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P5 NEWS

## NO LICENSE REQUIRED TO OPERATE STONE CRUSHERS, HOT & WET MIXING PLANTS

In its resolve to promote 'Ease of Doing Business' by creating a business-friendly environment, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir today notified...

THINK

## DO YOU REALLY NEED IVF? A NEW ONLINE TOOL CAN HELP YOU WEIGH UP YOUR OPTIONS

People who want a baby and struggle to conceive often resort to in vitro fertilisation (IVF). While IVF has helped countless people have children, it's...



P11 SPORTS

## SPORT DOES NOT RECOGNISE ANYTHING OTHER THAN ON-FIELD PERFORMANCE: SACHIN TENDULKAR

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar firmly believes that sport only recognises performance on the field....



Widom Quote!

Do not fear failure but rather fear not trying

— Roy T. Bennett

### NEWS DIGEST

## J&K Logs 94 Corona Cases, One Death

**SRINAGAR:** One more person died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday while 94 fresh cases of Covid-19, including 47 travellers were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Among the fresh cases, 22 were from Jammu Division and 72 from Kashmir Valley, taking the total case tally to 126019, they said. Providing district ► [More On P10](#)

## Youth Killed As Car Roll Into Gorge

**BHADERWAH:** A 23-year-old man died on Tuesday when his car skidded off the road and fell into a 800-foot-deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, police said. Sajjad Hussain, a resident of Sanwara village, was driving from Chilli to Malikpora when the accident occurred around 10.20 am, Superintendent of Police, Bhaderwah, Raj Singh Gouria said. ► [More On P10](#)

## 5 Shotguns Seized From Poachers

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Wednesday claimed to have seized five shotguns from poachers in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Officers from Police Station Kheerbhawani and Police Post Shadipora raided different locations in Shalbugh and Paribal villages of Ganderbal and recovered five 12-bore guns from poachers, who are misusing their licensed weapons and killing large ► [More On P10](#)

## Missing Anantnag Youth Found Dead

**SRINAGAR:** A youth missing for the last three weeks, was found dead on Wednesday in a canal in Dialgam area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Javid Ahmad Pathan alias Jeenu, a resident of Heaven Colony Anantnag was found dead in a canal in Dialgam by locals, who informed the police instantly, officials said. A police team reached the spot and took the body into custody ► [More On P10](#)

## Man Opens Fire Over Land Dispute

**JAMMU:** A man opened fire Tuesday during a scuffle between two groups over a land dispute in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, a police official said. While the person fired two shots in the air, injuring nobody, he himself got injured in legs as he fell down when people tried to overpower him, the official said. The incident took place at Thali-Badi village of ► [More On P10](#)

## MeT Issues 'Yellow' Warning As Rains Lash Kashmir



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir Valley and Banihal received rainfall overnight even as minimum temperatures increased, weatherman said on Tuesday. A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 6.6 degree Celsius against 5.8 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was around six degrees Celsius above the normal for this time of the year in Srinagar where 2.2mm of rainfall was recorded in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours, the official said.

Qazigund, the gateway town of J&K, recorded a low of 4.0 degree Celsius against 3.0 degree Celsius on the previous night and had a rainfall of 3.4mm during the time, the official said. The mercury settled at 3.2 degree Celsius at Pahalgam against minus 1.2 degree Celsius on the earlier night while the world-famous tourist resort recorded 3.2mm of rainfall. Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 3.4 degree Celsius against 4.0 degree Celsius on the previous night and had a rainfall of 2.2mm, he said. ► [More On P10](#)

**THERE ARE FOUR TYPES COLOUR CODES SIGNIFYING THE LEVEL OF CAUTION:** green which means no action, yellow—situation to be watched), amber—government agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red—action needed by the agencies.

## Budgam Admin Clueless On Training, Awareness Programmes: RTI

Observer Monitoring Desk

Srinagar: In an embarrassing move, the district authorities in central Kashmir's Budgam have failed to furnish details to an RTI petitioner on the training and awareness programmes conducted for designated officers and disadvantaged communities since November 1, 2019.

Replying to the RTI application filed by RTI Movement Chairman, Dr. Raja Muzaffar seeking information with respect to the training/awareness programmes conducted for designated officers/ disadvantaged communities since November 1, 2019 in

the central Kashmir district, the Public information officer, Rayees Ahmed Bhat has expressed his helplessness saying that the requested information was "not available in the repository of this office". "As such undersigned is constrained from divulging any exact information," he replies in the letter issued on January 25, 2021.

Muzaffar had requested information about the training/awareness programmes conducted by the district administration about RTI Act after the abrogation of special status in August 2019.

Responding to another query from RTI applicant about the ► [More On P10](#)

## Soldier Killed During Practice Firing

Agencies

**JAMMU:** A soldier was killed and two others were injured during a practice firing session in Akhnoor Sector of Jammu region on Tuesday, officials said. They said 'gunner' Sayan Ghosh of Artillery Regiment suffered fatal injury while two other soldiers were injured while carrying out live firing training at Field Firing Ranges in Akhnoor Sector, reported news agency GNS.

All the injured were shifted to hospital where Ghosh was declared brought dead while two others were admitted. SDPO Akhnoor Varun Jandyal said that while one soldier dies, two other injured soldiers have been admitted in the army hospital. PRO Defence Jammu Lt Col Devinder Anand confirmed the incident and said that it took place at around 10: 30 am.

## Militant's Identity Established 6 Months After Death

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** DNA test established the identity of a Kupwara youth, killed along with two other militant colleagues in Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district last year, officials said on Tuesday.

They said three militants were killed while an army major and two policemen were injured in a gunfight in Yadipora area of Pattan in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on September 4 last year.

Soon, the police had summoned families of all the three militants. While two families had identified their kin as Hanan Bilal Sofi son of ► [More On P10](#)

## J&K Transporters Defer Strike By A Day

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** All Jammu and Kashmir Transporters Welfare Committee – an amalgam of various transport associations— on Tuesday deferred by a day its indefinite strike which was scheduled to begin from Wednesday.

General Secretary, Kashmir Welfare Transporters Association, Sheikh Muhammad Yusuf said that a meeting is scheduled on February 24 afternoon with



File Photo

Finance Commissioner, Finance Department, who is chairman of Fare and Freight Committee

also comprising Transport commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu division. ► [More On P10](#)

## Govt For Viable Resolution Of Genuine Demands

**D**eputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary Tuesday assured the transporters that the government is for the earliest and a viable resolution of their genuine demands and urged them to call off their strike. Speaking in a special meeting he convened with them the DC assured the heads of different associations associated the transport sector that their genuine demands would be taken up with higher authorities and a viable resolution be found within a stipulated time period. The assurance ► [More On P10](#)

## Special Court Rejects Parra's Bail Plea

'Evidence Shows He Was Aiding Militancy In Garb Of Politics'

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A special court rejected the bail application of PDP leader Waheed Parra on Tuesday, saying the charges against him were "grave, serious and heinous in nature" and that a preliminary analysis of



evidence collected so far show he was aiding militancy in Jammu and Kashmir in the garb of a politician. In a 19-page ► [More On P10](#)

## Aasiya Charged For 'Waging War' Against India

**A** Delhi court has framed militancy, sedition and other charges against Kashmiri separatist Aasiya Andrabi and her two associates for ► [More On P10](#)

## Be Goodwill Ambassadors Of J&K, LG To Tourists



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid a visit to Dal Lake on Tuesday, where he met several tourists who came from different parts of the country. During his interaction with the tourists, the LG enquired about the experiences

of their visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Be the goodwill ambassadors of Jammu & Kashmir and carry the message to your respective areas that J&K is an ideal and safe tourist destination," Sinha urged the tourists.

While assuring the tourists a safe and ► [More On P10](#)

## PDD Announces Measures To Prevent Accidental Deaths

Field Staff To Be Equipped With PPEs, Safety Helmets And Belts; Insulating Gloves

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Power Development Department on Tuesday announced a slew of measures, including procurement of Personal Protective equipment (PPE) and other safety devices for the field staff with an aim to prevent accidental deaths and injuries to the workforce.

These directions were passed by the Principal Secretary, PDD, Rohit Kansal while discussing the steps being taken by the Department for ensuring safety and security of the field staff while performing duties in the

field, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

The department, he said, has directed its field offices to immediately focus on relevant safety measures and to ensure that there is no loss of human life.

"As part of this effort, the department has directed both the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporations to ensure that Isolators and earthing rods are provided on every 11 KV feeder in the UT. This shall ensure that the field workers shall remain safe even if there is accidental touching of live lines or equipment and due to accidental charging of lines or equipment during shut down activity," the official spokesperson said.

He said that for the first time, the PDD has set aside nearly Rs 5 crores for the procurement of PPEs and other ► [More On P10](#)



Malik Huda

## Cult-Breaker 'Captain' from Kashmir Is New Rising Start-Up Star

**R**uhan Naqash's ingenious world is driven by the get-up-and-go dynamism — the knack making contemporary self-starters cult-breakers in their fields.

He may not be among the movers and shakers yet, but with his resilient team, this Barzulla boy is already leading by an example, away from his homeland, in the southern metropolitan city of Bangalore.

Among other things, this young educator, with his mentoring platform, is trying to alter the religious

mindset devoted to certain career cults.

"There's lack of exposure in the valley and elsewhere, forcing people to seek refuge in medical and non-medical fields," Ruhan, 26, says.

He wants to end this obsession by guiding creative minds and grooming them with proper mentorship.

"Many students are willing to join and explore new fields like acting, singing, dancing, writing, painting, etc, but lack of parental support makes them paranoid," he says.

"This is what we're trying to change." Before becoming a guiding light for students—pressurised to pursue certain subjects—Ruhan had rebelled to safeguard his creative pursuit during his school days itself.

After finishing his early education from his hometown Srinagar, he was supposed to sustain his family's medical background.

"But I chose my own way," he says.

From the very beginning, he wanted to become a writer, a professional novelist precisely, but couldn't pursue this career due to lack of opportunities and a proper grooming.

He eventually decided to become an engineer and joined SRM University, Chennai.

"Engineering was a forced vocation for me," he continues detailing his life history which would eventually compel him to become an inventive interventionist. ► [More On P10](#)





# Teens May Be Bullied More By Their Friends

Agencies

Adolescents and teens may be more likely to be bullied by their friends or friends-of-friends than peers who are not closely linked, a new study suggests. The study, published in the American Journal of Sociology, found that peer aggression occurred at higher rates between friends, and friends-of-friends, than between those not closely tied. "People often assume that bullying occurs between relative strangers, or that it targets those on the fringes of the social network," said researcher Diane Felmlee from the Pennsylvania State University in the US. "Those do occur, but in our study, we find that the rate of peer aggression is significantly higher between those students who are closely linked," Felmlee added. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, about 20



per cent of students aged 12 to 18 report being bullied at school during the school year. And while

many anti-bullying programmes exist, the researchers said they are not always effective.

For the study, the team used data from more than 3,000 students that was collected in waves, start-

ing when the students were in grades six, seven and eight and finishing when they were in grades eight, nine and 10, respectively. The researchers constructed "aggression networks" by asking students to nominate up to five classmates who had picked on or been mean to them, allowing the researchers to identify both bullies and victims. One of the students who reported being the victim of a friend noted, "Sometimes your own friends bully you. I don't understand why, why my friends do this to me." Additionally, participants who were friends in the fall of the school year were over three times as likely to bully or victimize the other by the spring of the same school year. Being bullied by a friend was also linked to significant increases in anxiety and depression and lower levels of school attachment, the researchers said.

## Govt Polytechnic College, Kulgam

Chamgund Road Kulgam-J&K- 192231

Email govtpolytechnickulgam@gmail.com

Ph: 01931-260046

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest is invited from book-sellers/suppliers /publishers that are registered with Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Association of India (FPBAI) for supply of books to the College library. The list of books along with the terms and Conditions can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day. Applications should reach the office of the Principal within seven days from the date of publication in the newspaper.

No: GPKul/Corr/2021/53  
Dated: - 16 /02/2021

Sd/-  
Principal,  
Govt Polytechnic College,  
Kulgam.

DIPK-13674/20

## Office of the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar

Email ID : xened2nd@gmail.com , Tel/ Fax No. 0194-2311374

e-NIT No: ED-II/45 of 2020-21

Dated : 20/02/21

### Notice Inviting e-Tender (Short Term)

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K, e-bids are invited (in two cover system) from Registered Class-"A" Electrical Contractors for "Creation of 250 KVA, 11/0.433 Sub-Station alongwith laying of HT/LT network (emanating from Feeder no. 3 of Receiving Station Rawalpura) at Hope Lane, Salfia Parraypora, Sub-Division Baghat in order to relieve critically overloaded existing Sub-Station - (Key Materials shall be Provided by the Department)"

1	Name of Work	Creation of 250 kVA, 11/0.433 Sub-Station alongwith laying of HT/LT network (emanating from F3 Rawalpura) at Hope Lane, Salfia Parraypora, Sub-Division Baghat - (Key Materials shall be Provided by the Department)
2.	Authorization of Work	Accorded
3.	Position of Funds	Available with the Department
4.	Estimated Cost	Rs 3.36 Lacs

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of Downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> from 22/02/21; 10:00 AM
B	Clarifications Start Date	22/02/21; 10:05 AM
C	Clarifications End Date	23/02/21; 11:00 AM
D	e-Bid Submission (Start) Date & Time (Submission of e- tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	23/02/21; 11:05 AM
E	e-Bid Submission (End) Date & Time (Submission of e- tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	04/03/21; 04:00 PM
F	Online e-Bid Opening	05/03/21; 02:30 PM
G	Venue of Opening of Technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2 <sup>nd</sup> , Rajbagh, Srinagar
H	Cost of e-Bid Document	Rs. 200/- (Rupees Two Hundred Only) (Non-Refundable)
I	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 6800/- (Rupees Six Thousand and Eight Hundred Only)

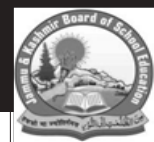
- The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2<sup>nd</sup>, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be Credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No Demand Draft shall be accepted.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/ FDR/Bank Guarantee only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2<sup>nd</sup>, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
- Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD needs to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer instantly after Opening of e-NIT and must be pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2<sup>nd</sup>, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBO. Also, Signed and Stamped Copy of SBO is required to be uploaded.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate' - (DSC) Class-III (b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer with original CDR and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2<sup>nd</sup>, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in Bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm of the Lowest Bidder should be clearly written on the cover. It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents by the Lowest Tenderer. Documents uploaded on the website shall be treated as final.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

DIPK-NB-5874/20

No: ED-II/5712-16/TS

Dated: 20/02/21

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
KPDCCL, ED-2<sup>nd</sup>, Rajbagh  
Srinagar



## THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

### NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA

### NOTIFICATION

**Subject:- Schedule for Inter School/ District/ Provincial Migration for the Academic Session 2020-21.**

- Pursuant to the promulgation of the Academic Calendar by the Director Academics, JKBOSE under No.F(Acad-C)A-Calendar/2020-21, dated. 01-02-2020, related to various pre and post examination activities, and,
- Consequent upon the classification of Secondary School (Class 10<sup>th</sup>) in the Affiliated Academic Institutions of the Kashmir Division for the Academic Session 2020-21;
- It is hereby notified for information and follow-up of all the concerned, that the eligible candidates pertaining to Secondary School (Class 10<sup>th</sup>), desirous of seeking any of the below listed migration, for the Academic session 2020-21 in Regular capacity, shall be allowed to do so as per the below schedule.

