



## P3 NEWS

**ANANTNAG FAMILY PROTESTS IN SRINAGAR, PLEAD INNOCENCE OF THEIR SON**

Family members and relatives of Zahoor Ahmad Rather from Dooru area of Anantnag on....

## P7 THINK

**THE EARTHQUAKE DID NOT STRIKE INDIA BUT TAJIKISTAN**

The moment magnitude (Mw) 5.9 earthquake occurred in the Tajikistan region, it ruptured a deeper portion of the lithosphere at 92km....



## P11 SPORTS

**PAKISTAN PM IMRAN KHAN SAYS INDIA IS WORLD'S TOP CRICKET TEAM BECAUSE OF BETTER STRUCTURE**

Pakistan Prime Minister and former captain Imran Khan believes India is becoming a top team in the....



## Widom Quote!

Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.

— George Bernard Shaw

## NEWS DIGEST

**J&K Reports 64 New Corona Cases**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 64 fresh cases of coronavirus, taking the total number of people infected by virus across the Union Territory to 125405. While Kashmir Valley reported 53 new cases of virus, the remaining eleven were confirmed by the officials from Jammu division. Giving district wise details, officials said Srinagar reported 35, Baramulla 3, Budgam 3, Pulwama 5, Anantnag 1, Bandipora 1, Kulgam 2, Shopian 3, Jammu 8, Udhampur 3 new cases of Covid-19. | **Full Story on Page 5**

**Court Rejects****Scamster's Bail Plea**

SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption court on Monday rejected the bail application of a West Bengal resident arrested in connection with the Rs 1.34 crore scholarship scam. The court of Anti Corruption Judge Srinagar rejected the bail petition of Selem Sheikh of Malda, West Bengal who is in custody of the Crime Branch since his arrest in January last month, an official spokesperson said Monday. The accused, he said, is involved in uploading fake application forms on National Scholarship Portal for Merit Cum Means Scholarship under Minority. **More On P10**

**Couple Injured In Leopard Attack**

SRINAGAR: A man and his wife were attacked and injured on Monday by a leopard in Handwara area of Kupwara district. A leopard appeared in Waderbala of Zachaldara and attacked and injured the couple before fleeing from the village, reports said Monday. The injured couple identified as Abdul Rashid Mir and his wife Raja Begum were shifted to district hospital Handwara for treatment. The leopard attack on the couple triggered panic in the village and prompted the locals to stay indoors for a while. **More On P10**

**'Poacher' Arrested In Ganderbal**

SRINAGAR: A joint team of the Forest Protection Force and the Wildlife Department on Monday arrested an alleged poacher in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Javid Ahmed Malla was arrested after the joint team found him shooting migratory birds in Fatehpura Check area of the district, an official said. A gun with five cartridges, one knife and a duck whistle were recovered from his possession. The operation was carried out by Forest Protection Force K-01 Flying Squad Srinagar and Wildlife Wetlands Division. **More On P10**

**Restore Art-370, Statehood To J&K: Farooq Tells GoI**

## Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Conference president and Member Parliament Farooq Abdullah Monday said Centre should restore Article 370, and statehood to Jammu and Kashmir which were protecting rights of people. "We are seeking restoration of Article 370 and statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, which were protecting rights of people here. The August 5, 2019 decision has impacted all regions of J&K. It was because of Article 370 that farmers were not committing suicide here because these laws were protecting them," Abdullah told reporters here. "These laws (Article 370, 35-A) were not for Farooq but for every citizen of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh." Reacting to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claims that **More On P10**

**'Thrilled To Be Back': Campus Deadlock Ends In Kashmir**

Malik Huda

SRINAGAR: Afzaa Gojwari, 20, was getting impatient for her campus visit since Monday morning itself.

She had a quick breakfast, slung her bagful of books on her shoulders and headed to her college on MA Road, Srinagar quite early and eagerly.

Her outing was the much-awaited moment for the 'good old' traditional learning for her and clearly, a desperate break from the successive lockdowns and exhausted online classes for her tribe.

The sophomore felt a new lease of life after re-sharing freshly-mopped benches with her cheerful classmates.

"It has been one freaking time away from my classroom,"



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Afzaa told Kashmir Observer inside her campus.

"There's no substitution for offline classes. No matter how hard a person pays attention in

online classes, the essence of class is lost."

Like others, she mostly spoke her heart out to her classmates and talked about the things

which somehow became new normal for Kashmiri students in lockdown.

Afzaa had last attended her college on 11 March 2020, when all the universities and colleges in Kashmir valley were closed due to Covid pandemic after briefly reopening, post the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

Almost a year later, Kashmiri students were delighted with their college reopening.

"I'm thrilled to be back in the classroom, meet my friends and classmates," Hafsa Mushtaq, another college-goer, told Kashmir Observer. "Although half of our degree is over and we didn't get to learn much due to the successive lockdowns, returning to campus feels very uplifting."

On the first day, **More On P10**

**Parents Fume As Private Schools Stop Bus Service****RS Without J&K Representation**

## Agencies

SRINAGAR: With Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmad Laway completing their terms as Rajya Sabha members on Monday, Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory doesn't now have any representatives in the Upper House of Parliament.

While Fayaz Ahmad Mir(PDP)and Shamsheer Singh Manhas(BJP) ceased to be members of the House on February 10, Azad and Laway completed their six-year terms as RS members today. **More On P10**

**Shangus Locals Oppose CRPF Move To 'Occupy Land'**

## Agencies

SRINAGAR: The locals from south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Monday accused paramilitary CRPF of trying to forcibly occupy a huge chunk of grazing land to establish a camp.

Locals from Bran village of Shangus Tehsil of Southern Anantnag district assembled here in Press Enclave Srinagar on Monday and staged a protest against what they alleged 'land grabbing' by the CRPF.

The protesters said that



without any consultation and taking locals into confidence, CRPF has initiated a process to occupy land comprising 100 kanals. "It will prove **More On P10**

**Guns Roar Along LoC In Kupwara**

## Agencies

SRINAGAR: Pakistan resorted to unprovoked firing at Indian positions on the Line of Control (LoC) on Monday in Tangdhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district. Defence sources said Pakistan army initiated ceasefire violation on the LoC in the Tangdhar sector on Monday afternoon by using small arms and automatics.

"Indian army retaliates befittingly", sources said.

Till last reports came in, intermittent firing **More On P10**

**KPs Resettlement In Valley A Political Issue: Panun Kashmir**

## Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The central government does not have a clear road map for the resettlement of displaced Kashmiri Pandits in the Kashmir Valley, their homeland, an organisation representing the

community claimed on Monday.

Kashmiri Pandits left from Kashmir to Jammu and to other parts of the country in the early 90s after the outbreak of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

The government needs to sit with the **More On P10**

**Sunshine Turns Weather Pleasant In Kashmir**

## Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature across the Valley settled below the freezing point on Monday even though the mercury went up a bit at a few places in the region, officials said.

Summer capital Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.3 degrees Celsius Sunday night, slightly up from the previous night's minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, they said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 3.2 degree Celsius, the officials said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4.3 degrees **More On P10**

**HC To Decide Maintainability Of PIL On Legal Aid To PSA Detainee**

## Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday said that it will decide next month sans any adjournment issue regarding maintainability of a Public Interest Litigation as regards legal aid to a detainee booked under Public Safety Act.

"Issue regarding the maintainability of the petition is to be gone into as per the earlier orders passed by this Court but because of the non-availability of Advocate General could not be considered," a bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and Vinod Chatterji Koul said. The court asked the senior



additional advocate general B A Dar to ensure the appearance of the Advocate general on the next date of hearing, on March 5.

The court has directed the member State Legal Service Authority (SLSA) and Ladakh Legal Service Authority to update compliance reports regarding

the legal aid to the PSA detainees.

In a Public Interest Litigation petition filed last year, Advocate Syed Tassaduq Hussain has raised the issue of legal aid and according to him the state is bound to provide it to a detainee booked under PSA.

"Where the state **More On P10**

**5 Of A Family Killed In Doda Accident**

## Agencies

SRINAGAR: Five members of a family were killed while a minor girl escaped miraculously after a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident at Ragi Nallah in Doda district of Jammu division.

Officials said that an accident took place when a vehicle (Ecco) plying on Doda-Batote stretch of Chenab Valley plunged into a roadside gorge at Ragi Nallah near Assar in Doda district.

They said the driver has lost control over the vehicle and fell into a deep gorge, resulting in on spot death

of five members of a family.

Officials identified the deceased as Bhaag Devi, wife of Girdhari Lal, Rakesh Kumar, son of Datta Ram, Ajit Singh, son of Dhyani Singh, his wife Chander Rekha and son Ishan Singh.

Police said that during initial investigation, it came to the fore that a total of six persons were travelling in the vehicle and five bodies were found lying at the gorge.

"We launched a rescue operation at the accident site during which three-year-old Anaya, daughter of deceased Ajit Singh was found lying nearby who escaped miraculously **More On P10**

**J&K Govt Warns Employees Over Unapproved Foreign Trips**

## Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Taking serious note of its employees visiting foreign countries in private capacity without prior permission, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has directed them to follow the rules strictly and threatened to take action against violators.

In an order, the General Administration Department (GAD) said the procedure for granting permission in favour of government employees for private visits to foreign countries has been prescribed clearly by the administration.

"It has been provided that the station permission for proceeding **More On P10**

**ALLIANCE OF PRIVATE SCHOOL EDUCATION****PRESS RELEASE**

We, The Alliance of Private Schools reiterate that we at no cost want the students of our institutions to suffer any further. Past two years the students have been away from schools which has hampered their overall growth and we would leave no stone unturned to get them back to school.

We want to reassure the parents that our school buses will be operational on the routes already intimated to them from 1st March 2021. Although all the private schools are undergoing a lot of financial stress due to the current scenario, for which we request the government to take a realistic approach towards resolving the issue. Nevertheless, we stand committed towards our mission, goal and our responsibility for our students. We request management of all private schools and the government to work in collaboration to find a solution which will be conducive in smooth functioning of all the private schools.

Members of Alliance of Private School Education.

**For any queries or coordination kindly feel free to contact**  
**Publicity Secretary-9796167774**  
**Publicity Secretary- 9797792782**

**Address: Karanagar Srinagar, J&K**  
**Contact Number: +91 9906541351 | +91 8491940184**



## Public Notice

My daughter's name has been wrongly written in her DOB Certificate as Shema Mehraj while her correct name is Huda Mehraj which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection Municipal Town Pampore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mehraj Ud Din Bhat  
F/O Huda Mehraj  
R/O Frestabal Pampore

FPY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL  
TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/5063/MVD/ANG  
Date:-13/02/2021

## NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Mohd Abass Reshi S/O Bashir Ahmad Reshi R/O Nipora Anantnag Kmr (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Bearing Regd. No. JK03C-5077 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No. 2472/GC/ANG. and Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir S/O Ghulam Rasool Mir R/O Bugroo Badgam (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Wapoh. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer. Any file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



MJA

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

## LOST OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle on Registration No JK03B-7261. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- Rayees Ahmad Bodha  
R/O SK Colony Anchidura Anantnag

MJA

## Public Notice

I have applied for the registration of my tour and travel agency under name and style " Bharat Tour and Tour Copat Latpora opposit FCI Rice Mill" If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tourism Department Kashmir Within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

Gowher Ahmad Reshi  
S/o Ab Aziz Reshi  
R/O Latpora

fyp

Office Of The Assistant Regional  
Transport Officer Anantnag

No.101/5074/MVD/ANG

Date:-15/02/2021

## NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Mohd Ahsan Wani S/O Ab Ahad Wani R/O Batkoot Pahalgam Anantnag (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Ford Fego Bearing Regd. No. JK03E-3178 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No. N/A. and Mr. Suhaib Ahad S/O Ab Ahad R/O Shah Mohalla Ahmadnagar Srinagar (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Nill. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer. Any file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



MA

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

Office Of The Assistant Regional  
Transport Officer Anantnag

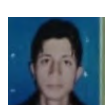
No.101/5064/MVD/ANG

Date:-13/02/2021

## NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Shawkat Ahmad Mehroo S/O Mohd Ismail Mahroo R/O Arwani Bijbehara Anantnag (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle M Car Bearing Regd. No. JK03G-5635 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No. N/A. and Mr. Mohsin Hamid Sheikh S/O Abdul Hamid Shiekh R/O Bijbehara Anantnag (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Mahindra and Mahindra Finance Co. Ltd. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer. Any file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



MJA

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

Office of the Assistant Regional  
Transport Officer, Shopian

## Notice

Whereas an application has been received by this office from Mr/ Gulzar Ahmd Bandy S/O Gh Mohi-udin Bandy R/O Malk Mohalla Shopian owner of vehicle No; JK22- 6979 for cancellation of Hire PUrchase Agreement with PNB Shopian Now it is therefore. Notified for general information that objectoins if any, to the proposed cancellatin of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the office of Assisnat Regional Trasport Officer Shopian within ap period of seven (7) days fro the publication of this notice in the daily Kashmir Observer

No : ARTO/Spn/2021

Dated 15-02-2021

S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

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

Subject: - Provisional select list of candidates participated in Special round (physically) up-gradation/allotment counselling for admission to BDS seats (NEET UG- 2020) to the eligible candidates.

Reference: - (i) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India order dated 08-02-2021  
(ii) DE-BDS (Gen) Admission-Act-2020/5969 dated 10-02-2021.  
(iii) Notice No. - 019-BOPEE of 2021 dated: - 11-02-2021.  
(iv) Notice No. U-11011/04/2020-MEC dated 10-02-2021

Notification No: -023-BOPEE of 2021  
Dated: - 14-02-2021

Consequent upon lowering of cut-off NEET score in BDS courses by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 08-02-2021 read with Dental Council of India letter No. DE-BDS (Gen) Admission-Act-2020/5969 dated 10-02-2021, the Board conducted a Special round of upgradation / allotment (physical) counselling of eligible candidates on 14-02-2021 at BOPEE office, Srinagar/Jammu simultaneously for filling up of BDS/DDH/DDM seats received as shortfall from Government/ Private Dental Colleges of the UT of J&K as well as the left over seats. The list of candidate's provisionally upgraded/allotted seats is annexed as Annexure "A" to this notification, which, shall be available on BOPEE website <http://www.jkbopee.gov.in> only.

The candidates so provisionally selected/up-graded under Special round are advised to report the respective allotted Colleges by or before 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 2021 (03.00 PM) along with all requisite documents/certificates. The heads of the colleges are requested to furnish the list of candidates who have joined against allotted seat /Colleges, on 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 2021 up to 5.00 pm through e-mail [helpdesk@jakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:helpdesk@jakbopee@gmail.com) / [ceojakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:ceojakbopee@gmail.com).

The BDS seats in Institute of Dental Science (IDS) Jammu, if any, which shall remain unfilled on 17-02-2021 due to non- joining of candidates, the eligible candidates, if any, desirous of taking admission shall report to the College on 18<sup>th</sup> of February, 2021 up to 4.00 PM for admission strictly on the basis of merit subject to the condition that his/her NEET score should not be less than 113 in Open Merit, 99 in PwD category and 87 in Reserved Categories. However, the interested candidates can contact the College (IDS), Sehora, Jammu at cell phone No: - 8803775823 for latest updates.

In accordance with DCI schedule, the admissions will come to a close on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 (4.00 PM) and no admission shall be made after the cut-off date under any circumstances.

The Reserved category seats one each of SC, STGB and ALC/IB in DDM at GDC-Srinagar have been converted to OM due to non-availability of candidates and accordingly allotted to OM candidates.

This issues without prejudice to the outcome of writ petition (s) pending, if any, before any competent court of law.

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified heretofore.

E &amp; O E

DIPK-NB-5666/20

No: BOPEE/Exam-31/2020

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)  
Controller of Examinations  
J&K BOPEE  
dated: 14-02-2021

## Public Notice

I am applying for issuance of Fertilizer License under Name and Style " Shah-i-Hamdan Agro Chemicals Berthipora Shopian " If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in Chief Agriculture Officer Shopian within (7) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fayaz Ahmad zaroo  
S/o Mohd Ahsan Mir  
R/O Berthipora Shopian

AST

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL  
HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: [xenmhchdk@yahoo.in](mailto:xenmhchdk@yahoo.in))

(Short-term)

e -NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2020-21 /288/e-tendering

Dated:-13.02.2021

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

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AAA/Position of Funds	TS.NO
1	2	3	5	6	
Providing and laying of electrical distribution system and allied works for new oxygen plants at SMHS Hospital, Srinagar.	39.86	1000	20	MC/Plan/ Aug/oxy- genplant/1973-82, Dated: 05-09-2020	82 of 02/2021
Providing and laying of electrical distribution system and allied works for new oxygen plants at Super Speciality Hospital, Srinagar.	9.00	1000	20	50 MCS of 2020 Dt:-28.08.2020	97of 02/2021

- The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 13.02.2021 (18.00 hrs).
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 14.02.2021 (10:00hrs) to 24.02.2021 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
- The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 24.02.2021 (17.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/  
Executive Engineer,  
MHCHD, Srinagar

No: MHCHD/ TS/9831-36

Dated: 13.02.2021

DIPK-13115/20

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
ELECTRIC DIVISION (KPDCL) GANDERBAL

Phone/Fax no: 0194-2416236

E-mail:-edgbl123@gmail.com

## NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER ID

e-NIT no: 31 of 2020-21 dated 12/02/2021

For and on Behalf of Managing Director KPDCL Kashmir, Tenders are hereby invited from resourceful/reputed Class A Electrical Contractors Registered with competent Authority / PDD/PDC for following work for the following job:-

Name of the work	Est. cost (in Lacs)	CDR Amount (In Lakhs)	Cost of tender document (DD)	Time of completion	Position of funds
Augmentation of 25KVA to 63KVA Sub Station at Womens ITI College Kangan under Deposit Contribution Scheme.	1.08	0.02	Rs 500/-	10 Days	Available

The tender document consisting of terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities and other details can be seen/downloaded from official web site of JKPDD or <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> as per following schedule:

S#	Description	Date	Time
1.	Publish/uploading of e NIT	13-02-21	18.00 hrs
2.	Documents Download/Sale start date	15-02-21	10.00 hrs
3.	Clarification Date Start	15-02-21	10.00 hrs
4.	Clarifications Date End	16-02-21	16.00 hrs
5.	Bid submission Start date	16-02-21	17.00 hrs
6.	Bid submission end date	04-03-21	15.00 hrs
7.	Opening date for E-tender	08-03-21	15.00 hrs
8.	Venue of opening e bids	Office of the Executive Engineer ED Ganderbal	

Executive Engineer  
ED Ganderbal

DIPK-NB-5629/20  
No: EDG/ 9032-38 /TS  
Date: 12-02-2021

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,  
GENERATION DIVISION LJHP BARAMULLA

(Email id: [xeneljhp@gmail.com](mailto:xeneljhp@gmail.com))

Gist of E-NIT No: GD/LJHP/28 of 2020-21

Dated: - 11-02-2021

(Tender ID: 2021\_SPDC\_116313\_1)

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, J&K State Power Development Corporation, sealed bids affixed with revenue stamps worth Rs. 6 valid for 180 days, accompanied with earnest money in the shape of DD/ CDR/FDR/BG from any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank @ 2% of the estimated cost pledged to the Executive Engineer Generation Division LJHP Gantamulla, Baramulla, are invited from OEMS/ Registered firms/authorized suppliers/Electrical/ Mechanical contractors having sufficient experience of the relevant job for:

S.No	Description	Qty	Estimate cost (Lacs)	Amount of EMD	Cost of tender specification (Non refundable)	Time of completion
1.	3KV UPS alongwith Battery Bank and installation and allied lighting system and cabling for Divisional office LJHP.	As per on-line BOQ	3.01	2 % of the estimated cost.	Rs. 500.00	30 Days

## CRITICAL DATES

1.	Date of Issue of tender notice	11-02-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents.	11-02-2021 to 26-02-2021
3.	Bid submission start date	11-02-2021
4.	Bid submission end date	26-02-2021
5.	Deadline for receiving the hard copies (CDR & EMD).	27-02-2021
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid (Online).	01-03-2021

The complete bidding process will be online.

