and with prior approval of Client shall be reimbursed by the Client on production of bills with the invoices. The class of travel and stay shall be as per entitlement for the respective Experts as specified in Appendix A.
9	Section V- TOR, Clause (2) – Scope of Consulting Services, Page No 45	..... As the Consultant is being deployed on man-month basis, the Client may direct the Consultant to undertake any engineering work like design check, bill check, reply to contractor(s), preparation of new proposal, variation, extra work, preparation of proposal for change in scope of work of contractor(s), etc.....	<b>"..... As the Consultant is being deployed on Man-Month basis, the client may direct the Consultant, on specific instances to check the designs, bills, extra work/ variations or any changes involved in the scope of work of the Contractor(s)....."</b>

B) Addendum		2A) Requirement of Qualification & Experience of Non-key Expert;	
S No	Position	Qualification/ Experience	
10	Section III, Technical Proposal Evaluation Methodology; (A) Min. Eligibility Requirements	New Clause to be added after Para (2) Requirement of Qualification & Experience of Key Expert. on page no 22:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduate or Diploma in Civil Engineering.</li> <li>Minimum of 05 years of Experience in case of Diploma holder and 03 years in case of Degree holder, in Construction Supervision/ Planning/ Design/ Quantity survey in Infrastructure development Projects."</li> </ul>
11	Section V- TOR, Clause (2) – Scope of Consulting Services, Sub Clause (2.2) Technical Supervision Support;	New para(f) to be added after para (e) on Page No (46) and deletion of sentence <b>"In this context the Consultant shall"</b> on page no 47.	f) Provide support, advice & assistance in effective Construction Supervision of the project. In this context the Consultant may, on specific instances/ test case basis; i) ..... ii) ..... ..... xxv) ..... paras (i) to (xxv) on page Nos 47 & 48
12	Section VI – Form of Contract & Conditions of Contract. c) Special Conditions of Contract (SCC) Page 75-76.	New Para to be added corresponding to <b>GCC Clause No. (8.2)</b> after the para corresponding to GCC Clause No. 6.6 b) at Page No (76).	a) "Failing amicable settlement by mutual consent, the dispute or differences or claims, shall be finally settled by binding arbitration under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. Unless the Parties mutually agree otherwise, within 30 (thirty) Days of invocation of the arbitration as mentioned below, the rules of arbitration prescribed by the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi shall apply to the arbitration. The arbitration shall be by a panel of three Arbitrators, one to be appointed by each Party and the third, who shall act as presiding arbitrator, to be appointed by the two arbitrators appointed by the Parties. If two appointed arbitrators fail to agree on the third arbitrator within thirty (30) days from the date of their appointment, the appointment of the said third arbitrator shall be made in accordance with Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996. The arbitration shall be invoked by one party issuing to the other a notice in writing invoking the arbitration and appointing an Arbitrator. Upon receipt of the notice, the other Party shall appoint the second Arbitrator. The two Arbitrators so appointed shall appoint the third Arbitrator who shall

			act as the 'Presiding Arbitrator'. If the other Party fails to appoint a second Arbitrator within 30 (thirty) Days from the receipt of the request to do so, then the Arbitrator so appointed by the first party shall adjudicate the disputes as 'Sole Arbitrator'. The seat of arbitration shall be UT of J&K and arbitration shall be conducted in English language.
			b) Existence of any dispute or difference or initiation or continuance of arbitral proceedings shall not postpone or delay performance by Parties of their respective obligations under or pursuant to this Agreement. Further, this Agreement shall remain subsisting and operative during the arbitral proceedings and no payment due and payable to either Party shall be withheld except the payment in dispute, if any.
13	Section VI – Form of Contract & Conditions of Contract. Appendices	Format for appendix A	The brief description of format for Appendix A – Description of Services is attached at Page No 76A after Page 76 and before Page 77.

#### APPENDIX A

##### Description of Services:

This Appendix shall contain the final Terms of Reference (TOR) agreed upon by both the parties during negotiations and shall include the detailed scope of work, Reporting requirements and key deliverables against which the payments to the Consultant will be made.

No: SMD JJM(K) / 2020/21/403-11  
Dated: 01-01-2021

DIPK-11241/20

Sd/-  
Addl. Mission Director  
State Mission Directorate,  
JIM, J&K



## Bemina Burglary Case Solved, Accused Held: Police

Srinagar, Jan 02 (KNO): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday claimed to have solved a theft case and arrested accused persons involved in the commission of crime in Srinagar while adding that the stolen property worth lakhs was also recovered from them.

“On 24-12-2020, Police Post Bemina received a written complaint from one Danish Farooq of Hamdania Colony Bemina Srinagar, proprietor of a Copper shop in Zehra Complex situated at Hamdania Colony Bemina stated that during the intervening night of 23/24-12-2020, some unknown thieves have broken the shutter of the shop and stolen the copper

utensils worth lacs,” police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 270/2020 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Parimpora and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation, police inspected the scene of occurrence & completed all legal formalities including obtaining CCTV footage from the said shop and of adjacent areas. With the help of technical information and analysis of CCTV footage some suspects were identified, the statement said.

## Wetlands are lungs of Valley, not dumping grounds: Div Com

Srinagar, Jan 02 (GNS): Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today stressed on revamping of Khushalsar and Gilsar lakes to restore their pristine glory in Srinagar.

Div Com said this while chairing a meeting of concerned officers. The meeting, among others was attended by CE & FC, PHE, Commissioner SMC, Director Rakhs and Forms, ADC, WLW Wetlands, Tehsildar Eidgah, representatives from different departments and Chairman NLCO.

The Div Com said that wetlands are not lands for dumping of waste but are to be sustained as lungs of Valley to safeguard us during rainy days.

Stressing on immediate cleaning, dredging and restoration of both lakes, the Div Com emphasized on active involvement of locals in the restoration mission. He said that major cleanliness drive shall be launched across these lakes to ensure these are restored to its past glory and attraction.

He directed concerned to ensure demarcation of both lakes, fencing of boundary walls, development of pedestrian walkway and complete cleaning and dredging of both lakes. SMC authorities were instructed to stop garbage dumping by locals and install dust bins besides sensitize people on harmful effects of dumping on these lakes.

### Mask-Up Campaign

# SMC Realizes Over Rs 37,000 Fine In Two Days

Srinagar: In a bid to prevent the deadly virus from spreading, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has fined 188 norm violators within Municipality limits in two days and realized a fine of over Rs 37000 from them.

Pertinently, SMC decided to fine Rs 200 from all those who are found without face masks within its limits from January 1st.

As per the figures, SMC has realized Rs 37,600 as fine from the norm violators in two days (Friday and Saturday).

Deputy Mayor SMC, Parvaiz Qadri said that one the first day of the campaign, at least 75 persons were fined for

violating the norms in 35 wards of the corporations.

He added that on day two, a total of 113 persons were fined within the Municipality limits, adding that Rs 1200 each were realized from the norm violators across Srinagar all the 35 wards of the corporation. He said in the initial days, Rs 200 only will be realized as fine from norm violators and in case they (people) don't adhere to the guidelines, the fine will go up to Rs 500.

The amount on the first two days of the camping realized is Rs 37,600. Qadri said that the response on the ground is quite appreciable and people are being found wearing face masks.

He added that from Monday, they will visit places like coaching centers and other places where huge gatherings are being witnessed almost on a regular basis to check whether all the set norms are being followed in letter and spirit.

Pertinently, SMC created awareness among the masses for almost seven days from December 26 and urge people to wear face masks to prevent the deadly virus from spreading. The Corporation had also set January 01st as deadline for wearing the face masks and had announced that anyone found violating the norms would be fined in between Rs 200 to Rs 500—(KNO)

## Top Doc Warns Against Lowering Guard On Covid-19

Srinagar, Jan 2: A top Kashmir doctor on Saturday cautioned the public over any lowering of guard against the Coronavirus pandemic despite the rollout of vaccines.

Addressing as lead speaker the inaugural session of a two-week refresher course, organised by the Kashmir University's UGC-HRDC, Prof Parvaiz Koul, Head of the Internal and Pulmonary Medicine Department at Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Srinagar, said: “At this point, I would not advise that you get rid of social distancing norms or other Covid-appropriate behavior that we have gotten used to. These measures have to run parallel to the vaccination rollouts”.

Prof Koul was answering a question whether people can do away with

masks and social distancing measures while the vaccination programmes have been launched in many countries.

“At this point, the vaccination is being prioritised. The final rollout is going to take a year and a half. It's after that we can think of doing away with masks and social distancing measures. But at this stage, it's not advisable.”

The two-week refresher course for university and college teachers was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad, while Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir was a guest of honour on the occasion.

Prof Koul said the pandemic outlook of the Coronavirus is likely to get over with vaccination and the fact that herd immunity is going to step in.

“So people would be mostly non-susceptible to the virus. But none-the-

less, the virus is likely to stay because it has disseminated so widely across the globe that its complete eradication may not be possible. It may, however, stay in low-level endemic form, but the pandemic form is going to be taken care of by the vaccination and consequent stepping in of the herd immunity.”

