



Maximum : 3.4° SUNSET Today 06:06 PM
Minum : 0.4° SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:25 AM
Humidity : 97%

Contact: -0194-2502327 FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS & YOUR COPY OF



P3 NEWS COOKING GAS REFILL RATES CHANGED FROM 4 FEBRUARY, 2021

The Legal Metrology Department (LMD) today issued renewed rate of refill LPG cylinders (Domestic type 14.2kg) with effect from 4th February, 2021 for ...

P5 THINK WINTER DEPRESSION OR SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER

When the long dark days of winter approach, do you feel slowed down? Does it feel more difficult to ...



P7 STATE DEO ANANTNAG ORDERS RECOUNT ON PDP'S LARNOO SEAT

The District Election Officer (DEO) Anantnag on Thursday ordered recount of the votes in Larnoo DDC seat on which PDP candidate was earlier...



Widom Quote!

Coincidence is the mother of superstition - Zen Lounge

DIGEST

KU To Resume Online Classes From Feb 8

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir University has decided to continue online teaching mode for all the semesters except last semester/final year students from 8th February 2021.

Four Gamblers Held In Ganderbal: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in Shuhama area of Ganderbal district.

Sumbal Shuts Down Against Power Outage

SRINAGAR: A complete shutdown was observed in Sumbal town of north Kashmir's Baniptora district against Power Development Department's alleged inability to supply electricity in the area as per schedule.

Chadoora Youth Dies Of Heart Attack

SRINAGAR: A youth from Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam died of a heart attack in Jammu, reports said Thursday.

Dry Weather Across Kashmir For One Week: MeT

Some Respite From Cold As Night Temperature Rises

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The weather department Thursday forecast dry weather conditions across Kashmir for the next one week, as the minimum temperature in Srinagar settled above the freezing point for the first time in over a month as the mercury rose at most places in the Valley on Thursday, providing relief to the residents, even as the valley experienced fresh snowfall, officials said.



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Srinagar city -- the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir -- recorded a low of 0.4 degrees Celsius last night, up from the previous

night's minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, the officials said. They said it was for the first time in 37 days that the night temperature in the city settled

above the freezing point. The city had recorded zero degrees Celsius on December 29 last year and since then it

Air Traffic Disrupted For Second Day

Press Trust Of India

The air traffic to and from Kashmir was restored on Thursday hours after the flight operations were affected in the morning due to bad weather as most parts of the valley received

Highway To Remain Closed Today

The 270-km long Srinagar-Jammu highway will remain closed for vehicular traffic on Friday for maintenance and repair work, officials said Thursday. In a statement issued, traffic police said that on Friday no vehicular movement shall be allowed from

8 J&K Residents Languishing In Foreign Jails: MEA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: At least eight persons from Jammu and Kashmir are languishing in jails in foreign countries, Parliament was informed on Thursday. Among them, two are in Pakistan, two in Bangladesh and three each in Lebanon, Portugal and Cambodia, minister of state, External Affairs, V.

Muraleedharan said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha while responding to a query member Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha who had sought details of Indian nationals lodged in foreign prisons, domicile-wise, sex-wise and offence-wise. The eight persons from Jammu and Kashmir are among 7139 Indian prisoners including under-trials in the foreign jails, the MoS said.

Authorities Complete Probe Into 'Custodial Death' Of Sopore Youth

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir have completed an inquiry into the alleged custodial killing of a man in Sopore area in September last year, officials said on Thursday.

The inquiry into the death of Irfan Ahmad Dar (23) was ordered in the wake of protests in north Kashmir's Sopore town after the man allegedly died in police custody on the intervening

night of September 15-16. "The inquiry has been completed," inquiry officer and additional district magistrate Baramulla, Mohammad Ahsan Mir, told PTI. He said the report will be submitted to deputy commissioner Baramulla who had ordered the inquiry.

Protests had erupted in north Kashmir's Sopore town after Dar allegedly died in police custody. While the police said Dar escaped from custody

NARCO-MILITANCY CASE

NIA Conducts Searches In Punjab

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The NIA on Thursday conducted searches in Punjab's Amritsar and Gurdaspur in connection with a narco-militancy case of Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen and recovered Rs 20 lakh and 130 bullets from a Hawala operator, an official said.

The searches were conducted at the premises of suspect Manpreet Singh of Amritsar, a close associate of charge-sheeted accused Ranjit Singh in connection with the investigation of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) narco-militancy case, an

J&K HC Stays Circular On New Stamp Duty

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has stayed a government circular issued by the Inspector General of Registration, J&K regarding stamp duty on 30 December last year.



The Circular requires all Registrars and Sub-Registrars to charge stamp duty as per new rates

with effect from 1 January 2021 irrespective of the date of uploading of documents onto the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS), date of filing of the documents with the Registrars/ Sub-Registrars. "In the meantime, the impugned circular issued by the Inspector General of Registration, J&K, Jammu is

Courts To Resume Hearing From Feb 8

The chief justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Thursday amended the earlier notification and gave nod to the physical hearing of cases in all district, subordinate and the tribunal courts in J&K and Ladakh UT's from February 8. According to an order issued by Pankaj Mithal keeping in view the latest SOPs of the Government of India, the physical hearing of the cases

IN THE MEANTIME, THE IMPUGNED circular issued by the Inspector General of Registration, J&K, Jammu is stayed."

FARMERS' PROTEST TOOLKIT

Delhi Police Files FIR, Suspects Khalistan Link



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Thursday said it has registered an FIR against unnamed persons in connection with the "toolkit", which was shared by teen climate activist Greta Thunberg and others on Twitter, with a top official saying that the initial probe has suggested the document's link with a pro-Khalistan group.

the Delhi Police said nobody has been named in the case. Delhi Police's remarks come in the backdrop of global celebrities such as singer Rihanna and Thunberg supporting the farmers' protests against the three farm laws. Lending her support to the farmers' agitation, the teen activist had shared "a toolkit for those who want to help". "Here's a toolkit if you want to help," tweeted Thunberg, which takes the user to a document containing details

Logjam In Lok Sabha

New Delhi: Lok Sabha proceedings were disrupted for the third consecutive day on Thursday as protests by Opposition members demanding a separate discussion on the three contentious farm laws created uproar, leading to repeated adjournments of the House. As the House assembled after the third adjournment at 7 PM, the opposition members shouted slogans against the agri laws. Rajendra Agrawal, who was in the chair, appealed to the members to go back to their seats so that the House can function normally. However, the House was

'Stars' Face Flak Over 'Identical' Tweets

Mumbai: A section of Bollywood celebrities on Thursday criticised big stars such as Akshay Kumar and Ajay Devgn for their similarly worded tweets in response to pop star Rihanna's post drawing attention to the farmers' agitation in India. Actor Taapsee Pannu, filmmaker Onir, actor Arjun Mathur and others criticised the show of solidarity by the big stars towards the government. Rihanna, the fourth most followed celebrity on Twitter with over 100 million followers, on Tuesday

J&K CIVIL SERVICES CADRE MERGER

Merger To Overcome Shortage Of AIS Officers: GOI

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of India on Thursday cited dearth of All India Service (AIS) in Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory as the reason for merging J&K cadre of IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre.

AGMUT happened due to severe shortage of All India Service officers in the UT.

The merger will facilitate posting of officers of AGMUT cadre in J&K to overcome deficiency of AIS officers to some extent, it further states.

"There is a huge deficiency of the officers of All India Services in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The developmental schemes, centrally sponsored schemes and other allied activities suffer due to non-availability of All India Officers in the existing cadres of the Jammu and Kashmir

According to the statement of objects and reasons of "The Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation (amendment) Bill-2021" moved in Rajya Sabha on Thursday, the merger of J&K cadre with

LG Says Vision To Transform Jammu, Srinagar Into Vibrant Cities

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Asserting that the vision of smart city projects was to transform Jammu and Srinagar into modern, sustainable and economically vibrant cities, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday passed specific directions for completion of the ambitious projects within timelines without any delay. "The vision behind the ambitious projects is to transform Jammu & Srinagar into modern, sustainable



and economically vibrant cities with dedicated focus on improving infrastructure & services, increasing mobility and enhancing the administrative efficiency," Sinha said on Thursday.

He made these remarks while chairing a high level meeting of Administrative Secretaries, experts on Smart City Projects and other stakeholders here at Civil Secretariat.

WRONG DEPICTION OF J&K, LADAKH

W.H.O Put Out Disclaimer Over Incorrect Indian Map: MEA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Thursday said the issue of "wrong depiction" of India's map on the website of the World Health Organisation (WHO) was raised strongly with the global body following which it put a disclaimer on the portal. Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan provided the information in Rajya Sabha in response to a question on whether the map on the website

depicted the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in a totally different colour. "The issue of wrong depiction of the map of India on the WHO website has been raised strongly with WHO including at the highest level," he said in his written reply. "In response, the WHO has informed the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva that they have put a disclaimer on the portal," he added. Muraleedharan

Onus On Pakistan To Create Environment For Talks: India

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday said the onus is on Pakistan to create an environment free of "terror and hostility", days after Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's comments that it is time to extend a "hand of peace in all directions". "Our position is well-known. India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence," external affairs ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

He was asked to comment on Bajwa's remarks. "The onus is on Pakistan for creating such an environment," Srivastava said. "In an address at the graduation ceremony of Pakistan Air Force cadets, Gen Bajwa on Tuesday said Pakistan was firmly committed to the ideal of mutual respect and peaceful co-existence. "It is time to extend a hand of peace in all directions," he said in comments largely seen as a message to India. The ties between India and Pakistan came

SMART CITY PROJECTS

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE SOGAM**  
 Email: gdcsoyam@yahoo.com  
 Website: www.gdcsoyam.org  
 Ph./Fax 01955-233211- M.No 9419029971  
 No:- GDCS/TENDER/67 Dated :- 04/02/2021

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamps of Rs 06/- are invited from registered Dealers Of adventure sports items. The tender should reach the office of the undersigned within one week

From the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. The detail of the tender and the list along with specifications can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during all work days

**Terms & Conditions**

- The tenders should be properly sealed.
- A call deposit receipt for an amount of Rs 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) pledged to the undersigned should accompany the tender.
- The tenders without CDR will be rejected and will not be incorporated in the comparative statement
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereunto

Sd/ Prof. Muhammad Shafi Lone Principal Govt. Degree College Sogam

**THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)**  
 Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar):  
 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu) website: http://www.jkbopee.gov.in/www.jakbopee.org, email: helpdesk@jakbopee@gmail.com/coejakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Conduct of B.Ed. (Jammu) Entrance Examination tentatively on 07.03.2021 for admission in Government College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu-2020.