S.No.	Description	Prescribed fee per candidate	Last date
01.	a. Inter School Migration (Migration within affiliated academic institutions of same district) b. District Migration (Migration within affiliated academic institutions of other districts of Kashmir Division) c. Provincial Migration (Migration within affiliated academic institutions from Kashmir Division to Jammu Division)	Rs.330/-	31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2021
02.	Last date with a late fee of Rs.100/- per candidate for first count, after the last date of normal prescribed fee, in addition to normal fee of Rs.330/-.		10 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021
03.	Last date with a late fee of Rs.150/- per candidate for second count, after the last date of normal prescribed fee, in addition to normal fee of Rs.330/-.		19 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021
04.	Last date with a late fee of Rs.200/- per candidate for third count, after the last date of normal prescribed fee, in addition to normal fee of Rs.330/-.		30 <sup>th</sup> April, 2021

#### General Instructions:

- No student shall be allowed to migrate from one Affiliated Academic Institution to another without Inter-Migration having been sanctioned in his/her favour by the J&K BOSE.
  - The Heads of the Institutions shall not issue the Transfer Certificate until the migration has been sanctioned in favour of a candidate by the J&K BOSE.
  - No candidate seeking Migration shall be admitted by any Head of the Institution even provisionally under any circumstance before his/her Inter-Migration is sanctioned by the J&K BOSE. Deviation, if any, will be treated as unauthorized admission and warrants action against the concerned H.O.I.s.
- Besides, above, the Migrations shall be governed by the guidelines as envisaged in Notification No. F(Acad-C)IS-Mig/B/15, dated. 08-05-2015 and No.F(Acad-C)IS-Mig/B/18, dated. 18-07-2018, issued by the Director Academics, J&K BOSE. The last dates notified above shall be final and no claim, whatsoever, shall be accepted after the expiry of the above notified last date.

No: F(JSR/Mig.)21  
Dated:- 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021

DIPK-NB-5852/20

Joint Secretary  
Registration/Examination  
Kashmir Division

## Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

### NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Tanveer Javaid Bhat S/o: Javaid Ahmad Bhat R/o: Panzan Chadoora owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F-4907 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Panzan.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2685  
Dated 23-02-2021

mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

## Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

### NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Bilal Ahmad Bhat S/o: Haji Gulla Bhat R/o: Shumnag Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D-9378 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Kanir.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2682  
Dated 23-02-2021

mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

## Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

### NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Shabir Ahmad Bhat S/o: Ab. Rashid Bhat R/o: Narkara Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04C-0687 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S HDFC Bank B/U Gole Market Karan Nagar Srinagar.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2696  
Dated 23-02-2021

mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for the issuance of Pesticides License under the Name and Style "Bhat Pesticides Zawoor Shopian . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lalmandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Zahwa Jan  
D/o Muhammad Iqbal Bhat  
R/o Zawoor Shopian

AST

### NAME CHANGE

I want to change my name from Sibgatallah To Muhammad Affaan Wani . Anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Jamia Siraj-ul-uloom Hilloo Imam Sahib Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. after that no objection shall be entertained.

Muhammad Affaan Wani (New Name)  
S/o Mohd Ayoub Wani  
R/O Kiloora Malikgund Shopian

ast

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for the issuance of Fertilizer License under the Name and Style "Sheikh Fertilizer Manihal Shopian" . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Chief Agricultural Officer Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shakeel Ahmad Sheikh  
S/o Bashir Ahamd Sheikh  
R/o Manihal Shopian

AST

## OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR

### NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Mudassir Manzoor Bhat S/o Manzoor Ahmad Bhat R/o Sozeith Lawaypora Sgr (Transferor) of EECO bearing registration No. JK01AL-3169

chasis No: 785514 Engine No: 770107 Model 2020 in favour of Rozia Gull S/o Ghulam Mohammad Shah R/o Trichal Pulwama (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.

No. representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 6895

Dated: 23/02/2021

FKO

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir



# Provide Citizenship Rights Or Deport Us: Pak Wives Of Former Militants To Govt

**SRINAGAR:** Pakistani origin wives of 'surrendered' Kashmiri militants Tuesday took out a protest march in Srinagar city accusing the authorities of depriving them of citizenship rights and barring them from visiting their native country, Pakistan.

The NC-Congress government had announced a 'Rehabilitation Policy' in 2010 in consultation with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs following the recommendations of a Working Group constituted by the then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in 2006.

Only one in 10 youth who crossed over to Pakistan-administered Kashmir (PaK) for arms training returned utilising the policy.

The former militants returned along with their wives and children. Ever since their return, the brides are alleging that they are being treated as second-class citizens.

Scores of these former militants along with their wives and children protested in Press Enclave Srinagar, breaking police cordon and marched in the heart of Srinagar city. Though police tried to pacify them, yet these men, women and chil-



KO Photo Abid Bhat

dren created uproar, raised slogans to seek justice.

"We haven't committed any crime but married to men from Kashmir. Neither we have been

given any citizenship right nor are we being deported to our native lands. We are desperate to meet our families. We have a human heart and can't live

without our parents," said a protesting woman Taiba from Karachi.

The protesting women cited the examples of international

Tennis star Sania Mirza and singer Adnan Sami. "Adnan Sami was given Indian citizenship despite being a native of Pakistan while Sania Mirza married to Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Akhtar and still she represents India at International level. Why this hypocrisy in our case?" they asked.

As per the official record, 489 youth, out of 4,587 who had crossed over to Pakistan, have returned via the Nepal route.

After settling here, the Pakistani women started alleging that they are not being counted anywhere. "We don't get Aadhar Cards, Ration Cards, Voter Identity Cards, and even we face difficulties in getting our children admitted in any educational institutions. Our demands are very simple, either accept us or send us back to our native areas," the protesting women said.

Due to protests, traffic was disrupted for some time. Top police and civil officials rushed to the spot. A bus was arranged for them and they were taken to Divisional Commissioners Office where officials assured them that matter will be taken up with higher authorities. (KNT)

Tennis star Sania Mirza and singer Adnan Sami. "Adnan Sami was given Indian citizenship despite being a native of Pakistan while Sania Mirza married to Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Akhtar and still she represents India at International level. Why this hypocrisy in our case?" they asked.

As per the official record, 489 youth, out of 4,587 who had crossed over to Pakistan, have returned via the Nepal route.

After settling here, the Pakistani women started alleging that they are not being counted anywhere. "We don't get Aadhar Cards, Ration Cards, Voter Identity Cards, and even we face difficulties in getting our children admitted in any educational institutions. Our demands are very simple, either accept us or send us back to our native areas," the protesting women said.

Due to protests, traffic was disrupted for some time. Top police and civil officials rushed to the spot. A bus was arranged for them and they were taken to Divisional Commissioners Office where officials assured them that matter will be taken up with higher authorities. (KNT)

**“WE HAVEN'T COMMITTED ANY CRIME BUT MARRIED TO MEN FROM KASHMIR. NEITHER WE HAVE BEEN** given any citizenship right nor are we being deported to our native lands. We are desperate to meet our families. We have a human heart and can't live without our parents,”

## KU To Conduct 4Th, End-Semester Exams Offline

**SRINAGAR:** The University of Kashmir on Tuesday decided to hold the fourth semester and other end-semester examinations in offline mode and throw open the varsity for offline teaching of other semesters in a staggered manner in line with the necessary SOPs related to Covid-19.

The decisions to this effect were taken at a meeting of a high-level committee chaired by Dean of Academic Affairs Prof Shabir Ahmad Bhat.

Consequent to deliberations during the meeting, which was attended by top varsity academics and officers, Prof Bhat said a notification has been issued by his office detailing out the plan for the conduct of various examinations.



"The examination of the fourth semester and other end-semester examinations shall be conducted physically/offline as per the schedule/academic calendar including GE/OE courses and shall be facilitated hostel accommodation to the deserving students as per UGC norms/guidelines," the notification reads. "However, the examination of third-semester courses, including GE/OE courses, shall be conducted online."

"All other examinations started either in offline/online mode shall remain unaffected," the notification reads, adding that other semesters for the offline teaching mode shall be opened in a staggered way as notified earlier and the decision to this effect shall be taken subsequently in the same committee.

The notification has been sent to all heads/directors/coordinators at the main and satellite campuses for compliance.

Prof Bhat said the already-notified standard operating procedures (SOPs)/guidelines shall be followed in letter and spirit by all concerned.

"All these decisions have been taken in the interest of the student community after thorough deliberations," he said, adding that the university is committed to making its students comfortable in the backdrop of the challenges and concerns posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, alongside maintaining the sanctity of academics and examinations without any compromise.

The Wednesday's meeting was attended by members of the committee, including Dean of Research Prof Shakil A Romshoo, Dean Colleges Prof GM Sangmi, Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir, Dean School of Biological Sciences and Controller of Examinations Prof Irshad A Nawchoo, Dean School of Education and Behavioural Sciences Prof Showkat A Shah, Provosts of Boys and Girls Hostels, President KUTA, Chief Coordinator (CBCS-PG), Administrator University Health Centre and Assistant Registrar Academic Affairs.

## Traffic Police Ask School Vehicle Drivers To Desist From Using Gas Kits

**SRINAGAR:** Traffic Police in Kashmir capital Srinagar Tuesday directed drivers ferrying school children to desist from using LPG kits in their vans.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Traffic city Srinagar issued an advisory that reads: "It has been reported that some school buses and van operators ferrying school children are using LPG Kits in their buses and vans as a modification of using petrol or diesel which endangers lives of school-going children."

"The modification is a violation of Motor Vehicles Act and in such case, the vehicle shall be seized."

The advisory further states that the parents, school administration and the school bus or van operators ferrying school-goers are requested to ensure that no such violation takes place. (KNT)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR

e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com Tel/Fax 019402502279/2502281

Sub: Fixation of tariffs for hotels/Guest Houses for the year 2021-22.

CIRCULAR

As provided under the provisions of The J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/2011, the rates and service charges with respect to hotels/Guest Houses that may be charged by the hotel keeper/Guest House owner for boarding or lodging or both from persons staying therein shall be fixed by the Government. It is hereby enjoined upon all the Hotelkeepers/Guest House owners that they shall submit their tariffs fixed for ensuing tourist season to the Department of Tourism, through their respective Associations or through email [directortourismkmr@gmail.com](mailto:directortourismkmr@gmail.com) within three days from the date of issuance of this circular notice so that appropriate necessary steps are taken by the Department in connection with fixation of tariffs for hotels/guest houses for the year 2021-22.

Matter may be treated as most urgent.

Sd/-  
Dy. Director Tourism,  
Registration

No.Reg/737/DTK/1556  
dated. 23.02.2021

DIPK-13735/20

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

N.I.T SL. NO: 276 /R&B/Pul/2020-21/10367-77

D A T E D: 22 /02/2021.

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

And should reach his office on or before 02-03-2021 -upto 4 pm.  
The tender documents can be had on cash payment TR. No- (Non-refundable) on production of valid registration card upto \_01-03-2021\_4 pm.


S.NO	Name of work.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Time for Completion	Cost of T.D.	M.H. of Account
.01.	Development of road berm by way of construction of Cement concrete drain at interior road Tral (Balance work).	0.88 Lacs	Rs. 1800/-	DEE	10 Days	Rs. 200/-	C&T

Head Draftsman  
DIPK-13742/20

Tech.Officer


Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Pulwama.

DIAL-EMMA




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

AIRPORTS


SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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

This Day in History

- 1389 - Battle at Falköping: Danes defeat King Albert of Sweden
- 1528 - János Szapolyai, disputed king of Hungary, and Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent sign treaty
- 1739 - Battle of Karnal: Army of Iranian ruler Nadir Shah defeats the forces of the Mughal emperor of India, Muhammad Shah
- 1875 - The SS Gothenburg hits the Great Barrier Reef and sinks off the Australian east coast, killing approximately 100, including a number of high profile civil servants and dignitaries
- Henrik Ibsen
- 1881 - De Lesseps' Company begins work on Panama Canal
- 1881 - China and Russia sign the Sino-Russian Ili Treaty.
- 1895 - Cuban war for independence begins
- 1918 - Estonia declares independence from Russia
- 1924 - Mahatma Gandhi released from jail
- 1942 - The "Battle of Los Angeles" takes place, a series of anti-aircraft engagements over the city in response to a rumored but false Japanese attack. It would last until the morning of the following day.
- 1945 - Egypt & Syria declare war on nazi-Germany
- 1945 - Manila freed from Japanese
- 1945 - Egyptian Premier Ahmed Maher Pasha is killed in Parliament after reading a decree
- 1948 - Communist Party seizes complete control of Czechoslovakia
- 1949 - Israel & Egypt sign an armistice agreement
- 1955- Pact of Baghdad signed between Iraq & Turkey
- 1968 - US troops reconquer Hue Vietnam
- 1969 - Mariner 6 launched for Mars flyby to study planet's atmosphere
- 1971 - Algeria nationalizes 51 percent of French oil concessions
- 1974 - Pakistan officially recognizes Bangladesh
- 1977 - US President Jimmy Carter announces US foreign aid will consider human rights
- 1979- War between North & South Yemen begins
- 1983 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1984- Iraq resumes air attack on Iran
- 1995 - The Corona reconnaissance satellite program, in existence from
- 1959 to 1972, is declassified.
- 1997 - South Africa announces it is constructing largest modern day blimp
- 1997 - Qatar inaugurates the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG)
- exporting facility and formally launches Qatar Liquefied Gas Co.
- 1999 - A China Southern Airlines Tupolev TU-154 airliner crashes on
- approach to Wenzhou airport in eastern the People's Republic of China, killing 61.
- 2008 - Fidel Castro retires as the President of Cuba after nearly fifty years.
- 2010 - Sachin Tendulkar scores the first double century in One Day
- International cricket
- 2010 - Europe risks a double-dip recession after bad results emerge from
- France, Germany and Italy, it is reported today; the Eurozone only grew
- by 0.1% in the last quarter of 2009
- 2011 - Final Launch of Space Shuttle Discovery (OV-103).
- 2013 - Raúl Castro is elected to a second term as the President of Cuba

From KO Archives

CHINESE MILITANTS DIE IN KASHMIR: REPORT

AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI** - Indian troops shot dead four Uighur militants from China's north western Xinjiang province in Kashmir last month, the Hindustan Times reported Wednesday.