Prof Koul said the existing vaccines against Coronavirus are believed to be effective against its new variant found in the UK. “As of now, there's no data to suggest vaccines would not be effective. Currently, the knowledge is that the vaccine is effective against variant viruses as well. It is a different thing that any subsequent mutations might influence the virus efficacy. But that's not the case with the new UK variant,” he said. GNS

### DIAL-EMMA

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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
**18 Jumada al-Awwal**  
**1442**

### PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 07
ZUHR	12: 35
ASR	3:56
Magrib	5:37
ISHA	7:03

## This Day In History

- 1945 - Allies land on west coast of Burma, conquer Akyab.
- 1947 - 1st opening session of Congress to be televised.
- 1948 - Bradman completes dual Test tons (132 & 127\*) v India MCC.
- 1956 - A fire damages the top part of the Eiffel Tower.
- 1958 - Edmund Hillary reaches South Pole overland.
- 1958 - The West Indies Federation is formed.
- 1959 - Alaska admitted as 49th US state.
- 1961 - US breaks diplomatic relations with Cuba.
- 1970 - Marxist government takes over in Congo.
- 1974 - Arias Navarro succeeds Carrero Blanco as premier of Spain.
- 1974 - Burma accepts its constitution.
- 1977 - Apple Computer, Inc incorporates.
- 1977 - Former Home Secretary Roy Jenkins announces his intention to be Britain's first President of the European Commission.
- 1980 - Babrak Karmal defends the Soviet-backed coup in first public appearance since taking power as President of Afghanistan.
- 1984 - Syria frees captured US pilot after appeal from Jesse Jackson.
- 1985 - Israel government confirms resettlement of 10,000 Ethiopian Jews.
- 1988 - Israel orders 9 Palestinian "instigators" deported from W Beirut
- 1988 - Margaret Thatcher becomes longest-serving British PM this century.
- 1990 - Panama's leader Gen Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities.
- 1991 - Israel reopens consulate in USSR after 23 years.
- 1993 - In Moscow, the Start II arms reduction treaty is signed by George H. W. Bush (USA) and Boris Yeltsin (Russia).
- 1994 - 100s killed in Venezuela in prison revolt.
- 1994 - Tupolev-154M crashes at Irkutsk, Siberia: 122 killed.
- 1994 - 35-foot-tall Chief Wahoo, trademark of Indians on top of Stadium since 1962, is taken down, to be moved to Jacob's Field.
- 1994 - Restoration of South African citizenship, announced on 15 December 1993 by the South African parliament led by President F. W. de Klerk, becomes effective four months before the first South Africa non-racial polls of 27 April, 1994.
- 1996 - The first flip phone, the Motorola StarTAC, goes on sale.
- 1999 - Israel detains, and later expels, 14 members of Concerned Christians.
- 1999 - The Mars Polar Lander was launched.
- 2002 - 4th BCS National Championship: #1 Miami beats #2 Nebraska, 37-14, at 88th Rose Bowl.
- 2002 The Palestinian freighter Karine A is seized by Israeli forces in the Red Sea
- 2004 - Flight 604, a Boeing 737 owned by Flash Airlines, an Egyptian airliner, plunges into the Red Sea, killing all 148 people on board.
- 2013 - 27 Shiite pilgrims are killed and 60 are injured by a suicide bombing in Musayyib, Iraq.
- 2015 - 18 people are killed after the Norwegian cargo ship MS Bulk Jupiter sinks off the coast of Vietnam.
- 2015 - Over 2,000 people are killed in north-east Nigeria after Boko Haram militants raze the town of Baga.

## From KO Archives

## Cops produce youth in court after his Fateha Khawani

SRINAGAR - A Kupwara youth 'missing' in police custody for the past two years and presumed dead by his family, was produced in the court last month by personnel of Soura police station after persistent efforts by the valley-based civil rights body, Human Rights Front (HRF) and the intervention of the National Human Rights Commission. All this while police had been denying they had the youth in their custody and the family had performed the Fateha Khawani as well as observed his death anniversary.

Muhammad Jamal Sheikh, of Panjar, Trihgam had been picked up during a Joint raid by Soura and the 100th battalion BSF from Batmaloo stand where he earned a living as a cart-puller.

HRF chairman Mohammad Ahsan Untoo had brought the custodial disappearance to the notice of the State Human Rights Commission, but both had drawn a blank with the police who continued to deny holding him.

It was only after Untoo took the matter to the NHRC and the commission issued a notice to the state police chief and the union defence ministry, that con from Soura police station produced Jamal in a Srinagar court on December 24, with a charge, reported fictitious, under the Indian Arms Act slapped against him.

Five day later, he was sent to Jail for a further 1d months under the Public Safety Act.

After his arrest two years ago, he had reportedly been subjected to severe physical and mental torture by a team of 'interrogators' led by the then SHO of the Soura police station, Abdul Rasheed Khan. It is pertinent to mention here that the SHO Rashid Khan wanted in a triple murder case is absconding for over an year now. Reportedly, at-tempts had also been made to liquidate Jamal in custody. (NAFA)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 03 January, 2001)

### To Whom It May Concern



The resendental house with land situated at Saderbal srinagar bearing khasa no 563, khewat no 107 khata no 368 entered in revenue record in the name of his wife namely Naseem Jan is disputed property as civil suit bearing registration no 556329/2020 is pending in court of law, such it may not be purchased .

**Tariq Hameed Karra**  
**Alqamer colony shivpora Srinagar**

### امام حسینؑ فاؤنڈیشن

پریس نوٹ

**امام حسینؑ اسپتال پر چھائے سیاہ بادل چھٹ گئے**

فاؤنڈر ٹرسٹیز اور قوم کے نامور علماء امام حسینؑ اسپتال کو شاہدہ راقہ خاتون کے گھرنے کے لئے سرگرم۔

مورخہ 2 جنوری 2021 کو قوم کے نامور علماء کرام جناب جتہ الاسلام و مسلمان الحاج آغا سید حسن المصطفیٰ الموسویٰ جناب عابد حسین انصاری صاحب، جتہ الاسلام و مسلمان جناب آغا سید محمد حاوی صاحب اور امام حسینؑ فاؤنڈیشن کشمیر کے ٹرسٹیز جناب حاجی محمد اسحاق صاحب، جناب الحاج مرزا ناصر علی صاحب، جناب محمد یوسف اسحاق صاحب اور جناب الحاج شہیر رضوی صاحب کی ایک خصوصی نشست ہوئی شاہ عباس (بلوارڈ) سرنگم میں جتہ الاسلام و مسلمان الحاج آغا سید حسن المصطفیٰ الموسویٰ کی صدارت میں منعقد ہوئی۔

میٹنگ میں قومی ادارہ امام حسینؑ اسپتال کو موجودہ بحران سے نکالنے پر غورو خوض ہوا۔ میٹنگ میں باتفاق رائی فیصلہ ہوا کہ امام حسینؑ اسپتال کو تعمیر وترقی کی راہ پر گامزن کرنے کے لئے ہر ممکن اقدامات اٹھائے جائیں گئے۔ علماء کرام نے یقینی دہائی کرائی کہ وہ امام حسینؑ اسپتال و امام حسینؑ بیرامپڈ بیک ٹرایلنگ کالج کو ماڈرن لائینز پر لوگوں کی ضروریات کے مطابق تیس کرنے اور چلانے میں ہر ممکن تعاون دیتے رہیں گئے۔

المشتر

امام حسینؑ فاؤنڈیشن

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer, Floriculture Department Srinagar Kashmir.

GIST OF SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO. 86 of 2020-21

Dated: 02 .01.2021.

For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Sealed tenders affixed with Rupee Sixrevenue stamps are invited for below mentioned work from approved contractors class of whom shown which should reach to the office of the undersigned through registered post/courier/speed post by or before 06.01.2021till 02:00 PM on the prescribed tender documents which can be obtained from the office of the undersigned upto 08.01.2021 till 04.00 PM. In case of holiday etc. the tenders will be received on next working day upto 12.00 PM.

S.No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost in lacs	Earnest money	Class of contract	Time of completion	Cost of tender document	Position of funds
01	Repairs of damaged stone masonry wallby way of stone work at Shamaswari park (Namchibal A&B) FatehKadal Srinagar (Part-B)	0.66	1320/-	DEE	21 days	200/-	Available

Note:

- The card holder who is interested to participate in the tendering process should attend the office personally along with GST Regd./Pan Card and Latest GST clearance certificate along with CDR of required amount without which the tender documents cannot be issued.
- Tenderer before applying for obtaining the tender documents should read carefully the detailed tender notice in the office of the undersigned.
- The CDR/FDR of unsuccessful/un-casted contractors will be released after 15 days from the date of opening of tenders or issuance of allotment order which is earliest,
- If during the course of execution any new item (s) of work felt necessary to be executed, the same shall be paid as per J&K SSR of 2012 with contractor, depreciation / appreciation.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Department of Floriculture  
Srinagar

No: EE/FD/2734

Dated: 02 / 01/2021

DIPK-11298/20

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Re-Registration & Inclusion of partners in the Registration certificate of the Travel unit namely “M/s Travel Safe”.

### Public Notice

Whereas, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Khar S/o Haji Gh. Nabi Khar R/o Brein, Nishat, Srinagar have approached this office for Re-Registration and Inclusion of partners in his Travel unit namely M/s Travel Safe situated at Srinagar city under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas the unit was registered with the Department under J&K Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12 under the Registration No:- Reg/519/DT/54/L-1 dated 01-07-1997 in the name of Mr. Bashir Ahmad Khar and was renewed upto 31-03-2012. The Travel unit has been De-registered by this Department vide this office Order No. Reg/T/1427/684/DTK dated 06-02-2017.

Whereas, the applicant has requested for Re-Registration of his Travel unit as well as inclusion of Mr. Akeel Ahmad Khar and Mr. Abu Bakar Khar as the partners of the unit.

Whereas, the applicant has submitted Education Certificate's, State Subject's, Character Certificate, Rent Deed dated in favour of Mr. Akeel Ahmad Khar & Mr. Abu Bakar Khar S's/ Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Khar, Partnership Deep (Duly attested by Sub-Registrar) and other related documents.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 10 of Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request of the applicant is considered for registration of the unit and inclusion of partners, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Banks/Organizations, etc for objection if any. The same should reach to this office with necessary objections within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. No objections beyond a period of 7 days will be entertained and request of the applicant will be considered as per rules.