Reference: i. Notification No.003-BOPEE of 2021 dated 05.01.2021.  
 ii. Notice No.OII-BOPEE of 2021 dated 21.01.2021.  
 Notice No: 016-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 04-02-2021.

It is notified for information of all eligible candidates who have applied for admission to B.Ed. Course-2020 at Govt. College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu, that the Board shall conduct the entrance examination for the said course tentatively on 7th of March-2021. The Notice regarding downloading of Admit Cards by the eligible candidates shall be notified separately. The candidates in their own interest are hereby advised to remain in touch with the official website of thgBoardJor latest updates. \* -nVC- ^- E&OE.

Sd/- (Dr. Sunil Gupta)  
 Controller of Examinations J&K BOPEE  
 No: BOPEE/Exam-17/2020 Dated: 04-02-2021.  
 DPK-NB-5417/20

**اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی**  
 محترم غلام حسن میر ساکن شاہ فیصل کالونی (بی) لین نمبر ۲۸ نئی فیٹ صورتہ ۳ فروری ۲۰۲۱ کو اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ (اناللہ وانا الیہ راجعون) اب مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی ان کے مقبرہ رنگ پورہ متصل جامع مسجد نائی فیٹ صورتہ میں دن کے ڈھائی بجے انجام دی جائیگی۔  
 سوگواران

ازینیت نائب تحصیلدار امت ہاگ باجلاس زیر ماتحت صاحب درخواست نمائند۔ ہمارے شرف وائی دلہ غلام نبی وائی ساکن ڈی پوہ تحصیل ضلع ہت ہاگ بڑھن حصول لگیں ہر لفظ

امتیاز

معامہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بڑھن حصول لگیں ہر لفظ پیش کیا ہے جس پر ہت پڑاری ملتے سے ساکن کی ماں مورثہ 01/12/2020 کو فوت ہوئی ہے اور موتی کے وارثان بڑھن درت ہے۔

نام صاحب کینہ و ولدیت	پیشہ	عمر	رشتہ بر موتی
محمد شرف وائی دلہ غلام نبی وائی	مزدوری	50 سال	پوتوتی
صیب اللہ وائی ہر	---	47 سال	---
نبی اللہ وائی ہر	دوکانداری	45 سال	---
غلام نبی وائی عبدالاحد وائی	نانوان	80 سال	شوہر موتی

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کینہ میں موجود نہیں ہے لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مذکورہ لفظ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر پڑاری میں پیش کریں بعد گورنے معیا کو عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
 تحریر الصد نائب تحصیلدار امت ہاگ

ازینیت نائب تحصیلدار امت ہاگ باجلاس زیر ماتحت صاحب درخواست نمائند۔ ہمارے شرف وائی دلہ غلام نبی وائی ساکن ڈی پوہ تحصیل ضلع ہت ہاگ بڑھن حصول لگیں ہر لفظ

امتیاز

معامہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بڑھن حصول لگیں ہر لفظ پیش کیا ہے جس پر ہت پڑاری ملتے سے ساکن کی ماں مورثہ 26/02/2020 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے اور موتی کے وارثان بڑھن درت ہے۔

نام صاحب کینہ و ولدیت	پیشہ	عمر	رشتہ بر موتی
سماں سائیکہ بیوہ عبدالغفار	گھریلا کام	64 سال	بیوتوتی
سماں جان بڑھن	---	24 سال	بڑھن موتی
الفت جان بڑھن	---	20 سال	---

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کینہ میں موجود نہیں ہے لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مذکورہ لفظ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر پڑاری میں پیش کریں بعد گورنے معیا کو عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
 تحریر الصد نائب تحصیلدار امت ہاگ

**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
 AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.  
 Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

**NOTICE**

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for engagement of Contractual Lecturers for Polytechnic College as academic arrangement for the session 2021 in the following disciplines:

Discipline	Eligibility
Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.	First Class B.E. / B. Tech in the concerned branch

**Important Dates:**

Availability of online application form	05-02-2021
Last date for submission of online application/Hard copy of the form	10-02-2021

Eligible Candidates are required to apply online through University website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in) and submit the hard copy along with required documents in the Polytechnic College, IUST.

For detailed advertisement notice candidates are advised to visit the University website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in) before applying.

No. IUST/Acad/21/73  
 Dated: - 04-02-2021

Sd/-  
 Deputy Registrar Academics

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR**

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)  
**Gist of e-NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2020-21 /268/e-tendering**  
 Dated: 02.02.2021.

For and on behalf of the Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AAA / Position of Funds	TS.NO
1	2	3	5	6	
Electrification for proposed Oxygen Plant at Govt. Kashmir Nursing Home Srinagar	1.50	200	10	47 -MCS of 2020 Dt:- 28.08.2020	65 OF 01/2021
Electrification of newly Constructed Oxygen Plant (Ground Plus First Floor ) at Govt. LD Hospital	2.25	200	10	51 MCS of 2020 Dt:- 28.08.2020	69 of 01/2021

- The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 02.02.2021 (18.00 hrs).
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 03.02.2021 (10:00hrs) to 22.02.2021 (15:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
- The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 23.02.2021 (15.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

No: MHCHD/ TS/9321-25 Dated: 02-02-2021  
 DIPK-12534/20

**GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR**

**ORDER NO: 260 of 2021 DATED: 03-02-2021**

Whereas, on the basis of marks obtained by the candidates in the written test held on 16.08.2020 and options exercised by them, 24 candidates were engaged as Jr. Grade Nurses on contract basis under National Health Mission Programme (Scheme-B) vide this office Order No: 248 of 2021 dated: 11.01.2021 for a period upto 31.03.2021 for Covid-19 management or till covid-19 is over, whichever is earlier. Whereas, the candidates so engaged were supposed to join in the offices of Medical Superintendent, SMHS Hospital and CD Hospital Sgr within a period of 07 days from the date of issuance of the aforesaid engagement Order;

Whereas, the Medical Superintendent, SMHS Hospital, Sgr and Medical Superintendent, CD Hospital, Sgr. vide their letter Nos. Est-II/MS/SMHS/8455 dated: 28.01.2021 and No: CDH/Est-II/2021/2310 dated: 30.10.2021 respectively have intimated that 06 positions (three in each Hospital) have fallen vacant due to upgradation and non joining of the candidates within the stipulated period of time;

Whereas, vide this office Order No: 258 of 2021 dated: 03.02.2021, three more Jr. Grade Nurses were upgraded from Scheme-B to Scheme-A from CD Hospital, Sgr.

Whereas, these positions have been specially approved for Covid management of the above Hospitals and in view of upgradation and non joining of the 09 candidates, this office is bound to put in place the necessary manpower for smooth management of Covid-19 patient care services in the respective Hospitals;

Whereas, as per selection list issued vide this office notification No:NGS/MC/20/FINALSEL/NHM/GBPLD-COVID/JGNdated: 11.01.2021, the following 09 candidates are figuring in the waiting list:

S.No	Roll No.	Name of the Candidate	Parentage	Residence	Marks obtained in the written test
1	18295	RUQAYA BINTI HABIB ULLAH	HABIB ULLAH WANI	Wani Mohalla, Safapora Ganderbal	28
2	18365	SAIMA ADAZ	PEER ADAZ AHMAD	BRINTY BATPORA	28
3	16102	AEJAZ HABIB DAR	HABIBULLAH DAR	HANGAH, LAN GATE, BATAGUND	28
4	16738	Madeena	Ali Mohmad Laherwal	Kondabal yangoora Ganderbal	28
5	16426	FOZIA MOHI UD DIN	GH MOHI UD DIN LONE	SANGRAMA SOPORE	28
6	18957	ULFAT JAN	MOHD AFZAL GANAIE	NEW COLONY KAKAPORA	28
7	18985	UMMER JAN MUGLOO	ABDUL RASHID MUGLOO	ZARIPORA TIRGAM	28
8	16770	MARIYA QAYOOM	ABDUL QAYOOM MATTOO	BONAPORA BATTAMALOO	28
9	18371	SAIMA AYUB	MOHAMMAD AYUB SHAH	AGRIKALAN PATTAN BARAMULLA	28

Now, therefore, in view of the above facts and circumstances, sanction is hereby accorded to temporary engagement of the above nine candidates on contract basis as Jr. Grade Nurses on consolidated monthly honorarium of Rs. 14,500/- per month under National Health Mission Programme (Scheme-B) for SMHS and CD Hospital, Sgr for a period upto 31.03.2021 or till Covid-19 pandemic is over, whichever is earlier subject to satisfactory performance of the candidate/approval of the competent authority. Terms and Conditions:

- S.No:01 to 03 shall join in the office of the Medical Superintendent SMHS Hospital, Sgr, while as S. No: 04 to 09 shall report to the Medical Superintendent CD Hospital, Srinagar for duties within 07 days from the date of issuance of this Order, failing which their engagement shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-intio without any further notice in this behalf. 2. The engagees shall be allowed to join only on production of the following documents;
  - Date of Birth Certificate
  - Domicile Certificate
  - Diploma/Degree Certificate
  - Diploma/Degree Certificate (Year Wise)
  - No Loan certificate from District employment Exchange and District Industries Department.
  - Any other document as required under rules.
- The temporary engagement of the above persons is subject to the outcome of the writ petition, if any pending in the Hon'ble Court of law.
- The services hired will be purely on temporary basis for a period upto 31.03.2021 or till continuation of the scheme whichever is earlier and will automatically cease/terminate once the scheme is over. It is emphasized that the services are not being hired against any substantive post and as such won't confer any right upon the hired persons for regular/permanent appointment.
- The hired persons shall submit an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate to the effect: (i) That in case an adverse report about his/her character and Antecedents, Qualification, Date of Birth, Marks certificates etc, if any is received from the competent authority to whom the references shall be made by the concerned Medical Superintendents, the candidate shall have no right to claim his/her engagement as Jr. Grade Nurse and his/her engagement as such shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-intio. He/she will not also claim for any dues from Govt. Medical College, Srinagar as well in that case, (ii) That he/she has fully understood the terms, conditions and nature of his/her engagement in Govt. Medical College, Sgr. under National Health Mission Programme will not claim for regularization after completion of the term or at any point of time.
- The engagement shall be governed by other terms and conditions, as are not specifically mentioned herein this Order but are made applicable in case of such engagements any time by the contracting authority.
- The services of the hired persons shall be terminated in case their performance is not satisfactory upto the mark.
- Honorarium for one month will be kept as security deposit and will be paid to the engagee after culmination of the contract and after he/she clears pending dues and returns all assets/other records/items provided to him/her for due performance of his/her duties of such contractual services.

Sd/- Pncipal/Dean

No: NGS/MC/20/ Dated: -02-2021.  
 DIPK-12522/20

## LAWDA Approves 15 Cases During 112th BOCA Meeting



**SRINAGAR:** The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) today approved 15 cases related to various building related permissions during the 112th meeting of the Building Permission Authority at Miskeen Bagh, here.

The meeting was convened under the Chairmanship of the Vice Chairman, J&K-LDA.

During the meeting, 24 cases were decided out of which 15 were approved, 07 cases were deferred while 02 others were rejected.

The other members that attended the meeting include Chief Town Planner of Kashmir, Joint Commissioner (P) SMC, Collector LDA, Executive Engineer Lake Division 1st LDA, representatives of Executive Engineer Electric Inspection Division, PHE, UEED, Tehsildar North, Tehsildar Khanyar, and Law officer LDA.

Meanwhile, it was given out that the minutes of the meeting of 112th shall be uploaded on the official website of the Authority ([www.jklda.org](http://www.jklda.org)) once approved.

## 21-day Remote Sensing, GIS Training Begins At SKUAST-K



**SRINAGAR:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir Thursday inaugurated a 21-day training programme on 'Remote Sensing and GIS Applications for Natural Resources Management'.

The remote sensing and geographical information system (GIS) training is being organised by the university's Division of Soil Science, Faculty of Horticulture under the World Bank-ICAR funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) for the institutional development of SKUAST-K.

Total 30 students from various faculties of SKUAST-K, the University of Kashmir and some other institutions are participating in the 21-day training for enhancing their skills in RS and GIS for global natural resource management.

Director Education and Dean

Fisheries, Prof MH Balkhi, in his inaugural address, said remote sensing and GIS play an important role to monitor and manage natural resources and provide a flexible environment for storing, analysing and displaying digital data.

He said the training will provide an opportunity for the participants to understand and utilize the specialized capabilities of the image source and analysing techniques for natural resource management and agriculture.

Director Planning and Monitoring and PI NAHEP, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganie, in his address, said that traditional subsistence-based agriculture has changed to a commercial, profitable vocation which is driven by knowledge and technology. He said the new age agriculture needs a highly skilled natural resource, who can use the GIS and remote sensing.



**TOURISTS TAKE SELFIE** along the banks of Dal Lake, in Srinagar, as the minimum temperatures rose considerably across Kashmir Valley on Thursday Pic Abid Bhat

## Cooking Gas Refill Rates Changed From 4 February



**SRINAGAR:** The Legal Metrology Department (LMD) today issued renewed rate of refill LPG cylinders (Domestic type 14.2Kg) with effect from 4th February, 2021 for all the districts of the Kashmir division.

As per the official handout, the rate of refill LPG cylinders (Domestic type 14.2Kg) at district Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama, Anantnag, Kulgam, Bandipora, Ganderbal has been fixed at Rs 835/- by Oil Marketing Companies (OMC). For places

Baramulla, Pahalgam, Dooeru the refill rate of cooking gas is Rs 843.50 and for district Kupwara, it is Rs 852/-

The consumers have been advised to ask the delivery-boy of cooking gas to conduct weight-check and leak-check before delivering the refill cylinder. Moreover, consumers should ask for the cash-memo carrying price of the refill gas. In case of any complaint, the department may be reached on toll-free number 1800-180-7114 during office hours.

Meanwhile, the LMD has booked 03 LPG distributors during the month of January for overcharging on refill cylinders. Besides it has also conducted 1312 market inspections in which 161 erring traders were booked for which a penal sum of Rs 6.00 lacs was collected.

## Truck Driver Found Dead In Srinagar

**SRINAGAR:** A truck driver was found dead on Thursday in Mehjoor Nagar area of Srinagar, officials said.

Officials said that the driver identified as Kalwan Singh (35) son of Harmeet Singh, a resident of Sunjvan Jammu was found dead inside a truck bearing number JK02CP- 7272 in Mehjoor Nagar area of Srinagar.

He said the body was taken to SMHS Srinagar for legal medico formalities.



## KU To Resume Online Classes From 8th February

**SRINAGAR:** The Kashmir University has decided to continue online teaching mode for all the semesters except last semester/final year students from 8th February 2021.

The university on recommendation of its constituent committee has decided to hold offline classes only for

last semester students from 15th February as such the students shall be allowed physically to the university and its satellite campuses.

Earlier the university had constituted a committee to decide on whether to start offline classes or not.

The notification from dean academic affairs (a copy of

which lies with Kashmir Dot Com) reads that upon recommendations from constituent committee, the university shall reopen for offline teaching in a staggered manner and in first instance only last semester/final year students shall be allowed to attend classes physically from 15th February.

## World Cancer Day Celebrated At SKIMS

**SRINAGAR:** Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) on Thursday celebrated World Cancer Day at the auditorium of the institute.

On the occasion, a scientific program was organized in which experts deliberated on various topics of importance about prevalence, detection, awareness and treatment of various cancers.

While giving comprehensive overview of various cancers prevalent in the UT of J&K, the experts as per a statement stressed for various preventive measures including early screening, lifestyle modifications, healthy dietary habits etc to contain the disease which is spreading at the alarming rate and is the leading cause of death.

They also emphasized for wider community participation to raise awareness and to encourage prevention, detection and treatment of the disease. The experts also discussed treatment modalities available for patients at SKIMS, which is the main centre in UT of J&K for providing specialized treatment to cancer patients. The experts included Prof. Nazir A Khan, Dr. Mir Hussain, Dr. Shah Naveed and

Dr. Reshma Roshan, Director SKIMS Dr. A. G Ahangar while appreciating the Yeoman's services by all the cancer Specialists and the Supportive Services Staff involved in the combat of cancer at SKIMS emphasised the role of both preventive and curative strategies adopted by SKIMS in the combat against Cancer Pandemic in fact said and summed up "Cancer or Coronary or Carotid or Corona..... Come On..... We Are Eveready ....."

"I Salute 'My White Brigade' @SKIMS." He expressed his strong belief that Cancer one day will be conquered exactly the way any other pandemic for that matter Corona Pandemic has been dealt with as on date at SKIMS.

He said cancer doesn't spare anyone irrespective of age, gender, status and stressed on the fact that the human beings on the planet have gone beyond a simple physically active lifestyle and good dietary habits to a lifestyle which is rapidly changing in an atmosphere of Industrial and Machinery driven physically less active lifestyle in a polluted environment that has increased the tendency for developing cancers of various types over a period of time.

He stressed the need for changing lifestyles, early detection and diagnosis of cancers exactly the same way as we have done for diabetes, hypertension, coronary artery diseases and other such measure illnesses.



## IMAM HUSSAIN HOSPITAL On A Way To Promise & Progress



**I**N a joint specialized meeting of Council of patrons and the managing committee of imam Hussain Hospital Bema on 2nd of February at Shah Abbas Hotel Srinagar, under the chairmanship of Hujatul-Islam Aga Sayed Hassan Almosvi Alsafvi, various broader and scientifically motivated strategies were discussed to rejuvenate, upgrade and institutionalize Imam Hussain Hospital by bringing in latest technology, competition and capability.

Recognizing Imam Hussain Hospital as the national institution, the learned participants emphasized a unified clean and sincere intention and intervention to for the highest standard of healthcare and patient care delivery. Upon this significantly, the community leadership and founder trustees expressed their deep desire and dedication to support the managing committee in their logical and meritorious endeavour and enterprise of mission and vision of the Imam Hussain Hospital.

The learned participants that attended the meeting were as follows: Hujatul-Islam Aga Sayed Hassan Almosvi Alsafvi, Hujatul-Islam Molvi Masroor Abbas Ansari, Hujatul-Islam Aga Sayed Mohammad Hadi Almosvi, Janab Aabid Hussain Ansari, Janab Haji Mohammad Ismail, Janab Nasir Mirza, Janab Yusuf Hussainee, Janab Shabir Ahmad Razvi, Janab Dr Sayed Kazim, Janab Mohammad Hussain Mir, Janab Mirza Altaf Hussain, Janab Advocate Zaffar Mehdi, Janab Advocate Raja Anis, and Janab Mudahir Karim. The meeting summed off with a prayer by Aga Sayed Hassan Almosvi.