1. The online bids must be submitted in two separate covers. Cover one distinctly marked as "COVER-I" shall contain techno commercial bid, EMD in original and Cost of tender document in the form of Bank Draft needs to be submitted in the office of Executive Engineer Generation Division LJHP Gantamulla, Baramulla before due date. Cover-II distinctly marked as "COVER-II" shall contain price bid only.

2. Bid documents can be download from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The bid documents contain Qualifying criteria for the bidders, specifications, Bill of Quantities, terms & conditions and other details.

The following authenticated documents are to be submitted along with the tender; otherwise the tender will be liable to rejection.

- Proof of purchase of tender document.
- Prescribed EMD (i.e 2 % of estimated Cost)
- Copy of Registration certificate
- Copy of valid GST Registration Certificate.
- Copy of IT PAN card.
- Copy of LOAs/ Documentary evidence of having executed similar jobs as per technical criteria
- Documentary evidence of financial capability
- Manpower details, workshop equipments & testing lab information including details of tests being carried out.

The bidder shall satisfactorily meet the following Qualifying Criteria as per CVC guidelines:-

A) Technical Criteria: Experience of having successfully completed similar works during last 7 years ending last day of month previous to the one in which applications are invited should be either of the following:-

a. Three similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of the estimated cost.

Or

b. Two similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of the estimated cost.

Or

c. One similar completed work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost.

Definition of similar Work: Similar Work means 3KV UPS alongwith battery bank and installation and allied lighting system and cabling.

B) Financial Criteria

a. Average Annual financial turnover during the last 3 years, ending 31st March of the previous financial year, should be at least 30% of the estimated cost.

b. Authority reserves the right to:-

- Increase / Decrease the quantity of material.
- Reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- A Joint Venture can also participate in tendering process.

No GD /LJHP/2180-99  
Dated: 11.02.2021

DIPK-NB-5641/20

Executive Engineer  
Generation Division LJHP  
Gantamulla, Baramulla





Unemployed horticulture graduates staged a protest at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences, Shalimar on Monday demanding that the university open recruitment for them. KO Photo Abid Bhat

# Either Deport Us Or Provide Travel Documents: Pak Spouses Of Ex-militants

**SRINAGAR:** The Pakistani origin wives of many former militants, who returned to Kashmir under the then Omar Abdullah led state government's rehabilitation policy in 2010 on Monday again urged authorities to either grant them citizenship or send them back so that they can live a normal life.

Addressing a news conference at Press Club Srinagar, the spouses of former militants said that there are around 400 Pakistani origin wives besides 3,000 children who are stuck here as authorities are not allowing them to visit their families.

"We have been watching the funerals of our loved ones on video calls and haven't met our family members for years. We



want the government of India to allow us to return home so that we can meet our dear ones," they said. "Authorities must clear. Either deport us or provide us with travel documents."

"We came here after getting assurance from the government. Now, the same government is not accepting us and treat us like

criminals. You should have deported us that very time when we came here, they said while requesting the government of India and Pakistan to take this issue on humanitarian ground.

They added that several among them have already lost their husband or got divorced, "where they will go if you won't allow us to return."

"If our husbands are Indian, then why not their children and wives," they said. "We have knocked almost all the doors but don't know why our voices go unheard."

They requested all organizations who are working for women and children besides the United Nations to help them in returning back to Pakistan

## 17-Yr-Old Boy Hangs Self To Death In Habba Kadal

**SRINAGAR:** A 17-year-old boy committed suicide on Monday evening by hanging himself to death in Habba Kadal area of Srinagar. Official sources said that a 17-year-old boy identified as Suhail Ahmad son of Mukhtar Ahmad Badyari hanged himself on Monday evening at his home near Sona Masjid Karfari Mohalla of Habba Kadal in Srinagar. They said that he was immediately rushed to SMHS hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. Meanwhile, local police has taken cognizance of the incident and started investigation into the matter.

## Body Of Man Found In Bemina

**SRINAGAR:** The body of a man was on Monday found at Dal Colony Bemina in Srinagar, officials said.

Officials said that a man identified as Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh, son of Ghulam Nabi of S R Gunj Srinagar aged about 48/50 years was found today at Dal Colony Bemina. They said the police team from Police Station Bemina reached the spot, adding that an investigation in this regard has been initiated.

## Covid Vaccination Drive Begins At SMC

**SRINAGAR:** Covid vaccination drive was started in Srinagar Municipal Corporation on Monday where Mayor of the Corporation Junaid Matoo took the first jab of Covid-19 vaccine.

Mayor Matoo while talking to reporters after taking the first shot of Covid-19 said there are around 4500 employees in SMC who are being vaccinated in coming days.

"I took first jab myself so that others will follow and come forward in taking vaccination without any complaints," he said

He said that everyone must be thankful to "our scientists and doctors who manufactured this vaccine in India even before developed countries and vaccines are given free to its citizens."

## Anantnag Family Protests In Srinagar, Plead Innocence Of Their Son

**SRINAGAR:** Family members and relatives of Zahoor Ahmad Rather from Dooru area of Anantnag on Monday staged a protest at press colony Srinagar and demanded his release while insisting that Zahoor was associated with walnut trade and not any militant group.



It is pertinent to mention here that Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar had said that a police team from Anantnag district travelled to Samba and caught the TRF militant alive. "The arrested militant had killed three BJP workers and a police man last year in Kulgam district and was wanted," he said. He said that the militant was being brought to Kashmir for further investigations.

Police in a statement also said that Zahoor was involved in the killing of three BJP workers in Vessu area of district Kulgam, last year. "He was also involved in the killing of a policeman namely HC Abdul Rashid Dar of Furrarh on July 22, 2020 outside his residence. Besides target killings in South Kashmir, he was also instrumental in recruiting innocent youth into militant ranks.

## Muslim Residents Help Cremate Hindu Neighbour

**SRINAGAR:** Muslims helped a Hindu family in the cremation process of a man who died in the Maisuma area of Srinagar city on Monday.

According to reports, one Rakesh Kumar who was not keeping well from the past several months breathed his last on Monday. Muslim neighbours arranged everything required for the cremation process, these reports said. Locals said they arranged a priest and shouldered the dead body upto the cremation ground. Kumar was cremated at Batamloo Shamshan Ghat.

The deceased was living with a couple of family members. "He once had a flourishing ready-made garment business but heavy losses in business affected his health and shattered family," said an elderly Muslim neighbour. He said Kumar had two sons but both abandoned him after his business crumbled. He was taken care of by his Muslim neighbours during his difficult times and they organised his last rites too," he said.

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No. 95/ 6904-14 of R&B/Vailoo /2020-2021/e-tendering/ DATED:- 13.02.2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. In form of Treasury challen / Receipt (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	Restoration of deteriorated road surface by way of RBM filling, P/L of WBM G-III in patches/stretches, BM 50 mm thick, 25 mm thick SDBM along with seal coat, tack coat on Ahlan Gadole upto Lohar Senzi upto entrance of proposed Kishtwar Tunnel.	31.00	1100	25 days	25.02.2021 11.00 AM	AAY/BEE/Hot Mix plant Holder	08100065 Infrastructure Maintenance
2	Restoration of deteriorated road surface by way of RBM filling, P/L of WBM G-III in patches/stretches, LBM 50 mm thick, 25 mm thick SDBM coat along with seal coat, tack coat and laying of RCC pipes at spots on Bontooru, Devipora upto University Campus High-Ground including C.S. Pora interiors and Kangan-Hall- Bontooru roads.	113.60	2600	45 days	25.02.2021 11.00 AM	AAY / Hot Mix plant Holder	08100065 Infrastructure Maintenance
3	Restoration of deteriorated road surface by way of RBM filling, P/L of WBM G-III in patches/stretches, LBM 50 mm thick, 25 mm thick SDBM coat along with seal coat, tack coat and laying of RCC pipes at spots of Gopalpora, Tallwani, Shangus, Somburna Khundroo upto Trahpoo Ziyarath Road / Army cantonment including Brakpora Gopalpora Road and Gopalpora interiors.	148.00	2600	45 days	25.02.2021 11.00 AM	AAY / Hot Mix plant Holder	08100065 Infrastructure Maintenance
4	Restoration of deteriorated road surface by way of RBM filling/L of WBM G-III in patches/stretches, LBM 50 mm thick, 25 mm thick SDBM coat along with seal coat, tack coat and laying of RCC pipes at spots of Imoh Shelpora Achabal (Achabal Town interior roads), Brakpora Breinty Roads.	42.00	1100	30 days	25.02.2021 11.00 AM	AAY/BEE/Hot Mix plant Holder	08100065 Infrastructure Maintenance
5	Restoration of deteriorated road surface by way of P/L of WBM G-III in patches/stretches, LBM 50 mm thick, 25 mm thick SDBM coat along with seal coat, tack coat and laying of RCC pipes at spots of Ranipora, Kheribal, Krad, Uterusoo roads including ghinderwarden-Dankad road and Kheribal interiors with Suntemple road.	40.40	1100	30 days	25.02.2021 11.00 AM	AAY/BEE/Hot Mix plant Holder	08100065 Infrastructure Maintenance
6	Restoration of deteriorated road surface by way of RBM filling, P/L of WBM G-III in patches/stretches, LBM 50 mm thick, 25 mm thick SDBM coat along with seal coat, tack coat and laying of RCC Spun pipes on Thaiwara Shangus road and Bul Nowgam Wanihama roads.	24.00	800	25 days	25.02.2021 11.00 AM	BEE/CEE/ Hot Mix plant Holder	08100065 Infrastructure Maintenance

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13.02.2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From: 15.02.2021 from 11.00 A.M To:- 24.02.2021 up to 4.00 Pm
3.	Bid submission Start Date	15.02.2021 from 11.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	24.02.2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	25.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo (tender inviting authority) (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury receipt/ challan) (Refer Govt. order No. A/ 24 (2017)-65 DT: 07.06.2018 ( The date of Treasury receipt / Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid submission end date ) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Vailoo (Tendering receiving Authority) Minimum of Two bids are necessary to decide L-1 bidder in case of Contractors.

3. All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration form instead of Earnest Money as per the Circular issued of Finance Department ( Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below )

4. The L1 Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 03 days from fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

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 R&B Division vailoo (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. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-  
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.  
c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

9. 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 accompany bid submission process.

10. 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.

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

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

13. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest Money and tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid

14. The Earnest money in favour of unsuccessful / Non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of Tender document Fee in original, Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

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

16. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailoo must be uploaded with the documents of the bid.

17. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

18. Price escalation and Taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bills as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

20. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

SD/-

Executive Engineer

PWD(R&B) Division

Vailoo/zulfkar

DIPK-13095/20

No:-

Dated:-

### 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
- PAMPOR: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

## This Day in History

- 1917 - 1st synagogue in 425 years opens in Madrid
- 1918 - Lithuania declares independence from Russia & Germany (National Day).
- 1923 - Allies accept Latvia's occupation of Memel territory.
- 1927 - US restores diplomatic relations with Turkey.
- 1929 - KID-AM in Idaho Falls ID begins radio transmissions.
- 1932 - 1st patent for a tree issued to James Markham for a peach tree
- 1934 - Austrian Civil War ends with the defeat of the Social Democrats and the Republican Schutzbund.
- 1940 - British search plane finds German supply ship Altmark, used to accommodate allied sailors from vessles sunk by the Graf Spee, off Norway.
- 1942 - German submarines attack Aruba oil refinery
- 1943 - World War II: The USSR reconquers Kharkov.
- 1945 - US forces land on Corregidor, complete conquest on March 3
- 1945 - Venezuela declares war on Nazi Germany
- 1948 - Miranda, famous moon of Uranus, photographed for 1st time.
- 1959 - Fidel Castro becomes the 16th Prime Minister of Cuba after overthrowing Fulgencio Batista
- 1961 - China uses its 1st nuclear reactor
- 1961 - US satellite Explorer 9 is launched
- 1965 - Pegasus I launched to detect micro-meteors
- 1966 - France performs underground nuclear test at Ecker, Algeria
- 1968 - Beatles George Harrison, John Lennon and their wives fly to India for transcendental meditation study with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi
- 1978 - 1st Computer Bulletin Board System (Ward & Randy's CBBS, Chicago)
- 1982 - Assembled STS-3 vehicle moves from Vandenberg AFB to launch pad
- 1989 - Egypt, Iraq, Jordan & North Yemen form common market

## From KO Archives

# TOWER BLASTS DEEPEN POWER CRISIS

## Qazigund Fault Forces Extra Shedding

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Power supply to the valley seemed to take a turn for the worse this evening with possibility of total darkness looming in event of blasted transmission towers near Banihal town collapsing under the impact of heavy snowfall in the region. Authorities were keeping their fingers crossed in anticipation of the damaged towers withstanding heavy snowfall or fierce winds. They were under stood to be charting desperate contingency measures, including temporary restoration, to tide over the grim situation arising out of the blasts. The picture would be dear by tomorrow.

According to reports, mysterious blasts reportedly triggered by some 'unidentified persons' on Sunday and Monday morning damaged the double circuit 132-KV Udhampur -Srinagar transmission tower in 220-KV Kishenpur Pampore transmission tower in Banihal area. All the four legs of the 132-KV tower are damaged while the 220-tower, though standing, has tumbled towards one side. Their total collapse can cut off the entire power import to the valley, leaving it with a mere 70 megawatts (mw) - 50 mw from uri project and 20 mw from other power stations - barely sufficient for the essential loads only.

When contacted, the power development commissioner, Vinod Sharma, told Kashmir Observer this evening a of engineers led by a superintending engineer visited the spot yesterday and, after collecting some equipment, left Udhampur again today to start restoration of the damaged towers, possibly tomorrow. Strengthening of the 220-KV tower and re-erection of the '132-KV tower would be taken up simultaneously. He said it would require a minimum of three days to effect the repairs.

Meanwhile, Sharma said, extra curtailment was resorted to in the valley this evening following a snag in one of the circuits of 220-KV transmission line between Qazigund and Wanpoh. With a big question mark banging over the 17-hour relief in six days provided to the valley consumers last week, the availability of energy is likely to be badly disrupted. At present, the power import has come down to 230 mw which includes 50 mw from Uri project. The availability had gone up to 350 mw last week, mainly due to fall in demand, facilitating the 17-hour relief.

Sharma said one of the double circuit 132-KV Udhampur-Srinagar transmission line had been in a state of disrepair for the past two years. This leaves the department with only one circuit of this line besides the 220-KV Kishenpur-Pampore transmission line to import power to the valley. However, Sharma insisted the valley was getting "more than 55 per cent" of the available power against Jammu's 45 per cent. He attributed the longer spells of darkness in Kashmir to tighter consumption turn" compared to Jammu region's load.

It may be recalled two transmission towers of both 132-KV and 220-KV lines at Qazigund were blasted in similar circumstances on the night between January 13 and 14 last year followed by blasting of 400-KV tower at Kutpora near Wagoora in Budgam district a day later. The power supply to the valley was disrupted for more than a fortnight till the temporary restoration equipment was airlifted from Delhi for erect the damaged towers. Curiously, the blasts have been taking place only in winter.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 16 February, 2001)



## Syrian Air Defences 'Intercept Israeli Aggression' Over Damascus



### Agencies

Syria's army said on Monday the country's air defences intercepted "Israeli aggression" over the capital, Damascus, in the latest stepped-up bombing of alleged Iranian targets inside the country over the last two months.

Israeli missile strikes against several targets killed at least nine pro-government fighters, a Britain-based war monitor said. "Nine Iran-backed militia fighters were killed" in attacks on arms depots around Damascus, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory – with a network of sources inside Syria – said all the fighters killed were non-Arab "pro-government" forces, but it did not elaborate.

The Israeli military, which just began a surprise air force combat drill along the country's northern border, said "it did not comment on foreign reports", according to a spokeswoman.

State media did not give details of what was hit by the Israeli air force.

Israeli military planes flew over the Golan Heights to hit targets on the edge of the capital, an army statement said, without mentioning casualties but adding most of the missiles fired were brought down.

"Our air defences are continuing to repel the Israeli missile attacks over the skies of the

capital," the Syrian army said in a statement. A Syrian military defector said the bombing raids hit a considerable army division in the town of Kiswa, 14 km (8.7 miles) south of the capital, in a sprawling area where Iranian-backed militias have a dominant presence.

Witnesses heard large explosions on the southern edge of Damascus, residents said.

Senior Israeli military officials have previously acknowledged escalating attacks inside Syria aimed at ending Tehran's military presence in Syria.

Israel's Defence Force Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi said at the end of last year his country's missile strikes had "slowed down Iran's entrenchment in Syria", hitting more than 500 targets in 2020.

Western intelligence sources say Iran's military influence has expanded in Syria in recent years, prompting Israel to escalate its campaign to prevent its arch-rival from establishing a significant military foothold along its border.

Iran's proxy militias, led by Lebanon's Hezbollah, now hold sway over vast areas in eastern, southern and northwestern Syria, as well as several suburbs around Damascus. They also control Lebanese-Syrian border areas.

Israel, which in the last two months staged some of its biggest attacks yet inside Syria, has concentrated on al-Bukamal – the Syrian city that controls the border check-point on the main Baghdad-Damascus highway.



## Biden Promises To Re-Engage The US With The World In Upcoming G7 Meet

### Agencies

US President Joe Biden will hold his first event with other leaders from the Group of Seven nations in a virtual meeting on Friday to discuss the coronavirus pandemic, the world economy and dealing with China, the White House said on Sunday.

The meeting is the first by top leaders from the G7 group of rich democracies since April, it said.

"This virtual engagement with leaders of the world's leading democratic market economies will provide an opportunity for President Biden to discuss plans to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic, and rebuild the global economy," the White House said in a statement.

The White House said Biden would focus his remarks on a global response to COVID-19 vaccine production and distribution as well as "continued efforts to mobilise and co-operate against the threat of emerging infectious diseases

by building country capacity and establishing health security financing."

Biden, a Democrat who took over from Republican former President Donald Trump on January 20, has sought to project a message of re-engagement with the world and with global institutions after four years of his predecessor's "America First" mantra.

Trump withdrew the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Paris climate accord and largely scoffed at multilateral organisations and groups.

Biden brought the US back into the WHO and rejoined the Paris accord and has signalled a desire to work with allies in confronting China on a host of thorny issues.

### The China challenge

"President Biden will also discuss the need to make investments to strengthen our collective competitiveness and the importance of updating global rules to tackle economic challenges such as those posed by

China," the White House said.

Trump challenged China over its trade policies by imposing punishing tariffs, an instrument he also used on the US's traditional allies, drawing criticism for not taking a more unified approach to stand up to Beijing on issues such as intellectual property theft and other economic practices.

Domestically, Biden is pressing Congress to pass a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package to boost the US economy and provide relief for those suffering from the pandemic.

The White House said he would discuss his economic agenda with G7 counterparts and encourage them and all industrialised countries to maintain "economic support for the recovery" and other collective measures.

Climate change would also be on the agenda.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen spoke to her G7 counterparts last week and called for continued fiscal support to secure the economic recovery.

