



Maximum : 15.4° SUNSET  
Minum : -0.6° Today 06:11 PM  
Humidity : 87% SUNRISE  
Tommrow 07:19 AM



**P3 NEWS**

**KRALPORA FAMILY PROTESTS  
AGAINST 'MURDER' OF THEIR SON**

A family from Kralpora area in Srinagar outskirts on Wednesday staged a protest against the alleged murder of their beloved son in August last year....

**P7 HEALTH**

**HEART ATTACKS IN YOUNG**

If you have any of the above disorders, do not fret or think you will die. But do listen to your cardiologist or endocrinologist. However, steer clear of Google searches or local chemist's suggestions on whether to take medicine or not, they're often off....



**P11 SPORTS**

**GULMARG ALL SET TO HOST  
2ND KHELO INDIA WINTER GAMES  
FROM FEB 26: J&K GOVT**

Jammu and Kashmir government Friday said all arrangements are in place to host Khelo India winter...



**Widom!**  
**Quote!**

The secret of life, though, is to fall seven times and to get up eight times.

— Paulo Coelho

**NEWS DIGEST**

**Teacher Held For Attempting Acid Attack**

**POONCH:** Police on Friday filed a case, a day after a teacher alleged that a fellow teacher made an attempt to throw acid on her and decamped with her gold chain in Poonch, officials said. Station House Officer SHO Mendhar Manzoor Kohli said that police filed the case (FIR 43/2021) under section 326B (Voluntarily throwing or attempting to throw acid), 354 (Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 382 (theft on property) following a complaint ► [More On P10](#)

**3 Held For Making Fake Contractor Cards**

**JAMMU:** The Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police has busted a gang involved in making fake contractor registration cards and arrested three of its members, officials said on Friday. A written complaint was filed in crime branch Jammu by contractors of district Doda through Shadi Lal and Lal Din, alleging that the accused had managed to get fake registration cards from the office of the chief engineer irrigation and flood control department Kashmir to grab government ► [More On P10](#)

**Man Killed In Handwara Accident**

**HANDWARA:** A person was killed even as another sustained injuries after a dump truck they were on board, rolled down a riverine in Mawar area of Handwara on Friday evening. Reports said that vehicle slipped into the nallah near Dandh Kadal, Langate in Mawar area after the driver purportedly lost control over his vehicle. In the incident two persons identified as Muzamil Manzoor Hajni (35) (alais Mohsin) and Nissar Ahmad Hajni (27) both residents of Maratgam Handwara, suffered injuries and were evacuated to a nearby ► [More On P10](#)

**Don't Misread Calm As Peace: Masoodi**

**NEW DELHI:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Member of Parliament from Anantnag (Retd) Justice Hasnain Masoodi on Thursday said that the road to development in Jammu and Kashmir runs through peace, saying the idea of development is farfetched in uncertainty and deep despondency. While speaking on the Budget 2021-22 in the Lok Sabha, Masoodi stated the two are inextricably linked. He said the GOI's policy towards Jammu and Kashmir must encapsulate all dimensions with peace building efforts at the ► [More On P10](#)

**6.4 Earthquake Shakes Kashmir**

**Panicky Residents Rush Out Of Their Homes Into Streets For Safety**



**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** An earthquake of magnitude: 6.4 shook Kashmir Valley and adjoining areas late on Friday sparking panic among the residents, many of whom rushed out of their homes for safety despite intense cold weather. Many people, the reports said, left barefoot and stood on frozen snow outside their houses after witnessing their houses shaking. It is pertinent to mention here that such a high-intensity earthquake jolted Kashmir after 15 years, and during the

previous incident around eighty thousand people perished on Pakistani side of Kashmir when an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck the region on October 8, 2005. According to the Seismological Centre the earthquake originated at 38.08N, 73.31E; 256km southwest of Kashgar, China and 35km west-southwest of Murghob, Tajikistan. It was reported to have a depth of 80km.

The tremors which were also felt in multiple parts of the sub-continent besides Leh and Kargil lasted for several ► [More On P10](#)

**EU Envoys Visiting J&K Next Week**

**Observer Monitoring Desk**

**SRINAGAR:** A twenty member European delegation is arriving next week in Jammu and Kashmir on a two-day visit to assess the situation in the Union Territory in the backdrop of maiden District Development Council (DDC) elections.

The delegation will arrive in Srinagar on February 17 and will interact with newly elected DDC members, representatives of political parties, trade leaders, social activists and journalists, reports said Friday. Next day, the European envoy team will leave for Jammu to interact with DDC members, members of mainstream parties and social activities about the prevailing situation in J&K.

According to the sources, the tour is being organised by the external affairs ministry to project the recently concluded DDC elections in J&K as grass-root level empowerment of local population, news agency KNS reported.

Pertinently, this is the third foreign delegation of diplomats to arrive in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of erstwhile state's special status by government of India on August 5, 2019.

In October 2019, as many as 23 members of the European Parliament (MEPs) belonging to right and far right parties visited Kashmir ► [More On P10](#)

**...Vacancies in Govt Departments**

**J&K Told To Accelerate Recruitment Process**

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** The Centre has informed the department-related parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Home Affairs that the government of Jammu & Kashmir has been asked to undertake the process of recruitment in an accelerated manner.

In its action taken report submitted on the panel's earlier recommendations for fast-tracking recruitment process in J&K UT, the Ministry of Home Affairs has apprised the panel that the government of Jammu and Kashmir has been asked to assess the requirement of manpower and undertake the process of recruitment in an accelerated



manner.

It has also informed the panel that domicile has been made a basic eligibility for an appointment to any post under the Union Territory of J&K or under a local or other authority (other than Cantonment Board) within the UT of J&K.

"In terms of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Order, 2020, read with the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Second Order, 2020, amendments have been effected, among ► [More On P10](#)

**Minimum Temperature Up In Kashmir**

**Press Trust Of India**

**SRINAGAR:** There was a slight improvement in the minimum temperature at several places in Kashmir with the meteorological department on Friday predicting dry weather for the next week in the Valley.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir and other places recorded an improvement in the night temperature and the minimum there settled above the normal for this part of

the season, officials said.

The minimum temperature in Gulmarg settled at minus 2.4 degrees Celsius — nearly two degrees up from minus 4.2 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

They added that the minimum temperature was 3.8 degrees above normal. Srinagar -- the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir -- recorded a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, slightly down from the previous night's ► [More On P10](#)

**Trains Service Likely After Feb 17**

After remaining suspended for over ten months due to outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, the railway service in Jammu and Kashmir is likely to resume operations from February 17, reports said Friday. According to the reports, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P K pole has written a letter to Chief ► [More On P10](#)

**Body Of Missing Kashmiri Engineer Found 6 Days After Glacier Burst**

**Auqib Javeed**

**SRINAGAR:** Rescue workers on Friday recovered the body of a Kashmiri engineer who went missing on Sunday after a glacier burst wreaked havoc in Uttarakhand state of north India.

Basharat Ahmad Zargar, a resident of Soura here, was working on a privately owned Rishi Ganga power project (130 Mw), which is on the upper stream of the Alaknanda river site and was the first to face the brunt of the avalanche.

Besides Zargar, hundreds of people, including labourers went missing after a glacier break triggered a surge of water in the Alaknanda river system.

"My brother's body was found by NDRF near the power project ► [More On P10](#)

**J&K Reports 91 New Covid-19 Cases**

**Press Trust Of India**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir on Friday recorded 91 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 1,25,208, while one fresh death due was reported in the last 24 hours, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 35 were from the Jammu division and 56 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said. The officials ► [More On P10](#)

**J&K Inks Pact With UK Space Agency For Flood Forecasting**

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has joined hands with a UK-based space agency for a collaborative project on impact-based flood forecasting, an official spokesman said on Friday.

The national space innovation programme (NSIP), undertaken by HR Wallingford in collaboration

with Oxford University, Sayers & Partners (SPL) and D-Orbit, is an initiative that supports collaborative projects between

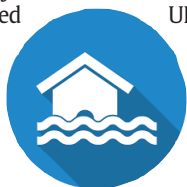
UK-based organisations and international partners, he said.

It is a big step taken by the Lt Governor administration which will help to predict fluvial flood risks in terms of expected loss to life, injuries to people, building

collapse, infrastructure disruption and economic damage, the spokesman said.

At present, there is no such effective impact-based flood forecasting mechanism in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the international collaboration adds specific value in helping analyse past flood events and identifying relationships between predicted floods and ► [More On P10](#)



**Robbers Throw Chili Powder Into Victim's Eyes, Flee With Cash**

**Observer Monitoring Desk**

**KULGAM:** Robbers on Friday smeared chilli powder into the eyes of a man and robbed him of Rs 37,500 in Frisal area of Yaripora in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Reports said that one Ghulam Mohammed Bhat from Churmarg area of Shopian, was attacked after he was coming out of J&K Bank branch Frisal



after withdrawing cash.

Meanwhile, a Police official said that one person has been taken into custody. ► [More On P10](#)

**...Ladakh Stalemate**

**No Territory Conceded To China Under Agreement: Govt**

**Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI:** India on Friday said it has not conceded any territory as a result of the agreement finalised with China for disengagement of troops in Pangong lake areas in eastern Ladakh.

Hours after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the government has "ceded" Indian territory to the Chinese and raised questions over the agreement, the Ministry of Defence issued a strongly-worded statement, saying the effective safeguarding of country's national interest and territory in the Eastern Ladakh sector has taken place because the government reposed full faith in the capabilities of the armed forces.

"Those who doubt the

achievements made possible by the sacrifices of our military personnel are actually disrespecting them", the statement said.

The ministry also made certain clarifications in the statement, and said, "the assertion that Indian territory is up to Finger 4 is categorically false. The territory of India is as depicted by the map of India and includes more than 43,000 sq km currently under illegal occupation of China since 1962."

"Even the Line of Actual Control (LAC), as per the Indian perception, is at Finger 8, not at Finger 4. That is why India has persistently maintained the right to patrol upto Finger 8, including in the current understanding with China," the MoD said.

Defence Minister ► [More On P10](#)

**...Khelo India Govt Revokes Order On Gulmarg Hotels**

**Press Trust Of India**

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday withdrew an order asking hotels to cancel pre-bookings at the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg to accommodate participants of Khelo India National Winter Games after the move drew sharp criticism.

The order was withdrawn a day after it was issued by the additional deputy commissioner of Baramulla.

The order has been withdrawn, Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Mohammad Aijaz Asad told PTI.

The move had drawn sharp reaction from the National Conference which termed it as mindless application of government writ". Asad said there was no need for such an order to be issued in the first place. It was not required, he added.

Another official in the administration said the hoteliers had already committed to reserve the rooms for the games' period and, as such, there was no requirement for such an order which only created a controversy. The order had asked hoteliers to accommodate athletes and officials ► [More On P10](#)



**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed criminal proceedings against a councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil Zakir Hussain who was arrested last year and charged with sedition and other offences for his audio clip mocking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Army in the wake of the face-off between India and China in Ladakh. "...the offences charged against the petitioner (Zakir



Hussain) are not made out and, therefore, the registration of FIR, which has culminated into filing of the Final Police Report without previous sanction from the competent authority before the Chief Judicial Magistrate,

Kargil is sheer abuse of the process of law," Justice Sanjeev Kumar while allowing the petition filed by Zakir Hussain.

"This Court, therefore, finds it a fit case to invoke its inherent powers vested by Section 482 Cr. P. C and quash all the criminal proceedings pending against the (Zakir Hussain) including the impugned FIR with regard to the audio clip, which allegedly contains conversation between (Zakir Hussain) and one Nissar Ahmed Khan."

On September 24 last year, the High Court ► [More On P10](#)

**HC Quashes 7 PSA Detention Orders**

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed detention orders under Public Safety Act against seven persons, one among them nicknamed as 'Judge'. The detainees whose orders under PSA were quashed include Showkat Ahmad Mir of Sopore Baramulla, Muddasir Ahmad Dar of Pinjora Shopian, Shafqat Abrar of Kulgam, Rayees Ahmad Chack of Chakpora DH Pora Kulgam, Nissar Ahmad Khanday of Chersoo Awantipora, Atta Mohammad ► [More On P10](#)





To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

BAZAR  
OBSERVER  
Saturday | 13-02-2021

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj  
Civil Secretariat, J&K, Jammu/Srinagar

Email: msjkmgnrega@gmail.com

secyrd11@gmail.com

Tel. No. 0191-2564763

Advertisement Notice No. 06 RD/MGNREGA/2021

No:- RD-NRGA/29/2020  
Dated:- 07/02/2021

Applications are invited from eligible domiciles of UT of Jammu and Kashmir as per proforma annexed to this notification along with two latest passport size photographs from candidates possessing the requisite qualification for their empanelment as quality monitors under MGNREGA at following levels as per following terms & conditions :-

S.No.	Level	Positions
1	UT Level Director (Quality Monitoring)	01
2	District level Quality Monitors (DQMS)	10

1. Criteria for Selection of QMs:

- The applicant for Director (QM) should be a retired Chief Engineer or above and District level QM should be a retired Superintending Engineer or above from any Engineering Department, of the UT of J&K with varied experience of Civil Engineering works. The detail of last 15 year's postings to be annexed with the application.
- The applicant should have sound health & physical fitness to undertake tours to different rural pockets of any district and should be within 65 years of age.
- Applicant must produce a medical certificate of fitness issued by competent authority at the time of interview.
- The applicants who have already worked as (State Quality Monitors) or NQMs (National Quality Monitors) in other Govt. Departments of UT shall be given preference provided a satisfactory experience certificate from the concerned Department is produced from an officer not less than the rank of Chief Engineer.
- SQMs or NQMs ousted from any department need not apply. Misinformation by applicant if detected at any point of time shall invite termination of services of SQM without notice with legal action under rule.

2. Terms & Conditions:-

- The empanelment of Quality Monitors in RDD shall be for a period of one year terminable by either side on one month's notice.
- Director QM shall be in-charge of whole UT. District level QMs shall be given the charge of two adjoining districts.
- Director (QM) shall be paid a consolidated amount of ₹ 50000/- (fifty thousand only) per month.
- District level QMs shall be paid an honorarium of ₹ 2000/- (two thousand only) per day for the days spent on touring/inspection subject to a maximum of ₹ 24000 per month.
- During inspection, lodging charges @ Rs. 1500/- (One thousand & Five hundred only) per day on production of receipt, for a maximum of 03 days in a month, in case the inspection site is farther than 100 Km from Headquarter will be admissible for the District level QMs.
- The District level QMs will be compensated @ Rs. 10.00 per Km (Maximum 100 Kms i.e. ₹1000/- in a day) for journey performed by hired/own vehicle payable on the production of logbook and tour diary.
- The Director (QM) and District level QMs shall also be entitled to a consolidated amount of Rs 10000/- as office expenses.
- No additional staff/office space/infrastructure shall be provided to the QMs by the Department.
- The applicants applying for QMs post should not have any Departmental/criminal enquiry/vigilance pending against them for which they have to submit notarized affidavit and the same shall be subject to verification at a later stage.
- No TA/DA will be given to applicant for attending the interview.

3. Role & Responsibilities:-

- The Director (QM) shall prepare a visit Plan, based on the list of works/sites for visit of QMs.
- DQMs need to visit the assigned district for maximum upto 12 days in a month (atleast 6 days in each district) & submit their inspection reports to the Director (QM) on prescribed format within two days after site inspection with uploading of photographs on the software on the same day.

- On 5<sup>th</sup> day of every month, a consolidated report for the district shall be prepared by District QM and submitted to Director (QM) and Director (QM) shall in turn submit a consolidated monthly report and presentation to Administrative Department. This report and presentation shall include measures to be taken to prevent recurrence of deviations in planning, designing, selection of worksites and execution of works and supervision thereof. This report will also contain an implementation strategy for the suggested measures. A summary of the report shall also be made by Director QM bringing out the Action Points.
- The Director (QM) shall monitor the corrective action and shall upload on the software, the action taken status quarterly till such time that action is complete.

The terms and condition for these engagements shall be:-

- The candidate should have domicile certificate of Jammu and Kashmir and having no criminal/ vigilance/departmental enquiry.
- The empanelment shall be for one year.
- The services of empanelled candidate shall be terminable at any time by one month's advance notice by either party.
- The Number of positions may increase or decrease as per programme requirement and approval of authority.
- At any stage of screening if it is found that candidate does not fulfill the eligible criteria or he/she has furnished incorrect/false information/certificate/ document or has suppressed any material fact(s), his/ her candidature shall stand cancelled ab initio and necessary legal action shall be initiated against the defaulter.
- The department reserves the right to cancel any or all positions at any stage of recruitment process.

Application complete in all respects should reach at the following address (during working days/office hours only) within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Additional Secretary to Government  
Member Secretary (UTEGC MGNREGA)  
Department of Rural Development and PR  
Room No. 4/15, Mini Block  
Civil Secretariat, Jammu -180001

Application received after expired date either by post or otherwise shall not be accepted.

Proforma for Application

Advertisement Notice No. & date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Parentage \_\_\_\_\_  
Sex \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Address for Correspondence \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Id \_\_\_\_\_

Age as on 01.01.2021	Supporting Document Enclosed (Yes/No)
Qualification	
Pay Grade/Rank at the time of retirement	
Total Experience of Service	Years
Experience in Rural Development	Years
Domicile	

The application must be accompanied with all the necessary supporting documents.

Declaration

I, hereby declare that the information provided as above is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. If at any stage it is proved/undone that the information provided by me is wrong, my candidature for the said post shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab initio, besides initiating legal proceedings against me.

No. of Documents Enclosed:  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of candidate \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the candidate \_\_\_\_\_

DIPK-12827/20

Department of Rural Development  
and Panchayati Raj  
Civil Secretariat, J&K, Jammu/Srinagar



National Entrance Screening Test 2021

NEST 2021

Admission to 5-year Integrated MSc Programmes in  
Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics  
at NISER (Bhubaneswar) and UM-DAE CEBS (Mumbai)  
(Autonomous Institutions under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India)

The National Entrance Screening Test (NEST) is a compulsory test for admission to the 5-year Integrated MSc programme in basic sciences - Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics - at National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar and University of Mumbai - Department of Atomic Energy Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences (UM-DAE CEBS), Mumbai. NEST 2021 will be conducted in around 90 towns and cities all over India on Monday, June 14, 2021.

The candidates admitted to the programme are eligible to receive an annual scholarship of Rs 60,000 through DISHA program of Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. In addition, the scholarship recipients receive a grant of Rs 20,000 per annum for summer internship. Candidates selected by DST for the INSPIRE-SHE program are endorsed for INSPIRE scholarship by NISER and CEBS.

For detailed information on NEST 2021 application procedure and previous years' question papers please visit NEST 2021 website: [www.nestexam.in](http://www.nestexam.in)

Application:

Through ONLINE portal ONLY.  
Visit [www.nestexam.in](http://www.nestexam.in) to apply.  
Online portal opens on Feb. 24, 2021,  
& closes on Apr. 30, 2021

Examination:

ONLINE/computer based ONLY.  
Date of examination: June 14, 2021 (Monday)  
Time: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM (1<sup>st</sup> session)  
2:30 PM - 6:00 PM (2<sup>nd</sup> session)  
Results announcement : June 30, 2021

Address for correspondence :

The Chief Coordinator, NEST 2021  
NISER Bhubaneswar, P.O. Jatni  
Jatni, Khurda 752050, Odisha, India  
E-mail: [nest-exam@niser.ac.in](mailto:nest-exam@niser.ac.in)  
Website: [www.nestexam.in](http://www.nestexam.in)

Fees structure and mode of payment :

Male (General and OBC categories) : Rs 1200/-  
Male (SC and ST categories) : Rs 600/-  
Female (all categories) : Rs 600/-  
Divyangjan candidates : Rs 600/-  
Pay ONLY via Net banking/ Credit card/ Debit card

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tel/Fax: 0194-2433590- , 2437647 (srinagar) : 0191-2479371, 2470102 (jammu)  
website: <http://www.jakbopee.org>, email: [coejakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:coejakbopee@gmail.com)

Subject: Provisional Select List of eligible candidates for admission to Medical Record Technician courses-2020 at SKIMS, Srinagar (physical Counselling).