Publicity Secretary  
Imam Hussain Hospital  
Srinagar

### DIAL-EMMA

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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

### RAILWAYS

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

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

### This Day in History

- 1962 - Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn all within 16 degrees
- 1963 - Maarten Schmidt discovers enormous red shifts in quasars
- 1963 - Soviet lunar probe failure
- 1970 WSCV TV channel 51 in Fort Lauderdale, FL (IND) suspends broadcasting
- 1971 - Apollo 14, 3rd US manned Moon expedition, lands near Fra Mauro Alan Shepard & Edward Mitchell (Apollo 14) walk on Moon for 4 hrs
- 1974 - John Murtha becomes the first Vietnam War veteran elected to the United States Congress
- 1987 - Soyuz TM-2 launches
- 1989 - Kareem Abdul-Jabar becomes 1st NBA player to score 38,000 points
- 1900 - The United States and the United Kingdom sign treaty for Panama Canal
- 1922 - Reader's Digest magazine 1st published
- 1958 - Test Cricket debut of Lance Gibbs, WI v Pakistan, Port-of-Spain
- 1958 Vanguard TV-3 back-up launches into Earth orbit; reaches 6 km
- 1970 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1971 - Apollo 14, 3rd US manned Moon expedition, lands near Fra Mauro Alan Shepard & Edward Mitchell (Apollo 14) walk on Moon for 4 hrs
- 1987 - Soyuz TM-2 launches
- 1994 - 68 killed and 200 wounded after a mortar bomb is set off in Sarajevo



HIJRI  
CALENDAR

22

JAMADI  
-UL-SANI

1442

### PRAYERS

FAJR  
6: 01

ZUHR  
12: 45

ASR  
4: 24

MAGRIB  
6: 08

ISHA  
7: 28

## From KO Archives

## 5 SIKHS GUNNED DOWN IN SRINAGAR

*Indefinite Curfew In City Areas*

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR** - Indefinite curfew was imposed in parts of the city tonight following the killing of five persons belonging to a particular community by some unidentified gunmen at Mehjoor Nagar today.

A vast area around the place has been cordoned off and house searches launched to apprehend the killers.

The areas in which curfew was imposed fall in the jurisdiction of police stations Parimpora, Batamaloo, Rainawan, Ram Munshibagh, Sher Garghi, Sadr, Shaheed Gunj, Rambagh, Kot-hibagh, Maisuma. Army and para-military forces in strength have been deployed in these areas.

According to reports, 6 to 8 gunmen swooped on Mehjoor Nagar locality across Rajbagh around 6 30 p.m. today and re-sorted to indiscriminate firing on a group of Sikhs there. They also entered a couple of houses. In the shoot out over a dozen Sikhs, including three of a family, were injured, some of them seriously. The assailants who had reportedly come in a three-wheelers escaped from the area after the shoot-out.

All those injured were rushed to various city hospitals where four of them succumbed to their injuries.

Those admitted in nearby Bone and Joint Hospital were identified as Dharminder Singh (22) s/o Amarjit Singh r/o Aloo-chibagh, Amar Singh (35) s/o Prithipal Singh his mother, Chand Kour (48) and Balwant Singh (65) s/o Mai Chand Singh, all residents of Mehjoor Nagar. Of them, Balwant Singh succumbed to his injuries.

Four of the injured admitted in the SMHS hospital were identified as Surjit Singh s/o Nirmal, Samir Pal Singh s/o Kanwar Nain Singh, Kanwar Nain Singh s/o Khayam Singh and Satinder Kour w/o Kanwar Nain Singh, residents of Mehjoor Nagar. Of them, Surjit Singh and Samir Pal Singh succumbed to their injuries.

(According to a report, one Gurmeet Singh had died on the spot.) Some of those injured were shifted to the SK Institute of Medical Sciences where they were suited to in critical condition.

A NAFA report said late in the evening that army and paramilitary forces had cordoned off the Mehjoor Nagar locality and some adjoining areas and started house-to-house searches. A Brigadier from 311 sub-area was stated to be commanding the operation. The Inspector General of Police, Dr Ashok Bhan, was camping in the area along with several senior police officials.

Unconfirmed reports suggested that the security forces had entered several houses in the locality. A local agency rang up an acquaintance in the area twice this evening. The first time he talked to the friend, but when he rang up again, someone picked up the phone made no answer, suggesting that there was something wrong in the house. Fear and tension has gripped the locality, and reports indicated many residents had fled from their houses out of fear.

This is the second major incident in which members of the Sikh community have been targeted. On the night of March 20, 2000, some unidentified gunmen massacred 35 Sikhs at Chattisinghpura, remote village of Anantnag district. A few days later the police claimed having killed the 'militants' responsible for the massacre. However, subsequent developments belied the police claim, and those killed by it turned out to be local civilian youth.

It may be recalled a judicial probe headed by Justice G R Pandian later indicted the police for the civilian killing following which the Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah had an announced setting up of a commission of enquiry headed by a re-tired or sitting judge of the supreme court to probe the Chattisinghpura massacre.

Dr. Abdullah even ignored the Pandian Commission recommendation to reinstate one Superintendent of Police on the plea that a linkage had been established between the Bragpora killing and the Chattisinghpura massacre.

However, the commission of enquiry is yet to be setup.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 05 February, 2001)

## KASHMIR OBSERVER

Printed & Published By Sajjad Haider on behalf of the Kashmir Observer LLP  
Published From: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider  
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja  
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304  
Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsvrvr.net

### Bajwa's 'Hand Of Peace'

In a significant statement Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday called for resolving the Jammu and Kashmir issue in a "dignified and peaceful manner" between India and Pakistan. Speaking at the graduation ceremony at a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Academy, General Bajwa said that Pakistan and India must resolve the longstanding issue of Jammu and Kashmir as per the aspirations of people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Pakistan stands "firmly committed to the ideal of mutual respect and peaceful co-existence. It is time to extend a hand of peace in all directions".

General Bajwa didn't talk about a third party mediation but about a bilateral resolution of Kashmir issue. The statement came at a time when the relations between India and Pakistan have plunged to their lowest low in the wake of the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019. It has now been years since there's no formal dialogue between the two countries. And there's little hope of such a dialogue in near future. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is on record to have said that there will be no dialogue between the two nations as long as India doesn't reverse the withdrawal of Kashmir's autonomy. This is why General Bajwa's offer of "a hand of peace" has attracted some attention. For, it reveals a certain change of heart in Pakistan on engagement with India.

Whether, it's only a one-off statement will be known in the weeks and months ahead. In India, there has been no indication over the past two years that the government wants to reach out to Pakistan. Nor has Pakistan made any such effort. The reason for this is that the repeal of Article 370 has irrevocably altered the paradigm under which the two countries engaged. By integrating Kashmir, New Delhi has signalled that it no longer considers this side of Kashmir as disputed. Pakistan sees India's withdrawal of Kashmir's special status enshrined in Article 370 as a dilution of what it sees as the disputed status of the region. But New Delhi sees the changes to the constitutional position of J&K as its internal matter. Two positions look all but irreconcilable. But for a durable peace in the region, the two countries have to find a way to get together. This requires statesmanship on both sides. And this will only be possible if there's willingness on the part of the neighbors to resolve their issues.

### OTHER OPINION

### On Global Criticism

The farm protests have captured global attention, with a set of political, cultural, and environmental figures — including the popular artiste, Rihanna, the fourth-most followed person on Twitter — tweeting their solidarity with the protests. This has led the ministry of external affairs (MEA) to issue a statement, blaming "vested interest groups" and pointing to the evolution of the farm laws, the need to see protests within the framework of India's democratic structure, the efforts made to reach an agreement with farm groups, and the violence on Republic Day. This is unusual simply because the government usually ignores comments from non-State actors.

There are two distinct issues here. The first is the international solidarity that the movement has been able to generate, either due to the Sikh diaspora's network, the larger mobilisation by liberal, left, and human rights groups, or the nature of the international media's coverage of the protests. At a time when it is not unusual for narratives to be controlled through influencer networks and IT cells — and India is no stranger to either — it is entirely possible (no matter what the probability) that at least some of these displays of solidarity have been engineered.

But irrespective of the causes and the merits of the criticism (or the merits of the underlying protest), the fact is that it erodes India's soft power and image as a democracy. The government will have to recognise the intricate ways in which domestic developments intersect with global politics, especially at a time when social media has disproportionate power in shaping perception. The most substantive and effective way in which the Indian State can respond is by strengthening its own democratic framework and reiterating its commitment to individual liberty and the right to dissent, in principle and practice. Rihanna, for instance, with over 100 million followers on Twitter is unlikely to be cowed down by a troll army, or fears of falling sales of her music in India.

The second issue is the ability of this criticism — confined at the moment to private, even if influential, citizens in the West — to become a matter of inter-State deliberations. This is where the MEA's statement comes in. It can be read as an attempt to both counter what the government sees as "propaganda" to discredit India, and an effort to pre-empt foreign governments from being guided by the social media storm. It is unlikely that foreign governments, particularly the US, will, even if they issue token statements, make it a top diplomatic issue. But what is clear is that India, because of the ideological and economic shifts underway in the country and the subsequent polarisation, will face questions.

This requires ensuring that these transformations are democratically managed internally, and smarter strategic communication about the nature of these changes externally

Hindustan Times

# How Significant Is Chenab's Ratle Hydro Electric Project?

Maumil Mehraj and Maknoon Wani

IT BECOMES AMPLY clear that this project is not in fact as all-encompassing as citizens are made to believe. By multiple standards, the Ratle Hydroelectric Power Project is a small project.

IT REMAINS TO be seen whether the government will start new projects in the near future and give a larger share of electricity to the regional corporation which can directly benefit the people of J&K



The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, cleared the 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project on the 20th of January. The government approved an investment of INR 5281.94 crore for the project to be commissioned within 60 months.

The project located on the river Chenab in Kishtwar district of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, will be undertaken jointly by the center-owned National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC) with an equity contribution of 51% and 49% respectively.