No: Reg/T/19/1132/DTK  
Dated: 31.12.2020

Sd/-  
Deputy Director Tourism,  
Registration (Kashmir)

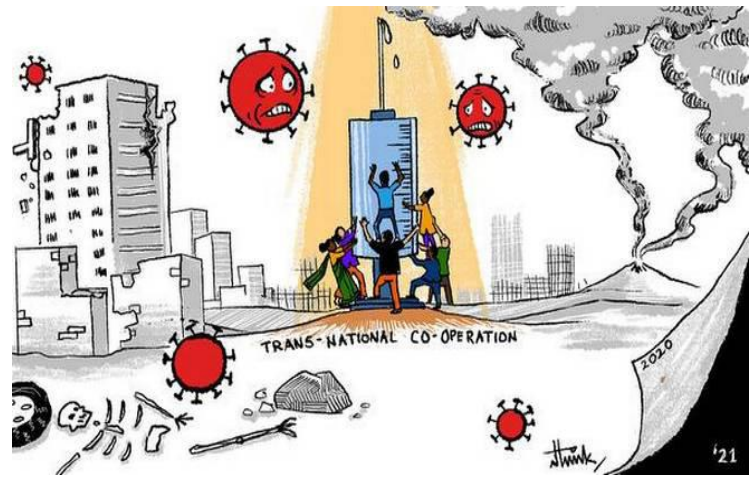
DIPK-11306/20



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### NO HOLDS BARRED



“The leopard was finally caught by the wildlife department in an abandoned house, after it had jumped walls and been chased by people. This tussle between man and the wild is not new and certainly not restricted to Kashmir alone

# The Conservation Conundrum

R. RAJ RAO

As a writer who has frequently travelled to the hinterland to meet sorrowful villagers whose loved ones have been killed by wild animals, I find myself in the same dilemma as Jim Corbett, and so many other humanists. What should come first, man or animal?

This week, a Leopard was spotted in a residential area of Srinagar. The news about the magnificent beast roaming freely in Baghe Mehtaab area had scared people into the safety of their homes and had even raised an alarm in the adjoining areas. The leopard was finally caught by the wildlife department in an abandoned house, after it had jumped walls and been chased by people. This tussle between man and the wild is not new and certainly not restricted to Kashmir alone.

Recently, I toured villages in rural Maharashtra where a man-eating leopard killed a dozen human beings. The beast travelled hundreds of kilometres through five districts of the state over a period of months, devouring men, women and children along the way. I met the families of two such victims who were killed earlier this month. One was a nine-year-old girl, daughter of a farm labourer. The animal pounced on her in broad daylight as she played in a banana field, where her parents and other labourers were at work. She died instantly. The other victim was a 35-year-old woman, mother of three small children. The leopard killed her as she took their cattle for grazing atop a forested hillock where their house is situated. As sunset came, her distraught husband and in-laws who went in search of her found her severed head just a few meters away from their house. They were visited by local politicians and given a cheque of Rs 4 lakhs as compensation; a cheque that they still haven't encashed.

The leopard was finally shot dead by sharpshooters in a leafy banana farm on the very day I was in the villages, leading conservationists to ask if shooting it, instead of tranquilizing it and capturing it alive, was indeed the right strategy.

Two years ago, a similar controversy had arisen in another part of Maharashtra, which made national headlines. The man-eater in this case was a tiger, India's national animal, to save which the Government of India has spent millions of rupees. Its killing by a 'trigger-happy' sharp-shooter from Hyderabad led to an ugly face-off between Maneka Gandhi, the then Minister of Environment and Forests in the Modi 1.0 government, and the state Minister of Environment and Forests who ordered the shooting; especially as the animal was a female named



Avni with two cubs. The case, to the best of my knowledge, is still in the courts.

Villagers, however, whom I personally met and interviewed for two newspapers, were relieved that the tiger was killed. They felt that city-based environmentalists and wild-life activists lived in ivory towers, and had no idea of the dangers they suffered when predator animals entered their villages and stalked them, making it impossible for them to get out of their houses after dark, even to answer nature's call. They vehemently refuted the view that it was they who had encroached on the animals' territory. Their villages had been there for decades, if not centuries, they pointed out.

Though the above incidents occurred in Maharashtra, man-animal conflict, as the media calls it, isn't restricted to any particular state. It exists throughout India, from Jammu & Kashmir in the north, to Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the south, wherever villages lie in close proximity to forests.

Human beings are regularly killed by man-eating tigers in the Sunderbans in West Bengal and Bangladesh. The deceased are usually honey-gatherers who risk their lives sailing to islands in the delta to collect honey. But they have no option as this is their only source of livelihood. It is said that if a man in the

Sunderbans is unlucky enough to be killed by a tiger, his wife becomes a 'tiger widow' and is ostracized by the community. Hence, before setting out for the islands, the men pray to a goddess known as Bon Bibi to bring them back to their wives safe and sound. Unlike elsewhere in India, where orders are issued by forest officials to shoot man-eating tigers and leopards, the man-eaters in the Sunderbans are so numerous that they cannot be eliminated. So the poor villagers learn to live with them.

The tradition to shoot man-eaters began in the Kumaon, now in the state of Uttarakhand, at the beginning of the 20th century with Jim Corbett, after whom India's largest national park, the Jim Corbett National Park, is named. Corbett was an Englishman who was born in Naini Tal and lived there till the time of Independence. Conservation was indeed a conundrum for him, as he was torn between the need to save the lives of hapless villagers traumatized by man-eaters, and simultaneously protect the region's wildlife. He evocatively describes accounts of his brush with predator animals in his books, Man-Eaters of Kumaon, The Man-Eating Leopard of Rudrapur, and many others.

In one case, a man-eater known as the Champawat tiger killed over 600 hu-

man beings in Nepal and North India before Jim Corbett shot it dead. Dane Huckelbridge recently wrote about the Champawat man-eater in his book No Beast So Fierce. In it, he explains the reasons for the tiger becoming a man-eater in the first place: the loss of one of its canines as a hunter unsuccessfully tried to kill it.

As a writer who has frequently travelled to the hinterland to meet sorrowful villagers whose loved ones have been killed by wild animals (a thing unthinkable to those of us who comfortably live in cities), I find myself in the same dilemma as Jim Corbett, and so many other humanists. What should come first, man or animal?

I daresay that this is a question that merits no easy answer.

*The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer*

*Dr. R. Raj Rao is an internationally known Indian English novelist, poet and critic. He was Professor and Head of the Department of English at the University of Pune in Maharashtra. He has also been a Visiting Professor at universities in Canada and Germany*

## Brexit's Done Deal

ANDREW GLENCROSS

To misquote Shakespeare, our Brexit negotiating revels now are ended. The tempestuous talks did not lead to a dramatic walk-out, even if at times the UK government gave the impression this was a feud worthy of the Montagues against the Capulets. The negotiators ignored the background noise and succeeded in drafting a dense legal document on which the future of UK-EU relations now hangs.

### How the deal came together

The UK was adamant throughout the negotiations that it be treated as a sovereign equal of the EU and have its independence respected. This was particularly important when it came to fishing rights – one of the last issues to be resolved.

There were always two problems with this argument. Firstly, as explained by the Spanish foreign minister – a veteran trade negotiator – a trade agreement is designed to establish interdependence rather than being an exercise in asserting independence.

Secondly, the EU is simply a bigger beast economically speaking than the UK. This meant Brussels was confident it could weather the disruption of a no-deal separation better than the UK. By refusing to extend the transition period despite the pandemic, prime minister Boris Johnson ensured both parties faced the same time pressure. But they did not face the same level of risk if no agreement was reached. Hence the real ringmaster of the Brexit deal was Father Time, not Johnson or Angela Merkel, as UK newspapers often reported.

Nevertheless, it looks like the UK government will claim victory by arguing that it is now able to escape the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice while getting tariff and quota-free access for goods exported to the EU. In a statement immediately following the announcement of the deal, the UK government did just that:

The deal ... guarantees that we are no longer in the lunar pull of the EU, we are not bound by EU rules, there is no role for the European Court of Justice and all of our key red lines about returning sovereignty have been achieved. It means that we will

have full political and economic independence on 1st January 2021.

The reality though – as with everything Brexit-related since 2016 – is far more complex.

### In the deal

Johnson's negotiator David Frost liked to argue that the UK just wanted a standard free-trade deal like that between Canada and the EU. In reality, the UK was asking for extras, such as mutual recognition of conformity assessment for goods and mutual recognition of professional qualifications. The EU does not appear to have budged on those.

Brussels was also adamant that the deal required legal guarantees to prevent the UK undercutting the single market by using its new regulatory autonomy to lower environmental standards or employment rights. Johnson agreed in principle to this level playing field idea in the political declaration that accompanied the 2019 withdrawal agreement he got through parliament. Then, later in negotiations, he tried to renege on this pledge. In the end he turned again. The deal states that divergence from EU standards would lead to potentially restricted access to the single market.

In a press conference on the deal, Johnson reassured "fish fanatics" there would be plenty for their dinner plates, but the deal means that for the next five and a half years EU-based vessels will continue to enjoy significant access to British waters, during the transition to a final arrangement.

It's clear that free movement of people has ended, while goods will face customs and regulatory checks. Transport chaos around the port at Dover is therefore still a distinct possibility after January 1 if exporters fail to have the proper paperwork to cross the Channel. Given they have not done this



“The dance is over but now comes the hard sell. Credit claiming and blame avoidance will be the twin priorities for the UK government

in a generation, there are bound to be difficulties. EU-based hauliers might also opt for caution and in the short-term avoid the risk of getting their lorries stuck in the UK. The UK will also leave the Erasmus higher education exchange programme, which will come as a blow to many students – although the UK now plans to launch its own “Turing” scheme to offer placements at universities around the world.

Much less clear is the future of the UK's key export industry: financial services. Outside the single

market, the City of London relies on the EU to grant permission to service EU-based clients and sell them banking, accounting, and associated legal products. This “equivalence” arrangement is reviewed on an ongoing basis, depending on the UK approach to financial regulation and data protection. That puts the sector on a much less firm footing than, say, manufacturing.

### Selling the deal

The dance is over but now comes the hard sell. Credit claiming and blame avoidance will be the twin priorities for the UK government. Johnson is bound to play up the sovereignty angle by highlighting the ability to avoid the intrusion of EU law.

