



P3 NEWS

**STUDENTS' ROLE IMPORTANT IN RAISING AWARENESS ON CLEANLINESS: MAYOR SMC**

Srinagar Municipal Corporation Wednesday organised SWACHTA SAMMELAN, an initiative under ongoing Swachh Survekshan 2021, in collaboration with IEC partners at Central...

P7 THINK

**COVISHIELD VS COVAXIN YOUR VACCINE GUIDE TO LIST OF POSSIBLE**

India has entered the second phase of its vaccination drive with two 'Made in India' vaccines- Covishield and Covaxin- against the coronavirus disease....



P11 SPORTS

**'THERE IS TOO MUCH NOISE ABOUT SPIN-FRIENDLY TRACKS,' SAYS VIRAT KOHLI**

Stop the noise, tighten up that defence and get on with the game -- a combative Indian skipper Virat Kohli....

**Quote!**

Obstacles are those frightening things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.

— Henry James

## NEWS DIGEST

**Mudslides Shut Kashmir Highway**

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the rest of the world, shut Wednesday after a massive mudslide in the Banihal area of Ramban district. Official sources said that the mudslide hit near Shabanbass Banihal on the highway, leading to the suspension of the thoroughfare early morning. Deputy Commissioner Ramban said the debris removal was in progress.

**CBI Arrests Patwari For Graft**

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI arrested a patwari allegedly while receiving a bribe in a mutation case, officials said on Wednesday. This is the first trap operation in Kashmir valley since the erstwhile state was bifurcated into union territories in 2019, while the agency has carried out four such operations in Jammu division. Mohammad Afzal, a patwari in Bemina of Budgam district, had allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 35,000 from a complainant to mutate a piece of land in the name of his brother. After negotiations, the bribe amount was reduced to Rs 23,000 of which Afzal had already ► **More On P10**

**95 Traffic, 36 COTPA Challans Registered in Srinagar: Police**

**SRINAGAR:** Acting tough against the traffic and COTPA violations, Srinagar Police on Wednesday said that it registered 95 traffic challans and 36 COTPA challans in Srinagar. Police spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency said that Srinagar Police acted tough on the violations of Motor Vehicle Act and Cigarettes & Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) registered a total of 95 traffic challans under various sections of law in Srinagar. Police have also registered 36 challans against the persons who were smoking in public places and were violating the COTPA rules. ► **More On P10**

**Block Diwas: DC Holds Public Meetings At Harwan, Panzina**

**SRINAGAR:** District Administration, Srinagar organised weekly Block Divas at Harwan, Panzina, Srinagar and Balhama blocks. The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj organised the programme which was attended by all the departments. Deputy Commissioner, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary held public interaction at Harwan and Qamarwari blocks where several issues were discussed and resolved. Departments extended benefits of various schemes, addressed issues raised and also help awareness sessions. Meanwhile, Rs. 2.08 Cr were released by the district ► **More On P10**

**Jammu Traders Demand Security For Non-local Businessmen In Kashmir**

Press Trust of India

**JAMMU:** Protesting the recent killing of an eatery owner's son in Srinagar, a group of traders staged a protest here on Wednesday and demanded safety and security of the non-local businessmen working in the Kashmir valley.

Akash Mehra was shot at by militants inside the Krishna Dhaba, a popular eatery in a high-security area of Srinagar, on February 17. He succumbed to his injuries at a hospital on February 28.

Mehra was the second non-local businessman shot dead by terrorists in Srinagar in the recent past. On December 31 last year, Satpal Singh Nischal, a goldsmith, was killed in his shop. The traders staged a protest against Mehra's killing at the Nehru Market here and appealed to the government to identify the assailants at the earliest.

"Militants are targeting non-local businessmen in Kashmir, which is not a good sign.... The way traders from outside are being targeted



File Photo

in Kashmir, an atmosphere of fear is being created," Deepak Gupta, general secretary of the Warehouse Traders' Federation, said.

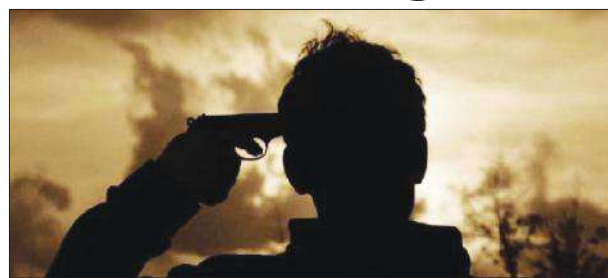
After the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019, the government is inviting traders and industrialists from all over the country to invest in Jammu and Kashmir, he pointed out and wondered who would come to the valley in such a situation.

Gupta said the government provides protection to separatist leaders such as Syed Ali Shah Geelani, but has left the traders at the mercy of militants.

"The government must ensure the safety and security of all outsiders, especially the traders, working in Kashmir," Gupta said.

He also demanded adequate relief to Mehra's family members and their protection in Srinagar.

**MILITANTS ARE TARGETING NON-LOCAL businessmen in Kashmir, which is not a good sign.... The way traders from outside are being targeted in Kashmir, an atmosphere of fear is being created."**

**Lt Col Shoots Self Dead In Srinagar**

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** An army officer of lieutenant colonel rank Wednesday committed suicide by shooting himself dead at an army depot in the Khonmoh area in the outskirts of Srinagar, official sources said.

The officer was identified

as Sudeep Baghat Singh.

The sources said that upon hearing the gunshots, some soldiers rushed to the spot and found him in a pool of blood. Later, he was shifted to a hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. A police official said that necessary proceedings into the incident have been launched.

**Army Soldier Ends Life in Rajouri**

A 24-year-old soldier shot himself dead Wednesday with his service weapon at an army camp in Rajouri district, officials said. The soldier who fired shots on himself died en route to the hospital, they said. ► **More On P10**

**LG Asks Forest Dept To Open Dachigam For Tourists**

Observer News Service

**Jammu:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday asked the forest department to focus on increasing the 'hangul' (Kashmiri stag) population at the Dachigam National Park and opening the destination to a limited number of tourists.

Sinha was addressing the passing-out ceremony of 98 forest guards here.

The 32nd batch of the Soil Conservation Training School Jammu, the 56th batch of the Forest Guard Training School Jammu and the 66th batch of the Kashmir Forest Training School Bandipora have successfully completed their course despite the disruption caused by the pandemic.