According to the report, before they died of their injuries, two Uighurs admitted they were trained by pan-Islamic jihad groups in Pakistan's Baluchistan province.

The militants also admitted they had infiltrated into Indian-controlled Kashmir from Paki-stan-controlled Kashmir with a group from the Lashkar-e-Taiba group, the newspaper said.

The militants were in Kashmir to observe "Lashkar's ongoing anti-India operations and then to head for Chechnya, the report said.

Information obtained from the militants was passed on to Chinese assistant foreign minister Wang Yi, who visited the Indian capital for the second round of the Sino-Indian security dialogue earlier this month, the newspaper reported.

During talks, the Indian delegation called for joint efforts to combat Islamic fundamentalism, the news report said.

Xinjiang separatists — mainly ethnic Uighur Muslims — have been involved in frequent and bloody clashes with the Chinese authorities in recent years.

Uighurs, who speak a Turkic language and make up a large part of Xinjiang's population, have been linked to deadly bombings as well as riots, most notably clashes in January 1997 which according to independent sources left as many as 100 dead.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 24 February, 2001)



## US: Suit Blames Saudi Arabia For 2019 Attack At Florida Army Base



Agencies

Victims of a 2019 shooting at a military base in the US state of Florida and their families are suing Saudi Arabia, claiming the kingdom knew the gunman had been radicalised and that it could have prevented the killings.

The lawsuit was filed on Monday in the Northern District of Florida on behalf of the families of the three who were killed and 13 others who were injured, including sheriff's deputies.

Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani, a Saudi Air Force officer training at the Naval Air Station Pensacola, shot and killed three US sailors on December 6, 2019.

The lawsuit comes nine months after US officials revealed that Alshamrani had communicated with al-Qaeda operatives about planning and tactics in the weeks leading up to the attack and that he had been radicalised before coming to the US for a military training programme.

The lawsuit alleges that Saudi Arabia knew of Alshamrani's associations with al-Qaeda and his radicalisation and yet failed to monitor, supervise or report him.

The suit also claims that other Saudi trainees at the base knew in advance about plans for the shooting but did nothing to stop it.

It says the gunman told fellow Saudi trainees at a dinner party the night before the attack that he planned to carry out the shooting the following day, but instead of reporting it, they called in sick in the morning. One recorded the shootings while standing outside the building; two others watched from a car nearby.

"None of the Royal Saudi Air Force trainees at the scene of the attack reported Al-Shamrani's behaviour nor did they try to stop" it, the lawsuit says. "Because they supported it."

The complaint also says Alshamrani's fellow Saudi trainees were aware that he had purchased and stored firearms and ammunition in his barracks, and that he had posted and shared extremist material on social media and screened videos of mass shootings before the attack.

### 'Trojan Horse'

"Al-Shamrani was a Trojan Horse sent by his country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and its proxy, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, for flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, under the auspices of a programme tied to billions of dollars in military arms sales from the United States to the Kingdom," the lawsuit states.

"Little did the American people know that such an arrangement would soon devolve into a horrific, Faustian bargain."

One month after the shooting, then-Attorney General William Barr announced that 21 Saudi trainees found to have had pro-armed group or anti-American sentiments on social media pages or "contact with child pornography" were being sent home.

## Not To Be Sniffed At: Agony Of Post-Covid-19 Loss Of Smell

NICE: The doctor slid a miniature camera into the patient's right nostril, making her whole nose glow red with its bright miniature light.

"Tickles a bit, eh?" he asked as he rummaged around her nasal passages, the discomfort causing tears to well in her eyes and roll down her cheeks.

The patient, Gabriella Forgione, wasn't complaining. The 25-year-old pharmacy worker was happy to be prodded and poked at the hospital in Nice, in southern France, to advance her increasingly pressing quest to recover her sense of smell.

Along with her sense of taste, it suddenly vanished when she fell ill with COVID-19 in November, and neither has returned.

Being deprived of the pleasures of food and the scents of things that she loves are proving tough on her body and mind. Shorn of odours both good and bad, Forgione is losing weight and self-confidence.

"Sometimes I ask myself, 'Do I stink?'" she confessed. "Normally, I wear perfume and like for things to smell nice. Not being able to smell bothers me greatly."

A year into the coronavirus pandemic, doctors and researchers are still striving to better understand and treat the accompanying epidemic of COVID-19-related anosmia — loss of smell — draining much of the joy of life from an increasing number of sensorially frustrated longer-term sufferers like Forgione.

Even specialist doctors say there is much about the condition they still don't know and they are learning as they go along in their diagnoses and treatments. Impairment and alteration of smell have become so common with COVID-19 that some researchers suggest that simple odour tests could be used to track coronavirus infections in countries with few laboratories.

For most people, the olfactory problems are temporary, often improving on their own in weeks. But a small minority are complaining of persistent dysfunction long after their COVID-19 symptoms have disappeared.

Some have reported continued total or partial loss of smell six months after infection. The longest, some doctors say, is now approaching a full year.

Researchers working on the vexing disability say they are op-



timistic that most will eventually recover but fear some will not.

Some doctors are concerned that growing numbers of smell-deprived patients, many of them young, could be more prone to depression and other difficulties and weigh on strained health systems.

"They are losing colour in their lives," said Dr Thomas Hummel, who heads the smell and taste outpatients clinic at University Hospital in Dresden, Germany.

"These people will survive and they'll be successful in their lives, in their professions," Hummel added. "But their lives will be much poorer."

At the Face and Neck University Institute in Nice, Dr Clair Vandersteen wafted tube after tube of odours under Forgione's nose after he had rooted around in her nostrils with his camera.

"Do you perceive any smell? Nothing? Zero? OK," he asked, as she repeatedly and apologetically responded with negatives.

Only the last tube provoked an unequivocal reaction. "Urgh! Oh, that stinks," Forgione yelped. "Fish!"

Test complete, Vandersteen delivered his diagnosis.

"You need an enormous amount of an odour to be able to smell something," he told her. "You haven't completely lost your sense of smell but nor is it good."

He sent her away with homework: six months of olfactory rehab. Twice daily, choose two or three scented things, like a sprig of lavender or jars of fragrances, and smell them for two to three minutes, he ordered.

"If you smell something, great. If not, no problem. Try again, concentrating hard on picturing the lavender, a beautiful purple bloom," he said.

### "You have to persevere."

Losing the sense of smell can be more than a mere inconvenience. Smoke from a spreading fire, a gas leak, or the stink of rotten food can all pass dangerously unnoticed. Fumes from a used diaper, dog's dirt on a shoe or sweaty armpits can be embarrassingly ignored.

And as poets have long known, scents and emotions are often like lovers entwined.

Evan Cesa used to relish meal times. Now they're a chore. A fish dinner in September that suddenly seemed flavourless first flagged to the 18-year-old sports student that COVID-19 had attacked his senses. Foodstuffs became mere textures, with only residual hints of sweet and saltiness.

Five months later, breakfasting on chocolate cookies before classes, Cesa still chewed without joy, as though swallowing cardboard.

"Eating no longer has any purpose for me," he said. "It is just a waste of time."

Cesa is among the anosmia sufferers being studied by researchers in Nice who, before the pandemic, had been using scents in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

They also used comforting fragrances to treat post-traumatic stress among children after a truck terror attack in Nice in 2016, when a driver ploughed through holiday crowds, killing 86 people.

The researchers are now turning their expertise to COVID-19, teaming up with perfumers from the nearby fragrance-producing town of Grasse.

Perfumer Aude Galouye worked on the fragrant waxes that were wafted under Cesa's nose to measure his olfactory impairment, with scents at varying concentrations.—AP

## Pakistan Prime Minister Khan Arrives In Sri Lanka To Boost Ties

Agencies



ISLAMABAD— Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has arrived in Sri Lanka for a two-day visit where he will meet Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa for talks focusing on increasing trade and investment, Pakistan's foreign office said.

Khan arrived in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo on Tuesday for his first visit to the island nation since taking office as Pakistani prime minister in 2018. Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa received him at the airport.

"The [Pakistani] prime minister will also lead the delegation-level talks, covering all areas of cooperation between the two countries including trade and investment, health and education, agriculture and science and technology, defence and security, and culture and tourism," read a Pakistani curtain-raiser statement on the visit.

A Sri Lankan foreign ministry statement said the visit would feature "a business and investment forum, as well as a sports diplomacy initiative".

Prime Minister Khan will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Commerce Minister Abdul Razaq Dawood and several other high-ranking officials.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka have traditionally enjoyed warm relations, with particularly close military training cooperation during the latter stages of the Sri Lankan civil war which lasted more than two decades.

The Pakistani prime minister was one of the first world leaders to publicly congratulate President Rajapaksa on his landslide election victory two years ago. The president's elder brother Mahinda became prime

minister several months later.

Trade ties, however, remain relatively limited, with \$359m in bilateral trade in the last fiscal year, according to Pakistani central bank data, the majority of it Pakistani exports to Sri Lanka.

Analysts say Sri Lanka's economy remains heavily focused on trade ties with European nations and the United States, rather than within the South Asian region.

Both countries will be seeking to increase those figures, as Rajapaksa and Khan seek to revive domestic economies that took serious hits due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### Ending forced cremation

The Gotabayas returned to power in Sri Lanka in 2019, winning a landslide victory in the presidential election following a divisive electoral campaign that saw their Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party stoke ethnic and religious tensions, appealing to majoritarian Sinhala Buddhist nationalism.

Sri Lanka is home to 21.8 million people, some 10 percent of whom are members of a Muslim minority that has come under increasing persecution since the Rajapaksa brothers came to power, rights groups say, adding that the government has tightened the civil rights space and pandered to right-wing Sinhala Buddhist nationalism.

Earlier this month, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda announced that the island nation would be stopping the forced cremation of people who have

## Two Indians Plead Guilty In Multi-Million Dollars Robocall Scam Targeting Americans

Agencies

Two Indian nationals have pleaded guilty to conspiracy and identity theft in connection with an overseas multi-million dollar robocall scam that defrauded thousands in the US, mostly elderly, the Department of Justice has said.

Pradipsinh Parmar, 41, and Sumer Patel, 37, face a maximum sentence of 20 years each in prison for the conspiracy count. Parmar faces an additional mandatory minimum sentence of two years on the aggravated identity theft count, the justice department said in a press statement on Monday.

Shehzadkhan Pathan, 39, leader of the conspiracy, operated a call centre in Gujarat's Ahmedabad from which automated robocalls were made to victims in the US. Pathan pleaded guilty in the case on January 15.

After establishing contact with victims through these automated calls, Pathan and other "closers" at his call centre would coerce, cajole, and trick victims to send bulk cash through physical shipments and electronic money transfers.

According to court documents, Parmar collected money on behalf of the robocall conspiracy that victims had sent either by a parcel delivery carrier or through a wire service. Upon

receiving the victims' money, Parmar deposited these funds into bank accounts as directed by Pathan.

Pathan and his conspirators used a variety of schemes to convince victims to send money, including impersonating law enforcement officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and representatives of other government agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, to threaten victims with severe legal and financial consequences. Conspirators also convinced victims to send money via wire transfer as initial installments for falsely promised loans. A significant number of victims who were tricked or coerced into sending bulk cash were elderly, the statement said.

Patel, on the other hand, retrieved over 250 individual wire transfers from 230 individual victims from October 2018 to March 2019 on behalf of Pathan, according to court documents.

These wires totalled USD 219,520.98. Patel deposited the funds as instructed by Pathan. While living in Virginia Chesterfield County, Patel also received eight packages of cash sent by victims. Four of the eight packages are known to have contained a total of USD 56,200 in cash, it said.

## Malaysia Court Halts Deportation Of 1,200 Myanmar Nationals Amid Outcry

KUALA LUMPUR (MALAYSIA): A Malaysian court has allowed a temporary stay of deportation of 1,200 Myanmar nationals scheduled to be sent back to their strife-torn homeland on Tuesday, after rights groups petitioned to say deportation could endanger their lives.

The 1,200 detainees were set to leave on Tuesday afternoon in three navy ships sent by Myanmar's military, which seized power in a February 1 coup, sparking weeks of protests from pro-democracy activists.

Refugee groups say asylum seekers from the minority Chin, Kachin and non-Rohingya Muslim communities fleeing conflict and persecution at home are among those being deported.

Amnesty International, which along with Asylum Access had asked the courts to stop the deportation, said the high court granted a stay until 10 am Wednesday, when it will hear the groups' application for judicial review to suspend the deportation.

"In light of the court ruling,



the government must respect the court order and ensure that not one of the 1,200 individuals is deported today," Katrina Mamiyau, Amnesty Malaysia director, said in a statement.

Amnesty has said among the deportees were three people registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and 17 minors who have at least one parent in Malaysia.

Malaysia has said it would not deport Rohingya Muslims or refugees registered with the UNHCR.

But the UN refugee agency has said there are at least six people registered with it that are also set to be deported and that there

could be more. It has not been allowed access to the deportees.

Earlier on Tuesday, buses and immigration department trucks were seen taking the detainees to the western Malaysian port of Lumut, where the Myanmar ships are docked at a naval base.

Malaysia has not responded publicly to critics or Reuters queries over the deportation of the asylum seekers and those registered with the UNHCR.

