

Maximum : 6.6°  
Minum : 1.0°  
Humidity : 97%  
SUNSET  
Today 06:07 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:24 AM

## P3 NEWS

## ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING IN STUDENTS: KU VC

Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir, Prof Talat on Saturday urged teachers to be kind to students and encourage critical thinking in classrooms....

## P7 THINK

## WINTER GOURMET: PHARI

Phari, the traditional winter cuisine of Kashmir is a reddish-brown smoked fish prepared traditionally during harsh winters and is believed to provide great resistance against diseases such as common cold.



## 11 SPORTS

## JOE ROOT'S 218 HELPS ENGLAND POST 555/8 AGAINST INDIA AT END OF DAY 2

Skipper Joe Root continued to torment the Indian spinners with a majestic double century....

Widom  
Quote!

We learn from failure,  
not from success!  
— Bram Stoker

## DIGEST

## J&amp;K Logs 65 New Covid-19 Cases

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 65 new coronavirus cases that raised its tally to 1,24,850, officials said. The union territory did not report any death due to the infection in the past 24 hours, they said. Of the fresh cases, 15 were recorded from the Jammu division and 50 from the Kashmir division, the officials said. They said Srinagar district **► More On P10**

## NIA Raids Jailed 'Drug Peddler's' House

**SRINAGAR:** The sleuths of National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches at the house of a man who is already facing detention in a drug peddling case in Central Kashmir's Budgam district and seized some documents. NIA sleuths accompanied by Police raided house of Manzoor Ahmad Mir in Kulhama area of Beerwah on Saturday and during searches seized some **► More On P10**

## Army Defuses Shell In Poonch

**SRINAGAR:** Army on Saturday defused an old rocket launcher shell in Surankote area of Poonch district, officials said. They said that at around 1030 hours, Army's 16 RR found the old rocket launcher shell laying at Mohra Bachai (Bella) in Surankote. Later Army's bomb disposal squad rushed to the spot and disposed of the shell, they said. (GNS)

## Four Injured In Head-On Collision

**SRINAGAR:** Four persons on Saturday were injured in a road accident along the Srinagar-Jammu highway in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Jaisu Singh from Bhopal, Ganish Singh from Rajasthan, Mushtaq Ahmad Beigh of Handwara and Mohammad Altaf from Budgam were injured when two vehicles had a head-on collision on the highway near Levadora area of Qazigund on Saturday, news agency KNO reported. All the injured, **► More On P10**

## Cong Protests Against Farm Laws In Jammu

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Saturday joined farmers' protest here and said it will continue its support to their agitation till the new three farm laws are revoked. Led by J-K Pradesh Congress Committee president G A Mir, the party activists staged a peaceful protest demonstration and blocked the Jammu-Pathankot bypass road at Rajiv Colony Chowk in support of the nationwide protest call by farmers. Congress fully backs the agitation of **► More On P10**

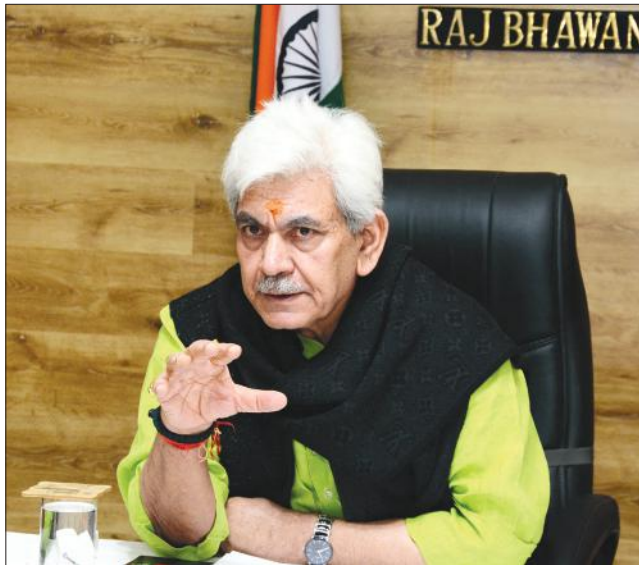
## Aim To Employ 80% J&amp;K Youth Within 5 Years: LG

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said his focus is on providing job opportunities to 80 percent of the young population within the next five years. Delivering the keynote address at the Harvard US-India Initiative (HUII) annual conference virtually, Sinha said development has replaced terrorism which was being exported relentlessly by the neighbouring country.

"My goal is to reach out and engage about 80 percent of the young population of Jammu and Kashmir within the next five years and make it possible for them to be an engine of growth for the overall socio-economic transformation of the UT," he said.

"I would like to see each child of J&K prosper into a mature, successful and good human being. The potential of the youth is harnessed in a way that everyone contributes towards the prosperity of the UT. Together we will achieve the desired goal", he added. HUII aims to engage students



around the world in a dialogue about India's most pressing political, social, economic, and environmental challenges, providing the youth an opportunity to hear from inspiring leaders and be a part of the discussion with them.

Speaking on the new dawn of developmental change that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing, the Lt Governor

observed that the narrative has changed now.

"From the very first day in office, I have adopted a targeted approach to address the issues pertaining to poverty, health, nutrition, gender equality, quality education, skill development of youth and have ensured that benefits of government schemes reach the last mile," he said. **► More On P10**

## Centre Deputes Five IAS Officers To J&amp;K

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Central government has approved inter-cadre deputation of five Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers to Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory. The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved proposals of Department of Personnel & Trainings (DOPT) for deputation of five IAS officers to Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, reports said Saturday.

According to orders issued by DOPT, these officers have been deputed to the newly carved out UT for period ranging between two to three years. Those deputed include **► More On P10**

## ...DDC ELECTIONS

## JKAP Chairpersons In 2 Districts, PAGD In One



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) led by former finance minister

Altaf Bukhari has won the elections to the post of chairperson of two of the three District Development Councils (DDCs) in **► More On P10**

## Disqualify Members Who Switched Sides: NC To SEC

**N**ational Conference on Saturday sought disqualification of DDC members under the anti-defection law for swapping sides after contesting and winning polls from a particular party ticket, manifesto and symbol. NC raised the issue of defections of elected DDC members with the state Chief Election Commissioner J&K, KK Sharma **► More On P10**

## JK Reports Increased Cold Waves In Recent Years: Govt



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh report increased number of cold waves during the recent years, ministry of

earth sciences said. Responding in affirmative to a question by member Lok Sabha E.T. Mohammed Basheer if the Government was aware that the extreme climatic events have increased "significantly" across India **► More On P10**

## Kashmir Bound Traffic On Highway Today

**T**he 270-km Srinagar-Jammu highway will remain open for vehicular movement on Sunday and Valley bound vehicles will be allowed to ply on the vital road link, officials said Saturday. "Tomorrow (February 7), subject to fair weather and better road condition, only one way traffic shall be allowed from **► More On P10**

## Gulmarg Freezes At -10.4 Degrees

Press Trust Of India

**M**inimum temperatures across Kashmir dipped again on Saturday after a few days of respite from the intense cold wave conditions even as the mercury settled above freezing point in Srinagar, the Met office said. According to meteorological department's forecast, mainly dry weather would prevail in the valley over the next week. **► More On P10**

## India, Pak Trade Fire In Macchil Sector

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Indian and Pakistani troops on Saturday exchanged gunfire along the line of control (LoC) in Macchil sector of Kupwara district.

Pakistani Rangers violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing upon the posts of Indian army in Macchil sector along the LoC, official sources said.

"The fire was heavily retaliated and there were no immediate reports **► More On P10**

## Warrant Against Hafiz Saeed By Delhi Court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court on Saturday issued an arrest warrant against Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed in a money laundering case related to militant funding in Jammu and Kashmir. Besides issuing the non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Saeed, Special Judge Praveen Singh also issued warrants against three **► More On P10**



Security personnel inspect shootout site in Chanpora area of the city on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat.

## Militants Strike In Srinagar, CRPF Jawan Injured

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) constable was injured in a militant attack in Chanpora locality of uptown Srinagar on Saturday.

Constable Manoj Kumar Yadav of CRPF 29 Battalion was injured on Saturday afternoon when militants opened fire towards a road opening party (ROP) in Chanpora area of the city, officials told Kashmir Observer. Yadav, who received a bullet in his leg, was removed to the hospital for treatment.

The surprise militant attack triggered panic in the area prompting the shopkeepers to down their shutters and run for the safety of their lives. The movement of transport was also affected in wake of the shootout.

Shortly after the attack, a huge posse of state forces personnel reached the spot and cordoned off the area to nab the attackers.

CRPF spokesperson, OP Tiwari told Kashmir Observer that unknown militants opened fire on ROP in which a CRPF man was injured. "The jawan was rushed to hospital **► More On P10**

## Wanted Militant Arrested In Jammu: Police

Press Trust Of India

**A** wanted militant and commander of Lashkar-e-Mustafa, believed to be a frontal organisation of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit, was arrested on Saturday after police intercepted a car on the outskirts of Jammu city, officials said. A pistol and a grenade was seized from the possession of Hidayatullah Malik, an 'A' category militant from Shopian district, officials said, adding that he is being interrogated. Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Shridhar Patil **► More On P10**

## 4G Restoration Will Boost J&amp;K's Economic Recovery: Trade Bodies



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Trade bodies and tourism players on Saturday welcomed the restoration of 4G mobile internet services in Jammu and Kashmir, saying it will boost economic recovery in the union territory.

High-speed mobile internet services were restored last

midnight in 18 districts. The services were there in two districts - Ganderbal and Udhampur - since August last year.

"It is better late than never. The government has realised how much losses our economy has suffered. This move will give a boost to the economic recovery now," president, Kashmir **► More On P10**

## Yarn And Yearning Of Young Kashmiri Crocheter

Auqib Javeed

**W**hen 21-year-old Nazar Nasir shared the idea of crocheting with his family members, he was bluntly told not to pursue the women line of work.

But despite his family resistance, this Literature student from Lalbazar had made-up his mind to live his dream.

Crocheting has been a well-known art amongst Kashmiris but it has been mostly pursued by the women for decades. It's quite rare that a male while breaking some rigid stereotypes has made a name in it.

As a matter of fulfilling routine, Nazar mostly kept himself busy with crocheting—a process of creating fabric by interlocking loops of yarn, thread, or strands of other materials using a crochet hook.

It first started in 2016, when Nazar's sister brought a crochet hook and some yarn from her aunt.

While she was wiggling the hook with the yarn strand, Nazar was so fascinated that he bought himself a hook and some yarn and started experimenting.

"I stayed up till 2 AM that night trying to figure out how it worked and ended up creating a tiny flower

in the process," he says.

That year as Kashmiris faced lockdown due to the protests over the passage of the popular militant commander, Nazar firmly took to crocheting as a blend of boredom and curiosity.

"To begin with, I made a band and a hand warmer without even knowing the name and the way of the craft that summer," he recounts.

Months later, as the internet was restored, he did some research online and explored possibilities in the craft.

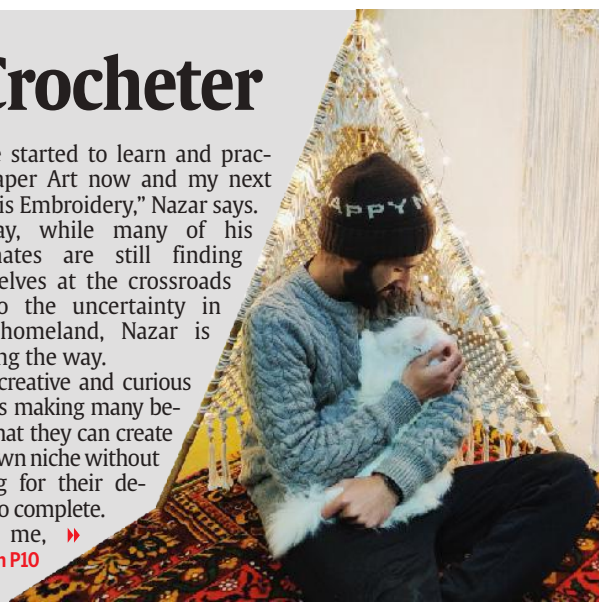
That curiosity is still there making his craft journey rewarding and innovative.

"I've started to learn and practice Paper Art now and my next target is Embroidery," Nazar says.

Today, while many of his classmates are still finding themselves at the crossroads due to the uncertainty in their homeland, Nazar is showing the way.

His creative and curious mind is making many believe that they can create their own niche without waiting for their degrees to complete.

"For me, **► More On P10**







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BAZAR  
OBSERVER

Sunday| 07-02-2021

# Study Suggests Some Food Contamination Starts In The Soil

Agencies

When most people hear 'food contamination,' they think of bacteria present on unwashed fruits or vegetables, or undercooked meat. However, there are other ways for harmful contaminants to be present in food products.

Angelia Seyffert, a member of the Soil Science Society of America, investigates food contamination coming from the soil where the plants grow.

"It all comes down to the chemistry of the soil," explains Seyffert.

Most recently, Seyffert has been studying rice. The elements arsenic and cadmium can be present in the paddies where rice is grown. She presented her research at the virtual 2020 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting.

"Contaminants being taken up by crop plants

is a route of dietary exposure to contaminants that is understudied," Seyffert says.

"We can help decrease human exposure to toxins by applying our knowledge of soil chemistry."

Small amounts of arsenic and cadmium are present all over the globe and can be detected in many food products. It's the concentration in the vegetable or fruit, the chemical form of the element, and how much of it someone eats that determines if an individual experiences a negative health effect.

High concentrations of arsenic and cadmium are harmful to the body. Consuming low doses over a long period of time can even cause cancer.

Elements like arsenic and cadmium can be in different chemical forms depending on their environment. Contaminants are taken up by plants when their chemical form in the soil resembles a nutrient the plant needs.

"How food is grown affects not only the concentration of contaminants but also where the contaminants are stored within the food," says Seyffert.

"If we understand the chemical forms of contaminants in soil, we can design solutions to decrease plant uptake of them."

In rice, arsenic and cadmium uptake results from opposite conditions. Arsenic can be taken up when the field is flooded. Cadmium is more likely to be taken up when the field is not flooded.

Seyffert's work has searched for a way to prevent plants from taking up arsenic and cadmium from the soil. This is often done by adding materials to the soil, called amendments.

An amendment helps change the soil environment. By changing the soil environment, researchers can help control the chemical forms and plant uptake of contaminants in

the soil.

In this case, Seyffert found that adding rice husk residue to rice paddy soils can help lower the amount of arsenic and cadmium taken up by the plants. Rice husk residue is plant material left over after processing rice for human consumption.

This solution is simple yet effective. Rice husk residue is high in the element silicon, which is an important nutrient for rice. The chemical form of silicon is similar to the form of arsenic taken up by rice plants when fields are flooded. This similarity helps 'disrupt' the plant, which prevents it from taking up as much arsenic.

In soils where cadmium is a problem, rice husk residue helps make the soil less acidic. This helps to lock up cadmium in the soil. The silicon in the husk may also help decrease the toxicity of cadmium.

"Not all sources of silicon behave the same

way though," says Seyffert.

"In order for it to be effective, the silicon source must provide silicon in a high enough concentration during the time the rice plant is filling grain. Rice husk residue is a successful source because it breaks down slowly and releases silicon throughout the growing season."

High arsenic can decrease grain yield, but Seyffert's work shows that adding rice husk residues can help prevent yield loss. Half of the world depends on rice as a staple food, so this research has exciting potential for positive impact.