The blame game is where things are likely to get more interesting. This is because the deal requires a constant dialogue with the EU over things that can affect the terms of the agreement, such as government subsidies. This is the position Switzerland constantly finds itself in. The Brexit deal requires both sides to submit to a general review after four years to make sure both sides are meeting the requirements. Hard eurosceptic Conservative backbenchers, who pushed for a no deal, may see this as a concession too far.

What can Boris Johnson do to overcome internal opposition? His parliamentary majority is sufficient to overcome anything short of a major revolt. But his strongest card might be to simply shift the blame to his predecessor, Theresa May, for triggering Brexit without a plan. Meanwhile, Scotland's first minister Nicola Sturgeon tweeted immediately after the deal was announced that “no deal that will ever make up for what Brexit takes away from us. It's time to chart our own future as an independent, European nation.” So, while one episode in this long drama may be drawing to a close, it seems that others, relating to the very future of the UK, are far from over.

*By arrangements with The Conversation*



# In Freeze Frames Life Inside Lake

MIR YASIR MUKHTAR

IN the arctic ambiance of Kashmir's iconic Dal Lake, fisherman Ghulam Hassan is fighting a 'cold war' these days.

He equates the ongoing winter with the classic cold — when the frozen waters of the lake would turn stony surface for some memorable expeditions, like the fabled jeep ride of the erstwhile Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad.

While kings and their courtiers would gallop across its length and breadth, children would play on the icy surface of the lake.

But that faded romance with the frozen waters apart, fifty-year-old lake-man Hassan is currently fighting a battle with his shivering nerves.

Winter, the tough time of the year, is even tougher in the lake.

"Not that we're complaining about it," Hassan standing near his abode says, "but life inside the lake is far from mesmerizing during winters."

Born in houseboat and brought up by fishing, Hassan has seen the lake evolution—from poet's musings to commoner's dirges—quite closely.

When landmasses started emerging as some votebank incentive from the lake in his youthful days, his family also crawled out of their warty abode and built a house.

Many moons later, one fine day, the house would rise up in flames and bring "immense hardships" for his family.

Later the fisherman would rebuild a four-room single-storey house for his family with a bank loan.

But beyond this struggling story, Hassan's daily trysts with the frozen lake are tough and tolling.



Fishing in sub-zero temperature cannot be a vocation of the faint-hearted around this period. One has to wake-up before the break of the day, chart a course deep into the frozen lake and return late in the evening or spent the night out, in case there is not a sufficient catch in the nets — sufficient still being meager, since winter sees a reduction of fishes in the lake.

"This life is a gift by God, so we manage and live with what was handed down to us by fate," Hassan continues.

"Fishing in winter is an art, because you need to work under harsh climatic conditions. It doesn't fulfill our needs but we manage and take this work as worship."



Fishing in winter can cause severe health implications, like chilblains, raptures, and frostbites. Hassan himself suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, a disease that always worsens in winter.



"The body petrifies like a statue," Hassan describes the frozen time in the lake.

"Any sort of work is very hard in the winter. I feel fatigued, my hands start to shiver and body gets jittery, yet nevertheless, I'm always successful in dealing with it. The thought of hunger pushes me to work. I would do any other work in winter if there was the availability of it, but alas!"



Hassan's views are reflected by his water-borne community.

His next-door neighbour, Ali Mohammad Dar, a 65-year-old fisherman, comments upon the winter with a shiver. "What do you know about winter, kid!" he smiles, as wrinkles trace across his forehead.

"These hands are the witness of some of the harshest winters in the valley. When I used to do fishing, I had to cross the iced lake. Before casting net, I would break the white sheet of ice covering the surface of the lake. Now fishing and bearing the cold has become a habit for us. We bear the cold water, the snow, rain and the changes of atmosphere because we see it every coming winter. Hurdles make you strong, so does the winter. We have learned to live in such hard conditions."



To display the cruelty of the lake, Dar puts out his rough and chapped hands that hold a firepot and says, "This Kanger and Phiran have been my sole friends in this journey. The blazing embers in Kanger are the witness of this weather, too. Fishing in winter is not an easy job."



For the lake women, the trails of the daily life are no less.

From doing the dishes and washing the clothes with cold water of the lake, to peddle the catch of fishes in the city marketplaces and countryside towns, their life is riddled with hardships.



Active participation ensures a great deal of woman emancipation inside the lake, as well as spares the men from two-fold hardship.

"It has forever been so," Hassan continues. "Men catch the fish, and the women sell them."



The community reserves the rainy and snowy days to knit the throwing nets.

A crafty hand would take around nine months to weave a throwing net, called 'Gurun-Zaal' or 'Nuk-Patte Zaal' in Kashmiri.

The weight of the net can be approximately of 9 kilograms due to the metal 'naag' stitched on the bottom which helps catch the little fish.



With changing times, the lake has also witnessed a shift. The millennial is reluctant to follow in the footsteps of their forefathers.

Most of them think that their ancestral vocation is not their line of living owing to hardships and lack of returns in it.

"My children are not willing to continue the family work," Hassan

Away from the shoreline decorated with Mughal Gardens and a front lined with houseboats, the Dal Lake houses hundreds of families, most of whom make their living from fishing and farming. The arrival of the winter like always means an increase in the hardships for them.

says. "They'd rather hawk clothes or do some other stuff than bear the trouble of doing the fishing in the lake."



Apart from fishing, farming also takes a backseat in winters.

Even as the floating vegetable market runs without any hiccups, the vegetable gardening is totally excused through the frosty season.

Tourism, as another alternate source to supplement the income, is unreliable, because it's always the first and foremost calamity of the wavering political weather of Kashmir.



In preparation of the winter, these lake dwellers dehydrate vegetables, because that way the eatables last longer during the cold season.

The lake-men also collect logs and branches and burn them to have charcoal to fuel their Kangars during winter.

Because the erratic power-cuts are a norm, the candles, kerosene lanterns and other forms of traditional sources of light are put in use.



The updates about the weather are heard keenly by the old from the young, who regularly check the tweets from Meteorological Department of Jammu and Kashmir, and then, when the snow comes, the men climb the roofs of their houseboats with spades in their hands and clear the rooftops.

"We sometimes need to wake up at 3 in the morning to clear rooftops of our houseboats, so that the weight of the snow won't capsize it," Mohammad Shaban Zargar, a houseboat owner in his eighties, comments.

"Every year we maintain our boats. If a boat wrecks, it's a huge loss to the family and the owner."



While elders remain on their toes, the children of the lake relish the winter for more reasons.

The snowball tournaments take place in-between the different groups formed at the whim of a coin-toss. The season of tales also begins, where the heroes from the fables and folklore revisit the lake yet again.

Cricket is another recreational activity which unlike summer cannot be disturbed by the attendance at the schools.



But despite the current cold proving to be the classic winter in Kashmir, Abdul Gafar Tuman, a sexagenarian shikarawala, says the lake has seen the worst.

"In my childhood," Tuman says, "icicles would hang on the rooftop of our houseboat and we would always be eager to eat them. We used to sing Kashmiri hymns like 'Sheena paito paito, mama yeto yeto' [Come, oh snow, come! Be a dear, and come]. And when snow would fall, we would have snowball fights on the lake that'd be frozen like the brass. That eagerness and enthusiasm has forever gone now."



## One-Way Traffic ...

We resumed one-way traffic on the national highway, the only all weather road connecting Kashmir valley with the rest of the country, a traffic police official said.

He said traffic was suspended on Friday as per government directions to allow National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO), to carry out necessary repair work and maintenance.

Today Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) were allowed to ply from Srinagar to Jammu, he said adding vehicles had to cross Zig Qazigund, gateway of Kashmir, between 0800 hrs1300 hrs. The Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMs) will be allowed to ply from Qazigund towards Jammu, he said adding Kashmir bound fresh perishable carriers and oil tankers shall be allowed from opposite direction subject to traffic situation on the highway.

He said security forces are also directed to ply from Srinagar to Jammu.

He said traffic could not be restored on the Mughal road, connecting Shopian in south Kashmir with Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region due to accumulation of snow and slippery conditions for the past over three weeks. (Agencies)

## Cross-LoC ...

sector in district Rajouri," a defence spokesman said. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, he said.

On Friday, JCO Naib Subedar Ravinder died after being injured in shelling by Pakistan in Nowshera sector, spokesman said.

Jammu and Kashmir recorded 5,100 instances of ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) in 2020, official sources said.

This was the highest in the 18 years with an average of 14 cases daily. Thirty-six people were killed in these violations and over 130 injured.

Security officials said that shelling and firing by Pakistani troops was "very heavy" in 2020, virtually making the 2003 India-Pakistan border truce "redundant".

A senior police officer said that Pakistani troops repeatedly targeted forwards posts and villages along the LoC and the International Border (IB) to create a fear psychosis among people and destabilise peace along the borderline.

## Budgam Woman ....

The victim, officials said was a 75-year-old woman from Khag area of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

With her death, the total fatality count reached 1187 in the Valley while 698 have succumbed to the virus in Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 450 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (355), Baramulla (171), Budgam (109), Kupwara (91), Pulwama (88), Anantnag (83), Doda (64), Bandipora (60), Udhampur (57), Kulgam (53), Rajouri (54), Kathua (49), Ganderbal (43), Shopian (38), Samba (38), Poonch (24), Ramban (21), Kishtwar (21), and Reasi.

Meanwhile, seventeen travellers and two CRPF personnel were among 244 new covid-19 cases reported in the last 24 hours, officials said.

Of the 244 cases, 107 were reported from Jammu division and the remaining 137 from Kashmir Valley taking the total number of people infected by the virus across J&K to 121471.

Giving district wise details, officials said, Srinagar recorded 46, Baramulla (16), Budgam (5), Kupwara (9), Pulwama (12), Anantnag (17), Bandipora (4), Ganderbal (11), Kulgam (2), Shopian (15), Jammu (78), Udhampur (3), Rajouri (2), Doda (3), Kathua (5), Kishtwar (1), Samba (4), Poonch (5) and Ramban six new cases of Covid-19. (With GNS inputs)

## Vaccines Belong ...

Taking to Twitter, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said, "I don't know about anyone else but when my turn comes I'll happily roll up my sleeve & get a COVID vaccine."