He asked the forest department to explore the possibility of developing Dachigam as a tourist destination, safeguard



Mansar and Surinsar lakes near Jammu and work on a plan to protect wetlands and waste lands visited by lakhs of migratory birds every year.

"Four-five days back I visited Dachigam National Park in Srinagar. What is the hangul population there, and how many more can be added? We have to think over it," Sinha said.

The antlered deer, known as the hangul, were once a major attraction in the mountain-ringed forests of Dachigam,

but the population of the endangered species has drastically come down over the years.

"Can we bring a system where locals and tourists from across the country can go there (to Dachigam) to see the hangul) even as we have to keep the numbers limited," Sinha asked.

Asking the department to adopt a humane approach towards forest dwellers, he said, "We are implementing the Forest Rights Act, which came into force across ► **More On P10**

**Social Cohesion Soul Of India: LG**

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha delivered his valedictory address through a Video message at 8th Indian Social Work Congress jointly organised by National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI), International Consortium for Social Development-AsiaPacific (ICSADP) & Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor observed that deliberations held during 8th India Social Work Congress on the theme "Social Cohesion, Collective Responsibility and Social Work Profession" will prove to be important for society and administration.

The global health crisis that we are going through today has brought families, people, groups and countries together to fight this pandemic and created a new chapter of social cohesion and collective responsibility, he added.

The concept of ► **More On P10**

**Not A Cakewalk: A Banker's Rise as A Baker**

Augib Javeed

30-year-old Shahid Fayaz was in his third semester of MBA course, when he got a job in Jammu and Kashmir Bank. The jubilant Shahid joined the corporate world wholeheartedly. But three months later, he decided to hang up his banker boots due to growing mental blocks.

He quit the job and decided to start something of his own with the help of his brother.

The idea was to start making homemade cakes but to get the experience he flew to Dubai and got an opportunity to work with Multinational Corporation for five years.

At that time, his brother, Sameer Fayaz, a graduate in Hotel Management, was working as a restaurant manager in Dubai.

After years of toil and togetherness in a faraway country known for keeping



professionals on toes, the brothers decided to try their luck in Delhi.

It was January 2019 and the idea was to shape up their dream venture.

They got in touch with a friend from Delhi and started cafe and cake house

in the Gurgaon area. This was a partnership venture. However, the enterprise nosedived, forcing the siblings to shut it down in November 2019.

"We failed," Shahid says with a straight face. "We had put all our savings and had also borrowed some money from friends and family but lost it all in this venture."

After that failure, they had only two options — either go back to Dubai, or start their own business in Kashmir.

"But we knew that working in the valley was not a cakewalk," Shahid continues. "But yes, that failure taught us some very important life lessons, like not to give up in the face of failures. So we took it on our chin, and started preparing for the next move."

They shortly decided to start their own cake house—The Bloom Bakers—at their residence in Shalimar area of Srinagar City. ► **More On P10**



# Global CO2 emissions crossed pre-COVID levels in December: IEA

Press Trust Of India

Global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions rose slightly in December compared with the same month of 2019, indicating the sharp drop seen due to the pandemic was short-lived.

Figures released Tuesday by the International Energy Agency show emissions from the production and use of oil, gas and coal were 2 per cent higher in December 2020 than a year earlier. The Paris-based

intergovernmental agency said a resurgence in economic activity coupled with a lack of clean energy policies mean many countries are now seeing higher emissions than before the coronavirus outbreak.

The rebound in global carbon emissions toward the end of last year is a stark warning that not enough is being done to accelerate clean energy transitions worldwide," said the agency's executive director, Fatih Birol.

"If governments don't move quickly with the



right energy policies, this could put at risk the world's historic opportunity to make 2019 the definitive peak in global emissions," Birol said.

Scientists have previously calculated that CO2 emissions fell by 7 per cent during the full year 2020 as people stayed at home because of the pandemic.

Our numbers show we are returning to carbon-intensive business-as-usual, said Birol. "These latest numbers are a sharp reminder of the immense challenge we face in rapidly transforming the global energy system.

Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas responsible for global warming.

Scientists say that in order to meet the Paris climate accord's goal of keeping average temperatures from rising by 2 degrees Celsius ideally no more than 1.5C compared to pre-industrial times, man-

made emissions of CO2 and other planet-heating gases need to be reduced to near zero by mid-century.

IEA figures show that China was the only major economy whose emissions grew in 2020, while those in the United States fell by 10 per cent compared to 2019. By December, U.S. energy emissions were close to the levels seen in the same month of 2019, the agency said, attributing this to economic recovery and greater coal use due to higher gas prices and colder weather.

از نیابت ماگام بااجلاس جناب نائب تحمیلدار صاحب ماگام

عنوان: مضمون درخواست نیابت سیمان ولد محمد سیمان جمال ساکنہ سوڈل

برادر عطا گئی بیکارو ایریا سرٹیفیکٹ تحت SR0294

استشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سال کے ایک درخواست برادر بیکارو ایریا سرٹیفیکٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فخر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجراء کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ بذیل افتراء پر منتقل ہے

محمد سیمان جمال ولد محمد جمال ملازم

جانہ نیگم زویہ اول گھریلو کام

سرورہ نیگم زویہ غانی گھریلو کام

بشارت سیمان زیر تعلیم

انکے علاوہ عمرہ کی ممانہ آمدنی زرعی و غیر زرعی 46500 ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی

کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل تیس نہیں ہو گا۔

نائب تحصیلدار ماگام sult

## Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

### NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Syed Akhtar Hussain S/o: Syed Sayeed Shah



R/o: Chewdara Beerwah Budgam (Transferrer) of LMV Swift Dzire. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04D - 1588. Chasis number 872091 Engine no. 1710780 Model 2015. In favour of Shri. Mohammad Ashraf Bhat S/o. Abdul Gaffar Bhat R/o Khar Mohalla Humhama Srinagar (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Parnewa.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership 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.2848  
Dated 03/03/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applying for renewal of my Seed licence no. CAO/B/Seed/2009-10/36 under name and style, " Shuja hussain war" at Saidpora Sopore, in this regard if anybody have any Kind of objection may file the same to Chief agriculture officer Baramulla with in the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

**Shuja Hussain ear**  
S/o: Mohd Shaffi war  
R/o: Saidpora Sopore

gm s

## OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Parvez Sajad Khan S/o Hajj Amar Din Khan R/o 412 Bagh Mehtab Sgr (Transferrer) of Alto K-10 bearing registration No.