## Bangladesh Sends More Rohingya Refugees To New Island



**DHAKA:** Bangladesh authorities sent a fourth group of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar to a newly developed island in the Bay of Bengal on Monday despite calls by human rights groups for a halt to the process.

The roughly 2,000 Rohingya who had been living in the sprawling refugee camps of Cox's Bazar were sent to Bhasan Char, an island specifically developed to accommodate 100,000 of the 1 million Rohingya who have fled from neighbouring Myanmar, M Mozammel Haque, a commander of the Bangladesh navy, told reporters.

With Monday's group, more than 7,000 refugees have moved to the island since the process started in December.

The government has said the arrangement was good for the refugees and the island is designed to offer better living conditions. While human rights groups have criticised the moves and some are being forced to go against their will, the government has insisted that refugees moving to the island had done so voluntarily.

More than 1 million Rohingya have fled waves of violent persecution in their native Myanmar

and are currently living in overcrowded, squalid refugee camps in Cox's Bazar district.

Bangladesh has said that ultimately it was up to Myanmar to take the refugees back and has called on the international community to put pressure on Myanmar's government to ensure their safe return.

The latest relocation follows a February 1 coup in Myanmar that put the military firmly back in control. The refugees living in Bangladeshi camps say they are now even more fearful to go back to Myanmar.

The island surfaced only 20 years ago and was not previously inhabited. It was regularly submerged by monsoon rains but now has flood protection embankments, houses, hospitals and mosques built at a cost of more than \$112 million by the Bangladesh navy.

International aid agencies have opposed the relocation since it was first proposed in 2015, expressing fear that a big storm could overwhelm the island and endanger thousands of lives. But the government said the new development schemes in the island had made it safe for living. **AP**

## End Of Lockdown? UK's Johnson Mulls Path Out After 15 Million Vaccinated

### Agencies

**LONDON:** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will judge this week how fast England can exit Covid-19 lockdown after vaccinating 15 million of its most vulnerable people, but the health minister said death and hospital admission numbers were still too high.

With nearly a quarter of the United Kingdom's population now inoculated with a first dose of a Covid vaccine in a little over two months, Johnson is under pressure from some lawmakers and businesses to reopen the shuttered economy.

"We've got to watch the data," Health Secretary Matt Hancock told Sky News. "Everybody wants to get out of this as quickly as we safely can, and both as quickly, but also as safely, are important."

"The question is a judgment of how quickly and safely, how quickly we can do that safely. That's the judgment that we're making this week, looking at the data, ahead of the prime minis-



ter setting out the roadmap, on the 22nd," he said.

The biggest and swiftest global vaccine rollout in history is seen as the best chance of exiting the Covid-19 pandemic which has killed 2.4 million people, tipped the global economy into its worst peacetime slump since the Great Depression and upended normal life for billions.

Britain has vaccinated 15.062 million people with a first dose and 537,715 with a second dose, the fastest rollout per capita of any large country. Hancock said he expected vaccine supplies to increase as manufacturing accelerated.

## Turkey's Erdogan Accuses US Of Backing 'Terrorists' In Iraq

### Agencies

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused the United States of supporting Kurdish armed groups that Ankara says executed 13 kidnapped Turks in northern Iraq, adding a US statement of condemnation was "a farce".

"The statement made by the United States is a farce," Erdogan said on Monday in his first public comments since the killing of 13 Turks, including military and police personnel.

"You said you did not support terrorists, when in fact you are on their side and behind them," Erdogan said in televised remarks criticising the US State Department statement, which failed to accept Ankara's account of the incident.

Turkey this month launched a military operation against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) bases in northern Iraq that Erdogan said on Monday was designed in part to free the 13 hostages.



At least 48 members of the Kurdish armed group were also killed during the operation, according to Turkey's defence minister.

The PKK, dubbed a "terrorist" group by the US and Turkey's other Western allies, has been waging an armed rebellion against the Turkish state since 1984 that is believed to have left tens of thousands dead.

Ankara angered by US support to YPG

Turkey has been angered by the US support to Kurdish rebels in Syria known as People's Protec-

tion Units or YPG, which Ankara says is an offshoot of the PKK.

The US State Department on Sunday said it "deplores the death of Turkish citizens" but was waiting for further confirmation that Ankara's account of the 13 men's death was true.

The PKK said the 13 died when Turkish forces bombed the cave where the men were being kept.

"If reports of the death of Turkish civilians at the hands of the PKK, a designated terrorist organisation, are confirmed, we condemn this action in the strongest possible terms," the State Department said in a statement.

But Erdogan demanded that his NATO allies need to pick sides.

"After this, there are two options. Either act with Turkey with no ifs or buts, without questioning, or they will be a partner to every murder and bloodshed," he said.

"The terrorist organisation on our doorstep, on our borders, is killing innocents."

## Trump Impeachment Acquittal Not End Of Legal Troubles



### Agencies

Donald Trump's acquittal in a Senate impeachment trial on a charge of "incitement of insurrection" for his role in the United States Capitol violence does not spell an end to possible accountability – or legal troubles – for the former president.

Trump's actions and words leading up to the deadly January 6 violence, in which rioters stormed the seat of the US legislature as Congress met to certify the election victory of President Joe Biden, garnered more bipartisan support for conviction than any previous Senate impeachment trial.

Legislators from both parties have since increasingly called for Congress to set up an independent commission, like that created after the 9/11 attacks.

Notably, Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, long considered one of Trump's closest allies, suggested such a commission is needed "to find out what happened and make sure it never happens again".

"His behaviour after the elec-

tion was over the top," Graham, who voted to acquit Trump, told Fox News on Sunday.

An independent commission, which would need to be created through legislation, could determine "what was known, who knew it and when they knew, all that, because that builds the basis so this never happens again", while removing the tinge of partisan politics, Republican Senator Bill Cassidy, who voted to convict Trump and has since been censured by the party in Louisiana, told ABC News.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had already floated such a commission to colleagues before Trump's acquittal, with several prominent Democrats in the Senate renewing the push in the wake of the trial.

In an interview with ABC News, Democrat Representative Madeleine Dean called for "an impartial commission, not guided by politics, filled with people who would stand up to the courage of their conviction".

The ranking Democrats and Republicans of two Senate committees – the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Rules Committee – had previously announced plans to probe the incident.

In the House, where several committees are probing the violence, Pelosi has also asked retired army Lieutenant General Russel Honoré to lead an immediate review of the Capitol's security process.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Report Exposes Saudi Crown Prince's Debauchery In Maldives Resort

### Agencies

A report reveals that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) has spent a whopping \$ 1.18 billion on lavish celebrations, cruise ships and female supermodels since taking power in the ultra-conservative kingdom.

The revelation by the Africa Report website sheds light on the Saudi crown prince's penchant for extravagance and an array of prestige purchases he made between 2015 and 2017.

Bin Salman opted to go on vacation in July 2015 but intended to spend the leisure time far from the "prying eyes" of the public and instead of choosing the Saudi royal family's typical holiday haunts in France and Spain, he chose the highly exclusive, sumptuous Velaa Resort in the Maldives.

Described as a paradise floating



atop the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean, the luxurious resort had some 50 villas perched above splendid coral reefs, it said. Bin Salman alongside a small gang of his friends were said to have been enchanted by the resort's posh amenities, including nightclubs, pools and bars serving alcoholic drinks.

"Before the Saudis arrived, close

to 150 Brazilian and Russian supermodels were welcomed on the island," the report said, adding that they were tested for venereal diseases before being driven to the villas.

In line with other raunchy activities to keep his companions entertained, the Saudi crown ordered concerts that featured such celebrities as the rapper Pitbull, Korean pop star Psy and Dutch DJ Afrojack.

The report said the resort's 300 employees were each paid \$5,000 for one month to handle preparations for the extravagant concerts, not counting the huge tips they pocketed.

Bin Salman and his friends were forced to leave the scenic island in August that year after news finally traveled about the crown prince's extravagance and spending spree there.

During another vacation at traditional French Riviera in the mid-2017, the Saudi crown prince re-

portedly fell in love with a splendid, almost 135-meter-long yacht named "Serene," which featured a Jacuzzi, an underwater viewing room, two helipads, a cinema and a gym.

The report said US billionaire and software developer Bill Gates had leased the ship to the tune of \$5 million per week a year earlier but bin Salman after renting it for a day decided to "have it all to himself."

The recent revelation came hot on the heels of reports that sparked widespread controversy about the Saudi regime's granting permission for a "raunchy" photo shoot of international supermodels in the kingdom.

The Saudi regime claims such moves are part of a series of reforms that bin Salman has been implementing in recent years in order to open up the kingdom's economy to international tourism and normalization with Israel.

## Harry, Meghan expecting second child

### Agencies

Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, are expecting their second child, a spokesperson for the couple said on Sunday.

Harry, 36, and Meghan, 39, stepped back from royal duties in January 2020 and moved with their first son Archie to Southern California to live a more independent life and escape the British media.

"We can confirm that Archie is going to be a big brother. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are overjoyed to be expecting their second child," the spokesperson said.

### Archie was born in May 2019.

The Valentine's Day announcement was accompanied by a black and white photograph of a visibly pregnant Meghan lying on grass with one hand on



her stomach and her head resting on the smiling prince's leg. The photo was taken by longtime friend and photographer Misan Harriman.

Queen Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip, Harry's father Prince Charles and the whole family were "delighted" and wished the couple well, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said.

Since ending their royal duties, Harry and Meghan have continued charity work and signed TV and other media

deals, launching their debut podcast in December.

Last year, Meghan revealed that she had a miscarriage in July, in an extraordinarily personal disclosure coming from a high-profile British royal.

The couple married in a glittering ceremony in 2018 that captured the world's attention but later gave up their official royal roles following disagreements with other family members and in the face of huge media attention.

Their relationship with the British press swiftly soured and the couple have launched legal cases against several newspapers.

Last week Meghan won a privacy claim against Associated Newspapers after its Mail on Sunday paper had printed extracts of a letter she wrote to her father in August 2018.



## JK BOSE Initiates Textbooks Translation Into Four Official Languages

Providing Texts In Mother Tongue Instrumental In Enhancing Competence Of Learners: Pandita



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** In order to realize the vision of National Education Policy 2020, a two-day workshop was organized by the J&K Board of School Education (JK BOSE) today to initiate translation of text books of environmental studies from class 3rd to 5th and Mathematics from class 1st to 5th in four official languages including Urdu, Dogri, Kashmiri and Hindi.

Chairperson, JK BOSE, Professor Veena Pandita inaugurated the workshop and Secretary JK BOSE, Maneesha Sareen presided over the programme.

The Chairperson congratulated the Academic Section of JKBOSE for taking the lead in translating the textbooks to four official languages for teaching primary classes. "Nothing is more facilitating in knowledge acquisition than the expression of ideas in the language one is born and brought up. The children grasp the essence of non-trivial concepts in their own local language quickly and providing texts in mother tongue shall be a potent medium to use the power of language in enhancing the competence of

learners. Translation is a nuanced process of knowledge transaction and needs utmost care and expertise so that the soul and essence of the source language is appropriately conveyed in the target language. I am sanguine that this endeavor shall be accomplished well and our future generation will not only be trained in the latest technological development but shall also be efficient language users," she added.

Maneesha Sareen congratulated the organisers and hoped that the efforts initiated by JKBOSE shall be truly helpful in realizing the objectives embedded in the vision document of NEP-2020. "Neither the knowledge should be lost nor the language be compromised in the process of translation. A translator must devise a viable strategy in which the technical essence is best possibly transacted in the local expression," she maintained.

Director Academics, Dr. Farooq Ahmad Peer and Joint Secretary, Secrecy, Dr. Sudhir Singh also shared their expertise regarding translation work.

About 24 experts from Jammu and 33 experts from Kashmir drawn from the translation industry, School Education Department and SCERT participated in the workshop.

For translation in Urdu and Kashmiri languages the workshop is being organized at the regional office of JKBOSE at Srinagar while for translation in Hindi and Dogri languages the workshop is being organized at the Divisional Office of JKBOSE at Jammu.

## Covid-19: 64 More Test Positive In J&K

No Death Reported In Last 24 Hours

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir on Monday reported 64 fresh cases of Covid-19 taking the tally of cases in J&K to 125,405 while no death related to covid-19 was reported in the last 24 hours in the UT.

Of the exact number of 125,405 cases, 73,636 are from Kashmir and 51,769 from Jammu division. Among 64 new cases, 53 belong to Kashmir division while as 11 are from Jammu division, adding that the total number of positive cases in Kashmir division have reached to 73,636 including 71,954 recoveries and 1,226 deaths while as total number of positive cases in Jammu division have reached to 51,769 including 50,883 recoveries and 725 deaths.

The officials said that the total number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir are 617 including 456 from Kashmir division and 161 from Jammu division.

With 69 more recoveries, the tally of total recoveries in Jammu and Kashmir has reached to 122,837 which is 97.96 percent of the total cases.

"Cases tested positive in J&K include 35 from Srinagar, 03 from Baramulla, 03 from Budgam, 05 from Pulwama, 00 from Kupwara, 01 from Anantnag, 01 from Bandipora, 00 from Ganderbal, 02 from Kulgam and 03 from Shopian in Kashmir division while as 11



from Jammu division include 08 from Jammu, 03 from Udhampur, 00 from Rajouri, 00 from Doda, 00 from Kathua, 00 from Samba, 00 from Kishtwar, 00 from Poonch, 00 from Ramban and 00 from Reasi," officials disclosed.

As per officials figures, 26,564 positive cases including 460 deaths and 25,874 recoveries are from Srinagar, 8,161 including 175 deaths and 7,957 recoveries are from Baramulla, 7,825 including 7,670 recoveries and 118 deaths are from Budgam, 5,793 including 5,669 recoveries and 88 deaths are from Pulwama, 5,671 including 96 deaths and 5,569 recoveries are from Kupwara, 4,960 including 4,833 recoveries and 86 deaths are from Anantnag, 4,704 cases including 4,628 and 62 deaths are from Bandipora, 4,660 including 4,582 recoveries and 47 deaths are from Ganderbal, 2,711 including 2,643 recoveries and 54 deaths are from Kulgam and 2,587 including 2,529 recoveries and 40

deaths are from Shopian.

In Jammu division, 25,097 including 24,639 recoveries and 373 deaths are from Jammu district, 4,239 including 4,156 recoveries and 57 deaths are from Udhampur, 3,873 including 3,814 recoveries and 55 deaths are from Rajouri, 3,436 including 3,366 recoveries and 64 deaths are from Doda, 3,256 including 3,203 recoveries and 53 deaths are from Kathua, 2,835 including 2,786 recoveries and 40 deaths are from Samba, 2,733 including 2,710 recoveries and 22 deaths are from Kishtwar, 2,519 including 2,471 recoveries and 24 deaths are from Poonch, 2,135 including 2,114 recoveries and 21 deaths are from Ramban and 1,646 including 1,624 recoveries and 16 deaths are from Reasi.

As per the daily information bulletin 1,223,192 persons in Jammu and Kashmir are under observation while 33,832 persons have been kept under home quarantine besides that 617 persons are in isolation.

According to the bulletin, 1,079,478 persons have completed surveillance period and 107,314 persons are under home surveillance besides that so far results of 4,868,541 samples are available.

Out of 4,868,541 the number of samples tested negative stands at 4,743,136 while as 125,405 have tested positive, among them 617 persons are active, 122,837 persons have recovered and 1,951 persons have died.

## Peak Unrestricted Winter Demand Touches 2150 MW

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, J&K, Baseer Ahmad Khan chaired a meeting of officers to review status and functioning of the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited, (JKP-DCL) at SKICC, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by Managing Director, JKPDC, Ajaz Assad, Chief Engineer Power Distribution, Ajaz Ahmad, Chief Engineer, Transmission, Hashmat Qazi and Chief Engineer procurement.

The meeting held detailed discussion on the present status of the department regarding demand and supply of electricity, augmentation of grid stations, enforcement activity, revenue generation, ongoing projects, smart metering and other aspects.

The meeting was informed that peak unrestricted demand during the winter season was 2150 MW while peak demand met was 1495 MW.

However, peak unrestricted demand during the summer season was 1500 MW while peak demand met was 1435 MW.

Besides the meeting was informed that Rs 778.85 cr revenue was realized from various consumers by the end of January, 2021. It was given that revenue collection was increased by 13.04% amounting to Rs. 89.83 cr more from previous year.

Meanwhile, Advisor (BK) appreciated officers for taking advance steps to tackle any issue of restoration of power supply during the winter. However, the Advisor told officers not to lower guard as the duration of winter has not finished yet.

CE, power distribution informed that the department restored 90-95% power supplies within 24 hours after every snowfall.

Advisor was also briefed regarding the ongoing projects including the Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition System/ Distribution Management System (SCADA/DMS) in Srinagar city which envisages remote monitoring and operation of all 33kv/11kv receiving stations in Srinagar city, Real time Data Acquisition System (RT-DAS) in rural areas by way of remote monitoring of 348 feeders of 112, 33kv/11kv receiving sta-



tions, RAPDRP Part-A, Smart Metering; CCD-MDM integration and upcoming project IPDS IT Part-A.

Meanwhile, Advisor Khan also reviewed the status and augmentation of the Delina, Magam, Gopalpora, Mattan and other grid stations. He was informed that all the required transformers have been transported to Delina GS which would give huge relief to the consumers of Baramulla, Magam, Beervah and other areas.

Under SAUBHAGYA SCHEME, the meeting was informed that 100% household electrification completed for all districts and 150558 connections were released since October 10, 2017.

Advisor also directed officers to prepare the new schedule for supplying electricity from March 15. He emphasized on the continuous drive by enforcement wing and maintenance of buffer stock of poles and wires, besides enhancing repairing of transformers at workshops.

Meanwhile, Advisor Khan also reviewed the status and augmentation of the Delina, Magam, Gopalpora, Mattan and other grid stations. He was informed that all the required transformers have been transported to Delina GS which would give huge relief to the consumers of Baramulla, Magam, Beervah and other areas.

Under SAUBHAGYA SCHEME, the meeting was informed that 100% household electrification completed for all districts and 150558 connections were released since October 10, 2017.

Advisor also directed officers to prepare the new schedule for supplying electricity from March 15. He emphasized on the continuous drive by enforcement wing and maintenance of buffer stock of poles and wires, besides enhancing repairing of transformers at workshops.

Advisor also directed officers to prepare the new schedule for supplying electricity from March 15. He emphasized on the continuous drive by enforcement wing and maintenance of buffer stock of poles and wires, besides enhancing repairing of transformers at workshops.

Advisor also directed officers to prepare the new schedule for supplying electricity from March 15. He emphasized on the continuous drive by enforcement wing and maintenance of buffer stock of poles and wires, besides enhancing repairing of transformers at workshops.

## KVK/ETC Organises Skill Development Programme At Pulwama

**PULWAMA:** A six day long skill development training programme for rural youth titled, 'Enhancing livelihood opportunities through Poultry Farming' commenced today at Krishi Vigyan Kendra/ Extension Training centre (KVK/ETC) campus Malangpora, here.

The programme sanctioned under Skill Training for Rural youth (STRY) in association with SAMETI, Directorate of Extension SKUAST-Kashmir and MANAGE, Hyderabad was inaugurated by Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Pulwama, Prof. Musarat Shafi.

In her inaugural address Prof. Shafi highlighted the importance of the poultry sector in enhancing nutritional and livelihood security of rural and urban masses alike. She said the dint of hard work of all the

stakeholders in this sector has enabled the common ordinary man to afford a square meal for himself.