- Reference:
- Notification No.030-BOPEE of 2020 dated 19.09.2020.
  - Notice No.056-BOPEE of 2020 dated 07.10.2020.
  - Notice No.059-BOPEE of 2020 dated 13.10.2020.
  - Notification No.011-BOPEE of 2021 dated 22.01.2021
  - Notification No. 017-BOPEE of 2021 dated 04-02-2021

NOTIFICATION No: 020-BOPEE of 2021  
DATED: 10-02-2021.

In pursuance of Notification No.017-BOPEE of 2021 dated 04.02.2021, the physical round of counselling of eligible candidates held on 10.02.2021 for admission to 12<sup>th</sup> based Paramedical Courses in Medical Record Technician Course-2020 at SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar. The candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been allotted seats as per their merit-cum-preferences are hereby provisionally selected for admission to the Medical Record Technician course-2020 in SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar as per Annexure "A" to this notification which is available on website of the Board [www.jakbopee.org](http://www.jakbopee.org) only for completion of admission process, the candidates are advised to report the institution from 11-02-2021 to 18-02-2021 (3.00 PM) alongwith the following documents:-

- Date of Birth Certificate of 10<sup>th</sup> class
- Marks Card of 10+2 class
- Domicile Certificate
- Category Certificate, if any
- Any other Certificate/document required by the College Authorities.

It shall be sole responsibility of the Colleges/ Institutions to ensure proper check and verification of documents before the candidate is allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents, the same shall be reported to the Board for further course of action as warranted under rules.

The candidates provisionally selected shall have to join against their allotted seat(s) upto 18<sup>th</sup> Feb.2021 positively and in case any candidate fails to join his/ her allotted seats shall not be eligible to participate in subsequent rounds of counselling, if any, conducted by the Board under any circumstances.

In order to complete the admission process within the prescribed cut-off date (18-02-2021) the SKIMS shall keep its admission counters open even on holiday/ off day. However, the candidates should their own interest shall avoid waiting for the last day to complete admission formalities as such delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.

The Director, SKIMS is advised to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail ([helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com) / [coejakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:coejakbopee@gmail.com)) on 18-02-2021 (5.00 PM).

It is further notified that Note-2 of Notification NO. 017-BOPEE of 2021 dated 04-02-2021 shall and shall be deemed to have been deleted. However, it is clarified for information of the candidates that the Reserved Category Seats, including ST/L/STK/PwD seat(s), if any, shall remain unfilled due to non-availability of eligible candidate(s) and shall be converted into open merit during second round of counselling.

Note:

- The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false/ fabricated, and action as warranted under law shall be initiated against such candidates.
- The other terms and conditions shall remain same as notified in e-information Brochure/Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time.

E&OE

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)  
Controller of Examinations  
J&K BOPEE  
Dated: 10-02-2021.

DIPK-NB-5542/20  
No:BOPEE/Exam-35(vii)/2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Driving License bearing DL No: 45599K Somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the RTO Kashmir within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sonaullah Shah  
S/o Ghulam Mustafa Shah  
R/o Lodhoo Pampore fyp

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR.

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER  
E-TENDER NIT NO.121/XEN/EDS/2020-21 OF 02/2021

Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on item rate basis from approved and eligible Registered Approved Electric Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt In Rs.)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Providing, fixing and installation of Electrification of Renovated Wash rooms and Office Pantry including Providing and fixing of electric accessories and fittings in place of damaged ones at MAL Hostel Srinagar.	1.50lacs	200/-	20 Days	Registered Approved Electric Contractors	8443-DCW

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds: Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09.02.2021 from 4.00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	09.02.2021 from 4.00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	15.02.2021 upto 4.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	16.02.2021 at 11.00 AM

In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (Others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

3. 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)

4. 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 within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

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

a. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

8. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

9. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued by this office time to time.

DIPK-12857/20

No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/4967-77/2020-21 /T-1 \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: -08-02-2021

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Estates Division, Sgr.

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

FRESH NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors Registered with Govt. of J&K/ other union territories and CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Construction of Alimihah and other minor civil works in the department of CCAS at Main Campus.	2.21	4,420/-	200/-	01- Month	10-02-2021 (11.00AM) To 22-02-2021 (6.00 PM)	23-02-2021 (11.30AM)	DEE

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site [www.kashmiruniversity.net](http://www.kashmiruniversity.net) / [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

Executive Engineer

NIT No: - F (FRESH)(E.Tend) (UCD) KU/ 50/20  
DATED: -09-02-2021.



# Kralpora Family Protests Against 'Murder' Of Their Son

## Demands Thorough Investigation, Strict Action Against Culprits

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** A family from Kralpora area in Srinagar outskirts on Wednesday staged a protest against the alleged murder of their beloved son in August last year.

The family members as well as relatives of the youth assembled at Srinagar's Press Enclave and staged a protest to press for their demands.

Sona-ullah Ganaie, one of the relatives of the deceased Sajad Ahmad Bhat, said that his wife called them (family) in the wee hours of August 28 morning and claimed that Bhat has hanged himself to death.

"Soon after we reached to see him, our beloved was dead and had marks on his body, which clearly indicate that he was murdered," he said, adding that they approached



the police and registered a complaint following which the body was taken for postmortem.

Brother of the deceased said that since August 28, they have not received postmortem reports while the killers of their beloved are roaming freely.

"Every day SHO Chadoora is saying us that we have received a post-mortem report and will give you that but he is making us fool and not giving any such report," he added.

"SHO Chadoora and Investigating Officer converted the murder case (302) into 306 (abetment of suicide) after taking bribe from culprits, he is trying to save them," he added.

Sajad was 'murdered' by his wife with the help of her one boy, who he identified as Shahnaz.

"We demand authorities to investigate the matter thoroughly and identify the persons who are involved in killing of our beloved," they said.

**SHO CHADOORA AND INVESTIGATING OFFICER CONVERTED THE MURDER CASE (302) INTO 306 (ABETMENT OF suicide) after taking bribe from culprits, he is trying to save them,"**

## Snow Skiing Course For Deaf & Dumb Flagged Off From Srinagar

**SRINAGAR:** The department of youth services and sports Srinagar has organised deaf and dumb district boys and girls snow skiing courses to be held at famous Ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district from February 12 to 25.

The programme was by inaugurated by the department of district youth services and sports Srinagar in which a group of deaf and dumb children was flagged off to take part i. snow skiing course at Gulmarg.

Additional deputy commissioner Srinagar, Haneef Balkhi said that the group of deaf and dumb children was flagged off to Gulmarg to attend 10 days basic snow skiing course at Gulmarg.

He said that this is the first ever programme where deaf and dumb children will take part in the basic snow skiing course.

District youth service and sports officer Srinagar, Balbeer Singh said that on the directions of director general youth services and sports to organise this programme so that deaf and dumb children can take part in this sports activities.

He said that it is the first ever event which is being organised for deaf and dumb children under the guidelines of director general youth services and sports.

He said that this has now become a routine calendar as in future such events will be organised for the youth to take

part in different sports activities.

Arwa Imtiyaz, translator for deaf and dumb children said that this is a welcome step taken by the department of youth services and sports and today 12 deaf and dumb children have taken part in this programme.

"Next year we want more children to take part in these activities. These children have immense talent and they want to take part in these events. Today more children wanted to participate in this event but unfortunately there were vacancies.

We hope next time more deaf and dumb children will be accommodated in these events," she said. Arwa also thanks the district youth services and sports department Srinagar for organising this event

## Advisor Holds Public Grievances Camp In Srinagar

**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, on Friday held a public grievances redressal camp in which several deputations and individuals apprised him regarding their issues and concerns.

A deputation of Residency Road and Bund Businessmen apprised the Advisor of various issues including maintenance and beautification of Bund, proper maintenance of electric wires hanging haphazardly from poles, parking space and permission for single line parking alongside the Residency road.

Another deputation of Sopore footpath vendors demanded proper location to continue their business activities without any hindrance.

A delegation from Nangardar Khrew Pampore called on Baseer Khan and sought permission for stone carving as despite the

completion of all requisite formalities they are not being permitted to carry out their decades old activity.

All J&K MNREGA Employees Association submitted a representation to the Advisor regarding absorption of staff against the available vacancies in Rural Development Department.

Similarly, the residents of CD block Hazratbal demanded enlisting of Danihama, Mulpag, Ahal, Burzaama, Inderhama Gasoo, Wanihama Payeen and Batapora B with Rural Development Department.

The residents of Takan Wari Pora of Sumbal Sonawari demanded establishment of 100 KV Substation in their area.

A deputation from Hamadaniah Colony Bemina raised issues regarding non availability of electricity, drinking water and dilapidated condition of drains and roads.

## Retd IAS Officer Passes Away



**SRINAGAR:** Retired IAS officer, Khazir Mohammad Wani on Friday passed away at his Baaghat residence in Kashmir capital Srinagar.

Wani originally from Ajas village in Bandipora district was currently residing with his family here at Baaghat.

As per family, he was laid to rest in Srinagar.

Wani was former Secretary School Education Department, and had served as Chairman Service Selection Board (SSB), member Jammu and Kashmir public Service Commission (JKPSC) and Director Food, Civil Supplies Kashmir besides at various other prestigious positions.

## Maiden 'Mahila Jan Sunwai' Held At Srinagar

**SRINAGAR:** To listen to the complaints of the women of Kashmir Valley, who have been victims of domestic violence, a first ever Mahila Jan Sunwai Programme was held at Banquet Hall here today.

The proceedings of the Jan Sunwai programme were conducted under the chairmanship of Chairperson National Commission for Women (NCW), Rekha Sharma. Counselor, NCW was also present on the occasion.

The programme was organized by the National Commission for Women (NCW) in collaboration with the State Resource Centre for Women, Department of Social Welfare J&K.

During the Sunwai, as many as 85 cases pertaining to different complaints filed by women of different parts of Kashmir division were heard by the Chairperson NCW. On the occasion, 12 accused were presented in person before the Chairperson during Jansunwai on the spot to mitigate the cases, while rest of cases were taken up with the concerned authorities for their time bound disposal.

The Chairperson NCW directed the authorities to submit an action taken report

with regard to all complaints to the Commission within the stipulated time.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson NCW, Rekha Sharma appealed to women to come forward and register complaints before NCW for their effective and timely disposal of complaints. She said both traditional and social media has to play a major role in promoting awareness on equal and indivisible human rights, besides contributing a bit to prevent and combat violence against women.

While stressing on the effective and efficient functioning of 'One Stop Centres' for women in the J&K, she said the Police department has a pivotal role in providing special help to women on time, especially victims of violence.

Specialist Gender, State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW), Sameena Mir, SP East, Sheema Qasba, District Programme Officer for Srinagar, Shopian and Ganderbal, Bilques, District Social Welfare Officer, Budgam, Dr. Syed Farhana Asgar and other senior officials from Social Welfare Department were also present during the Jan Sunwai programme

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### Government Of Jammu And Kashmir General Administration Department Civil Secretariat, Jammu

Subject: Secretariat Assistants Training Course (SATC) and Foundation Course in respect of Senior Assistants and Junior Assistants of Heads of the Department's/Offices and Moving Departments.

Government Order No. 13JK(GAD) of 2021.  
Dated: 11-02-2021.

It is hereby ordered that the Departments/Offices annexed to this order shall deploy Senior Assistants/Junior Assistants as per the number indicated against each for undergoing Secretariat Assistants Training Course/Foundation Course at the J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development, Srinagar/Jammu w.e.f. 15.02.2021.

All the concerned Heads of Department are impressed upon to relieve the officials strictly in accordance with the seniority against the allocated slots. In case any failure is observed on the part of any concerned HoD in relieving the officials the responsibility shall squarely lie on the concerned Head of Department(s). The officials shall ensure their presence during the training period and shall report to IMPARD at 10.00 A.M on 15.02.2021.

The salary in respect of the trainees shall continue to be drawn from the respective department/offices on production of the attendance certificate from the J&K IMPARD, Srinagar/Jammu. The IMPARD shall complete the 50 working days Training Course in shortest possible duration by conducting the training on Saturdays as well.

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

DIPK-12915/20

Sd/-  
(Manoj Kumar Dwivedi) IAS  
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government

No.GAD(Estt)M-06/2021

Dated. 11.02.2021.

Annexure to Government Order No. 13JK(GAD) of 2021 Dated: 11.02.2021.

(HoD's of Kashmir Division to J&K IMPARD, Srinagar)

S. No.	Name of the Department	Number of slots for SATC (Senior Assistant)	Number of slots for Foundation course (Junior Assistant)
1.	Jal Shakti Department	4	5
2.	Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services, J&K	1	1
3.	Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB)	1	0
4.	Academy of Art Culture & Language, J&K	1	0
5.	Chief Electrical Inspector, J&K PDD	0	0
6.	Higher Education Department	1	1
7.	School Education Department	08	16
8.	Labour & Employment Department	4	2
9.	Directorate of Agriculture, Kashmir	2	1
10.	Office of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control Department Kashmir	2	5
11.	Chief Engineer Planning & Procurement, KPDCI, Kashmir	0	1
12.	Department of Fisheries	0	1
13.	Information Department	1	1
14.	Science & Technology Department	0	1
15.	Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir	1	3
16.	Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department, Kashmir	0	2
17.	Chief Conservator Forest, Kashmir	1	1
18.	Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Kashmir	1	1
19.	MD, Transmission, JKPTCL, J&K	2	1
20.	SKIMS	3	1
21.	Directorate of Horticulture, Kashmir	1	1
22.	State Drugs Controller, Drug & Food Control Org. J&K	1	1
23.	Department of Law, Justice & PA	1	1
24.	Directorate of Technical Education	1	2
25.	Chief Engineer (Distribution) Kashmir, Power Distribution Corporation	6	6
26.	State Taxes Department	7	3
27.	Directorate of Horticulture Planning & Marketing	1	9
28.	Chief Electoral Officer	1	0
29.	Forest Protection Force, J&K	1	1
30.	Office of Advocate General	1	1
31.	GMC & Associated Hospital, Srinagar	2	1
32.	Directorate of Family Welfare MCH & Immunization Old Secretariat, Srinagar	1	0
33.	Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir	5	0
34.	SKIMS Bemina	1	0
35.	Directorate of Accounts & Treasuries	1	0
36.	MD, JKPTCL (DSD)	6	0
37.	Wildlife Protection Warden Kashmir	1	0

(HoD's of Jammu Division to J&K IMPARD, Jammu)

S. No.	Name of the Department	Number of slots for SATC (Senior Assistant)	Number of slots for Foundation course (Junior Assistant)
1.	Jal Shakti Department	4	5
2.	Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services, J&K, Jammu	1	1
3.	Academy of Art Culture & Language, J&K	1	1
4.	Higher Education Department	1	2
5.	Labour & Employment Department	1	2
6.	Indira Gandhi Govt. Dental College, Jammu	1	0
7.	Department of Fisheries	1	0
8.	Information Department	1	1
9.	Science & Technology Department	1	1
10.	Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department, Jammu	1	1
11.	Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCI, Jammu	2	3
12.	MD, Transmission, JKPTCL, J&K	1	1
13.	State Drugs Controller, Drug & Food Control Org. J&K, Jammu	1	1
14.	Department of Law, Justice & PA	1	1
15.	Directorate of Technical Education	1	1
16.	State Taxes Department	4	3
17.	Govt. Medical College Doda	1	0
18.	Directorate of Horticulture Planning & Marketing	1	1
19.	GMC & Associated Hospital Jammu	1	2
20.	Forest Protection Force, J&K	1	1
21.	O/o the Relief & Rehabilitation, Commissioner (M) Jammu	1	1
22.	Office of the Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K, Jammu	1	1
23.	Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumers Affairs, Jammu	1	1
24.	Animal Husbandry Department	1	0

(Moving Departments/Offices to J&K IMPARD, Jammu)

S. No.	Name of the Department	Number of slots for SATC (Senior Assistant)	Number of slots for Foundation course (Junior Assistant)
1.	Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services, J&K, Jammu	1	1
2.	Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB)	0	1
3.	Higher Education Department	0	1
4.	Labour & Employment Department	1	2
5.	Information Department	2	3
6.	Science & Technology Department	1	1
7.	NCC, Jammu	2	1
8.	MD, Transmission, JKPTCL, J&K	1	2
9.	Motor Garage, Jammu	0	2
10.	Department of Law, Justice & PA	1	1
11.	Chief Electrical Inspector, J&K PDD	0	1
12.	Directorate of Technical Education	1	0
13.	Directorate of Horticulture Planning & Marketing	1	0
14.	Chief Electoral Officer	1	0
15.	Animal Husbandry Department	7	0
16.	Directorate of Samagra Shiksha	0	1

### DIAL-EMMA

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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

### RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- 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

- 1916 - Germany and Austria-Hungary notify the US that they will sink any armed merchant ships starting on 1 March
- 1922 - US intervention army leaves Honduras
- 1943 - US General Eisenhower selected to command the allied armies in Europe; British General Montgomery not best pleased.
- 1944 - German troops reconquer Aprilia, Italy
- 1945 - 1st gas turbine propeller-driven airplane flight tested, Downey, CA.
- 1945 - Yalta agreement signed by FDR, Churchill & Stalin
- 1946 - World War II: Operation Deadlight ends after scuttling 116 of 156 captured U-boats.
- 1953 - USSR breaks diplomatic relations with Israel
- 1956 - British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean deny working as spies for Soviet Russia after reappearing in the Soviet Union after going missing 5 years earlier
- 1964 - Greek & Turks begin fighting in Limassol, Cyprus
- 1964 - Taiwan drops diplomatic relations with France
- 1968 - Israeli-Jordan border fight
- 1970 - Japan becomes 4th nation to put a satellite (Osuni) in orbit.
- 1971 - US, UK, USSR, others sign Seabed Treaty outlawing nuclear weapons
- 1973 - 1st one-day international for Pakistan & NZ
- 1974 - Titan-Centaur rocket test launch fails.
- 1974 - Henry Kissinger unveils Nixon Administration's seven-point "Project Independence" plan to make the U.S. energy independent
- 1974 - Libya nationalizes three US oil companies that had not agreed to 51 percent nationalization in September
- 1975 - Margaret Thatcher defeats Edward Heath for leadership of the British Conservative Party
- 1978 - China lifts a ban on Aristotle, Shakespeare, & Dickens
- 1979 - Iran's premier Bakhtiar resigns, Ayatollah Khomeini seizes power
- 1984 - 10th space shuttle mission (41-B)- Challenger 4-returns to Earth
- 1985 - King Hussein of Jordan & PLO leader Arafat sign accord
- 1990 - Nelson Mandela released after 27 years imprisonment in South Africa.
- 1991 - UNPO, Unrepresented Nations & People Org forms in Hague Neth.
- 1994 - Space shuttle STS-60 (Discovery 18), lands
- 1995 - Space shuttle STS-63 (Discovery 19), lands
- 2008 - In East Timor, assassination attempts were made on Xanana Gusmao and Jose Ramos-Horta. Both failed.
- 2011 - Egyptian revolution culminates in the resignation of Hosni Mubarak and the transfer of power to the Supreme Military Council after 18 days of protests.
- 2012 - Israeli Air Force conducts four air strikes in Gaza Strip
- 2013 - 18 coal miners are killed in an explosion in the Komi region, Russia
- Event of interestEvent of Interest
- 2013 - Pope Benedict XVI announces his resignation from February 28, the first pope to resign since 1415
- 2014 - 11 people are killed after a grenade was tossed into a movie theatre in Peshawar, Pakistan
- 2014 - 77 people are killed after a military transport plane crashes in Algeria
- 2014 - Peace talks resume in Geneva as leaders attempt to bring an end to the civil war in Syria

## From KO Archives

## SHABIR SHAH READY TO JOIN ELECTORAL FRAY

*DFP Supremo Says No Intl Supervision Necessary*

**NEW DELHI** - In a significant climb down from his earlier stand senior Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah on Saturday advanced a new proposal for holding of elections in Jammu and Kashmir under the supervision of some non-governmental organisations (NGO) of the country and intellectuals.