Concerns over deportation of unregistered asylum-seekers also persist as the UNHCR has not been allowed to interview detainees for over a year to verify their status, amid a crackdown on undocumented migrants in Malaysia.

The United States and other Western missions have been trying to dissuade Malaysia from proceeding with the deportation and urged the government to allow the UNHCR to interview the detainees. They also say Malaysia is legitimising the military government by cooperating with the junta. Reuters

### NEWS MAKERS

## Elon Musk Loses World's Richest Tag As One Tweet Costs Him \$15 Billion



The two billionaires have been swapping places since January as the value of Tesla fluctuated. The stock surged as much as 25% to start 2021 before wiping off almost all of this year's gain. Musk briefly overtook Bezos after his rocket company SpaceX raised \$850 million earlier this month, valuing the company at \$74 billion, a 60% jump from August.

Bezos occupied the top spot on the ranking for three straight years prior to January, when Musk eclipsed the e-commerce titan thanks to a 794% rally in Tesla shares.

The market selloff on Monday hit many of the world's ultra-rich. Zhong Shanshan, Asia's wealthiest person, was the second-biggest decliner on the Bloomberg index, dropping by \$5.1 billion as his bottled-water company fell 4.5%. Colin Huang of Pinduoduo Inc., Reliance Industries Ltd.'s Mukesh Ambani and Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s Pony Ma all lost more than \$2.5 billion each.

Elon Musk is no longer the world's richest person after Tesla Inc. shares slid 8.6% on Monday, wiping \$15.2 billion from his net worth.

Tesla's biggest decline since September was fueled in part by Musk's comments over the weekend that the prices of Bitcoin and smaller rival Ether "do seem high." His message -- via his favored medium of Twitter -- came two weeks after Tesla announced it added \$1.5 billion in Bitcoin to its balance sheet. The cryptocurrency, which has surged more than 400% over the past year, tumbled for a second day on Tuesday, at one point slipping below \$50,000 on skepticism over the durability of its rally.

Musk also tweeted earlier Monday that the company's Model Y Standard Range SUV would still be available "off the menu," backing up reports from electric vehicle news site Electrek that the model had been removed from its online configurator.

Musk drops to second on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index of the world's 500 richest people with a net worth of \$183.4 billion -- down from a peak of \$210 billion in January. Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos reclaimed the top spot even as his fortune fell by \$3.7 billion to \$186.3 billion Monday.

## Long-Serving Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani Dies At 90

Ahmed Zaki Yamani, a long-serving oil minister in Saudi Arabia who led the kingdom through the 1973 oil crisis, the nationalization its state energy company and later found himself held hostage by the assassin Carlos the Jackal, died Tuesday in London. He was 90. Saudi state television reported his death, without offering a cause. It said he would be buried in the Muslim holy city of Mecca. Known for his Western-style business suits and soft-spoken, measured tones, Yamani helped Saudi Arabia command a dominating presence in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries from its birth. The kingdom remains a heavyweight in the group even today and its decisions ripple through the oil industry, affecting prices from the barrel down to the gasoline pump.

"To the global oil industry, to politicians and senior civil servants, to journalists and to the world at large, Yamani became the representative, and indeed the symbol, of the new age of oil," author Daniel Yergin wrote in his seminal book on the oil industry "The Prize." "His visage, with his large, limpid, seemingly unblinking brown eyes and his clipped, slightly curved Van Dyke beard, became familiar the planet over."

## Pakistan MP Marries 14-Year-Old Girl From Balochistan, Probe Ordered

CHITRAL: Pakistan police have launched an investigation into the marriage of a 14-year-old girl with Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi, leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), and a Member of National Assembly (MNA) from Balochistan. Citing local media, Pak Observer has reported that the police have launched the probe after receiving a complaint from an NGO working for the welfare of women in Chitral. According to a report by Dawn, the girl was a student of Government Girls High School, Jughoor, where her date of birth had been recorded as of October 28, 2006, which showed that she had not attained the age of marriage. Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi, the Member of the National Assembly is in his late 50s, according to Pakistan media. Chitral police station SHO Inspector Sajjad Ahmed was quoted as saying that a few days ago on the complaint of the organisation, the police had reached the girl's home, but her father had denied the girl's marriage and had even given an affidavit to this effect.



## First Avian Influenza Case Detected In Bandipora

No Need To Panic: DC

**SADERKOOT:** The Bandipora district on Tuesday reported its first case of avian influenza as samples taken from dead domestic geese returned positive for the disease.

DC Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmad confirmed that the samples from dead domestic geese have returned positive for H5N8 from Saderkoot Payeen village of Bandipora.

"This is a first positive case in Bandipora district but there is no need to panic. A rapid response team has been deployed

in the area and the department has taken necessary measures in accordance with the government guidelines to prevent the spread of the infection," he said.

He said habituation within one km radius from the epicentre viz Khar Mohalla, Hajam Mohalla & Gojjerpatti village of Saderkoot Payeen are declared as "infected zone". Villages within 10 kms radius from epicentre viz Saderkoot Bala, Ajas, Check Sadunara, Garoora and Nadihal are declared as 'Surveillance Zone'," he said. (KNS)

## Govt Earmarks Rs 100 Cr For Doodhpathri, Yousmarg, Tosamadaan Development

Three-Day Tourism Festival At Doodhpathri From March 6



**BUDGAM:** The Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr. G N Ittoo along with District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza Tuesday visited tourist resort Doodhpathri, to review the preparedness for the upcoming tourist season.

The Director during the visit convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the status of implementation of the Draft Master Plan designed and prepared for beautification and facelift of this beautiful tourist resort.

He said the Master Plan drafted in the year 2011 remains unimplemented due to certain reasons, however, for its speedy implementation we have put it in the public domain for suggestions/objections from all stakeholders and to date, 42 suggestions have been received from different corners.

He said for speedy disposal and consensus on suggestions a committee consisting of Chief Town planner as its Chairman and member, besides ADC, CEO of Doodhpathri Development Authority, SDM Khansahab and AD Tourism as its members will sit and examine the status of suggestions/objections received so that a concrete action plan is drafted for speedy action and implementation of master plan recommendations.

The Director said that nine adjacent villages are notified under this plan and we assure that the residents and habitants of these villages will be taken into confidence and any inconvenience and demand after observing its genuineness will be seriously considered for early action.

He said, the aim and objective is to make Doodhpathri a prime location for tourists having all adventure-related tourism facilities. He also said the government is going to upgrade all existing infrastructure so that anyone visiting this place and stay overnight shall feel comfortable.

The Director said that the Government has earmarked a plan to spend Rs. 100 Crore un-

der PMDP for the overall development of Doodhpathri, Yousmarg and Tosamadaan on the equal pattern.

He said apart from the development of these tourist resorts on advanced parameters, the development of Ecotourism facilities will be given special focus, so that tourists visiting these places shall prefer to stay during nights also in order to avoid the polluted atmosphere of congested areas/cities.

The director on the occasion in presence of DDC Budgam said that the department of tourism in collaboration with District Administration and other allied agencies will organise a 3 day tourism festival at Doodhpathri which will commence on 6th of March 2021.

He said the festival will be celebrated at a high standard and its main focus will be to attract the attention of aspiring tourists.

He also said at the festival site, various departments particularly affiliated with Handicrafts and other handmade products will establish their stalls depicting and demonstrating their skills and products.

The festival apart from this will also have other entertainments relating to regional culture, cuisine, folk music, heritage items, besides there will also be painting and photography completions.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC expressed gratitude to Director Tourism for taking such enormous initiatives in boosting the overall development of this beautiful tourist resort in the latest pattern.

He assured him that District Administration will facilitate all requirements, cooperation in making this festival a grand success.

Later, Director Tourism accompanied by CEO, ADC Budgam and SDM Khansahab visited prime location Doodhpathri and took appraisal of to do list of works and other activities to be taken in hand at the tourist spot when the working season gets kick started.

## No License Required To Operate Stone Crushers, Hot & Wet Mixing Plants

**JAMMU-** In its resolve to promote 'Ease of Doing Business' by creating a business-friendly environment, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir today notified the J&K Stone Crushers/ Hot and Wet Mixing Plants Regulation Rules, 2021 which have dispensed away the requirement of a license to start operation of stone crushers/ hot and wet mixing plants in Jammu and Kashmir. The decision will facilitate establishment and functioning of stone crushers, hot & wet mixing plants and boost the supply of raw material required in the construction sector. This will also expedite completion of various mega-projects in Jammu & Kashmir.

The new rules recognize a stone crusher/hot and wet mixing plant as a mineral-based (raw material) processing unit different from those indulged in mineral mining activity. As such, the applicability of provisions regulating the working of industrial units has been extended to cover these units, thus, doing away with the need of obtaining respective licenses from the Mining Department.

However, if a stone crusher/ hot and wet mixing plant undertakes mining of mineral as an additional line of activity, it shall then be additionally gov-



erned by the rules applicable to mining industrial units.

The rules make it obligatory on the mineral processing units to procure minor minerals from a valid mining concessionaire registered with the Mining Department. The Department has been authorized to inspect such units, ascertain the source of the raw material and undertake seizure of the illegally sourced minerals.

Moreover, the rules also simplify the unit establishment process by reducing the requisite clearances/ NOCs to merely two documents namely- Consent to Operate (CTO) from Pollution Control Board (PCB) and NOC from the concerned Deputy Commissioner regarding the title of land and

its usage. Issuance of district-level NOC has been brought under the J&K Public Services Guarantee Act, 2011 making it mandatory to issue the document within 30 days.

The industrial units can voluntarily opt for registration with the Industries and Commerce Department through Udyog Aadhar registration to avail the benefits under various Government-sponsored schemes.

The decision provides major relief to the entrepreneurs by removing the burden of double registrations wherein the unit holders had to go through the rigorous procedures of registrations/ licensing with the Industries and Commerce Department as well as the Mining Department.

## Kashmir Schools To Reopen In Phases From March 1: Dir Edu

'Schools To Follow Odd-Even Process In Case Of Space Crunch' 'Will Ensure Necessary Arrangements'



**SRINAGAR:** Director School Education Muhammad Younis Malik Tuesday said that the classwork in the Schools from class 9 to class 12 will resume from March 1 while the classwork for elementary classes shall resume from March 8.

Speaking to newsgathering agency Kashmir News Service Malik said that it is the decision of the UT admin to open the schools from March 1. "We are continuously monitoring the situation. As the routine life is returning to normal gradually, the administration has reached to a decision to throw open the schools as well.

An order has been issued yesterday that Schools from Class 9-12 shall open from March 1 and the elementary schools will open from March 8."

However, he said, that teachers of elementary classes shall attend the schools from March 1.

"We have set guidelines to have safe schooling. We have already started cleanliness and sanitation drive and the situation will be continuously monitored so that parents feel their wards are in safe hands," he said.

The director said that there will be no compromise on SOPs, wearing mask, social distancing and frequent hand sanitising.

"We have around 13 thousand schools including private ones with the admission of 13 lac students, and we have given them guidelines that wearing a mask, social distancing and hand sanitising is very important," he told KNS.

The director said that they have also given direction to schools heads to plan as per the prevailing situation. The schooling will be held in a staggered manner, like the school heads can ask students to avoid morning assembly and other co-curricular activities. "We can maintain distance whatever way we can," he said.

"However we have sufficient space, in case there is any space crunch at any institution, there will be segregation, stagger or odd-even process, the school heads will take care of it," he said.

Malik said that the directorate will create a task force, both at the zonal and district levels to monitor the situation continuously.

Answering to a question about the loss that the students suffered last year, he said, "We have tried our best, whatever the resources we have at our command we utilised them. We have community classes, assignments and online classes, we have delivered lectures on TV and radio."

**WE HAVE SET GUIDELINES TO HAVE SAFE SCHOOLING.** We have already started cleanliness and sanitation drive and the situation will be continuously monitored so that parents feel their wards are in safe hands,"

## Two-Day Workshop On 'Visual Storytelling' Begins At DCJ CUK

**GANDERBAL:** A two-day workshop on "Visual Storytelling" organised by the Department of Convergent Journalism (DCJ), School of Media Studies, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) began at Tulmulla campus here on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the workshop, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, said visual storytelling can help make complex news and feature stories easier for the people to understand and remember. "The visual storytelling delivers a more impactful message to the readers," he said. The Vice-Chancellor said that in the contemporary era of social media, visual storytelling has a tremendous scope. Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, however, cautioned the students to fact-check the contents of visuals before posting it online. "There have been instances wherein visuals and videos have been morphed and the wrong narrative built in order to serve certain vested interests," he said. He hailed the DCJ for organising the workshop and also welcomed the students of 1st semester. Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir assured the students that the university would provide all the facilities required by the journalism students for gaining practical knowledge and experience in different media.

Addressing the gathering, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, said, the visual storytelling makes the news stories more imaginative, modern and relevant for readers as they could possibly be. "In the age of digital media, the best of the visual stories can get viral on the social media platforms in a

jiffy, earning the name and fame for the particular individual," he said. Prof. Zargar asked the students to gain more and more knowledge from the expert, delivering lectures on the topic during the two-day event.

Addressing the participants through online mode, journalist and visual storyteller, Dr. Tabeenah Anjum said, "It's not easy to forget the storytelling power of the images." She said the students of journalism can build a career on the same and the social media platforms are the easiest way to broadcast the visual story, free of cost.

Speaking on the occasion, Dean School of Media Studies, Prof. Shahid Rasool, said visual storytelling involves the use of infographics, images, pictures, and videos to engage with viewers in an effort to drive emotions, engage intercommunication, and motivate an audience to action. "Visual narrative has been used to describe several genres of visual storytelling, from news and information (photojournalism, the photo essay, the documentary film) to entertainment (art, movies, television, comic books, the graphic novel). Any kind of a story, told visually, is a visual narrative," Prof. Shahid said.

In his speech, Head Department of Convergent Journalism, Dr. Arif Nazir, said the main aim and objective of the workshop is to reignite and remind the participants of their natural ability of storytelling. "Participants will be taught the basics of photography and creative writing," he added.

## Dr Shakti Gupta Appointed Ex. Director AIIMS, Jammu

**SRINAGAR:** Dr Shakti Kumar Gupta, Medical Superintendent Dr RP Centre of Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS New Delhi has been appointed as Executive Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jammu.

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Dr Shakti Kumar Gupta as executive director in AIIMS situated at Vijaypur in Samba district of Jammu region, according to an order issued today.