Invited Guest, BVO Awantipora, Dr. Bilal Ahmed stressed on the need for arranging more such programmes, so that production of meat and egg is boosted to satiate the growing demand for protein of animal origin.

Course Director of the programme, Dr. Malik Raies Ul Islam (Scientist Animal Sciences) emphasized the need to adopt a holistic approach in bringing sustainability to poultry farming under changing climatic conditions.

He said the sector has huge potential for growth, which if exploited can help in creating new employment avenues for rural youth.

## Chadoora Resident Dies In Road Accident In Saudi Arabia

**BUDGAM:** A 32-year-old resident of Dooniwara Chadoora in central Kashmir's Budgam district died in a road accident in Saudi Arabia on Monday.

An official said that the man died after a car he was travelling in met with an accident today morning. The deceased was identified as Syed Asrar son of Syed Nazir Ahmad, a resident of Dooniwara area of Chadoora. The official said that the man was working in Jeddah. KNO

## Career Counseling Programme At GDC Kulgam

**KULGAM:** The District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC) Kulgam today organised an offline career counseling cum orientation program for the students of Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam at its Conference Hall, here.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Showkat Aijaz Bhat who was also the Chief Guest on the occasion highlighted significance and need of career counseling in the current scenario. He instructed DE&CC Kulgam to conduct more such programmes in other educational institutions of the district as well.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Showkat Ahmad Rather and Principal, GDC Kulgam, Abdul Rehman also highlighted the importance of Career Counseling in shaping the future of students. The speakers from DE&CC, Kulgam deliberated on career opportunities for graduates in terms of higher studies, government and private jobs and entrepreneurship.

Officers from DE&CC informed that 1900 students from various government and private institutions like higher secondary schools, ITIs/ Polytechnic College of district, have been benefited so far through e-counseling conducted by the DE&CC, Kulgam.

## Awareness Programme On Avian Influenza Held At Shopian

**SHOPIAN:** The Animal Husbandry Office, Shopian today organised an Awareness Programme on Prevention, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) at Mini Secretariat, here.

The Awareness programme was organised under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse. While addressing the gathering, Suse said that no instance of Avian Influenza has been found in Shopian district so far and added that it is collective responsibility of all the departments to fight together against the virus and tackle the situation to control upon the flu in case of its outbreak.

He further exhorted upon the concerned departments including Municipal Committee, Shopian for proper sanitization wherever necessary and to keep close vigil on the situation in case of any eventuality. He emphasized upon the concerned department to work with added zeal and zest to control the outbreak of flu to get rid of the situation completely. He said people need not to worry as the district administration is taking every necessary step to curb the disease completely.

## Define What 'Appropriate Time' Means: Tarigami To Amit Shah

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Union home minister Amit Shah needs to make it clearer what it means when he says in the Parliament that Jammu and Kashmir will get back the status of a state at an "appropriate time."

For the last one and half years, the BJP government has been making such vague statements. But the Home Minister needs to define what the "appropriate time" means. The BJP government can't hide behind vague statements for a long time now.

When Amit Shah says that 17 months is a little time to make development happen in Jammu and Kashmir, he forgets that the BJP is in the government since last almost seven years at both the Center and J&K. First the BJP was in power &K in alliance government for three and half years in J&K and since 2018, it is directly ruling the region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Amit Shah tried to justify the wrong decision of abrogation of J&K's special status and downgrading of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories, by stating that it would end the decades-long militancy, separatism and corruption in the region and bring development, jobs and prosperity to the region.

The BJP government was claiming that Article 370 hindered development in J&K. But one year and half years down the line, the facts belie the claims of Modi and Shah. People of J&K and the country want to ask them how much development has happened. Where is investment, and job opportunities which they claimed will come after the revocation of J&K's special status?

Making excuses is easy, but the reality is that the 5 August 2019 decision of the BJP government was undemocratic and unconstitutional. Now the BJP government is trying to hide behind the façade of excuses.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Phone:-01932-223201

email: agriang@rediffmail.com

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AGRICULTURE OFFICER, ANANTNAG

SELECTION LIST OF BENEFICIARIES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FARM MACHINERY BANKS/UNITS.

In response to Public Notice published in daily News Papers viz; Daily Aftab Srinagar on 29-01-2021, this office has received 40 no. of applications (20 for each) for establishment of Farm Mechanization units & Custom Hiring Centres in the district. Accordingly, on the directions of Worthy Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, the selection of beneficiaries was made through draw of lots in the office chamber of Additional Deputy Commissioner Anantnag on 12-02-2021 at 4:00 PM.

During the draw of lots the following beneficiaries got selected for establishment of Farm Machinery Banks/units.

A. Farm Mechanization Unit					
S. No	Sub Division	Name of beneficiary	Parentage	Residence	Contact No.
1	Achabal	Haseena Akther	W/O Gh Rasool Shah	Buchan Shangu	7006754740
2	Dooru	Mohd Saleem Rather	Rafiq Ahmad	Larkipora	9596173746
3	Pahalgam	Farhat Hussain Malik	Altat Hussain	Batkoot	N.A
B. Custom Hiring Centre					
1	Achabal	Irshad Ahmad Shah	Ab Hamid Shah	Hardtooru	7889915536
2	Dooru	Mohd Iqbal Bhat	Ali Mohd Bhat	Nathipora	7889433924
3	Pahalgam	Aamir Ahmad Dar	Gh Mohiud Din Dar	Nanil Bonpora	7006312716
		Gowher Ahmad Dar	Ab Ganie Dar		
4	Qaimoh	Sajad Ahmad Lone	Ali Mohd Lone	Opzan	9906806416

The selected beneficiaries are directed to approach concerned Sub Divisional Agriculture Offices for completion of the required formalities.

Sd/-  
Chief Agriculture Officer  
Anantnag

DIPK-13128/20

Issued Through: Information & Publications, Department of Agriculture Lalmandi Srinagar.

((Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir))  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
MUFFASIL(R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM**  
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS  
(Modified as per Circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dt.22-12-2020  
Issued by Finance Department).  
NIT No201/\_e-tendering /MDB/2020-21/12524-44DATED. 13 -02-2021

For and on behalf of the President, of India, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of Completion (calendar days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of Compound walling around Treasury Office Building at Khag	17.43 lacs	800/-	30 days	CEE/BEE	4059-NFB

- Position of AAA/TS:- Accorded
- Position of Funds:- Available.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13.02.2021 1.00 AM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13.02.2021 10:00 4.00 P.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	14.02.2021 from 10:30 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	19.02.2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	20.02.2021 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam

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:-  
Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectarat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

b) The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing E-challan/ or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ in favour of Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam (tender inviting authority).

1. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of Finance Department ( Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure 'A' below).

2. 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.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam

DIPK-13139/20

No. 12524-44  
DATED. 13.02.2021



K O V I E W

## Restoring statehood

Home minister Amit Shah gave an assurance in parliament on Saturday that the Centre will grant full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at an appropriate time. He was replying to a discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill that some Opposition members claimed contradicted the government's plan to give J&K its statehood back. The opposition also took exception to merge the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre of all-India services officers with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre. But the home minister said that merging J&K cadre with the (AGMUT) had nothing to do with negation of statehood to J&K.

Here's hoping that the union government does take step to restore J&K's statehood at the earliest. On February 5 the government restored the high speed mobile internet in the union territory after eighteen months. All these months, the government kept denying the 4G on the grounds that doing so was a security risk. This despite the fact that the ground situation in the Valley has remained calm over the past one and a half year.

Now the government wants to bring back a group of foreign diplomats for the third time to showcase the normalcy in Kashmir. The visit being planned in the next few weeks will include about 20 envoys and diplomats from different countries, including the European Union. The visit will be the third official one by foreign diplomats since the government's decision to amend Article 370 on August 5, 2019. Among them was a group of far-right members of the European Parliament.

All such visits have run into their share of controversies. The move of bringing diplomats has come under criticism for trying to portray normalcy in Kashmir where the high speed mobile internet was only recently restored. The government has also been accused of seeking approval for its Kashmir policy from the foreign countries, when it considers Kashmir an internal issue. And also ironically while foreign diplomats are brought to Kashmir time and again, the leaders from the opposition parties have often been discouraged from doing so.

BJP has remained unfazed by such criticisms and defended the visits of foreign diplomats as a helpful effort to demonstrate to the world that Kashmir was doing well following the revocation of Article 370. The BJP has highlighted the absence of protests in Kashmir as a sign of normalcy in the UT. The fact, however, remains that while the situation in Kashmir has remained largely calm, the government hasn't been commensurate with relaxation of restrictions. Also, New Delhi has been delaying the restoration of statehood to J&K. Truth is that Kashmir has come a long way since withdrawal of its autonomous status and the situation has held largely peaceful. This should have qualified J&K for the grant of statehood. But the centre has so far given no timeframe for it. It is hoped that after restoration of 4G, the government will take firm steps to make J&K once again a state.

O T H E R O P I N O N

## Spare cricket from bigotry

Wasim Jaffer, a former Indian Test cricketer and the highest run-scorer in the Ranji Trophy, resigned as the coach of the Uttarakhand team earlier this week, alleging that officials had pushed undeserving players. A day later, a senior officer-bearer of the Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU) accused Mr Jaffer of "communalising the dressing room" and favouring Muslim players. Mr Jaffer has strongly denied the allegations, expressed deep hurt, and has drawn support from cricketers — from Anil Kumble and Irfan Pathan, to his former teammates in state teams who have vouched for his professionalism and integrity.

A fallout between a coach and a cricket association is not new, neither are differences that may arise on selection of players or how a team should function or the autonomy a coach must enjoy. But Indian cricket has been an exemplar of Indian secularism in practice. It has not mattered if you are Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Parsi; it has not mattered if you are from the south or north or east or west; it has not mattered if you are from a slick urban upper middle-class background or have small-town subaltern roots. All that has mattered is how you bat, bowl, field and function in the cricket team, on purely cricketing yardsticks. That these allegations were made against Mr Jaffer is deeply disturbing, for it is an effort to introduce the politics of communalism, bigotry and prejudice into what has often been called India's true religion, cricket.

If the allegations were an aberration, they could well be dismissed. But it comes in the wake of a rising trend of marginalising minorities and forcing them to prove their nationalism at each juncture. In the world of films, another secular space, Muslim actors are increasingly cautious in expressing their views given the systematic attacks against film icons who have, in the past, expressed dissent. In the world of politics, there is severe underrepresentation of Muslims in power structures. In the world of law and the criminal justice system, there is an effort to penalise interfaith marriages, especially between Muslim men and Hindu women. And in society, the gulf between Hindus and Muslims has only increased, often fuelled by hate speech on social media and in electoral campaigns. Mr Jaffer's story is a disturbing tale of how this prejudice has now seeped into cricket, and must be unequivocally condemned.

Hindustan Times



EJAZ AYOUB

This is the first in a Four-part series that outlines the processes of change in J&K Economy since 1996-97

Its year 2021 and we are at the cusp of an unfolding new decade. It also marks the 30th anniversary of the Indian economic liberalization. It was in the backdrop of economic crisis originating from dangerous levels of fiscal and current account deficit, depleting foreign exchange reserves, high inflation and a looming threat of sovereign debt default that India was compelled to take decisive reforms 30 years ago. In an epochal budget presented by the then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, Government of India in 1991 took a tectonic shift in its national and international economic policy. It shunned away its post-independence Soviet Union influenced Fabian socialism and devalued its currency and integrated its businesses and supply chains with the global market-driven economic systems. Besides opening its gates to the world, the Government also reformed its domestic business environment by minimizing the hassle laden maze of bureaucratic red-tapism popularly known as the "license raj".

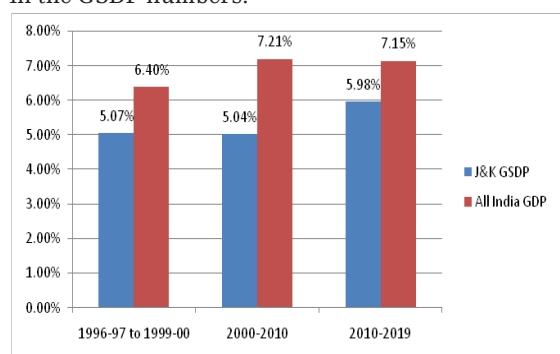
Although critiques on the Left attribute the prevailing rising income inequality, ecological deterioration and unhealthy levels of consumption and personal debt to this laissez faire economic model, however, those on the other side are quick to flaunt the rising GDP numbers, reduction in poverty levels and other indicators of development as a counter argument. The fact remains that the momentous series of policy reforms in 1991 did alter the DNA of the Indian economy fundamentally. While numbers of the formal economy representing indicators of well being and economic progress did show remarkable growth when compared to pre 1991 parameters, however, when looked qualitatively, the distribution of this progress has been uneven and seemingly concentrated to urban centers and industrially advanced states. Amidst all the fireworks that were happening on the economic front at the national level, it will therefore be interesting to track as to how J&K's economy fared in the last three decades of economic liberalization.

### Economic trajectory in numbers: 1996-2020

While India was making structural changes in the economy, J&K in 1991 was grappling with one of the most ferocious armed rebellions in the recent history. With volatile political environment having engulfed the entire region and absence of any elected State Government, economy was paralyzed on all fronts in the 90's.

In 1996, J&K witnessed the return of an elected Government after a gap of almost 7 years of presidential rule. Inheriting a miniscule GSDP of Rs. 6982 crore at constant prices (base year 1993-94) as on 1995-96, J&K's new dispensation leveraging the low base effect registered an average growth of around 5.07 % to reach to a figure of Rs. 8509 Crore till FY 1999-2000. India on the other hand was growing much rapidly; registering an average growth of around 6.4% for the same period and over 6.6% for the 90's decade.

The opening of the economy in 1991 didn't start showing results immediately at the national level. Indian economy started accelerating a little later i.e. during the first decade of the 21st century at an average growth of 7.21 % with annual growth even crossing 9% for three consecutive years. Despite a thaw in the peace process between New Delhi and Islamabad during the first half of this decade, J&K's average economic growth continued to lag behind at 5.04 % during the same period. In the last decade i.e. from 2010-11 to 2018-19 (data available till 2018-19) Indian GDP grew at an average of 7.15% compared to J&K's GSDP of 5.98%. This spike in J&K's GSDP can be attributed to the outlier growth rate of 18.23% registered in FY 2015-16. Besides the low base of the preceding year, reason for this spike is based on the colossal loss of property and factors of the economy during the great floods of 2014. As a result, 2015-16 witnessed a major spur in rebuilding. The land, labor, capital and enterprise that were used to rebuild the broken infrastructure added to the production of that year thereby causing a spur in the GSDP numbers.



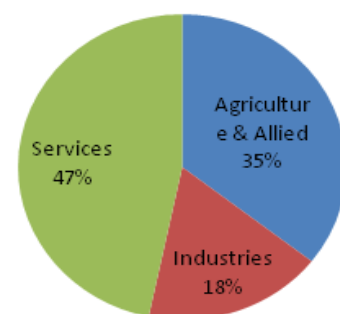
Average GDP growth (Constant Prices) I

# Economy Central J&K Economy from Rear View

The long picture for these 24 years i.e. the all India GDP growth from FY 1996-97 till FY 2018-29 averaged at around 6.90 %. The average GSDP growth rate, on the other hand, at which the economy of J&K's progressed for the same period arrives at 5.41% i.e. about 149 basis points less than the national average. Theoretically, at this rate India is doubling its economic size every 10.43 years compared to J&K which takes over 13.30 years to achieve a similar feat. It is pertinent to mention that these GDP numbers are at constant prices with periodic base year changes i.e. real values discounted for inflation. This huge gap of almost 3 years is creating a wide economic gulf after every cycle. This lag clearly indicates that the fruits of liberalization were uneven in distribution and economies like J&K are emerging as laggards in the long run.

### Impact on the composition of J&K economy:

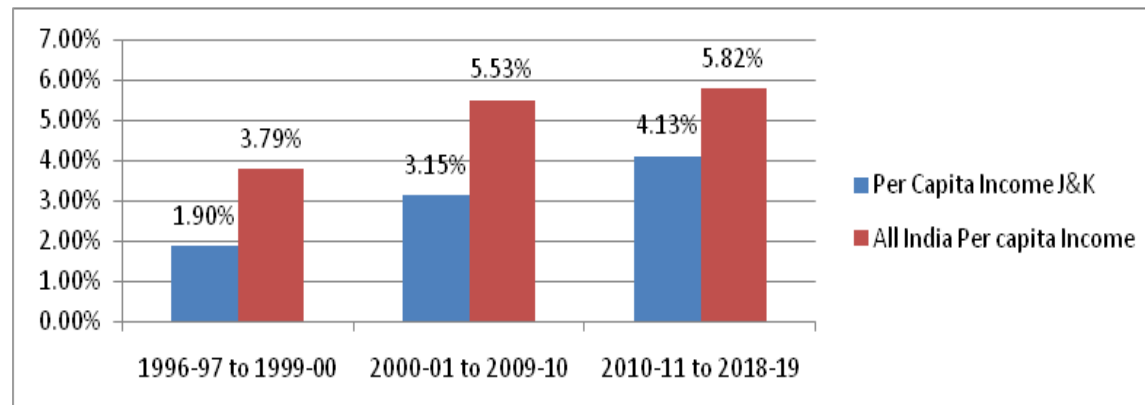
### J&K's Economic pie in 1996-97



The composition of J&K economy has undergone a sizeable transformation since 1996-97. The all India level share of primary sector at 19.90% is almost at the same level with that of J&K at 19%. Contribution of Industries sector at 25.33 % at all India level is well ahead of J&K's 23%. The services sector at national level slices 54.77% share in the pie compared to J&K's 58%. J&K's service sector has outpaced the other two sectors by a fair margin. From 47% contribution to a whopping 58%, services are emerging as the main driver of the regional economy. Primary sector comprising of agriculture and allied activities is shrinking fast in terms of its impact on the economic output. Industries sector on the other hand has moved at a snail's pace. Although shrinking role of agricultural sector is considered as a healthy sign for advancing economies, however, the lack of growth in industrial sector depicts an unhealthy drag in terms of capacity development, employment creation and widening of tax base.

### Per Capita Income:

The gulf created by the lagging economic acceleration and industrial development since 1996 can easily be gauged by tracking the movement of J&K's per capita income in comparison to all India levels. J&K's per capita income in real terms (adjusted for inflation) in FY 1996-97 was Rs. 6978, whereas the All India average for the same period stood at Rs. Rs.9007 i.e. approximately 29% higher. Today, the chasm between the incomes is much wider with All India per capita income over 34% higher than that of J&K. The decadal growth patterns in J&K when pitched against all India levels depict a gradual lag in J&K's per capita incomes. From 1996-97, J&K's per capita income grew at a dismal growth of 1.90%, then from 2000-01 to 2009-10 it grew at an average rate of 3.15% and from 2010-11 to 2018-19 it registered an average growth of 4.13%. The all India average for the same period clocked at 3.70%, 5.53% and 5.82% respectively.



Average growth in per capita income I

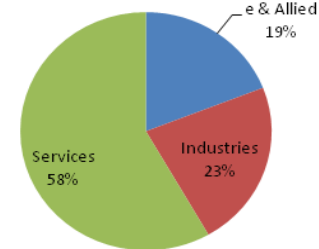
Measuring from a wider time frame i.e. from 1996 till 2019, J&K's per capita income has grown at an average of around 3.38% compared to an impressive all India average of 5.41%. Which implies that in real terms (adjusted for inflation), nationally the income is doubled every 13.30 years, while in case of J&K it takes around 21.30 years for the same. This gives a fair idea about the velocity with which the distance between J&K's people and average Indian is widening in income terms. Although the income distribution at national level is much concentrated leading to higher inequalities, however, per capita as an indicator does show the limited role that liberalization has done in uplifting the economies of

regions like Jammu and Kashmir when compared to aggregate values.