"If the government is really interested in finding the true representatives of people of Kashmir, then elections should be held under the supervision of some Indian NGOs and in-tellectuals," Shah announced this at a press conference.

Shah made it clear that he was not seeking supervision by any international organisation or the United Nations as he had complete faith in Indian NGOs and intellectuals.

Shah, one of the founder members of militant movement in the state, said simultaneously polls under such supervision should also be held in Pa-kistan-controlled-Kashmir to choose the representatives who could talk on behalf of the people in that part of Kashmir

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah, he said "if he claims to be the genuine representative, he should prove his majority again by stepping down and facing the elections under such supervision."

He blamed Abdullah for recent killings of Sikhs in Snnagar and sought a judicial probe into it so that culprit: were brought to book

Shah said he was not opposed to talks with prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the Kashmir issue.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 13 February, 2001)



## Five Killed In Attack On UN Convoy In Kabul



Agencies

**KABUL:** Five Afghan security personnel were killed Thursday when a United Nations convoy they were escorting came under attack in Kabul province, the UN mission said, in the latest violence to rock the country.

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA) said no UN personnel were hurt in the attack that happened in the restive Surobi district of the province outside of the capital Kabul.

"The UN family in Afghanistan mourns the loss of five Afghan Directorate of Protection Service personnel in an incident today in Surobi district of Kabul," UNAMA tweeted, referring to a unit of the interior ministry that provides security personnel to UN and foreign embassies.

"No UN personnel were hurt or vehicle effected in an attack which hit a DPS vehicle that was escorting a UN convoy.

"Violence in Afghanistan must end," tweeted Ramiz Alakbarov, UN Secretary General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan.

Violence in Afghanistan has surged in recent months despite the Taliban and Afghan government engaging in peace talks since September in Qatar.

The negotiations have so far failed to achieve any breakthrough, with the Taliban carrying out daily attacks targeting government forces across rural areas.

Violence has particularly surged in the capital where a new trend of targeted killing of prominent Afghans like journalists, activists, judges and politicians has sown fear and chaos in the restive city.

## Threat Posed By ISIS To International Peace And Security On The Rise: UN



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The threat posed by ISIS to international peace and security is on the rise again and the terror group could regain the capacity to orchestrate attacks in different parts of the world in 2021, the UN counter-terrorism chief has warned the Security Council.

In a briefing to the Security Council on Wednesday, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov cautioned that the world must be prepared to disrupt such new attacks.

"The threat posed by ISIS to international peace and security is on the rise again. It is crucial that Member States remain focused and united to counter it, despite the strains and competing priorities brought by the COVID-19 pandemic," he said on the "12th Report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIS (Daesh) to international peace and security".

Mr Voronkov said while the dreaded terror group has not developed a purposeful strategy to exploit the pandemic, its efforts to regroup and to reinvigorate its activities gained further momentum in the second half of 2020.

"Its core in Iraq and Syria and its affiliates in other conflict zones have continued to take advantage of the disruption caused by the virus to step up their operations, with a number of high-profile attacks," he said, adding that ISIS fighters have maintained the ability to move and operate, including across unprotected borders.

As ISIS's regional affiliates entrench themselves and gain autonomy and strength, they could provide the group new capabilities

and options to conduct external operations, he said.

"Member States warn that ISIS could regain the capacity to orchestrate attacks in different parts of the world in the course of 2021," Mr Voronkov said, adding that ISIS's primary focus remains resurgence in Iraq and Syria, where the international community continues to grapple with the legacies of the group's so-called "caliphate".

Mr Voronkov said that about 10,000 ISIS fighters, including foreign terrorist fighters in the low thousands, remain active in the region, the majority of them in Iraq, pursuing a protracted insurgency.

"These sizable remnants are assessed to pose a major, long-term and global threat. They are organised in small cells hiding in desert and rural areas and moving across the border between the two countries, waging attacks," he said.

The UN official underscored the need to end the "scourge of terrorism" by defeating ISIS in cyberspace, disrupting new attacks globally and tackling the threat posed by its regional affiliates, especially in Africa. "We must urgently solve the protracted issue of ISIS members -- lest our failure enables the group's resurgence," he said, assuring that through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the UN system will continue to "stand by Member States as they rise to these challenges".

According to a report, ISIS is currently assessed to have between 1,000 and 2,200 fighters in Afghanistan spread across several provinces and is expected to continue to target Kabul and provincial capitals in future attacks.

## Democratic Impeachment Managers Urge Republican Senators Not To Acquit Trump Again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

US House Democrats leading the prosecution of former president Donald Trump at his Senate impeachment trial have concluded their arguments, urging Republican Senators to not to acquit him for the second time if they don't want to set a "new, terrible standard" for presidential misconduct.

They alleged that Trump was the one who incited his supporters to storm the Capitol Hill.

The Capitol building was stormed on January 6 after thousands of supporters of Trump gathered in support of false claims that widespread fraud denied him victory in last November's presidential election.

Five people died, including a Capitol police officer, as the mob breached the building where the November 3 election result was being certified.

The US Senate began the impeachment trial of Trump, a Republican, on Wednesday with impeachment managers from the Democratic Party-controlled House of Representatives making a strong case against the former president accusing him of inciting the insurrection.

Nine impeachment managers of the Democratic Party showed a number of chilling video footage from the January 6 attack to argue that Trump needs to be impeached.

They described the attack as one of the darkest chapters in American history.

They also showed previously undisclosed and chilling security camera footage of the mayhem.

"If you think this is not impeachable, what is? What would be?" said Representative Jamie Raskin, the lead House impeachment manager.

"If you don't find this a high crime and misdemeanour to-



day, you have set a new, terrible standard for presidential misconduct in the United States of America."

The managers also warned that failure to convict Trump would set a dangerous precedent that future presidents could exploit.

"We humbly, humbly ask you to convict President Trump for the crime for which he is overwhelmingly guilty of," said Congressman Joe Neguse.

"Because if you don't if we pretend this didn't happen, or worse, if we let it go unanswered who's to say it won't happen again?"

Lawyers for Trump are scheduled to begin their counter-argument on Friday.

Like the Democrats, they have 16 hours spread over the next two days Friday and Saturday to present their case.

However, political pundits said that Trump is likely to be acquitted for the second time.

Trump lost the elections to Joe Biden, who was sworn in as the 46th president on January 20.

While the House, where the Democrats have the majority, impeached him before January 20, when he was still the president, the Senate impeachment trial has begun three weeks after he left office.

This is for the first time in

American history that a former US president is being impeached. Trump, 74, is also the first president ever to have been impeached twice.

A two-thirds majority is needed to convict Trump, meaning 17 Republicans would have to vote with the Democrats in the 100-member Senate where both parties have 50 seats each.

By Thursday, Democrats were expecting support from five or six Republican Senators, still short of 11 to get to the magic figure.

However, the Democrats through liberal use of harrowing videos of the January 6 attack were successful in touching the emotional cord of the Republican Senators.

That was a pretty emotional presentation, said Republican Senator John Cornyn.

Making a passionate case for the impeachment of Trump, Democrats argued that acquittal of the former president would erode America's standing as a beacon of democracy in the world.

President Trump declared his conduct totally appropriate. So if he gets back into the office, and it happens again, we'll have no one to blame but ourselves, Congressman Raskin said on the Senate floor Thursday.

## 'Disappointed': As China Bans Broadcasting Of BBC World News, Company Responds



Well know UK-based public broadcaster, the BBC is facing restrictions in China. The National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA) of China has barred the broadcasting of BBC World News on the mainland. And while the Chinese authorities allege that the platform had indulged in falsified reportage, the BBC has rejected the allegations.

"We are disappointed that the Chinese authorities have decided to take this course of action. The BBC is the world's most trusted international news broadcaster and reports on stories from around the world fairly, impartially and without fear or favour," the BBC news press team countered in a social media post.

The move comes a week after Ofcom, the British media regulator, revoked the license of Chinese state-owned broadcaster China Global Television Network's

(CGTN) to broadcast in the UK.

China has criticised the BBC for its reporting on the deadly coronavirus pandemic and the persecution of ethnic minority Uighurs in the restive Xinjiang province and lodged a protest with the British broadcaster.

The Chinese regulator, the National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA) has made the announcement on Thursday night on pulling BBC World News off the air in the country for serious content violation. It said that the BBC's application to air for another year would not be accepted.

It is unclear how much impact China's ban of BBC World News would have in the world's most populous country. The BBC have never been allowed to broadcast in mainland China or into Chinese homes. BBC World News was only available in international hotels and diplomatic compounds.

(With inputs from agencies)

### WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE

Chinese authorities have decided to take this course of action. The BBC is the world's most trusted international news broadcaster and reports on stories from around the world fairly, impartially and without fear or favour,"

## Pakistan Approves Chinese Cansinobio Covid-19 Vaccine For Emergency Use



**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan has approved China's CanSinoBio COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, Health Minister Faisal Sultan said on Friday.

"Yes, Correct," Sultan texted Reuters after being asked to confirm that the country's Drug Regulation Authority had met

and approved the vaccine.

CanSinoBio last week released interim efficacy results of a multi-country trial, which included Pakistan, showing 65.7% efficacy in preventing symptomatic coronavirus cases and a 90.98% success rate in stopping severe infections. — Reuters

### YES, CORRECT," SULTAN TEXTED

Reuters after being asked to confirm that the country's Drug Regulation Authority had met and approved the vaccine.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Sisters Of Freed Saudi Activist Al-Hathloul Demand 'Real Justice'



The sisters of prominent Saudi women's rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul have said they want real justice for her, and the lifting of a travel ban, a day after she was released from prison on a suspended sentence.

Loujain, 31, who has campaigned for women's right to drive and to end Saudi Arabia's male guardianship system, was released on Wednesday but remains forbidden to leave the country for five years. She spent nearly three years behind bars in a case that drew international condemnation. Rights groups and her family say Loujain was subjected in prison to electric shocks, waterboarding, flogging and sexual assault – accusations Saudi Arabia denies. "What we want now is real justice," Lina al-Hathloul told an on-line news conference on Thursday, speaking from Brussels. "That Loujain is completely, unconditionally free." She said her sister would fight the travel ban, and that their parents were also unable to leave the country. Another sister, Alia, said Loujain was now at the home of their parents, who were overjoyed to have her back. The first thing Loujain did after speaking to her siblings, they said, was to go to the supermarket for ice cream. Lina tweeted a picture of Loujain on Wednesday, smiling but thinner than before, with a new grey streak in her hair.

The sisters said she had lost weight from the hunger strikes she had staged to protest against her prison conditions. "She's very strong," said Alia, who also lives in Brussels. "I'm so proud of her ability to keep high hopes, to be very positive and to say 'OK, I went through horrible things – but life continues.'" Loujain was arrested in March 2018 in the United Arab Emirates, where she was studying, and flown back to Saudi Arabia against her will. She was one of at least a dozen women's rights activists who were arrested as Saudi Arabia ended a ban on women driving cars, at least two of whom are still in prison, human rights sources said.

### Allegations of torture

She was given a sentence of five years and eight months last December under broad cybercrime and "terrorism" laws, for activities including calling for an end to male guardianship and communicating with global rights groups, activists, foreign diplomats and international media. UN rights experts said the charges were spurious. Loujain served most of the custodial half of her sentence, which is suspended for a further two years and 10 months. "She is very determined to use all means that exist within the legal framework in Saudi Arabia ... in order to obtain her rights," Alia said. "She was tortured and she cannot forget this very dramatic period in her life." Loujain told her siblings she had not initially mentioned the torture during phone calls from prison because guards had held an "electroshock device" to her ear and threatened to use it if she mentioned her treatment.

## 100-Car Pileup On US Highway Leaves 3 Dead

At least three people are dead and several dozen injured, some critically, following a devastating 100-plus car pileup on Interstate 35 West in Fort Worth on Thursday morning. Freezing rain and drizzle are probably to blame, with slick roadways posing a serious danger to travel. The Fort Worth Fire Department described the accident as a mass casualty incident, meaning local first responders were overwhelmed by the response needed to treat the number of those injured.

All northbound lanes of the highway were closed to traffic as crews responded to the accident, with reports of multiple people trapped and concerns of hypothermia if victims are not removed from the vehicles quickly. The accident occurred around 6 a.m.

Local media outlets confirmed that at least 100 vehicles, including more than a dozen semi tractor-trailers, were involved in the crash.

Police opened a reunification meeting point at the Riverside Community Center in Fort Worth. Horrific video posted to social media showed mangled vehicles piled atop one another, with some left as unrecognizable heaps of twisted metal. Some vehicles were facing each other head-on, indicating probable spinouts in the slick conditions leading up to the crash.

## Tornado Throws Cars Into Air, Rips Apart Buildings

**ISTANBUL:** A tornado ripped through a port area in Turkey's western coastal province of Izmir overnight, flinging vehicles into the air, damaging buildings, toppling a crane and leaving 16 people injured, Turkish officials said on Friday. A rarity in Turkey, the tornado capsized boats, uprooted trees and sent debris from buildings across parts of the Aegean tourist resort of Cesme, Ihlas news agency drone footage showed. "In the space of just 20 seconds there was a great misfortune. We see a very sad picture. Many roofs have been blown off, vehicles lifted up and smashed to the ground. It's unbelievable," Izmir Mayor Tunc Soyer told reporters as he surveyed the damage.



## BJP Govt Has No Clarity On Elections, Statehood: CPI(M)



**SRINAGAR:** The vague statements given by the BJP leaders from time to time over holding much awaited assembly elections and restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is deepening political uncertainty in the region further as it seems the Central government has no clarity on the issues, CPI (M) said Friday.

Assembly elections in J&K have been due since 2018 when the last Assembly was dissolved by then Governor in November 2018. Though Parliament elections in J&K were held in April-May 2019 with the rest of the country "security reasons" were given for deferring Assembly polls then, Ghulam Nabi Malik Secretary CPI(M) said on Friday.

Barring the BJP, all the political parties in J&K had urged upon the Election Commission in early 2019 to hold Parliament and Assembly elections simul-

taneously in J&K, but to no avail. And after the abrogation of special status of J&K under Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories in August 2019, the BJP leadership has been delaying the Assembly polls on one or the other pretext.

"Sometimes we hear a statement from a BJP leader that statehood will be restored and next moment something else is being said by another saffron leader over the issue. Different leaders give statements in different directions, but nobody knows what the real game plan of the BJP government is", he said.

"Even last August during his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that they were committed to holding assembly elections in J&K once the delimitation exercise is complete", he said.

"It is high time that the Central government comes up with a time-frame and let the people know when the delimitation exercise will be completed and when the Assembly polls are held. Giving vague statements over such an important issue doesn't augur well for democracy", CPI (M) said.

## Man Gets Trapped In Saw Mill In Budgam, Dies

**Budgam:** A-32 year old man, who was working in a saw mill, was killed on Friday after he got trapped in the machine in Lalpora Beerwah area of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Sources said that one Hilal Ahmad Khan, a resident of Lalpora Beerwah got trapped in the

machine while working. Sources said that Khan was immediately shifted to a nearby health center, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Meanwhile, Police have taken the cognizance of the incident and started a probe.

## KU Hostel Reopening: Students In Distress As Authorities Demand Mess Fee Again



**SRINAGAR:** The hostel authorities at University of Kashmir have sparked a controversy again by demanding a mess fee from students who have already paid it once.

With university reopening partially for offline classes, the students staying at the hostels are in distress as they are being demanded a mess fee again by the hostel authorities.

According to Kashmir University students guild the students availing hostel facility have already paid the fee and have some amount in their mess fee accounts but the authorities are saying they will refund the amount later but at present the students will have to pay again the mess fee, which according to the students is totally unfair and utter injustice with them.

One of the students living in one of the four girl's hostels said "why can't they utilize the funds

already paid by the students?" Pertinently the university was shut for all the classwork and hostels were closed as well with the onset of Covid-19. As such students who could not reside in the hostels during the period had earlier demanded for the refund of the hostel fee, to which the authorities had replied that they will have to sort out how much time a student has stayed at the hostel before taking the demand into consideration".

"It was all verbally from the provost and there hasn't been anything worked out on the ground and they are yet to refund our fee", said another student.

According to the Registrar Kashmir University Dr Nissar the mess fee will be adjusted if any student's has paid it already, I'll pass the necessary directions to hostel authorities tomorrow. (KDC)

## Kashmir's 83% Healthcare Workers Opt Out Of Covid-19 Vaccine: DAK

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday said most of the doctors, nurses and paramedical staff in Kashmir are opting out of Covid-19 vaccine.

"More than 80 percent of the healthcare workers have turned down the vaccine," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"Out of 7,000 healthcare workers at Government Medical College Srinagar and its associated hospitals, only 1,167 (16.67 percent) have received the vaccine as on February 09. 5, 833 workers (83.33 percent) have opted out of the vaccine."

"Such a large percentage of medical personnel declining to take the vaccine is a major concern," he said.

"It is a troubling development, especially since healthcare workers are at higher risk of contracting the virus and their sickness would mean disruption of healthcare delivery system."

"Medical staff would imperil patients by snubbing Covid-19 shots," DAK President said.



KO File Photo: Abid Bhat

"Unvaccinated staff have the potential to transmit the disease to patients who are vulnerable to Covid related complications and death."

He said the most frequent explanation for hesitancy is mistrust and misinformation.

Other reason for reluctance is that most healthcare workers are young and they feel invincible.

Some simply want to wait as they are fearful of being first in line.

Those who have recovered from Covid-19 believe that they don't need the vaccine.

"Vaccine hesitancy in healthcare workers will have implications on vaccine coverage among the population," Dr Nisar said.

"The idea of vaccinating healthcare providers first is to help pave way for broader vaccine acceptance."

"But if they are reluctant for the vaccine, we will be having a huge challenge in convincing the general population to take the vaccine," he said.

"Vaccine confidence among healthcare workers is vital in promoting public vaccine confidence."

"We have a lot more to do to get the healthcare workers to take the vaccine. Simply making it available is not enough - we have to make a more precise and targeted approach to overcome hesitancy among them," said Dr Nisar.

## Damaged Portion Of Highway Near Ramban Repaired: NHAI

**Traffic To Remain One-Way For Some Time As Area Is Prone To Landslides: Adgp Traffic**

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) Friday said that the Bailey Bridge set up at Kela Morh in Ramban district has been de-launched as the damaged portion of the highway stands repaired fully and that the traffic will ply normally on the highway from Saturday onwards.

"The retaining wall of the bridge which had collapsed on January 9 is all set to be

thrown open for traffic as the same stands are repaired fully. The Bailey bridge which was launched as an alternate arrangement is being de-launched now," Project Director NHAI Purshotam Kumar said.