"The construction activities of the Project will result in direct and indirect employment to around 4000 persons and will contribute in the overall socio-economic development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," read a statement released by the Union Cabinet. While the claims will, in all likelihood, remain true for the construction period of the project, will a sustained employability be assured is a question that remains.

**How will it benefit the region?**  
The statement also said that Jammu and Kashmir would get free power worth INR 5289 crore and INR 9581 crore Water Usage Charges during the project's 40-year life cycle. However, the power-starved region is unlikely to benefit from the project immediately after it is commissioned. According to the implementation strategy, the union territory government will exempt the project from Water Usage Charges for a period of 10 years.

Moreover, the statement also says that the UT of Jammu and Kashmir will waive free power and its share of the GST. "...reimbursement of State's share of GST (i.e., SGST) and waiver of free power to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in a decremental manner, i.e., the free power to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir would be 1% in the 1st year after commissioning of the Project, and rising @1% per year to 12% in the 12th year."

According to this arrangement, the union territory will reach a threshold of 12% (of the total power generation) in the 12th year of the commissioning of the project. This 12% royalty will be paid for the remaining 28 years of the project's life cycle.

**What is J&K's hydropower potential?**  
Jammu and Kashmir has the potential to produce 16,475 MW of hydropower as per an assessment made by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

A total of 3,210 MW is already being harnessed in the region. Out of this, JKSPDC harnesses 1211.96 MW from its 21 power projects, and NHPC produces the remaining 2,009 MW from seven projects.

**Is Ratle a run-of-the-river power project?**

Ratle is reportedly a run-of-the-river hydroelectric project which is different from a conventional power plant. Such projects do not require a large reservoir (dam) to move the turbines to generate electricity. Large reservoirs often lead to flooding and loss of habitat for both wildlife and humans. Run-of-the-river power projects have a relatively lesser impact on the local biodiversity because they do not lead to flooding. However, the power supply can often be seasonal because the water is not stored in a large dam. Such power projects use the flow of the river and natural terrain to achieve the water pressure required to generate electricity. According to the NHPC, Ratle will operate with a 133 meter high concrete dam, which is only 30 meters less than Gujarat's Sardar Sarovar Dam, the third highest concrete dam in India. However, on speaking with a senior official from the project, it was explained to us that the above mentioned dam was more for the purpose of "stoppage" rather than "storage". What this entails is that the water will only be stopped for no more than a few hours and then directed further through pressure shafts, thereby doing away with higher environmental hazards like flooding and an increased disturbance to the ecology of the area.

**Will this project alleviate J&K's power crisis?**

Every winter, when the demand is higher than usual, Jammu and Kashmir witnesses acute power shortage because of supply shortfall and poor transmission infrastructure. It is understandable that hydroelectric power generating capacity gets massively decreased in the winter months, and the subsequent demand of electricity gets increased in every household, but the question of performance on part of the administration stays. NHPC, a public limited company, has often been accused of depriving the region of its water resources. The royalty rate paid by the corporation towards the union territory has remained at a paltry 12%. In the past, the local legislators have called for the transfer of power projects from the NHPC. While NHPC derives 40% of its total hydroelectricity production from the region, the J&K exchequer has to pay huge bills to meet

its electricity needs. On books, J&K produces surplus electricity, but most of it is exported to other states, which leads to long hours of load shedding across the erstwhile state.

According to the Government of India's Environmental Information System (ENVIS), J&K has a power demand of 17,323 million units, out of which the state sectors produce only 2,562 million units. There is a shortfall of 14,761 million units of electricity, which has to be bought from other sources, including the NHPC. According to the 18th Electric Power Survey of India report published by the Ministry of Power, GOI, J&K shall have a peak load of 4217 MWs in 2020-21 with an energy requirement of 21,884 million units. The production capacity of the project is 3136.76 million units and the waiver of free power for a period of ten years (at an incremental rate of just 1% per annum) means that Ratle Power Plant is unlikely to contribute much to the electricity needs of J&K.

The 2015-16 budget of J&K had anticipated that an investment of INR 60,000 crore would be required in the state sector and joint venture projects alone. Ratle Hydro Electric Project — a joint venture project — will add INR 14,870 crore to the UT's exchequer but over a long period of 40 years. The Government of India has pledged INR 776.44 crore for the equity contribution of JKSPDC, while NHPC will invest INR 808.14 crore towards the project. This investment seems very insignificant since the electricity demand of the region is increasing every year. It remains to be seen whether the government will start new projects in the near future and give a larger share of electricity to the regional corporation which can directly benefit the people of J&K.

All these observations, coupled with the insight provided by our sources, it becomes amply clear that this project is not in fact as all-encompassing as citizens are made to believe. By multiple standards, the Ratle Hydroelectric Power Project is a small project. Even when it comes to the Chenab River, it is one of the simplest projects in terms of construction, and does not in fact violate the Indus Water Treaty as there is no storage of water involved.

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

The authors can be reached at shehlatmaknoon@gmail.com (Tribune)



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

### MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
email:editpage.ko@gmail.com

## Education For Children With Disabilities And (NEP) 2020

India's New Education Policy (2020) has replaced its 1986 education policy and ensures to address all issues of neglected dimensions in education for persons with disabilities. The main highlights of this policy for the Children With Special Needs are discussed as under:

1. NEP recognizes the importance of creating enabling mechanisms for providing Children With Special Needs (CWSN) or Divyang, the same opportunities of obtaining quality education as any other child.
2. Children with disabilities will be enabled to fully participate in the regular schooling process from the Foundational Stage to higher education.

3. The Inclusive Education as a 'system of education is stressed upon wherein students with and without disabilities learn together.
4. While preparing the National Curriculum Framework, NCERT will ensure that consultations are held with expert bodies such as National Institutes of DEPwD.
5. Schools/School complexes will be provided resources for the integration of children with disabilities
6. Recruitment of special educators with cross-disability training for children with severe or multiple disabilities shall be taken in hand.
7. Barrier free access for all children with disabilities will be enabled.
8. Assistive devices as well as teach-

- ing-learning materials will be made available.
9. NIOS will develop high-quality modules to teach Indian Sign Language.
10. Adequate attention will be paid to the safety and security of children with disabilities.
11. Home-based education will continue to be a choice available for children with disabilities who are unable to go to schools and they shall be treated as equal to any other child in the general system.
12. Assessment and certification agencies, including the proposed new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH, will formulate guidelines for conducting assessment, from the foundational stage to higher education in order to ensure equitable

- access and opportunities for all students with learning disabilities.
13. The awareness and knowledge of how to teach children with specific disabilities will be an integral part of all teacher education programmes.

In conclusion, the above reforms/changes can help children with disabilities get increased access to quality education, employment, health and other services, and develop a better awareness of their rights, thereby improving their quality of life, subject to a well planned implementation of the policy.

M Ahmad, Principal (I/C), Abhedanana Home  
abhomet78@gmail.com

Mindful Fridays

# Winter Depression Or Seasonal Affective Disorder

“Ye Wande Shikas Chu Mae Kharaan; Wandas Manz Chu Mae Souri Kharaan”

Isha Malik

**SAD IS MORE** than just “winter blues.” The symptoms can be distressing and overwhelming and can interfere with daily functioning.

**W**hen the long dark days of winter approach, do you feel slowed down? Does it feel more difficult to wake up early in the morning? Do you face difficulty in concentrating on work; feel demotivated and sad for most part of the day?

You may be one of the many people who get psychologically affected by change in the season. This condition is known as SAD-seasonal affective disorder. Though most of the people with this condition never seek professional help but they complain about feeling less cheerful, creative, energetic and productive during the winter season compared to the rest of the year.

In Kashmir, the cold weather lasts for more than six months, which leads to most of the people having significantly low levels of vitamin D due to less exposure to sunlight. A number of studies have shown a relationship between Vit D levels and depression, which to some extent explains why people living in cold regions have a higher risk of developing seasonal affective disorder. You might have heard many people around you saying

“ye wande shikas chu mae kharaan; wandas manz chu mae souri kharaan, beh chusches na hekaan kih thi karith; mae chu nebar wuchun tuth kharaan, souri chu manhoos baasaan”

**What is Seasonal Affective Disorder?**  
As per APA- American Psychological Association

Seasonal affective disorder is a form of depression also known as SAD, seasonal depression, or winter depression. In the Diagnostic Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), this disorder is identified as a type of depression – Major Depressive Disorder with Seasonal Pattern.

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) was first described as a syndrome of recurrent episodes of depression that occur annually (usually in the winter season at same time each year) by Rosenthal et al. in 1984.

People with SAD experience mood changes



and symptoms similar to depression. The symptoms usually occur during the fall and winter months when there is less sunlight and usually improve with the arrival of spring. The most difficult months for people with SAD tend to be January and February. While it is much less common, some people experience SAD in the summer as well.

SAD is more than just “winter blues.” The symptoms can be distressing and overwhelming and can interfere with daily functioning. However, it can be treated. It is more common among women than men. SAD may begin at any age, but it typically starts when a person is between ages 18 and 30.

SAD has been linked to a biochemical imbalance in the brain prompted by shorter daylight hours and less sunlight in winter. As seasons change, people experience a shift in their biological internal clock or circadian rhythm that can cause them to be out of step with their daily schedule. SAD is more common in people living far from the equator where there are fewer daylight hours in the winter.

**Symptoms and Diagnosis**  
Common symptoms of SAD include fatigue, even with too much sleep, and weight gain associated with overeating and carbohydrate cravings. SAD symptoms can vary from mild to severe and can include many symptoms similar to major depression, such as:

- Feeling sad or having a depressed mood
- Loss of interest or pleasure in activities once enjoyed.
- Changes in appetite; usually eating more, craving carbohydrates.
- Change in sleep; usually sleeping too much.
- Loss of energy or increased fatigue despite increased sleep hours

• Social withdrawal (feeling like “hibernating”)

• Increase in purposeless physical activity (e.g., inability to sit still, pacing, handwringing) or slowed movements or speech (these actions must be severe enough to be observable to others).