A look at the trend of macroeconomic variables of J&K since 1996 is projecting a clear pattern. Firstly, the speed of growth in J&K in all the three periods of observation is lagging behind all India averages by a fair margin resulting in economic backwardness, poor capacity to soak employment pressure and limited appetite to create investment and business opportunities. Secondly, the industries sector is creating a drag on the region's ability to accelerate economic output, develop indigenous capacities of manufacturing and construction and widen the regional Government's tax base. Thirdly, this poor performance is resulting in widening of gap between average incomes. The pace of income growth has been quite dismal in case of J&K when compared to national averages resulting in smaller savings, dwarfed investments and restricted consumption.

It is matter of fact that the region of Jammu and

### J&K's Economic pie in 2018-19



Measuring from a wider time frame i.e. from 1996 till 2019, J&K's per capita income has grown at an average of around 3.38% compared to an impressive all India average of 5.41%. Which implies that in real terms (adjusted for inflation), nationally the income is doubled every 13.30 years, while in case of J&K it takes around 21.30 years for the same.

Kashmir has been marred with sustained political uncertainties, treacherous road connectivity, and hostile climate, paucity of skilled workforce, power shortages and unreliable communication networks. Despite these chronic impediments, the regional economy seems to have done reasonably well in surviving the odds with tremendous grit. Expecting investment from the private sector is nothing short of a fantasy when even Government of India, which had no restrictions on account of Article 370 or 35A, couldn't invest in J&K all these years. Pertinently, GOI has an investment of about Rs. 25 Lakh crore through its hundreds of central PSUs across India. However, as on date, it could trust J&K with a paltry sum of only Rs. 150 crore. When the spender of the last resort is shying away from investing in J&K with such a miserly approach, one can very well imagine the apprehensions of private players. Nevertheless, one can only hope that factors marring the investment and business environment get addressed and instead of focusing too much on ex-

ternal inflows, domestic businesses take the plunge and create capacities to improve self-sufficiency and economic dignity.

\*Data has been taken from Reserve Bank of India website, various economic surveys and state budgets

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

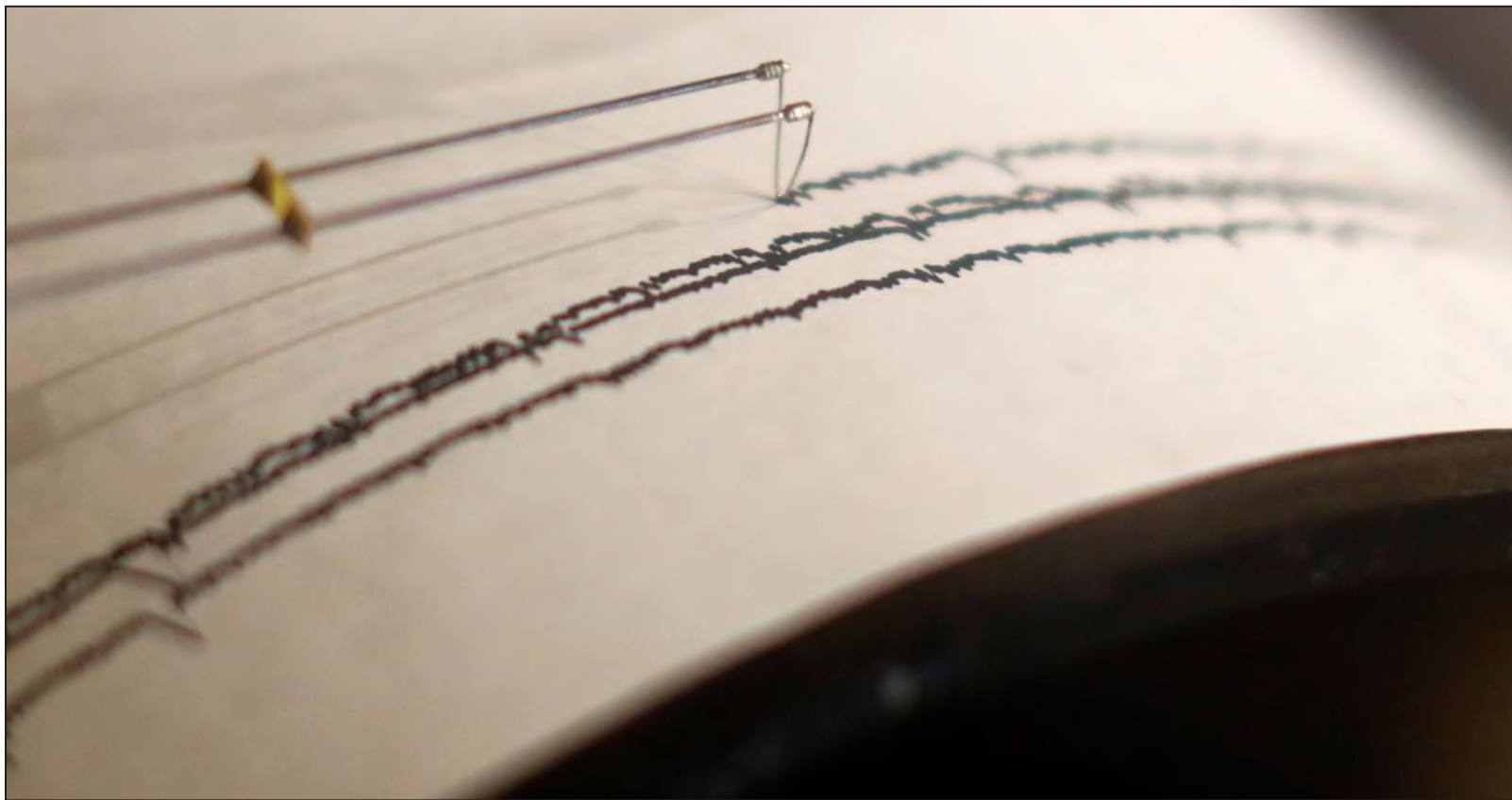
The author has been working in the BFSI industry in the field of Financial Risk Management, Strategy and Foreign Exchange. He can be reached at:ejaz.ayoub@gmail.com



# The Earthquake did not strike India but Tajikistan

DR AFROZ SHAH

“The Tajikistan earthquake is yet another kind reminder that we must prepare the ground for a major earthquake, which could occur anytime in the future. The tectonic and earthquake history of the Kashmir region clearly suggests that a major earthquake is due, and if it occurs, it is going to be disastrous.”



The moment magnitude (Mw) 5.9 earthquake occurred in the Tajikistan region, it ruptured a deeper portion of the lithosphere at 92km depth according to the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC). The earthquake was reported on 12th February at 17:01:35.2 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Although the quake had occurred more than 400 km north of the Kashmir basin, yet it managed to create panic in the valley, in Punjab and adjacent regions.

Geologically, it is not an unexpected earthquake and such quakes are a routine occurrence in the region and result from the ongoing tectonic collision between the lithospheric plates of India and Eurasia. Therefore, it is not true that the earthquake occurred in India, which was unfortunately reported by many media reports. This is what shows more problems than the earthquake itself.

The earthquake occurrences in the Himalayan region are very important aspects of the tectonics because these are an efficient mechanism to release years of stored strain within rocks. The strain in the Himalayan regions is a direct consequence of the northward push of India plate

against Eurasia. Geologically, Tajikistan is one of the critical regions because it is where the tectonic transport on the active faults change, and it links the faults that run above Kashmir with those that are in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Therefore, the Kashmir region is tectonically linked with the border regions on all sides, and an earthquake that will occur in those regions ought to shake Kashmir as well.

Earthquakes do not demarcate human borders but tectonic ones. The severe shaking reported in parts of Kashmir area could be because of the amplification of earthquake waves on entering the Quaternary sediments of the Kashmir basin. The earthquake-related shaking will amplify in regions that are filled with unconsolidated sediments, and therefore, the Kashmir and Peshawar basins reported severe shaking because of the above process.

The Tajikistan earthquake is yet another kind reminder that we must prepare the ground for a major earthquake, which could occur anytime in the future. The tectonic and earthquake history of the Kashmir region clearly suggests that a major earthquake is due, and if it occurs, it is going to be disastrous. I would say the devastation could

be much worse than the 2005 Kashmir earthquake that resulted in the loss of more than 70 thousand people in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, and it also caused damage in the Kashmir basin as well.

The forecasting of a devastating earthquake in the Kashmir region is painful but true, and the unfortunate reality remains that we are yet to develop a robust mechanism to avert such estimates. The groundwork to deal with earthquake devastation has not even begun, and we are sitting on active faults that are ripe to slide and it is just a matter of time before unfortunate realities unfold in front of our eyes. No one would like to see such devastation in any part of the world, and Kashmir is not an exception. Therefore, I would kindly request administrative authorities to please make quick arrangements regarding earthquake hazards so that living with earthquake hazards in Kashmir becomes a reality. There is absolutely no way that we could predict the exact timing of a future earthquake, and the best remedy is to stay prepared with earthquake hazards.

The author can be reached at  
Afroz.shah@gmail.com

## Is your child anxious about starting school for the first time? Here's how you can help

MANDIE SHEAN

Starting school is an important event for children and a positive experience can set the tone for the rest of their school experience.

Some children are excited to attend school for the first time, yet others feel anxious. Back to school anxiety is a widely accepted phenomenon, but there is no data on exactly how many children feel anxious prior to starting school.

The data available indicates 6.9% of 4-11 year olds (278,000 children) have a diagnosed anxiety disorder in Australia.

Children who experience anxiety are more likely to have worse academic outcomes if it is not addressed. Therefore, it is critical to manage feelings of anxiety effectively to ensure children experience success in school. Parents can be comforted by the fact research shows exposure to our fears helps to reduce anxiety.

### Fear of the unknown

Children can feel anxious about starting school due to uncertainty and a perceived lack of control. In one study, children said they felt shy or scared when they were starting school because they were unsure of their teacher, what was going to happen and where they would put their things.

Children also reported making friends and meeting “scary big kids” as a worry when they were starting school. However, some children were also excited about the possibility of making new friends.

This shows if children perceived the experience as a threat rather than an opportunity, they experienced anxiety.

Drawing of anxious parents, and the anxiety of their young boy about to go to school.

While being anxious about your child's school experience comes from love, it can communicate to them there is a threat. Shutterstock



“Being overprotective can be due to parents' own anxiety and insecurities about the school system. Unfortunately, while it is done in love, too much parent control leads to reduced problem solving skills and reduced competence in children.”

### The stories we tell

When children have not attended school before they rely on their parents' stories to help them frame their expectations. Research indicates children have increased social anxiety when parents' stories include a threat in the environment or suggest the child is vulnerable.

Conversely, when parents' stories include encouragement and suggest the child is competent and can cope, the children have less anxiety.

Related to that is research showing children can experience anxiety due to either excessive reassurance from their

parents or overprotectiveness. While excessive reassurance is done to encourage children, it can also communicate to them there is a threat. It can cause children to become reliant on their parents for comfort when they are stressed and believe they are unable to cope alone.

Being overprotective can be due to parents' own anxiety and insecurities about the school system. Unfortunately, while it is done in love, too much parent control leads to reduced problem solving skills and reduced competence in children. Overprotective parenting can communicate to children they need pro-

tecting from a “threat” (school). Children begin to feel anxious unless their parent is there to protect them.

Separation from parents can cause anxiety too. The diagnosis of separation anxiety is characterised by excessive anxiety concerning separation from the home or from those to whom the child is attached. Separation anxiety is normal in children but can be exacerbated by divorce, stress, or the child's temperament.

### What helps children feel less anxious about starting school?

There are several things that can help

children — and their parents — feel less anxious about starting school.

Schools can communicate well with parents so they have knowledge about the upcoming processes. When parents know how things work they have reduced anxiety, therefore their child also has less anxiety. Schools can explain where children are dropped off, how long parents can stay, and how they arrange meetings with teachers. If you are a parent, ask for this information if it is not provided.

Parents and schools can provide children with skills and information. This can include positive advice on making friends, where things are located (such as the toilet), and how to access support. Some certainty and control can alleviate feelings of anxiety.

Research shows talking to children about future events and listening to their concerns can alleviate anxiety. This doesn't mean you bring up potential threats, but address concerns on the children's mind.

When parents make links between previous positive experiences and starting school, children are less anxious. Parents can remind children of the time they succeeded at swimming when they were nervous, or how they learned their alphabet. These small successes can provide a foundation for children's school success.

Parents can also provide their child with some control and certainty over starting school. Let children select their bag and stationery. Walk around the school grounds with them. Introduce them to a child in the same year. Some certainty within uncertainty is healthy.

Finally, tell a good story. School can be exciting and filled with great experiences. Frame school as a potentially positive experience and one to look forward to. They may be nervous but they can overcome it.

By arrangements with  
The Conversation



مفتون کا قاعدہ: درخواستیں داخلہ ہونے والے صوبہ کے صدر میں داخل ہونے کے بعد پوری پیمائش مکمل ہو جائے گی اور ہر ممبر اور حلقہ کی ALC

تقریب 294 SRO

## اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر حید میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع چوٹی وادی میں رہائش پذیر اور کمرہ پڑاؤ پر مشتمل ہے۔

نام ولد بیت	پیشہ	عمر	سکونت
حبیب اللہ وادعلی لون	مزدوری	49 سال	چوٹی وادی
بانی بیکمز عبد حبیب اللہ لون	کمرہ پڑاؤ	46 سال	
ریش احمد پیر حبیب اللہ لون	زراعت	20 سال	
عبد بخش حبیب اللہ لون	زراعت	18 سال	
پرویز احمد پیر حبیب اللہ لون	زراعت	16 سال	
ذاکر احمد پیر حبیب اللہ لون	زراعت	14 سال	
گلشن بخش حبیب اللہ لون	زراعت	12 سال	
مومن پیر حبیب اللہ لون	زراعت	10 سال	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کم نہیں سے اور کچھ خدایاں ہو یا آمدانی مبلغ =/5866 تک ہے اور سر تقیہ زبیر بخش اجرا کرتے ہیں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ ہو تو دفتر حید میں اندر سات پیمائش کریں بعد معیار گذار کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ ہو گا۔

تصدیق صدر حلقہ



## Tourism Department Restarts Online Registrations



**SRINAGAR:** The Tourism Department has restarted the online mode of registration of tourism units.

Secretary, Tourism, Culture & Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafiz today formally kick started the restart of the online service by clicking the button and handing over the registration to two unit holders. He said the portal is very dynamic and user-friendly which will streamline the registration process by a great measure.

As per this online mode, a tourism unit holder can apply with the Tourism Department for registration of his/her unit under J&K Tourist Trade Act, 1978/2011 by simply logging on to a dedicated portal [www.tourismjk.nic.in](http://www.tourismjk.nic.in) with a set of documents as per the checklist available on the portal.

On receiving the application on the dashboard of the

portal, the registering authority would scrutinize the documents online, conduct inspection and issue the registration certificate. This would eliminate the human interface between the Department and the unit holder and the registration would be done in the most transparent manner.

Initially the online registration has been restarted in respect of travel units and gradually it would be extended to other tourism units and their renewals as well.

Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo, MD, JKTD, Nisar Ahmad Wani, Director, SKICC & MD, Golf Development Authority, Javed Bakshi, CEOs of Gulmarg & Pahalgam Development Authorities, Joint Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Deputy Directors of Tourism, and other officers were present on the occasion.

## Workshop On Conversion Of Agri Land Opens



**SRINAGAR:** One day workshop cum awareness program on 'Conversion of agricultural land into non agriculture use – its catastrophic effects on our sustenance', organised by Agriculture department at Lalmandi was inaugurated by Dr Shahid Iqbal Chowdhary (Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, who is acting Divisional Commissioner Kashmir).

Addressing the gathering, Dr Shahid said that a large scale conversion of agriculture land into non agricultural use shall create an imbalance in the ecosystem as the change in land pattern would be the greatest concern to our food security and economic sustainability in this part of temperate region, which otherwise has the potential to be world leader because of its unique identity in agricultural products.

He said that the change in land use pattern has arguably been the most pervasive socio economic source which has caused imbalance in the system. He said it is the biggest challenge that the whole world is presently facing and needs immediate redressal so that there is a balance between modernization i.e urbanization

and industrial growth vis-à-vis assured food security.

Dr Shahid assured that the Divisional Administration will always provide a helping hand to the Department of Agriculture and other concerned departments on board to tighten the noose around those violating the laws governing the prevention of conversion of agriculture land into non agricultural use.

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal during his address said that the mankind is facing the threats simultaneously on conversion of agricultural land into non agriculture purpose and drastic reduction in dense forest cover. He said it is the prime responsibility of every conscious citizen of the nation to conserve the land resources for sustenance, both for the present as well as future generations.

Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC), Iftikhar Ahmad Kakroo said that I&FC is taking all steps for providing irrigation to cultivable land. He also stated that they have already started a drive to remove encroachments from banks of flood channels and rivers for conserving the water bodies

## GST Officers To Immediately Suspend Taxpayer's Registration For Major Anomalies In Sales Return

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**G**ST officers will immediately suspend registration of taxpayers whose sales return or GSTR-1 forms show "significant differences or anomalies" from the return filed by their suppliers, a move aimed at curbing tax evasion and safeguarding revenues.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for suspension of registration of a person on observance of such discrepancies / anomalies which indicate violation of the GST Act.

As per the SOP, the registration of specified taxpayers shall be suspended and system generated intimation for suspension and notice for cancellation of registration in form GST REG-31, containing the reasons of suspension, shall be sent to such taxpayers on their registered e-mail address.

The registration would be suspended in cases where a comparison of the returns furnished by a registered person with the details of outward supplies furnished in form GSTR-1, or the details of inward supplies derived based on the details of outward supplies furnished by his suppliers in their GSTR-1, show 'significant differences or anomalies',



indicating contravention of the provisions of the GST Act.

"Till the time functionality for FORM REG-31 is made available on portal, such notice/intimation shall be made available to the taxpayer on their dashboard on the common portal in Form GST REG-17."

"The taxpayers will be able to view the notice in the 'View/Notice and Order' tab post login," the SOP said.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) officers have already intensified their drive against fake invoicing and this has also contributed to increase in tax collections in the past couple of months.

GST collections have crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark for four consecutive months and surged to an all-time high of about Rs

1.20 lakh crore in January.

The SOP further said the taxpayers whose registrations are suspended would be required to furnish reply to the jurisdictional tax officer within 30 days from the receipt of such notice / intimation, explaining the discrepancies / anomalies and the reasons as to why their registration should not be cancelled.

Reply has to be sent to the jurisdictional officer through the common portal within 30 days from the receipt of notice/intimation.

In case the intimation for suspension and notice for cancellation of registration is issued on ground of non-filing of returns, the said person may file all the due returns and submit the response, the SOP added.

## Tourism Deptt Gearing Up For Series Of Festivals, Roadshows

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary, Tourism, Culture, Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafeez Monday convened an interactive meeting with the representatives of travel and hospitality sector here to chalk out the strategy for upcoming publicity campaigns and roadshows to be held across the country.

While expressing satisfaction over the tourists' flow to the Valley, the Secretary Tourism said the sustained efforts of the Department and stakeholders have borne fruit and, as a result, prime destinations like Gulmarg and Srinagar are abuzz with tourists.

He hoped this trend of tourist arrivals would continue and hopefully the tourism sector in J&K will revive to its normal levels sooner than later.