The more people get vaccinated, the better it will be for the country and the economy, the National Conference (NC) vice president said.

"No vaccine belongs to any political party, they belong to humanity & the sooner we get vulnerable people vaccinated the better," he tweeted.

While talking to reporters in Lucknow, Yadav, said, "How can I trust the vaccine, which will be used for vaccination by the BJP? We cannot get vaccinated by the BJP's vaccine."

On Saturday, an expert panel of India's central drug authority recommended granting permission for restricted emergency use of the indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin with certain conditions, a day after giving similar directions for the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine.

The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on COVID-19 of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) had on Friday recommended granting permission for restricted emergency use of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine Covishield, being manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

The NC leader also tweeted that this "virus has been far too disruptive & if a vaccine helps bring about a semblance of normalcy after all the chaos then sign me up." PTI

## HC Quashes ...

must indicate the apprehension that the detenue might be released on bail and if so released would again indulge in the activities prejudicial to the security of the State.

Nothing of the sort is forthcoming from the grounds of detention."

Amir's detention order was quashed by the division

bench by allowing an appeal filed by him against the single bench order, dismissing his challenge the PSA order passed by District Magistrate Pulwama 2 February 2019.

"We reiterate that the detaining authority must explain satisfactorily the inordinate delay in executing the detention order, otherwise the subjective satisfaction gets vitiated," the court said, adding, "In the case on hand, in the absence of any satisfactory explanation explaining the delay of 14½ months, we are of the opinion that the detention order must stand vitiated by reason of non-execution thereof within a reasonable time." (GNS)

## J&K Conducts ...

Financial Commissioner Health & Medical Education, Atal Dulloo, inaugurated and monitored the sessions of administration of Covid-19 vaccination to the beneficiaries at the selected sites, an official spokesperson said. At Jammu, he said, the vaccination was administered at the selected session sites at Government Hospital, Sarwal and Community Health Centres of Marh and Bishnah.

The official spokesperson said that at Srinagar's JLNH Hospital and in the UPHCs of Nishat and Batamalo, Director Health Services, Kashmir, Dr Samir Mattoo, supervised the administration of Covid -19 vaccination to the beneficiaries.

"The Covid-19 vaccination in Kulgam district was administered to beneficiaries at District Hospital Kulgam and Community Health Centres of Yaripora and Kujjar, where all the operational guidelines for COVID 19 vaccination roll out were followed in dry run activities," he said.

As per the official spokesperson, Dulloo informed that all protocols pertaining to vaccinations were strictly followed in all the three districts and elaborated that 3 rooms, as per the guidelines, designated for Covid-19 vaccination were set-up. These rooms included the waiting room, vaccination room and the Observation room.

Dulloo, he said, also informed that 25 beneficiaries from each vaccination site were pre-identified and uploaded on to the Cowin portal.

"Also, 5 member trained vaccination team already uploaded on COWIN App was present with pre-designated roles and responsibilities. Besides, special attention was also given to AEFI Management and on disposal of bio medical waste," he said.

He further said that the functioning of COWIN App, on which all beneficiaries are going to be uploaded, was demonstrated to media personnel.

Director Health Services, Jammu, Dr Renu Sharma and Director Health and Family Welfare supervised the Covid-19 dry-run on beneficiaries, the official spokesperson said.

"Later, a meeting of UT Level Task force was chaired by the Financial Commissioner who had feedback from all the districts regarding the vaccination. He directed all the officers to resolve all the issues identified in today's mock drill," he added.

Meanwhile, district level task force meetings were also conducted at all the districts which were chaired by Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts.

## MeT Predicts ...

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 7.5 degrees Celsius against minus 9.0 degrees Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Pahalgam was the coldest place in the Valley at minus 8.4 degrees Celsius and on the previous night, the mercury had settled at a low of minus 7.8 degrees Celsius. Qazigund recorded minus 6.1 degrees Celsius against minus 5.7 degrees Celsius on the earlier night, Kupwara recorded minus 6.1 degrees Celsius while Kokernag recorded a low of minus 6.4 degrees Celsius, the official said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

While 'Chillai-Kalan' -- which began on December 21 -- will end on January 31, the cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khud' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold). (With Agencies Inputs)

## 87% Drop ...

that year in August. "There have been 255 stone-pelting incidents in 2020 as compared to the incidents in 2019 and the year (2020), witnessed a 87.31 per cent decline," the director general of police said.

The Centre on August 5, 2019, revoked Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state, and divided it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

In 2018 and 2017, 1,458, and 1,412 incidents of stone-pelting were reported.

When compared to 2016, the dip in such incidents in 2020 was 90 per cent, according to officials.

In 2016, 2,653 stone-pelting cases were reported as the killing of Burhan Wani, a commander of the militant organisation Hizbul Mujahideen, had triggered violent protests across Kashmir.

In 2015, as many as 730 incidents of stone-pelting took place in Jammu and Kashmir.

After a dip in militancy in the mid-2000s, stones became a popular choice of weapon during protests. This trend has been there since the 2008 Amarnath-land row agitation in Jammu and Kashmir.

2010, 2016 and 2019 witnesses massive stone-pelting in the erstwhile state.

"Law and order situation is well under control. Our resolve for 2021 is strengthening and consolidating peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir," DGP Dilbagh Singh said. (PTI)

## Slain Jeweller's ....

and the domicile certificates obtained by the family, Satpal's son Rakesh said that his family has been living in Kashmir from past 50 years and have never experienced any difficulties.

"What is the fun of domicile certificate? We had been residing in Kashmir from past 50 years. We don't need any job. We have a shop at Hari Singh High Street that we operate on rental basis. I don't think my father was killed just because he had acquired a domicile certificate," Rakesh, as per a local news agency KNT said.

"We started ornament business in Kashmir in 1970. I don't know why my father was killed. We have no grudge with anyone nor rivalry at all. It is the job of police to investigate," he said, adding that domicile certificate is not a reason of his father's killing.

Narrating the events of the fateful day, Rakesh said that he was present at the shop with his father when the assailant entered the shop and opened fire upon his father. "He shot at least 7 to 8 bullets," Rakesh said, adding that he was unable to identify the assailant as he tried to save his father.

## Ahangar, LG Discuss ...

"The Lt Governor enquired about the measures undertaken to ensure best healthcare facilities to the patients at SKIMS. He advised the Director to create a patient friendly atmosphere and called for bringing more improvement in the functioning of SKIMS by rationalizing the resources and ensuring best healthcare facilities to every visiting patient," the official spokesperson said.

## Court Rejects ...

cops, for the issue who asked them that he will resolve the matter as he knows the CIK officers. Then complainant went to Srinagar and met Bashir Ahmad and Aijaz Ahmad at Floriculture Park Residence road. Shamim Ahmad was also present at the location. In the meanwhile Aijaz Ahmad forcibly took away Rs. 14,000 from the pocket of the complainant and also they demanded Rs. 20 lakhs for the dismissal of allegations leveled against him, the police report says. The complainant insisted that he shall not pay such hefty amount and finally it was decided between them that Rs. 6.50 lakhs shall be paid by the complainant through installments. After three days, the complainant paid Rs. 1.36 lakhs as installment and made a phone call for knowing the present status of the case. However, the complainant stated they threatened him of dire consequences. Accordingly, the complainant appeared before SSP CIK where he came to know that the accused persons have manipulated false allegations against him besides he has been cheated by them, the police reported added. Subsequently an FIR (No. 97/2020) was registered in police station Kothibagh and investigation set into motion.

Special Public Prosecutor in his objections submitted that the accused are actively involved in the case (FIR No.97/2020) under section 420, 384, 386, 506 IPC r/w Section 7 of P. C Act as such they cannot claim bail as a matter of right.

Counsel for the accused argued that they are innocent and have been falsely implicated in the case.

"The allegations against the petitioners (cops and their friend) are incriminating and serious in nature and speaks about their criminal mind set and prima facie there are reasonable grounds that alleged accused have committed the offences as indicated in the FIR as such do not deserve

any concession of bail in anticipation of their arrest," said Special Judge, Anti-Corruption Kashmir, Srinagar R. N. Watal in an order.

(The petitioners being police officials and working with important wing of J&K Police i.e. counter intelligence to collect the information about activities of anti-national elements. ..instead of assembling the information about unscrupulous anti-nationals elements appear to have misused the official position to mint money," the court said, adding, "Any concession of bail in favour of petitioners and their conduit petitioner Shameem shall not be taken in good taste by the society at large and the faith that a common man has got in this prestigious institution shall get shattered." (GNS)

## Father Digs ...

In the video that has gone viral on social media, Ahmad is seen breaking down in tears and make fervent appeals to the government. He also says in the video that he will visit the PCR to seek his son's body and will kill himself if denied the same.

"I want justice and if I was denied my dead son's body, I will end my life," he says in the video shot at the family's ancestral graveyard in Bellow village of Pulwama.

Ahmad also alleged that he was denied last glimpse of his son by the authorities by shifting the body to Sonmarg.

The killing of Athar and two other youth Ajaz Maqbool Ganaie of Pulwama and Zubair Ahmed Lone of Shopian has created a political storm after the mainstream political parties demanded a time bound probe into the circumstances leading to the encounter. The demand for probe gained momentum after the families vouched for the innocence of the youth and accused the state forces of killing them in a fake encounter, a charge strongly contested by police.

Police have been maintaining that all the three were militants, two of them hardcore OGWs, and planning a major strike on the forces along the Srinagar-Baramulla highway. (With KNT inputs)

## 8 Civilians Hurt ...

condition is said to be stable, the police spokesperson said. Soon after the attack, government forces cordoned off the area to nab the attackers.

"Police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this crime," the police spokesperson added.