• Feeling worthless or guilty

• Difficulty thinking, concentrating, or making decisions.

• Thoughts of death or suicide (APA)

Remember that the symptoms associated with SAD could be a result of some other underlying medical causes. Physical examination and some blood tests can help to confirm the diagnosis and rule out the presence of any other causal factor. Some specific illnesses that need to be considered are:

Hypothyroidism, hypoglycaemia, chronic viral illnesses, chronic fatigue syndrome etc.

**How is SAD diagnosed?**

If you think you may be suffering from SAD, talk to your family doctor or a mental health professional. To be diagnosed with SAD, an individual must meet the following criteria:

- They must have symptoms of depression (as mentioned in list above)
- The depressive episodes must occur during specific seasons (i.e., only during the winter months or the summer months) for at least 2 consecutive years. This means there must be a temporal relationship between the onset of the symptoms and a particular time of the year.
- Full remissions also occur at a characteristic time of the year (e.g., depression disappears in spring).

**Causes of SAD:**  
The exact cause of SAD has not been fully understood yet, but it's often linked to reduced exposure to sunlight during short winter days.

**IN KASHMIR,** the cold weather lasts for more than six months, which leads to most of the people having significantly low levels of vitamin D due to less exposure to sunlight

Lack of sunlight might stop a part of the brain called the hypothalamus from working properly; this may in turn affect

- Production of melatonin – melatonin is a hormone that makes you feel sleepy; in people with SAD, the body may produce it in higher than normal levels
- Production of serotonin – serotonin is a hormone that affects your mood, ap-

petite and sleep; a lack of sunlight may lead to lower serotonin levels, which is linked to symptoms of depression.

- Body's internal clock (circadian rhythm) – your body uses sunlight to time various important functions, such as when you wake up, so lower light levels during the winter may disrupt your body clock and lead to symptoms of SAD

It's also possible that some people are more vulnerable to SAD as a result of their genetic predisposition, as mood disorders appear to run in families.

**Who is at more risk?**

- Females
- Young adults
- Individuals living in cold regions with long winter season.
- Individuals with personal or family history of depression.
- Individuals diagnosed with depression or bipolar disorder.
- Females in post-partum phase

**Treatment:**

SAD can be effectively treated in several ways which includes- light therapy, antidepressant medications, talk therapy or some combination of these. Although symptoms generally improve with the change of season, symptoms can improve more quickly with proper treatment.

The main treatments are:

- Making lifestyle changes –getting natural sunlight, eat a healthy and balanced diet, and paying extra attention to stress management. Keeping yourself engaged in pleasurable activities and doing physical exercise for at least 30minutes- 3-4 times a week can prove to be quite helpful. Regulation of your sleep cycle is also important. Taking vacations in sunnier regions can also help one cope with SAD.
- Light therapy – where a special lamp called a light box is used to simulate exposure to sunlight. It usually requires 20 minutes or more per day, typically first thing in the morning, during the winter months. Most people see some improvements from light therapy within one or two weeks of beginning treatment. To maintain the benefits and prevent relapse, treatment is usually continued through the winter. Because of the anticipated return of symptoms in late fall, some people may begin light therapy in early fall to prevent symptoms.

- Consulting a Clinical Psychologist (for CBT sessions) or a Psychiatrist, who will prescribe some antidepressant medicine – such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs).

*Views expressed in the articles are the author's own responsibility. The content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment and is strictly for educational/informative purposes only*

*The author is a Clinical Psychologist at G.B.Panth Hospital*

**M**ental health can have a serious impact on a business. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 80% of adults with depression reported at least some difficulty with work, home, or social activities because of their depression symptoms.

Unfortunately, disorders like anxiety and depression often go undetected for months or years. Unlike physical illnesses, mental health issues are more challenging to pinpoint.

Even though mental health can often be a taboo topic, especially in the workplace, it appears that employees want their employer to champion mental health and well-being. According to a survey of office workers in July 2018 from Peldon Rose:

72% of employees want employers to champion mental health and well-being.

Nearly three-quarters of workers say they want their employers to champion mental health and well-being in the workplace. This is rated as more important than equality (48%), sustainability (38%) and diversity (31%).

This is the case for all generations, who prioritize mental health and well-being above all other causes – Gen Z (76%), Millennials (73%), Gen X (75%), Baby Boomer (56%).

After reviewing these findings, I wanted to learn more about how companies could help. So, I recently discussed this topic with Tomas Chamorro Premuzic, Manpower-Group Chief Talent Scientist.

“One of the best ways to create a culture that supports mental health is to ensure people experience their jobs in a meaningful and purposeful way. This can be achieved by giving employees autonomy and resources. If your team experiences support and independence, and that you trust them to do what they ought to do, they will generally be happier at work, which will reduce the risk of mental health problems,” said Tomas.

“It's also important that managers do not check out from their employees. People need guidance and direction from a leader so the worst thing you can do is disappear or be unapproachable; in fact, the worst and most stressful type of leaders are absent – leaving their employees without direction or feedback, and showing little concern and consideration for their staff. This harms morale and well-being,” according to Tomas.

**How Employers Can Get Involved**

While tackling mental health can be challenging, employers and HR professionals are in a powerful position to help change attitudes and offer a support system. Here are some

## How To Create A Workplace That Supports Mental Health

Alan Kohli

**WORK-LIFE BALANCE IS AN ESSENTIAL** aspect of a healthy work environment and employers should offer flexible work options. Maintaining work-life balance helps reduce stress and helps prevent burnout in the work place

tangible ways you can help your employees:

**Increase Awareness**

Give employees access to education and resources from national organizations such as the American Psychiatric Association, the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, Mental Health America and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Companies can also develop their own initiatives and programs. For example, DuPont started an educational program to encourage employees to reach out to co-workers who appear to be in emotional distress. The company's ICU campaign (which stands for Identifying, Connecting and Understanding, as well as “I See You”) includes a five-minute video that teaches employees how to ask appropriate questions when someone appears to be struggling.

**Offer Training to Managers**

Provide opportunities for managers to attend relevant training to support staff living with mental health problems and the well-being of all staff. There is a tendency in management to seek a one-size-fit-all solution, but the reality is that there are systematic differences in the way people act, think and feel. Managers need to understand that every employee is different. “Being a good manager is to a great degree being able to decode what makes each of your employees unique

and how to manage this uniqueness. It is true that some people are very resilient and will need little support when things are not going well, while others will need your support and caring even during the good times,” said Tomas.

**Encourage Work-Life Balance**

Work-life balance is an essential aspect of a healthy work environment and employers should offer flexible work options. Maintaining work-life balance helps reduce stress and helps prevent burnout in the workplace. Mental health charity Mind explains that flexible hours can provide a better work-life balance, greater control, a chance to avoid traffic, and the opportunity to attend medical appointments – all of which are important for those coping with mental illness. Research shows that 33% of those with longer commutes (over 60 minutes each way) were more likely to suffer from depression. They are 40% more likely to have financial worries and 12% more likely to report issues due to work-related stress.

**Develop Mental Health Policies**

Without proper mental health policies in place, your company is missing out on a huge opportunity. For example, do you have policies to help prevent discrimination (including bullying and harassment) or prevent stigma around depression in the workplace? If you already have some policies

in place, review your current policies and see if they can better support employees. Need a little more inspiration? Check out how Influence & Co. wrote an entirely new mental health policy and openly discussed it with their team.

**Treat People Fair**

According to Tomas, fairness is treating people like they want and deserve, rather than the same. For example, forcing everyone in your team to work in noisy or loud environments will suit the extraverts but tax the introverts; asking people to spend a great deal of time on creative brainstorming tasks will make your imaginative employees thrive while stressing out your conscientious implementers. Assuming that your employees share your values and preferences will create a climate of low diversity and inclusion, where people who feel different feel excluded and marginalized - all of which puts them at risks of health problems.

**Provide Screening Resources**

Employers can look out for their employees' mental health by encouraging participation in free and anonymous online screenings. National Depression Screening Day is an excellent opportunity for employers to begin to address mental health issues in the workplace. Employers can encourage employees to visit HelpYourselfHelpOthers.org and complete the depression screening questionnaire.

**Monitor Employee Engagement**

Pay attention to engagement surveys (engagement is the opposite of burnout). Most large companies survey employees' attitudes to see how they experience their work and jobs, but few are aware of just how important engagement is as a preventive factor of poor health issues. “Indeed, engagement is the best single metric of organizational well-being managers can extract. When people are engaged, they are enthusiastic, positive, and proud to be a member of the organization. All of these factors forecast positive well-being. In contrast, when people are disengaged they are at higher risk of burnout, stress, and alienation, all of which worsen people's health,” explains Tomas.

*Now, more than ever, it's critical to educate employees about mental health resources to avoid burnout, mental breakdowns and reduce suicide risk. Companies who invest in the mental health of their people and foster open dialogue about mental health issues will also be creating a positive workplace and a place where people want to work. It's a win-win*  
Forbes



**...NH44 Widening  
Div Com Reviews Progress  
On Nashri To Banihal Stretch**



**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Sanjeev Verma today reviewed the progress of 4-laning work on Nashri to Banihal stretch of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway-44, here at a video conference meeting with concerned officers.

The meeting was attended by senior Officers of NHAI and other concerned, while Deputy Commissioner Ramban along with concerned officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

The Divisional Commissioner took detailed review of the progress on land acquisition pertaining to Nashri to Banihal stretch.

The Deputy Commissioner Ramban apprised the Div Com about the progress on each case and informed that most of the land acquisition cases have been resolved, while other pending cases are also at

different stages. The Div Com sought details of land acquisition, structure removal, disbursement of compensation to land owners and shifting of electric towers.

The Div Com asked the DC Ramban to follow and complete the pending land acquisition cases, structure removal for smooth execution of work on the vital road project.