ADGP Traffic P Namgyal said that that after the collapse of retaining wall of bridge at Kela Morh in district Ramban, as an interim relief for restoring the connectivity to Kashmir, Bailey Bridge was launched on the highway by the NHAI in coordination with BRO.

"Since the area is landslide and shooting stone prone area, for some time traffic will be only one way for heavy vehicles", he said.

NHAI had roped in BRO to launch Bailey Bridge which was completed in record 60 hours to end the miseries of commuters traveling on Srinagar-Jammu national highway and that same bridge was used to ensure essential supplies to the Valley.

--With inputs from KNO

## Apni Party's Stand Vindicated As PAGD Splits Into Pieces: Beigh

**JAMMU:** Apni Party Spokesperson Javed Hassan Baig has said that the split in Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration has exposed the lack of sincerity and seriousness among alliance partners who are now openly bashing against each other.

"PAGD was formed with promise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir that they have united for a common cause to get back what had been taken away from us. They had also assured a white paper within a month but have failed to do so. Now Apni Party will come up with white paper exposing their misdeeds and double standards adopted since 1931," Baig observed.

"They had also promised a roadmap to get Article 370 and Article 35A restored. However, the split in the PAGD has become wide and open in public exposing their falsehood," Baig said.

To befool the people of Jammu, Baig said, President of PAGD

Dr Farooq Abdullah and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti came to Jammu saying they were on the mission to unite the people of Jammu and Kashmir for a larger cause and at the same time, Omar Abdullah, Ghulam Nabi Hanjura and others went to Kargil pledging to reunite Kargil-Ladakh with the J&K.

"All these political exercises were done by the PAGD leadership to ensure that they continue to enjoy SSG security, Govt. accommodations and VIP treatment, but within the alliance they were not able to justify their actions," said Baig adding that PDP senior leader Muzaffar Beigh also raised alarm noticing that PDP was neglected with regard to the mandate distribution during recently concluded DDC elections.

He, however, said Mehbooba Mufti responded to Beigh's claims by snubbing the voices demanding fair treatment within the alliance. Baig also took a dig at the way People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone left the PAGD.

"It has again exposed their double standard. During DDC elections, they told people to vote for them so that they can get back the special status and now, they have turned their back on their claims. A political party has played emotional politics with the people of Jammu and Kashmir since 1931. The Apni Party will not allow them to play with the sentiments of people anymore," said Baig.

"They did nothing for the people of Kashmir where they got votes and enjoyed power for a long time. They only exploited the people of Kashmir," he said and accused the National Conference and PDP of double speech.

"They say one thing in Jammu, another in Kashmir and quite opposite in Delhi. It was due to such political parties and leaders that J&K has lost its special status. They change their colours as per the situations," he accused the leaders and sought an apology from the PAGD leaders who have misled the people of Kashmir with false promises.

## Public Service Proud Legacy Of J&K Police: LG

'Along With Eradicating Terrorism From J&K, Police Is Entrusted With Responsibility Of Earning Trust Of Common People'

**UDHAMPUR:** Public service and sacrifice is the proud legacy of Jammu and Kashmir Police. The feeling that a common man should feel safe and secure and live his life without any fear is in the DNA of JKP.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks during his address at the Attestation cum Passing-Out Parade of Deputy Superintendents of Police (Dy.SSP) (Prob.), 13th Batch and Probationary Sub-Inspectors (PSIs), 24th Batch at SKPA Udhampur.

A total of three DySSPs (Prob.) and 583 PSIs, including 553 males and 30 females completed their rigorous training today at SKPA. Oath

passion and love for the motherland", said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor asked the young officers of Jammu & Kashmir Police that effectively tackling new challenges like Cyber Crime and Radicalization would prove to be a benchmark of your strength and ability.

Speaking on the educational background of the young officers who were part of the passing out parade today, the Lt Governor observed that many candidates are Post graduate in Computer applications, more than 50 are engineers and more than 60 B-Tech are graduates and some are having Law degrees. It itself shows the high level of



was administered to the passing out cadets for performing their duties with dedication and honesty.

At the outset, the Lt Governor took the Rashtriya Salute and inspected the Parade, besides taking the salute at an impressive March Past by Men and Women contingents.

While speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated the passing out cadets, who have successfully completed their training, asked them to remember what they have been taught during their training days by the instructors, and perform their duties with sincerity and dedication after moving out from the SKPA, Udhampur.

Now, you have become active members of the police force, and it is your primary role to ensure the law and order in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Along with eradicating terrorism from J&K, you are entrusted with the responsibility of earning the trust of common people. Honesty, integrity, hardwork, dedication will help you in discharging your duties efficiently", the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor appreciated the passing out cadets for discharging COVID-19 protocol duties, besides great work in ensuring smooth conduct of DDC and Panchayat elections during their training period.

Lauding the JKP personnel for doing commendable job in ensuring safe and secure environment for the people of J&K, the Lt Governor observed that securing National Unity & Integrity through counter insurgency operations; maintaining peace, law and order is not merely a duty but a strong resolve for Jammu and Kashmir Police Personnel. The J&K Government is committed to supporting the Jammu and Kashmir Police in each and every possible way, he added.

Many times, security experts talk about "Last Man at the Post". They are those officers and constables of the police who are posted at the front-line for maintaining law and order, their work is not just limited to controlling crime of an area, but also to share good and difficult times with the people, the Lt Governor observed.

"Police is required everywhere, in quarrels of neighbours, at schools, markets, to open roads of the city, in Villages, during festivals, and in counter insurgency. Police is always there to serve people facing traditional as well as modern challenges. Police is there to protect the harmony in the society along with securing unity and integrity of the nation. I salute your

capability in our Police force for facing challenging circumstances, he added.

From arms training, counter insurgency tactics to drug trafficking and Cyber crimes, rigorous training makes the Jammu Kashmir Police an organic entity to adopt innovative methods to fight new crimes, ensure law & order and also protect the heart and soul of our beautiful society, the Lt Governor maintained.

Terming Cybercrime as a big threat in recent times, the Lt Governor said that criminal activities in the virtual world is a new generation warfare which needs effective monitoring and quick response.

Social media is being used to generate social conflict, the only purpose of which is spreading sophisticated propaganda and disrupting peace, he added.

Tackling such organized apparatus and network is very crucial for peaceful social order. I believe that to fight this gang of global networks, our young officers with Communication and Technology background will be a multiplier force, observed the Lt Governor.

Challenges will keep changing with time. From basic policing to dark web crime, from regular crimes to forensics, the area of your work will slowly expand. The Biggest deterrent to crime is effective investigation and conviction of criminals. The way in which investigation is done in Jammu and Kashmir is commendable, the Lt Governor said.

During his address, Sh. Dilbag Singh, DGP extended his best wishes to all the newly pass-out trainees and expressed confidence that the recruits would live up to the expectations of the nation.

He impressed upon them to work with honesty and dedication to come up to the expectations of people and the police organization. He added that it is a proud day for all those to get into the portals of the service, which they have joined and also lauded the efforts put in by Director SKPA and his team of dedicated instructors for molding and shaping the passing out trainees.

Dr. S.D Singh, Director, SKPA, in his welcome address, gave the details of various components of training imparted to the passing out trainee officers. He congratulated the trainee officers on their successful completion of the tough training and wished them a bright service career in their field work.

The primary purpose of the Police Academy is to prepare leaders who will lead and command the force with courage, dedication and strong sense of service to the people, he added.

### NEWS MAKERS

## IUST Holds 7Th Meeting Of The Academic Council

**AWANTIPORA:** Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) holds the 7th Meeting of Academic Council here on Thursday. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chancellor IUST Prof. Mushtaq A. Siddiqi. Prof. Jahar Saha, Prof. Manju Jaidka, Prof. M M S Beg, Prof. Moin Uddin, Prof. S K Koul and Prof. Rakesh Sehgal attended the meeting through virtual mode. Prof. Ashok Kumar, Deans of various schools of IUST, Registrar and other members of the council attended the meeting in person. The Council before starting the formal proceeding observed two minutes silence in remembrance of Prof. Mushtaq A Qureshi, Former Dean Academic Affairs IUST and Hassina Wani, Principal Nursing College IUST who left for heavenly abode in 2020-21. Thereafter the proceedings began. Prof. Siddiqi while welcoming the members informed them about the progress made by the University on the academic as well as on the infrastructural front and gave a detailed account of the academic and other allied achievements through a PowerPoint presentation. After briefing the members about the University and its functioning, the agenda items were discussed, and some important decisions were taken. The members placed on record their appreciation for the efforts and contribution of entire IUST fraternity for the growth and development of the University. The members lauded the efforts of the university in developing the state-of-the-art infrastructure, introduction of new academic programmes, strengthening of research in order to achieve highest standards of research and learning through innovations. The members expressed hope that the University shall continue to grow in future as well.

## DC Bla Convenes Meeting For Finalisation Of Plan Under PMGSY-III

**BARAMULLA:** In taking forward the priority of UT administration in adopting participatory and de-centralised approach in real sense, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today convened the meeting of DDC members and BDC Chairpersons of the district for consultation on upgradation of roads under PMGSY-III. At the outset of the meeting, the DDC members and the BDC Chairpersons appraised their developmental aspirations pertaining to their respective jurisdictions. They also gave their valuable suggestions and feedbacks with regard to their developmental concerns. The DC gave a patient hearing and assured full cooperation and support on the part of District administration to Panchayat bodies. He highlighted their role in development pursuits and said that they constitute important stakeholders in the administrative setup who are mandated to ensure socio-economic development at the grass root level. Moreover, DC urged upon them to play a proactive and constructive role at the ground level for the larger benefit of the society. A threadbare deliberation on PMGSY plan was held wherein the concerned stakeholders were asked to put forth their recommendations for its necessary approval. During the meeting, Executive Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla gave a detailed power point presentation wherein he presented salient features of the plan.

## CUKSstarts SMS Service

**GANDERBAL:** Central Library of the Central University of Kashmir (CUK) today started SMS alert service for the library users in all the campuses of the varsity here. The service was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir. The newly launched service would enable the users to get instant details about the books issued. "The service will keep the library users abreast about the library transactions. When a book is issued to a library user, he/she will receive an SMS on registered mobile phones intimating about the transaction in his/her library account which will also include information about the due date of the book issued", Dr. Tariq Ahmad Shah said.

## IGP Kashmir Reviews Security Scenario

**SRINAGAR:** Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar chaired a detailed security review meeting at PCR Kashmir, senior officers of Police and CAPF attended the meeting on Friday. In a statement police said, "the meeting was attended by IG CRPF Srinagar Ms Charu Sinha, IG CRPF Kashmir Ops Sector Deepak Ratan, DIG CKR, DIG BSF, DIG CRPF South Srinagar, DIG CRPF North Srinagar, DIG SSB Special Ops, SSP Srinagar and the meeting was virtually attended by DIG SKR, DIG NKR, DIGs CRPF Awantipora, Anantnag, Baramulla and all District SSSPs of Kashmir Zone." "While interacting with the officers, IGP Kashmir discussed the initiatives taken for the maintenance of law and order besides anti-terrorist operations in the valley. He further stressed on the officers to ensure better synergy and coordination among different security agencies at the ground level," statement said.

## ADC Ananatnag Receives First Jab

**ANANTNAG:** The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh today received the first shot of Covid-19 vaccination at SDH Shangus while leading a group of 30 officials for vaccination drive. Speaking on the occasion, the ADC said that over 6000 health and front line officials stand already vaccinated in the district. He said the administration has established 45 cold chain centers where the target groups are administered vaccination through well trained vaccinators on a regular basis. He said the officials of Revenue, Police and Municipalities, who have been registered on CO-WIN portal, are being vaccinated in the first phase. He added that a total of 22000 such officials stand registered on the portal that shall undergo vaccination within next 10 days.



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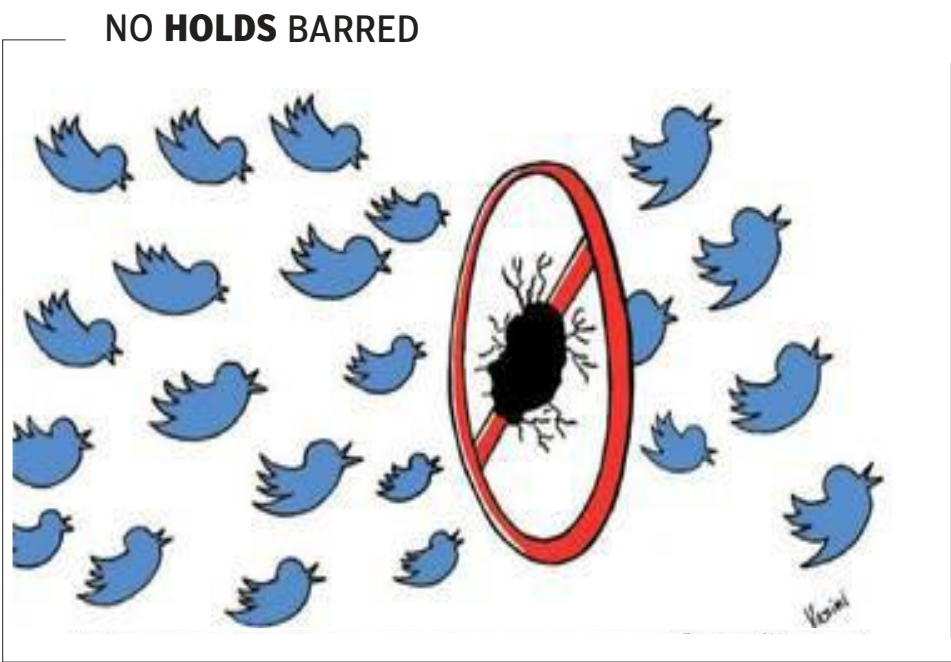
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“The notion of “debt-trap diplomacy” casts China as a conniving creditor and countries such as Sri Lanka as its credulous victims. On a closer look, however, the situation is far more complex. China’s march outward, like its domestic development, is probing and experimental, a learning process marked by frequent adjustment.

# "Four legs good, Two legs bad"

R. Raj Rao

“It can’t be ‘my ideology good, your ideology bad’, just as in George Orwell’s Animal Farm, the sheep with their herd mentality say, ‘four legs good, two legs bad’. Orwell purposely gives this line to the sheep that blindly follow.

Two expressions, both containing the word ‘stone’, come to mind. The first is the Biblical phrase “casting the first stone”. In John 8:7, Jesus Christ says: “He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone.” Then, there is the idiomatic phrase those who live in glass houses must not throw stones.

In Rajya Sabha last week, FDI was redefined to mean Foreign Destructive Ideology. Presumably, it was a response to the recent pro-farmer tweets by Greta Thunberg, Rihanna and Meera Harris. In all likelihood, they also intended the phrase to be a fitting reply to the governments of the UK and Canada, which have adversely commented on India’s farmer agitation.

Now India, it seems to me, both lives in glass houses and nor is it without sin. Hence, we must beware of throwing stones at others, and not be touchy when stones are hurled at us.

One may begin with the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971, and ask if that amounted to meddling, at least from Pakistan’s point of view. For, the formation of Bangladesh destroyed the erstwhile East Pakistan once and for all.

Closer to our own times, there are a number of examples when the government declares its stand on various issues of other countries which should have global relevance. Don’t we habitually comment on Pakistan’s alleged discrimination of the people of Baluchistan? Last year, didn’t we cacophonously join the rest of the world in insinuating that it was China’s wet markets

in Wuhan that were responsible for the spread of the coronavirus? Recently, didn’t we interfere in France’s internal affairs when Prime Minister Modi said that he stood with President Macron in upholding freedom of expression, even as a Chechnyan schoolboy shot his

United Nations exists. Sovereignty cannot be an excuse for letting anything pass, except in a banana republic. Certainly not in a country that calls itself the world’s largest democracy!

The other phrase that was disparagingly used in Rajya Sabha was andolan

put out by celebrities like Akshay Kumar, Sachin Tendulkar and even Lata Mangeshkar, presently in her nineties, in response to the tweets of Greta Thunberg and Rihanna, made them out to be stooges of the establishment. One wondered whether the tweets were really theirs, or they were merely compelled to lend their names to pro-government tweets composed by others.

What is disliked and being called out about protests and protestors is that they take an ideological stand. But then so does the ruling party at the centre and even the opposition. But it can’t be ‘my ideology good, your ideology bad’, just as in George Orwell’s Animal Farm, the sheep with their herd mentality say, ‘four legs good, two legs bad’. Orwell purposely gives this line to the sheep that blindly follow.

My interpretation of the pejorative phrase andolan jeevi is that stigmatised protest and leaves little to no space for different views.

My education, I’m afraid, does not permit me to comply with this.



school teacher dead?

In the global world in which we live, nations have a right to comment on other nations if they think the civil rights of human beings are at stake. For after all, human welfare is more important than man-made boundaries. As the Hindi film song goes, sarhad insaan ke liye hai/ zara socho kya paya tumne aur maine insaan hoke. That is why a watchdog organization such as the

jeevi. This leaned towards a criticism of the idea of protest, whether by lawyers or students or labourers; the three categories of persons that were cited as examples.

Protest is the soul of democracy. In denouncing it, we alter the essence of a democracy. A democracy needs dissenters to survive, and not merely yes-men and henchmen and stooges. A ban on dissent is the ideal recipe for a nation of slaves. As such, the counter-tweets

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

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

# The Chinese ‘Debt Trap’ Is a Myth

DEBORAH BRAUTIGAM and MEG RITHMIRE

China, we are told, inveigles poorer countries into taking out loan after loan to build expensive infrastructure that they can’t afford and that will yield few benefits, all with the end goal of Beijing eventually taking control of these assets from its struggling borrowers. As states around the world pile on debt to combat the coronavirus pandemic and bolster flagging economies, fears of such possible seizures have only amplified.

Seen this way, China’s internationalization—as laid out in programs such as the Belt and Road Initiative—is not simply a pursuit of geopolitical influence but also, in some tellings, a weapon. Once a country is weighed down by Chinese loans, like a hapless gambler who borrows from the Mafia, it is Beijing’s puppet and in danger of losing a limb.

The prime example of this is the Sri Lankan port of Hambantota. As the story goes, Beijing pushed Sri Lanka into borrowing money from Chinese banks to pay for the project, which had no prospect of commercial success. Onerous terms and feeble revenues eventually pushed Sri Lanka into default, at which point Beijing demanded the port as collateral, forcing the Sri Lankan government to surrender control to a Chinese firm.

The Trump administration pointed to Hambantota to warn of China’s strategic use of debt: In 2018, former Vice President Mike Pence called it “debt-trap diplomacy”—a phrase he used through the last days of the administration—and evidence of China’s military ambitions. Last year, erstwhile Attorney General William Barr raised the case to argue that Beijing is “loading poor countries up with debt, refusing to renegotiate terms, and then taking control of the infrastructure itself.”

As Michael Ondaatje, one of Sri Lanka’s greatest chroniclers, once said, “In Sri Lanka a well-told lie is worth a thousand facts.” And the debt-trap narrative is just that: a lie, and a powerful one.

Our research shows that Chinese banks are willing to restructure the terms of existing loans and have never actually seized an asset from any country, much less the port of Hambantota.

A Chinese company’s acquisition of a majority stake in the port was a cautionary tale, but it’s not the one we’ve often heard. With a new administration in Washington, the truth about the widely, perhaps willfully, misunderstood case of Hambantota Port is long overdue.