In the past, Seyffert has studied similar contamination issues in mushrooms.

For most American adults, the amount of arsenic and cadmium they consume from rice and mushrooms is not enough to cause concern. But there are other populations that eat these products more frequently

and from an early age.

"People need to be aware of their daily load of contaminants, which depends on their body weight, the concentration and chemical form of the contaminant in the food, and the amount consumed," Seyffert explains. "The daily load is highest for people who consume rice multiple times a day and who may also have arsenic in their drinking water," she says.

"Some examples include populations in South and Southeast Asia."

Angelia Seyffert is an associate professor at the University of Delaware. This work was supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the University of Delaware. The 2020 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting was hosted by the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America.

## Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

**Scholarship Name 1: IIITDM Jabalpur Department of Electronics and Communication Junior Research Fellowship 2021**

Description: Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing Jabalpur invites applications for IIITDM Jabalpur Department of Electronics and Communication Junior Research Fellowship 2021 from BE/BTech/ME/MTech degree holders. The fellowship is meant for the project titled, "FPGA prototype of non-recursive key-based cryptosystem for the secure transmission of real-time privacy signal".

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates who hold a BE/BTech/ME/MTech degree. They must have a good academic and research background with GATE qualification.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 25,000 per month plus HRA  
Last Date to Apply: 20-02-2021



Application mode: Via email only  
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/CJF7

**Scholarship Name 2: Piaggio "Shiksha Se Samridhi" Scholarship for Class 10th/12th Passed Students 2020-21**

Description: Piaggio Vehicles Pvt. Ltd. invites applications from children/wards of Drivers/Owners of three-wheeler community who have passed Class 10/12. The scholarship supports the study of students studying in Class 11/12/ITI/Polytechnic/Diploma/Undergraduate courses.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for children/wards of Drivers/Owners of three-wheeler community. The applicants must have passed Class 10/12 with at least 55% marks (60% marks for studies in Class 11/12). They must be studying in Class 11/12/ITI/Polytechnic/Diploma/Undergraduate courses at recognized institutions in India. The annual family income must be less than or equal to INR 3 lakh (3,00,000).

Prizes & Rewards: 80% of total fee reimbursement or maximum up to INR 20,000 per year  
Last Date to Apply: 28-02-2021  
Application mode: Online applications only  
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/PSDI

**Scholarship Name 3: Tata Trusts Medical and Healthcare Scholarships 2020-21**

Description: Tata Trusts invites applications from students who wish to pursue graduation and post-graduation courses in medical and healthcare sciences at Indian institutions. The scholarship aims to support meritorious students to pursue their academic dreams.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for students enrolled in UG or PG programmes in Healthcare and Medical Sciences disciplines. Applicants must have completed 1st year of UG studies OR must be enrolled in the 1st year of PG programme at a recognised institution in India. Applicants must have passed the minimum qualifying 'exam score criteria' for respective discipline of studies.

Prizes & Rewards: Variable award  
Last Date to Apply: 15-02-2021  
Application mode: Online applications only  
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TTM8

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS TWO COVER SYSTEM

Fresh NIT No:-114 of R&B /Kulgam/2020-21/ E-tendering/8198-8218 Dated:- 03--02-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis/%age basis (as the case may be) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/D/Con (Rs. In Lacs)	Time of Completion	Time & Date of Opening of tender (Technical Bid)	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	6	7		8
1	Upgradation of Oudura Gopalpora road via Begam by way of Earth work cutting (Kucha Drain-Agg: Length 1.00Km), felling of trees, Providing/Laying of Nallah muck (RBM) agg: Length 4.50Km, Providing/laying of RCC pipes (309.75 RM), Construction of 1x10mtr span bridge, Construction of (06 No) 1x2 Mtr span culverts and Providing/Laying of WBMG-II (Agg: Length 4.50KM)	218.06	5500/=	180 Days	27.02.2021 11.00 A.M	NABARD RIDF- XXVI	AAY Class /"AAY Class with HMPO"

Position of AAA = Accorded/Project Approved/Sanctioned.

Position of Funds = Available.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-02-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-02-2021, 11.00 A.M
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	05-04-2021 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Ang/Kulgam
4.	Bid submission Start Date	06-02-2021 from 10.00 AM
5.	Bid Submission End Date	26-02-2021 upto 4.00 P.M
	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	27-02-2021 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Ang/Kulgam
7.		
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

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

- Note: "Cost of Bidding Document to be fixed by the tender inviting authority.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Anantnag/Kulgam HQ Khanabal (tender receiving authority).
  - All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below) work.
  - The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of
  - Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.
  - The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Anantnag/Kulgam HQ Khanabal. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
  - The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
  - The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-  
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period issue of letter on intent.  
c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
  - Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
  - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "BiddersManual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
  - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
  - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form. 74.Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-2.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid.
  - Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
  - The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
  - Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Anantnag/Kulgam HQ Khanabal (tender receiving authority) must be uploaded with the technical documents of the bid. The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
  - Bidders may contact office of the Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag/Kulgam HQ Khanabal or concerned Executive Engineer for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.
  - Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
  - The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified.
  - Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
  - Defect Liability Period: 03 Years after date of completion.
  - All key construction material (i.e. cement, steel, bitumen, pipes etc) shall have to be arranged by the contractor strictly as per specifications with the approval of Engineer-in-charge.
  - Qualification criteria for the work and other terms and conditions are contained in the bidding document available on website

No: -8219-23

Dated: 03-02-2021  
DIPK-12584/20

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
(R&B) Division Kulgam

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA KMR.

N.I.T SL. NO:260 / R&B/EEP/Pul/2020-21/ 9660-70  
DATE: 03 - 02-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, union Territory, the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama invites Tenders for the following works from the Regd. Contractors in sealed envelope affixed with Rs.5/- Revenue stamps with Name and full address of the tenderer, Ref. NIT NO & Date and ref. to CDR NO & Date with amount only prescribed on the envelope. The tenders be addressed to:- Executive Engineer PWD R&B Division Pulwama.

And should reach his office on or before 11--02-2021\_upto 4 pm

The tender documents can be had on cash payment (Non-refundable) on production of valid registration card upto 10- 02-2021\_2 pm.

S.NO	Name of work.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Time for Completion	Cost of T.D.	M.H. of Account
01	Providing of Water Supply to Health Sub Centre at Khadermoh By way of G.I Pipe line from main connection to Building and making plinth protection around Building	0.97 Lacs	Rs. 2000/-	DEE	10 Days	Rs. 200/-	- Medical

Head Draftsman

Tech Officer

Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Pulwama.

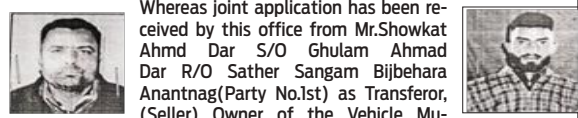
DIPK-12577/20

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/4961/MVD/ANG

Date:-06/02/2021

### NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Showkat Ahmad Dar S/O Ghulam Ahmad Dar R/O Sather Sangam Bilbehara Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Murati Car 800 Bearing Regd. No.JK03C-8315(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Mudasir Ahmad Dar S/O Gh Qadir Dar R/O Barthipora Kral Check Shopain (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Zabilpora Anantnag. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional  
Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

## THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BRANCH OFFICE , SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming. To have lost his marks card certificate of class 10th under below mentioned particulars  
Name .Mohd Iqbal Mir  
S/o . Mohd Subhan Mir  
Mothers Name . Naseema Begum  
RollNO. 327492 Session / Year Annual Private 2006  
Now the candidate has applied for the duplicate marks certificate before the same is processed And issued to the candidate , anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same Before the undersigned in writing with in seven days from the date of Publication of this notice . Besides the original marks certificate be treated as cancelled

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Branch Office Sopore

AMS



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## Department Of Sheep Husbandry

### Office of the Assistant Director Sheep Breeding Farm Zawaora

Email: sbfzawaora@gmail.com

Tech Section

### Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders affixed with Revenue Stamp of Rs.5/= are invited from the interested persons/parties for supply of below mentioned items to the office of Assistant Director Sheep Breeding farm Zawaora. The Tender shall reach to the office of the undersigned by or before 14 Feb 2021 up to 4.00PM which shall be opened on the same day in presence of the committee.

S. No	Name of Items
01	Invertor(Exide)1100VA/12V
02	Battery(Exide)180 Ah

DIPK-12578/20

NO: ADZ/Tech/2020-21/557-560

Dated: 04/02/2021

Assistant Director Sheep  
Breeding Farm Zawaora

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار ترنگام با اعلان سجاد احمد بھٹ

مضمون : درخواست منجانب سجاد احمد بھٹ زادہ ولد غلام الدین بھٹ پیر زادہ 2 شفیقہ بیگم زوجہ سجاد احمد بھٹ زادہ 3 روقیہ سجاد بھٹ زادہ سجاد احمد ساقب سجاد دی ایوز اور اولاد ان سجاد احمد بھٹ زادہ ساکنہ موضع ترنگام تحصیل

ترنگام بھٹ زادہ سجاد احمد بھٹ پیر زادہ سجاد احمد بھٹ پیر زادہ سجاد احمد بھٹ پیر زادہ

استھانہ مراد گانی برخاص دھام

معاونت معاونان الصدر کی نسبت ایک مہل پوری علاقہ موصول دہی مطابق رپورٹ پوری علاقہ سائل

Member Advisory Board for Development of Speaking People سائل اساتذہ ان پڑائی

بولنے والے طبقے سے ہے کہہ کی مہارت آدہی 600 روپے ہے اور کہہ بولنے فرد پڑھ سکتا ہے

سجاد احمد بھٹ زادہ ولد غلام الدین 21-823-PSP/ADB/FMLC/PO

شفیقہ بیگم زوجہ سجاد احمد بھٹ زادہ 21-823-PSP/ADB/FMLC/PO

روقیہ سجاد بھٹ زادہ سجاد احمد 21-823-PSP/ADB/FMLC/PO

ساقب سجاد 21-823-PSP/ADB/FMLC/PO

ایوز 21-823-PSP/ADB/FMLC/PO

مودہ 01-04-2021 حاصل کی ہوئی ہے جس کے مطابق سائل اساتذہ ان پڑائی زبان بولنے

والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا رہتی ہے سرفیقہ بیگم سائل اساتذہ ان پڑائی سائل اساتذہ ان پڑائی

عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم اندر دفتر پڑائیں پیش کر کے معیار دگرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں

ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

NI A

## از نیابت زچہ لہارہ

مضمون درخواست منجانب ولی محمد باڈے ولد مرحوم عبدالکبیر باڈے

ایم ایس ٹیکسٹ (RBA) تحت 294 SRO دیر ٹیکسٹ نمبر 167

استثنا برآمد گاہی برخاص دھام

معاونت معاونان الصدر کی درخواست سائل دفتر پڑائیں پیر زادہ سائل سلسلے میں پڑائی علاقے سے

رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہہ کی مہارت آدہی 4000 روپے ہے اور

کہہ بولنے فرد پڑھ سکتا ہے

ولی محمد باڈے ریٹائرڈ ملازم 70 سال

عبدالرفیق باڈے گھریلو کام 35 سال

عبدالرشید باڈے گھریلو کام 33 سال

محمد باڈے زراعت 28 سال

خراج الدین باڈے زراعت 26 سال

عبدالرفیق باڈے کا الگ چلے ہے ان کی مہارت آدہی 4000 روپے ہے

اس کے علاوہ کوئی فرد کہہ سکتا ہے سائل اساتذہ ان پڑائی سائل اساتذہ ان پڑائی

عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم اندر دفتر پڑائیں پیش کر کے معیار دگرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں

ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

SULT-A

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# City's 'Rigid Concrete Pavement' Survives Harsh Weather Conditions

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** At a time when Kashmir witnessed harsh-est weather condition in last over three decades, citizens and commuters at large have hailed Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) and World Bank assisted Jhelum & Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) for speeding up the project—which survived the adverse weather conditions.

The J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) started work on Rs 9.16 crore ‘Rigid Concrete Pavement of civil secretariat to Rambagh Chowk road in August 2020 and ever since the project has been hailed by the locals, commuters and especially the business community.

The work on the sub-project being executed under World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) has received an overwhelming response from people at large.

“It is really good to see certain projects doing extremely



well in Kashmir and also helping the general public at large,” Businessman, Bilal Ahmad Bhat said. “Rigid Pavement has helped us to provide better services during harsh weather conditions and thanks to JKERA, JTFRP for that,” Bhat said.

President, Traders Association, Rambagh, Showkat Ahmad expressed gratitude to the team of engineers of JKERA/JTFRP for completing the project in time and also providing relief to the general public.

“We must express our grati-

tu-veniences meted out by the locals and citizens in Srinagar.

Chief Executive Officer, J&KERA and JTFRP, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, said that 1.9 kms road stretch was being upgraded with an objective of making the vulnerable portions of Indira Gandhi road resilient to floods by using the rigid concrete pavement technology instead of the conventional flexible pavement which was more susceptible to damages during water logging. He appreciated his officials and technical team for addressing people's demands and also providing quality projects.

The project road connects Srinagar to Sheikh Ul Alam international Airport, having moderate intensity of commercial vehicles. Rambagh to Civil Secretariat is a highly commercial area with settlements on both sides of the road like Rambagh, Solina, Al-lochi Bagh, Tulsibagh, Hazuri Bagh, Magarmal Bagh, Saraibala, Batamallo, Shaheed Gunj etc. The subproject road starts from the Rambagh near Barzulla Bridge

and terminates at Civil Secretariat near Jehangir Chowk.

Javed Iqbal Tara, Director, Kashmir ERA informed that the road portion was constructed at an approximate cost of Rs 9.16 crore. The project was completed within the set deadline and directly benefited thousands of people living on both the sides of the road which include Rambagh, Solina, Allochi Bagh, Tulsi Bagh, Hazuri Bagh, Magarmal Bagh, Saraibala, Shaheed Gunj, Maharaji Bazar, Natipora, Bakshi Stadium and Batmaloo.

Director Planning and Coordination (P&C), JTFRP, Iftikhar Ahmad Hakim, said that this was for the first time that Concrete Rigid Pavement Technology was being used at a large scale for up-gradation of roads in J&K. The technology was being used as a long term protection against the recurrent damages caused due to the frequent water logging during the torrential rains and to make the vital road stretch leading up to Srinagar airport more durable and flood resilient.

## Encourage Critical Thinking In Students: KU VC

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:-** Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir, Prof Talat on Saturday urged teachers to be kind to students and encourage critical thinking in classrooms.

“Being rude to students will scare them away from education and inquisitiveness,” he said.

Prof Talat said this while inaugurating the online course, organised by the variety's UGC-HRDC, for college and university teachers from within and outside the J&K.

In his presidential address,

Prof Talat said that social scientists were better communicators to disseminate the criticality of education and research in the society.

He said the flagship National Education Policy-2020 lays emphasis on interdisciplinary education and research and this calls upon teachers to “know something about everything” to be able to answer questions posed by today's knowledge-driven students in the classrooms about their own subjects and about other subjects too.

Prof Talat said it was time for amalgamation of sci-

ences and social sciences for better approaches and outcome on societal and environmental problems.