JK01AG- 4847 chasis No: 436857 Engine No: 8085537 Model 2018 in favour of Abid Nabi Hajam S/o Ghulam Nabi Hajam R/o Waqura Ganderbal (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 7267  
Dated: 2/03/2021

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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

**Syed Khalid Amin S/o Syed Mohd Amin**  
R/o Babapora Zainapora Shopian

ast

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION, AWANTIPORA

e-mail :phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com/ Ph :01933-247152

e-NIT No.-: 45/PHA of 2020-21 [ e-Tendering]

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders in single cover system are invited on Item Rate Basis from Registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of TD (in lacs)	Time for completion	Class of Contract
1	Revamping of Slow Sand Filtration Plant at Lennard WSS Mandoora Bathnoor under Capex Budget Programme.	5.855	300	15 days	CEE DEE
2	Construction of filter operator room near flocculator of 1.50 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant by way of CGI Sheets over framed structure for WSS Pampore Old under Capex Budget Programme.	3.346	200	45 days	DEE
3	Augmentation to water supply facilities for Bonapora Ladhoo & Shah/ Bhat Mohalla Gallender under Capex Budget Programme.	3.06	200	15 days	DEE
4	Revamping of 0.10 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant by way of replacing of filter media & under drainage system & repairs to damaged motors/electrical accessories for WSS Lethapora under Capex Budget Programme.	2.12	200	25 days	DEE
5	Raising of Boundary Wall around premises of 1.50 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant at Pampore by way of Providing & fixing of wire mesh fencing for WSS Pampore Old under Capex Budget Programme.	2.10	200	30 days	DEE
6	Improvements to water supply for Madina Colony, Naik Mohalla, Shareefabad, Bruntal, Nimra Colony of Tral-i-Payeen/Bajwani under Capex Budget Programme.	1.169	200	20 days	DEE
7	Laying fitting of pipes for Kashoo Mohalla, Pandith Mohalla & Gunkocha of Tral Town under Capex Budget Programme.	0.657	200	20 days	DEE
8	Reactivation of water supply near Astaan Khangund under Capex Budget Programme.	0.13	200	10 days	DEE

Position of Funds:- Available  
Major Head of Account: State Capex Budget  
Position of AAA :- Accorded (Superintending Engineer Hdl Circle Pulwama's Order No. SE/Hyd/Spn/163 of 02/2021 dated: 25.02.2021 issued under endorsement No. SE/Hyd/spn/ 5136-37 dated: 25.02.2021)

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below:-

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	03	03	2021	09:00 AM
2	Download start date	03	03	2021	09:00 AM
3	Bid submission start date	03	03	2021	09:00 AM
4	Bid submission end date	09	03	2021	4:00 PM
5	Bid opening date	10	03	2021	11:00 AM

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".

To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.

Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (5) of the above table and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Awantipora (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)

Bid performance security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Awantipora

In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates, quantities or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2012.

Any other information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours.

All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD form No. 25-double.

No. PHA/AWP/4612-26

Dated:- 02.03.2021

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Department  
PHE Division Awantipora

DIPK-14330/20

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer PHE (JSD) Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal/Sgr.

H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.

e – mail: pherwsd@yahoo.in/pherwsd@gmail.com,

Phone/Fax: 0194 – 2416292,

NOTICE INVITING e – TENDERS:  
GIST OF e – NIT No:- 44/PHE/JSD/RWSD of 2020–21.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on item rate basis are invited from the Registered, reputed and resourceful NGOs, Event Managers agencies, social Consultants, Trust agencies, research Institutes for the work "Celebrations of World Water Week including World Water Day with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> of March to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 with the activities Like Flag off Audio visual vehicle (IEC VAN) for general public awareness at District level by Chairman DJJM (DDC) Ganderbal including hiring of vehicle with PA system, running of vehicle to all blocks of District for 7 days including distribution of pamphlets, Co-ordinate and facilitating the various meetings in the District as per advertised Schedule, arrangements for conducting the Gram Sabha meetings at Block level, Conducting of rally in co-ordination with Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department & the main function at District level under the Chairmanship of Chairman DJJM (DDC Ganderbal) in presence of all concerned staff of PHE, Jal Shakti department. (As per advertised BoQ)

S. No	Name of the work with items	Down loading fee	Estimated Amount (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest money deposit	Period of completion	Class of Contractor
1	Celebrations of World Water Week including World Water Day with effect from 16 <sup>th</sup> of March to 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021 with the activities Like Flag off Audio visual vehicle (IEC VAN) for general public awareness at District level by Chairman DJJM (DDC) Ganderbal including hiring of vehicle with PA system, running of vehicle to all blocks of District for 7 days including distribution of pamphlets, Co-ordinate and facilitating the various meetings in the District as per advertised Schedule, arrangements for conducting the Gram Sabha meetings at Block level, Conducting of rally in co-ordination with Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department & the main function at District level under the Chairmanship of Chairman DJJM (DDC Ganderbal) in presence of all concerned staff of PHE, Jal Shakti department. (As per advertised BoQ)	Rs. 500	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 0.06 lacs	With effect from 16 <sup>th</sup> of March to 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021.	NGO's, Event Managers agencies, social Consultants, Trust agencies, Research Institutes who should be registered with Registrar of Societies, under the Societies Registration Act, Department of Industries or Ministry of company affairs or similar.

POSITION OF FUNDS

Available.

POSITION OF A.A.

Approved

Important Dates:-

i)	Date of Publishing	: 02-03-2021 from 03:00 PM
ii)	Downloading from	: 02-03-2021 from 04:00 PM
iii)	Bid submission start date	: 02-03-2021 from 04:00 PM
iv)	Bid submission end date	: 08-03-2021 upto 02:00 PM
v)	Date and time of Bid opening	: 09-03-2021 at 10:30 AM

Bids must be accompanied by Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) as cost of Tender Document under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer PHE JSD RWS Division Ganderbal (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer PHE RWS Division Ganderbal on 09.03.2021 at 10.30 AM If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: https://jktenders.gov.in From 02.03.2021 (04:00 p.m.) UPTO 08.03.2021 (02:00 p.m.).  
ALL BIDDERS HAVE TO UPLOAD BID SECURITY DECLARATION FORM INSTEAD OF EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (EMD) AS PER THE CIRCULAR OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT (BID SECURITY DECLARATION FORM IS AS PER ANNEXURE 'A' BELOW).