The city of Hambantota lies at the southern tip of Sri Lanka, a few nautical miles from the busy Indian Ocean shipping lane that accounts for nearly all of the ocean-borne trade between Asia and Europe, and more than 80 percent of ocean-borne global trade. When a Chinese firm snagged the contract to build the city’s port, it was stepping into an ongoing Western competition, though one the United States had largely abandoned.

It was the Canadian International Development Agency—not China—that financed Canada’s leading engineering and construction firm, SNC-Lavalin, to carry out a feasibility study for the port. We obtained more than 1,000 pages of documents detailing this effort through a Freedom of Information Act request.

The Canadian project failed to move forward, mostly because of the vicissitudes of Sri Lankan politics. But the plan to build a port in Hambantota gained traction during the rule of the Rajapaksas—Mahinda Rajapaksa, who served as president from 2005 through 2015, and his brother Gotabaya, the current president and former minister of defense—who grew up in Hambantota. They promised to bring big ships to the region, a call that gained urgency after the devastating 2004 tsunami pulverized Sri Lanka’s coast and the local economy.

To look at a map of the Indian Ocean region at the time was to see opportunity and expanding middle classes everywhere. Families in India and across Africa were demanding more consumer goods from China. Countries such as Vietnam were growing rapidly and would need more natural resources. To justify its existence, the port in Hambantota would have to secure only a fraction of the cargo that went through Singapore, the world’s busiest transshipment port.

Armed with the Ramboll report, Sri Lanka’s government approached the United States and India; both countries said no. But a Chinese construction firm, China Harbor Group, had learned about

Colombo’s hopes, and lobbied hard for the project. China Eximbank agreed to fund it, and China Harbor won the contract.

This was in 2007, six years before Xi Jinping introduced the Belt and Road Initiative. Sri Lanka was still in the last, and bloodiest, phase of its long civil war, and the world was on the verge of a financial crisis. The details are important: China Eximbank offered a \$307 million, 15-year commercial loan with a four-year grace period, offering Sri Lanka a choice between a 6.3 percent fixed interest rate or one that would rise or fall depending on LIBOR, a floating rate. Colombo chose the former, conscious that global interest

As Michael Ondaatje, one of Sri Lanka’s greatest chroniclers, once said, “In Sri Lanka a well-told lie is worth a thousand facts.” And the debt-trap narrative is just that: a lie, and a powerful one.

rates were trending higher during the negotiations and hoping to lock in what it thought would be favorable terms. Phase I of the port project was completed on schedule within three years.

For a conflict-torn country that struggled to generate tax revenue, the terms of the loan seemed reasonable.

Finally, in 2009, after decades of violence, Sri Lanka’s civil war came to an end. Buoyed by the victory, the government embarked on a debt-financed push to build and improve the country’s infrastructure. Annual economic growth rates climbed to 6 percent, but Sri Lanka’s debt burden soared as well.

In Hambantota, instead of waiting for phase 1 of the port to generate revenue as the Ramboll team had recommended, Mahinda Rajapaksa pushed ahead with phase 2, transforming Hambantota into a container port. In 2012, Sri Lanka bor-

rowed another \$757 million from China Eximbank, this time at a reduced, post-financial-crisis interest rate of 2 percent. Rajapaksa took the liberty of naming the port after himself.

By 2014, Hambantota was losing money. Realizing that they needed more experienced operators, the SLP signed an agreement with China Harbor and China Merchants Group to have them jointly develop and operate the new port for 35 years.

Rajapaksa called a surprise election for January 2015 and in the final months of the campaign, his own health minister, Maithripala Sirisena, decided to challenge him. Like opposition candidates in Malaysia, the Maldives, and Zambia, the incumbent’s financial relations with China and allegations of corruption made for potent campaign fodder. To the country’s shock, and perhaps his own, Sirisena won.

Steep payments on international sovereign bonds, which comprised nearly 40 percent of the country’s external debt, put Sirisena’s government in dire fiscal straits almost immediately. When Sirisena took office, Sri Lanka owed more to Japan, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank than to China. Of the \$4.5 billion in debt service Sri Lanka would pay in 2017, only 5 percent was because of Hambantota. The Central Bank governors under both Rajapaksa and Sirisena do not agree on much, but they both told us that Hambantota, and Chinese finance in general, was not the source of the country’s financial distress.

There was also never a default. Colombo arranged a bailout from the International Monetary Fund, and decided to raise much-needed dollars by leasing out the underperforming Hambantota Port to an experienced company—just as the Canadians had recommended.

Before the port episode, “Sri Lanka could sink into the Indian Ocean and most of the Western world wouldn’t notice,” Subhashini Abeyasinghe, research director at Verité Research, an independent Colombo-based think tank, told us. Suddenly, the island nation featured prominently in foreign-policy speeches in Washington. Pence voiced worry that Hambantota could become a “forward military base” for China.

Yet Hambantota’s location is strategic only from a business perspective.

The notion of “debt-trap diplomacy” casts China as a conniving creditor and countries such as Sri Lanka as its credulous victims. On a closer look, however, the situation is far more complex. China’s march outward, like its domestic development, is probing and experimental, a learning process marked by frequent adjustment. After the construction of the port in Hambantota, for example, Chinese firms and banks learned that strongmen fall and that they’d better have strategies for dealing with political risk. They’re now developing these strategies, getting better at discerning business opportunities and withdrawing where they know they can’t win. Still, American leaders and thinkers from both sides of the aisle give speeches about China’s “modern-day colonialism.”

Chinese firms are not the only companies to benefit from Chinese-financed projects. Perhaps no country was more alarmed by Hambantota than India, the regional giant that several times rebuffed Sri Lanka’s appeals for investment, aid, and equity partnerships. Yet an Indian-led business, Meghraj, joined the U.K.-based engineering firm Atkins Limited in an international consortium to write the long-term plan for Hambantota Port and for the development of a new business zone. The French firms Bolloré and CMA-CGM have partnered with China Merchants and China Harbor in port developments in Nigeria, Cameroon, and elsewhere.

The other side of the debt-trap myth involves debtor countries. Places such as Sri Lanka—or, for that matter, Kenya, Zambia, or Malaysia—are no stranger to geopolitical games. And they’re irked by American views that they’ve been so easily swindled. As one Malaysian politician remarked to us, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss how Chinese finance featured in that country’s political drama, “Can’t the U.S. State Department tell the difference between campaign rhetoric that our opponents are slaves to China and actually being slaves to China?”

The events that led to a Chinese company’s acquisition of a majority stake in a Sri Lankan port reveal a great deal about how our world is changing. China and other countries are becoming more sophisticated in bargaining with one another. And it would be a shame if the U.S. fails to learn alongside them.

The Atlantic





# Heart Attacks in Young

DR ARIF MAGHRIBI KHAN

**Steer clear of Google searches or local chemist's suggestions on whether to take medicine or not, they're often off the mark and say, "Ma khey Dawa, aadat gassi" / "do not take medicine as you get addicted to it". I have seen even highly educated people refusing to take life saving medicines.**

**I**t is never too young to start caring for your heart". So, to make it easy for all to understand, I shall begin by talking about the key risk factors.

Key risk factors of having a heart attack at a young age include:

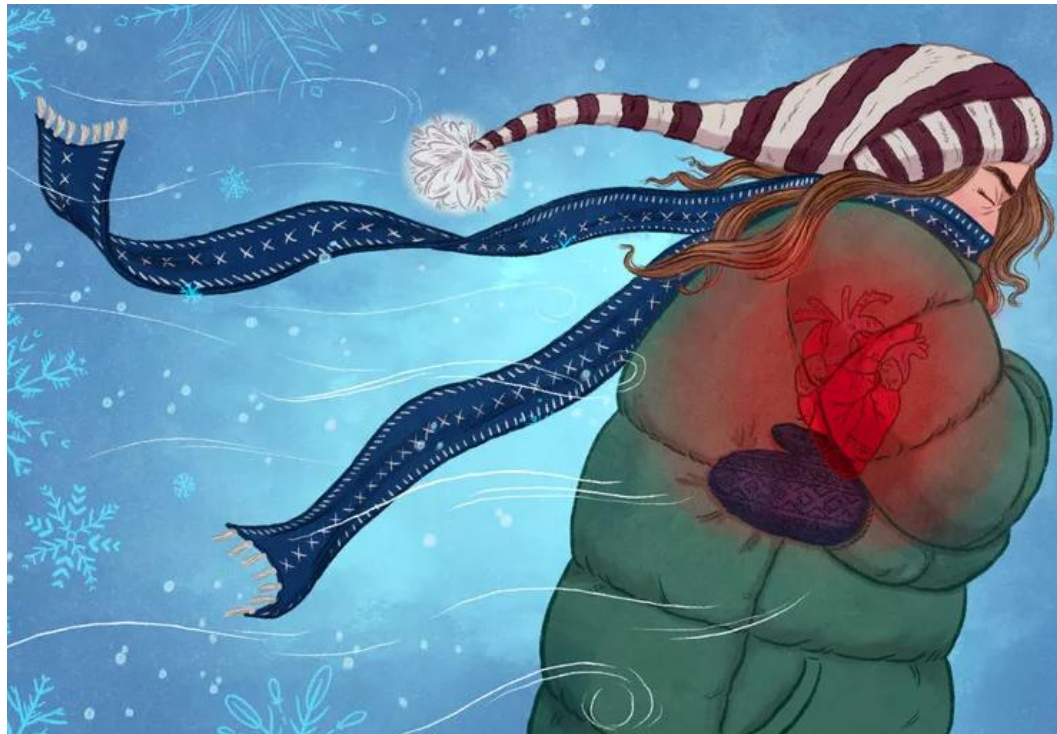
- Substance abuse or alcohol use
- Smoking
- High blood pressure—uncontrolled – It is quite common to check blood pressure of children in Europe from 10 years onwards in schools, then colleges and places of work. No student of any class will be able to join the new class before producing a medical certificate in which blood pressure levels are mentioned along with diabetes and lipid profile. Same holds true for employees. Let's do whatever we can that is under our control. This can be replicated easily in Kashmir with the help of government hospitals and NGOs.

- High cholesterol levels
- Lack of physical activity
- Diabetes
- Childhood Obesity (must never be overlooked)
- Stress which is not treated.

If you have any of the above disorders, do not fret or think you will die. But do listen to your cardiologist or endocrinologist. However, steer clear of Google searches or local chemist's suggestions on whether to take medicine or not, they're often off the mark and say, "Ma khey Dawa, aadat gassi" / "do not take medicine as you get addicted to it". I have seen even highly educated people refusing to take life saving medicines.

One in three children in Kashmir is either overweight or obese, a study [2017] by SK Institute of Medical Sciences titled 'Prevalence of obesity and over weight in school children in Kashmir', has revealed. The study that measured weight of over 9000 school children (between 5-15 years of age) across Kashmir's schools has stated that 34.5% boys and 38.4% girls were overweight and obese. If our children are not healthy, how can they become healthy adults?

It would be a ridiculous and a wrong statement to make if I were to say that all heart attacks are caused by overdose of drugs in Kashmir. However, we need to know about menace of drug abuse in Kashmir. A study conducted by Srinagar based Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (IM-HANS) in a Drug De-addiction centre in Srinagar, found that over two-third of patients in the study had started substance abuse in the age group of 11-20 years. The most common substances of abuse identified included nicotine (94.4%), medicinal opioids (65.7%), cannabis (63.6%), benzodiazepines (45.5%), other prescription medications (43.4%), alcohol (32.5%), inhalants (11.1%), and cocaine



(7.5%). The study revealed that poly-substance abuse was found in 91.9% of the studied patients. Inhalant use was seen predominantly among adolescents (54.5%) whereas nicotine (50.2%), cannabis (49.2%), alcohol (51.1%), opioids (58.4%), and benzodiazepines (53.48%) were more predominant in the age group of 21 to 30 years.

Heroin blocks your body from getting pain messages and slows your heartbeat and breathing. If you overdose, you may stop breathing and die. Data tabled in Rajya Sabha shows that the problem of drug abuse is such that India sees 10 suicides related to drug abuse— and only one of them is from Punjab.

Dr JPS Sawhney, chairman, Department of Cardiology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital has said, Heart attacks take the maximum toll of human life all over the world. Heart disease is reportedly killing approximately 17 million people in the world, and a similar scene is seen in our country, where 3 million people die because of CVDs (cardio-vascular diseases), which include heart attack and stroke. About 14 lakh people are affected in the urban area and 16 lakh in the rural area.

On an average, Indians get a heart attack 8-10 years earlier than other ethnic groups. The most unfortunate fact is that 40 percent of people in our country who get heart attacks are under the age

of 55. It has been observed that 50 per cent of the heart patients have their first episode or first presentation as heart attack and 50 per cent will get a warning signal of chest pain (angina) followed by a heart attack.

Now, doctors in India are seeing parents bringing their children, even as young as 16 with symptoms of cardiovascular diseases. A 'First attack survey' done in the State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences found that 35% of the 2,200 patients registered with the first cardiac event in their lifetime were aged less than 35. A recent study by Harvard says "In a study of 3,564 men, the Framingham Heart Study evaluated the cardiac impact of six major risk factors: high total cholesterol, low HDL ("good") cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and smoking. A man who is free of all six has a remarkably low 5% risk of developing cardiovascular disease by age 95. In contrast, the risk for a man with two or more risk factors is 69%. In addition, a risk-free man can expect to enjoy 11 more years of life than a man with two or more risk factors.

*The author can be mailed at arifmaghrabi@yahoo.com*

## Heart attacks more frequent in colder weather

GARRY JENNINGS

**H**eat attacks happen more frequently in winter, a major Swedish study has confirmed.

Published today in JAMA Cardiology the research found the incidence of heart attacks in a sample of more than one-quarter of a million people increased with lower air temperature, lower atmospheric air pressure, higher wind velocity and shorter sunshine duration.

They saw the most pronounced association with air temperature. An increase in 7.4 was associated with a 2.8% reduction of heart attack risk.

Doctors have long acknowledged heart attacks are more likely to occur in cold weather. Every medical student over the past five decades has seen medical artist Frank H Netter's classical illustration of a middle-aged man clutching his chest as he steps out of a warm building into a cold winter's night.

Not all heart attacks are typical but in the mind of Netter and his medical advisers of the time, there is nothing more typical than that.

It is well documented that heart attack rates rise soon after a major natural disasters such as an earthquake, volcanic eruption or tsunami. These probably bring forward the timing a heart attack that was going to happen anyway as there are slightly fewer heart attacks a few weeks later.

But natural disasters are of course unpredictable, so we can't prepare for them in the same way as some natural rhythms: night and day, summer or winter, wet or dry seasons. This is why research that confirms something we can plan for is a risk factor is important.

### Predicting heart attacks

Reasons for why someone is prone to a heart attack are clear. These are obvious risk factors such as high blood pressure, abnormal cholesterol, smoking or diabetes as well as unseen underlying genetic and environmental factors. But the reasons for the timing of heart attack are more difficult to understand.

Atherosclerosis, the underlying disease process leading to blockage of a coronary artery and heart attack, develops over many decades. There appears to be randomness to when thrombosis, the blood clot that forms in a vein or artery



and causes the final and sudden event, occurs. It can occur during sleep, emotional stress and extreme physical activity – but more commonly, it occurs when not much is happening at all.

Then there are other people with advanced coronary artery disease who have never had a heart attack. If we knew more about the short-term triggers, we could help people with coronary disease avoid some of them. And if we knew some of the longer-term influences on rates, we could tailor scarce resources in the emergency and health systems to be ready for peak periods.

### Why is winter riskier?

There is a clear association between cold and artery function (the vessels that deliver oxygenated blood from the heart to other parts of the body). This can be illustrated by a common physiology lab manoeuvre known as the cold pressor

**Doctors have long acknowledged heart attacks are more likely to occur in cold weather. Every medical student over the past five decades has seen medical artist Frank H Netter's classical illustration of a middle-aged man clutching his chest as he steps out of a warm building into a cold winter's night**

test. People are asked to put their forearm into iced water. Blood pressure rises immediately because arteries constrict, presumably to maintain core body temperature at normal levels.

Simple hydrodynamics tells us constriction is more profound and impacts more on the flow through a tube – in this case a coronary artery – at points of obstruction. In a few people with coronary disease the cold pressor test is enough to cause the artery to spasm and for flow to cease until the artery relaxes again.

But there are other factors that make heart attack more likely in winter than in summer. In many places, air pollution is more common, and evidence is accumulating that certain particles in the air are related to heart disease. Winter is also flu season, which makes people already at risk of heart disease more vulnerable.

And our life is very different in winter than in summer. Studies performed

by myself and my colleague Dr Gillian Deakin while she spent a year on a polar station in Antarctica demonstrated this. In winter it is always dark, and the weather prevents expeditioners doing much outside activity; they tend to put on weight and drink more alcohol.

Inevitably emotions are high when a disparate group is confined to a small area for a long time and away from their families and other everyday supports. Not surprisingly, their heart health was not the same as when they arrived. Blood pressure was higher and the metabolic pattern of their blood less healthy. This was remedied with a regular supervised exercise program.

In summer there was a general feeling of "joie de vivre" as expeditioners conducted most of their work activities for the year. These often involved long hikes, moving large items of equipment and other physically demanding tasks. More light and milder weather allowed more time for outside leisure activities too as they explored the extraordinary Antarctic landscape and fauna.

Their blood pressure and metabolic profile improved markedly. The same exercise program they had undertaken in winter did little to improve these further as they were already at peak or near peak fitness.

### What about heat?

This is an extreme example of what happens to many of us in temperate climates across the seasons and most smaller studies have reported a similar pattern to Sweden. Sudden variations in temperature also seem to be associated with heart attacks.

In Sweden and Antarctica there are very cold winters and much warmer summers. What about in the tropics where extreme heat is a defining climatic feature. A study in Pakistan also found a winter peak in admissions to coronary care units in winter. However, there was another peak in mid-summer when temperatures were highest.

So, by all means keep warm and comfortable in winter but get out and do something too. Look after your risk factors and see your doctor regularly for a heart check.

*By arrangements with the conversation*



# Bolder climate action could save millions of lives each year by 2040

## Agencies

Countries could save millions of lives annually by 2040 if they commit to bolder plans to cut planet-heating emissions and curb global warming in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change, researchers said on Tuesday.

A study published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal found policies to that end could, each year, save 5.86 million lives due to better diets, 1.18 million lives from cleaner air and 1.15 million lives through more walking and cycling by 2040.

In 2015, governments set a global goal of limiting average temperature rise to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times and set emissions reduction targets as a first step to getting there.

On Monday, however, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged countries to take bolder action ahead of November's COP26 UN climate conference and come up with stronger 2030 targets consistent with cutting emissions to net zero by 2050.

The new research highlighted how the potential health benefits of climate

action could give added impetus to countries to submit more ambitious national climate plans ahead of COP26.

The nine countries modeled in the study – the United States, China, Brazil, Germany, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, South Africa and Britain – represent half of the world's population and 70% of global emissions.

Six of them have yet to submit revised climate action plans, which were due in 2020 but put back by many countries as the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the climate summit for a year.

"Ahead of COP26, we'd like to see governments focus on health as one of the priorities in climate change policies," said lead author Ian Hamilton, executive director of The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change.

"There's good evidence to show that meeting the Paris Agreement commitments will be good for our health, and that these benefits accumulate to those individuals in the countries taking leadership," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. **SHORT-TERM WINS**

Using national and international data, the study analysed emissions generated by the energy, agriculture and

transport sectors, along with factors like national diets and lifestyles.

The researchers modeled the scenarios required for each country to meet the Paris accord, including changes like adopting cleaner energy and reducing car use, as well as to achieve global development goals such as zero hunger.