“In view of Covid-19 pandemic, social scientists have a far greater role to play to encourage people to know each other better and socialise more given the isolation, quarantining, trauma and stress they had to undergo,” he said, congratulating the UGC-HRDC for organising the refresher course and selecting top-notch experts from different parts of the country as lead speakers.

## Awareness Camp For Artisans Held At Safakadal, Srinagar

**SRINAGAR:** To raise awareness among artisans and weavers regarding various schemes and incentives of the department, the Handicrafts and Handlooms department today conducted an Awareness Camp at Handicrafts Block Office Safakadal, here.

The camp was organised by the department under its Public outreach programme.

The one-day affair was replete with sessions by the designers and master craftsmen from the School of Designs Srinagar on various design and innovations in the handicraft and

handloom sector. A motivational and creative touch was given to the camp by Handicraft Training Officers from the district.

The officers of the department, informed the participants about the recently launched credit card schemes incubated at the departmental level and explained to the audience about the concept of innovative and replicative entrepreneurship.

The representatives of several banks also apprised the artisans and weavers about various concepts of entrepreneurship programmes on the occasion that the financial institutes are

running in close cooperation with Directorate of Handicrafts and Handlooms Kashmir.

The awareness programme had a motivational, interactive and highly energetic session by the officers of the department who spoke on several avenues associated with the department and available to the artisans/weavers including artisan registration, unit registration, Industrial cooperative formations, vendor and dealer registration at departmental level and as well as facilitation/ guidance for registration in e-commerce portals and Udyam.

### Office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#### Short term E-NIT NO 27 OF 2020-21 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, e-Tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and Eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. for the following works.

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost In Lakhs	Time of Completion	Cost of Tender Doc. In Rs	Class of Contract	Head of Account
1	Cutting/Closure of illegal ramps used for transportation of River material (sand) on Right side of River Jhelum t various spots RD.17000m to RD.39500m by way of crate work (Part B) (fresh of NIT 23 of 2020-21 S.No1)	2.01	7 days	300/=	DEE	2711 M&R
2	Construction of toe protection on Right side of River Jhelum near the H/o Gh Mohi Ud Din Khan at Litter Khankabagh. (Fresh of ENIT NO. 24 of 2020-21 S.No 4)	5.58	15 days	600/=	CEE & DEE	2711 M&R
3	Cutting/closure of illegal ramps used for transportation of River material (Sand) on right side of River Jhelum at various spots RD 17000 to 39500 mtrs (part A) (Fresh of NIT 25 of 2020-21 S.No 10)	2.09	7 days	300/=	DEE	2711 M&R
4	Construction of flood protection work by way of cement concrete lining wall on both sides of Khrew Nallah at dhoi Mohalla, Gratabla Khrew near the house of Farooq Ahmad Mir and others.	17.77	20 days	1500/=	BEE/ CEE	4711 Capex Budget
5	Construction of F.P work by way of cement concrete lining wall at spots on both sides of Khrew Nallah U/S Mumpora Wuyan culvert at village Wuyan.	14.46	15 days	1200/=	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	4711 Capex Budget
6	Construction of foot bridge/ lining wall on shalnag Nallah branch of Khrew Nallah near the house of Farooq Ahmad Lone upstream Lone Masjid Khrew	4.23	10 days	500/=	DEE	4711 Capex Budget

Position of Funds: - committed.

Position of AAA: - Accorded

No of works Advertized: - (06) No)

1.The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, Set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below.

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	05-02-2021 (18.00 PM)
02	Date of start of downloading.	05-02-2021 (18.00 PM)
03	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	05-02-2021 (18.00 PM)
04	Bid submission end date.	13-02-2021 (13.00 pm)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	13-02-2021 (15.00 Pm)

#### Terms and Conditions

1. Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt/e-challan under (MH: 0070-OAS Remittance) in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora (tender inviting authority), and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR from any schedule or nationalized bank pledged to Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora (Tender Receiving Authority).

2. The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on departmental website[www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora. The bid for the work shall remain valid for period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid.

3. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-  
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.  
b. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 Days after fixation of contract.  
4. Instruction to bidders regarding e-Tendering process:-

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

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from any approved vendor.

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

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

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100dpi with black & white option.

The Department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

6. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt/e-challan under (MH: 0070-OAS Remittance) in favour of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR as applicable pledged to Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora must be uploaded with the technical documents of the bid.

7. Price Escalation and Taxes:-The item wise cost/ offer be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes till completion of work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

8. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

9. Instructions to Bidder (ITB):-

All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their Bids GST, PAN, Contact No., E-mail ID & Registration Card duly renewed for the current year.

The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate List/ Quantity Schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/ total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract.

Dated:-5-2-2021

DIPK-12640/20

No.: -FCDK/Camp/3453-74

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
Flood Control Division Kakapora

#### DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

#### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



#### RAILWAYS



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

#### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

### This Day in History

- 1831 - Belgium adopts its Constitution
- 1863 - HMS Orpheus sinks off the coast of Auckland, New Zealand, killing 189.
- 1881 - Battle at Ingogo, Transvaal: Boers beat superior British forces
- 1889 - Astronomical Society of Pacific holds 1st meeting in SF
- 1905 - Dominican Rep signs treaty turning over customs collection to US
- 1907 - Conservative coalition take over Reichstag in Germany after rallying conservatives against the threat of a socialist government
- 1915 - 1st wireless message sent from a moving train to a station received
- 1915 - 2nd Battle of Masurian Lakes: German armies surrounded a Russian army
- 1924 - Benito Mussolini government exchanges diplomats with USSR
- 1928 - 1st solo England to Australia flight takes off (Bert Hinkler)
- 1944 - Germans launch counteroffensive at Anzio, Italy
- 1945 - US 76th/5th Infantry divisions begin crossing Sauer
- 1945 - London, Washington and Moscow discuss final phase of World War II
- 1947 - Arabs & Jews reject British proposal to split Palestine
- 1950 - US & Great Britain recognize Bao Dai Vietnamese regime
- 1959 - Fidel Castro proclaims new Cuban constitution
- 1962 - Gas explosion in Luisanthal coal mine Voelklingen Germany kills 298
- 1962 - US President JFK begins blockade of Cuba by banning all Cuban imports and exports.
- 1964 - Cassius Clay converts to Islam, and is renamed Muhammad Ali
- 1965 - US begins regular bombing & strafing of N Vietnam
- 1967 - A fire at a restaurant in Montgomery, Alabama kills 25 people.
- 1969 - Al-Fatah-leader Yasser Arafat becomes president of PLO
- 1971 - Switzerland votes for national women's suffrage in a referendum
- 1974 - Grenada gains independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1976 - World's largest telescope (600 cm) begins operation (USSR).
- 1977 - Soyuz 24 launches with 2 cosmonauts
- 1978 - Ethiopian offensive in Ogaden desert
- 1986 - Haiti's President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier flees to France Henri Namphy becomes leader of Haiti
- 1986 - Corazon Aquino defeats incumbent Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos but fraudulent returns gave the election to Marcos.
- 1987 - Police in South Korea make hundreds of arrests during protest demonstrations, the country's biggest for 6 years, after a student died in custody.
- 1990 - Karachi police kill 22 anti-nationalistic demonstrators
- 1990 - USSR Communist party agrees to allow opposition political parties
- 1991 - The IRA launches a mortar attack on 10 Downing Street during a cabinet meeting.
- 1992 - Eueopean Union becomes official under Maastricht treaties.
- 1994 - Jim Nabors undergoes a liver transplant.
- 1997 - US & Russia announce summit set for Helsinki, March 20-21
- 1999 - Crown Prince Abdullah becomes the King of Jordan on the death of his father, King Hussein.
- 2000 - Bahria University is established through Presidential Ordinance No. v of 2000 by the Government of Pakistan.
- 2005 - Britain's Ellen MacArthur becomes the fastest person to sail solo around the world

## From KO Archives

## KUPWARA PEOPLE INTRIGUED AT KILLINGS

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR** - People in the border district of Kupwara are intrigued at the reports of some militants being killed by the security forces and the special operations group (SOG) personnel in various encounters during the past few days. The identity and nationality of the slain 'militants' has not been disclosed.

According to reports, troops" of 18 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) had claimed killing of two unidentified militants at the Patukhari behak in Dardpora area of the district last night. Giving the details, it said an encounter took place during a patrol in which one militant was killed on the spot while the other died of his own after being injured. Both were buried in the forests.

Earlier, personnel of 32 RR and SOG had claimed to have killed two militants in Kalaroos forests during an encounter. Their identity was not disclosed and were buried in the forest.

People in Kupwara have expressed surprise at the unceremonious burial being given to the 'militants' without their identity being established or the last rites being performed as is otherwise required in such cases.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 07 February, 2001)



## Explainer: What the US Ending Saudi War Support Means For Yemen



Agencies

President Joe Biden's announcement that the US would end its support of a Saudi-led coalition's years-long war against Yemen's Houthis rebels is likely to increase pressure on the kingdom to end its campaign there. However, reaching an enduring peace for the Arab world's poorest country still remains in question.

The Iran-backed rebels remain firmly entrenched in the country's north and hold its capital, Sanaa. The rest of the country is being held by competing tribal, regional and political alliances, backed overall by the Saudi-led coalition that has been fighting there since 2015.

How those fractious forces respond will be key as the United Nations, the West and regional countries try to find a power-sharing political arrangement that is agreeable for all sides. Yemen's long-troubled modern history suggests any deal will be difficult to reach and perhaps even harder to stick to.

Who is fighting in Yemen and why has it been so bloody? Yemen's war began in September 2014, when the Houthis

seized Sanaa and began a march south to try to seize the entire country. Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates and other countries, entered the war alongside Yemen's internationally recognised government in March 2015.

The war has killed some 130,000 people, including over 13,000 civilians slain in targeted attacks, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Project. The aid group, Save the Children, estimates that 85,000 children under the age of five have died from starvation or disease since the war began. Meanwhile, the coronavirus pandemic rages unchecked as Yemen's health care system has been decimated by the war and the Houthis suppressed information about the crisis.

The war has seen atrocities from all sides. Saudi airstrikes using American-made bombs killed school children and civilians. The UAE paid off local Al Qaeda fighters to avoid fighting and controlled prisons where torture and sexual abuse were rampant. The Houthis employed child soldiers and indiscriminately laid landmines.

## Blinken Discusses Iran With UK, French, German Ministers



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed Iran and other issues on Friday in a virtual meeting with his British, French and German counterparts as the group weighs how to revive the Iran nuclear deal.

The US State Department said beside Iran, other issues including the coronavirus pandemic, Myanmar, Russia, China and climate change were also discussed and Blinken "underscored the US commitment to coordinated action to overcome global challenges."

"We just had a in-depth and important conversation on Iran... to handle together nuclear and regional security challenges," French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said on Twitter.

Britain's Dominic Raab and Germany's Heiko Maas also took part in the meeting.

The high-level conversation is the latest step by President Joe Biden's new administration to explore how to restore the 2015 nuclear deal that Iran signed with world powers but was abandoned in 2018 by Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump.

The nuclear deal limited Iran's uranium enrichment activity to

make it harder for Tehran to develop nuclear arms - an ambition Iran has long denied having - in return for the easing of US and other sanctions.

In abandoning the deal approved by former President Barack Obama, Trump restored the US sanctions it had removed and then piled on more.

Speaking before Friday's meeting, a source familiar with the matter said it was unlikely to delve into great detail on Iran and was a first chance for the ministers to discuss the issues.

The National Security Council will convene a meeting on Friday to be attended by top US officials but not Biden himself.

"The meeting today is part of an ongoing policy review. It is not decisional," White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said on Twitter.

Biden, who took office last month, has said that if Tehran returned to strict compliance with the 2015 nuclear pact, Washington would follow suit and use that as a springboard to a broader agreement that might restrict Iran's missile development and regional activities.

Tehran has insisted that Washington ease sanctions before it resumed compliance, and ruled out negotiations on wider security issues. But Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif hinted on Monday at a way to resolve the impasse over who goes first by saying the steps could be synchronized. **REUTERS**

## From 51 Million In 2019 To 1 Million In 2020, UAE Drastically Cut Funding For Palestinian Refugees

**JERUSALEM:** The United Arab Emirates drastically reduced its funding to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees in 2020, the year it signed a US-brokered normalisation accord with Israel that was heavily criticized by the Palestinian Authority.

The agency known as UNRWA provides education, health care and other vital services to some 5.7 million registered Palestinian refugees across the Middle East, mainly descendants of the 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were driven out of Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its creation.

The UAE donated USD 51.8 million to UNRWA in 2018 and again in 2019, but in 2020 it gave the agency just USD 1 million, agency spokesman Sami Mshasha said Friday, after it was first reported by Israeli media.

"We really are hoping that in 2021 they will go back to the levels of the previous years," he said.

Emirati officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment early Saturday.

Last year the UAE normalized relations with Israel, breaking with a longstanding Arab consensus that recognition should only come in exchange for concessions in the peace process with the Palestinians, which has been moribund for more than a decade.



Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco struck similar agreements shortly thereafter, in what the Trump administration touted as a historic diplomatic achievement. President Joe Biden welcomed the accords and has said he will encourage the resumption of direct peace talks.

The Palestinian Authority, however, viewed the agreements as a betrayal and harshly criticized the UAE. That may have prompted the federation of oil-rich sheikhdoms, which includes Dubai and Abu Dhabi, to slash aid.

Critics of UNRWA say it perpetuates the refugee problem created by the 1948 Arab-Israeli war and the Palestinians' demand of a "right of return" for the refugees and their descen-

dants. Israel adamantly rejects the idea of a right of return, which if fully implemented would leave the country with a Palestinian majority.

The Trump administration cut off all funding to UNRWA in 2018, one of several unprecedented steps it took to support Israel and isolate the Palestinians. The U.S. had previously given the agency around \$360 million a year.

The Biden administration announced last month that it would restore aid to the Palestinians, including to refugees, and says it will work to revive peace negotiations. The two sides have not held substantive peace talks since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu assumed office in 2009. **PTI**

## Climate Change May Have Had "Key Role" In Pandemic: Study



Agencies

**Paris:** Climate change may have played a "key role" in the transmission of the novel coronavirus to humans by driving several species of pathogen-carrying bats into closer contact, research showed on Friday.

The virus, which has killed more than two million people and caused unprecedented global disruption, is thought to have originated in bats in Southeast Asia.

Researchers from the University of Cambridge used temperature and rainfall data over the last 100 years to model populations of dozens of bat species based on their habitat requirements.

They found that over the last century, 40 species had relocated to southern China, Laos and Myanmar -- the area where genetic analysis suggests the virus known

as SARS-CoV-2 first appeared.

Since each bat species carries an average of 2.7 coronaviruses, the researchers said 100 strains of coronavirus were now concentrated in this "hotspot" area.

"Our paper is a long way away from saying the pandemic would not have happened without climate change," lead author Robert Meyer of Cambridge's zoology department told AFP.

"But I find it difficult to see that this climate-driven increase in bats and bat-borne coronaviruses make something like this less likely to happen."

While the precise chain of SARS-CoV-2 transmission from animals to humans is yet to be determined, Beyer said the changing climate and habitat destruction in Asia had driven virus-carrying species into ever closer contact with human populations.

"It's two sides of a similar coin:

we penetrate deeper into their habitat but at the same time climate change can have the effect that it pushes the pathogen in our direction," he said.

The study, published in the journal Science of the Total Environment, urged governments to take measures including limiting urban expansion and farming, which it said would help to manage the risk of another pandemic of a disease endemic in wild animals.