THE FIRST LOWEST BIDDER / SUCCESSFUL BIDDER HAS TO PRODUCE AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO 2% OF CONTRACT AS BID SECURITY/EMD IN SHAPE OF CDR / FDR WITHIN TWO DAYS AFTER GENERATING THE COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, FAILING WHICH THE BIDDER SHALL BE DEBARRED FROM PARTICIPATING IN TENDERING PROCESS FOR TWO YEARS WHICH MAY BE NOTED AND NEGOTIATIONS SHALL BE CARRIED OUT WITH L2, L3 ... ETC. IN CASE OF TIE TENDERS THE DATE SHALL COMMENCE FROM THE DATE OF DRAW OF LOTS.

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

The documents to be uploaded on the jktenders.gov.in are mentioned below, on which the evaluation of Cover-I of the bidders shall be conducted to open the Price Bid i.e. Cover-II.

The following detailed instruments in shape of original and Scanned/ Photostat copies for each work to be produced / submitted by the successful bidder to the Tender Receiving Authority i.e. Office of the Executive Engineer PHE JSD RWS Division Ganderbal / Sgr (H.Q. Chetki Duderhama Ganderbal) in person or by Registered Post / Courier within 02 days after opening of the bids online or generating the comparative chart / statement, failing which the bidder shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for two years which may be noted. The uploaded documents should be legible, without cuttings & should be uploaded cautiously to avoid any duplicity or confusion.

1	2% BID SECURITY / EMD IN SHAPE OF CDR / FDR (by successful bidder after generating the comparative statement / chart.)	Original
2	BID SECURITY DECLARATION FORM with Name Seal & Signature of the Bidder	Original
3	Treasury Receipt (T.R) as cost of tender document.	Original
4	Valid Registration certificate clearly indicating date of registration.	Scanned Copy
5	Latest GST clearance (NOT BEFORE December – 2020) along with Self Attested What's App Number and e-mail ID of the contractor	Scanned Copy
6	They must have at least two years relevant experience in the rural water & sanitation sectors and should have successfully executed similar type of IEC activities.	Scanned Copy
7	Turnover shall not be less than Rs.5.00 lac per year during the last three consecutive years to be got certified from Chartered accountant.	Scanned Copy
8	IT returns of the last three years.	Scanned Copy
9	Digitally Signed document to be uploaded	Pdf. Document copy

DIPK-14305/20

d/-

No:- PHE/JSD/RWSD/Cons./12966 – 90  
Dated:- 02-03-2021

(Er. Mohammad Aslam Zargar)  
Executive Engineer PHE JSD  
RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr. H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir

## Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal-Shakti (I & F.C.) Division, Baramulla

E-Tender Notice No.- : 22 of 2020-21 Dated: 02-03-2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K, e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Government, for below mentioned works:-

S. No	Name of the work	Estd. Cost of Work (In lacs)	EMD In BDC	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs)	M.H. of Account	Tender ID
1	Flood protection work by way of providing crate work on Bowli near the H/O Mushtaq Ahmad Khan on Kanil-Bagh Nallah	0.85	Bid Security Declaration	10 Days	DEE	300/-	2711	
2	Diversion of Minor Tributary of Nallah Ibrahim Khan Nallah at Gutry Baramulla near the land of Ab.Aziz Mir by way of crate work	0.57	Bid Security Declaration	07 Days	DEE	200/-	2711	
3	Removal of unhygienic material from culvert of M & Co to parry Mohalla culvert.	0.46	Bid Security Declaration	07 Days	DEE	200/-	2711	

Date of Publishing	02-03-2021	05:00 PM
Start of downloading	02-03-2021	05:00 PM
Bid submission start date	03-03-2021	11:00 AM
Bid Submission end date	09-03-2021	06:00 PM
Date of opening of Tender	10-03-2021	11:00 AM

Terms & Conditions

01. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of terms and condition of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in.

02. The tenders shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in.

03. The tenders uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened on date mentioned above, in the office of the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e., Executive Engineer Jal-Shakti (I&FC) Division Baramulla.

04. The complete bidding process will be online.

05. Tenderers must be accompanied with Declaration Form, cost of Tender Document in the shape of treasury challan/receipt (mentioning therein NIT No., S. No. & Name of work), in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation & F.C. Division, Baramulla. The tender for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening of tenders.

06. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-  
a. Any Tenderer withdraws his tender during the period of tender validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the tender.  
b. The contractor fails to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.

Executive Engineer  
Jal-Shakti (I&FC) Division  
Baramulla

No: I&FCDB/  
Dated:

DIPK-14341/20



# From KO Archives

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## Musharraf frees Indian prisoners

Islamabad - Pakistan's President Pervez Musharaff ordered the release on Tuesday of 31 Indian Sikhs detained in illegal entry and also recommended that captive Indian fishermen be freed, a foreign ministry official said.

Musharraf made the goodwill gesture during a meeting with senior members of two Indian communist parties, Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said.

NDTV news channel reported that Musharraf had ordered the release of 200 Indian civilians held in Pakistani prisons, but Jilani said he did not know the exact number.

Jilani said the president had ordered the release of 31 young Sikhs who had crossed into Pakistan from Iran.

He said 286 Indian fishermen had been released last month, and that authorities were awaiting confirmation from the Indian High Commission that other detained fishermen were indeed Indian before freeing them.

The president said Pakistan and India should not unnecessarily detain each other's fishermen," Jilani said after Musharraf met the delegation led by Harkishan Singh Surjeet, head of the Communist Party of India-Marxist.

*(Kashmir Observer, 04 March, 2005)*



## Islamic State Says It Killed Female Media Workers In East Afghanistan



### Agenceis

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for an attack that killed three female media workers in eastern Afghanistan.

The militant group, which has a presence in Afghanistan, said its fighters had targeted the three female employees of a television station in the eastern city of Jalalabad on Tuesday evening, according to the SITE Intelligence group.

The women, who worked for local broadcaster Enikas TV, were aged between 18 and 20 and were shot on their way home from work, according to Afghan officials. Their burials took place on Wednesday after prayer ceremonies, according to a provincial council member.

A fourth woman wounded in the attack was admitted to the hospital in a critical condition, hospitals officials.

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani condemned the attack,

which local police initially blamed on the insurgent Taliban, who denied any involvement.