They found that changes towards "flexitarian" diets - with moderate amounts of animal-based foods and a high share of plant-based foods - offered the greatest health benefits as well as reducing carbon emissions.

For example, many deaths would be avoided by lower rates of non-communicable diseases such as obesity and heart disease, connected to excessive consumption of carbon-intensive red meat and processed foods, and lack of access to fruit and vegetables.

"Why wouldn't we prioritize investments that will save more lives near-term if they give us the same amount of carbon value?" said Aaron Bernstein, interim director of The Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Changing diets is a complex challenge for governments, he noted, but potential ways to do it include subsidizing healthier foods and putting a price on the emissions produced by more carbon-intensive foods that require a lot of natural resources.

Beef production, for instance, fuels greenhouse gas emissions as carbon-storing forests are cut down for pasture and cattle burp out methane.

A focus on health is one way to make climate action more personal and appealing, Bernstein added, instead of being framed as a cost now that will bring benefits for future generations.

"We have to make this issue relevant to today, and (talk about) improving the welfare, economic opportunities and health of people in a time frame that they can get their heads around," he said.

A separate study out on Tuesday found pollution from burning fossil fuels causes one in five premature deaths globally, totaling 8.7 million in 2018 and suggesting the health impacts of those emissions may be far higher than previously thought.

## Public Notice

The Date of Birth of my wards in school records has been wrongly written as

Name	Correct DOB	Wrong DOB
Aman Nazir Malik	05-10-2011	05-06-2012
Misbah Nazir	10-08-2012	10-02-2011

which needs immediate correction if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Reshi Baba Public School Gulgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. after that no objection shall be entertained.

Nazir Ahmad Malik  
F/o Aman Nazir & Misbah Nazir

FNT

## اطلاع عام

میں بذریعہ اشتہار ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کرتا ہوں کہ کچھ لوگوں نے

J K O 1 K - 0 7 3 2 J K O 1 L - 8 4 5 9 سینٹرو

اوپر 1136 JK01Q-13 خریدی ہیں۔ مگر ان گاڑیوں کی اوپر

ٹیپ ابھی تک میرے نام پر درج ہے۔ میں ان حضرات کو مطلع کرتا ہوں کہ

وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر میرے ساتھ رابطہ کریں۔ بصورت دیگر میں ان

کے خلاف قانونی کارروائی کروں گا اور جس کے ذمہ دار یہ حضرات از خود

ہوں گے۔

ریاض احمد خوشو ولد مرحوم محمد اسماعیل خوشو

ساکنہ مومن آباد، مالو لین نمبر 12 سرینگر

فون نمبر 9149440533, 9419057197

INF

## از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چندوسہ

عنوان: مضمون درخواست فتح زبیر محمد، ولد بشیر احمد گور بھندرا، برادر عطا گئی ST تحت SRO294

اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معارضہ مندرجہ عنوان اصدار میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹاری حلقہ سے رہبرٹ

بشمول مطلوبہ نقولات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے کہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل "سائل موضع چندوسہ کا سکونت دار

آدمی مبلغ 17000 روپے تک ہے۔

بشر احمد گور بھندرا

حزوری 50 سال

گھریلے کام 45

زیر تعلیم 20

زیر تعلیم 18

اے کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے

مرٹھلیک زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا

افخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے

اند چلیں کریں۔ معاذ گزرنے کے بعد کوئی

عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چندوسہ

عنوان: مضمون درخواست محمد رفیق گور کتانہ، ڈیڑہ باؤ، دھیل احمد و راجیہ احمد ساتھ چندوسہ

برادر عطا گئی ST تحت SRO294

اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معارضہ مندرجہ عنوان اصدار میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹاری حلقہ سے رہبرٹ

بشمول مطلوبہ نقولات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے کہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل "سائل موضع چندوسہ کا سکونت دار

ہے کہ سائل بڑیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد رفیق گور کتانہ

حزوری 45 سال

گھریلے کام 40

زیر تعلیم 20

زیر تعلیم 18

اے کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے

مرٹھلیک زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا

افخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے

اند چلیں کریں۔ معاذ گزرنے کے بعد کوئی

عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چندوسہ

عنوان: مضمون درخواست مہاراشہ گور کتاری و ڈاکٹر حسین گور کتاری ساکن چندوسہ

برادر عطا گئی ST تحت SRO294

اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معارضہ مندرجہ عنوان اصدار میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹاری حلقہ سے رہبرٹ

بشمول مطلوبہ نقولات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے کہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل "سائل موضع چندوسہ کا سکونت دار

ہے کہ سائل مہاراشہ گور کتاری

حزوری 45 سال

گھریلے کام 40

زیر تعلیم 26

زیر تعلیم 24

اے کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے

مرٹھلیک زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا

افخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے

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عنوان: مضمون درخواست عمران و امجد و رخسانہ و فرمانہ اولاد ان فریڈ احمد و دیر ساکن کچھو مقام

برادر عطا گئی ST تحت SRO294

اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معارضہ مندرجہ عنوان اصدار میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹاری حلقہ سے رہبرٹ

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گھریلے کام 38

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زیر تعلیم 16

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## Iran Facing 1 Mln Tons In Apple Surplus, Farmers Urge Immediate Exports



### Agencies

Apple-growers in Iran are calling on the government to facilitate the export of at least one million tons of their surplus harvest or let the crop rot in storage houses.

A senior board member at the Orchard Owners Association of Iran said on Thursday that there was an immediate need for exports of a bulk of apple surplus from the country. Mojtaba Shadlou said the apples in storage houses will rot unless exported until late April.

"This surplus should be immediately shipped to outside the country, otherwise it will rot and the growers will face losses," Shadlou was quoted by ILNA news agency.

The comments come amid reports suggesting that the Iranian agriculture ministry has set up a barter mechanism whereby imports of banana

into the country are tied to apple exports.

A customs directive implementing the mechanism, which is aimed at lowering the soaring prices of banana in Iran in recent weeks, has been enacted since early February, according to reports in the local media.

Shadlou implied that the barter mechanism may cause a decline in apple exports as he insisted the government should think of more exports to countries in the Persian Gulf region and to Iraq.

He said the big surplus of apple in Iran this year is a result of nearly a year of government bans on gatherings and parties that have been meant to contain the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

He said that the surplus was also due to the fact that families tend to spend less on fruits because of lower purchasing power amid the pandemic.

## J&K Bank Promotes 18 Management Executives 9 VP's Elevated As Presidents

**SRINAGAR:** In a major succession planning drive, J&K Bank on Friday elevated eighteen senior management functionaries. Through an order issued late on Thursday, the bank promoted nine of its Vice Presidents to the position of President and nine Assistant Vice Presidents to the level of Vice President.

The newly promoted Presidents are Karanjit Singh, Sudhir Gupta, Ashutosh Sarin, Narjay Gupta, Rakesh Koul, Peer Masood Ahmad, Sunit Kumar, Anil Deep Mehta and Syed Rais Maqbool. Besides, the newly promoted Vice Presidents are Manju Gupta, Rajesh Gupta, Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, Tariq Ali, Shabir Ahmad, Kirti Sharma, Rajesh Dubey, Rajesh Malla Tikoo and Ajaz Ahmad Bazzaz.

Congratulating the elevated management executives Chairman & MD R K Chhibber said that the newly elevated Presidents and Vice-Pres-

idents will have to carry forward the remarkable legacy of the institution successfully while meeting the challenges that J&K Bank is beset with amid the changes sweeping the entire banking landscape of the country at break-neck speed.

"Through these elevations the bank's management structure has been strengthened to further facilitate swift disposal, effective implementation and timely compliance. While focusing upon the growth of business, it is our responsibility to meet the expectations of all the stakeholders who are emotionally and financially invested in this institution for over eight decades", he said.

Notably, the promotions are likely to expedite business processes, improve customer services, and boost deepening of bank's footprints both in physical and digital space and increase efficiency within the overall system.

### CENTRE TELLS PARLIAMENTARY PANEL

## No Airline Has Shown Interest In Regular International Air Service From Srinagar

**SRINAGAR:** A parliamentary panel has recommended to the Centre and administration of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory to sort out the problems due to which the airlines are not interested in operating international flights from Srinagar.

The department-related standing committee on Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has made the recommendation after Centre submitted its action taken report on the panel's earlier suggestion that the Ministry of Home Affairs along with the J&K government should engage with the ministry of Civil Aviation and the Airports Authority of India to facilitate the operation of international flights from Sheikh ul-Alam Airport, Srinagar.

"The committee recommends MHA to take up the matter with the ministry of Civil Aviation and administration of UT of J&K and sort out the problems due to which the airlines are not interested in operating international flights from Srinagar. The result of such consultations may also be intimated to this Committee," reads the report.

In its earlier report, the panel had recommended that the Ministry of Home Affairs along with the J&K



government should engage with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Airports Authority of India to facilitate the operation of international flights from Sheikh ul-Alam Airport, Srinagar.

"The Committee also recommends that the infrastructure provided at Srinagar Airport must be improved for the same," read the earlier report.

In its action taken report, the Centre submitted that the UT of Jammu and Kashmir is also engaged with ministry of Civil Aviation to facilitate introduction of regular international flights to and from this airport to various international designations including those in South East

Asia, Middle East, and Europe.

"Presently, no airline has shown interest in regular international air service from Srinagar," reads the ATR.

The Centre also submitted that the infrastructure for undertaking international flights from Srinagar Airport is in place.

"However, no regular international flights are operating from there and therefore, necessary immigration and custom staff is not posted on permanent basis. The officials of Immigration and Customs, work from Srinagar Airport only during Hajj flights," it further reads. --With inputs from KNO

## Fuel Prices Hiked For Fourth Day, Petrol Reaches Record-High In Delhi

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Petrol and diesel prices soared to record highs on Friday after rates were hiked for the fourth day in a row.

Petrol price was increased by 31 paise per litre and diesel by 35 paise a litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

This took petrol price to an all-time high of Rs 88.14 a litre in Delhi and to Rs 94.64 in Mumbai.

Diesel rates rose to Rs 78.38 per litre in the national capital and to an all-time high of Rs 85.32 in Mumbai.



In four days, prices have gone up by Rs 1.21 per litre for petrol, while diesel has risen by Rs 1.25 a litre.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday had told Parliament that the government is not considering a reduction in excise duty to cool rates from their record highs.

Rates have risen as international oil prices touched \$61 per barrel for the first time in more than a year on improving demand outlook amid the global rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, he had said.

Central and state taxes make up for over 61 per cent of the retail selling price of petrol and about 56 per cent of diesel.

Retail petrol rates have risen by Rs 18.57 per litre since mid-March 2020, after the government raised taxes by a record margin to mop up gains arising from fall in international oil prices. Diesel rates have gone up by Rs 16.09.

## LMD Imposes Fine Of Rs.50K On Petrol Pump For Short Delivery

**SRINAGAR:** A team of Legal Metrology Department (LMD) Srinagar has imposed a fine of Rs. 50,000 on a Petrol Pump owner for short delivery of fuel from 03 Nozzles of the Fuel Station.

The fines were imposed during an inspection conducted by the team of LMD headed by Deputy Controller, Kashmir Province, Muzafar Wani after a complaint was filed by an aggrieved customer against a Petrol Pump alleging short delivery of fuel.

During the inspection of the unit, it was noticed that 03 Nozzles of the Fuel Station were delivering fuel

shorter by about 30 ml against every 5 Litres and these Nozzles were accordingly seized on spot.

The Pump owner while accepting the violations pleaded before the department to compound the case departmentally and only after a written assurance in which it was mentioned that such type of violation will not be repeated in the future, the case was compounded against a payment of Rs. 50,000/= for violation of Section 30 of the Legal Metrology Act 2009.

It was given out that these Nozzles will be released only after their proper calibration in presence of the Legal Metrology Officials.

Meanwhile, as per an official statement the general public is being made aware that in case of doubt, any consumer can check the quantity of the fuel themselves by the 5 Litre Conical Capacity measure, certified by the Legal Metrology Department which every pump has to keep under Law.

In case a Pump owner or manager refuses to provide the Capacity measure for the Check, a complaint can be lodged with the Legal Metrology Department on 01942490390.

## Office of the Estates Officer Srinagar Municipal Corporation

### AUCTION NOTICE

Subject: Notice inviting offers/bids for allotment of contract for running of Municipal Car Parking Lot at Harwan in front of Mughal Garden.

Sealed tenders/offers are invited from the interested parties for the allotment of contract for running of Municipal Car Parking Lot at Harwan in front of Mughal Garden. The last date for the submission of tender applications 27-02-2021 Upto 2:30 p.m. and the same shall be opened by the Tender Opening Committee on the same date at 3:00 p.m. in presence of the parties who may wish to remain available for this purpose. The other terms & conditions shall be as under:-

- The bidder is required to submit the Call Deposit Receipt of Rs. 50,000/- for the site pledged to the Chief Accounts Officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation along with the tender application without which no tender shall be accepted or entertained.
- The minimum reserve value fixed of the bid is 3,60,000/-
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit the bid amount in one go after which he will be allowed to run the Car Parking site. The term of the contract shall be for 01 (one) year only.
- The contractor shall have to collect the car parking fee from the general public as per the following schedule;

S.No	Name of the vehicle	Fee per vehicle/per trip/per day
1.	Tourist Bus big size	Rs. 100/-
2.	Tourist Bus normal size	Rs. 75/-
3.	School Bus/Mini Bus/Tempo Traveler	Rs. 50/-
2.	Light Vehicle/Four Wheeler	Rs. 20/-
2.	Scooter/Motor Bike/Auto Rickshaw	Rs. 10/-
3.	Bicycle	Rs. 05/-

- The orders of the Government issued from time to time shall have to be complied with by the contractor.
- The Competent Authority of the Corporation shall be having the right to accept or reject the bid/bids without assigning any reasons thereof.
- In case there is no response from the general public, the Corporation would be competent to allot the lot/site to the interested party on negotiation basis.
- No extension shall be granted in the term of contract after its expiry.
- The Corporation shall not be responsible for any shutdown, bandh or any disturbance during the contract period.
- The Car parking lot/site shall be run under the close supervision of Ward Officer concerned of the Corporation.
- For any theft or damage of any vehicle, Corporation shall not be held or be responsible.

Sd/-  
Chief Revenue Officer  
Srinagar Municipal Corporation

No.SMC/Est/1333

Dated: 11/03/2021

DIPK-NB-5548/20

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir								
<b>OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&amp;B DIVISION SOPORE.</b>								
<b>NOTICE INVITING TENDER</b>								
<b>Fresh NIT No- 239 of RnB-Sopore of 2020-2021 e-tendering DATED- 09.02.2021.</b>								
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:								
S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of AAA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
01	Construction of cement conc. Sub main drain along Sopore Nowpora road to Altaf Ahmad Krimani at Noor bagh Sopore D/S Sidqi Colony Sopore	15.55 lacs	800/-	35 days	17.02. 2021	BEE/ CEE	Languishing	Accorded
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 detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www. jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:								
01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	09.02.2021						
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 09.02.2021 (10.00 A.M) to 16.02.2021 (4.00P.M)						
03.	Bid submission start date	09.02.2021 from (04.00P.M)						
04.	Bid submission end date	16.02.2021 upto (4.00 P.M)						
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	17.02.2021 at (12.00 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore						
2 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Chillian in favour of Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) and the date of challan should be in between the date of start of bid and Bid submission end date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore( No treasury receipt shall be accepted)								
3. All Bidders have to submit Bid security Declaration form instead of Earnest money as per circular of Finance Department ( Bid Security declaration form is as per Annexure "A" below.								
4.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/DLP.								
5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority).								
6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.								
For and on behalf of the, Lt. Governor of J&K,								
Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore								
No:-	14184-14204	Dated:-	09.02.2021	DIPK-12819/20				



# Parliamentary Panel On Defence Decides To Visit Galwan Valley, Pangong In Eastern Ladakh

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The parliamentary standing committee on defence has decided to visit the Galwan Valley and Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh region which has been witness to a violent stand-off between the troops of India and China, sources said on Friday.

The 30-member committee, chaired by senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Jugal Oram and of which Rahul Gandhi is also a member, wishes to visit the eastern Ladakh region in the last week of May or in June.

The decision to visit these areas was taken in the panel's last meeting which was not attended by the Rahul Gandhi, sources said, adding since the panel intends to visit the LAC, it depends on the approval from the government.

After a nine-month standoff, the two militaries reached the agreement on disengagement in the north and south banks of Pangong lake that mandates both sides to cease forward deployment of troops in a "phased, coordinated and verifiable" manner.

On Thursday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a detailed statement in Parliament on the disengagement pact.

According to the agreement, China has to pull back its troops to east of Finger 8 areas in the northern bank while the Indian personnel



will be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3 in the region.

Similar action will take place on the south bank of the lake as well, Singh said in Parliament.

India has not "conceded" any territory to China by firming up an agreement on the disengagement process in Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh, and other outstanding "problems" including in Depsang, Hot Springs and Gogra will be taken up at the upcoming talks between military commanders of the two countries, the defence ministry said on Friday.

The statement by the ministry came hours after Congress leader

Rahul Gandhi alleged that the government has "ceded" Indian territory to China and raised questions over the agreement on the disengagement process.

The ministry also dubbed as "categorically false" the assertion that Indian territory is up to Finger 4 in the Pangong Tso area, adding the permanent posts of both sides in the area are "long-standing and well-established".

"India has not conceded any territory as a result of this agreement. On the contrary, it has enforced observance and respect for LAC and prevented any unilateral change in the status quo," the ministry said in the

strongly-worded statement.

The MEA also said the two countries have agreed to convene the 10th round of senior commanders meeting within 48 hours after complete disengagement in the Pangong Lake area to address the remaining issues, and added that no date has been set for Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border affairs.

The agreement on disengagement in the north and south banks of Pangong lake mandates both Chinese and Indian sides to "cease" forward deployment of troops in a "phased, coordinated and verifiable" manner.

## Appeals Court Won't Delay Ex-Cop's Trial In Floyd's Death

Agenceis

**MINNEAPOLIS :** The Minnesota Court of Appeals on Friday dismissed prosecutors' request to delay the trial of a former Minneapolis police officer charged in the death of George Floyd, saying that although prosecutors argued that COVID-19 was a risk, they didn't show that holding the trial in March would have a critical impact on its outcome.

The appeals court also dismissed the state's request to hold a joint trial for Derek Chauvin and the three other former officers who face charges.

Floyd, a Black man, died May 25 after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against Floyd's neck while he was handcuffed and saying he couldn't breathe.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder and manslaughter. The other defendants, J. Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao, were charged with aiding and abetting counts.

Judge Peter Cahill ruled last month that Chauvin would stand trial on his own starting March 8 and that the other defendants would be tried together starting August 23, citing a lack of courtroom space due to COVID-19 safety protocols.

Prosecutors appealed, saying multiple trials would traumatize witnesses and the community, and that the evidence against all four defendants is similar.

They also said all four officers



should be tried in the summer, when COVID-19 may present less of a risk. Pretrial appeals are rare and are only allowed in limited circumstances.

The appeals court found that prosecutors did not show that holding Chauvin's trial in March would have a critical impact on their ability to successfully prosecute the case, which is the threshold they need to meet for a pretrial appeal.

Because the state has not shown critical impact on the outcome of the trial, and there is no basis for this court to exercise inherent authority to review the pretrial rulings challenged by the state, these appeals must be dismissed, according to the decision.

The appeals court found that even though the state suggested in passing that its ability to prosecute the case might be impacted by COVID-19 if trial participants get sick and a mistrial results, in general, the state arguments related "not to the state's ability to prosecute but rather to public-health

risks.