## NC Calls For ...

However it is for the first time that the spawn of such skirmishes has increased upto Karanah. A local mosque and scores of dwellings have incurred heavy losses in the incident leading to widespread distress in the region," they said. They said the consequences of the flair-up of tensions is excruciatingly felt by the people who along with their belongings and livestock become cannon fodder of such cross border skirmishes.

"These skirmishes also have a chilling effect on the economic activities of the people, dwelling in border areas and other forward posts as well. Caught between the devil and the deep sea, they aren't able to manage their household chores and look after their farms. Peace on the border is far more indispensable since any fall out there has its direct impact on the daily lives of the locals. Ubiquitous tension on borders besides affecting the economic activities also causes mental trepidation to the elderly and children," they added.

They impressed upon the administration to provide immediate relief to the people whose dwellings have incurred heavy damages due to the incessant cross border shelling. "The damage to the property and livestock of the local should be assessed without delay and compensated instantaneously," they added.

# No UK Extradition Treaty, Can Only Cancel Nawaz Sharif's Passport: Pak

**PESHAWAR:** Pakistan Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Friday said the government is exploring all possibilities to bring back former prime

Mr Ahmed on Wednesday had said the government will cancel the passport of Nawaz Sharif on February 16.

Nawaz Sharif, 70, has been living in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treatment.

The three-time former prime minister, who was convicted in two corruption cases -- Avenfield properties and Al-Azizia -- was declared a proclaimed offender in December by the Islamabad High Court after he failed to appear before it despite several warnings.

Addressing a press conference on Friday, Mr Ahmed said the government will explore all possibilities to bring back Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan.

However, since Pakistan currently

has no extradition treaty with Britain, his ministry can only cancel Nawaz Sharif's passport once it is expired, he said.

Mr Ahmed said the PML-N chief's passport will expire on February 16 and it will not be renewed.

Prime Minister Imran Khan in October had said that he would contact his British counterpart Boris Johnson, if needed, to discuss Nawaz Sharif's deportation.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Accountability and Interior, Mirza Shahzad Akbar, on Wednesday said Pakistan had asked the British authorities to deport Nawaz Sharif who was convicted by the courts.

Nawaz Sharif resigned as Pakistan prime minister in 2017 after the Supreme Court disqualified him from holding public office and ruled that graft cases be filed against the beleaguered leader over the Panama Papers scandal. --Agencies



minister Nawaz Sharif from the UK, but it can only cancel his passport now as there is no extradition treaty between the two countries.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE. NOTICE INVITING TENDER									
Fresh NIT No- 216 of RnB-Sopore of 2020-2021 e-tendering DATED- 02 .01.2021.									
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:									
S. No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA
01	Construction of cement concrete lane from Masjid Sharif to Sofi Akbar road and house of Habibullah Dar to Sofi Akbar road at Now Hamam ward No.3 MC Sopore.	3.30 lacs	200/-	6600/-	15 days	13.01.2021	DEE	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded
02	Construction of Cement concrete drain from house of late Ab. Rashid Matoo to house of Gh. Mohd Bhat via Masjid Umar at Badamibagh ward B ward No.09 MC Sopore.	2.50 lacs	200/-	5000/-	10 days	13.01.2021	DEE	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded
03	Construction of drain from house of Ab. Rashid Bhat Mohd Ashan Peer via house of Ab. Qayoom Dar connected to UEED near hue of Gh. Mohi-Din Rohali at Baghi Hamza Badamibagh C ward No.09 MC Sopore.	4.10 lacs	200/-	8200/-	15 days	13.01.2021	DEE	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded
04	Construction of drain from house of Gh. Mohd Sheikh to house of Ab. Rehman Panzoo at Mehrajpora ward No.17 MC Sopore.	2.88 Lacs	200/-	5760/-	10 days	13.01.2021	DEE	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded
05	Construction of Tile path from house of Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh to house of Ab. Majid Sheikh at Hyder colony Sopore ward No.14 MC Sopore.	2.07 lacs	200/-	4140/-	10 days	13.01.2021	DEE	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded
06	Construction of drain from Shop of Muzaffar Ahmad Langoo to Shop of Aijaz Ahmad at Neharpora Ward No.14 M.C	1.37 lacs	200/-	2740/-/-	15 days	13.01.2021	DEE	14 <sup>th</sup> FC	Accorded
No: 12419-39 Date 02.01.2020									
Executive Engineer.									
Position of funds: Available									
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 detail s can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:									
01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	02.01.2021							
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02.01.2021 (10.00A.M) to 12-01-2021 (4.00P.M)							
03.	Bid submission start date	02.01.2021 from (10.00A.M)							
04.	Bid submission end date	12-01-2021 upto (4.00 P.M)							
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	13-01-2021 at (11.00 A.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore							
It is compulsory for bidders to upload the additional performance security deposit in advance while uploading the bid process as admissible under rules									
2 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Chillian / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority ) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to tender receiving authority Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore ( No Treasury Receipt shall be accepted)									
3. 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 the Tender receiving authority ).									
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.									
5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-									
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.									
b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security wit6hin the specified time limit.									
c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract									
For and on behalf of the, Lt. Governor of J&K,									
DIPK-11305/20									
Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore									
No:-	12419-39	Dated:-		02 .10.2020					



# Exports fall 0.8% in December, trade deficit widens to \$15.71 bn

Exports contract for the third straight month to \$26.89 billion



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Contracting for the third straight month, India's exports slipped marginally by 0.8 per cent to \$26.89 billion in December 2020, due to decline in sectors like petroleum, leather and marine products, as per the government data.

The trade deficit in December widened to \$15.71 billion, as imports grew by 7.6 per cent to \$42.6 billion, according to the preliminary data released by the commerce ministry on Saturday. Exports in December 2019 were \$27.11 billion, while imports stood at \$39.5 billion. In November 2020, exports were down by 8.74 per cent.

In April-December 2020-21, the country's merchandise exports contracted by 15.8 per cent to \$200.55 billion, as compared to \$238.27 billion in the same period last fiscal.

Imports during the nine months of the current fiscal declined by 29.08 per cent to \$258.29 billion, as against \$364.18 billion in April-December 2019-20.

"India is thus a net importer in December 2020, with a trade deficit of \$15.71 billion, as compared to a trade deficit of \$12.49 billion, widened by 25.78 per cent," the ministry said in a statement.

In December 2020, oil imports declined by 10.37 per cent to \$9.61 billion. During April-December this fiscal, the imports dipped by 44.46 per cent to \$53.71 billion, it added.

Major commodities of export which have recorded positive growth during the month under review include Oil meals (192.60 per cent), Iron ore (69.26 per cent), Carpet (21.12 per cent), pharmaceuticals (17.44 per cent), spices (17.06 per cent), electronic goods (16.44 per cent), fruits and vegetables (12.82 per cent), and chemicals (10.73 per cent).

The other commodities in the positive terrain include cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, handloom products (10.09 per cent), rice (8.60 per cent), meat, dairy and poultry products (6.79 per cent), gems and jewellery (6.75 per cent), tea (4.47 per cent), and

engineering goods (0.12 per cent). Sectors that registered negative growth include petroleum products (-40.47 per cent), oil Seeds (-31.80 per cent), leather and leather manufactures (-17.74 per cent), coffee (-16.39 per cent), ready-made garments of all textiles (-15.07 per cent), man-made yarn/fabrics/made-ups (-14.61 per cent), marine products (-14.27 per cent), cashew (-12.04 per cent), plastic and linoleum (-7.43 per cent), and tobacco (-4.95 per cent).

The major commodities of imports with positive growth in December 2020 include pulses (245.15 per cent), gold (81.82 per cent), vegetable oil (43.50 per cent), chemicals (23.30 per cent), electronic goods (20.90 per cent), machine tools (13.46 per cent), pearls, precious and semi-precious stones (7.81 per cent), and fertilisers (1.42 per cent).

Sectors which recorded negative growth in December 2020 are silver, newsprint, transport equipment, cotton raw and waste, coal, coke and briquettes.

## Aviation deaths rise worldwide in 2020 even as fatal incidents, flights fall

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The number of people killed in large commercial airplane crashes rose in 2020 to 299 worldwide, even as the number of crashes fell by more than 50 per cent, a Dutch consulting firm said on Friday.

Aviation consulting firm To70 said in 2020 there were 40 accidents involving large commercial passenger planes, five of which were fatal, resulting in 299 fatalities. In 2019 there were 86 accidents, eight of which were fatal, resulting in 257 fatalities.

Large commercial airlines had 0.27 fatal accidents per million flights in 2020, To70 said, or one fatal crash every 3.7 million flights -- up from 0.18 fatal accidents per million flights in 2019.

The decline in crashes came amid a sharp decline in flights due to the coronavirus pandemic. Flightradar24 reported commercial flights it tracked worldwide in 2020 fell 42 per cent to 24.4 million.

More than half of all deaths in the To70 review were the 176 people killed in January 2020 when a Ukrainian plane

was shot down in Iranian airspace.

The second deadliest incident was the May crash of a Pakistan airliner crashed in May killing 98.

Large passenger airlines covered by the statistics are used by nearly all travellers on airlines but exclude small commuter airlines in service.

"Over the last two decades, aviation deaths have been falling dramatically. As recently as 2005, there were 1,015 deaths aboard commercial passenger flights worldwide," the Aviation Safety Network (ASN) said.

Over the last five years, there had been an average of 14 fatal accidents for commercial passenger and cargo planes resulting in 345 deaths annually, ASN added.

In 2017, aviation had its safest year on record worldwide with only two fatal accidents involving regional turboprops that resulted in 13 deaths and no fatal crashes of passenger jets.

The United States has not had a fatal U.S. passenger airline crash since February 2009 and one fatality due to a US passenger airline accident in that period.

## Ten more arrested over attack on Hindu temple in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR: Pakistani police have arrested 10 more people in overnight raids for their alleged involvement in the vandalism of a Hindu temple by a mob led by members of a radical Islamist party in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

With the latest arrests, the number of accused named in the case has risen to 55. Over 350 people have been named in the FIR after the temple in Terri village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak district was vandalised and set on fire on Wednesday by a mob protesting against its expansion work.