The order states that the appointment has been made in level 15 of the pay matrix and admissible NP on a short term contract basis for a period of 3 years with effect from the date of



assumption of charge of the post. "The contract may further be extended up to 5 years or till the incumbent attains the age of 70 years or until further orders, whichever is the earliest," the order states.

## DM Kupwara Attaches Two Employees For 'Misuse Of Official Position'

**SRINAGAR:** District Magistrate Kupwara Tuesday attached two employees for alleged involvement in 'misusing of official position and other activities' in Handwara.

An order states that a number of allegations have been leveled against, Firdous Ahmad Dar, Junior Assistant ADC Office Handwara and Bilal Ahmad Dar, Junior Assistant ZEO Office Langate 'for misusing of official position and other activities thereby tarnishing the image of the government.'

"It is unbecoming of a govern-

ment employee to misuse his official position and indulge in any activity contradictory to the conduct of Civil Service Rules and deserves disciplinary action as warranted under Civil Service and Conduct Rules", the order underscores.

Both the officials have been attached with the office of Deputy Magistrate till further orders even as Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara asked to conduct an inquiry into the matter and furnish his report within one week for further course of action. (GNS)

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار انت نامگ با اجلاس زیر امده شی صاحب

درخواست منجاب:- دانش امی الدین ولد غلام امی الدین میر ساکن نجی گند دودنی پاد انت نامگ تحصیل و ضلع انت نامگ بغرض حصول EWS سر تفلیت

اشتهار بر ادا گامی بر خاص و عام

معامله مندرج عنوان الصدر میں ساکن صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول EWS سر تفلیت دفتر بازہ میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پڈاری حلقہ سے ساکن کا کوئی افراد سرکاری لازم نہیں ہے اور ساکن کا مکان بشمول نقشہ رہائشی منزل زمین پوش زیر نمبر ۴۵ اور تفصیل افراد کتبہ بذیل درج ہے:-

نام صاحب کتبہ و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
غلام امی الدین میر ولد مہدی میر	47 سال	مزدوری	6000
رفیقہ زوجہ غلام امی الدین میر	46 سال	گھریلو کام	
کبیر احمد پسر	25 سال	نا توان	
عاصمی جان دختر	24 سال	---	
دانش امی الدین پسر	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	
رضیہ جان دختر	17 سال	---	

انکے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کتبہ میں موجود نہیں ہے اور ساکن کی کتبہ کی ماہانہ آمدنی 6000 تک ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو مذکورہ سر تفلیت اجرا کرنے میں کوئی غلطی یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض دفتر بازہ میں پیش کریں۔ معیا گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تخیرا الصدر نائب تحصیلدار انت نامگ

mja

از عدالت انگریزیو جج سرٹ دہی اول (نائب تحصیلدار انت نامگ) با اجلاس زیر امده شی صاحب

درخواست منجاب:- بال احمد ذر ولد حبیب اللہ ذر ساکن ذر سوچی گند بغرض اجرائی تاریخ پیدائش سر تفلیت بنام شہتار میر ادا گامی بر خاص و عام

معامله مندرج عنوان الصدر میں ساکن ساکنہ مذکورہ بالا نے عدالت بذمیں ایک درخواست طعنی بیان پیش کیا ہے ساکن کے پسر کا تاریخ پیدائش 16/02/2014 ہے اس ضمن میں سر تفلیت پیدائش نکالنے کا خواہ ہے لہذا سر تفلیت مذکورہ کو اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی غلطی یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

mja

از عدالت انگریزیو جج سرٹ دہی اول (نائب تحصیلدار انت نامگ) با اجلاس زیر امده شی صاحب

درخواست منجاب:- بال احمد ذر ولد حبیب اللہ ذر ساکن ذر سوچی گند بغرض اجرائی تاریخ پیدائش سر تفلیت بنام عازک بال پسر بال احمد ذر

اشتهار بر ادا گامی بر خاص و عام

معامله مندرج عنوان الصدر میں ساکن ساکنہ مذکورہ بالا نے عدالت بذمیں ایک درخواست طعنی بیان پیش کیا ہے ساکن کے پسر کا تاریخ پیدائش 02/07/2014 ہے اس ضمن میں سر تفلیت پیدائش نکالنے کا خواہ ہے لہذا سر تفلیت مذکورہ کو اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی غلطی یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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**CORRIGENDUM.**

It is hereby notified for the information of concerned candidates, to read examination venue as "Govt Degree College for Women Sopore Nowpora Kalan, Baramulla" instead of Womens College of Education Nootbagh-Sopore, Baramulla" and "MHSDAV Public School Kanuyian, Poonch instead of MHSDAV Public School Kamyian, Poonch" for the posts of Class IV in various Departments, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No 01 of 2020.

Controller of Examinations  
J&K Services Selection Board  
Jammu.

Dated :- 23-02-2021

No.SSB/Class IV/2021/1807-22  
DIPK-13766/20



K O V I E W

## Battleground Bengal

**O**n the stump in West Bengal on Monday Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the state was ready for a poriborton (change) in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Addressing a rally, the PM said that the enthusiasm and energy exhibited by the crowd was sending a message from Kolkata to Delhi that now Bengal had made up its mind about electing a BJP government to power. In recent months, the saffron party has left no stone unturned to win Bengal, a crucial state that has so far withstood the Hindutva's all-encompassing appeal across the country. But over the past two years, the party has made deep inroads into the state, making it the number 2 in terms of vote share, which is now at 40 percent. The ruling TMC still retains the number 1 spot. Congress and the Left Front are nowhere near the reckoning. And this looks strange considering the fact that the Left has ruled Bengal consecutively for over two decades.

In 2018 Lok Sabha polls the BJP won 18 seats out of 42, becoming thus a major opposition force in the state. Now its sights are firmly set on the Assembly elections slated in April-May 2019. Though the TMC still retains an edge in popularity in the state, this could change. The BJP has deployed all its resources to turn the tables on the TMC. It has regularly dispatched its top leaders including Amit Shah and JP Nadda in the state. Similarly, the PM Modi has also made visits.

What's more, the BJP plans to hold as many as 1500 rallies in the state. This will also include rallies by PM, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled states, and other top BJP officials. In recent budget, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced funds for an economic corridor in West Bengal and a special package for tea garden workers.

But it won't be easy to dislodge the TMC helmed by the charismatic Mamata Banerjee. In the 294 seats strong Assembly, the TMC currently holds 222 seats. While the BJP is making all out efforts to get Bengal, the TMC is mounting a formidable resistance to the saffron onslaught. The TMC recently launched an advertisement campaign portraying Banerjee as the "daughter of Bengal". The slogan, "Bengal wants its own daughter", was put up on the hoardings across Kolkata to paint the BJP as an outsider.

It remains to be seen how the situation plays out in the state as the elections are held. But it will be a gripping, tough contest. And its outcome will leave a far-reaching impact on the course of politics across the country.

O T H E R O P I N O N

## A year on

**A**fter 1984, Delhi pledged never again. The national Capital has still not been able to heal the wounds left behind by the anti-Sikh violence after Indira Gandhi's assassination. The fact that the State apparatus did not perform its role in maintaining order, and was actually seen as encouraging the perpetrators of violence (or being completely incapable of dealing with them), set the template, off and on, for similar events witnessed over the past three-and-a-half decades.

Last year, the Capital saw its most horrific violence after 36 years. Coming in the wake of a prolonged agitation against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, a polarised election campaign, and a deep trust deficit between Hindus and Muslims, it took place even as United States President Donald Trump was visiting India. It took days for the national security apparatus to restore order. And it exposed, yet again, the dangerous combination of extreme political rhetoric and sub-optimal law enforcement.

India has learnt little from past riots. The investigation into the riots has been criticised for being partisan — where it is mostly the critics of the central government who find themselves being scrutinised, arrested and charged even as those pledging allegiance to the ruling party at the Centre appear to have escaped legal accountability. Delhi, and India can't afford that. There has to be an independent examination of what happened last February and the law will have to take its course without considering political affiliations and victims will have to be provided justice. If that doesn't happen, the wounds of 2020, like those of 1984, may remain open.

Hindustan Times



## Exit the dragon?

India-China agreement on Pangong Tso may have temporarily halted the LOC-ization of the LAC



RIYAZ WANI

**In South Asia which has been the fulcrum of the global powerplay for centuries, this emergence of a super power in the immediate neighborhood has far reaching repercussions. China's widening strategic sphere of influence threatens to turn the region into a heady arena for yet another cold war**

**A**s India and China withdraw from the north and south banks of Pangong Tso lake, both sides have stayed short of claiming victory. The defence minister Rajnath Singh made a restrained statement in parliament on the Pangong Tso agreement. He said that "both sides will cease their forward deployments in a phased, coordinated and verified manner". Similarly, the newspaper Global Times that articulates Chinese government policy has been measured and factual in its analyses of the development. The paper's editorials normally adopt a belligerent and taunting tone towards India.

On closer look, the agreement is a win-win situation for both the countries. In the words of the defence minister they have agreed, "to have a temporary moratorium on military activities by both sides in the North Bank, including patrolling to the traditional areas". Patrolling is to be resumed "only when both sides reach an agreement in diplomatic and military talks". So, the agreement, as of now, hasn't entirely delivered the status quo ante as sought by New Delhi, but it is more or less closer to that. In New Delhi's view, the little give and take in the agreement will be worth it, as the outcome has helped calm one of the four friction points along the Line of Actual Control. The two countries had stationed their battle tanks and armoured vehicles within the firing distance at Pangong Tso. This always had the potential to trigger a bigger confrontation.

That said, the neighbours still have three friction points at Depsang, Gogra and Hot Springs to sort out. And it can be hoped that a sustained engagement at the military and diplomatic level will lead to a mutually acceptable solution in these areas too. It will, however, be interesting to see if the status quo ante will be restored. And should that happen it will not only make LAC normal again but also further boost the Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi's image at home. So, the Chinese incursions will eventually have achieved the opposite effect.

At the same time, the restoration of the status quo ante will also raise questions about the point of Chinese incursions and what the communist giant had set out to achieve. Things on this score will be clear in the weeks and months ahead. As things stand, the situation along the LAC looks set to normalise again. The LOC-ization of the LAC that was expected to happen as a result of the year-long stand-off seems unlikely to play out. There are huge geo-political stakes for both the countries that can't be ignored. A lingering state of confrontation between the two will not be in the interest of either. More so for India which would not want a 3800 km border with China become an extension of LOC with Pakistan. India has to do a tough balancing act between its thickening relationship with the US and that with China. Truth is China's rise on the global stage has become a reality.

For the world, China's emergence as a global power is a fraught prospect with far reaching implications for the way international business is conducted. More so, when China brings to the table an alternative system: a communist capitalism versus west's capitalist capitalism. What makes this global shift imminent is that Beijing is already rewriting the rules of the game and with each passing day advancing to seize what it sees as the Chinese century.

In South Asia which has been the fulcrum of the global powerplay for centuries, this emergence of a super power in the immediate neighborhood has far reaching repercussions. China's widening strategic sphere of influence threatens to turn the region into a heady arena for yet another cold war: this time between US and China. There are also serious differences of opinion on this score. There are many who would rather argue that China is not the only country that is taking on the global role. It is being followed by

India -albeit still way behind in terms of its economic and military clout. And Russia despite its dramatic exit as a global power in the early nineties, continues to be in the reckoning. More so, with its leftover huge stockpile of nuclear weapons.

But China, nevertheless, with its frenetically paced economic growth defying even the pandemic induced recession, is emerging as the true contender for the global number two with a potential to overtake even the number one power. The coming two decades will be crucial in this regard. However, the prospect of this great change has already put the world in a transition syndrome. One can already sense an incipient unraveling of the uni-polar world which the US had begun to build after defeating its rival USSR two decades ago. Now, Washington again faces the competition which looks set to get more intense in years to come. And for now, the centre of this competition is South Asia, China's neighborhood. The dynamics of this equation are already playing out across the troubled landscape from Kabul to Colombo. Kashmir is also emerging as a very sensitive spot in this fast changing security scenario. In fact, there are all the indications that Kashmir is once again set to become a pawn in the geo-political game: this time at a regional level with China and India's rise adding a far larger dimension to the lingering issue.

But as of now, it will be interesting to see how the two countries manage and resolve their conflict in Ladakh, a former part of Jammu and Kashmir. This will hold clues to the future course of not only their relationship but to the South Asian geo-politics.

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

*The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer*



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## Don't Put a Price on Brides

**T**here are several consequences of the dowry system prevailing in our society. Firstly, the dowry system prevents women from getting married when they want to and this delays their chances of getting married. When poor parents somehow manage to arrange some dowry from whatever they can afford, the thirst of greed never ends and divorce is not the

option for the poor. For a girl, it turns the festivity and charm of married life into hell. Behind feel good pictures of brides dolled up, there are years and years of a parent's earning that they could have easily invested in something meaningful but they didn't have the choice to do that.

If we talk about Kashmir, dowry in-

cludes cash, furniture, copper utensils, crockery, clothes, electronic items, gold and many more things. A girl is supposed to carry everything to her new home. From needle to iron to beddings, every small and big thing for her use. As if her in-laws don't have such things. This age old culture of dowry once used to be a voluntary action of giving gifts to in-laws and now it has turned into a compulsory thing. To be honest, as a Gen Z kid I not only used to believe but also used to make others believe that there is nothing like dowry demand, harassment, abuse and other evils related to girls now. It is only until very recently that the same thing happened to a girl very close to me. That incident not only shook me but also made me see our society for what it is.

Nothing has really changed over the years other than the tactics used to harass girls on the pretext of dowry. First it used to be open demand for the dowry but now as times have changed, in-laws choose to say no to the dowry before the wedding for societal impression but deep down still have high expectations for dowry. When their expectations aren't met, they use different tactics to torture a girl. Mental torture, verbal abuse, isolation, humiliation, work load, nasty comments are a few psychological abuses inflicted on a daughter-in-law that usually go unnoticed unlike physical torture.

This menace is not confined to only one part of the region. Every other day we get to hear such heart wrenching news from different parts of the valley.

In 2018, a sikh girl was tortured to such an extent over dowry that she hanged herself to death in the Chanapora area of srinagar. Recently, a muslim girl from bandipora was murdered over dowry. So, any particular religion, location, gender or relation has no role to play here. There are thousands of such examples where girls either choose to kill themselves or were killed by in-laws. Evil Culture of violence over dowry within four walls is alarming and needs to be dealt with strictly. Otherwise, the day isn't too far when such things will become a new normal in Kashmir.