The ruling says those concerns are important, but the judicial branch has safeguards in place.

The appellate court also said that while it doesn't dismiss concerns that COVID-19 could spread at protests or other activities outside the courtroom, "we are not persuaded that the concerns establish a rationale for appellate jurisdiction.

Prosecutors didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment and it wasn't clear if they planned to appeal to the state Supreme Court. Chauvin's attorney, Eric Nelson, declined to comment.

The appellate court also declined to consider the state's request to issue a writ of prohibition, in which it could order the lower court not to proceed.

The appeals court said a writ of prohibition is an extreme remedy, and a district court has discretion in making decisions on whether to postpone trials or try multiple defendants separately. (AP)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 6.4 Earthquake

minutes. Citizens were advised to remain careful as the aftershocks of the earthquake were expected.

Residents in many areas of Srinagar and other towns of Kashmir abandoned homes and came out on the streets for safety.

"Not since the earthquake of 2005 have the tremors in Srinagar been bad enough to force me out of the house. I grabbed a blanket and ran. I didn't remember to take my phone and so was unable to tweet "earthquake" while the damn ground was shaking," tweeted former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

There were no immediate reports of destruction or casualties.

Some reports suggest that the quake also jolted parts of Afghanistan and Central Asia.

In the region the earthquake was felt in Delhi, Punjab and parts of Pakistan including Lahore, Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Earlier an earthquake of magnitude 3.5 on the Richter scale occurred in Gulmarg on Monday morning, according to the National Centre for Seismology.

### EU Envoys Visiting

on a two day-visit organised by an NGO that promised a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Four months later, another batch of 25 foreign envoys visited J&K on February 12, 2020 as part of a union government-facilitated trip to help them have a first-hand assessment of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, a region which had faced months of harsh restrictions after its special status was stripped of in August. A number of opposition parties had termed it a "guided tour".

In New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had said that the group would meet representatives of the civil society, including youths, political leaders, local businessmen during their visit to the union territory.

"As a part of the outreach efforts, visit of a second group of foreign heads of mission is being organised to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on February 12-13," the MEA had said.

### J&K Told To

others, in the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment) Act, 2010. Through these amendments, Domicile has been made a basic eligibility for an appointment to any post under the Union Territory of J&K or under a local or other authority (other than Cantonment Board) within the UT of J&K," reads the ATR.

After perusing the ATR, the committee reiterated its recommendation for expediting the assessment and recruitment so as to fill the vacancies in a time-bound manner.

In its report tabled in the Parliament last year, the committee had pointed out that there are vacancies of 22078, 54375 and 7552 at class 4th, non-gazetted and gazetted level, respectively, in the UT.

It had then recommended to the government to expedite the recruitment process and fill the vacancies in a time-bound manner. "The committee further recommends to reserve seats for the local youth so that they can get due share in the government jobs of the UT. The committee also recommends the administration of the UT of J&K to assess the requirement of manpower after being established as a UT and notify it on a priority basis," read the last year's report.

### Minimum Temperature

minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, the officials said. Qazigund -- the gateway town to the valley -- recorded a minimum of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's low of

minus 4.1 degrees Celsius, they said.

Pahalgam tourist resort, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, half-a-degree down from minus 4.1 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Kupwara town, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.3 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag, in the south, minus 1.1 degrees Celsius.

The MeT office has said the weather is expected to remain mainly dry for the week ahead.

### Trains Service Likely

Area Manager, Northern Railways Srinagar and requested him to resume train services from Banihal to Baramulla from February 17.

"This is with regard to my telephonic discussion with you over the subject matter. You are requested to make the necessary preparations for resuming train services tentatively from 17th February onwards daily, at least 3 to 5 rounds may be started at an initial stage," reads the letter.

"Later on it can be increased up to the maximum possible/at an old status within a few weeks. It is apt to mention here that Covid-19 protocol may be strictly complied with," letter reads.

However on contacting railways officials they said that a decision in this regard will be taken in coming few days.

Saqib Yousuf, Chief Manager Railways said that no decision has been taken as of now as there are lot of things pending yet.

"As of now I can't say when the decision will be taken, but I am hoping it will be decided soon," Yousuf said.

Pertinently, train services in Jammu and Kashmir were suspended on March 19 last year after the outbreak of Covid-19 virus.

Notably, Banihal-Baramulla train services resumed on 11 November 2019 after remaining suspended for around 100 days after the abrogation of the special status of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Railway officials had said that the railway suffered a loss of around Rs 2 crore from 05 August 2019 to November 11, 2019, following the revocation of special status.

### J&K Inks Pact

their impact.

The mechanism will predict the impact on people, their houses, crops, livestock, and transport routes, thereby mitigating many of the challenges people face during flood events, he added.

Having impact-based forecasts of flood risk will be useful for efficient and effective contingency planning and swift evaluation of severity for necessary response, Sinha said.

The spokesman said the framework, using earth observation (EO) based information, will be capable of being linked to any existing or future flood flow forecasting system.

The UT administration will not have to bear any expenses on the project, he said.

### CRPF Officer

right leg and was removed to nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to army's Badami Bagh hospital here for specialised treatment.

### Robbers Throw Chili

He said that a formal FIR vide number 07/2021 under section 382 IPC has been registered at Police Post Frisal and further investigation has been set into motion.

### No Territory Conceded

Rajnath Singh on Thursday told Parliament that as per provision of the agreement, China will pull back its troops to east of Finger 8 areas

in the northern bank of Pangong lake while the Indian personnel will be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3 in the region.

"India has not conceded any territory as a result of the agreement. "On the contrary, it has enforced observance and respect for LAC and prevented any unilateral change in the status quo," it said.

The ministry also asserted that permanent posts of both sides at the north bank of Pangong Tso are longstanding and well-established.

"On the Indian side, it is Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3 and on the Chinese side, east of Finger 8," the MoD said, adding the current agreement provides for cessation of forward deployment by both sides and continued deployment at these permanent posts.

The statement said the ministry has taken note of some misinformed and misleading comments being amplified in the media and on social media regarding the disengagement currently underway at Pangong Tso, asserting that it is necessary to set the record straight and counter certain instances of wrongly understood information.

Addressing a press conference, Gandhi questioned why the Prime Minister did not make a statement on the LAC situation, and claimed that Singh "sheepishly" made a statement on the issue in both Houses of Parliament.

"Why has he asked the Defence Minister to make the statement, the Prime Minister should say - I have given Indian land to China, this is the truth," he alleged.

### Govt Revokes

and cancel pre-bookings of tourists from February 25 to March 3.

In a letter to the sub-divisional magistrate, Gulmarg, the additional deputy commissioner had asked him to ensure that boarding and lodging facilities are provided to the athletes and officials during the event.

Further, all pre-bookings, if any, on this account may be cancelled, the letter read.

The week-long games are scheduled to start on February 25.

The letter had also been sent to president of Hoteliers' Club Gulmarg chapter Mukhtar Ahmad Shah for compliance.

NC vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah had criticised the order, saying it was a mindless application of government writ.

The games are a welcome addition to our calendar but it's mindless application of government writ when the games become a reason to cancel hotel bookings & inconvenience tourists who have booked flights & made their plans well in advance, he tweeted.

Another NC leader Tanvir Sadiq had also targeted the administration for the move.

"Khelo India games are all well & good but why at the cost of our regular tourists? What sort of tourism promotion policy is this where the government forces bookings to be cancelled? Spare a thought for those people who booked rooms weeks ago only to be told they aren't welcome, he said in a tweet.

### HC Quashes Sedition

had granted bail to the councillor who was arrested on June 19, 2020 in an FIR No.34 of 2020 registered against him under Section 124A (sedition), 153A, 153B, 505(2) and 188 of IPC at Police Station, Kargil.

Zakir, a long time Congress activist, was expelled by the party on the issue despite him submitting a public apology over his remarks.

While quashing the criminal proceedings, the court underlined that for making out an offence under Section 124A, 153A, 153B and 505(2) IPC, it is necessary to demonstrate that the words written or spoken or signs or visible

representation have the tendency or intention of creating public disorder or disturbance of public peace by incitement to offence.

"The provisions of Section 196 Cr.P.C. do not, in any manner, control Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in that, the police is competent to register an FIR, if information received by it discloses commission of cognizable offence, even if it is referable to Section 196 Cr. P. C," the court concluded, adding, "The police, who are competent to register FIR under Section 154 Cr. P. C., are equally competent to investigate the same and present the final report before the Court."

Section 196 Cr. P. C., Justice Sanjeev Kumar said, would come in operation at the stage of taking of cognizance by the Court and it will refuse to take cognizance of the offence(s) referable to Section 196 Cr. P. C., if there is no previous sanction by the Central Government or State Government or District Magistrate, as the case may be. "That in case, challan with regard to the offence(s) having reference to Section 196 Cr. P. C. is presented before the Judicial Magistrate without obtaining prior sanction from the competent authority, the Court shall not take its cognizance but return the same to be presented only after seeking previous or prior sanction of the competent authority."

The Court shall be deemed to have taken cognizance only if it applies its mind to the Final Police Report submitted before it in terms of Section 173 Cr. P. C. with a view to proceed further in the manner provided in law, Justice Sanjeev Kumar said. "That the Magistrate, who finds the police report not in consonance with Section 196 Cr. P. C. shall not retain the challan and proceed in the matter rather it would return the same to the prosecution." (GNS)

### HC Quashes

Malik of Kulgam and Javed Ahmad Sofi alias 'judge' of Parabagh Rawalpore Srinagar.

The detention orders were quashed by Justices Sanjeev Kumar, Rajnesh Oswal, and Sanjay Dhar while hearing separate petition filed by the detainees through their respective counsel, according to the judgments.

"From a perusal of the observations of the Supreme Court, it is clear that the ground of detention and the dossier, if in similar language, go on to show that there has been non-application of mind on the part of the Detaining Authority," Justice Sanjay Dhar observed while allowing petition filed by Sofi. "...in the instant case, it is clear from the record that the dossier and the grounds of detention contain almost similar wording which shows that there has been non-application of mind on the part of the Detaining Authority. The impugned order of detention is, therefore, unsustainable in law on this ground also," the court said ordered that the further custody of Sofi, shall be governed in accordance with the orders of the court of competent jurisdiction in connection with the criminal cases registered against him.

### Teacher Held For

by the woman teacher (name withheld) against the school teacher.

A resident of Balakote Tehsil Mendhar, the male teacher who has been identified as Zaffar Iqbal Khan, allegedly made an attempt to throw the acid at the lady teacher near Gohlad village of Mendhar of Poonch on Thursday. The teacher who also allegedly snatched a gold chain from the woman is absconding, the officials said. (GNS)

### Man Killed In

health facility for treatment. However Muzamil Manzoor was declared as brought dead on arrival by the doctors there.

Meanwhile, a police official has confirmed the death of a person and said that investigations

have been set in motion in this regard. (GNS)

### Don't Misread Calm

heart of it. He said unless a positive environment wasn't actualized by addressing the political aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, achieving anticipated development goals was unlikely. "The government has misread eerie calm in Jammu and Kashmir as peace, the silence after the abrogation of Articles 370, 35-A is no indicator of peace. The ruling dispensation at New Delhi is under false impression that they have silenced Kashmir by the harshest clampdown post August 5th measures but that tantamount to living in denial. Since the state was unilaterally dismembered and sheared of its unique status there has been spur in the violence related incidents. There is no thaw on the armed encounters in which nearly 400 people including 200 security forces officers have lost their lives. The prevalence of suicidal deaths of security forces has also seen a manifold increase. There is no semblance of peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir. Furthermore for any development activity to take place, peace is the first universal prerequisite. Therefore, it is expected that the party that helms the central government works towards achieving peace in its real sense by addressing the political aspirations of the people," he said.

Remarking on the Annual financial statement 2021-22, Masoodi said the budget is mute on various issues concerning the people. He said the country has just come out of a pandemic situation and was still lurking towards achieving pre COVID-19 point but in wake of the dearth of substantial fiscal support from the GOI the projected objective seems far-fetched. He pointed towards various disturbing trends in the annual budget saying the increase in the expenditure using capital revenue was one of them. "Here the government is not using the capital revenue to create new assets; the capital revenue is being used to pay for interest payments. Fiscal deficit being projected at 6.81 % is itself very disappointing," he added.

### J&K Reports

said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 26 COVID-19 cases, including 11 travellers.

While three districts did not report any fresh cases, 13 other districts had new cases in single digits, while the rest of the four, including Srinagar and Jammu, recorded cases in double digits.

The number of active cases rose to 634 in the union territory, while 1,22,626 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

One fresh fatality was reported in the Jammu division in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll in the union territory due to the pandemic to 1,948.

### Body Of Missing

at 2.30 PM today," Zargar's brother Shabir Ahmad told Kashmir Observer over phone from Uttarakhand on Friday.

Ahmad complained that the rescue efforts were slow and sought help from J&K administration to shift his brother's body to Srinagar.

As soon as Zargar's family heard about the incident, Ahmad along with his nephew Salik Zargar embarked on the journey to trace his missing brother.

Ahmad had told Kashmir Observer on Thursday that over 65 persons were stuck near the project site, 12 bodies were recovered, four were rescued and 52 others are still missing.

He had said that the four survivors told him that his brother tried to cross the river but the gushing water prevented him from doing so.

"The water was travelling at the speed of a bullet," Ahmad had quoted one of the survivors as saying.



## IPL AUCTIONS 2021

## Harbhajan Singh, Kedar Jadhav, Glenn Maxwell And Steve Smith In Top Bracket



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Senior spinner Harbhajan Singh and middle-order batsman Kedar Jadhav, along with Australians Steve Smith and Glenn Maxwell, have been bracketed in the Rs 2 crore highest base price category for the upcoming IPL auction in Chennai on February 18.

There will be 292 players, who will go under the hammer, with 61 slots in eight franchises up for grabs. The IPL governing council has pruned the list of players.

A total of 164 Indian players, 125 overseas players and three from associate nations have been enlisted for the auctions.

Royal Challengers Bangalore have highest the number of 13 slots available while Sunrisers have only three vacancies.

Kings XI Punjab go into the auc-

tion with the highest purse (Rs 53.1 crore) while Sunrisers can spend a little less than 11 crore (10.75 crore). CSK will have an interesting auction with a 22.7 crore purse and seven slots to fill.

Both Harbhajan and Jadhav were released by Chennai Super Kings this year.

Sachin Tendulkar's son Arjun, a left-arm fast bowler, has also been included in the pruned list, in the lowest base price category of Rs 20 lakh. Apart from Maxwell and Smith, other overseas recruits in the highest base price category included Shakib-al-Hasan, Moeen Ali, Sam Billings, Liam Plunkett, Jason Roy and Mark Wood.

There are 12 players with a base price of Rs 1.5 crore while Indian batsman Hanuma Vihari and fast bowler Umesh Yadav are in the third bracket with a base price of Rs 1 crore.

## Gulmarg All Set To Host 2nd Khelo India Winter Games From Feb 26: J&amp;K Govt

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir government Friday said all arrangements are in place to host Khelo India winter games at the ski resort Gulmarg starting from February 26 while as the district administration Baramulla has cancelled the earlier orders for cancellation of hotel bookings.

Officials said that all arrangements have been made for the mega sports event at Gulmarg—Khelo India National Winter games starting from 26 Feb that will end on March 2.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla while speaking to Srinagar based news agency said, "No new order has been issued to cancel the bookings in Gulmarg. We have not issued any order, and earlier order has been cancelled, however, it is a big event for which rooms are required for athletes and officials."

Earlier, the District Administration had issued the order, that called for cancellation of Pre Bookings to accommodate the athletes and officials participating in Khelo India National Winter Games from 26 February to March 2, at Gulmarg.

Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah wrote on his Twitter handle, "The games are a welcome addition to our calendar but its mindless application of government writ when



the games become a reason to cancel hotel bookings & inconvenience tourists who have booked flights & made their plans well in advance."

Special Secretary to the Government for Tourism Sarmad Hafeez (IAS) said that no such orders have been issued and all arrangements are in place to host the Khelo India Winter National Games at Gulmarg.

"Tourism Department is in full coordination with Hoteliers in Gulmarg and Sports council to facilitate the mega winter event, all associated stake holders are in full enthusiasm to host the event", he said.

President Gulmarg Hoteliers Club Mukhtar Shah said, "We are thankful to Government for conducting this Mega National Winter event in Gulmarg, the fruits of which we can

reap out in coming season, as far as the order is concerned we as Hoteliers know how to accommodate the guests, officials or athletes."

"We have already reserved the rooms for athletes and officials participating in Khelo India Winter National Games and nobody has asked us to cancel the Pre bookings," he said.

Khelo India Winter Games are the national level multidisciplinary grassroots winter games of India and is organised by the Winter Games Association of J&K under the support of J&K Sports Council and Ministry of Youth Services and Sports.

The mega National winter event includes snow skiing, snow rugby, snow icestock, snow baseball, snow mountaineering, snow shoe, ice hockey, figure skating and speed skating.

## Australian Open To Continue With No Crowds Amidst A Fresh COVID-19 Lockdown

Agencies

**MELBOURNE:** The Australian Open will be allowed to continue but without crowds for at least five days after the Victoria state government imposed a lockdown starting Saturday in response to a COVID-19 outbreak at a quarantine hotel.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews on Friday announced a five-day, state-wide lockdown starting a minute before midnight local time, imposing new restrictions that restrict residents to their homes except for work, to shop for essential supplies, care or care-giving, and limited exercise.

He said the Feb. 8-21 Australian Open could continue "because these people are at their workplace."

"The minimum number of staff for it to be run safely, will be there," Andrews said. "It will be happening, but there'll be no one there watching it."

Schools and universities will be closed Monday through Wednesday, and there will be no gatherings permitted for weddings or religious services.

Fans arriving at Melbourne Park on Friday before the new restrictions were announced were instructed at the entrance gates to maintain social-distancing, apply sanitizer to their hands and pull their masks up over their noses.

With three big night matches scheduled for Friday, fans will be permitted to enter Melbourne Park. But Andrews urged people to exercise good judgement "and not go out."

Andrews said the measures were a short, sharp circuit breaker "in a bid to avoid a bigger, longer lockdown as the state combats a hyper-infectious," strain of the coronavirus.

Andrews said the guiding principle of the restrictions was that if people could work from home, they should work from home.

Of the Australian Open, he said, "If it was a longer-term prospect



more than five days things might well be different."

"I don't have advice to cancel the event on the basis that it's unsafe," he added, saying the latest cases had nothing to do with the tennis quarantine program.

All players, staff and officials who arrived on charter flights for the tournament, a total of about 1,200 people, had to do a mandatory 14-day hotel quarantine. Of those, 72 were forced into a hard lockdown after being deemed close contacts of passengers on their charter flights who tested positive for the virus after landing in Australia.

The Australian Open was the first Grand Slam tournament in a year to allow sizeable crowds.

After the COVID-19 outbreak became a pandemic, Wimbledon was canceled, fans were not allowed at the U.S. Open and the number of spectators at the French Open was heavily restricted.

Under the initial plan for the Australian Open, the government allowed up to 30,000 people daily at Melbourne Park, or about 50% of capacity. The biggest daily attendance in the first four days was 21,010 on Thursday.

The cluster of COVID-19 cases linked to hotel quarantine at the Holiday Inn

at Melbourne Airport grew to 13 on Thursday night, with five new cases emerging, including two household contacts of existing cases. These were the first cases linked with the cluster who had not been inside the hotel.