It also called for greater effort to mitigate climate change to avoid large accumulations of wild species near human habitation.

"The fact that climate change can accelerate the transmission of wildlife pathogens to humans should be an urgent wake-up call to reduce global emissions," said Camilo Mora at the University of Hawaii, who contributed to the research.

Kate Jones, Professor of Ecology and Biodiversity at University College London, said Friday's research was interesting but that the pandemic was a result of a variety of factors.

"Climate change certainly has a role to play in changing species distributions to increase ecological hazard," said Jones, who was not involved in the study.

"However, spillover risk is a complex interplay of not only ecological hazard but human exposure and vulnerability."

Habitat loss, for example, has also been a major driver in pushing wild animal species closer to human populations.

**THE FACT THAT CLIMATE CHANGE CAN ACCELERATE THE transmission of wildlife pathogens to humans should be an urgent wake-up call to reduce global emissions."**

## Unwilling To Wait, Poorer Countries Seek Their Own Vaccines

**NEW DELHI:** With coronavirus cases still climbing, Honduras got tired of waiting to get vaccines through a United Nations programme, so the small Central American country struck out on its own, securing the shots through a private deal.

Honduras "cannot wait on bureaucratic processes or misguided decisions" to give citizens "the peace of mind" offered by the COVID-19 vaccine, said Juan Carlos Sikaffy, president of the Honduran Private Business Council, which helped complete the purchase by providing a bank guarantee.

Other nations are getting impatient too. Unlike past disease outbreaks, where less wealthy countries have generally waited for vaccines to be delivered by the UN and other organisations, many are now taking matters into their own hands. Experts are increasingly concerned that these go-it-alone efforts could undermine a UN-backed programme to get COVID-19 shots to the neediest people worldwide.

Countries including Serbia, Bangladesh and Mexico recently began vaccinating citizens through donations or commercial deals -- an approach that could leave even fewer vaccines for the programme known as COVAX, since rich countries have already snapped up the majority of this year's supply.

Led by the World Health Organization, a coalition for epidemic preparedness known as CEPI and a vaccine alliance called GAVI, COVAX was created to distribute

COVID-19 vaccines fairly. Countries can join either to buy vaccines or to get donated shots.

Mustaqeem De Gama, a diplomat at the South African mission in Geneva, cited "a level of desperation" fuelled by spreading virus variants and "the uncertainty of when any COVAX vaccines might arrive".



He doubted that countries that signed up for COVAX "will even get 10% of what they require".

Even if the effort succeeds, COVAX's stated goal is to vaccinate less than 30 per cent of people in poor countries, meaning that governments must seek other sources to obtain enough shots to achieve herd immunity.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said his country was forced to cut its own deals after watching rich countries scramble for the scarce shots. He criticised nations that, he said, bought more doses than they needed.

"It's as if they intend to vaccinate all their cats and dogs," he said.

## Myanmar Minorities Fear Renewed Violence After Military Coup



The Myanmar military's coup on Monday sent shockwaves across the country, bringing back memories of half a century of crushing isolation under direct military rule.

Perhaps nowhere was the fear more intense than among the country's persecuted ethnic minorities.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, a man UN experts have said should be investigated for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity along with other senior officers, is now the country's leader and has declared a state of emergency for one year.

"Now, those in power are holding weapons," said Moe Moe Htay, 28, an ethnic Arakanese mother who fled fighting between the military, known as the Tatmadaw, and the Arakan Army, an ethnic armed group, in 2019. "I worry we will return to the past military era."

Under the military regime, which ruled from 1962 to 2011, the Tatmadaw ruthlessly went after civilians in areas where ethnic armed or-

ganisations were fighting rebellions. Systematic rights abuses including extrajudicial killing, sexual violence, torture and forced recruitment led millions to flee the country.

In 2011, Myanmar began a transition towards semi-civilian rule and in 2015, the National League for Democracy (NLD), the party of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, won the elections by a landslide, allowing her to become the country's de facto leader.

Under a military-drafted 2008 constitution, her civilian government was left sharing power with the Tatmadaw, but across the world, many had faith the global icon would stand firmly on the side of human rights.

Instead, Myanmar experienced what UN experts have called a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing." In 2017 the Tatmadaw launched "clearance operations" against the mostly Muslim Rohingya of Rakhine State which left at least 6,700 dead and 740,000 seeking refuge in Bangladesh.

### NEWS MAKERS

## "Erratic" Trump Should Not Receive Intel Briefings, Says Joe Biden

Agencies

**WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES:** US President Joe Biden said Friday that his predecessor Donald Trump, who is awaiting a Senate impeachment trial on charges of inciting an attack on the US Capitol, should not receive classified intelligence briefings, as is customary for former presidents.

"I just think that there is no need for him to have the intelligence briefings. What value is giving him an intelligence briefing? What impact does he have at all, other than the fact he might slip and say something?" Biden said in an interview with the CBS Evening News.

The new Democratic leader cited Trump's "erratic behavior unrelated to the insurrection" of January 6, when he is accused of



encouraging his supporters to smash their way into Congress to prevent lawmakers from certifying Biden's election victory.

Trump insisted that the election had been stolen from him, despite overwhelming evidence that it had not, and despite losing dozens of legal

challenges to Biden's win.

While in the White House, Trump repeatedly triggered concern over his use or dismissal of intelligence.

In May 2017, he reportedly shared classified information in a meeting with Russia's foreign minister and ambassador that

US intelligence believed put an ally's assets at risk.

Trump also publicly questioned US intelligence's findings that Russia intervened in the 2016 election and carried out a massive hacking operation late in his term.

The former president has already been impeached by the House of Representatives for inciting the Capitol insurrection that left five people dead, and faces a trial in the Senate next week.

He had been impeached for a first time last year on charges of trying to force Ukraine to interfere in the November 3 elections in his favor.

Former presidents are traditionally entitled to intelligence briefings, but many Trump critics have voiced fears that he is a loose cannon who may let slip information vital to national security.

## Intruder At Air Force One Base Sparks Global Security Review

**WASHINGTON:** In a serious breach of security, an intruder entered the highly secured Joint Base Andrews that houses the presidential plane, Air Force One, and accessed an aircraft used by US Vice President and other top officials. Following the incident, the US Air Force announced on Friday that it would conduct a global security review.

In a statement, Joint Base Andrews (JBA) confirmed a male individual with two outstanding warrants accessed one of the C-40B aircraft assigned to the 89th Airlift Wing on Thursday night. The unarmed intruder was arrested by authorities in Maryland. The base, 24 km from the White House in Washington, DC, is home to the unit responsible for Air Force One and other aircraft reserved for the country's elected leaders and top military brass.

There was no indication the suspect, who was not named, had links to extremist groups, said base officials.

## Christopher Plummer, Oscar Winner And Star Of The Sound Of Music, Dead At 91

Veteran Canadian actor Christopher Plummer, whose decades-long career featured an indelible star turn in "The Sound of Music" and an Oscar win late in life, died on Friday, his manager announced. He was 91. Plummer died at his home in Connecticut with his wife Elaine Taylor at his side, his longtime friend and manager Lou Pitt said.

"Chris was an extraordinary man who deeply loved and respected his profession with great old fashion manners, self-deprecating humor and the music of words," Pitt said in a statement.

"He was a national treasure who deeply relished his Canadian roots. Through his art and humanity, he touched all of our hearts and his legendary life will endure for all generations to come." Plummer starred as the aristocratic widower Captain Georg von Trapp opposite Julie Andrews in "The Sound of Music," the beloved 1965 cinematic tale of a musical family and their mischievous governess in Austria on the eve of World War II.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir

## Office of the Chief Education Officer, Pulwama

E-Mail: ceoacpul@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 01933-242234, 242187, Cell No: 9419048848

### Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders with CDR of Rupees 5000/= are invited from registered dealers/Suppliers for renovation/repairment of conference hall & adjacent rooms along with installation charges and hardware items required, as per the details mentioned below.

S.No	Particulars	Size (in sq ft)	Wall/floor
1	German made (Polished) paneling of Conference hall	730	wall
2	Polished paneling of Conference hall (action teas)	350	Floor
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- If the successful tenderer fails to supply the goods in accordance with the approved samples or fails to deliver the goods within the specified period, CDR deposited will not be refunded and the tenderer will be liable to be blacklisted from future tenders of this department.
- If the successful tenderer fails to supply the goods in accordance with the approved samples to deliver the goods within the specified period, purchasing committee shall arrange supplies either by retendering or from open market or any other supplier at the already approved costs.
- The successful tenderer shall have to complete the work within fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance of supply order.
- In case any dispute between the tenderer and order placing authority, the decision of the CEO shall be final and binding on all.
- The successful Tenderers should deposit sealed samples, wherever required to the office of undersigned within a week from the issue of tender.
- Last date to deposit the tenders shall be 10/02/2021.

No: CEO/Pul/Acctt/497  
Dated: 04/02/2021

Sd/  
(Smt. Soni sonam qareshi)  
Chief Education Officer  
Pulwama



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OBSERVER

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Digital agriculture is building the centralised production systems upstream that will supply Big Tech's evolving operations downstream, which are rapidly displacing the small vendors, hawkers and other local actors who have long served to bring foods from small farmers to consumers.

# In the Name of Law

Vaidushya Parth

What it effectively does is, reverses the burden of proof and presumption of innocence and the maxim tends to be reversed from “bail is rule and jail an exception” to “jail is rule and bail an exception”

A line of a judicial order I read a few months back, where a Court relied upon metaphor to justify keeping an accused individual behind the bars, has stayed with me ever since because it raises a remarkably restless thought. If you're wondering about that line, it was this: "... when you choose to play with embers you cannot blame the wind to have carried the spark a bit too far and spread the fire." This is, albeit, a routine idiosyncrasy of Indian Courts to the question in relation to individual's liberty.

States do not have the power to detain or arrest their citizens, except in a narrow range of defined circumstances, as established by the law. The Courts, on the other hand, as sentinels on the qui vive, are duty bound to protect citizen's liberty.

Among all kinds of arrests, the arrest made under the preventive detention laws is subject to the most stringent standard of judicial review and proportionality, because it effectively involves liberty infringement of persons neither convicted of, and nor accused of, a crime, and proceeds upon the mere likelihood of the possibility of future crime.

The recent cases of political dissidents, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), throw some restless and edgy thoughts. A closer observation at the UAPA [one of India's preventive detention laws] confirms what Mahajan and Mukherjee JJ. in Gopalan's case rightly observed that "preventive detention was repugnant to democratic constitutions and its inclusion in our Constitution was unfortunate, especially when no other



democratic Constitution was found to provide for preventive detention.'

The UAPA, with its s. 43D(5), makes it tougher to get bail by adding an extra condition to those already existing in the Criminal Procedure Code 1973, restricting the possibility of an accused being released on bail. Thus, in effect, reversing the presumption of innocence.

Generally, in criminal cases the burden to establish the guilt of an accused rests on the state. This dovetails with the essential principle of every accused having a presumption of innocence in her favour.

However, section 43D(5) of the Act restricts courts from granting bail to a person if "on a perusal of the case diary or the [police] report ... [the court] is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against such a person is prima facie true."

In any criminal trials, the case di-

ary and the charge-sheet reflects the position of the state, and under the UAPA, as long as the state's standpoint shows to make out an offence, a court cannot, under law, grant bail. Upon reading the provisions of this Act, it would suffice to add that it almost gets impossible to get bail once charges are framed in such cases if the public prosecutor opposes bail. Thus, an incarceration, under the UAPA, effectively results into a long imprisonment without any trial, which goes straight against the sacrosanct rule of law.

The UAPA is not only an isolated point; albeit, there is an entire curve of statutes carrying these stringent clauses. For example, inter alia, Section 37 (amended in 1989) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 [NDPS]; Section 51A (inserted in 2002) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; Section 49(7) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002.

What it effectively does is, reverses

the burden of proof and presumption of innocence and the maxim tends to be reversed from "bail is rule and jail an exception" to "jail is rule and bail an exception". And when these statutes are challenged before the court of law, the state argues of tilting the balance towards the amorphous concepts of 'national security' and 'greater good' which further goes on to strengthen the criminal-stereotyping principles. To add to the agony, this position is also upheld by the Indian SC in Kartar Singh v. Union of India.

The theory accepted both by English and Indian Courts is that in detaining a person preventively, the State is not punishing him but is merely preventing him from doing acts which it is suspected he might otherwise do. But, the way in which political prisoners are treated in jails has raised the question whether there is any justification for preventively detaining persons in jails. This clearly goes against the concept of preventive detention. The distressing experiences narrated by eight officials who had been preventively detained, made Justice J. C. Shah, in his "Shah Commission Report", to observe: "Man's inhumanity to man seems to know no limits at all - of the officials it is still worse".

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

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# The Big Tech Takeover

Larissa Ambrosano Packer | Henk Hobbelink  
Devlin Kuyek | Kartini Samon

On January 15, Liu Jin, a 45-year-old driver for Alibaba's food delivery platform in the Chinese city of Taizhou, set himself on fire in protest over unpaid wages. "I want my blood and sweat money back," Mr Liu said in a video shared widely over social media.

Meanwhile, across the border in India, millions of farmers were refusing to vacate the streets of New Delhi. They had been protesting for months, stubbornly defying the central government's attempt to impose reforms that would put them at the mercy of giant corporations.

The two protests may be different in form, but have something fundamental in common. Each expresses outrage over the takeover of food systems by some of the world's largest technology companies. In China, Alibaba has been leading a wave of investments and takeovers by technology companies in the food system, most recently spending \$3.6bn to acquire the country's largest chain of hypermarkets. In India, similar moves are being made by companies like Amazon and Facebook, through the backdoor of e-commerce, to take over food distribution and retail in partnership with India's wealthiest tycoons and the backing of the central government's reforms.

Big Tech's ambitions with food and agriculture go beyond China and India. They are global and extend to all aspects of the food system, including what is being called digital agriculture. While some see in this a means to bring new technologies to farming, technology does not develop in a bubble. It is shaped by money and power both of which the technology sector currently enjoys.

In a new report, our organisation GRAIN looks at how Big Tech is promoting industrial agriculture and contract farming and undermining agroecology and local food systems through its development of digital agriculture platforms. As the report shows, the consequences are particularly severe for small farmers in the Global South.

Just as with other sectors of the economy, large corporations – be they technology companies, telecommunications, food companies, agribusinesses, or banks – are racing to collect as much data as



they can from all nodes of the food system and to find ways to profit from this data. These efforts are getting more and more integrated and connected through corporate partnerships, mergers and takeovers, enabling corporate capture of the food system.

By far, the biggest players in this mix are the global technology companies. Microsoft, Amazon and IBM are all busy developing digital agriculture platforms to collect large amounts of data, which can then be processed with their powerful algorithms to provide farmers with real-time data and analysis on the condition of their soils and water, the growth of their crops, the situation with pests and diseases and the looming weather and climatic changes they may face.

This may be appealing for farms in areas where there is a lot of data collection (regular soil tests,

field studies, yield measurements) and for farms that can afford technologies that collect data (like tractors, drones, and field sensors). For these farms, technology companies can gather enough quality data to provide advice on fertiliser application, pesticide use, and harvest times that can be fairly specific and useful. It helps a lot if these farms are cultivating large areas with single crops, as this makes data collection and analysis much simpler.