*Nousheen mushtaq  
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# Do You Really Need IVF? A New Online Tool Can Help You Weigh Up Your Options

KARIN HAMMARBERG

Although IVF might seem like the fastest option, it can be expensive, costing most people thousands of dollars. And like any medical procedure, IVF carries risks, particularly for women

People who want a baby and struggle to conceive often resort to in vitro fertilisation (IVF). While IVF has helped countless people have children, it's expensive and comes with some risks.

But research shows some people with so-called "unexplained infertility" have a 30-40% chance of conceiving without treatment if they just keep trying for a bit longer.

So, how long should you wait before starting fertility treatment? This depends on a range of factors that might increase or decrease your chance of conceiving naturally, as well as your personal preferences for seeking treatment or not.

A new online guide can estimate your chance of conceiving with and without treatment. The free tool collects information based on what we understand to be the main factors affecting a woman's chance of falling pregnant, with a view to informing decisions around fertility treatment.

#### Sometimes there's no clear explanation

It's recommended women who have tried unsuccessfully for a baby for 12 months, or six months if they're over 35, seek medical advice. This is so the doctor can arrange for tests to determine whether there's a reason for infertility.

If these tests show the woman's fallopian tubes are blocked, or that the male partner has a very low sperm count, it's best to go straight to IVF. In most cases, that's the only way the couple will be able to get pregnant.

If your doctor finds no obvious problem, you have what's called "unexplained" or "idiopathic" infertility.

#### Weighing up your options

It can be very frustrating to be told there's nothing wrong, when month after month goes by without pregnancy happening.

Although IVF might seem like the fastest option, it can be expensive, costing most people thousands of dollars. And like any medical procedure, IVF carries risks, particularly for women.

If your tests come back normal, it might be worth considering giving nature a bit more time, or trying a simpler form of infertility treatment, such as intrauterine insemination (IUI). IUI involves insertion of the male partner's (or a donor's) sperm into a woman's uterus at or just before ovulation.



Experts used the data from this research to develop the online guide. The personalised calculations are based on four factors that evidence indicates are most likely to affect the chance of pregnancy.

So which path is right for you? This is where the new online guide can help.

#### It's built on evidence

Research tracking thousands of people with unexplained infertility has found many go on to have healthy babies naturally, or with the help of simple fertility treatment. In one study of more than 1,200 couples with unexplained infertility, 25% conceived naturally within 12 months.

Of course, for some women conception will be more likely, and for some women it will be less likely.

Experts used the data from this research to develop the online guide. The personalised calculations are based on four factors that evidence indicates are most likely to affect the chance of pregnancy.

The most important factor that affects a woman's chance of having a baby — naturally or with IVF — is her age. So what's labelled unexplained infertility may in fact be age-related. While pregnancy can still happen, by age 40 a woman's fertility is about half the level it was when she was 30.

Other factors include how long she has been trying for a baby (the

likelihood of conception decreases with the duration of trying), whether she's been pregnant before (women who have never conceived before have a lower probability of achieving a pregnancy), and what proportion of the male partner's sperm move normally (called "progressive motility" on a semen analysis report).

#### How does it work?

The guide is designed for heterosexual couples and for women who are trying to get pregnant with a known sperm donor, where:

- the woman has regular menstrual cycles
- the woman has at least one open fallopian tube
- the woman is 42 or younger
- the man has had a sperm test.

Four questions ask about the four factors most likely to affect a woman's chance of conception, described above.

The responses are then fed into the algorithm, which estimates the chance of pregnancy over the next 12 months in three different scenarios:

- you just keep trying
- you have six cycles of IUI
- you have two cycles of IVF.

This information can help people consider their options and decide about next steps.

If your estimated chance of spontaneous pregnancy in the next 12 months is 30% or more, you have a good chance of avoiding the need for expensive fertility treatments. But if you're not pregnant after six months, the guide suggests seeking advice from a fertility specialist about the next steps.

If your estimated chance without treatment is less than 30%, it's best to see a fertility specialist as soon as possible.

#### A word of caution

While the guide can help you explore your options and consider next steps, the estimates it gives are based on averages of data from large studies of people with unexplained infertility.

This means it shouldn't replace advice from a fertility specialist, who will hopefully use the available evidence to recommend the best way forward for you, considering your personal circumstances and preferences.

*By arrangements with the conversation*

## Life is a balancing act

Remember that terrifying moment when you realise that there was no one behind you

VANAJA RAO

For almost three years now I have fought many mini battles with recalcitrant auto drivers without notching up any victories. All I needed was to travel short distances which were a little more than I would like to walk especially with the sun beating down mercilessly. You can't make an early start as nothing opens before 10am if even that.

Every time I stopped an auto and told the driver where I wanted to go, he would ponder over my request as if I were asking him to take me to the moon. After much deliberating he would name a price that would be reasonable if his vehicle promised a luxury ride.

After giving him a lecture on being more realistic I would start walking. Never have I had the experience of one of these species agreeing to take me where I wanted to go at a fair price.

That is when I decided to invest in a scooter, which is something I used regularly around 20 years ago. They say you can never forget cycling or swimming. I want to know who 'they' are because I have discovered that these activities are easy to forget.

Buoyed by the fact that a couple of decades ago I used to zip around on my bike to the most crowded areas in town, I bought a scooter. It sat there in the parking for several weeks while I tried to think of someone who would help me ride it.

A friend was roped in and I was overjoyed. As soon as I sat on the scooter with the friend seated behind, I found that the bike had a mind of its own. I was unable to control its movement and found myself veering to the right, dan-



gerously close to other vehicles. That first ride was an epic failure.

In fact, that friend gave up on me and advised me to contact a driving school. I had to put up with nasty comments from siblings who suggested I put the machine on display in a museum!

And then I found a volunteer. He said we would start early in the morning when there wasn't much traffic. He was

very patient and kept telling me that I was doing a good job.

#### Negotiating potholed roads

Reassured by his confidence in me, I started riding in a straight line. He made me take right and left turns repeatedly until I felt dizzy. Then I was told to go on to main roads where huge vehicles whizzed past alarmingly. Soon I was at

ease manoeuvring my way through traffic and negotiating potholed roads.

I was declared fit to travel on my own after several lessons and it was truly liberating. Now that I am on the road I am tempted to cock a snook at all the autos I pass by.

I look at all the youngsters on the road, supremely confident, and I wonder whether they are born confident and

fearless. Perhaps the difference is age. I have friends who learnt to drive when they were still in school. And here I was in Dubai and being persuaded to take driving lessons by a friend.

I still remember that first lesson which was terrifying to me. I was asked to sit behind the wheel immediately and steer the car on a circular track. At first I thought the instructor was joking but could see no signs of a smile on her face. I remember clutching the wheel like a drowning man clutches at a straw and wondering when that interminable lesson would end.

Don't be taken in by the phrase "it's as easy as riding a bike"? It isn't easy. Remember that first ride on a bicycle as a kid and that terrifying moment when you realised that there was no one behind you holding on to the bike?

*Gulf News*

I look at all the youngsters on the road, supremely confident, and I wonder whether they are born confident and fearless. Perhaps the difference is age. I have friends who learnt to drive when they were still in schoolschool



Sd/-  
Medical Superintendent  
MMABM AH GMC Anantnag  
Dated:22/02/2021



[illegible]



## Two-Week Entrepreneurship Program Begins At MSME, DI Srinagar

**SRINAGAR:** The two-week entrepreneurship programme for participants from different educational backgrounds began Tuesday at Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development Institute, Sanatghar. The programme has been organised by MSME, DI under the aegis of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

Assistant Director, in charge MSME Saheel Alaqband said that the participants from different educational backgrounds and from different districts of the valley have opted for the entrepreneurship course. He said, during the course, participants will be provided with detailed information about the schemes available with the Ministry of MSME, DIC, KVIB, and JKEDI besides providing insight into business management.

In order to make the program more practical in nature, the involvement of participants in business activities, group presentations, and Industrial visits will also be part of two weeks Entrepreneurship program. Assistant Director while giving his concluding remarks on the first day of the two weeks course said the aim is to produce professional entrepreneurs irrespective of the investment involved in setting up the enterprises so that the chances of failures are minimised to a large extent.

Earlier during the inaugural session, Project Director MSME TDC Mir Altaf Ahmad briefly explained the role that the technology development centre at Srinagar is playing in providing skills to the unemployed youth besides providing them the road map for entrepreneurship.

He said, this year approximately 600 participants are being trained or have completed training in different courses across the Kashmir region.

## CJ Pankaj Mithal Holds Interaction With Judges, Lawyers

**SRINAGAR:** The Chief Justice, Jammu and Kashmir, High Court, Justice Pankaj Mithal Tuesday visited District Court Complex, Srinagar during which he held interaction with Judges and lawyers in separate meetings.

Chief Justice was welcomed by Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Administrative Judge for District Srinagar and Abdul Rashid Malik, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, other Judges and Judicial Officers. On the occasion, Chief Justice was presented Ceremonial Guard of Honour.

While welcoming Pankaj Mithal on his first visit to Srinagar after his appointment as Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, said 'We all are happy to warmly welcome Chief Justice in the heaven on earth'.

While presenting an overview of the working of judicial officers and the justice delivery system, Justice Magrey called the judicial officers warriors of justice, who work 24\*7, for 365 days and praised the working of the judges.

He said despite Covid-19 pandemic challenges, the Judges continued functioning through physical and virtual mode following Covid-19 pandemic SOP's in letter and spirit to ensure that litigants are given access to justice at all times. Justice Magrey quoted renowned Sufi Saint, Sheikh ul Alam's wise and famous Kashmiri proverb 'Kriya Khuta Boud Insaaf' meaning 'Better doing Justice than Meditation' and emphasised that the judiciary is committed to do justice as ordained in the Constitution.

On the occasion, Superintending

Engineer and Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) executive engineer R&B presented a documentary to give an overview of existing infrastructural facilities and the introduction of the phase-II proposed construction project in the District Court Complex, Srinagar.

Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice while expressing his pleasure regarding the justice delivery by the judicial officers and infrastructure of the court, said, 'I am overwhelmed to be present among you in the court of justice' and said, 'I am impressed by the status of infrastructure and facilities available here.' He called the judges of Jammu and Kashmir as best judicial officers and termed the District Court phase-I and II a vision project.

Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal held a separate introductory meeting with senior lawyers of the High Court wherein lawyers warmly welcomed the new Chief Justice of J&K and held a brief interaction with him. On the occasion, CJ called the justice system incomplete without the lawyers. He said lawyers constitute an important part of the Judicial system.

Earlier, Principal Sessions and District Judge, Srinagar, Abdul Rashid Malik, in his welcome speech highlighted the working of District Judiciary Srinagar the strength of judges, the nature of their work, including pendency and disposal of cases and other features. Malik also thanked the Chief Justice and Administrative Judge for visiting the Court Complex and interacting with Judicial Officers

## Larger Bench To Decide If The Day Of Remand Should Be Included For Grant Of Default Bail: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday said a larger three-judge bench will examine whether the day on which an accused is remanded to custody should be included while calculating the 60-day period for the grant of default bail.

A two-judge bench comprising justices SK Kaul and Hrishikesh Roy also said it will request Chief Justice S A Bobde to constitute the larger bench at the earliest.

The legal issue arose during the hearing of an Enforcement Directorate appeal against a Bombay High Court order granting bail to former DHFL promoters, Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan, in a Yes Bank money laundering case being probed by the agency.

Senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for the Wadhawans, told the apex court that his clients have been in jail for over 11 months, and he sought early disposal of the plea.

He said when a conflict in law is there the decision should be in favour of the accused.

The apex court said the question of interim bail should also be decided by the three-judge bench.

"We will try to frame the issues at the earliest," the bench said.

In September last year, the top court had stayed a Bombay High Court order granting bail to former DHFL promoters.

The top court issued notice to the accused on the plea of the Enforcement Directorate against the High Court order of bail.

The Bombay High Court had on August 20, 2020 granted bail to the Wadhawan brothers stating that mandatory default bail is the

sequel to non-filing of charge sheet.

The HC had granted them bail as it held that the ED failed to file its chargesheet in the case within the stipulated 60-day period.

The central probe agency had then filed a special leave petition before the apex court.

The federal probe agency had said that it was not in violation of the procedure and had filed a part of the charge sheet through email, a day before the 60-day period ended.

The chargesheet was filed in physical form by the ED on July 13.

As per Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, an accused can be detained for a maximum of 90 days for a crime punishable with death, life imprisonment or a sentence of over 10 years. If the investigation relates to any other offence, the accused can be detained for 60 days.

If the investigative agencies do not complete their investigation within these time limits, the arrested person is entitled to 'default bail'.

The Wadhawans, the former promoters of the Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFC), however, were not released on bail as they are in CBI custody at present.

They were arrested by the ED on May 14 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED had slapped PMLA charges against the two and in this case after studying a CBI FIR filed in March in connection with alleged suspicious loans granted by Yes Bank and the quid pro quo between its co-promoter Rana Kapoor and the Wadhawans.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### MeT Issues

The minimum temperature settled at 6.2 degree Celsius in Kupwara against 4.0 degree Celsius on the previous night even as the northern Kashmir district recorded rainfall of 4.6mm, he said.

Gulmarg, the world-famous skiing resort, recorded a low of 0.0 degree Celsius against minus 0.6 degree Celsius on the earlier night and recorded fresh rain/snow of 4.8mm, the official said.

In Jammu division, Banihal received rainfall of 1.2mm and lowest minimum temperature—6.1 degree Celsius — among the observatory stations while winter capital, Jammu, recorded a low of 15.2 degree Celsius , the official said.

The MeT office has forecast erratic weather throughout the week with possibility of heavy rain/snowfall at some places in Jammu and Kashmir on February 25-26. According to the MeT official the weather system may cause disruptions of flights and slippery road conditions Banihal-Ramban, Zojila, Mugal road etc during the two days.

For February 26 and 27, the weatherman has issued a "yellow warning" for "isolated heavy rains/snow/thundershowers" in Kashmir as well as Jammu divisions.

There are four types colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no action, yellow—situation to be watched), amber—government agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red—action needed by the agencies. (GNS)

### Militant's Identity

Bilal Ahmad Sofi of Arampora Azadgunj and Shafkat Ali Khan son of Ali Mohammad of Rawathpora Delina, the third one could not identify and subsequent authorities took samples for DNA profiling.