Elaborating on the upcoming programmes to attract both budget and high-end tourists, Sarmad Hafeez said the department is planning a series of roadshows across the country besides organizing several festivals here in the spring and summer seasons.

He said the blossoming of the colourful flowers in Tulip and Mughal Gardens attracts huge numbers of travelers in the spring season and called upon all concerned Departments to coordinate in the better management of the coming festivals.

The Secretary Tourism informed that the Department will organize Badamwari Festival, Tulip Festival, and Houseboat Festival in the coming days and months to add to the attractions of visiting tourists. He hoped these festivals will be mega events to attract both locals and tourists besides promoting the Valley's flora, culture, seasons and cuisine to the tourists.

Sarmad Hafeez sought suggestions and active participation of the travel trade bodies for the successful conduct

### 'Tourist Influx Has Increased'

**SRINAGAR:** The Tourism and associated government departments of Kashmir will organize grand festivals to give huge impetus and boost to the tourism sector in Kashmir, Advisor Baseer Khan vouched while taking the review meeting of Tourism department with officers at SKICC, Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor Baseer Khan told officers present that the Tourism department will hold a series of mega festivals including Tulip festival, Badamwari festival, Houseboat festival, Pahalgam festival and other host of activities and directed them to take all the measures to mark the experience of events very memorable.

He directed officers to make hospitable arrangements to facilitate tourists at the airport and avoid any inconvenience caused due to any issue of mismanagement.

Director Tourism informed that the influx of tourists has increased and the number will increase manifold with the conduct of these festivals. He said all the stakeholders have been taken into confidence and asked to employ their resources effectively.

Meanwhile, Advisor Khan issued strict orders for face lifting of roadsides from airport to Srinagar and beautification of flyovers. Advisor was informed that there are 207 roadside facilities of different organizations along the national highway and at tourism destinations. He also stressed on the officers to make illumination fountains functional.

of these festivals and roadshows and making the tourist activities memorable for the visitor and stakeholders together.

On the occasion, the representatives of travel trade bodies expressed happiness over the current flow of tourists to the Valley and appreciated the role of the department in reviving and promoting the tourism after the Covid-19 pandemic.

They informed the meeting that the hotels at prime locations are fully packed and the trend is expected to continue during the spring and summer seasons also.

Earlier, Director Tourism, Kashmir Dr G N Itoo informed the meeting about the various initiatives being undertaken by the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir for the upcoming spring and summer season including extensive promotion and publicity

campaigns across several platforms.

In a separate meeting with the heads of various departments, the Secretary, Tourism reviewed the conduct of upcoming festivals in the Valley.

The meeting was attended by Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo, MD JKTD, Nisar Ahmad Wani, MD SKICC, Javid Bakshi, Director Floriculture, Farooq Ahmad Rather, Director Handlooms and Handicraft, Mehmood A Shah, CEOs of Pahalgam and Gulmarg Development Authorities, Joint Director Information, Joint Director, Tourism besides Deputy Directors and the senior officers of the Tourism department.

During the meeting, Secretary Tourism discussed the timing and various events to be held during the festivals. He sought coordination from all the departments in making these festivals a huge success.

## Petrol, Diesel Prices Rise For 7th Consecutive Day



Agencies

Petrol and diesel prices maintained a northward rally on Monday, the seventh consecutive day when the retail prices have risen across the country, with oil on the boil in global markets and both crude and product prices seeing a big spike.

Accordingly, oil marketing companies raised the pump price of diesel by a high level of 29 paise per litre and petrol by another 26 paise per litre in Delhi.

With this increase, petrol is now priced at Rs 88.99 a litre and diesel Rs 79.35 a litre in the national capital.

In the last seven days, the price has gone up by Rs 2.06 per litre for petrol while diesel rate has risen by Rs 2.56 a litre.

Across the country as well the petrol price increase ranged from 23-26 paise per litre and diesel price 28-30 paise per litre depending on the level of local taxes on the two petroleum products.

In Mumbai, petrol price is just Rs 4 per litre short (Rs 95.46 a litre) of touching three digit mark of Rs 100 per litre for the very first ever anywhere in the country. Diesel price in the city is closing on Rs 90 a litre (Rs 86.34 a litre). In all other met-

ros, petrol is over Rs 90 a litre mark while diesel is well over Rs 80 a litre barring Delhi

The increase on Monday has followed the firming global oil prices (both product and crude) that have maintained a record streak of gains in the past few days with crude reaching close to \$ 63.5 a barrel mark (single day gain over 2 per cent).

But experts said that fresh lockdown in various parts of the globe on new coronavirus strain may impact demand and push down prices soon. Also, Saudi Arabia unilateral production cuts may also be withdrawn post March putting downward pressure on oil prices.

Though firm global crude and product price is the reason for the increase in retail price of petrol and diesel, it is interesting to note that even though crude has been hovering just over \$55 a barrel for a long time earlier, OMCs had gone in for both a pause in price of auto fuels as well increase in its retail prices on consecutive days.

Crude prices have remained firm for the last few weeks in the wake of unilateral production cuts announced by Saudi Arabia and a pick up in consumption in all major economies globally.

## WPI Inflation Rises To 2.03% In Jan On Costlier Manufactured Items, Food Prices Ease



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**T**he wholesale price-based inflation rose to 2.03 per cent in January, 2021, even as food prices cooled.

The WPI inflation was 1.22 per cent in December, 2020 and 3.52 per cent in January last year.

While food articles saw softening in inflation in January, manufactured items witnessed hardening of prices, as per data released by the Commerce and Industry ministry.

Food inflation in January stood at (-) 2.8 per cent, against (-) 1.11 per cent in the previous month.

Inflation in vegetables and

potatoes was (-) 20.82 per cent and 22.04 per cent during January, while in the fuel and power basket it was (-) 4.78 per cent.

In non-food articles inflation was higher at 4.16 per cent during the month under review.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its monetary policy decision on February 5, kept interest rates unchanged for the fourth consecutive meeting and said that the near-term inflation outlook has turned favourable.

Meanwhile, retail inflation, based on the consumer price index, was at 4.06 per cent in January, data released last week showed.

### NEWS MAKERS

## JKHPMC Holds General Meeting

**JAMMU:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, today chaired the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting accorded approval to a special resolution presented by the concerned which 'stated that pursuant to Section 42, 62 and other applicable provisions of the Company Act 2013, read with the applicable rules, regulations there to and the Articles of Association of the Company and such other necessary approvals, if any, the consent of the Shareholders is hereby accorded to offer, issue and allot 79,995 equity shares of the face value of Rs 100 each to the shareholder viz UT of J&K at an issue price of Rs 13,268.33 each (including premium of Rs 13,167.33) per share'.

Describing horticulture as a key contributor towards UTs economy, Advisor emphasized upon the need of bringing in some visible changes in the sector. He also called for revival and modernization of the horticulture sector.

## Handicraft Dept Holds Awareness Camp At Tral



**PULWAMA:** The Handicraft department Pulwama today organised one day awareness camp cum Registration mela for Artisans at Community Hall Arpal, Tral.

The camp was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Tral, Shabir Ahmad Raina.

Addressing the gathering, the ADC urged upon the artisan community to get their names registered in the department for availing the benefits of various welfare schemes. He stressed upon the officials of the department to conduct awareness camps and educate artisans about the activities being carried by the department for their benefit.

## DC Ramban Interacts With Local Entrepreneurs

**RAMBAN:** To promote industrial activities in the district, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Musarat Islam today interacted with entrepreneurs to discuss the issues pertaining to industries sector.

General Manager DIC, Vishwajeet and other sectoral officers from the allied departments were also present on the occasion.

The DC urged the entrepreneurs to focus on manufacturing activities as well as those having a strong raw material base, especially in the Horticulture and /Agriculture sector. This, he said, will help to establish an industrial hub in the district. besides providing job opportunities to youth. The DC directed GM, DIC to organize an interactive session with youth who are inclined to venture into the manufacturing sector.

Pertinently, five potential local products were selected in a recently held District level Export Committee meeting, which have penetrated national and overseas markets. These include honey, Sundried Anardhana, Dry rind, Rajma and olive root stock.

## Functioning Of Fruit Mandi, Bumhama Reviewed

**KUPWARA:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Imam Din today along with concerned officers visited Fruit and Vegetable Mandi, Bumhama to take stock of its functioning.

On the occasion, the DDC convened a meeting with traders dealing with dry and fresh fruits. It was informed that as many as 169 shop sites including 105 dry fruit and 64 fresh fruit shops have already been allotted to fruit traders to carry out their business.

The DDC asked these shopkeepers to start their businesses forthwith without wastage of any more time. He said the government has given directive for proper establishment of fruit and vegetable mandi to boost the marketing of fruit and vegetables in the district.

The DDC said that con-



certed efforts are underway to upgrade the walnut market in Kupwara so that the economy of the district gets a boost. He said that the district has a vast potential of walnut production and a large number of people are directly involved in the sec-

tor for their livelihood.

He also said that the horticulture sector has a vast potential for income generation and the educated youth of the district should come forward and take advantage of different schemes meant for development and boosting of this sector.



## Three-day Shiv Khori fair to begin on March 10 in Reasi



**JAMMU:** The annual three-day fair at the famous Shiv Khori temple in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir will be held from March 10, an official spokesperson said on Monday.

Reasi Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chib finalised the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the festival at a high level meeting Monday afternoon, the spokesperson said.

Shiv Khori is a nearly 200-metre-long famous cave shrine. It is a natural cave that is around one metre in width and two to three metres high.

"The three-day congregation will begin from March 10 and culminate on March 12," the spokesman said.

During the meeting, he said, Chib discussed various issues like facilities of drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation, repair of roads, security and medical facilities. She asked the departments concerned to make requisite arrangements well in advance for the smooth celebration of 'Maha Shivratri' festival, the spokesperson added.

## TRP Case: Ex-BARC CEO Directly Involved, Rigged Entire System: HC Told

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Former Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) CEO Partho Dasgupta rigged the "entire" TRP system for news channels and also discussed issues of national security with "a certain owner cum news anchor" on Whatsapp, the Mumbai Police told the Bombay High Court on Monday.

Special public prosecutor Shishir Hiray told a single-judge bench presided over by Justice PD Naik that Dasgupta was directly involved in manipulating Television Rating Points (TRPs) with the help of other accused persons.

Hiray, who was opposing Dasgupta's bail plea in the HC, said the crime branch of the Mumbai police had accessed, among other things, Dasgupta's Whatsapp chats with a "certain owner and anchor of a

Hiray said.

The purported chats between Dasgupta and Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami, who is also an accused in the TRP scam case, on the 2019 Pulwama attack are a part of the chargesheet filed by the police in the case.

Justice Naik asked if any offence had been registered with regard to the Whatsapp chat regarding the Pulwama attack, to which Hiray replied in negative.

Dasgupta's counsel, senior lawyer Abad Ponda, told the HC that the Whatsapp chats were merely "loose talks".

"Regarding Whatsapp chats, I will only say it is loose talks. Those are not admissible and need corroborative evi-

dence," Ponda said. He said Dasgupta's co-accused in the case were out on bail and that the Maharashtra government had made a statement before the HC earlier this month saying it will not take any coercive action against Arnab Goswami or any other employees of ARG Outlier media, which runs Republic TV channels.

"I am not saying to arrest them. But then the whole group under Republic TV is protected and I am behind bars," Ponda told the HC on behalf of Dasgupta.

He also said that the chargesheet had already been filed in the case and Dasgupta's custodial interrogation was not required any more, and therefore, he be granted bail.

Objecting to the bail plea, Hiray said the statement made by Maharashtra government counsel Kapil Sibal, protecting the ARG employees, had been made with "reluctance".

Hiray said the TRP scam happened at three levels.

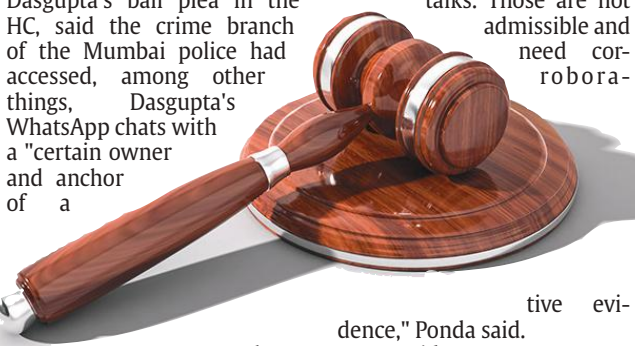
"The barometers for measurement were installed by BARC and Hansa. The viewers were paid monthly for watching their channels. The inevitable conclusion is that the information was leaked from BARC," he said.

Justice Naik then asked if Dasgupta was the one who had leaked the information, to which Hiray said that seemed to be "the inevitable conclusion".

"There is a full involvement (of Dasgupta). For a few crores he (Dasgupta) allowed the TRPs to be manipulated," he said.

Hiray further said the other accused who were granted bail in the case were not as "powerful" as Dasgupta is.

The HC will continue hearing the arguments on Tuesday.



## RSS Marking Houses Of Donors For Ram Temple, Just As Nazis Did: Kumaraswamy

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** Former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Monday accused the RSS of marking houses of those who gave donations for Ram Temple in Ayodhya and alleged it was similar to what the Nazis did in Germany.

The RSS dismissed the allegations, saying they do not qualify for any response. In a series of tweets, the JD(S) leader claimed that the RSS was born in India around the time Nazi Party was founded in Germany.

"It appears that those collecting donations for the construction of Ram Mandir have been separately marking the houses

of those who paid money and those who did not."

"This is similar to what Nazis did in Germany during the regime of Hitler when lakhs of people lost their lives," Kumaraswamy tweeted.

He wondered where these developments would take the country to. Quoting historians, Kumaraswamy claimed RSS took birth at the same time when the Nazi Party was founded in Germany.

"There are concerns on what will happen if the RSS tries to implement similar policies adopted by Nazis. The fundamental rights of people are being snatched away in the country

now," the former Chief Minister alleged.

He claimed there was an undeclared emergency in the country as people cannot freely express their views.

Expressing his apprehensions about media's independence in the coming days, the JD(S) leader said what will happen if the media upheld the government's views.

"It is clear from the emerging trends that anything may happen in the country," the former Chief Minister stated.

When contacted, RSS media-incharge E S Pradeep said, "Kumaraswamy's comments do not qualify for any response."

## ED arrests Actor-Businessman Sachin Joshi In Money Laundering Case

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Sachin Joshi, an actor-producer hailing from a family having gutka manufacturing business, in connection with a money laundering case against the city-based Omkar Realtors and Developers, officials said on Monday.

They said Joshi, 37, was arrested under relevant sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on Sunday after he was questioned for several hours by the investigating officer of the case.

A special anti-money laundering court here later sent him to the

custody of the ED till February 18.

Joshi's father J M Joshi is the promoter of the JMJ Group which is into the business of manufacturing gutka, pan masala and some other products, besides operating in the hospitality sector.

Sachin Joshi is stated to have acted in some south Indian and Hindi movies and was producer of some of them.

The income tax department had conducted multi-city raids against the group and those linked to it for almost six days and the action ended on February 13.

Tax department officials claimed they detected "unaccounted" transactions of about Rs 1,500 crore after the action.

The ED, meanwhile, said it wanted to put Sachin Joshi through custodial interrogation in order to probe alleged "diversion" of about Rs 87 crore, allegedly misappropriated from a slum rehabilitation scheme fund, from the Omkar Group to a company linked to him, Viking group.

"It is established that loans availed from Yes Bank has been diverted and accused (Sachin Joshi) has helped promoters of Omkar Group in such diversion for an amount of at least Rs 87 crore," the ED claimed while seeking his remand.

"The interrogation of Sachin Joshi may reveal crucial facts which are in his exclusive domain."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Thrilled To Be

most of the masked students were seen roaming around the campus and sharing laughter and light moments.

The college management was regulating the student and staff entry with temperature monitoring devices and sanitizers.

The campus revival had put the additional foothall on the streets with traffic police diverting the vehicular movement through alternate ways.

But amid all this, smiling faces of students dominated the scenes on the day one of college restitution in the valley.

"We students passed through a really tough time," said Bisma, a student from Government Medical College, Srinagar.

"We suffered a lot and there was so much pressure on us. Now I hope that everything remains normal and we get to spend much time in college and learn as much as we can."

This long overdue college rendezvous also acted as a vent for many students bereft of proper outing since abrogation of J&K's semi-autonomous status.

"Honestly, it feels like a refreshing visit," said Shakir Andrabi, a final year student of the historic SP College, Srinagar.

"Last many months felt like a prison, where communication crisis and online learning only took a toll on us."

Like Shakir, Zubair Ali also wants to make most of this renewed educational phase now.

"Long-drawn-out tough times at home made me realise the importance of a campus life," Zubair said. "College is not only a classroom engagement, but the overall personality development phase in one's life. It leaves a lasting impression in one's life. I'm looking forward to making most of it now."

As part of college life, the social hangouts and sports engagement also got restored with the campus revival.

"There's a huge difference between online and offline learning," Zubair Ali continued.

"While the screen tutorial is based on the 'all work and no play' rule, the offline learning strikes a right balance between play and work. And that's what I missed the most about my college life all these months."

### Parents Fume

buses owing to government's alleged callous approach of not resolving the transport charges issue.

Expressing shock over the move, another parent, Shafeeq Ahmad Hajam from Bemina told Kashmir Observer that his daughter, who is enrolled in Doon International School, used to go and come back home in her school bus since years.

"We fail to understand what this fuss is all about? Our kids have already lost a precious year to COVID-19 lockdown. The decision by private schools is unfortunate," he said.

PSAJK on its part on Monday said that due to the increased financial burden, all the schools have unanimously decided not to ply their buses.

The Association said that all the schools in Kashmir are under financial distress due to the situation of the last two years. "Our schools have not received a majority of fee and regarding transport charges we have had zero collections. On the other hand we continue to pay taxes and incur expenses on maintaining the transport fleet against zero income. This has turned our entire transport sector unviable to operate," said G N Var president PSAJK.

"In such a situation there has been a unanimous decision by all the private educational institutes that they won't be able to provide the transport facilities to its students."

The Association also blamed the government indecision towards the issue of school transportation for the situation.

"There have been repeated requests to the government to take a final decision with regards to transportation fees charged from students. Plus the High Court too had directed the government to take a view on this issue. But till date the government has not taken any call on the subject leaving both students and parents in limbo," said Var.

"On the other hand the schools continue to pay the salary of drivers and associated staff, pay taxes, insurance and bank instalments. The recurring costs have been continuous and the government has not given any kind of relaxation in taxes or other charges."

The Association said that it is a reality that both parents and schools have suffered during these trying times but schools had to take a call on the transport facility as this service demands day to day costs to operate. "So for the betterment of all we decided to take the school buses off the roads as the government has least bothered to take any decision," said Var.

The Association asked the parents of the students to arrange the transport facility for their wards on their own from and towards the schools. "We welcome the opening of schools and will be following every SOP to keep all the children and staff safe and healthy," said Var. "But for bringing and taking students from the schools parents should make suitable arrangements and save themselves from last minute hassle".

Despite repeated attempts, Director School Education Kashmir, (DESK), Mohammed Youns Malik didn't receive the calls for his comments.

### 5 Of A Family

in this tragic accident," the officials informed. The minor girl is having minor injuries but is stable and out of danger, they said, adding that she has been shifted to Doda district hospital for treatment.

Doda Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Mumtaz Ahmed said the accident occurred around 7.10 pm near Raggi Nallah, 20 km from Doda town.

"The private vehicle, bearing a temporary registration number valid till March 4, was on way from Doda to Batote when its driver lost control and fell into the deep gorge," the SSP told PTI.