"Such attacks on our innocent compatriots, especially women, contradict the teachings of Islam, Afghan culture and the spirit of peace, and make the current crisis and war difficult and long," said a statement from Ghani's office.

Violence has risen around Afghanistan and media workers and civil society members in urban areas have been targeted in recent months even as a peace process takes place in Qatar's capital of Doha.

The Afghan government and the Taliban have been holding talks to try to reach a political settlement to end decades of conflict. But progress has slowed as the new Biden administration in Washington reviews its plans for the peace process, including whether to entirely withdraw troops by May as originally planned.

## US Halts Trials Of Plasma Transfusions For Covid Patients

### Agenceis

WASHINGTON: US health experts said Tuesday they are halting clinical trials of convalescent blood plasma in patients with mild to moderate Covid symptoms after preliminary results showed no benefit from the treatment.

The trial that began in August involved just over 500 people who went to emergency rooms but did not need to be hospitalized.

The people chosen for the study also had risk factors such as obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes or heart trouble.

Some of them received the treatment — blood plasma from people who had Covid and overcame it — and others got a placebo.

Doctors looked at how many needed additional care or outright hospitalization, or who died, in the 15 days after undergoing the treatment.

An independent group of experts determined that while the convalescent plasma intervention caused no harm, it was unlikely to benefit patients, the National Institutes of Health said.

Convalescent plasma is the liquid part of blood from a Covid patient that recovered. It contains anti-bodies produced by the body after being infected.

In late October a study carried out in India and published in the medical journal BMJ said the treatment offered limited effectiveness.



It did not reduce mortality or keep people with moderate Covid symptoms from developing a serious case. More than 100,000 people have received the treatment in the US since the start of the pandemic and many more elsewhere in the world, the NIH said.

In late August, at the persistent request of then president Donald Trump, the US Food and Drug Administration granted emergency authorization for transfusions of blood plasma from recovered Covid patients to people who were hospitalized with the disease.

The then head of the FDA, Stephen Hahn, acknowledged an error at a press conference with Trump, saying he had cited figures that overestimated the benefits of the treatment. The FDA recently restricted its emergency authorization to use of plasma only with a high concentration of antibodies and for patients hospitalized with early stages of Covid or with a limited ability to produce antibodies.



## Rockets Rain On Biggest US Base Near Baghdad

### Agenceis

A barrage of rockets have struck the Ain al-Assad air base hosting American forces in the western Iraqi province of Anbar.

The Security Media Cell, affiliated with the Iraqi prime minister's office, announced in a statement that 10 Grad rockets had struck the base, located about 160 kilometers (100 miles) west of the capital Baghdad, on Wednesday morning.

The statement added that security forces had found the launch pad for the projectiles, and further details about the incident would be provided later.

The attack took place at 7:20 am (0420 GMT), coalition spokesman Colonel Wayne Marotto confirmed.

Iraqi and Western security sources said a contractor with the US-led military coalition died of a heart attack during the rocket attack. His nationality has not been unveiled.

Sabereen News, a Telegram news channel associated with Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units, reported that C-RAM systems as well as Patriot Advanced Capability-2 (PAC-2) missile systems deployed at the base were not able to intercept the rockets.

According to the report, a number of US military aircraft as well as Spanish choppers could be seen flying over the Hit district, where the

air base is located, in the aftermath of the rocket attack.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet, which is the latest in a series of assaults that have targeted US positions in Iraq over the past few months.

Witnesses said a thick column of smoke could be seen billowing from flames in the base.

The raid comes days after the US military conducted an air raid on positions belonging to the forces of the PMU, better known as Hashd al-Sha'abi, on the Iraqi-Syrian border, where they were engaged in fighting the remnants of the Takfiri Daesh terror group.

The Iraqi counter-terrorism force pledged retaliation, prompting the US military forces to go on high alert and adopt maximum security measures in anticipation of a response.

The US raid was said to be a response to recent attacks on its military base in Erbil and its mission in Baghdad's Green Zone, which Washington blames on Iraq's Kata'ib Hezbollah, a claim rejected by the Hash al-Sha'abi faction.

On Saturday, a roadside bomb struck a convoy of trucks belonging to the US-led coalition forces as it was moving along al-Diwaniyah highway in Iraq's central province of al-Qadisiyah. The blast damaged a vehicle and wounded an Iraqi guard.

## US 'Concerned' By Russia, China Using Vaccines To Engage With Countries

### Agenceis

WASHINGTON: The United States on Tuesday expressed concerns over Russia and China using COVID-19 vaccines to engage with countries in a way where they're "not holding them to the same standard" the US and a number of other countries would do.

"We are concerned by Russia and China using vaccines to engage with countries in a way where they're not holding them at times to the same standard the United States and a number of other coun-

tries would hold them to on human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and even freedom of media. Of course that's a concern," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference.

"But the President's focus is on ensuring the American people are vaccinated. We look forward to engaging with and continuing to engage with and contributing to the global community's effort to do that. But our first priority is vaccinating the American people," she said.

Psaki was responding to a question if the Biden administration is worried that the US is going to be left far behind Russia and China which are giving vaccine to African and South American countries by tens of millions.

The United States, she said, has also made a major contribution to COVAX which is an international body coordinating the safe, equitable, fair distribution of vaccines across the country. That is the mechanism and the body that the US feels this should be done through, the press secretary said.

## Sri Lanka Reverses Course, Offers Strategic Deep-Sea Port To India, Japan



### Agenceis

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka will offer a strategically located deep-sea port to India and Japan, an official said Tuesday, as the island seeks to balance traditional ties against China's rising regional influence.

The government last month abruptly pulled out of an agreement with Delhi and Tokyo to jointly develop the partially built East Container Terminal, located next to a \$500-million Chinese-run container jetty within the capital Colombo's sprawling port.

But Colombo reversed course Tuesday, offering the West Container Terminal (WCT), which is yet to be built and located on the other side of the Chinese-run jetty known as the Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT).

"The discussions to develop the WCT will be only with India and Japan," government spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella told reporters in the capital.

Rambukwella said the cabinet decided Monday to allow India and Japan to have an 85 percent stake in the West Container Terminal — the same terms China was granted when building the CICT.

It's unclear how Tokyo and Delhi will divide their majority stake in the port.

The government said the Indian High Commission in Colombo has "approved" Sri Lanka's latest offer.

There was no immediate response from India's foreign ministry, and a government spokesman said Japan has yet to respond to the new proposal.