It is a different story for the 500 million or so small farm households in the world who produce most of the world's food. They tend to be located in areas where there are minimal to no extension services and hardly any central collection of field data. Nor can small farms afford the high-priced data gathering technologies to feed information to the cloud. As a result, the data technology compa-

nies collect on small farms will inevitably be of poor quality.

The advice small farmers will get from such digital networks, via text messages on their mobile phones, will be far from revolutionary. And, if these farmers are practising mixed cropping and other agroecological practices, any advice they receive will be useless.

Good advice to farmers is not really the end game here anyway. For the corporations investing in digital agriculture, the objective is to integrate millions of farmers into a vast, centrally controlled digital network. Once integrated, they will be heavily encouraged – if not obligated – to buy their products and to supply them with agricultural commodities, all of this functioning through the mobile money systems being developed by the same companies.

Big Tech's emerging digital platforms will not help farmers share their knowledge or promote their diverse seed and animal varieties. The platforms will emphasise conformity; participating farmers will have to buy the inputs that are promoted and sold on credit (at high interest rates), follow the "advice" of a chatbot to qualify for crop insurance (which they must pay for), sell their crops to the company (at a non-negotiable price), and receive payments on a digital money app (for which there is a fee). Any missteps can affect a farmer's creditworthiness and access to finance and markets. It will be contract farming on a mass scale.

These developments in digital agriculture are not divorced from Big Tech's aggressive moves into food distribution and retail. In fact, digital agriculture is building the centralised production systems upstream that will supply Big Tech's evolving operations downstream, which are rapidly displacing the small vendors, hawkers and other local actors who have long served to bring foods from small farmers to consumers. The stage is being set for today's small farmers and vendors to be tomorrow's pieceworkers for Big Tech companies.

But Big Tech's attempt to take over food systems will not go unchallenged. What we see today on the streets of New Delhi is just the beginning.



# Winter Gourmet: Phari

Jahanzaib Khan

**Smoking is an ancient fish preservation method. It is an effective method of fish preservation and works by the combination of three factors: drying, deposition of naturally produced chemicals resulting from thermal breakdown of plant material and salting. Smoked fish is ready to eat and also has great demand in western markets**



Phari, the traditional winter cuisine of Kashmir is a reddish-brown smoked fish prepared traditionally during harsh winters and is believed to provide great resistance against diseases such as common cold. Mostly, Phari is cooked with collard greens (haakh) and the dish is locally known as “Phari Haakh”. The dish still remains the tastiest and nutritious delicacy for winters. The preparation of Phari is an art gifted to the Fisher community of Kashmir, the process begins during autumn season with collection of wild grass “Narre gasse” from nearby areas and the wild grass is brought home and is well dried. The collected dry grass is then shaped into a platform on which fishes are laid and is then burnt slowly.

Smoked fish is a cherished food throughout the world due to its smoky flavour and delicate texture. Smoking is an ancient fish preservation method. It is an effective meth-

od of fish preservation and works by the combination of three factors: drying, deposition of naturally produced chemicals resulting from thermal breakdown of plant material and salting. Smoked fish is ready to eat and also has great demand in western markets.

For the preparation of Phari, the temperature is maintained above 30°C and the fish is smoked till it imparts all required attributes. The smoked fish has many benefits, it is protected from the microorganisms due to the surface barrier created by the smoke and also due to Bactericidal properties of smoke due to Chemical constituents like formaldehyde and acetic acid which prevent the growth of fungi, bacteria and inhibit viral activities. This is the reason why people found it beneficial during winters for resistance against common cold and cough. Smoke also increases the mineral concentration in Phari which makes it more nutritious, the

smoke vapours have more than 200 chemicals Carbonyls, organic acids, phenols, organic bases, alcohols, hydrocarbons, trace minerals and others which impart colour and cause flavour enhancement in the fish.

The Phari also has antioxidant properties due to the presence of three important chemicals namely 2,6-dimethoxyphenol, 2,6-dimethoxy-4-methylphenol and 2,6-dimethoxy-4-ethylphenol in the smoke. The reddish brown or golden-brown colour of Phari is due to the deposition and subsequent oxidation of phenol.

Besides these health benefits, Phari also has negative impacts on health due to the presence of carcinogenic compounds attributed to smoke which contain traces of aromatic hydrocarbon 3,4 benzopyrene (C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>10</sub>) which is a carcinogenic that can cause tumours in humans and animals.

The average of carcinogenic compounds depends on the smoke, the carcinogenic compounds levels can

be controlled by keeping lower smoke generation temperature and also to prevent the carcinogenic compounds new techniques such as electrostatic precipitation can be used which uses electrostatic precipitation filters to absorb the carcinogenic compounds and produces pure smoke which can be used. Smoking is one of the best methods to preserve the fish, the smoked fish is cherished for its flavours throughout the world, everything in the world has Pros and cons so has the Phari.

Swiss physician and chemist Paracelsus once said, “All things are poisons, for there is nothing without poisonous qualities. It is only the dose which makes a thing poison.” It is important to eat anything in limit, if we eat smoked food prepared in a hygienic way and in a controlled manner.

*The author is a MSc (Masters of Fisheries Sciences) student at Faculty of Fisheries Skuast K*

Those of us who grew up during the last years of the British Raj had little choice if we wanted a decent education but to go to Christian schools with such names as St Francis Xavier, run by Catholic priests.

There, by the time we matriculated, we were brainwashed to be in awe of the religion of our rulers and to think of all things English as superior. Of the textbooks we were obliged to buy, the major ones were imported from Britain, beautifully illustrated with portraits of English kings and queens, all shown to be remarkable souls.

We knew all about the British Queen Elizabeth and nothing about the Indian Emperor Asoka. Their religion produced adorable saints and a noble aristocracy, ours a bunch of barbarians who were invaders and looters. They ennobled their military aggression, calling it a holy Crusade, led not by cruel murderers but by “defenders of the faith”, with such endearing names as Richard the Lionheart.

They presented the Muslim defenders as raiding thieves, labelling them “Saracens” — a word meant to instil in the public imagination the idea that they were pagan infidels who plundered the land of others. For the Christian nations, their cathedrals — from England to all the way to the contested Middle East — were tributes of original architectural grandeur, unlike any seen before, while the more ancient non-European houses of prayer, though prefiguring Christian design, were dismissively neglected.

The Christian Crusaders’ label “Saracens”, projecting the idea of Muslims as looters, was the old ideological perversion whereby one political power sticks upon its opponent the evils of which it is itself guilty. History provides us with any number of such examples; happily, history also provides us with a re-establishing of truth. And here is one: the historian Diana Darke telling the truth in her book, ironically titled *Stealing from the Saracens: How Islamic Architecture Shaped Europe*.

In her ‘Introduction’, Darke states how the 2019 fire at the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, France, inspired her to write her book. The Notre Dame fire aroused the flames of the Christian faith in the heart of the country: the old cathedral was the grandest symbol of the Catholic faith and, like all the great Gothic cathedrals, proclaimed Chris-

tian superiority. However, Darke asks: “Are we ready ... to acknowledge that a style so closely identified with our European Christian identity owes its origins to Islamic architecture?”

Her challenging question makes the reader sit up with its implied declaration of her thesis. Hence, the subtle irony in the title *Stealing from the Saracens*: it was the Christians who were the “thieves and looters”, stealing from the nations they had branded as such.

The European Christian invaders of the New World following Christopher Columbus’s discovery, together with their conquests in Asia and Africa, made the world a European colony, where they suppressed native beliefs while asserting the hegemony of their own. Darke recounts how she was shocked to see in a 2019 exhibition, at the British Museum, “the widely reprinted and influential 15th century pictorial map of Jerusalem showing all the Christian pilgrimage sites carefully labelled in Lat-

**They presented the Muslim defenders as raiding thieves, labelling them “Saracens” — a word meant to instil in the public imagination the idea that they were pagan infidels who plundered the land of others.**

in”, which perpetuated the suppression of the established truth that all those sites were of Muslim origin.

The central image in that map labelled the Dome of the Rock as “King Solomon’s biblical temple” when, in fact, “the structure was a Muslim shrine

built in 691 by the ruler of Islam’s first empire.” As a result of the European belief in that untruth, states Darke, “many European churches were modelled on a Muslim shrine.” She adds, “A profound Islamic influence can be seen in many of Europe’s most iconic buildings.”

She has a very instructive opening chapter on Christopher Wren, the British architect who designed St Paul’s cathedral with its amazing dome that, though in the crowded heart of London, is still a marvel to be seen from the city’s many distant perspectives. For the dome to be built and for its enormous weight to be held by the building’s structure required complicated calculations and an unprecedented style. The design required new thinking and, as in all the arts, original form was to be discovered from a wide knowledge of traditional forms. Wren, states Darke, “took ideas from mosques in Istanbul.” He praised, as we know from his correspondence, what he refers to as “the Saracen style”

without implying any pejorative designation, but simply as a substitute for “Islamic.”

Darke points out that Wren and his intellectual friends knew that the knowledge to which Europe had awakened after the Dark Ages had, centuries earlier, been pioneered by the Arabs. The most eminent of these intellectuals was William Laud, who served as the chancellor of the University of Oxford and the archbishop of Canterbury. Laud avidly collected Arabic manuscripts, depositing them in the Bodleian Library. He endowed a chair, the “Laudian Professor of Arabic.”

Another friend, Edward Pococke, whom Darke calls “the West’s greatest Arabic scholar of his day”, had worked for six years as a chaplain in Aleppo, Syria, where he collected “many magnificent Arabic manuscripts” and his scholarly mind was open to Islamic learning. Here, then, were the greatest scholars of the age, working in the service of Christianity, who eagerly accessed Islamic learning and brought it to England, and with St Paul’s cathedral the physical symbol of how a Christian church should look took its shape from Islamic mosques.

Having established the principal point of her thesis with that conspicuous symbol, Darke then presents a lengthy architectural study of Europe’s great cathedrals and other monumental sites, and demonstrates — leaving no doubt in the reader’s mind — how dependent they were on Arabic solutions to complex architectural problems, as demonstrated in the construction of ancient Islamic monuments.

It is all there for modern tourists to see, not only in such obvious locations as Córdoba, Toledo and Granada in Spain, or the mosques in Istanbul, but also in cities such as Venice, with their ancient history of trading with eastern Islamic nations, and even in the great vaulting interiors and high arches first developed with geometrical precision by Islamic architects that appear so impressive in such iconic Christian cathedrals as Notre Dame and Chartres in France.

*The columnist is a literary critic, Professor emeritus at the University of Texas and author of the novel The Murder of Aziz Khan and a collection of short fictions Veronica and the Góngora Passion*

Dawn



[illegible]







# Delhi Police Warns Strict Action Against Travellers Found With Cartridges In Their Baggage At IGI

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** A day after 11 cartridges were found in the baggage of a passenger at the Indira Gandhi International airport here, the Delhi Police on Saturday urged travellers to re-check their belongings and warned of legal action against those found with ammunition. A total of 13 cases, where ammunition has been found in the baggage of passengers during security check, have already been registered this year at the IGI Airport police station under sections

of Arms Act, officials said. The advisory comes a day after a passenger at IGI's Terminal-3, who was travelling from Delhi to Maldives by a private airlines, was found carrying 11 cartridges of .32 bore in his check-in baggage, police said. During questioning, the passenger had told the police that the recovered cartridges belonged to his licensed weapon and had also produced his valid arms license issued in his name with area validity for Haryana, a senior police officer said. In another instance, a woman

travelling from Terminal-3 was also found in possession of one live ammunition during screening of her baggage and she could not produce valid documents for it, he said. In both the instances, cases were registered under sections of the Arms Act at IGI Airport police station. Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Rajeev Ranjan said as per legal provisions, an FIR is registered against such passenger for the possession of ammunition illegally without a valid license issued for Delhi or all India and

the passenger has to face criminal proceedings before the court of law. "Such lapses affect the journey of the passenger badly as the they cannot embark on their journey and their co-passengers and family members also face an awkward situation," he said. Last year, 66 such cases were registered under the Arms Act at IGI Airport and an appeal -- "Carrying Ammunition at Airport is a Non-Bailable Offence" -- was also circulated in public domain through various social media platforms of Delhi Police.

## First Women Team Inducted into CRPF's CoBRA Commando Unit

Press Trust of India

**GURGAON:** A maiden contingent of 34 CRPF women personnel was on Saturday inducted into its specialised jungle warfare commando force CoBRA, which will soon be deployed in the anti-Naxal operations grid of the country. The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) was raised under the CRPF in 2009 for undertaking intelligence-based jungle warfare operations. It has been an all-male affair for this unit till now.

The majority of CoBRA teams, whose commandos are expected to have tough mental and physical attributes, are deployed in various Maoist violence affected states while a few are based in the north-eastern states for undertaking counter-insurgency operations. A ceremonial event was held at the forces' camp in Kadarpur village here with CRPF Director General A P Maheshwari witnessing combat drills performed by the chosen women as he underlined that it was important to defeat gender-based beliefs and stereotypes.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Aim To Employ

"For equitable development, I gave the mantra of 'Jan Bhagidari' (people's participation)," he added. Outlining various interventions made by the government towards holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir and empowering the people of the UT, the Lt Governor said District Development Council (DDC) elections were conducted successfully and peacefully. "This has strengthened the grass-root democracy, finally establishing the three-tier panchayati raj system, which was implemented in other states almost 28 years ago," he said. Last month, he said a new Industrial Scheme 2021 was unveiled that offers Rs 28,400 crores subsidy for attracting investment. "J&K's service sector is growing at a historic pace and much ahead of states like Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. We are taking industries to the block level to remove the disparities. The scheme is expected to create 4.5 lakh jobs," he said. With a view to help small and medium IT ventures in Jammu and Kashmir, he said his administration is strengthening infrastructure and setting up new projects.

"Similarly, power projects worth more than Rs 54,000 crore will take off in due course of time to make the union territory self-reliant in the energy sector. Making J&K power sufficient, we aspire to generate 3500 megawatt in only four years to make Jammu Kashmir power surplus," he said.

It shows that no attempts were made during the last 73 years to generate opportunities for youth, he said. Laying special emphasis on public participation in the developmental process, the Lt Governor said that no growth is possible without people's participation.

"For effective governance and delivery of public services, jan bhagidari is crucial and various policies, programmes and schemes can transform the villages if the government plays the role of a facilitator and people take up the job of planner and executor," he said. He highlighted that universal health coverage scheme -- "Ayushman Bharat -SEHAT" -- was launched recently to provide free of cost insurance cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per household per year in Jammu and Kashmir without any socio-economic discrimination which is the first of its kind anywhere in the country.

Multi-pronged strategies involving all necessary systemic interventions have been adopted, he said. "With schemes like "Mission Youth" and "Mumkin", dedicated focus was given on livelihood generation, education, skill development, career counselling and financial assistance providing necessary hand-holding to the youth," he maintained.

He said, India is ready to be the fulcrum of a new world order that is more just, humane, industrious, mutually beneficial and empowering. "I sincerely believe that India, with a huge young and talented population, friendly ecosystem and the trust we have managed to build that we can deliver on promises, has allowed the nation to emerge as a popular destination for global entrepreneurs and corporates", he said.

**India, Pak** about any damage to either of the side", the officials said. Meanwhile, a senior police official confirmed the ceasefire violation in the Machil sector. "There is no report of damage from the sector as of now", he said

The latest flare-up at LoC comes three days after a soldier was killed in Pakistani firing in Rajouri district.