"DNA profiling was received and it has been established that the third militant was Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir alias Moin-ul-Islam son of Ghulam Nabi Mir of Gulgam Kupwara," a police official said. "His family was also summoned then but they could not identify him."

Imtiyaz, according to the picture posted by him at the time of announcing his joining with the militant ranks, was Hafiz-e-Quran (one who memorise the Holy Quran) besides he had done diploma in some stream which was not revealed and had passed 11th standard.

He had joined Hizb-ul-Mujahideen ranks on 12 June 2019, according to the picture. (GNS)

### J&K Transporters

"Our representatives held a meeting with officials in Jammu and in principle they accepted our demands as genuine," he said. "In wake of the development we have decided to defer by one day our strike and if nothing concrete come up with meeting (with financial Commissioner), then our indefinite strike shall begin from February 25."

The association has demanded revision of the transport fares amidst the skyrocketing of the petroleum prices during the past few years. "In such a situation, transporters have no other option than to go for an indefinite strike to press for fare revision," Sheikh said.

The Association also demands roll back of tax for the lockdown months.

All type of commercial vehicles including buses, trucks, tankers, mini-buses, Sumos/ Taxies/ Tempo-Travelers, Auto-rikshaws etc. shall remain off the road from Lakanpur (Punjab border) to Uri in Kashmir if the indefinite strike takes effect, they said. "Government will be responsible for inconvenience to the general public," the association has maintained.

The association said to have submitted the cost of operation in the office of Transport Commissioner for revision in passenger fare because the rate of petroleum products has been increasing day-by-day. "Passenger fare was revised in April 2018, then the rate of diesel was Rs 65 a litre but now the rate of Diesel is more than Rs (84), which is not bearable for transporters in J&K," the JKTWA had said in a statement.

### Govt For Viable

followed extensive discussions on issues the transporters said face them and their set of

demands.

Dr Shahid assured the transporters that the government wants a just and favorable-to-all resolution of the issue and motivated them to call off their strike.

There was agreement that the strike would lead to huge inconvenience for one and all and that it must be avoided.

Some of the demands the transporters raised and sought fulfillment for during the meeting include among others announcement of a transport policy which gives the transport sector the status of the transport industry, hike in the fare structure, waiving off of token and passenger taxes from August 2019, review of condemnation age of vehicles, a fresh survey in compliance with the J&K High Court directions for identification of feasible locations for auto/sumo/mini-bus stops/stands, and taking transporters into confidence while fixing fee for toll plaza and parking places.

### Special Court

order, the special court here rejected the argument that Parra was a budding politician and said "a perusal of the CD file transpired that in the garb of a politician, the petitioner had been playing an active role in funding the militants and had also been demanding arms and ammunition against payment by misusing his position".

The bank accounts show huge transactions and the matter is still being investigated and the facts would come out with the passage of time and conclusion of investigation, the court said.

Parra was detained by the Criminal Investigation Department (Kashmir) and brought from Jammu on a transit remand, after his release by an NIA court on January 9. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had arrested Parra on November 25 in a separate case related to militancy.

The counsel for Parra claimed that his client had managed to win the District Development Council elections while he was in custody of the National Investigation Agency which alleged that he had paid Rs 10 lakh to Naveed Babu, a militant of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen, for "managing" the 2019 parliamentary elections in south Kashmir.

The judge, while rejecting this contention said that Parra having won "does not deserve any consideration because it means that the petitioner is a highly influential person and can tamper with evidence and no witness would depose against him".

The judge said the allegation against the accused "are so grave, serious and heinous in nature that if a balance is to be struck vis-a-vis the personal liberty of petitioner and the security of the state/UT, it is the interest and the security of the state/UT which shall prevail."

The counsel for Parra, while arguing in the court, said the political rivalry has become order of the day as the ruling classes or the ruling parties are time and again blamed for framing their opponents who may be the greatest patriots or nationalists but in order to force them either to join the parties which are ruling and no stones are left unturned in order to force and coerce.

The counsel said the contest and winning of the DDC elections "has annoyed and anguished the other political rivals and parties of the petitioner and till now he has not even been allowed to take oath."

He said that the petitioner "has been made scapegoat because of the political rivalry and that he has been a very great and good motivator for nationalism and the integrity of the country" and that the allegation of being an unscrupulous political leader having supported militants and secessionist is devoid of any evidence, merit and basis.

He claimed that there has been no evidence collected against the petitioner in this case and the facts and evidence is being fudged and padded to falsely implicate him in the case "so as to please the political masters".

However, the prosecution presented before the court the investigation carried out so far by the police in the case registered after reliable and confidential sources said that some political functionaries misusing their position and have established clandestine connections and relations with different

Pakistan-supported militant and secessionist organisations operating in Jammu and Kashmir for a number of reasons, including the immediate motive for furthering their political clout.

During the preliminary analysis of the phone, it has emerged that the accused has contacts across the border suspected to be his associates and handlers in Pakistan as well as with anti-national elements which include secessionists, militants and overground workers (OGWs) in the UK and other parts of the world, the counsel informed the court and also alleged that the accused has been in touch with a number of militants.

It was also pointed out in the court that the accused had asked for security cover only as a "smoke screen" and he had passed instructions not to search any visitors which were mainly anti-national elements and OGWs.

The accused had visited foreign countries to have one-on-one meeting with agents from enemy countries. He travelled to Pakistan and met Syed Salahuddin, the self-styled chief of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen group, the prosecution alleged.

### Aasiya Charged

allegedly waging war against the government of India and conspiring to commit militancy acts in the country.

The case relates to waging war against the country with support from Pakistan including militant entities.

Special Judge Parveen Singh had put Andrabi and her associates—Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen—on trial for various offences punishable under IPC and the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) on February 20.

The court passed the order after the accused pleaded not guilty and claimed trial.

The court framed charges under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging war against the government of India), 121-A (conspiracy to wage war against government of India), 124-A (sedition), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups), 153-B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the IPC.

It further framed sections 18 (conspires or attempts to commit, or advocates, abets, advises or incites terror act), 20 (being member of terrorist gang or organisation), 38 (offence relating to membership of a terrorist organisation) and 39 (offence relating to support given to a terrorist organisation) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Andrabi, who was chief of the banned outfit Dukhtar-e-Millat (daughters of nation), was accused by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) of being involved in conspiracy and acts to "severely destabilise the sovereignty and integrity of India", along with her two other associates.

By their activities on cyber space, they were running a concerted campaign to solicit support of Pakistani establishment which inter-alia included arranging support from militant entities from Pakistan, it said.

The NIA, on directions of the Union home ministry, registered a case against them and the organisation.

According to the FIR, Andrabi, Fehmeeda and Nasreen were actively running Dukhtar-e-Millat (DEM), a militant organisation proscribed under the first schedule of the UAPA.

They were using various media platforms to spread insurrectionary imputations and hateful speeches that endanger the integrity, security and sovereignty of India, the NIA said.

DEM through Andrabi openly advocated secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India and had also called for Jihad and use of violence against India, it said.

The three accused were arrested in April 2018 and are currently in custody.

### Sikh Group To

delimitation of constituencies. They should take part in the process only when some seats are reserved for minorities in the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly," Raina said.

The Sikh leader said many constituencies in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions have a huge number of Sikh voters and they hold the key to

the fate of politicians who fight elections from such constituencies.

"In the past, we have been demanding reservation in assembly segments, but the demand was never considered by political parties and the Delimitation Commission. The present Delimitation Commission initiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs has been tasked to set up a new state of Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 by Parliament," Raina said.

### Budgam Admin

cleaning of Doodh Ganga. Solid Liquid Resource Management/ Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin in district Budgam, the PIO writes that his request have been transferred in terms of Section 6 (3) of RTI Act 2005 to the public authorities which deal with the concerned subject matter more closely.

"Furthermore, you are advised to submit applications as per RTI Act of 2005 as J&K RTI Act 2009 stands repealed vide the J&K Reorganization Act, 2019," adds the PIO.

### Be Goodwill

pleasant stay in the Union Territory, the LG observed that the tourism department, local community and other stakeholders are collectively providing a tourist-friendly environment to facilitate the visit of the tourists coming to J&K.

From eco-tourism to winter sports, from a pilgrimage to adventure tourism, J&K offers a host of attractions to tourists to experience the scenic beauty, warm hospitality, rich culture and heritage of J&K and make their visit to the UT a memorable one, Sinha added.

He also advised the tourists to also explore the unexplored tourist places in J&K.

The tourists, while sharing their experiences, said that they felt very much delighted to visit Kashmir.

### PDD Announces

safety devices to be used by the field staff working round the clock to ensure that uninterrupted power supply is provided to all of its consumers.

Divulging more details, the official spokesperson said that the PPE which shall be provided to field workers shall include safety helmets to prevent head injuries due to accidental fall or falling objects or impact with other objects, while insulating gloves shall be provided to prevent electrical shock due to operating rods and operating handles.

"Safety harness / Belt to be provided for fall protection equipment, while working on elevated electrical lines and other equipment and Safety Shoes shall also be provided to prevent foot injury and to provide electrical shock resistance," he said.

In addition, the Power Department has also issued Standard operating Procedures (SoP) for safe working besides designating safety officers. Set guidelines too have been framed for the field staff to follow while working in the field. Further, mock safety drill of SoP by the field staff under the proper supervision by safety officers would be made a regular feature in all the field offices of Power Department," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that it was also decided to observe Safety Day every month to make the field workers aware about safety issues by conducting mock safety drills and use of PPE and field safety devices.

### Cult-Breaker

"Most of my friends felt the same way. Some were interested in journalism, social media, blogging, art, photography, writing, etc."

The turning point in his career came when a visiting professor from IIM Bangalore asked him and his classmates to meet him.

"He was the person who suggested us to invest in online portal than offline or print, as online media impacts more people."

He then opened a magazine which brutally failed. After two years of struggle, he along with his co-workers—Sameer Ramesh, Fatema Hussain, Mohammed Zeeshan—opened MyCaptain in 2015.

As a SDSN-awarded incubated company, MyCaptain offers workshops from a lot of

different sectors such as entrepreneurship, photography, art, sketching, psychology, journalism, doodling, standup comedy, and so on.

For 35 courses, MyCaptain has engaged over 200 educators, who've so far mentored 1,50,000 students.

Since most of their students come from vast rural belt of India, Ruhan says, "Our team's biggest achievement is our ability to fulfil the dreams of those students who do not have a proper guidance and system."

To hone and harness talent, they even teamed-up with Vir Das, a celebrated comedian, Tanmay Bhat, a YouTuber, and others.

"There're young experts available in every field who hold sway on masses," Ruhan says. "We want to engage these influencers to inspire others."

By touching many lives, MyCaptain recently found a special mention in the category of Education in Forbes 30 under 30list.

"Forbes' mention is indeed a shot in our arm," Ruhan continues. "But honestly, it was not something we aspired for. Our main goal is to mentor and touch more and more lives and inspire others."

But as a Kashmiri he feels sad to see "less Kashmiri students" pursuing careers in creative fields—despite being "powerhouses" of talent.

"While we've students from everywhere, we've almost no students from Kashmir," Ruhan rues.

"I believe Kashmiris are the epitome of talent and if groomed properly and provided with better facilities, they can excel in every field."

But the valley's obsession for the twin subjects, he says, is shielding that talent from shining.

"I wasn't interested in engineering, and yet I did it and never succeeded in it," the young educator adds.

"But I'm excelling today, because I'm enjoying what I'm doing. I always wanted to do this, and therefore, I'm living my own dream at the moment."

### J&K Logs 94

wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 40 cases, Baramulla 8, Budgam 4, Pulwama 5, Kupwara 4, Anantnag 2, Bandipora 4, Kulgam 2, Shopian 3, Jammu 10, Udhampur 8, Kathua and Samba 2 each new cases of coronavirus.

One more death due to the virus was reported from Kashmir Valley, taking the total fatality count to 1955.

Moreover, they said, 62 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—25 from Jammu Division and 37 from Kashmir.

### Youth Killed

He said the body of the deceased was being handed over to his family for last rites after completion of legal formalities.

### 5 Shotguns Seized

number of migratory birds, a police spokesperson said Wednesday.

In this regard, he said, cases vide FIR No.11/21 and FIR No. 25/2021 under relevant sections of law have been registered against five persons.

"Further investigations have been initiated," he added.

### Missing Anantnag

for legal-medico formalities.

Pathan, as per the reports, was missing since February 3. Twelve days after his disappearance, his family had protested outside DC office Anantnag demanding authorities help in tracing the youth.

"After the legal-medico formalities, the body will be handed over to his family for last rites," the official said.

### Man Opens Fire

Kathua town and five people have been detained so far for questioning, the official said, adding the injured has been shifted to a hospital.

He said it was not immediately clear if the pistol used in the firing was a licensed weapon or unlicensed.

"It is a matter of investigation which is going on," the official said. (PTI)



## Sport Does Not Recognise Anything Other Than On-Field Performance: Sachin Tendulkar

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar firmly believes that sport only recognises performance on the field and not the background of an athlete.

One of the game's all-time greats, Tendulkar retired in 2013 after breaking a plethora of records during a glorious career.

"Every time we enter the dressing room, it really didn't matter where you came from, which part of the country and where you belong. It was a level field for everyone.

"Sport doesn't recognise anything other than your performance on field," Tendulkar told PTI during a virtual interaction after being named as the brand ambassador of e-learning platform 'Unacademy'.

He spoke about sports unifying people through the new initiative.

"You are out there as an individual who wants to contribute towards the team," added the 47-year-old legendary batsman, who will connect with students and share his experiences.

"That is what we want to do, try and share my experiences. (I was) being part of different schools along board and met different coaches. I myself learnt a lot and those are the experiences I want to share.

"We will be conducting classes free of cost, so I think we wanted this platform to be accessible to anyone and everyone," the batsman, who has numerous records



to his name, added.

He also advised students to continue chasing their goals and make that extra effort.

"Continue to chase your dreams, dreams do come true, number of times we push ourselves and we feel it is a dead end, but it is never dead end, so take that extra step and you will achieve your goal," he said.

He also remembered his father late Ramesh Tendulkar, who was a professor and recalled how he travelled through Mumbai to impart lessons to his students.