The government blamed trade unions calling for local instead of foreign development for last month's abrogation of the East Container Terminal, which will now be completed by the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

Colombo is located in the Indian Ocean between the major hubs of Dubai and Singapore, meaning control of its ports is highly sought after.

Two Chinese submarines berthed at the CICT — which started operations in 2013 — in 2014, sparking concerns in India.

Since then, Sri Lanka has refused permission for further submarine calls.

In December 2017, unable to repay a huge Chinese loan, Sri Lanka allowed China Merchants Port Holdings to take over the southern Hambantota port, which straddles the world's busiest east-west shipping route.

The deal, which gave the Chinese company a 99-year lease, raised fears about Beijing's use of "debt traps" in exerting its influence abroad.

India and the United States have also expressed concerns that a Chinese foothold at Hambantota could give Beijing a military advantage in the Indian Ocean.

## California Crash Kills 13 Of 25 People Crammed Into SUV

### Agenceis

Authorities are investigating whether human smuggling was involved after a crash Tuesday involving an SUV packed with 25 people and a tractor-trailer that left 13 people dead and bodies strewn across a roadway near the US-Mexico border.

Most of the dead were Mexicans, a Mexican official said.

When police arrived, some of the passengers were trying to crawl out of the crumpled 1997 Ford Expedition while others were wandering around the fields. The rig's front end was pushed into the SUV's left side and two empty trailers were jackknifed behind it.

Twelve people were found dead when first responders reached the two-lane highway, which winds through fields in the agricultural southeastern corner of California about 201 kilometres east of San Diego. Another person died at a hospital, California Highway Patrol Chief Omar Watson said.

"It was a pretty chaotic scene," said Watson, who also described it as "a very sad situation." Roberto Velasco, director of North American affairs for Mexico's Foreign Relations Department, confirmed Tuesday on his Twitter account that at least 10 of those killed have been identified as Mexicans. No identities have been released.

The cause of the collision was unclear, authorities said, and it also was not immediately known why so many people were crammed into a vehicle built to hold eight people safely.

Watson said the SUV only had front seats — the middle and back seats had been removed. That would allow more people to fit into the vehicle but makes it even more unsafe. It wasn't immediately clear whether the SUV was carrying migrants who had crossed the border, ferrying farmworkers to fields, or was being used for some other purpose. "Special agents from Homeland Security Investigations San Diego responded ... and have initiated a human smuggling investigation," the agency said in a statement, adding that other details weren't being released.

Macario Mora, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, said agents were not pursuing the SUV at the time of the crash, which was initially rumoured. The immigration status of the passengers was unknown.

"It was an unusual number of

people in an SUV, but we don't know who they were," Mora said.

The people in the vehicle ranged in age from 15 to 53 and were a mix of males and females, officials said. The 28-year-old driver was from Mexicali, Mexico, just across the border, and was among those killed. The 68-year-old driver of the big rig, who is from nearby El Centro, was hospitalised with moderate injuries.

The passengers' injuries ranged from minor to severe and included fractures and head trauma. They were being cared for at several hospitals. One person was treated at a hospital and released.

The crash occurred around 6:15 a.m. at an intersection just outside Holtville, which dubs itself the world's carrot capital and is about 11 miles (18 kilometers) north of the U.S.-Mexico border. It was a sunny, clear morning and authorities said the tractor-trailer and its two empty containers were northbound on State Highway 115 when the SUV pulled in front of it from Norrish Road.

A California Highway Patrol report said the SUV entered an intersection directly in front of the big-rig, which hit the left side of the SUV. Both vehicles came to a halt on a dirt shoulder.

It's not clear if the SUV ran a stop sign or had stopped before entering the highway. It's also not yet known how fast the tractor-trailer was traveling.

The speed limit for tractor-trailers on the highway is 55 mph (88.5 kph), according to CHP Officer Jake Sanchez. The other road is also 55 mph for vehicles.

A 1997 Ford Expedition can carry a maximum payload of 2,000 pounds. If it had 25 people inside, that would easily exceed the payload limit, which taxes the brakes and makes it tougher to steer, said Frank Borris, former head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of Defects Investigation.

"You're going to have extended stopping distances, delayed reactions to steering inputs and potential over-reaction to any type of high-speed lane change," said Borris, who now runs a safety consulting business.

SUVs of that age tended to be top-heavy even without carrying a lot of weight, Borris said.

"With all of that payload above the vehicle's center of gravity, it's going to make it even more unstable," he said.

The crash occurred amid verdant farms that grow a wide variety of vegetables and alfalfa used for cattle feed.

## Microsoft Warns Chinese Hackers Plundering Email Inboxes Using Flaws

### Agenceis

A China-linked cyberespionage group has been remotely plundering email inboxes using freshly discovered flaws in Microsoft mail server software, the company and outside researchers said on Tuesday — an example of how commonly used programs can be exploited to cast a wide net online.

In a blog post, Microsoft said the hacking campaign made use of four previously undetected vulnerabilities in different versions of the software and was the work of a group it dubs HAFNIUM, which it described as a state-sponsored entity operating out of China.

In a separate blog post, cybersecurity firm Volexity said that in January it had seen the hackers use one of the vulnerabilities to remotely steal "the full contents of several user mailboxes." All they needed to know were the details of Exchange server and of the account they wanted to pillage its emails, Volexity said.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington did not immediately return messages seeking comment. Beijing routinely denies carrying out cyberespionage despite a drumbeat of allegations from the United



States and others.

Ahead of the Microsoft announcement, the hackers' increasingly aggressive moves began to attract attention from across the cybersecurity community.

Mike McLellan, director of intelligence for Dell Technologies Inc's Secureworks, said ahead of the Microsoft announcement that he had noticed a sudden spike in activity touching Exchange servers overnight on Sunday, with around 10 customers affected at his firm.

Microsoft's near-ubiquitous suite of products has been under scrutiny since the hack of SolarWinds, the Texas-based software firm that served as a springboard for several intrusions across government and the private sector. In other cases, hackers took advan-

tage of the way customers had set up their Microsoft services to compromise their targets or dive further into affected networks.

Hackers who went after SolarWinds also breached Microsoft itself, accessing and downloading source code — including elements of Exchange, the company's email and calendaring product.

McLellan said that for now, the hacking activity he had seen appeared focused on seeding malicious software and setting the stage for a potentially deeper intrusion rather than aggressively moving into networks right away.