The police official said the rescue operation is still on.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Dr. Sagar D Doifode said that five persons got killed in the accident and one minor girl got injured—(With KNO inputs)

### J&K Govt Warns

outside the country on private affairs shall be granted by the administrative department in the same manner as leave outside the country," the order issued by Commissioner Secretary, GAD, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi read. Further, the order said the finance department in its circular on February 21, 2019 inter alia clarified that prior permission of the competent authority for leaving the station would be mandatory when a government employee intends to visit a foreign country in private capacity.

"It has, however, been observed that the officers/officials of various departments are proceeding on foreign visits without obtaining prior permission of the competent authority, in violation of rules/norms, as a consequence of which such cases are recommended for post facto sanction thereby defeating the purpose of an elaborate set of instructions/guidelines notified on the subject. The matter has been viewed seriously by the authorities," the order said.

The order impressed upon all the officers and officials working in various government departments, public sector undertaking, boards and commissions to strictly adhere to the instructions issued on the subject and not to undertake any foreign visit on private affairs

without prior approval of the government.

"Administrative secretaries, heads of departments shall take note of these instructions and take appropriate action against the defaulters and shall not process any case for post facto sanction," it said.

### Guns Roar Along

exchanges were still going on in the area. There are no reports of any casualty or damage to property on the Indian side of the LoC so far.

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

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

During the three years, 1,452 militant attacks have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir in which 233 security personnel and 115 civilians were killed, he said in a written reply to a question.

As many as 635 militants were also killed in gunfights with security forces in 2018, 2019 and 2020, he said.

Reddy said a total of 484 security personnel and 373 civilians were injured in militant attacks.

The minister said the government has adopted a policy of zero tolerance towards militancy, and immediate and effective retaliation is undertaken by the security forces in cases of ceasefire violations or cross-border firings.

There has been a substantial decline in militant attacks over the last three years due to a slew of pre-emptive measures undertaken by the government, he said.

### Shangus Locals

disastrous for us. We graze our cattle in these fields for centuries and today they are forcibly taking this land from us," one of the protesters said.

The protesters said that from past few days, CRPF troopers are visiting the said land and are demarcating it.

"We raised the issue before Deputy Commissioner Anantnag but of no avail. Today we met Divisional Commissioner Kashmir who assured us of action that will be in the interest of people," they said.

They said this land has walnut and other trees. "It is a grazing land and if it is occupied by Paramilitary troopers, our cattle will die," they said and sought intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. (KNT)

### LS Without J&K

With this, Jammu & Kashmir has lost representation in the Rajya Sabha and there are no immediate chances of the Union Territory again sending its members to the House as the Assembly elections are still far away. Similar situation had also arisen twice since 1952.

According to details, all four RS berths of J&K remained vacant for a period of more than two years between 1994 to 1996 due to absence of Assembly in the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir.

From April 2, 1994 when Ghulam Rasool Matto completed his term, J&K was without representation in the House till November 1996 when four vacancies were filled.

Ghulam Nabi Azad, Sharifuddin Shariq, Saifuddin Soz and Karan Singh were elected as RS members in 1996 when state elections were held after a gap of six years due to militancy.

The erstwhile state's four RS seats also remained vacant for a brief period in 2008 when J&K came under Governor Rule after PDP withdrew support to Ghulam Nabi Azad-led

government.

It is worthwhile to mention that J&K has been sending its representatives in Rajya Sabha from 1952 when the President of India nominated members from J&K on recommendation of the constituent Assembly.

Till 1967, even Lok Sabha members from J&K were nominated on recommendation of the State government.

### KPs Resettlement

representatives of the community and develop a clear plan for its return and resettlement in the Valley, Panun Kashmir president Virender Raina said.

"Resettlement of Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir is a political issue and has to be settled politically keeping in view the geo-political aspirations of the community," he said in a statement here.

Raina said if employment in Kashmir has to be on the basis of resettlement, then the government has to give jobs to 44,000 displaced families from the region.

"The Prime Minister's Special Employment Package, though important for the youth of the community has to be differentiated from the permanent resettlement of the Kashmiri Pandit community in Kashmir," he said.

"The employment package is a livelihood measure meant for the immediate survival of the community and needs to be differentiated from return and resettlement on a permanent basis," Raina said.

On a statement by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament regarding financial assistance to displaced Kashmiri Pandits, Raina said only 22,000 displaced families were taking relief from the government and this includes other minority groups from Kashmir, and Muslims.

Replying to the discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha on Saturday, the home minister said "we are providing Rs 13,000 per month cash assistance to those 44,000 displaced Kashmiri families who have 'Rahat' Cards".

The statement issued in the parliament is factually incorrect," Raina claimed.

### Sunshine Turns

Celsius, down from minus 3.8 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Kupwara town, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.3 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag, in the south, recorded minus 0.4 degree Celsius.

The minimum temperature in the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, settled at minus 3 degrees Celsius on Sunday night, the officials said.

The Meteorological department office has said the weather is expected to remain mainly dry in the plains of Jammu and Kashmir over the next week.

### Restore Art-370,

J&K is on the path of development since Article 370 was abrogated, Abdullah said, "He (Amit Shah) should listen to speech of Ghulam Nabi Azad which he made in the Rajya Sabha where he said how J&K was far ahead in development than Gujarat before August 5. We are now moving backwards."

The Union Home Minister has said in the Parliament, "We were asked what we do about promises made during abrogation of Article 370. It has been 17 months since the abrogation and you are demanding an account for it. Did you bring the account of what you did for 70 years? Had you worked properly, you need not have asked us."

Speaking about recent DDC polls, the Home Minister said: "Nobody, not even our rivals can say that there was fraud or unrest during the election (DDC). Everyone voted fearlessly and peacefully. 51% votes were cast in the Panchayat elections. Jinhone Dhara 370 waapis

laane ke aadhar par chunav lada tha wo saaf ho gaye saaf (Those who had fought the elections based on the issue of bringing back Article 370 have lost.)"

Farooq Abdullah also claimed discrepancies in District Development Council elections. "See what happened in Budgam. In Shopian, our people were locked to ensure victory for others. But we will continue our fight against wrong doings."

About Sajad Lone-led Peoples Conference parting ways with PAGD, he said, "Sajad Lone may have certain compulsions. I can't comment on that. We can't stop anyone from leaving PAGD. We are not fighting for power but for certain elements that want to divide the nation on the basis of religion."

### HC To Decide

detains a person under PSA, it has a duty under article 22 of the constitution read with articles 20 and 21 to provide legal aid to the detainee," the senior advocate says.

The PIL challenges the "legality" of the PSA and seeks its scraping. "PSA is illegal because it contravenes the 44th (1979) amendment to the constitution of India. Union of India was bound to bring this amendment into force," the PIL highlights.

While the PIL points out that for the last 46 years amendment to Article 22 has not been brought into force, it seeks direction from the court to the Union of India for bringing into force the same.

"Section 8 of the PSA should be declared illegal because the government has to approve the detention but it cannot approve without hearing the detainee," the petitioner pleads.

Underscoring that "power to detain is power of the state" the petition says that a "divisional commissioner or district magistrate cannot detain a person".

Moreover the senior lawyer submits that the detainee cannot be moved from one place of detention without show cause. The petitioner is relying on a judgment of the House of Lords in England which, he submits, still holds good. Earlier, the advocate general had raised a preliminary objection on the maintainability of the petition. (GNS)

### Court Rejects

Quota for J&K students during the year 2018-19 for district Kulgam.

"The Crime Branch Kashmir strongly contested bail application of Salem Sheik of West Bengal and got it rejected by the honourable court of Anti Corruption Judge Srinagar," the official spokesperson said.

He further said that during the course of investigation, the accused confessed the crime, and disclosed some more crucial inputs on which further investigation is going on.

According to the officials, the accused in connivance with others have shown the fake beneficiaries to be the residents of district Kulgam and got deceitfully verified by the district social welfare officer Kulgam and managed to transfer the amount of RS. 1.34 crores from the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India into the Bank accounts of 463 fake beneficiaries of District Malda, West Bengal maintained in various branches of State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, United Bank of India (Now PNB), Allahabad Bank, IDFC Bank and Bangiya Vikas Gramin Bank.

### Couple Injured

A wildlife officer said that they were making efforts to trap the beast so that such an incident doesn't reoccur.

### 'Poacher' Arrested

Kashmir after receiving input regarding his illegal activity," the official said.

He further said that the accused has been handed over to the police for action under the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act.



## Pakistan PM Imran Khan Says India Is World's Top Cricket Team Because Of Better Structure



Press Trust of India

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan Prime Minister and former captain Imran Khan believes India is becoming a top team in the world after improving its basic cricket structure.

Imran said Pakistan had always been a good team but could not become a world beating side because of the non-productive cricket structure.

"Look at India today, they are becoming a top team in the world because they improved their structure although we have more talent," Imran said, talking to the media in Islamabad.

"It takes time for a structure to work and polish talent but I am confident our team will become world beaters," he added.

The Prime Minister felt that with the provincial cricket structure in place now in the country, results will come through in two to three years' time.

Imran, who is also the patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Cricket Board and nominates the chairman, said due to his busy schedule he did not have much time for the game.

"Honestly speaking I am not able to spare time for cricket and have not even watched the matches but now that our basic cricket structure has been changed things will improve gradually," he said.

Imran captained Pakistan to its only World Cup win in 1992 in Australia and is a highly respected and revered figure in the country for his captaincy and performances on a cricket field.

Soon after winning the elections in 2018 and forming the government, Imran brought in former ICC President Ehsan Mani to run Pakistan Cricket Board.

In the last two years, the domestic cricket structure has been overhauled with only six provincial teams playing first class cricket compared to around 16 regional and departmental teams in the past.



## All JK Mountaineering Foundation And Crampons Adventures Hold Trek to Burzamal Top

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation on Sunday organized a trek to Burzamal Top via Aru in which around 40 trekkers, hailing from different parts of the Valley participated.

The Foundation organised the trek in association with Crampons Adventures.

"The participants left Srinagar early morning and arrived in Aru at 9:30 am. We hiked 13.5 kms approximately to and fro and gained a maximum altitude

of 3400 meters. It was a beautiful and thrilling day with such a large number of participation," the Foundation said.

"Burzamaal (3400 meters) is an immense feature overlooking the whole Lidder valley. A hike of 1000-meters from Aru was accomplished in four hours. As participants arrived at Burzamaal they were delighted to witness a 360 degree panorama of peaks, featuring Tson Peak, Tullian Peak, Dudal Prominence and Purmandal group of peaks in clear weather. Further

towards Kolahoi the upper Lidder valley and the striking snow clad features looked impressive against a clear blue sky."

The Team was lead by Abid Kharadi, Yaqoob Mir from front side and Numan and Amir Lateef from back and fully supervised by Managing Director AJK Mountaineering Foundation, Danish Dhaar.

"We are thankful to the Crampon adventures, our executive body and all the participants for making this event a success," the Foundation said.

## Self-Taught Nagaland Teen Spinner Eyes IPL Riches, Says Inspired By Shane Warne

Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** Watching highlights of Shane Warne's magical spells was all that 16-year-old Nagaland leg-spinner Khrievitso Kense got in terms of formative coaching and the "carefree" teenager is now gearing up to make the big league and also earn some big bucks at the IPL players' auction on February 18.

Fifth among seven siblings, the carpenter's son from Sovima village near Dimapur, Kense says he became a cricketer all by himself and honed his skills by watching Warne on TV.

He has a base price of Rs 20 lakh and the buzz is that both the Mumbai Indians and the Rajasthan Royals are eyeing the youngest player in an auction pool of 292. He turns 17 on March 6.

"I was initially bowling off-spin. But my fingers started paining. Then I tried leg-spin. I didn't have anyone to coach me. So I followed Shane Warne on TV and phone," he told PTI from Chennai, where he is currently in quarantine ahead of the Vijay Hazare trophy starting February 18.

"I really liked the way he turned the ball. I never had a leg-spin coach. I learnt all by myself. There was a sir who would just guide me as I played U-16 cricket," he said.

With the help of a local coach, Kense got to play at the U-16 level and made everyone sit up and notice his skills with a five-wicket haul on debut against Uttar Pradesh in a Vijay Merchant Trophy's 2018-19 pre-quarterfinal.

Nagaland senior team captain Rongsen Jonathan and his deputy Hokaito Zhimomi then called him for senior camp last year where he grabbed the attention of state coach Kanwaljit Singh, a former Hyderabad off-spinner who's with the team for more than three years. "He really impressed me with his



trajectory which is ideally suited for any format of the game," the Nagaland coach said recollecting the first time when he saw Kense in the trials.

The only thing that bothered the coach was Kense's difficult to pronounce first name.

"I had difficulty in getting hold of his name so I started addressing him 'Kriv'. Actually I call him by any name," Singh said in a lighter vein, underlining the bond they have developed.

Kense was handed a state debut in Nagaland's Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 opener against Arunachal Pradesh and was pressed into action inside the Powerplay.

"I was never nervous but that was the only time I felt some pressure. But after I got the first wicket everything became normal," Kense, who returned with a miserly 1/19 on his debut, told PTI.

In four matches, he snared seven wickets giving away less than six runs an over and had best figures of 3/16 against Mizoram.

"For a kid of his age, he also showed very good control and hardly bowled any loose deliveries. It was exceptional," Singh said, adding that he also has the height advantage of being nearly six feet at this young age.

He was called by Mumbai Indi-

ans and Rajasthan Royals for trials last month before being included in the 292-strong IPL 2021 auction list.

"TA Sekhar (Mumbai Indians scout) saw him and immediately asked us to send him there. Since then he's been spoken about by people," Singh said.

For someone who could not realise his dream of playing for India, Singh now hopes the boy will make it big and make him proud.

"IPL would be just the perfect beginning for him to make a mark. It would be a big moment for the state and personally give me a lot of satisfaction for I could not make it but at least I helped someone else," Singh, who picked up 369 wickets in 111 first-class matches without getting an India call-up, said.

In a state where football comes naturally to young kids, Kense got attracted to cricket from a young age, thanks to his house which is bang opposite the state's Sovima Cricket Stadium.

"I was always attracted to cricket and never liked football. Sometimes I play table tennis though," Kense, who idolises Afghanistan swash-buckler Rashid Khan and is a big fan of Sunrisers Hyderabad, said.

"I really loved the way he bowls googlies. Since 2015, I'm a big fan of Sunrisers Hyderabad and watch the IPL with my friends every year," he added.

It was at the Sovima Cricket Stadium where Nagaland captain Rongsen Jonathan, who also lives in the same village, spotted him bowling at the nets.

"He was quick through the air leaving the batsmen little time to pick his deliveries, and because of the bounce he would extract good bounce. Then he went on to take five wickets in U-16 cricket."

"I called (vice-captain) Hokaito Zhimomi and decided to take him to our coach," Jonathan said.

## ICC T20I Rankings: KL Rahul Climbs To Second Spot, Virat Kohli Remains At 7th

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** India's KL Rahul moved up a place to second, while his captain Virat Kohli retained the seventh spot in the latest ICC men's T20I rankings for batsmen released on Monday.

With 816 rating points, Rahul is behind leader Dawid Malan (915) of England, while Kohli has 697 points in his kitty.

Australia white-ball skipper Aaron Finch (808) also improved a rung to be placed third while Pakistan captain Babar Azam (801) slipped to fourth place.

Rahul and Kohli are the only two Indians to feature in the top-10 among batsmen. No Indian also featured in the top-10 among bowlers and all-rounders in the latest T20I rankings.

Among bowlers, South Africa spinner Tabraiz Shamsi grabbed a career-best second position while Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan has raced to 42nd place after standout performances in the three-match series that Pakistan won 2-1 against the Proteas.

Shamsi's series-topping six wickets, which included a haul of four for 25 in the final match,

helped the left-arm wrist-spinner overtake Australia's Adam Zampa, England's Adil Rashid and Afghanistan's Mubeen Ur Rahman to within three points of top-ranked Rashid Khan of Afghanistan.

Pakistan's Haider Ali moved up 13 places to 137th position while fast bowlers Shaheen Afridi (up five places to 11th) and Hasan Ali (up 14 places to 82nd), and spinners Mohammad Nawaz (re-entered at 64th) and Usman Qadir (up 129 places to 92nd) also progressed.

For South Africa, Reeza Hendricks's 98 runs in the series have lifted him seven places to 17th and David Miller's 116 runs, which included a 45-ball 85 not out in the second match, saw him gain seven places to 22nd position in the batsmen's list.

Fast bowler Dwaine Pretorius moved up from 121st place to 51st, a huge gain considering his previous best was only a 107th rank.

There is no change of positions in the team rankings after the series between Pakistan and South Africa.

Pakistan have gained one point but remained in fourth position with 260 points while South Africa have lost one point but remained fifth with 251 points.

## 'Need To Play Spin Better To Do Well In T20 WC In India,' Says Pakistan Coach Misbah



Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Head coach Misbah-ul-Haq believes that Pakistani batsmen need to improve their play against spin if they are to do well in this year's World T20 Cup in India.

Talking to the media after winning the T20 series against South Africa on Sunday night, Misbah noted that pitches at this time of the year had been a bit different than usual in Pakistan perhaps because of the weather conditions.

"I think batsmen from both sides struggled in this series also because the spinners bowled well. But yes our batting against spin is something we need to look at and improve as even we can see the errors."

"The fact is we are not playing spin well and if we are to do well in India where the World Cup is to be held we have to learn to play spin better and improve the way we play spinners," he added.

Misbah also hinted at having seniors like Shoaib Malik and Muhammad Hafeez in his plans for the T20 World Cup.

"When some players return things will improve and we need to work on it," he said.

Misbah said that he was happy to see debutant leg-spinner Zahid Mahmood doing well.

"I think he bowled very well and he is a good addition to our pool of players. It is good to see we have a bunch of good spinners who are wicket-taking options for us specially in T20s and this will help in India, he said.

He said Pakistan had been without key players like Imad Wasim,

Hafeez and Shadab Khan in the T20 series and when they returned options would increase.

"The good thing is that now after the PSL we will have a good pool of players, seniors and youngsters to choose from."

"I am not worried about the World Cup now as there is still time some eight months and we still have some 20 matches ahead of us so I think we will have a good pool of players to choose from going forward to the World Cup."

He said the Test and T20 series wins over South Africa were very encouraging and had boosted morale of the team.

"I think some people wrote off this South African T20 squad but remember they had players in their side who are their bench strength and have played and performed in their domestic T20 cricket."

The former captain said he had no insecurities about his job or position whether the board retains him or not is not in his control.

"I don't take stress because of these things. What is in our control is how we perform on the field and that we keep following our best procedures and training schedules and preparation."

South African head coach Mark Boucher felt his team had played good cricket throughout the series.

We got into strong positions in the Tests and also in the T20 matches. If I analyse every moment of the tour the disappointment is the big moments we got ourselves into and found stupid ways to get out of the game ourselves.

## Ashwin's All Round Performance Puts India On Course For A Big Win Against England



Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** Ravichandran Ashwin first gave a lesson on how to bowl on a rank turner and then provided a batting master-class with a sparkling hundred on a deteriorating strip, putting India on the brink of a massive series-levelling victory against England on the third day of the second Test here on Monday.

Ashwin's fifth Test hundred -- a gutsy 106 off 148 balls along with Virat Kohli's near flawless 62 off 149 balls got India to a more than decent 286 in 85.5 overs, leaving England with an improbable target of 482 runs on a dust bowl.

At stumps, England were already crumbling at 53 for 3 and it would take nothing short of a miracle for England to bat for two days and save the match.

Even their resolute captain Joe Root and coach Chris Silverwood wouldn't be optimistic on a track where exploding divots are making it extremely difficult to bat.