"When we talk about accessibility, I remember my father, was also a professor and he would travel from one end to other end of Mumbai and constantly be busy teaching his students.

"Today if he was alive, he would have been really proud of what Unacademy has enabled to do, because then not in thousands, but millions had access to him."

According to Unacademy CEO and co-founder Gaurav Munjal, Tendulkar told him to reach out to 1 billion users.

## Jammu and Kashmir Defeats Services By 3 Wickets In Vijay Hazare Trophy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir cricket team on Tuesday defeated Services by 3 wickets in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy 2020-21 at the Jadavpur University Campus, 2nd Ground, in Kolkata.

Parvez Rasool-led Jammu and Kashmir won the toss and opted to field first in their second Group E match.

JK Pacer Umar Nazir took 2 early wickets to reduce Services to 10/2. However, a determined Ravi Chauhan (118) century stabilized the Services' innings. Captain R. Paliwal (33), Pulkit Narang (48 not out) and Diwesh Pathania (42 not out) chipped in with important contributions to help Services post a total of 274 for the loss of 7 wickets.

For Jammu and Kashmir, Captain Parvez Rasool, Aquib Nabi and Vivrant Sharma took 1 wicket each.

In response, the JK batsmen started off gingerly. Losing opening pair of Vivrant Sharma (17) and Suryansh Raina (19) in the first 8 overs of the match, leaving the team at 43/2.

However, Jammu and Kashmir's cricketing sensation Abdul Samad (63), and veterans Shubham Khajuria (84) and Shubham Pundir (56) maintained calm to steer JK to an important victory.



Samad's blitzkrieg innings came in just 38 balls, with the burly batsman smacking 4 sixes in the process. Jammu and Kashmir scored 276/7 to win the match, with 9 balls to spare.

For Services, Pulkit Narang took

2 wickets.

The victory helps Jammu and Kashmir register first points on the Group E table after losing the first match to Saurashtra. Their next match is against Haryana on Thursday, February 25.

## Cricket Australia Won't Allow Players To Endorse Betting, Alcohol At IPL

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Cricket Australia (CA) doesn't want its players to feature in advertisements promoting betting, fast food, alcohol and tobacco brands during the next edition of Indian Premier League. The 14th Indian Premier League is scheduled to start in the second week of April and quite a few Australian cricketers, including big buys Glenn Maxwell and Jhye Richardson, are going to be part of the action.

According to media report, in a recent advisory to the all the IPL franchises the BCCI quoted CA as saying, "A full team photo – for use only by the sponsors of the relevant

IPL team in print media in India and any such photo should not involve or include the name or branding of a company primarily engaged in the business of alcohol, fast food/fast food restaurants, tobacco or betting."

Among other restrictions, CA said not more than one player from a Big Bash League (BBL) side and a state team should be used in advertising campaigns.

As many as 19 Australians are set to play in IPL 2021. Prominent among them are Steven Smith, Maxwell, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Richardson, Riley Meredith, Ben Cutting, Moises Henriques, Dan Christian, Josh Hazlewood, Marcus Stoinis, Pat Cummins, David Warner, etc.

## India Men's Football Team To Play Friendlies Against Oman And UAE In March

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian men's team will play two international friendlies – against Oman on March 25 and United Arab Emirates on March 29, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Tuesday.

Both the matches will be held in Dubai. It was in November 2019 that the Blue Tigers last played at the international arena – in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers against Afghanistan (in Tajikistan) and Oman (in Muscat).

India have garnered three points from the five matches they have played so far in the qualifiers, with

two home games against Asian champions Qatar and Afghanistan and an away tie against Bangladesh yet to be played.

As part of preparation for the two matches against Oman and the UAE in March, the national team will assemble in a camp from March 15.

The camp will also be held in Dubai under head coach Igor Stimac to allow the players to acclimatise to the conditions faster.

The two friendlies come on the back of the U-16 national team's tour to the UAE this month, and the women team's visit to Turkey, where they played matches against Serbia, Russia and Ukraine.

## Mason Robertson Double Powers Real Kashmir To Top Of I-League Table

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Mason Robertson's fine brace helped a dominant Real Kashmir FC beat Aizawl FC 3-1 and jump to the top of the I-League table at the VYBK Stadium in Kolkata on Tuesday.

After a defensive error had given Aizawl FC the lead through Lalremnga in the 26th minute, Lukman Adefemi's strike in the first half and a double by Robertson in the second powered the Snow Leopards to a thumping win.

With the win, Real Kashmir FC extended their unbeaten streak to nine games and could remain on top of the I-League table, if Churchill Brothers drop points against NEROCA on Wednesday.

In what was a cagey first half between the two sides, it took two moments of defensive errors from either team to let the other score. However, it was Aizawl who tried to breach the Real Kashmir FC citadel with their possession-heavy style of football from the opening minutes.

In the eighth minute, Real Kashmir goalkeeper Mithun Samanta was forced to make his first save of the match when Ramhlunchunga sent a powerful shot. But it was to no avail as Samanta kept the shot out.

The Snow Leopards, boasting one of the best defences in the league so far, relied on counter-attack and direct football. That almost paid dividends for them in the 14th minute when midfielder Farhan Gani sent Dipanda Dicka on to the goal. But Dicka's effort was cut short by a crunching Lalchungnunga tackle.

A defensive error in the 26th



minute saw the Snow Leopards citadel crumble while giving Aizawl FC the lead.

A goal-kick by Aizawl FC's custodian was misjudged by Mason Robertson and the ball bounced over him as it caught Pawan Kumar in an awkward position. It ultimately led to Lalremnga picking up the pieces and slotting it past a hapless Samanta.

Real Kashmir trailed only eight minutes and in the 34th minute, Robertson made amends. With the Aizawl FC defence switched off, Robertson's long throw-in from the left flank found Lukman Adefemi, who unleashed a header from close range to restore parity.

The Snow Leopards were given a golden opportunity to surge into the lead when Lukman Adefemi's header off a Robertson cross forced the opposition goalkeeper to make a save.

The rebound, however, found Dicka inside the box, but with the goalkeeper out of his line and no real covering at goal, Dicka skied his shot from close range as Aizawl survived.

Yan Law's Aizawl were not

so lucky in the 56th minute. Pratesh Shirdokar's free-kick from a distance found Robertson in the box and his free header found the bottom-right corner to hand Real Kashmir the lead.

In the 68th minute, Robertson's long throw-in once again found Lukman Adefemi inside the box in almost a replay of the first goal. However, this time, the Aizawl FC goalkeeper heroically saved Adefemi's header to deny him from close range.

Scotsman Robertson was not done with the action, however. In the 72nd minute, he stood tall over a free-kick from 30 yards out and curled it into the back of the net to make it 3-1.

Though Aizawl FC tried to make a comeback, the lead proved to be unassailable for Yan Law's side.

With the loss, Aizawl FC sit on 12 points from nine matches and could find themselves in the bottom half of the table before the round ends.

Real Kashmir will next play Mohammedan Sporting on Sunday, February 28. The match kicks off at 2 pm (IST).

## Captain Kohli Expects Both Spinners And Pacers To Do Well With The Pink Ball

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: A rank turner is being anticipated at Motera but India captain Virat Kohli expects pacers to have as big a role as spinners in the day-night third Test against England, a side riddled with "many weaknesses" according to him.

Both teams have won a game each in the four-match series and ahead of third Test, starting here on Wednesday, the talk has been incessantly focussed on the nature of the virgin track at the refurbished stadium.

Asked if the ball was unlikely to swing much in the third Test, Kohli said he expected the pacers to be in the game till the ball is "nice and shiny".

"I don't think that is an accurate assessment (that bowl will not swing). The pink ball does tend to swing a lot more than the red ball. We experienced that when we played for the first time in 2019 (against Bangladesh)," Kohli said in the pre-match press conference.

Kohli also rejected the assessment that England would have an edge if the pitch favours pacers.

"...not really bothered about what the strengths and weaknesses of the English team are. We have beaten them in their home as well, where the ball does way more and hold them out every time so we're not really bothered with that. It's just about playing well as a team," he said.

"And yeah, there are many, many weaknesses in the opposition side as well, if you are keen to exploit them. If it's a seamer friendly track for them it's for us as well.

"And we probably have, you know, among other teams, the best bowling attack in the world so we're not really bothered by what the ball might bring differently to the table. We're ready for anything that comes our way," he asserted.

Both teams go into the game with a lot of unknowns. The pink ball is known to aid the pacers but it remains to be seen how much it will help the spinners, which is considered India's strength at home.

Senior India batsman Rohit Sharma has already said that it would be another turning pitch. Kohli said facing the pink ball was more challenging than the red ball irrespective of the nature of the surface.

"It is much more challenging to play with pink ball regardless of the pitch you play on. Especially in the evening, if as a batting team, you are starting your innings under lights then that one and a half hour is very challenging," he said.

"Yes, spin will come into play for sure but I don't think the new ball and fast bowlers can be ignored. The pink ball does bring them into the game till the ball is nice and shiny, something we are very well aware of and preparing accordingly," added Kohli.

## India Spin Legend Bishan Singh Bedi Undergoes Bypass Surgery

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Legendary spinner Bishan Singh Bedi has undergone a bypass surgery at a city hospital a few days back after he complained of heart problems and he is recovering well.

The 74-year-old Bedi underwent the procedure 2-3 days back and he is expected to be discharged from the hospital soon, according to a close confidant of the former India captain.

"As far as I know, he was having some heart issues and he underwent a bypass surgery 2-3 days back on the advice of the doctors," he told PTI.

"He is currently doing fine and

recovering from the surgery and is expected to be discharged from the hospital soon," he added.

Bedi, a premier left-arm orthodox spinner in his playing days, represented India in 67 Tests and 10 ODIs between 1967 and 1979, scalping 266 and seven wickets respectively.

In December last year, Bedi had protested against the Delhi and District Cricket Association's (DDCA) decision to name the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium after its late ex-president and former union minister Arun Jaitley.

He had threatened to take legal action against the DDCA if his name was not removed from a spectators' stand at the stadium.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

## Bihar Cricketer Tests Positive For COVID-19, Others To Undergo Tests

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The Vijay Hazare Trophy has seen its first case of COVID-19 with a Bihar player returning positive for the virus, following which all the other cricketers are being tested.

"It is confirmed and the concerned player has been isolated from other players. He is currently in Bangalore as he cannot travel," a senior official of the state's cricket body told PTI on Tuesday.

Another source said all other players would undergo COVID-19 tests on Tuesday with the results coming by evening. Bihar has sent 22 players for testing.

The Bihar team is placed in Elite Group C and is playing all its league games in Bengaluru.

They are scheduled to take on Uttar Pradesh in a league game on Wednesday.

A Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) official believed that the game would go on as scheduled.

A player each from Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh had tested positive for COVID-19 last week but both the teams have continued playing their league games after undergoing tests.

Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh are placed in Elite Group D and have been playing in Jaipur.

All matches of the Hazare Trophy, the national ODI championship, are being played under the bio-secure bubble across venues.

This is the second tournament conducted by the BCCI in the curtailed 2020-21 domestic season.

## India Venture Into The Unknown While England Seek Answers To 'Pink Ball Turner'

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: A virgin Motera strip has become the big talking point as India captain Virat Kohli prepares the right pink ball questionnaire to trouble a spoilt-for-choice England in the day-night third Test starting here on Wednesday.

Ahmedabad as a cricketing venue has been witness to a lot of cricketing feats in Indian cricket – from Sunil Gavaskar's famous late cut to complete 10,000 runs in Tests to Kapil Dev's best bowling figures of 9 for 83 and also him eclipsing Richard Hadlee's then world record of highest wickets.

On Wednesday, Ishant Sharma joining Kapil as the second Indian pacer to play 100 Tests would add to the momentous occasion and Kohli scoring a hundred is just what the 55,000 odd spectators, who would be allowed in, might crave for.

The refurbished Sardar Patel Stadium looks colossal under lights but the first Test match in many years would mean that even the home team wouldn't expect a lot of advantage.

It would prefer a square turner to go 2-1 up in a high-stakes game but whether it actually gets one remains to be seen.

As senior opener Rohit Sharma was clear in



team's choice of surface – a turner that helps Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel just like Joe Root would have opted for a green top at the Headingley or the Old Trafford.

There are a few more questions that would demand answers.

How would the twilight period be for the batsmen as James Anderson feels that the ball swings more in that phase?

Will the extra lacquer on the 'SG Test

Pink' make it difficult for the Ashwin-Axar combo which wreaked havoc on the Chepauk snake pit?

And with a 2:30 pm start, how much will the dew have a bearing during the final session? The ball would be difficult to grip at that point for slow bowlers and the pitch, despite grass being shaved off, might ease out with ball skidding off the surface.

When there are so many unknown variables

### THE SQUADS

INDIA: Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Wriddhiman Saha (wicket-keeper), R Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ishant Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Md. Siraj, Umesh Yadav.

ENGLAND: Joe Root (c), James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Dominic Bess, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Zak Crawley, Ben Foakes, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Dom Sibley, Ben Stokes, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

that warrant factoring, any captain would like to assess conditions as senior speedster Ishant said on Monday.

"...this test pink ball test match test we are playing in new ground, so for even for us there are a few things we don't know how we will have to tackle (and) all these things," Ishant said on the eve of his 100th Test match.

His opposite number James Anderson however has no doubts whatsoever that by the

time clock ticks 2:30 pm on Wednesday, the track will bear a bald look, similar to Chepauk.

Umesh Yadav passing the fitness test was good news for the Indian camp as Kuldeep Yadav is likely to be dropped from the playing XI.

Umesh, along with Ishant and the now injured Mohammed Shami, had polished off Bangladesh twice inside six sessions in the inaugural Pink Test match in Kolkata.

But this England team, with Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Jonny Bairstow, will pose a far greater challenge. Hardik Pandya has been kept with the Test team with an eye on his bowling workload but it's not known whether the team thinks that he is Test match ready.

Pandya taking the load of a maximum 15 overs per innings on a turner could provide more balance to the playing XI and his big-hitting can tilt any game in India's favour.

For England, with Moeen Ali back home as part of workload management, Dom Bess is expected to be back alongside Jack Leach in the spin department.

However, whether Anderson and Jofra Archer will have Stuart Broad or Mark Wood for company is still not clear.

Also, talented batsman Zak Crawley could be back in the playing XI in place of Rory Burns while Jonny Bairstow can replace Dan Lawrence at number three.





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