The concerned officers apprised the Div Com that the work on shifting of electric towers has almost been completed.

The Div Com asked the concerned officers to resolve bottlenecks which are hampering the work progress. He also directed the NHAI to expedite the pace of work on the stretches where land acquisition has been completed for timely completion of road projects.

**Div Com Reviews Progress On  
Major Developmental Projects**



**SRINAGAR:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today chaired a meeting of officers to take stock of the work progress on major developmental projects across Kashmir.

The meeting among others was attended by MD JKPC, CE R&B, CE KPTCL, CEPHE, CE I&FC, SEKPDCL, SE I&FC, EE Sports Council and others concerned.

At the outset, the concerned officers briefed the chair about work achievement, progress made on the projects and about bottlenecks being faced in the way of execution through power point presentation.

The major projects reviewed during the meeting included GMC Baramulla, GMC Anantnag, 200 bedded Pediatric Hospital Bemina, DH Ganderbal, 13 YSS projects which includes indoor Stadiums, additional block at LD hospital, Semi Ring Road Srinagar, NH444 road projects, Transit Accommodations for Migrant Employees at Vessue, Wandhama and Shekhpura, bridges at Sharifabad, Bobsipora, Noorbagh and Ashmujiipora, hostel accommodations, and various other major projects presently under execution in various districts.

The Div Com also reviewed the progress of work process on Grid Stations at Tengpora, Batapora, Chadoora, Lassipora, Khrew, Khanshab, Transmission lines, replacement of old aged transformer bank at Pampore, underground power cables project Wanganpora, besides various flood protection and anti-erosion works and WSS at Rangil, Rakh Khoi Baramulla, Brinti Batpora Anantnag, Shangus, Tral, Lift Irrigation Schemes, and other projects.

He stressed on timely completion of all projects being executed by R&B, JKPC, I&FC, Sports Council, PHE, KPTCL and various other departments and agencies under various schemes.

He instructed concerned to expedite the work process and submit month wise progress and instructed the concerned to ensure projects facing any bottlenecks are addressed on priority.

He impressed on resuming all works suspended due to cold weather conditions at the earliest to ensure all projects are completed within the set deadlines.

**...DDC Elections  
DEO Anantnag Orders  
Recount On PDP's  
Larnoo Seat**



**SRINAGAR:** The District Election Officer (DEO) Anantnag on Thursday ordered recount of the votes in Larnoo DDC seat on which PDP candidate was earlier declared as winner following the directives issued by the Additional Commissioner Kashmir.

The seat was earlier bagged by the PDP candidate Khalida Bibi by a margin of seven votes against her nearest rival Sajida Begum, who was contesting the election as an independent candidate.

Officials said that Sajida Begum had approached the Additional Commissioner Kashmir with an appeal to recount all votes in the constituency.

They said following which appellate authority, Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Bilal Ahmad Bhat passed the instructions to DEO Anantnag to hold recount of votes in the aforesaid DDC seat.

Meanwhile, DEO Anantnag, Anshul Garg has issued a notification to hold recount of votes in the constituency tomorrow in the Dak Bungalow Khanabal and has appointed Deputy DEO Anantnag as Nodal officer.

**Alleged Custodial Death Of Sopore Youth  
Make Inquiry Report Public,  
Demands Family**

**SRINAGAR:** The family of Sopore youth has demanded that the inquiry report which has been submitted to government must be made public even as they have shown complete faith into the inquiry.

"We came to know that the inquiry officer has submitted the report that must be made public," the brother of slain youth, Javid Akbar said.

He said that our brother was innocent and killed in cold-blooded murder by the Police.

Irfan Ahmad Dar son of Mohammad Akbar Dar, a resident of Sidiq Colony Sopore in Baramulla district, shopkeeper by profession was found dead in mysterious circumstances on September 16, after being picked up by Police from his home during a night raid a day earlier.

However, Police in its statement had claimed that the youth was an OGW and had escaped while being taken for recovery of arms.

The statement said, "The OGW while taking advantage of darkness and terrain managed to escape regarding which a separate Case FIR No. 71/2020 U/S 224 IPC was registered in Police Station Bomai and during search; the body of OGW was found near Stone Quarry of Tujjar-Sharief."

Immediately after the death of the youth in mysterious circumstances, the family had termed it a custodial killing, followed by widespread protests in the area forcing the authorities to order a probe into the death of the youth.



The Deputy Commissioner Baramulla on 17th September 2020, appointing the ADC Baramulla as the inquiry officer into the incident advising him to submit the report within a stipulated time of 20 days into the circumstances of the death of Irfan Ahmad Dar.

Meanwhile enquiry officer ADC Baramulla Mohammad Ahsan told KDC that I had submitted the report to the government a few days ago and refused to share the further details.

**DC Pulwama Receives First Jab Of Covid-19 Vaccination**

**PULWAMA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Raghav Langer along with Superintendent of Police on Thursday received their first shot of Covid-19 vaccination, after the 2nd phase of vaccination was started here for revenue officials all across the district.

The DC got his first shot of COVID-19 vaccination today at District Hospital Pulwama in presence of CMO Pulwama and other health officials.

**KPC Condemns FIR Against  
Two News Portals**



**Observer News Service** of going ahead with the complaint or the registration of the case, the concerned authorities through a standard procedure should have sought clarification from the news websites in question if at all there was any factual inaccuracy in their stories. But no such procedure was followed and instead a case was filed," the statement said.

"This authoritative approach apparently shows a deliberate attempt to pressurize journalists," the statement added.

The Club has urged the authorities to withdraw the FIR against the media organisations and the journalists concerned.

**IGP Kashmir Gets COVID  
Vaccine Shot, Says It's Safe**



**Observer News Service** ipalities and revenue department will be vaccinated.

**SRINAGAR:** As a part of second phase of Covid-19 vaccination drive, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar volunteered to be the first to receive the vaccine shot and inaugurate the vaccination drive at PCR Kashmir.

Besides, other senior officers of Police were also present on the occasion.

Talking to reporters after receiving COVID-19 vaccine, the IGP Kashmir range said that in the second phase of the vaccination program, Police, Army, paramilitary, other security agencies and officials of Municipalities and revenue department will be vaccinated.

IGP Kashmir while reiterating the value of vaccine, advised all the officials to shed any inhibition and avail this opportunity of administering the vaccine shots.

While appreciating the assiduous efforts of the police personnel during the pandemic, he said that the vaccination drive will be a key factor in strengthening our defence against this disease and will facilitate resumption of our daily life schedules. He also thanked the health department officials for their assistance in administering the vaccine doses to police officials."

**Toy Fair Held At DIET Kulgam**

**KULGAM:** A day long Toy fair was today presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Showkat Aijaz Bhat here at DIET Kulgam.

Hundreds of students from across the district participated in the fair to showcase their toys at the venue.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that such skills if picked at a young age can create numerous job opportunities and career options for the children in future.

He also highlighted the role of a teacher in guiding and channelising the energies of students in the proper direction.

Principal DIET highlighted the activities being conducted at DIET in the district.



NEWS MAKERS

**...WORLD CANCER DAY  
Cancer Society Holds Consultation  
Camps, Awareness Programs**

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** On the eve of World Cancer Day (4th Feb 2021) Cancer Society of Kashmir organized a free Oncology Consultation Camp under the supervision of reputed Oncologists & expert doctors.

A large number of patients who had come from different corners of Kashmir Valley were examined. Poor and deserving patients who are registered with the society were provided free anti-cancer drugs as a matter of routine. Other supportive drugs required for G.I treatments were provided to all patients free of cost.

Endoscopy Screening of around 42 patients and Ultrasonography of 35 patients was also conducted free of cost on this occasion.

Besides, many discussions and awareness sessions about this dreaded disease were held on All India Radio Srinagar and DoorDarshan Kendra Srinagar. Wide publicity was also given in all the leading dailies of the Valley. The day long activities were carried out smoothly with active participation of staff members of the society under the supervision of Mr. Masood Ahmad Mir (General Secretary) who worked very hard to make this event a success.



## 'Briefly Discussed Farmers' Protest In Team Meeting,' Says India Captain Kohli

Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** India captain Virat Kohli on Thursday said the ongoing farmers' protest against new agriculture laws has come up for discussion in his team meeting where everyone has "expressed what they had to".

Kohli, speaking online to the media ahead of the first Test against England here, did not divulge the details of the "brief" conversation on the matter.

"Like any issue present in the country, we do talk about it and everyone had expressed what they had to," Kohli said when asked about the agitation that has been going on for over two months.

"That's about it. We briefly spoke about it in the team meeting and we carried on discussing the team and game plans," he added.

On Wednesday, Kohli was among a host of Indian cricket stars, including the iconic Sachin Tendulkar who urged for unity in the

country after some international celebrities like US pop star Rihanna called attention to the plight of the agitating farmers on social media.

"Let us all stay united in this hour of disagreements. Farmers are an integral part of our country and I'm sure an amicable solution will be found between all parties to bring about peace and move forward together," he had tweeted.

India and England will lock horns in a four-match Test series starting Friday. Thousands of farmers, mostly from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, have been camping at Delhi's borders for over two months demanding that the three new farm laws be repealed.

Farmer groups have alleged that these laws, which allow farmers to sell their produce directly to a buyer, will end the traditional mandi system and the guarantee of a Minimum Support Price for their crops.

The BJP-led government has rejected these apprehensions as misplaced.



## Robbie Fowler Suspended For 4 Games, Fined For Racist Insults Against ISL Referees

Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** East Bengal football club's high-profile English coach Robbie Fowler was suspended for four matches, and fined Rs 5 lakh after being found guilty of making "insulting" remarks against Indian referees at the ongoing ISL, but the former footballer insisted there was nothing racist about his outburst.