Search is underway to nab the others accused named in the FIR.

The temple which also had a samadhi of a Hindu religious leader was attacked by the mob after members of the Hindu community received permission from local authorities to renovate its decades-old building.

The mob, led by some local clerics and supporters of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party (Fazal ur Rehman group), demolished the newly constructed work alongside the old structure.

The attack on the temple drew strong condemnation from human rights activists and the minority Hindu community leaders.

India has also lodged a protest with Pakistan over the vandalism of the temple and sought strict action against those responsible for the incident.

## No Bar On Granting Anticipatory Bail For Offence Under 2019 Triple Talaq Law: SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has said there is no bar on granting anticipatory bail for an offence committed under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019, which makes the practice of instant divorce through "triple talaq" among Muslims a punishable offence, provided the court hears the complainant woman before granting pre-arrest bail.

The top court noted that under the provisions of the Act, a Muslim husband who pronounces

"triple talaq" upon his wife can be sentenced to a jail term that may extend to three years.

The top court said the prohibition in the 2019 law is evidently one "which operates in relation to a Muslim husband alone". A bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud referred to the relevant sections of the Act and also the provision of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which relates to directions for the grant of bail to a person apprehending arrest.

"For the above reasons, we have come to the conclusion that on a true and harmonious construction of section 438 of the CrPC and section 7(c) of the Act, there is no bar on granting anticipatory bail for an offence committed under the Act, provided that the competent court must hear the married Muslim woman, who has made the complaint, before granting the anticipatory bail," the bench, also comprising justices Indu Malhotra and Indira Banerjee, said. —PTI

## Iran Guards Vow "Decisive" Response To "Any Action" Amid US Tensions

"We are here today to evaluate and be assured of our powerful capabilities at sea and against enemies who sometimes boast... and threaten," Hossein Salami said.

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards chief Hossein Salami vowed Saturday to respond to any "action the enemy takes," in a visit to a strategic Gulf island, amid rising tensions with the US. Salami was speaking on the eve of the first anniversary of the US killing of top Iranian military commander Qasem Soleimani in a Baghdad drone strike on January 3, 2020.

"We are here today to evaluate and be assured of our powerful capabilities at sea and against enemies who sometimes boast... and threaten," Salami said according to the Guards' official website Sepahnews. Salami inspected the troops stationed on Abu Musa island, accompanied by the Revolutionary Guard Corps navy commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri.

"We would respond with a reciprocal, decisive and strong blow to whatever action the enemy would take against us," Salami warned.

Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb islands are located in the

Gulf near the entrance to the strategic Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of world oil output passes. The islands are under Iranian control but are also claimed by the United Arab Emirates.

Tensions have been building up in the run-up to the anniversary of Soleimani's killing, with two American B-52 bombers recently flying over the region.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Thursday accused outgoing US President Donald Trump of aiming to fabricate a "pretext for war" after Trump blamed Tehran for a rocket strike on the US embassy in Baghdad on December 20. The US aircraft carrier USS Nimitz has been patrolling Gulf waters since late November, but American media said this week that the acting US defense secretary, Christopher C. Miller, had ordered the Nimitz to return home. The New York Times, quoting US

officials, said this move was part of a "de-escalatory" signal to Tehran to avoid a conflict in Trump's last days in office.

Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from a landmark nuclear deal with Iran and world powers in 2018 and launched a "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran, reimposing and reinforcing crippling sanctions. The two countries have twice come to the brink of war since June 2019, especially following the killing of Soleimani.

Days after the Soleimani assassination, Iran launched a volley of missiles at Iraqi bases housing US and other coalition troops, with Trump refraining from any further military response.

Tangsiri had last visited the two Tunb islands on December 25 and emphasised the necessity of the troops' "combat-readiness and awareness," according to ISNA news agency.

## Office of the Executive Engineer, Survey cum Investigation Division

Town Planning Organisation Kashmir

Habitat Centre  
NH Bypass, Bemina Srinagar-190018

Tel:-0194-2490840  
Email:-sidivision.tpo@gmail.com

### CORRIGENDUM

TO  
Tender Notice No.: 02 SID, TPOK of 2020-21  
Dated: 22.12.2020

Please read last date of submission of tenders for "Construction of Almirahs in wood & ply board (Phase I- Frame work and paint only) for Administration/ Establishment section of T.P.O Kashmir, Habitat Centre, Bemina, Srinagar" as 9th January 2021 instead of 9th January 2020 advertised vide this office Tender Notice No: 02 SID, TPOK of 2020-21 dated: 22.12.2020. All terms and conditions shall remain same as stipulated in detailed NIT.

No: Tender/M&R/Xen/SID/01-03  
Dated: 02.01.2021

DIPK-11265/20

Sd/-  
(Executive Engineer)  
S/1 Division, TPO, Kashmir

## Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir

Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar – 190 025

Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT NO. (17) Of 2020 (FRESH)

Dated: 30.12.2020

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST(K), e-tenders in (single-cover system) are invited from approved and eligible Civil contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2021 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S.No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	Providing and fixing of Concrete pole points as demarcation at KVK Srinagar SKUAST-K(FRESH)	8.40	16800/-	"C & D"	500/-	15 days

a) Position of AAA: Approved  
b) Position of funds: Assured  
1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per following schedule:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	31.12.2020
2.	Date of start of downloading	31.12.2020
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start Date	31.12.2020
5.	Bid submission end date	12.01.2020
7.	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid/ Financial Bids of qualifying bidders (online)	13.01.2020

Further information can be had from the Office of the undersigned

No. Au/Estates/E-NIT (17)/164  
Dated: 30 .12 .2020

DIPK-NB-4950/20

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
SKUAST-K

F. NO NESTS/HR/Deputation/10/2020-21  
NATIONAL EDUCATION  
SOCIETY FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS  
Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. Of India  
Jeevan Tara Building, New Delhi- 110001

DIRECT RECRUITMENT UNDER NATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS, MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Online Application/Registration will start for inviting applications from eligible candidates to fill up various posts on direct recruitment basis under the National Education Society for Tribal Students (An Autonomous Organization) under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India.

Sl. No.	Position	Number of Post	Pay Scale
1.	Assistant Commissioner (Administrative)	Two (2)	Level 8 Rs. 47600-151100/-
2.	Assistant Commissioner (Finance)	One (1)	Level 8 Rs. 47600-151100/-
3.	Office Superintendent (Finance)	Two (2)	Level 7 Rs. 44900-142400/-
4.	Stenographer Grade - I	One (1)	Level 6 Rs. 35400-112400/-
5.	Stenographer Grade - II	Two (2)	Level 4 Rs. 25500-81100/-
6.	Office Assistant	Four (4)	Level 4 Rs. 25500-81100/-
7.	Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS)	Six (6)	Level 1 Rs. 18000-56900/-

The candidates desirous to apply are requested to refer the detailed advertisement available on Ministry's website ([www.tribal.nic.in](http://www.tribal.nic.in)) under the section - Tenders & Advertisement. Candidates must submit their applications through online mode only. No other means/mode of submission of applications will be accepted. The last date for submission of application is 04.02.2021 up to 11:59 PM.

DAVP / 43101/11/0016/2021

Sd/-  
(Bipin Chandra Raturi)  
Joint Commissioner

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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Irshad Ahmad  
7006276927



## Real Kashmir Cup 2020-2021: Wins For Lonestar Kashmir FC, Kashmir Avengers FC



### OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

In the first match, Lonestar KFC defeated Punjab based TASM FC 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 score at the end of 90 minutes.

In the second match of the day, Kashmir Avengers FC defeated ARA FC.

The game stayed goalless for the allotted 90 minutes and was decided via penalties where the Lonestar team emerged victorious with a 5-3 scoreline.

18 Premier division teams from Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and other states of the country have been competing in the knockout tournament since December 27. The Cup is organized by Real Kashmir

FC in association with the JKFA (J&K Football Association), AIFF (All India Football Federation) and JKSC (JK Sports Council).

The Real Kashmir Cup is Jammu and Kashmir's first-ever, national-level football competition with the organizers labeling the tournament as a show of unity, solidarity and peace.

## Current Pakistan pacers are 17-18 years on paper, 27-28 in reality: Mohammad Asif



**I feel it might have been 5-6 years since a fast bowler took 10 wickets in a match. We used to salivate after seeing the pitches like the ones in New Zealand ....**

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**KARACHI:** Pakistan cricket team's current pacers are 9 to 10 years older than what their birth certificates suggest, former seamer Mohammad Asif alleged, while also hitting out at their "inability" to bowl long spells.

Asif's remarks came in the wake of Pakistan's 101-run defeat against New Zealand in the first Test in Mount Maunganui this week.

"They are so aged. It is written as 17-18 years on paper, but they are actually 27-28 years old," Asif said on his compatriot Kamran Akmal's YouTube channel but did not take any names. "They don't have the flexibility to bowl 20-25 overs. They don't know how to bend the body and they become stiff after a while. They are not able to stand on the field after bowling a 5-6 over spell," he added.

One of the finest seamers of his time, Asif's career in competitive cricket came to an end after he was banned by the ICC for five years for indulging in the 2010 spot-fixing scandal in England.

His days as Pakistan cricketer long gone, Asif is disappointed by the present crop of fast bowlers in the national team, which was once dominated by

legends such as Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Imran Khan.

"I feel it might have been 5-6 years since a fast bowler took 10 wickets in a match. We used to salivate after seeing the pitches like the ones in New Zealand. There was no question of leaving the ball as a fast bowler. I never used to leave the ball before taking a five-wicket haul."

The 38-year-old, who had formed a potent pairing with speed merchant Shoaib Akhtar during his time in top-flight, added that today's pacers lack the knowledge to test the batsmen. "These kids do not have the knowledge. They don't know how to keep the batsmen on the front foot, not give them a single and how to bowl on the wickets. When they try to bowl on the wickets, it goes down the leg-side. They do not have the control," Asif said.