"We haven't seen any follow-on activity yet," he said. "We're going to find a lot of companies affected but a smaller number of companies actually exploited."

## Texas Governor Lifts Mask Mandate, Opening State "100 Percent"



### Agenceis

WASHINGTON: Texas Governor Greg Abbott on Tuesday lifted a state mask mandate and said he was authorizing businesses restricted because of the coronavirus pandemic to open "100 percent."

"For nearly half a year, most businesses have been open either 75 percent or 50 percent and during that time, too many Texans have been sidelined from employment opportunities," Abbott said.

"Too many small business owners have struggled to pay their bills," the Republican governor said in a speech to the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

"This must end. It is now time to open Texas 100 percent," he said to cheers and applause from his audience.

"Every business that wants to be open should be open."

Abbott said he was lifting the restrictions because of the arrival of Covid-19 vaccines, and better testing and treatments.

"Texas now has the tools to protect Texans from the virus," he said.

Abbott imposed a mask mandate in the second most populous US state eight months ago.

He said an executive order rescinding his previous Covid-19 orders and restrictions would take effect on Wednesday.



## Govt Empowering PRIs For Multifold Dev In Rural J&K

Observer News Service

**KATHUA:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmed Khan Wednesday said that present dispensation under Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has initiated several steps to empower PRIs for multifold development in rural landscape of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Advisor made these comments while interacting with elected representatives of PRIs here at Basohli today. Advisor Baseer Khan added that the elected members of District Development Councils, Block Development Councils and panchayats have a huge role in uplifting the rural areas, adding that the 3-tier system was put in place to fulfill the developmental goals of the rural areas as per the aspirations of the locals.

While inspecting the site for the Water Sports Centre and Tourist Reception Centre, Basohli, the Advisor said the idea is to develop tourist infrastructure here for tourists who come in large numbers throughout the year.

He added that the government is serious to bring the art of Basohli paintings and local Pashmeena at larger platforms to encourage the league of local artisans by providing better marketing opportunities. He said steps will be taken to encourage the local youth to carry forward the pristine art.

He directed Director Tourism Naseem Javed Chaudhary to work out a plan for connecting main sites of tourist importance in Basohli. He directed authorities to install show windows along the national highway to showcase the Basohli paintings.

The Advisor said the area has the potential of becoming a big tourist spot and every endeavour shall be made to develop amenities

such as parks and pathways along the Ranjit Sagar Dam and Atal Setu bridge so that families and groups can come to spend time in picturesque Basohli.

Advisor Baseer Khan directed Director Handicraft and Handloom Vikas Gupta to conduct a survey to identify families involved in local craft of pashmeena and submit the report within time frame. He said the government is keen to ensure artisan welfare for which provision like soft loans to better their market coverage opportunities will be explored. He said with improved marketing reach the local craft will get a boost besides improving the economic position of these artisans.

The Advisor directed Director Floriculture Kishore Singh Chib to identify the land for developing Floriculture Park at Dhar Mahanpur as per the aspirations of PRI members.

Earlier, the elected members led by DDC Chairman Kathua Mahan Singh Devi apprised the Advisor the need to develop Basohli and its peripheral areas as Heritage and Religious tourist circuit as the areas have rich history of art, craft, heritage having huge footfall of tourists due to its scenic landscapes besides religious shrines like Chanchlo Mata, Dhaoulan Mata and Joudian Wali Mata shrines. The demand for a park at Dhar Mahanpur was also put forth by the BDC chairperson of the concerned block.

The other delegations included President, Municipal Committee Basohli Sumesh Spolia and Bar Association also met the Advisor and submitted memorandum of demands.

Among others, Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash, ADC Tilak Raj Thapa, BDC chairperson Basohli Shushma Jamwal, BDC Chairperson Dhar Mahanpur Sushma were also present.

## Mehbooba Welcomes Mirwaiz's Release

### MMU Hopes Govt Keeps Its Promise

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The People's Democratic Party president and former chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti Wednesday welcomed the release of Hurriyat Conference (M) chairperson Mirwaiz Umar Farooq after 20 months of house detention. She termed it as good news for the political, social and religious well-being of the people.

Mehbooba Mufti also demanded that all Kashmiris lodged in jails in and outside Jammu and Kashmir should be released and allowed to return to their homes.

Mufti tweeted, "Good to hear about Mirwaiz's release from arbitrary detention. I hope that hundreds of Kashmiri men languishing in jails in & outside J&K will also be released soon. Its time they returned home to their families."

The 20-month long preventive detention of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq came to an end after many media reports quoted the Jammu and Kashmir Administration officials saying the house detention of Kashmir's head priest has ended.

Quoting officials The Hindu reported that the officials confirmed that Mirwaiz is not under any detention.

The report said that Mirwaiz may be allowed to deliver Friday sermon at historic Jamia Masjid this week. It would be for the first time since August 4, 2019 that the Mirwaiz may



resume his religious duties.

Meanwhile, Muthahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu & Kashmir while reacting to the media reports about Mirwaiz's release said that the amalgam hopes that the authorities will honour their word and release him (Mirwaiz) from house detention immediately.

Members of Muthahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Wednesday held a meeting at the historic Mirwaiz Manzil Rajouri Kadal.

All participants expressed concern that due to the continued detention of the Mirwaiz, the pulpits of the largest religious and spiritual centre of Jammu & Kashmir – Jama Masjid Srinagar – has fallen silent for the last 82 Fridays, which otherwise reverberates with the Dawat-o-Tableegh of Qulam Allah Wa Qalaa Rasool (SAW).

The participants said that this greatly hurts the sentiments of the Muslims, the masses and religious scholars alike, especially those who have deep religious and emotional

attachment with the historic masjid and its pulpit.

The members added that in spite of the recent statement of the Government of India's Minister of State for Home Affairs in the Indian Parliament that no one in Jammu & Kashmir is under house arrest, yet the Mirwaiz is detained at home and not allowed to move out.

The religious scholars emphasised that the holy month of Ramadan is approaching preceded by the month of Rajab-ul-Murajab during which the Me'raj-un-Nabi (SAW) falls, followed by Sha'ban-ul-Mu'azzam, during which months, Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir in keeping with the tradition of his predecessors, visit mosques across the valley for propagation of Islamic teachings. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the administration to immediately lift the curbs on the Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir so that he resumes the responsibilities the institution of Mirwaiz enjoins upon him.