Sepoy Laxman, a resident of Jodhpur in Rajasthan, was the fourth soldier killed this year in cross-border firing along the LoC. In 2020, over 5,400 instances of ceasefire violations by Pakistan, the highest in the past 19 years, were recorded along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir. A total of 36 people were killed and over 130 injured in these ceasefire violations, according to the officials.

On Tuesday, Lok Sabha was informed that a total of 10,752 cases of ceasefire violation have taken place along India's border with Pakistan in the last three years in which 72 security personnel and 70 civilians were killed,

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said 364 security personnel and 341 civilians were injured in these ceasefire violations along the International Border and the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018, 2019 and 2020. (With agency inputs)

### Warrants Against

co-accused Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, separatist Altaf Ahmad Shah alias Funtoosh and businessman from the UAE Naval Kishore Kapoor who are currently lodged in the Tihar central jail here, seeking their production before the court. The court passed the direction while taking cognisance of a chargesheet filed in the matter by the Enforcement Directorate for alleged money laundering. The judge also issued summons to the representatives of Watali's company M/s Trison Farms and Construction Pvt Ltd, which has also been named as accused in the matter.

Special Public Prosecutor Nitesh Rana, appearing for the ED, told the court that the accused hatched a criminal conspiracy to carry out subversive and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The accused established a network of cadres who were funded through Pakistani agencies via hawala dealers and local conduits by raising funds through local donations and funds have also been received from abroad, Rana told the court. The ED had filed a case based on an NIA matter against Saeed, Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin and others for "conspiring to wage war against the government" and fomenting trouble in the Kashmir Valley.

The separatist leaders have been accused of taking a cut before handing over the money to generate trouble. Saeed has also been accused of using the services of Watali for passing on the money to the separatists and some individuals who were actively indulging in stone-pelting in various areas of the Valley, the ED said in the charge sheet.

In the NIA's case, besides Saeed, Salahuddin and Watali, the agency had also named headline pro-Pakistan separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani's son-in-law Altaf Shah alias Altaf Fantoosh, Bashir Ahmad Bhat and Javed Ahmad Bhat as accused.

### Militants Strike

where his conditions is stable," he added. He further said that investigations related to the attack have been taken up.

### Wanted Militant

said a private vehicle was intercepted by police at Kunjwani bypass on a specific information leading to the arrest. He said the militant attacked the police officer leading the party in an attempt to escape but was overpowered. He is being questioned, the officer said, adding more details would be shared as the investigation progresses.

Police are searching for another associate of Malik who allegedly travelled with him from Kashmir to Jammu, officials said.

### Centre Deputes

three natives of J&K and two officers from Uttar Pradesh cadre. Akshay Labroo, who is native of J&K, has been deputed to J&K UT for a period of three years from Tripura cadre. He is an IAS officer of 2018 batch. Rahul Pandey and his wife Kritika, both IAS officers of 2014 batch from Uttar Pradesh cadre, have been deputed to the UT for two years in relaxation of the policy.

Athar Amir-ul-Shafi, a native of Kashmir, who made it to the Indian Administrative Service securing the second rank, has been shifted from Rajasthan cadre to Jammu and Kashmir for a period of three years.

Basharat Qayoom, an IAS officer of 2016 batch from Jharkhand cadre, has been transferred to Jammu and Kashmir for a period of three years.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Government of India last month merged J&K cadre of IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre.

According to Ministry of Home Affairs, the merger of J&K cadre with 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--(Agencies)

### JKAP Chairpersons

polls held Saturday, officials said.

The elections to the posts of chairmen and vice-chairmen were held in three districts of the valley -- Srinagar, Shopian and Kulgam -- in the first phase on Saturday.

The JKAP would be heading the DDCs in Srinagar and Shopian, while the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) the amalgam of six mainstream political parties won Kulgam.

In Srinagar, JKAP candidate Aftab Malik bagged 10 votes, while his rival bagged only three votes, the officials said.

They said the JKAP's Bilal Ahmad managed to win the vice-chairperson's post by securing nine votes while his PDP rival Manzoor Ahmad Bhat bagged only four.

The BJP's lone DDC member from Srinagar, Ajaz Hussain, also supported JKAP candidates for both the posts, they said.

In Shopian district of south Kashmir also, the Apni Party won both the chairman's and vice-chairman's posts.

The officials said JKAP candidate Bilqees Akhtar polled eight votes, while her rival candidate from the PAGD secured six.

They said the vice-chairman post was decided through a draw of lots as there was a tie and it was also won by the JKAP.

JKAP chief Bukhari congratulated the winning candidates and exuded confidence they would work for the people.

We are a new party and our politics is based on honesty. I thank the people for showing faith in us, he told reporters here.

While the PAGD did not win in the two districts, it had a reason to cheer in Kulgam, also in south Kashmir, where the CPI(M) candidate M Afzal was elected the chairperson and National Conference's Shazia Jan as vice-chairperson.

Congratulations to Comrade M Afzal of our party CPIM for being elected as DDC chairman of district Kulgam and Shazia Jan of NC as vice chairman. We thank and appreciate the co-operation of all the elected DDC members of Kulgam for consensus and unanimity, CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami said.

### Disqualify Members

impressing upon him to examine the issues as it violates the people's mandate and spirit of democracy, a party spokesperson said Saturday.

He said that the party's Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani and MP Anantnag Hasnain Masoodi brought the issue of defections of elected DDC members of Shopian to the notice of Sharma urging him to disqualify such DDC members who have changed their party affiliation after being elected to DDC council from a particular party ticket, manifesto and symbol.

The statement further said that the party leaders said if the issue wasn't combated, it is likely to undermine the very foundations of democracy.

The NC spokesperson said that expressing their remonstrance against the defections, the leaders said the elections were held on party basis and that people voted candidates to power because of a particular election manifesto and symbol.

"They said such defections undermined the spirit of democracy and violated the people's mandate so such DDC members who have changed the party affiliations post elections should be disqualified and until proceedings in that direction were initiated such DDC members should be debarred from voting. The State election commissioner assured them that he would examine the matter," he said.

### JK Reports Increased

in the 21st century, DR. Harsh Vardhan, minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences informed parliament that the increase in various extreme weather and climate events such as heavy rainfall, floods, droughts, cyclones, heat waves and cold waves have been observed in the country in line with the increase in the extreme events observed over various parts of the globe.

"...it is found that, states like Rajasthan or Andhra Pradesh and Union Territories (UT) like Delhi is reporting increased number of Heat Waves and Haryana, J&K and Uttar Pradesh report increased number of cold waves during the recent years."

He said that Jammu and Kashmir reported four cold wave days in 1971-80, 5 in 1981-90, 5 in 1991-00, 6 in 2001-10 and 7 in 2011-19.

To minimize the adverse effect of the hazardous extreme weather events, he said, India Meteorological Department (IMD) is effectively functioning in the country maintaining accurate weather forecasting along with early detection of natural disasters. "IMD is dedicated for monitoring, detection and forecasting of weather and climate including early warning for severe weather events such as, heavy rainfall, extreme temperature, thunderstorms, cyclones etc. The weather forecasting and early warning systems in the country are comparable to most of the developed countries in the world," he said, adding, "Efforts are continuously made to enhance the level of efficiency of the forecasting systems and to improve skill of weather forecast."

During the past few years, he said, IMD has been continuously improving weather prediction services in terms of accuracy, lead time and associated impact.

"The accuracy of the weather forecast is more than 80% qualitatively and 65-70% quantitatively for various regions in the country. The forecasts and warnings are issued by IMD at the national, State and district levels. It has a network of State Meteorological Centres for better coordination with State and district level agencies," he said, adding, "With the upgradation of observations and prediction system noticeable improvements have been made in the recent past in the skill of prediction, especially with respect to heavy-rainfall, heat-wave, thunderstorm and cyclones."(GNS)

### Kashmir Bound

Jammu towards Srinagar including Ramban-Banihal (local traffic) on Jammu-Srinagar highway. No vehicle including fresh perishables shall be allowed in the opposite direction." A communiqué issued by Traffic Police Headquarters J&K on Saturday said.

It further added that the Mughal road, connecting south Kashmir's Shopian and Poonch district in Jammu, also remains closed due to accumulation of snow.

Also, the official statement said that Srinagar-Leh highway has been officially closed on the orders by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir on December 30.

### Gulmarg Freezes

Night temperatures fell at all weather stations in the valley on Friday, officials said. However, the minimum temperature stayed

above freezing point in Srinagar the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir which recorded a low of 0.6 degrees Celsius last night slightly down from the previous night's 1.0 degrees Celsius, they said.

The minimum was still one degree above normal for this time of the season, the officials said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius down from the previous night's low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 6.3 degrees Celsius down from minus 3.6 degrees Celsius the previous night.

The minimum temperature at the Gulmarg skiing resort, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, settled at minus 10.4 degrees Celsius last night a degree down from the previous night.

Kupwara town, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature in Kokernag, in the south, settled at minus 2.5 degrees Celsius.

The Met office said that the weather is expected to stay mainly dry for the next one week, but the minimum temperature is likely to fall by two to three degrees.

### 4G Restoration

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Sheikh Aashiq said.

"Every sector was affected, especially our export-oriented industry which officially declined 40-50 per cent due to its non-availability. The low speed 2G services did not serve the purpose," he said.

Restoration of high-speed mobile internet would especially help the young, budding, entrepreneurs who are dependent on social media, he said.

"Though the government has realised it now, the impact of non-availability of high-speed internet will last long. It will last until the government realises how to boost them, to provide them sops or cushion for running their businesses," he said.

Aashiq said education was one of the most important sectors which suffered a great deal over the last year-and-a-half.

He hoped that the security situation remains good so that these services continue without any interruption.

The valley's tourism industry termed it a big confidence building measure for tourism and other sectors.

"The tourism fraternity and all the stakeholders thank the government for the restoration of 4G services in J-K. It is a welcome step and a big confidence building measure for tourism and allied sectors," said Asif Burza, a hotelier and president of Pahalgam Hotel and Restaurant Owners Association.

He said the move will not only give a sense of confidence to the tourists, but will also help the industry in providing better logistics and services.

Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) termed the restoration of 4G internet as helpful for the student community.

"The 4G internet will definitely help our students who had been at a huge disadvantage over the last so many months. It was kind of a collective punishment to us for no fault and it pushed us years back. Our schools suffered, other educational institutes suffered as no one could work at its optimum," said PSAJK president G N Var.

He, however, said the government could have shown a small courtesy by announcing its restoration with a small apology.

"Like Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), the PSAJK had been at the forefront of a legal battle to restore 4G internet and the hearing with regards to its petition in the Supreme Court was due next week. The government pre-empted the hearing because on what basis could they have again banned it.

"On the one hand they say the situation is normal and on the other the reason for the 4G ban was that the situation is not normal in Kashmir," he said.

The association also demanded compensation for the loss caused due to internet blockade.

### Yarn And Yearning

crocheting is not just a small business, but an escape from the world. I almost forget my being while crocheting," says Nazar, whose passion turned profession has a brand name now--Knotty Crafts.

"It's so healing and so peaceful to me that I can work non-stop without worrying about anything else."

But being a "solo male worker", it's been hard for Nazar to manage all the work required to run a small venture.

There're many steps involved from sourcing the material to making and packing and sending the product to the customer. And then comes marketing, photography and public dealing.

"Throughout this journey, it has been hard to strike a balance between my studies and the craft, but being a freelancer, I've always had this liberty to work as per my leisure," he says.

"I've no higher authority to answer to and that has helped me strike that balance. I've studied and worked at the same time and by

the grace of almighty, I've excelled in both fields."

As a tech-savvy, Nazar is also making use of the online tools to build his brand. As part of his marketing strategy, he keeps sharing his creative work with his swelling social media following.

"I earned a huge customer base within five years with the help of social media," the crocheter says. "I will always try to explore and create more interesting things."

Nazar wishes to share the knowledge and experience that he has gained throughout these years with the people who are looking for ways to earn or divert their minds from the "stressful life" in Kashmir.

"A craft is not just a way to earn an honourable living," he believes, "but also a source of peace and solace to your mind and soul."

But in a society where knitting and crocheting are considered too feminine a profession to be taken up by men, it was very difficult for him to create his mark in the field.

However, paying no heed to criticism, Nazar started crocheting and two years later, he doesn't regret his decision.

"People always talk and they say what they have to say, but today those who criticized me are always there for appreciation," he says.

No craft or job is associated with any particular gender, he believes, "and if you're passionate enough about what you do, you'll surely shut all the mouths speaking negativity and they'll be forced to appreciate it."

### J&K Logs 65 New

recorded the highest of 26 cases which included 11 travellers.

While eight districts of the UT did not report any fresh case, 10 others had fresh cases in single digits, the officials said. Pulwama reported 10 COVID-19 cases.

The number of active cases is 631 in the union territory, while 1,22,275 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

A total of 1,994 people have died of coronavirus in the union territory so far.

### NIA Raids Jailed

documents, including a check book and Aadhaar card of Mir, news agency KDC reported while quoting official sources

Pertinently, the owner of the house is currently facing detention under NDPS Act and is languishing in Jail in Ahmedabad Gujrat since 2018.

### Four Injured In

the report said, were shifted to a nearby hospital in Qazigund for treatment. However, the doctors there referred three of the seriously wounded people to SHMS, Srinagar for specialised treatment.

### Cong Protests

farmers who have rejected the three black laws and are protesting for over 70 days across the country, Mir said.

He alleged that the rigidity of the BJP-led government at the Centre was responsible for the present situation.

Around 157 farmers have lost their lives in the agitation but the government is trying to tire out the farmers instead of conceding to their genuine demands, Mir said.

The Congress leader said his party would continue its protests if the three black laws are not repealed.

Farmers are the backbone of the country who feed millions of souls. They are feeling cheated as they were never consulted before framing of the laws, he said.

Groups of farmers staged peaceful sit-in protests at several places along the Jammu-Pathankot highway on Saturday.

J-K Kissan Vikas Front staged a protest at Digiana in Jammu while All India Kisan Sabha held demonstrations in Kathua, officials said. (PTI)

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**R/o Hillow Imam Sahib Shopian** AS

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**Adil Hussain Rather**  
**S/O Gh Rasool Rather**  
**R/o Hillow Imamsahib Shopian** AS



## PAK VS SA 2ND TEST

## Pakistan Reach 129/6 With A 200-Run Lead On Day 3 Against South Africa

## Agencies

**RAWALPINDI:** The lower order increased Pakistan's lead to 200 runs against South Africa on the third day of the second and final test on Saturday.

Allrounder Faheem Ashraf and Mohammad Rizwan were dropped off successive deliveries before featuring in a 52-run sixth-wicket stand which guided the home team to 129-6 in the second innings at stumps.

Rizwan was unbeaten on 28 but Ashraf fell late in the second session for 29 when he sliced a catch at point to give George Linde (3-12) his third wicket.

Earlier, fast bowler Hasan Ali's (5-54) five-wicket haul earned Pakistan a vital 71-run first innings lead as the visitors were bowled out for 201, half an hour after lunch.

Hasan, returning to the five-day format after a two-year absence due to injuries, picked up three wickets on Saturday, but poor running cost South Africa with two batsmen getting run-outs.