Among the current lot of Pakistan pacers doing duty in New Zealand, Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah are 20 and 17-year-old respectively. Mohammad Abbas is 30 and Faheem Ashraf is 26.

Age fraud has been one of the issues troubling Pakistan cricket for many years.

The second Test against New Zealand will begin at Christchurch from Sunday.

## 5-Day Trekking Camp Organised At Reasi



### OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**REASI:** A Five day Trekking Camp for a group of 50 students of district Reasi concluded on Saturday.

The trekking camp was organised by District Youth Services and Sports Department in which the students drawn from Zone Reasi, Arnas, Pouni participated.

The expedition was flagged off on December 29 by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajinder Kumar Sharma. The group trekked

around Sulla park, Bidda Baba and Bhimgarh Fort.

During the camp students were imparted knowledge about importance of keeping the surroundings neat and clean, avoiding use of polythene, healthy life style, wearing of mask; and maintaining distance to avoid the spread of Covid-19.

The expedition was guided by Asha Devi (PEM); Riaz Ahmed (PET); Arun Dev Singh (PET); Jagdish Raj, Shabir Ahmed, Neha Sharma and Madhu Rani.

## Sourav Ganguly Stable After Cardiac Arrest



### AGENCIES

**KOLKATA:** BCCI President and former India cricket captain, Sourav Ganguly was hospitalized on Saturday after he complained of chest pain. His condition is said to be stable after undergoing angioplasty at the Woodlands Hospital in Kolkata.

Ganguly, 48, had complained of chest pain following a workout session on Friday evening and family members took him to the hospital Saturday afternoon when the problem recurred.

"Sourav Ganguly has undergone angioplasty. He is stable and completely conscious now. He will be monitored for the next 24 hours," hospital sources told reporters.

A team of five doctors has been constituted to supervise his treatment, hospital sources said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed concern over Ganguly's hospitalisation.

"Sad to hear that Sourav Ganguly suffered a mild cardiac arrest and has been admitted to hospital. Wishing him a speedy and full recovery. My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family," Banerjee tweeted.

The former Indian captain Ganguly, was officially entrusted with the task of heading Indian cricket Board in October 2019 at the BCCI's General Body meeting in Mumbai. His appointment ended the controversial 33-month reign of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA).

Sourav Ganguly became BCCI's 39th President succeeding C K Khanna, who was the interim head of the Board since 2017.

## Soucek Scores 1st EPL Goal Of 2021 As West Ham Defeat Everton

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**LIVERPOOL:** West Ham United's Tomas Soucek scored the first English Premier League goal of 2021 as his team defeated Everton 1-0.

Soucek struck for the visitors in the 86th minute to end Everton's streak of four league wins on Friday.

The Toffees remained on 29 points with West Ham 10th on 26. Leader

Liverpool has 33 points. With no fans allowed due to coronavirus restrictions, West Ham's David Moyes registered his first win at Goodison Park as an opposition manager.

The Scot had lost all four previous appearances by an aggregate of 12-1 on a ground where he had success until leaving Everton for Manchester United in 2013.

Having done their primary job of

not conceding, the Hammers benefited from some good fortune when Aaron Cresswell's miss-hit shot deflected off Yerry Mina and into the path of Soucek, who could not miss.

The game got off to an inauspicious start for West Ham when goalkeeper Lucas Fabianski was injured in the warm up and had to be replaced by Darren Randolph before kick off.



## Everyone Is Allowed A Bit Of Slump, I Had That In England: Warner Comes To Smith's Defence

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MELBOURNE:** Once in a while, everyone is allowed a bit of slump in form and Steve Smith is no exception, feels David Warner, who can relate to his former skipper's woes against India having endured a similarly wretched run during the 2019 Ashes.

Smith has been in horrible form in the ongoing series with R Ashwin removing him twice and Jasprit Bumrah once. But Warner believes that it's more about India bowling well than anything lacking in Smith's approach as he has left no stone unturned in terms of preparation.

"Steve Smith has been recently knocked off by Kane Williamson as best batter in the world (ICC ranking) but if you look at his numbers, he still averages over 60. Everyone is allowed to have a bit of lack of form and I saw that myself when I was in England (Ashes 2019)," Warner said in a virtual news conference on Saturday.

He believes that if faced with a good ball, any batsman can get out. "On a day, if you have your name on that delivery, it is what it is and you can't do anything about it."

"As you can see that it's not due to lack of preparation as the guy (Smith) doesn't get out of nets. He works off his backside all the time."

For Warner, the 84 Test experience that he possesses has taught him one thing -- the

intent and aggression should always be pre-meditated if one wants to unsettle the opposition.

"My 84 Test matches have always been about pre-meditated attacks and it doesn't change for me but it's about how the team looks at it. When I talk about intent, I mean by putting pressure back on the bowlers not just by swinging the bat."

"There are other ways of showing intent which could lead them into bowling those odd full-pitched balls and short of length balls which you can pull or cut. That's what I talk about when I talk about putting pressure on bowlers. "It's about going out there and playing your shots," said the man, who has 7244 runs and 24 hundreds in 84 games.

What Warner has observed is that both Indian and Australian batsmen, for the better part, have allowed rival bowlers to gain the upper-hand.

"If you allow very good attacks, which both these teams have, to dictate their terms, without applying pressure, then it becomes difficult to score. Both teams have lacked a bit of fluency at the top in two Tests."

"You need to show that intent in loud calling, shoulders are back, you are in the bowlers' face, unsettle their line and length and I am speaking from experience."

Warner has observed that Australia, in the first two games (one of which they won), didn't do simple things like "tap and run" which does create pressure on the opposition.

### KASHMIR In Capital

## Mother-Daughter Duo's Delicacy Durbar

### CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

It was then when she politely asked me to come to her home, the whole conversation about her journey started.

Kamili came to Delhi in 2010, when her daughter completed her studies and found a decent job in the capital.

"I was a bit reluctant to come here, though I was myself a working lady there in Kashmir," she recalls, with a little laugh and sparkle in her eyes.

"But, it was my daughter, for whom I came here, to give her a feel of home outside home. She studied here, so she was meant to work here only, so I just couldn't have left her alone."

The transition wasn't hard.

Kamili's work experience in Kashmir helped her in settling down in Delhi with ease, though she found a big difference in two faraway capitals' way of working.

"Here in Delhi, you can put up your outlet till late at night, which is something not possible in Kashmir," she says.

"Also, there's no load-shedding here in Delhi-NCR while we've to wait for electricity in the valley for around 6 hours each day. You can also count the transportations and mobility problem. Here we can have taxis and metro, but in Kashmir, the public transport services are in a miserable condition."

Kamili says she believes in perfection, and tries to perfect every little thing in her eatery.

"We catered for the Naval Chiefs and the Prime Minister in 2016 in Vishakhapat-



nam," Kamili, who considers her Kashmiri Kitchen as her third child, continues.

"So you can get an idea now that how and why Kashmiri cuisine was selected to be served at an event taking place in the extreme south of the country, that too from Kashmiri Kitchen, which was just 6 years old in 2016. This achievement is all because of my emphasis on quality and perfection."

But before coming of catering age, Kamili had to do a lot of adjustments in Delhi. She remembers how she had to get a chicken substitute for every mutton dish

out there in her restaurant.

"Here, most of the people don't eat mutton, because of different reasons such as diet, taste and personal beliefs," she says.

"As a result of this, I've to prepare Chicken Yakhini and Chicken Rogan Josh. Also, people here are more health-conscious, so their taste varies as compared to Kashmiris."

Kamili must have been ideal for many, the reason being her story is also connected to the political turmoil in her homeland.

Higher education, better living conditions, and a variety of appropriate employment opportunities were some of my reasons for sending my daughter here," she continues.

"Had the environment remained peaceful in the valley, I would never have sent my daughter to study outside."

Meanwhile, the tea arrives along with the snacks, and the rest of the talk continues from here. Kamili's daughter, Pearl, also joined us by this time.

Pearl introduced me to a number of awards and certificates, the restaurant has earned over a period of 10 years.

"Kashmiri Kitchen has been the recipient of multiple awards including the 'Hin-

dustan Times Crystal Awards 2012' and 'Times City Awards 2014'. We were also recommended by Condé Nast Traveller as 'Delhi's 50 best meals' in 2015," Pearl says, while showing me the paper-cuttings of various newspapers and magazines speaking of the restaurant's high prestige and grandiose.

"We have been associated with leading hotels like The Oberoi, Radisson, Hotel Surya, Le Meridian, and Fortune Group of Hotels for Kashmiri food festivals and catering. We have also partnered some leading caterers like Colonel Kebabz, Divas Catering, and F&B Caterers to name a few."

Coming back to her business, Kamili appears to be optimistic regarding the reopening of her outlet, post-Covid, or once the vaccination is done all across the capital.

"Lockdown made us suffer, mainly in terms of financial stability," she says. "We had to close the restaurant, and in June, I went to Kashmir for around four months. There was an unlock process also, but we never made any plan to reopen the restaurant, as we don't want to take any risk."

Most of her customers, Kamili says, are locals from the NCR, though some Kashmiris come especially from the valley, to eat at Kashmiri Kitchen.

"We've received a lot of love from both local and Kashmiris, be it the Pandits or the Muslims," she says.

There was a reason, Pearl says, for opening a restaurant in NCR and not in Muslim localities of Delhi, where most of the Kashmiris are concentrated.

"We wanted to popularize the Kashmiri cuisine here among the locals, just like Chinese and other cuisines," she says. "We had a much larger target group in our minds. We want the world to relish the rich Kashmiri flavors, not just the resident Kashmiris who are already familiar with the cuisine."

In any case, the mother-daughter duo never wanted to establish themselves as a seasonal restaurant for winters, when most of the Kashmiris migrate from the valley.

"Our quality is superior over any other Kashmiri restaurant, and that is the reason behind our success," Kamili says.

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