Andrews met with senior cabinet ministers and health officials overnight and had discussions with other federal and state government leaders. Australia has 909 deaths attributed to COVID-19, including 820 in Victoria state. Most of those were during a second deadly wave last year when a hard lockdown and overnight curfews were put in place in Melbourne. The lockdown then lasted 111 days. All non-essential businesses and schools were closed, and residents were initially permitted to leave their homes for just an hour each day. A nightly curfew was imposed for weeks.

The extreme measures did succeed in stamping out the virus. Victoria had gone 28 straight days without a locally acquired case.

Australia's states and territories have also been quick to close their borders when small outbreaks have occurred. South Australia closed its borders to travellers from greater Melbourne at midnight on Thursday.

England know that two more wins in their remaining three Tests in India will see them qualify for

## Unbeaten Real Kashmir Take On NEROCA In Must Win I-League Match Today

Press Trust of India

**KALYANI:** Undeclared so far, Real Kashmir FC would be aiming for crucial three points to move up the standings when they face struggling NEROCA FC at the Kalyani Municipal Stadium, here on Saturday.

Real Kashmir were held to a draw by league leaders Churchill Brothers in their last match. With NEROCA next in line, the Snow Leopards would be aiming for nothing short of a win to go level on points with the Goan side.

With just four matches remaining in their campaign in the first leg of the league, Real Kashmir would look to grab maximum points out of the remaining games.

Speaking at the official pre-match press conference, coach David Robertson said,

"Our objective is to pick up all the three points against NEROCA. We want to come in the top six in the first stage, and hopefully build on this run during the later stages of the league."

"NEROCA are a tough opponent regardless of our record against them. We have to focus on our

philosophy and the way we play. If we perform the way we did in the last game, then we have a good chance to get three points," said the Scottish coach.

NEROCA are languishing at the second last spot in the standings after their 1-2 defeat to Chennai City FC. However, with a tight mid-table, the Orange Brigade still have chance to move to the top six with three games remaining.

Gift Raikhan and his boys too will be aiming for nothing short of a victory in this do-or-die clash.

"We made mistakes in the last game. We have to make sure we don't repeat them. One thing is for sure -- we will fight for all three points. Real Kashmir are a complete team, a real championship contender. It is going to be hard game against them."

"The beautiful thing about this season is that the table is very tight, giving all teams a chance. The gap between us and mid-table teams is merely three to four points. We are taking it one game at a time. Once we start winning, we would be sitting in the upper half of the table in no time."



## Pakistan To Tour S Africa In April for 3 CWC ODIs And 4 T20s



Agencies

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's limited-overs tour to South Africa in April will include an extra Twenty20 game.

The tour now comprises four T20s and three one-day internationals, starting with the first ODI at Pretoria on April 2. The second ODI is at Johannesburg on April 4, followed by the third game at Pretoria on April 7.

The ODI series is part of the ICC's Cricket World Cup Super League.

The tour was originally scheduled for last October but was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Pakistan have proved their status over the years as one of the most dangerous limited-overs teams and I'm sure they will give the Proteas a stern test on the Highveld. Graeme Smith, Cricket South Africa's director for cricket, said Friday.

We are grateful to the Pakistan Cricket Board for agreeing to our re-

quest within a short period of time to increase the length of the trip by adding in a fourth T20, which will give us some much-needed additional international content.

Zakir Khan, PCB's international cricket director, said Pakistan was happy to help.

We are delighted to help assist our fellow member in these challenging times," Khan said.

"We all have a collective responsibility to look after the game and its welfare together as ICC members."

Johannesburg will host the first and second T20s on April 10 and 12, followed by the remaining two T20s at Pretoria on April 14 and 16. After the series, Pakistan departs for Zimbabwe to play two test matches and three T20s.

South Africa is presently playing a three-match Twenty20 series in Pakistan which ends on Sunday. Pakistan won the preceding test series 2-0 for its first test series win against the Proteas in the last 18 years.

the WTC final against New Zealand.

Root and Co will take on Kiwis in a two-Test series at home before the coveted five Tests Ashes against Australia series Down Under. They also host India for five Tests starting August.

"With the amount of Test cricket in particular this year, didn't feel like it was the right time, didn't feel like I could throw all my energy into it, which I think it deserves."

"I don't think it would serve English cricket best with what's to come... So, a very difficult decision. Hopefully next year, there's more of an opportunity to potentially be a part of the IPL, or at least be in the auction."

Talking about the second Test, Root said he is well aware of the challenge his team faces despite winning the series opener convincingly.

"It certainly provides a stern challenge but it's not going to be as not as tough as being 1-0 down. We are in a really good position. We played brilliant cricket and will take a lot of confidence forward into this week. But we won't get ahead of ourselves."

Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** England's Test captain Joe Root on Friday said skipping the lucrative IPL auction for a third successive year was a "very difficult decision" and he made the call considering the national team's packed schedule this year.

The IPL auction is scheduled on February 18 in Chennai with a total of 292 players set to go under the hammer including Root's compatriots Moeen Ali, Jason Roy and Mark Wood.

"It's a very difficult decision. I am desperate to be part of an IPL season and hopefully a few more beyond," Root, who scored a match-winning 218 to lead England to a massive 227-run victory in the series opener, said here.

One up in the four-match series, England are in contention for the only available spot for the inaugural ICC World Test Championship final at the Lord's from June 18-22.

England know that two more wins in their remaining three Tests in India will see them qualify for

## Kohli's India Seek Redemption In Chennai Against A Confident England Side

Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** A desperate India have decided to go for the jugular by opting for a spicy turner against a well-prepared England side in the second Test starting Saturday, well aware that it can boomerang and cost them a spot in the World Test Championship final.

The honeymoon of the Australian series is over after a sobering 227 run defeat in the first Test which must have shaken a complacent team out of its stupor ahead of three high stake Test matches.

But it is a perfect stage for India's mercurial skipper Virat Kohli, who loves to bring his A-game to the fore when the chips are down.

With the crowd back inside the heated cauldron ready to egg him on, something he thrives on, the Indian captain would be eyeing a good slugfest against a very resolute opposition. India need to win two matches and not lose any of the games to make the WTC final.

England will have a new wicket-keeper in Ben Foakes and Stuart Broad will replace James Anderson as part of workload management. Also in the mix is Moeen Ali, a known nemesis of India,

in place of last match's first innings top wicket-taker Dom Bess.

Jofra Archer's elbow injury might make way for bowling all-rounder Chris Woakes, who is a handy batsman apart from being a fine pacer in his own right.

"Jofra is a slight setback but hopefully he is fit and ready for the third Test," skipper and the team's No 1 batsman Joe Root said on the eve of the game.

A look at the newly-laid dark coloured Chepauk track is an indication that unlike the strip used during the first Test, this one will offer turn earlier than expected.

Ravichandran Ashwin will need a lot of support from the other end in terms of both restrictive and attacking options.

A fit-again Axar Patel is the closest to being a like-for-like replacement for an injured Ravindra Jadeja. Patel's Test debut looks imminent as Ashwin will need someone to hold on at the other end.

However, one can't be so sure about Kuldeep Yadav, who in his short six-Test career, has played some tough games.

He would fancy his chance for being a better attacking option than Washington Sundar, but on a rank turner where batting becomes important, all-rounder Hardik Pandya can come into the fray.



The 20-year-old Washington might go on to become a fine all-rounder in the Ravi Shastri mould in the coming years but as of now, he is not good enough to play as a specialist third spinner.

Kuldeep is an excellent attacking option but the team management's continued reluctance to play him is an indication of lack of faith in the Uttar Pradesh

wrist spinner's abilities of late.

Hardik, on the other hand, might just be able to score those quick runs against spinners and bowl 8-10 overs which is the maximum that is required from a fifth bowler on a friendly pitch.

The Indian team management, after a drab first two days at the Chepauk during the opening game, had two options

going into the second Test.

The first option was to leave a liberal sprinkling of grass and then get tested by the Anderson-Broad duo, who would have got the SG Test to land on seam and move around off the pitch.

The second option, which they have taken is shaving off the grass and very little watering of the pitch, leaving it to bake in the sun.

The ball will bounce and turn and the strip will break much earlier but then India have had instances where this kind of track has back-fired.

Rewind to Pune 2017, when Steve Smith punished them on a rank turner on the first day. The home team didn't have a clue that the ball will turn so much.

Or perhaps the best innings ever played in India -- Kevin Pietersen's epic 186 in Mumbai in 2012. India played a single pacer in Zaheer Khan with Ashwin and Pragyan Ojha opening the bowling.

In both games, it was the rival spinners (Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar in 12 and Steve O'Keefe in 2017) who made the most of the conditions and rattled the Indian batsmen in their own den.

The toss will be very crucial and even if turns square, Kohli will look to bat first

and expect Rohit Sharma to go beyond the two or three pretty shots that he has been managing so far.

He would have to give the team a big hundred which it desperately needs from him.

Kohli gave a master-class on how to play the reverse swing in the first Test but it always takes two to tango.

Whether it's a Cheteshwar Pujara or an Ajinkya Rahane or a Rishabh Pant, the Indian skipper will need some support to keep his team's chances alive of booking a flight to London.

Squads:

India (from): Virat Kohli (captain), Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Hardik Pandya, Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, Wriddhiman Saha, Shardul Thakur.

England (from): Joe Root (captain), Dominic Sibley, Rory Burns, Ollie Pope, Dan Lawrence, Ben Stokes, Ben Foakes (wk), Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Stuart Broad, Jack Leach, Olly Stone.





## North India Fears Another Flash Flood From New Lake

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** A newly formed Himalayan lake raised fears on Friday of another flash flood above a disaster-hit valley in northern India, prompting authorities to conduct helicopter surveys and send a team on a 16-hour climb to investigate.

Thirty-six people died and 168 are still missing after a barrage of water and debris hurtled down

the valley in the northern state of Uttarakhand with terrifying speed and force on Sunday, obliterating roads and bridges and smashing through dams.

The flash flood on the Rishiganga river is thought have been triggered by a chunk of glacier breaking off, or a glacial lake -- formed when a glacier retreats -- bursting its banks.

Glaciers are receding fast in the region due to global warming.

On Thursday, geologists said

that a new lake had formed near the same river.

Naresh Rana, a geologist at Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, released a video shot in the area, in which he pointed out the location of the lake and said, "this means that the Rishiganga will breach again."

Satellite images and a helicopter survey had confirmed the presence of the lake, senior local police official Ashok Kumar told AFP.

He said that teams had been sent to investigate on foot, a trek that would take around 16 hours, with the spot at around 4,200 metres above sea level.

"But there is one important thing to note. For the last few days, there was less water flow in the Rishiganga. But since yesterday, the flow is a lot," Kumar said.

"That means that the lake has given some opening. It would have been dangerous if the water had just been

collected and there was no flow."

A desperate and arduous search continued on Friday to reach around 30 people trapped in a tunnel since Sunday's flood, with hopes fading for their survival.

"We are trying to go to the smaller tunnel which is 12 metres below the existing one," Kumar said.

"In the small tunnel, we are hoping for the best... If they escaped the slush and the water, they might be safe in one corner."

## Scientists Hail Weight Loss Drug As 'Game Changer' In Fighting Obesity



Agencies

**LONDON:** Scientists have described a drug which hijacks the body's appetite system as a potential "game changer" in treating obesity after research showed it could cut body weight by up to 20 percent.

The results from the large-scale international trial, which were published in the New England Journal of Medicine, showed more than one-third of those who took the drug semaglutide lost over

one-fifth of their body weight.

The study, which involved almost 2,000 people in 16 countries, also showed three-quarters of those who took the drug lost more than 10 percent of their bodyweight.

The drug is currently used to treat diabetes and works by altering appetite regulation to reduce calorie intake.

One of the main authors of the study, Rachel Batterham from University College London, called the study a "major breakthrough".

## Common Blood Thinning Drugs Reduce Risk Of Covid Hospital Deaths: Study

Agencies

**B**lood-thinning drugs reduced the risk of death from Covid-19 in a new study, pointing to one more promising tool as physicians scour their medicine cabinets for treatments to blunt the pandemic.

About 14% of patients who were given anticoagulants within 24 hours of hospital admission died from the coronavirus, compared with 19% of those who didn't, according to a study published Friday in the British Medical Journal. The patients were treated with heparin, an injected blood-thinner sold by generic-drug makers including Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

Scientists have looked for existing, low-cost medications to help severely ill Covid-19 patients as more elaborate treatments disappoint. One of the biggest successes so far has been dexamethasone, a steroid that has



been shown to reduce the risk of death by one-third for patients on ventilators.

The findings on blood thinners are based on data from more than 4,000 patients, mostly men, from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. They were hospitalized between March 1 and July 31 with Covid-19. The patients getting anticoagulants didn't have an in-

creased risk of bleeding, according to the study.

The study is based on observation, which means the results need to be confirmed by clinical trials and some are underway, the scientists said. The drugs may show a result because blood clots developing in major veins and arteries could be to blame for Covid deaths, according to the research.

## UP Cops File Case Against Google's Sundar Pichai, Then Drop His Name

Press Trust of India

**VARANASI:** Police in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi had charged Google CEO Sundar Pichai and 17 others last week over a video that allegedly defamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi but later removed the tech giant officials' names from the FIR, police officials said today.

The names of Sundar Pichai and three other top officials of Google were removed after they were found not involved in the case, a police official privy to the probe told news agency Press Trust of India over the phone.

The First Information Report or FIR was filed following a complaint by a local resident who claimed that he got over 8,500 threat calls on his mobile phone after he objected to the video that he first came across



in a WhatsApp group and later on YouTube, where it has over five lakh views, the officials said.

Besides Sundar Pichai, others named in the FIR are three Google India officials including Sanjay Kumar Gupta, according to the case filed at UP's Bhelupur police station on February 6. Google's response over the case is awaited.

Among the rest named in the FIR are Ghazipur district-based musicians who allegedly made

the video song, a recording studio and a local music label company.

The FIR has been lodged under Indian Penal Code sections 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 506 (criminal intimidation), 500 (defamation), 120B (party to a criminal conspiracy).

Charges under the Information Technology Act's section 67 (publishing or transmitting obscene material) have also been invoked against the accused, according to the FIR, which has been accessed by news agency Press Trust of India.

The names of Google officials were removed from the FIR the same day as it turned out that they were not involved in the case. Investigation on other points is underway, an official from the local Bhelupur police station told news agency PTL.

## UK Scientists Develop Urine Test To Detect Womb Cancer



**NEW YORK:** The findings, published in the journal Nature Communications, showed analysis of the samples correctly diagnosed 91.7% of women with womb cancer.

British scientists announced on Friday they had developed a test to detect womb cancer using urine samples, explaining the method could replace a painful and invasive procedure currently in use.

At present, clinicians diagnose the cancer by taking a biopsy, a process which requires a narrow telescope called a hysteroscope, to examine inside of the uterus and remove cells.

Nearly a third of women who undergo the procedure have the process repeated because of technical difficulties or intolerable pain, the research showed.

Thousands of women in Britain who do not have womb cancer also undergo the procedure, with huge financial implications for the country's state-run National Health Service (NHS).

The study from Manchester University has developed a new detection tool which examines urine or vaginal samples that can be collected by women on their own at home.

The findings, published in the journal Nature Communications, showed analysis of the samples

correctly diagnosed 91.7% of women with womb cancer.

The proportion of women without womb cancer who tested negative with the new tool was 88.9%, the study showed.

"Our results show that womb cancer cells can be detected in urine and vaginal samples using a microscope," said Professor Emma Crosbie, who led the study.

"Women who test positive with this test could be referred for diagnostic investigations while women who test negative are safely reassured without the need for unpleasant, invasive, anxiety-provoking and expensive procedures."

The new tool was first trialled on 103 women with known cancer and 113 with unexplained post-menopausal bleeding and could be brought into clinical practice once expanded trials have concluded.

Womb cancer is the sixth most common cancer in women, with an estimated 382,000 new diagnoses and 89,900 deaths from the disease in 2018 worldwide, the university said.

While most women receive early treatment after the onset of symptoms, which include bleeding after menopause, 20% of women who are diagnosed at an advanced stage have only a 15% chance of surviving beyond five years.

## Imagine Life Without Google, Australia Faces The Unthinkable



**SYDNEY:** Imagine a world without Google, the search engine so pervasive it's the starting point for more than five billion queries a day. That's the reality facing Australia, where the tech giant is threatening to unplug its homepage in a standoff with the government.

Google opposes a planned law that would force the company and Facebook Inc. to pay Australian publishers for news content. The Internet juggernaut's ultimatum to local lawmakers -- change the legislation, or else -- has left a digital vacuum hanging over a nation that essentially knows just one way to navigate the web. Google runs 95% of Internet searches in Australia.

Potential fallout from the spat goes far beyond Australia for Alphabet Inc.-owned Google, whose dominance of global advertising has made it a target for watchdogs worldwide. If the company backs down in Australia, the pay-for-news law risks becoming a template for jurisdictions including Canada and the European Union that are following the quarrel and keen to shorten Google's lead.

But disabling what is arguably the world's most famous website would hand all of Australia to rivals, including Microsoft Corp.'s Bing and DuckDuckGo, which have failed to dislodge Google as the gateway to the web. These search-engine competitors would suddenly have a playground for development and a foothold to advance on the global stage.

Software-engineering student Patrick Smith exemplifies Australia's Google dependency. The 24-year-old from Canberra said he sometimes racks up 400 Google searches a day to help with his studies, catch up on news and look up recipes. Smith said his browser from the previous day shows 150 searches -- in the space of just five hours.

"The prospect of Google search disappearing is frightening at best," Smith said. "It's quite reflexive of me to Google something, anything, that I'm even mildly not sure of."

Searching for 'best beach Sydney' shows the variance in performance among Google's competitors. DuckDuckGo's first result was an ad for a hotel more than 1,000 kilometers away in Queensland, with Sydney beach reviews listed below a second ad link. Search Encrypt, which touts its data-protection capability, said: "It looks like there aren't any great matches." Bing's initial suggestion was Bondi Beach Post Office. Only Google returned a real beach, Bondi,

first up.

### World-First Legislation

The world-first legislation will be considered by Australia's parliament from the week starting Feb. 15 after a key senate committee recommended Friday that the bill be passed.

"The government expects all parties to continue to work constructively towards reaching commercial agreements," Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said in a statement welcoming the senate report.

The government says the local media industry -- including Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. and Sydney Morning Herald-publisher Nine Entertainment Co. -- has been bled of advertising revenue by the tech giants and should be paid fairly for content.

Google argues it drives traffic to their websites, and that being forced to pay to display snippets of news breaks the principle of an open Internet. It also opposes the law's final-offer arbitration model that determines how much it should pay publishers.

Facebook has said it may stop Australians from sharing news on its platform if the law is enacted, an unprecedented step.

Australia's entire economic output is less than Alphabet's \$14 trillion market value, so it may be surprising the distant and tiny market is suddenly so important. But the Internet titans are so keen to avoid Australia setting a global precedent that Alphabet Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai and Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg broke into their diaries in recent weeks for phone hookups with Prime Minister Scott Morrison or his ministers.

Sniffing an opportunity, Microsoft President Brad Smith and CEO Satya Nadella also reached out.

Grabbing the free hit, Smith told Morrison that Microsoft would invest to "ensure Bing is comparable to our competitors." This week, Smith wrote in a blog post Thursday that the U.S. should adopt its own version of the Australian law.

DuckDuckGo, a search engine that says it doesn't track its users, is also trying to cash in.

"There's a growing global demand for privacy online and Australians don't have to wait for government action" to stop using Google, DuckDuckGo said by email. Search Encrypt says its results expire after 30 minutes of inactivity.

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