Temba Bavuma, who resumed on 15, fought a lone battle to remain unbeaten on 44 off 138 balls before Hasan wrapped up the innings by claiming the last two wickets of successive deliveries.

The diminutive Bavuma successfully overturned a leg before decision against him in the fourth over of the day, but could not get enough support from the lower order.

Bavuma and Wiaan Mulder (33) dug in for 90 minutes and raised a half century stand before Pakistan struck with two quick wickets.

Mulder was shaping up well against the spinners as he lofted Yasir Shah for a six over long off and also swept well against left-arm spinner Nauman Ali before he was run-out while going for a needless second run.

George Linde scored a run-a-ball 21 with three fours and a six before he was deceived by Hasan with a slower delivery and was

clean bowled.

Resuming on 106-4, captain Quinton de Kock's poor run of form in the series continued when he could add only five to his overnight score of 24 and was clean bowled by Shaheen Afridi (1-37) in the third over of the day.

De Kock, who hit five boundaries late on the first day, attempted an over-ambitious drive against Afridi too soon and dragged the ball back onto his stumps.

Pakistan should have got Maharaj without scoring before lunch but Yasir Shah dropped him in the second slip before Nauman missed a sitter shortly after the break.

Umpire Ahsan Raza erred for the second time in the day when Maharaj successfully went for lbw television review after the on-field umpire had ruled him out off Hasan as South Africa moved to 188-7 at lunch.

Hasan returned after lunch and cleaned bowled both Maharaj and No. 11 Andrich Nortje and Rabada was run out. Pakistan's problems up front continued in the series after it lost openers Abid Ali for 13 and Imran Butt for zero before going to tea at 42-2 to lead by 113 runs.

Kagiso Rabada trapped Butt lbw before Pakistan had scored in the second innings. The right-handed opener, who made his test debut at Karachi where Pakistan won by seven wickets, could score only 36 runs in four innings after Shan Masood was dropped for the home series.

Abid also had below-par scores of 4, 10 and 6 in the previous three test innings before he was caught behind off left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj for his top score in the series.

Babar Azam (13) fell leg before wicket for the third time in the series against Maharaj as the Pakistan skipper failed to read the arm ball of the left-arm spinner which didn't turn.

Linde then reduced Pakistan to 76-5 when he had Azhar Ali lbw and Fawad Alam offered a regulation bat and pad catch.



## Introductory Ski Course For 6th Batch Of Boys Begins At Gulmarg

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** After five Ski batches of boys and girls completed their Introductory Ski Course being Sponsored by the Tourism Department, the 6th and the final batch of boys was flagged off from TRC, Srinagar towards Gulmarg on Saturday.

Deputy Director (Recreation), Ideel Saleem, Deputy Director (Registration), Ahsan-ul-haq Chishti and Tourist Officer, Mudassir Mushtaq interacted with the participants before flagging them off to Gulmarg.

The group of participants drawn from various districts of J&K will undergo the 7- Day Introductory Ski Course at Gulmarg during which the group will be introduced to the basics of Skiing. All the lodging & boarding and the

Ski equipment is being provided free of cost by the Tourism Department. A four member Ski Instructors team is imparting Skiing training to these beginners.

The Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir had drawn a weekly calendar for imparting skiing training to as many as 6 groups this season. Among these 6 groups, two were exclusively meant for girls.

The first five batches with twenty participants in each group completed their Introductory Ski Course on 31 Dec, 2020, 13 Jan, 20 Jan, 27 Jan and 6 Feb, 2021. This winter season, boys and girls from other States /UTs including Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Punjab, New Delhi and Ladakh also participated as part of the Adventure Tourism promotional initiatives by the J&K Tourism

Department and to give opportunities to the youth in the snow sports arena. The boys and girl participants expressed immense joy and thanked the Tourism Department for the unique learning and thrilling opportunity provided to them this winter season.

During the course of the Introductory Ski training, three of the best among the trainees in each of the six groups will be selected and sponsored by the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir for Intermediate & Advance level courses.

Apart from the Tourism Department, hundreds of boys and girls are being imparted basic Ski training this season by the Youth Services & Sports Department. The Indian Institute of Skiing & Mountaineering has also been conducting various Ski training courses at Gulmarg.

## 'Will Do Everything To Round Off Joe Root's Special Test With A Win,' Says Ben Stokes

## Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** Joe Root is one of the best batsman in the world, an incredible athlete and above all an inspirational captain, is how England vice-captain Ben Stokes described his skipper on the momentous occasion of his 100th Test match.

Insisting that he was privileged to have handed over Root his 100th Test cap, Stokes said a winning start to the four-Test series would be a perfect gift for Root.

"There was no better example of this for me than a few years ago when I was going through a well documented period in my life that was pretty tough.

But even though he had plenty on his plate as England captain and with an Ashes tour to play in, not once did he distance himself from me, quite the opposite," he said.

"At those times, he wasn't my captain, he was my friend. It was a time when I didn't have a huge amount of support from too many people, but Joe had my



**THERE WAS NO BETTER EXAMPLE** of this for me than a few years ago when I was going through a well documented period in my life that was pretty tough. But even though he had plenty on his plate as England captain and with an Ashes tour to play in, not once did he distance himself from me, quite the opposite."

"I'll certainly be doing whatever I can with bat, ball and in the field over the next five days to try and secure the win that we all desperately want in the first Test against India," he said.

"It would be the perfect way to round off a very special few days for Joe (Root)."

Root continued his red hot form and hit a century against India on his 100th Test here on Friday.

"What a proud thrill it was to be asked to present our captain Joe Root with his 100th cap in a team gathering before the game. These are special moments that you carry with you through your career and it was great to be able to mark the moment with a few heartfelt words," Stokes wrote in a column for the Guardian.

"For most people, Joe is an incredible athlete, one of the very best batsmen the game has seen, and an inspirational captain and leader.

"But for some he is also just Joe who is a kind and thoughtful person and a down to earth lad from Sheffield who happens to be really good at cricket," he added.

Describing Root's down-to-earth, friendly behaviour further, Stokes cited an example when the English skipper stood by his side during a low phase in his life after being involved in a brawl outside a night club in Bristol.

back so I'll always hold him in the highest esteem with the way he handled that situation."

Stokes was referring to his involvement in the nightclub brawl in Bristol in September 2017 in the middle of an ODI series against the West Indies. That incident led to the all-rounder missing the 2017 18 Ashes and the second Test match against India due to subsequent trial. He also lost his apparel sponsorship with New Balance.

"And that wasn't just publicly in the media, but in private too. He was going through his own tough time down in Australia but he stayed in constant contact and that meant a huge amount to me," Stokes said referring to Root's support.

"It is why in situations where he needs me, I will do anything I can for him. If people wonder why I'd run through a brick wall for him, it is because of this."

Stokes said he was proud to be Root's deputy as they make a good team.

"I couldn't be more proud to be his vice-captain, a position that looked a long way off not too long ago, but even on this issue his loyalty towards me has never wavered," he said.

"I like to think we make a good team and we have different skills that can hopefully work well to help the team.

## BROTHERHOOD LEAGUE

## Thrilling Contest Between DIPR Club, Secretariat Blues Results In Tie

## Agenceis

**JAMMU:** In the ongoing Brotherhood League T-20 Cricket tournament, a thrilling contest was witnessed between DIPR Cricket Club (Team Information) and Team Secretariat Blues at the Sidhra Forest Ground here, resulting in a tie.

After winning the toss and batting first, Secretariat Blues scored 185 runs in allotted 20 overs with Asif Ahmad scoring 74 runs and Ajaz Dar scoring 42 runs. For Team Information, Nasrullah took three wickets while as Ubair Yousuf and Naman Bharadwaj picked one wicket each.

Chasing the target of 186 runs, Team Information managed to score 185 runs only and the match resulted in a tie. For Team Information Abid Kharadi, Ubair Yousuf and Mukesh scored 49, 34 and 30 runs respectively.

Both teams were awarded one point each as the game resulted in a tie. On Sunday, DIPR Club will lock horns with Team Forest XI at the same venue.

Pertinently, the Brotherhood T-20 cricket tournament is being held under the chairmanship of Rouf Ahmad Bhat, President, Civil Secretariat Non-Gazetted Employees Union (CSNGEU) and is being organised by Gayoor Iqbal.



## IND VS ENG 1ST TEST

## Joe Root's 218 Helps England Post 555/8 Against India At End Of Day 2

## Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** Skipper Joe Root continued to torment the Indian spinners with a majestic double century that placed England in a commanding position and scuttled home team's chances of enforcing a favourable result in the first Test here on Saturday.

England ended the day two at an intimidating 555 for eight, built around Root's 218 that was result of a near nine-hour effort in which he faced 377 balls.

Root became the first cricketer to score a double hundred in his 100th Test but more importantly it was an innings that will be archived for future generations as a ready reference on how to play spin on Indian pitches.

The pace of his innings on the second day was a bit in contrast to how he played on the first day when he was the enforcer and Dom Sibley the grafter.

On the second morning, it was Ben Stokes who entered the stage and made it his own with big hitting. He smashed 82 off 118 balls with 10 fours and three sixes and let Root rotate the strike in their 124-run stand.

Stokes though was in awe of Root's batting style, especially the way he countered the spinners.

"It makes us all feel, you know, pretty rubbish (laughs). The way he makes batting looks. I was a quite surprised he run down the wicket and packed a six to bring up a double (century)."

Stokes said at the press conference after day's play. "He is in phenomenal form and just making things look very easy and the way that he plays spin, well domi-

ates spin, it's incredible to watch.

"I don't think half England batsman ever play spin in the way that he does. He's just got options, he has got an answer for everything that's thrown out and yeah, he's just a delight to watch him at the moment."

England didn't declare after being well past 500 which was like driving home a point and piling on the misery on an Indian team which has now been shaken up on a track where nothing happened for two days.

While Root will be lauded for sure for his second double hundred in last three Test matches, it was Stokes, whose counter-attack deflated the home team.

He started by coming down and lofting Ravichandran Ashwin over long for a six and then used the giant stride to slog sweep the senior off-spinner for a boundary.

In fact, Ashwin (2/132), who was brilliant over two days, was only a bit rattled when Stokes gave him the charge. Although Root hit Ashwin for two sixes -- the second one bringing up his fifth career double hundred for the England captain -- it was Stokes who gave him and the other spinners a big charge.

Also the only one who played Ishant Sharma with some degree of confidence was Stokes. While Root defended well against the veteran pacer, it was Stokes, whose on-drive and square drive off successive deliveries from the pacer did change his skipper Virat Kohli's facial complexion, which remained grumpy for the most part of the day.

Ishant (2/52) bowled as best as he had in any unfavourable condi-

tions, something that the scoreboard wouldn't perhaps tell.

The veteran of 98 Tests finally got a couple of wickets at the fag end of the day but his performance with old ball on one of the flattest tracks will be remembered for a long time.

The pace never dropped even when he was well past bowling his 20th over as the tattered old ball would consistently tail in.

But Ishant, Ashwin and Jasprit Bumrah (2/81)'s good work was undone once again by rookie Washington Sundar.

And Shahbaz Nadeem (2/167) for all his experience at the domestic level for a decade and half, probably understood that he probably is a bit less-skilled when facing a team full of quality players of spin.

His wickets column would read that he had got Stokes and Root but it was well after they had accomplished what they had set out to do.

Root and Stokes showed how to stay low and try and take the ball below the eye-line. Since the duo couldn't build a lot of pressure from one end, the onus was always on either Ashwin or Ishant or Bumrah to strike and keep the pressure.

Root's strike-rate against pacers was in mid-30s and against spinners, it was in the high 70s, underlining his dominance against Washington and Nadeem. They gave away easy singles and doubles to Root, who scored 130 runs in singles, doubles and that odd triple apart from hitting 19 boundaries and two sixes.

And not to forget the runs that he had to run for his various batting partners during the course of the England innings.

## Protest-Resistant Glazers Bemused By Manchester United Fans' Dissent

## Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Protests against his family's ownership of Manchester United have long bemused Joel Glazer.

"I get that some fans don't like us," he said. "To hate us when the club has been so successful, it's extraordinary."

The co-owner's bewilderment over vitriol came after seeing Old Trafford packed at a game in 2010 with green-and-gold scarves being waved by fans who, in a show of dissent, adopted the club's colours from its 1878 formation.

The insight into ownership's thinking was revealed in a book by a former staff member, necessary by the lack of any public comment

by the Glazer family.

The silence has highlighted the lack of any attempt to heal the rift. The Glazers have staunchly maintained a distance from supporters, who have not mounted any sustained fight to oust them.

Contrast, then, the Glazers' passion and joy last month after seeing the family's other sports team the Tampa Bay Buccaneers win at Green Bay to advance to a Super Bowl matchup against the Kansas City Chiefs this weekend.

The family doesn't talk to fans or media in England, let alone Manchester, in the manner similar to the way they explain their decisions at the Bucs, often at length.

"We've known from the beginning they're

awful news for the club," said Manchester United season ticket holder Scott Patterson, who runs the Republik of Mancunia website.

"Showing no interest in communicating with the fans makes things worse."

This could be the Glazers' most successful year on both sides of the Atlantic since 2003, when the Buccaneers last won the Super Bowl and United won the English Premier League. United is mounting its best title challenge since winning its record 20th English league trophy in 2013.

Just don't expect to see any public celebrations in England featuring the six siblings of the late Malcolm Glazer who control United.

Joe Glazer stated the family has a policy of a "reluctance to engage" in a parting message

to his media adviser Tehsin Nayani, whose publication of exchanges with his boss in a 2015 book, "The Glazer Gatekeeper," showed internal discussions about the tumult and loathing of the family's ownership.

Despite a public offering of Manchester United on the New York Stock Exchange in 2012, the Glazers remain in control approaching the 16th anniversary of their takeover. The valuation of the club has risen to around USD 3 billion, ending hopes of a fan takeover.

In 2005, the Glazers arrived to effigies being burned in the streets outside Old Trafford. A club with no debt before the takeover has been paying the price of the leveraged takeover ever since, with payments on interest, debt and dividends to

the Glazers costing United more than 1 billion pounds (1.5 billion).

"The thing that's protected Manchester United against any trouble is the commercial nature of their machine which is very similar to what they have been able to deliver in Tampa," said Rob Wilson, who lectures at Sheffield Hallam University in northern England.

United's revenue has swelled from 166.4 million pounds (USD 300 million) in the year before the takeover in 2005 to a record 627.1 million pounds (USD 783 million) in 2018-19 before the pandemic.

United did not need the Glazers in 2005 to transform a team longing to win the championship again, as was seen with the arrival of Roman Abramovich at Chelsea in 2003, Sheikh Mansour's

Abu Dhabi buyout of Manchester City in 2008, and with fellow American sports tycoons from the Boston Red Sox at Liverpool in 2010.

United had won the Premier League eight times in 13 years before the Glazers arrived, a return to dominance engineered by manager Alex Ferguson. He would win the league another five times and the Champions League again before retiring in 2013 despite austerity in the transfer market.

Replacing Ferguson after 26 years in charge has proved trickier than imagined for a team on its fourth manager since 2013. The only Premier League title parades these days in Manchester are staged by neighbour City, which collected the trophy for the first time only in 2012.



## US Moves To End Terror Designation Of Yemen Huthis

### Agencies

The US has moved to delist Yemen's Huthi rebels as a terrorist organization, removing a block that humanitarian groups said jeopardized crucial aid as the country's warring sides cautiously welcomed a push for peace by President Joe Biden.