But difficult doesn't mean impossible. Just like facing a quality seam bowler on a green top is an art, one needs plenty of skills and mental fortitude to counter spinners on a dust bowl.

"I will sleep well through the night, that is all that I am thinking," Ashwin, the star of the day, said after stumps.

"I don't know what the team is feeling like but I am sure they are thrilled."

Skipper Kohli and Ashwin showed the likes of Michael Vaughan that they have that in abundance as India batted nearly 182 overs across two innings on a track that many deemed as under-prepared after England failed to score even 150.

For Ashwin, it was the third time in his Test career when he notched up a five-for and a hundred along with it.

Only England legend Ian Botham stands ahead of him with five such efforts in his career.

India's batting exhibition in the second innings was a statement for all the Doubting Thomases on how to bat on a third-day track.

It only helped that Moeen Ali (32-7-98-4) and Jack Leach (33-6-100-4) were not half as good as Ashwin and Axar Patel were on the second day.

Both the Moeen and the Leach bowler were bowling their deliveries at an identical pace unlike Ashwin who varied the speed.

Also another marked difference between Ashwin's deliveries was his pace through the air which was significantly more than Moeen's.

If Rohit Sharma set it up with a classy Day 1 hundred, Ashwin and Kohli, in the next two days, didn't take their feet off the pedal to put England in the tightest of corners.

Till the ball remained hard, England got three quick wickets leaving India in a spot at 65 for 4 but Kohli again seemed in a mood to make batting look easy.

He displayed defensive elegance, coming close to the pitch of the ball to take an off-stump guard in order to negate turn.

He also used the sweep shot only for deliveries that were drifting down the leg-side.

There were seven boundaries, mostly drives and in Ashwin he found an able ally.

They added 96 runs in 177 balls, a partnership that deflated England completely.

Ashwin relied on shots square of the wicket and left Kohli with the job of grafting, taking it upon himself to attack the England bowling.

Apart from the square cuts and the pull shots off spinners, he was ready to hit the

flat-batted shots off pacers akin to tennis forehand shots.

There were 14 boundaries and a six in all during his best batting effort considering the previous four hundreds came against second-rate West Indies sides.

Ravindra Jadeja's ascendancy as India's all-conditions specialist spin bowling all-rounder led to Ashwin losing a bit of confidence and the cutting edge he possessed with the willow.

But everything changed after the semi-fit Chennai engineer pulled off a last day wonder in Sydney which has now helped him get his mojo back.

In the past one year, he has tremendously upgraded his variations and the confidence in 'Ashwin the bowler' has brought to the fore 'Ashwin the batsman'.

The way he marshalled the tail was commendable with two partnerships --- 27 with Ishant Sharma (7) and 49 with Mohammed Siraj (16) for the 10th wicket.

In both cases, he cleverly shielded the strike and finally reached 97 with a six.

A miscued shot got him his hundred and the ensuing celebrations, especially from Kohli punching his fists while giving a standing ovation, said it all.



## Coronavirus Survives Longer On Glass, Plastic Than On Cloth, Paper: IIT Bombay Study



Press Trust of India

The novel coronavirus may survive for far lesser time on porous surfaces such as paper and clothes than on impermeable surfaces like glass and plastic, a study by researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay suggests.

COVID-19, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, is transmitted through respiratory droplets. The virus-laden droplets also form fomite upon falling on a surface, which serves as a source for infection spread.

In the study, published in the journal *Physics of Fluids*, the researchers analysed the drying of droplets on impermeable and porous surfaces.

They found that a droplet remains liquid for a much shorter time on a porous surface, making it less favourable to the survival of the virus.

The research suggests that the virus can survive for four days on glass, and seven days on plastic and stainless steel.

However, the virus survived for only three hours and two days on paper and cloth, respectively, the researchers said.

"Based on our study, we recommend that furniture in hospitals and offices, made of impermeable material, such as glass, stainless steel, or laminated wood, be covered with porous material, such as cloth, to reduce the risk of infection upon touch," said study author Sanghamitro Chatterjee from IIT Bombay.

The study also suggests that seats in public places, such as parks, shopping malls, restaurants, and railway or airport waiting halls, could be covered with cloth to reduce the risk of disease spread.

According to the researchers, 99.9 per cent of the droplet's liquid content for both impermeable

and porous surfaces is evaporated within the first few minutes.

They noted that after this initial state, a microscopic thin residual liquid film remains on the exposed solid parts, where the virus can still survive.

The team, including Janani Sree Muralidharan, Amit Agrawal and Rajneesh Bhardwaj, also from IIT Bombay, discovered the evaporation of this remnant thin film is much faster in the case of porous surfaces as compared to impermeable surfaces.

The droplets spread due to capillary action between the liquid near the contact line and the horizontally oriented fibres on the porous surface and the void spaces in porous materials, which accelerates evaporation, the researchers said.

"The fact that just the geometric features rather than the chemical details of the porous material make the thin-film lifetime significantly less was surprising," Bhardwaj explained.

The researchers said that the study findings, such as the droplet's liquid phase lifetime of approximately six hours on paper, will be particularly relevant in certain contexts, like schools.

While this timescale is shorter than that of any permeable material, such as glass with a liquid phase lifetime of around four days, it would impact the exchange of notebooks, they said.

For example, the researchers said, it could come handy when policymakers evaluate safe measures for reopening schools or the exchange of currency note transactions in retail banks.

Similarly, they said the cardboard boxes, used commonly by e-commerce companies around the world, could be deemed relatively safe, since they would inhibit the virus survival.

## Anti-Viral Coating On Face Masks May Kill Coronavirus: Report

Press Trust of India

London: Scientists at the University of Cambridge working with an anti-viral coating technology called DioX believe that it could protect facemask users by killing the deadly coronavirus in as little as an hour.

According to "The Daily Telegraph", the invisible coating on facemasks attacks the virus by rupturing its outer layer, effectively eliminating all new mutant variants, including the UK's so-called Kent variant and the South African variant.

"The antiviral agent within the coating of the mask kills the virus by breaching its protective outer membrane, which is known as its envelope. Unlike other parts of the virus, the membrane remains the same regardless of any type of mutation. Hence this way of attacking the pathogen will work on any new variant of coronavirus," Dr Graham Christie, senior lecturer at the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology at the University of Cambridge, told the newspaper.

"In fact, you could mutate the entire genome of the virus and it would have no effect on the envelope. We expect to see the same response regardless of the strain of coronavirus because structurally they are all very similar," he said.

The technology called DioX is based on quaternary ammonium salts - organic compounds widely used in the textile industry for their antimicrobial properties. Laboratory tests showed that the mask coated with it killed 95 per cent of pathogens on its surface within one hour and they were undetectable after four hours.

Experts say the action of the antiviral agent continues to work because it is unaffected by changes in the spike protein of the virus, which is the method by which coronavirus mutates.

"The variants that we are seeing occur in the spike proteins that stud the surface of the virus rather than the membrane of the envelope," said Dr Christie.

"It is the genetic information that encodes this protein that is mutating, and this is leading to very slight structural changes in the shape of the spike. However, the envelope is derived from part

of a human cell that the virus grabs from its host in order to protect its genetic material. It is made from lipids, which unlike the proteins do not change," he said.

According to the newspaper report, the mask is reusable and can be washed up to 20 times, albeit subject to a reduction in efficacy after multiple washes. During the study, the mask was tested on a coronavirus called MHV-A59, which is genetically and structurally very similar to SARS-CoV-2.

"The Cambridge work followed industry standards for the testing of viruses on material," said Andy Middleton, co-founder of Liquid Nano, the UK company which commissioned the study.

"It also made some critical adaptations to give it a more 'real-world' relevance. This included conducting splash tests to mimic sneezing, helping to ensure the tests were as rigorous as possible. We have taken a proven antiviral agent and developed it for fabric in order to create a user-friendly mask," he said.

DioX D4 claims to offer a patented technology for inhibiting the growth of a wide array of bacteria, mould, mildew, algae, fungi, and yeast on textile materials.

The novel antimicrobial agent provides an invisible microbistatic coating to inhibit the growth of odour causing bacteria. Given the coronavirus pandemic, DioX D4 said it has also been independently tested to rapidly reduce bacterial and viral pathogens, "greatly limiting the risk of contact contamination and infection".

If proved effective in further analyses, the technology could offer an additional layer of protection against deadly viruses over time.



TOOLKIT DOCUMENT CASE

# Nikita Jacob Moves HC For Transit bail

Press Trust of India

Advocate Nikita Jacob, a suspect in a case registered by Delhi police in connection with the "toolkit" shared by climate activist Greta Thunberg over the ongoing farmers' protest, on Monday approached the Bombay High Court seeking transit anticipatory bail.

A Delhi court has issued a non-bailable warrant against Jacob and another accused in the case.

According to Delhi police, the duo was allegedly involved in preparing the document and was in direct touch with "pro-Khalistani elements".

Jacob's plea seeking urgent hearing was mentioned before the Bombay High Court's single bench of Justice P.D. Naik on Monday.

The high court said it would hear the plea on Tuesday.

Jacob in her plea sought transit anticipatory bail for a period of four weeks so that she can approach the court concerned in Delhi to apply for pre-arrest bail.

The advocate in her plea said she is unaware whether she is named as an accused or witness in the case.

"However, the applicant (Jacob) fears that she may be arrested due to political vendetta and media trial," her application said.

It further said the FIR registered in the case was "false and baseless" and Jacob has already cooperated with the cyber cell of the Delhi police and recorded her statement.

"Some entity named Legal Rights Observatory appears to have filed a false and baseless complaint with the Delhi police and seeks to pin the blame for violence on January 26, 2021 upon the applicant as well," the plea said.

As per the application, on Feb-



ruary 11, a team of Delhi police came to Jacob's house in Goregaon area of Mumbai with a search warrant and seized documents and electronic gadgets.

"The applicant has no religious, political or financial motive or agenda for researching, discussing, editing and circulating communication packs/toolkits for raising awareness, let alone to incite violence, riots and/or cause any other physical harm," the application said.

It said Jacob was a practising advocate in the Bombay High Court who volunteers for environmental causes.

"The applicant was deeply concerned about the recent farm laws and villainising of farmers," the application said.

It said Jacob's personal information and details are being circulated on social media.

The application further said that absolute lies are being spread to incite hate and violence against Jacob by claiming she has ties with political parties like the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The Delhi police on Saturday arrested 21-year-old environmental activist Disha Ravi from Bengaluru in connection with the case.

She was on Sunday produced before a Delhi court which remanded her in police custody for five days.

Greta Thunberg, a teen climate activist, had shared the "toolkit" to lend her support to the farmers' agitation near Delhi borders against the Centre's three agri laws.

In the document, various urgent actions, including creating a Twitter storm and protesting outside Indian embassies, were listed which were needed to be taken to support the farmers' protest.

The toolkit has been cited by some critics as a "proof" of her conspiracy to fuel protests in India.

Thousands of farmers protesting the Centre's new agri laws clashed with the police during their tractor parade on January 26.

Over 500 police security personnel were injured while one protester died during the Republic Day violence.

Earlier, the Delhi police had asked Google and some social media giants to provide information about e-mail ID, URLs and certain social media accounts related to creators of the "toolkit" shared by Thunberg and others on Twitter in connection with the farmers' protest.

## Lower Privacy Standards For Indians Than Europeans? SC Issues Notice to WhatsApp

Press Trust of India

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre and WhatsApp to reply to a fresh plea alleging lower standards of privacy for Indians in comparison with European users. The Supreme Court said it is the duty of the judiciary to protect citizens' privacy.

"People have grave apprehensions that they will lose their privacy, and it is our duty to protect them," the top court said.

"You may be two or three trillion [dollar] companies, but people value their privacy more than money," a bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde told WhatsApp even as it sought to argue that Europe has special data protection laws that India doesn't.

The apex court issued notice to the government and the Facebook-owned app on an interim application filed by Karmanya Singh Sareen in a pending petition of 2017.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the petitioner, argued that the messaging app was applying



lower standards of privacy for Indians, and they be barred from sharing data with Facebook.

The bench observed, "We are impressed by Mr. Divan's argument that it was proposed before us that a data protection law would be brought into force. Now, under this policy, you will share data of Indians."

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for WhatsApp, contended that Europe has a special law (General Data Protection Regulation), and the app will follow law if the Parliament makes a similar law.

The bench, also comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian, said that citizens have great apprehension about loss of their privacy, and they think that their data and chats are being shared with others and it has to be looked into.

The Centre told the apex court that the social media apps cannot share data of users, and data must be protected.

The petitioner challenged the privacy policy, alleging that there is huge amount of metadata of users, which is being shared for profit.

The top court had in 2017 referred WhatsApp's privacy policy matter to a Constitution bench, saying it concerns the larger issue of privacy and right to personal liberty.

The appeal filed in the apex court by Karmanya Singh Sareen and Shreya Sethi assailed a Delhi High Court verdict on the ground that no relief was granted for data shared by users post-September 25, 2016, and it amounted to an infringement of fundamental rights under Article 19 (Freedom of Speech and Expression) and 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution.

## Chinese Couples Rush To File For Divorce As New Stringent Law Kicks In

Press Trust of India

China's new divorce law, which makes it harder for couples to split, has sent husbands and wives rushing to file applications to dissolve their marriages as they think that the new conditions complicate the process and compromise their freedom, a media report quoted lawyers as saying.

Under the new law, which was implemented from last month after being passed by the National People's Congress (NPC) last year despite criticism from the public, couples who mutually agree to dissolve their marriage must complete a month-long "cooling-off" period to reconsider their positions.

After the 30 days have passed, couples can go to their local civil affairs bureau to apply a second time for their official divorce documents.

Divorce lawyers have been inundated with requests from couples to file for divorce once their 30 days are over, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Monday.

In some cities such as Guangzhou, the demand for consultations with divorce lawyers is so high that scalpers are charging premium prices online to help couples secure appointments.

Zhong Wen, a lawyer based in Sichuan province who specialises in divorce, says he has already received



numerous phone calls from anxious clients concerned that the new law complicates their divorce and compromises their freedom to split.

If one party withdraws from the agreement to divorce before the 30 days are up, the application is cancelled, leaving the other party to apply again and restart the 30-day clock, or to sue for a divorce - a costly and lengthy process.

Zhong told the Post that one client was a rubber stamp away from having her divorce finalised when her husband changed his mind.

He added that, even before the cooling-off period was introduced, it was easy for one party to a mutually agreed divorce to change their mind.

"Now, with the (30-day) period, the divorce process is too unpredictable," he said.

Statistics show that the divorce rate in China has risen from 0.96 di-

## Nasa Rover Faces '7 Minutes Of Terror' Before Landing On Mars

Agenceis

When Nasa's Mars rover Perseverance, a robotic astrobiology lab packed inside a space capsule, hits the final stretch of its seven-month journey from Earth this week, it is set to emit a radio alert as it streaks into the thin Martian atmosphere.

By the time that signal reaches mission managers some 204 million kilometres away at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) near Los Angeles, Perseverance will already have landed on the Red Planet - hopefully in one piece.

The six-wheeled rover is expected to take seven minutes to descend from the top of the Martian atmosphere to the planet's surface in less time than the 11-minute-plus radio transmission to Earth. Thus, Thursday's final, self-guided descent of the rover spacecraft is set to occur during a white-knuckled interval that JPL engineers affectionately refer to as the "seven minutes of terror."

Al Chen, head of the JPL descent and landing team, called it the most critical and most dangerous part of the \$2.7 billion mission.

"Success is never assured," Chen told a recent news briefing. "And that's especially true when we're trying to land the biggest, heaviest and most complicated

complex suite of instruments in the search for signs of microbial life that may have flourished on Mars billions of years ago.

Advanced power tools will drill samples from Martian rock and seal them into cigar-sized tubes for eventual return to Earth for further analysis - the first such specimens ever collected by humankind from the surface of another planet.

Two future missions to retrieve those samples and fly them back to Earth are in the planning stages by Nasa, in collaboration with the European Space Agency.

Perseverance, the fifth and by far most sophisticated rover vehicle Nasa has sent to Mars since Sojourner in 1997, also incorporates several pioneering features not directly related to astrobiology.

Among them is a small drone helicopter, nicknamed Ingenuity, that will test surface-to-surface powered flight on another world for the first time. If successful, the four-pound (1.8-kg) whirlybird could pave the way for low-altitude aerial surveillance of Mars during later missions.

Another experiment is a device to extract pure oxygen from carbon dioxide in the Martian atmosphere, a tool that could prove invaluable for future human life support on Mars and for producing rocket propellant to fly astronauts home.



rover we've ever built to the most dangerous site we've ever attempted to land at."

Much is riding on the outcome. Building on discoveries of nearly 20 US outings to Mars dating back to Mariner 4's 1965 flyby, Perseverance may set the stage for scientists to conclusively show whether life has existed beyond Earth, while paving the way for eventual human missions to the fourth planet from the sun. A safe landing, as always, comes first.

Success will hinge on a complex sequence of events unfolding without a hitch - from inflation of a giant, supersonic parachute to deployment of a jet-powered "sky crane" that will descend to a safe landing spot and hover above the surface while lowering the rover to the ground on a tether.

"Perseverance has to do this all on her own," Chen said. "We can't help it during this period."

If all goes as planned, Nasa's team would receive a follow-up radio signal shortly before 1pm Pacific time confirming that Perseverance landed on Martian soil at the edge of an ancient, long-vanished river delta and lake bed.

Science on the surface

From there, the nuclear battery-powered rover, roughly the size of a small SUV, will embark on the primary objective of its two-year mission - engaging a

"Spectacular" but treacherous The mission's first hurdle after a 293-million-mile (472-million-km) flight from Earth is delivering the rover intact to the floor of Jezero Crater, a 28-mile-wide (45-km-wide) expanse that scientists believe may harbor a rich trove of fossilized microorganisms.

"It is a spectacular landing site," project scientist Ken Farley told reporters on a teleconference.

What makes the crater's rugged terrain - deeply carved by long-vanished flows of liquid water - so tantalizing as a research site also makes it treacherous as a landing zone.

The descent sequence, an upgrade from Nasa's last rover mission in 2012, begins as Perseverance, encased in a protective shell, pierces the Martian atmosphere at 12,000 miles per hour (19,300 km per hour), nearly 16 times the speed of sound on Earth.

After a parachute deployment to slow its plunge, the descent capsule's heat shield is set to fall away to release a jet-propelled "sky crane" hovercraft with the rover attached to its belly.

Once the parachute is jettisoned, the sky crane's jet thrusters are set to immediately fire, slowing its descent to walking speed as it nears the crater floor and self-navigates to a smooth landing site, steering clear of boulders, cliffs and sand dunes.

state-run CGTN reported.

When the law was passed in May last year, Chinese citizens criticised the central government for interfering in private matters. More than 600 million comments were posted online using the hashtag "oppose divorce cooling-off period".

Officials believed the legislation would lower the divorce rate in China, which has risen rapidly and prevent "impulsive divorces" among young people.

The law was passed by the National People's Congress, China's Parliament as part of the country's first Civil Code, which replaced several existing laws covering marriage, adoption, inheritance and property rights.

Ran Keping, a law professor at Wuhan University who discussed the Civil Code with lawmakers before it was drafted, said that policymakers were unhappy with the country's high divorce rates.

"Even though the freedom to divorce is a basic right of individuals, from a societal point of view, a high divorce rate will affect (the country's) stability," he said.

The new law does not apply if a spouse files for divorce on the grounds that they are a victim of domestic violence. However, Zhong said the law would still disadvantage women, particularly those without an independent source of income. — PTI