Fowler was handed the punishment by the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) disciplinary committee headed by senior lawyer Ushanath Banerjee and comprising Dr Madhav Milan Ghosh, Harsh Vora and Prateek Chadda. Fowler was in the dock for stating that he was "not sure whether the Referees have an Anti-English thing or Anti East Bengal thing" in the ISL being conducted in Goa.

"The Committee held such utterances and publications are gross inconceivable derogatory and contemptuous aspersions apart from blatant malice on the part of Mr. Fowler and tends to offend the dignity, reputation and image of the Referees in India," read the disciplinary panel's detailed order which is in PTI's possession.

The panel asked him to explain what he meant by his statement.

Fowler, according to the committee, did not respond and "said that he never intended to make any racist remarks and no malice was ever intended."

The Liverpool legend had made the controversial remark after East Bengal's 1-1 draw against a 10-man FC Goa in Margaon on January 29. He was charged under Articles 50.4, 58 and 59.1 of the AIFF Disciplinary Code.

Of these, article 59.1 specifically deals with offences related to racist remarks. "...sanctions under Article 59(1)(a) of the Disciplinary Code could have been reasonably imposed upon Mr. Fowler, but the

Committee withheld such sanction for the time being..." the order read.

The AIFF panel instead "imposed sanctions of suspension of four matches upon Mr. Robert Fowler with immediate effect and a fine of Rs.5,00,000/ as codified under Article 58 of the Disciplinary Code, to be paid forthwith."

East Bengal had, earlier in the day, backed Fowler and denied that he was charged for making allegedly racist remarks. Fowler has expressed his displeasure with refereeing on more than one occasion in this edition of the league, which is his first.

The 45-year-old had remarked that the referees probably need a "bit of help" after East Bengal were denied at least two penalties in a 0-2 loss against NorthEast United FC in December. Then, after a goalless draw against Chennaiyin FC in January, he termed the refereeing "disgraceful" and had said he's "fighting battles with the referees every single game and it's an absolute joke".

Fowler had also been suspended for one match after receiving his second caution of the season, which forced him to miss their match against Bengaluru FC on January 9. The disciplinary committee held that such comments of Fowler were meant to "impute by innuendos that the referees in India may be hostile toward British people and as such gave intentional unjust decisions against East Bengal."

The Committee also directed the AIFF to "closely monitor the conduct and demeanour" of Fowler in all future AIFF games. It said that even a single case of indiscipline by Fowler would result in "major exemplary sanctions forthwith."

The English great also tendered an apology for his behaviour and said his "intentions had been to protect his players and the team".

## AIFF Rejects Review Plea By East Bengal On Fowler Punishment

**KOLKATA:** The All India Football Federation's disciplinary committee on Thursday rejected a review plea by East Bengal to overturn their head coach Robbie Fowler's four-match suspension and Rs 5 lakh fine.

The Liverpool legend was on Wednesday found guilty of making defamatory and insulting remarks against Indian referees and was charged under Article 59.1 of AIFF disciplinary code that specifically deals with offences related to racist remarks.

Fowler had made the comments against Indian referees following their 1-1 draw against FC Goa in the ISL on January 29.

A day after the judgement, East Bengal top official Debabrata Sarkar made a request to the chairman of the AIFF disciplinary com-

mittee, Ushanath Banerjee, to "re-consider the decision in the larger interests of the century-old club".

But Banerjee turned down the plea and in a statement said: "The punishment given by the Committee unanimously for gross misconduct committed by Fowler does not call for any sympathetic re-consideration and once delivered, it is beyond any scope of review."

The suspension means that Fowler would miss the high-profile return-leg derby against ATK Mohun Bagan on February 19 and he can only resume in the team's concluding league fixture against Odisha FC on February 27.

In their maiden ISL season, SC East Bengal are lying 10th, above laggards Odisha FC, in the points table.



## Real Kashmir Defeat Indian Arrows 6-0, Go 2nd In I-League Table

Press Trust of India

**KALYANI (WB):** Real Kashmir FC got back to winning ways in grand fashion, inflicting a 6-0 drubbing on Indian Arrows in an utterly lopsided I-League match here on Thursday, the result propelling the Snow Leopards into second place in the standings.

RKFC scored through Dipanda Dicka (42nd, 74th), Lukman Ademi (51st), Haroon Amiri (61st), Chesterpoul Lyngdoh (80th) and Danish Farooq (86th).

Coming into the match on the back of two successive draws, Real Kashmir FC showed their swiftness in the field of play before trouncing their opponents by an embarrassing margin.

Giving their fans something to cheer about, RKFC's Haroon Amiri, Lukman Ademi and Dipanda Dicka dominated the match with their skills. After a surge of attacks from Real Kashmir, the Arrows slowly got into the game, and put up a fight. They finally broke out and threatened the Real Kashmir goal in the 18th minute through Fela, but his weak shot was easily saved by Mithun Samantha.

Most of Real Kashmir's chances kept coming in from long balls and corners. Minutes after the water break, Mason Robertson wasted another opportunity to break the deadlock. The RKFC skipper broke past three defenders, before releasing a low strike, only to be denied by the Arrows keeper.

The Snow Leopards finally broke the deadlock in the 42nd minute, through Dicka, as the two teams went into half-time with the score reading 1-0 at the Kalyani Municipal Stadium.

Pratesh Shirodkar stole the ball off Brijesh Giri. Farhan Ganai then launched a long ball forward and Sajad failed to clear his line. Dicka pounced on the bouncing ball and headed it before the oncoming

In the 74th minute, forward Dicka made no mistake and tapped home from a close range to score his second, and Real Kashmir's fourth goal of the match.

In the final moments of the match, Chesterpoul Lyngdoh and Danish Farooq scored one each in the 80th and 86th minute respectively to crush Indian Arrows.

It was a clinical performance by Real Kashmir in the second half as



Bukhari to open the scoring.

Just after the first half, Lukman Ademi's bullet header in the 51st minute left the opposition goalkeeper bewildered as the Snow Leopards doubled their lead.

Sena Ralte delivered an astonishing cross from a free-kick, which was headed home by defender Haroon Amiri to hand Real Kashmir a three-goal advantage in the 61st minute.

the David Robertson-coached side scored five goals in that period.

Real Kashmir made just one change from their goalless draw against Gokulam Kerala FC, as head coach Robertson brought in Farhan Ganai for Farooq.

Indian Arrows, who lost narrowly to Chennai City FC, made two changes as coach Venkatesh Shanmugam started with Sajad Hussain Parray and Abdul Hannan.

PAK VS SA 2ND TEST

## Pakistan 145-3 After Babar Azam, Fawad Alam Steady Ship On Rain-Hit Day 1



Agencies

**RAWALPINDI:** Captain Babar Azam and Fawad Alam steadied Pakistan's 1st innings with a century stand to reach 145-3 against South Africa on a rain-hit first day of the second cricket test on Thursday.

Babar raised his 16th test half-century and was unbeaten on 77 with a dozen boundaries while left-handed Alam continued his rich batting form to be 42 off 138 balls at tea. They did not resume as rain washed out the last session.

Pakistan was in trouble early after left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj took two wickets in 10 balls and fast bowler Andrich Nortje had Abid Ali caught at forward short leg.

But Babar and Alam put the innings back on track with an unbroken 123-run stand as the ball got older in the middle session on a dry pitch which eased out for batting.

Babar caressed the offside field through some crisp cover drives, and was equally good off his back foot against the three fast bowlers.

Maharaj bowled the bulk of the overs, his 25 conceding 51 runs for two wickets.

The Pakistan skipper completed his fifty with a flicked boundary off Wiaan Mulder — the only change the Proteas made from the team which lost the first test by seven wickets at Karachi last week.

Alam scored a gritty century in the first test and continued to frustrate South Africa with his open chested batting stance.

South Africa had an injury scare when spinner George Linde left the field in the first session after the left-arm spinner tried to stop a hard drive off Babar off his own bowling.

Linde didn't sustain a fracture but required stitches on

his little finger.

Linde didn't return to the field in the middle session and South Africa management said he was subject to further testing.

Earlier, Proteas' skipper Quinton de Kock read the dry pitch well as the visitors snapped up three wickets for one run within four overs after Babar won the toss and elected to bat.

Maharaj could have dismissed Imran Butt off his first ball only to see Temba Bavuma miss a regulation slip catch. But Maharaj, who got plenty of spin and awkward bounce off the pitch with the new ball, struck in his third over and the eighth of the day when Butt, on 15, got a thin edge and de Kock hold onto a sharp catch behind the wickets.

Azhar Ali struggled for nine deliveries and fell for a duck when Maharaj trapped the former Pakistan skipper off a full-pitched delivery that skidded through the right-hander.

Aiden Markram then snapped up a sharp reflex catch of Abid Ali on 6 at forward short leg off Nortje's short-pitched delivery to have Pakistan 22-3.

But Babar and Alam then combined in a century stand and took the home team to 63-3 by lunch. They added 82 runs in the middle session.

Pakistan retained the playing XI which won the first test. Left-arm spinner Nauman Ali, who became the oldest test cricketer in 72 years to take a 5-for in an innings on debut, got another chance on a dry pitch similar to Karachi. Nauman, 34, and legspinner Yasir Shah shared 14 wickets.

South Africa brought in fast bowling allrounder Mulder, who played two home tests against Sri Lanka. Mulder replaced Lungi Ngidi.

**BABAR RAISED HIS 16TH TEST HALF-CENTURY AND WAS** unbeaten on 77 with a dozen boundaries while left-handed Alam continued his rich batting form to be 42 off 138 balls at tea. They did not resume as rain washed out the last session.

# Gulberg Collections

ME & MY HOME

AN ONLINE STORE

**PAINTINGS,  
HOME DECOR,  
COMFORT &  
GIFT ITEMS,  
WOMEN &  
KIDS WARE**



**SELECT ONLINE &  
PAY AT YOUR DOORSTEP**



**Gulberg  
Collections**  
ME & MY HOME

gulberg@gulberg.net  
Cell: 7006034174

www.gulberg.net