The grinding six-year war in Yemen has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions, triggering what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian disaster.

A State Department spokesperson said on Friday they had "formally notified Congress" of Secretary of State Antony Blinken's intent to revoke the terrorist

displaced and close to 80% of Yemen's population of 29 million people need of some form of aid for survival.

### Cautious optimism

Biden on Thursday announced the withdrawal of US support for the Saudi-led offensive in his first major foreign policy speech since replacing Donald Trump.

Yemen's internationally recognised government, which is backed by a Saudi-led military coalition, welcomed his remarks, and stressed the "importance of supporting diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis."

It hailed the appointment of Timothy Lenderking as US envoy,



designations.

The move, which will take effect shortly, comes a day after Biden announced an end to US support for the Saudi-led offensive operations in Yemen.

"This decision has nothing to do with our view of the Huthis and their reprehensible conduct, including attacks against civilians and the kidnapping of American citizens," the spokesperson said.

"Our action is due entirely to the humanitarian consequences of this last-minute designation from the prior administration," they said, adding the US remained committed to helping Saudi Arabia defend its territory against attacks by the rebels.

Blinken's predecessor Mike Pompeo announced the designation days before leaving office last month, pointing to the Huthis' links to Iran, an arch-enemy of Trump, and a deadly attack on the airport in Yemen's second city of Aden in December.

Aid groups say they have no choice but to deal with the Huthis, who are the de facto government in much of Yemen, and that the terrorist designation would put them at risk of prosecution in the United States.

According to the UN, more than three million people have been

## Satyagraha Of Farmers Is In National Interest, Says Rahul Gandhi



### Press Trust of India

Ahead of the nationwide 'chakka jam' called by the farmers' unions protesting against the Centre's new agriculture laws, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said the peaceful 'satyagraha' of the 'annadatas' (farmers) is in national interest as the farm laws are "harmful" for the country.

Farmers' unions had on Monday announced a countrywide 'chakka jam' on February 6 during which they would block national and state highways between 12 noon and 3 pm to protest against the internet ban in areas near their agitation sites, harassment allegedly meted out to them by authorities and other issues.

"The peaceful satyagraha of annadatas is in national interest—these three laws are not just harmful for farmers-labourers, but also for the people and the country. Full support!" Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Vadra also slammed the government over the farmers' issue by posting on Twitter a picture of the multi-layered barricading at one of the farmer protest sites.

"Why do you scare by the wall of fear?" she tweeted along with the picture.

The Congress had on Friday extended support to the countrywide 'chakka jam' called by the farmers' unions, saying party workers will stand shoulder to shoulder with farmers in their protest.

Thousands of farmers have been protesting at Delhi's borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, demanding the rollback of the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

The protesting farmers have expressed apprehension that these laws would pave the way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporations.

However, the government has maintained that the new laws will bring farmers better opportunities and usher in new technologies in agriculture.

Earlier in the day, Rahul Gandhi attacked the government over a media report that post-budget there had been a rise in prices of petrol, diesel and LPG gas cylinders, saying that the Modi government has disrupted the budget of both the country and of homes.



## Will Remain At Delhi Borders Till Oct 2, No Compromise On Demands: Rakesh Tikait

### Press Trust Of India

GHAZIABAD: Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait on Saturday said the protesters demanding the rollback of the contentious agri-marketing laws on Delhi's outskirts will stay put till October 2 and there will not be any compromise on the demands.

Farmers will return home only after the government repeals the contentious legislations and make a law ensuring legal guarantee for the minimum support price (MSP), the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader said.

"We will sit here till October 2," he added.

"If the government is understanding this, then talk to farmers. Make a law on the MSP, take back the three laws, only then will farmers return to their homes," said Tikait, who is camping with his supporters on a stretch of the Delhi-Meerut highway since late November.

Interacting with the press, he claimed a few inputs had been received regarding some miscreants "trying to disrupt peace" during the 'chakka jam' that was announced for 12 pm to 3 pm on Saturday.

"Because of these inputs, we had decided to call off the 'chakka jam' in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand," the 51-year-old Tikait, credited with reviving the farmers' stir, said.

He also urged farmers to en-

sure support to the movement. Neither let the numbers go down at the protest sites, nor overcrowd these, he said.

"Don't be in any illusion. Neither the platforms nor the leaders of the protest will change. They will sow iron nails, we will sow crops," he added.

"Hum hi kisan hain, hum hi jawan hain (We are the farmers and we are the soldiers). This is going to be our slogan for the movement," he said.

Tikait urged farmers joining the protest at Delhi borders to bring a fistful of soil from their farmland and take back a similar amount of "mitti" of the revolution from the protest sites.

"Go and spread this revolutionary soil in your farms and traders will never look at your farmlands (to usurp it)," Tikait said.

"This movement will continue for a year. It's an open offer and proposal to the government. A law on MSP will have to be made, without that we won't go back home. Three laws will be taken back. Both these demands have to be met and there will not be any compromise on that. There cannot be a bigger movement. We cannot quit the protest, nor are we leaving the government," he said.

"If the laws are not made now, then it won't happen ever. Farmers of the country have been

looted at half rates. MSP prices are given in Punjab and Haryana but not across the country. This (protest) is for the whole country. They will try to divide us, saying it's a movement of one state. But that it is not. It's a pan-India movement," he added.

The BKU leader appealed to farmers not to get involved in contract farming.

"Your land will provide you employment. Do not be misguided that businessmen will provide you jobs. They will usurp your land. They will take your land for contract farming at hiked rates but do not lease it to them. Don't give your land," he said.

Tikait said protests will be held at police stations in the areas where notices are being served on people who participated in the stir. "Those joining farmers protest are getting police notices. But those who joined violence in Ayodhya were not sent any notice. How many people were there? Who take guarantee for that and why was the mob not stopped there," he said.

Amid a stringent security set up installed around the Ghazipur protest site, the farmer leader, flanked by his supporters, also interacted with Delhi Police officials.

"Nobody can touch the farmlands, the farmers will protect it. Both farmers and soldiers should come forward for it," Tikait said.

## Hackers Allegedly Leak Data Of Army Personnel Using Airtel Network; Company Denies Any Breach

### Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A hacker group has allegedly leaked data of Army personnel using Bharti Airtel network in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the company has denied any breach in its system.

The group, with the name of Red Rabbit Team, hacked some Indian websites and posted the data on the web pages of those portals.

The hackers shared some links of those web pages on Twitter in a comment over a tweet of cyber security researcher Rajshekh Rajaharia and tagged several media organisations.

The query sent to the Indian Army did not elicit any reply but an Army official said: "We are not aware of any such information but it appears to be malicious intent of some inimical elements".

When contacted, Bharti Airtel spokesperson denied any breach of its server.

"We can confirm there is no hack or breach of any Airtel system

as claimed by this group. Multiple stakeholders outside of Airtel have access to some data as per regulatory requirements. We have appraised all the relevant authorities of the matter to, therefore, investigate this and take appropriate action."

"This group has been in touch with our security team for over 15 months now and has made varying claims in addition to posting inaccurate data from one specific region," the spokesperson said.

The links shared by the hacker were initially accessible with mobile number, name and address of subscribers but stopped working after sometime.

Red Rabbit Team in a message to PTI claimed that it has access to pan-India data of Bharti Airtel through a shell uploaded on the company's server and will leak more data soon.

Rajaharia said that hackers have failed to show any credible evidence of possessing pan-India data of Bhar-

ti Airtel and it is also unclear on the way they got subscriber's data.

"The hacker group failed to show evidence that they have a whole India database. Their claim of shell upload may be also fake. The video of SDR portal seems real but only a short portion of data may leak via this. It is still unclear how they got access to whole Jammu and Kashmir subscriber data," he said.

Telecom operators are required to give access to government and law enforcement agencies of subscriber data registration (SDR) portal through which phone numbers and subscribers details can be verified. Rajaharia said that hackers may be from Pakistan.

"The website which was used to upload alleged Airtel data was hacked on December 4, 2020 by Mr Clay (TeamLeets - a Pakistani Hacker Group). This indicates that a Pakistani hacker group TeamLeets may be behind this data leak," Rajaharia said.

## NEWS MAKER

## Punjab & Haryana HC issues Notice to Centre, Haryana Over Internet Suspension

### Agencies

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday issued a notice to the Centre and Haryana government over the suspension of internet services in the state over the farmers' agitation. The Haryana government suspended internet services in 17 districts after the violence during the farmers' tractor rally on Republic Day.

While the Haryana government justified the suspension as being part of measures to prevent disinformation and spread of rumours, farmers' unions allege the move was aimed at disrupting their protest.

A plea was filed against the suspension of internet services in the Punjab and Haryana High Court by multiple petitioners through advocate R.S. Bains.

Live Law reported the plea said, "Internet services now stands as part

of fundamental rights because to exercise almost every freedom, from expression to practice any profession, internet has become a lifeline." The plea referred to the adverse impact of the internet shutdown on business activity. The plea described the suspension of internet services as "an act of maliciousness inflicted on the people of Haryana" to deter support for the farmers' agitation.

The plea sought the immediate restoration of internet services and declaration of any such sudden suspensions without notice as "illegal, unconstitutional," Live Law reported.

The plea also sought that the government give prior notice of seven days for suspension of internet services.

Hearing the plea, the bench of Justice Fatehdeep Singh issue a notice to the Centre and Haryana governments. The matter has been posted for further hearing on Monday.

## Harvard Astronomer Argues That Alien Vessel Paid Us A Visit

### Agencies

Discovering there's intelligent life beyond our planet could be the most transformative event in human history -- but what if scientists decided to collectively ignore evidence suggesting it already happened?

That's the premise of a new book by a top astronomer, who argues that the simplest and best explanation for the highly unusual characteristics of an interstellar object that sped through our solar system in 2017 is that it was alien technology.

Sound kooky? Avi Loeb says the evidence holds otherwise, and is convinced his peers in the scientific community are so consumed by groupthink they're unwilling to wield Occam's razor.

Loeb's stellar credentials -- he was the longest-serving chair of astronomy at Harvard, has published hundreds of pioneering papers, and has collaborated with greats like the late Stephen Hawking -- make him difficult to dismiss outright.

"Thinking that we are unique and special and privileged is arrogant," he told AFP in a video call.

"The correct approach is to be modest and say: 'We're nothing special, there are lots of other cultures out there, and we just need to find them.'"

### Mysterious visitor

Loeb, 58, lays out the argument for the alien origins of the object named 'Oumuamua -- "scout" in Hawaiian -- in "Extraterrestrial: The First Sign of Intelligent Life Beyond Earth."

The facts are as follows.

In October 2017, astronomers observed an object moving so quickly, it could only have come from another star -- the first recorded interstellar interloper.

It did not seem to be an ordinary rock, because after slingshotting around the Sun, it sped up and deviated from the expected trajectory, propelled by a mysterious force. This could be easily explained if it was a comet expelling gas and debris -- but there was no visible evidence of this "outgassing."

The traveler also tumbled in a strange way -- as inferred by how it got brighter and dimmer in scientists' telescopes, and it was unusually luminous, possibly suggesting it was made from a bright metal.

In order to explain what happened, astronomers had to come up with novel theories, such as that it was made of hydrogen ice and would therefore not have visible trails, or that it disintegrated into a dust cloud.

"These ideas that came to explain specific properties of 'Oumuamua always involve something that we have never seen before," said Loeb. "If that's the direction we are taking, then why not contemplate an artificial origin?"

Sailing on light 'Oumuamua was never photo-

graphed close-up during its brief sojourn -- we only learned of its existence once it was already on its way out of our solar system.

There are two shapes that fit the peculiarities observed -- long and thin like a cigar, or flat and round like a pancake, almost razor thin.

Loeb says simulations favour the latter, and believes the object was deliberately crafted as a light sail propelled by stellar radiation.

Another oddity was the way the object moved -- compounding the strangeness of its passage.

Before encountering our Sun, Oumuamua was "at rest" relative to nearby stars -- statistically very rare. Rather than think of it as a vessel hurtling through space,



from the object's perspective, our solar system slammed into it.

"Perhaps 'Oumuamua was like a buoy resting in the expanse of the universe," writes Loeb.

Like a trip wire left by an intelligent lifeline, waiting to be triggered by a star system.

### Uniting humanity

Loeb's ideas have placed him at odds with fellow astronomers.

Writing in Forbes, astrophysicist Ethan Siegel called Loeb a "once-respected scientist" who, having failed to convince his peers of his arguments, had taken to pandering to the public.

Loeb, for his part, protests a "culture of bullying" in the academy that punishes those who question orthodoxy -- just as Galileo was punished when he proposed the Earth was not the centre of the universe.

Compared to speculative yet respected branches of theoretical physics -- such as looking for dark matter or multiverses -- the search for alien life is a far more common sense avenue to pursue, he said.

That's why Loeb's pushing for a new branch of astronomy, "space archaeology," to hunt for the biological and technological signatures of alien life.

"If we find evidence for technologies that took a million years to develop, then we can get a shortcut into these technologies, we can employ them on Earth," said Loeb, who spent his childhood on an Israeli farm reading philosophy and pondering life's big questions.

## MP: Four Women Students Get 5-Year Jail In Ragging Suicide Case

### Press Trust of India

BHOPAL: Probably in a first such verdict in Madhya Pradesh, a court in Bhopal has handed five-year imprisonment to four women students of a private pharmacy college for abetting suicide of another student in a 2013 ragging case.

In his order on Friday, Additional Sessions court judge Amit Ranjan also imposed a fine of Rs 8,000 on each of the convicts--Devanshi Sharma, Kirti Gaur, Deepti Solanki and Nidhi Magre--the prosecution said.

"With promising dreams, talented and competent chil-

dren go to universities, colleges and schools. But end their lives due to the torture of ragging. In such circumstances, the dreams of students along with their parents get shattered," the judge observed.

The court absolved a teacher of the college from charges for want of proof.

The prosecution said the convicts mentally and physically tortured Anita Sharma, following which she hanged herself at her home near PNT crossing here on August 6, 2013.

The victim had mentioned names of the four students in her suicide note, it said.

Thunberg backing farmers.

"The Centre should not have asked Sachin Tendulkar and Lata Mangeshkar to tweet in support of its stand and put their reputation at stake. Now they have to face the wrath of social media trolling," Raj Thackeray told reporters.

The government should have limited its use of celebrities in its campaign to actors such as Akshay Kumar, he said.

"They (Tendulkar and Mangeshkar) are true legends in their fields, but otherwise very simple persons. They should not have been asked to tweet with the same hashtag. They tweeted what government asked them to tweet, and now they are at the receiving end," he said.

The MNS chief also wondered how many Indians knew who Rihaana was until she tweeted about agitating farmers' plight.

There was no need for the govern-

ment to ask her to not get involved in the issue, Thackeray opined.

"By the same logic, there was no need to hold a rally in the United States saying 'Agali Baar, Trump Sarkar (next time, Trump government). It was that country's internal matter," he said, referring to Modi's rally in Houston when Donald Trump was US president.

Thackeray also said the laws against which farmers are agitating can have some flaws which can be rectified.

"If the government wishes to solve the issue, it can sit with farmers' leaders, hold talks and make necessary changes in these laws," he said.

The MNS chief also said that the new laws must not benefit only a handful of corporates.

"I think the laws have some plus points but the Centre needs to discuss them again with state governments," he said.