## Review Cases Registered Under UAPA, PSA: Tarigami

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The CPI(M) on Wednesday alleged misuse of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir and demanded a review of cases registered under these stringent laws.

CPI (M) leader M Y Tarigami also expressed concern over reports that the arrested people were being shifted to jails in other states.

"Hundreds of people, who are already languishing in jails outside the Valley, are facing tremendous hardships as their relatives are unable to meet them. They don't have

enough resources to visit their kin in jails outside Kashmir," he said.

"As harsh summer is about to begin outside the Valley, more arrested people are being shifted to jails in other states," he alleged.

He asserted that the right to dissent should always have a place in a democratic society.

"The UAPA is a monstrous law which makes getting bail extremely difficult. The misuse of the UAPA and PSA needs immediate review and the cases of those who have been detained under these draconian laws need to be examined," he said.

## Crime Branch Files Charge Sheet In Jammu Land Fraud Case

Press Trust of India

**JAMMU:** The crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday filed a charge sheet in a court here against the accused in the land fraud case in the district, officials said.

The charge sheet was filed against accused Ashok Kumar Sharma and others in the court of sub judge for their alleged involvement in cheating the complainant and duping him, they said.

A written complaint was lodged by Kuldeep Singh with the crime branch, alleging that the accused entered into an

agreement to sell land at Salapur in district Jammu and took Rs 5 lakh as advance and the remaining payment was to be made at the time of registration of the sale deed, they added.

The officials said that when the complainant approached the accused with the remaining amount of Rs 5 lakh, the accused refused to execute the sale deed and also did not return the payment advance.

It was further alleged that after repeated requests the accused further allured the complainant and entered into another agreement for land at Zaffre Chak,

Marh Jammu but again he refused to execute the formal sale deed, they said.

The accused kept on inducing the complainant with more such false agreements.

A preliminary verification was initiated by the crime branch Jammu and allegations were prima facie substantiated, which led to the registration of criminal case against the accused.

From the evidence collected during the investigation and statements of witnesses, offence under section 420 (cheating) has been fully established against the accused, the officials said.

## Div Com Emphasises On Early Completion Of Jammu Ring Road

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sanjeev Verma Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Raya Morh (Samba), Sarore, Bishnah area and inspected the progress of work on Ring Road Project.

He was accompanied by, Sub Divisional Magistrate Vijaypur, concerned Tehsildars, besides Engineering wing of National Highway Authority of India and other concerned officers.

During the tour, the Div Com visited various sites including, Raya Morh the starting point of the Ring Road, Sarore, Bishnah and other locations and inquired about the progress of work there.

The NHAI officials briefed the

Div Com about the present status of work on prestigious road project and also informed about future work plan. It was informed that work is in progress on all phases of the Ring Road Project.

It is pertinent to mention here that the 58.25 KM, 4 lane Ring Road will start from Raya Morh of Jammu-Pathankot National Highway in Samba district and connect with Jagti on the Jammu Udhampur National Highway.

The phase 1 of the project has already been opened for public from Akhnoor Road to Kot Bhalwal.

The Div Com also reviewed the progress of land acquisition and disbursement of compensation. He was informed that land acquisition and disbursement of compensa-

tion amount has almost been completed. The Div Com directed the concerned clear all the compensation pending for the acquired land. He also directed the concerned officers to expedite the structural removal, tree felling works, if any pending for smooth execution of work on the project.

The Div Com directed the NHAI officers to expedite the pace of work and emphasized on early completion of the road construction work on Km. -0+687 to Km. 10+000 connecting Raya Morh, Sarore, Bishnah and Kunjwani for its early commissioning. He also set targets for completing the various stretches of the Ring Road Project. He further asked the concerned officers to engage more men and

machinery to speed up the work progress. He also instructed them to formulate weekly, monthly work completion plans.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner also visited Birpur area of Samba district and inspected various spots where the JDA has demarcated the state land. He visited various spots and the concerned officers apprised him of total state land available and demarcated so far in the area. The Div Com along with other officers visited the site of the land which has been proposed for science city.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned officers to complete the demarcation work, where it is pending.

## 10 Teachers Suspended In Pattan

**PATTAN:** Ten teachers were suspended by Zonal Education Officer after they were found absent from their duties on Wednesday.

ZEO Pattan said that during a visit to ensure something functioning of schools in the area more than ten teachers were found absent from their duties.

"Taking serious note of this all the ten teachers were suspended with immediate effect and attached to the zonal office Pattan," he said.

"I have directed all the staff members working in jurisdiction Pattan to ensure punctuality of their duties so that the academic career of students won't suffer." (KNS)

## Make Geo-Tagged Boundary Pillars In Wular, Other Lakes: JKWRRRA

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority (JKWRRRA) has asked the authorities concerned to erect geo-tagged boundary pillars around Wular and other lakes to prevent encroachments.

After visiting the Wular Lake and other important water bodies including Gilsar, Khushalsar, Anchar lake, Nallah Amir Khan and Baba Domb in Srinagar, JKWRRRA chairperson Ghansham Jha said there is an urgent need of the erection of geo-tagged boundary pillars in wular and other lakes.

Jha was accompanied by Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir and Vice Chairman LAWDA, Coordinator WUCMA, Irfan Ahmad, and other officials.

Later, a meeting was conducted at I & FC Guest House at Ram Munshi Bagh here which was attended by commissioner SMC, VC LAWDA, Chief Engineer I & FC Kashmir, Chief Engineer PHE Kashmir and other officers of I & FC Kashmir, PHE Kashmir, LAWDA and WUCMA. Jha stressed for an integrated



and coordinated approach by the different departments, complementing and supplementing the efforts of each other without any overlap in the action.

Emphasizing the need for restoration of the lost natural drainage links to avoid the issue of urban flooding, immediate erection

of geo-tagged boundary pillars around the water bodies to prevent further encroachments, arresting the silt load at the source to reduce the siltation of the water bodies.

He stressed the need for striking a balance between the need and the availability of resources for managing the respective assignments.

## No Person Be Booked Under PSA On Old Grounds: HC

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday reiterated that a person cannot be put under preventive detention on the grounds which formed basis of an earlier order that has either expired or has been quashed by a Court.

Quashing a detention order under Public Safety Act against one Mushtaq Ahmad Wani alias Channa of Soaf Shali, Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar also referred to Apex Court's judgment—Chhagan Bhagwan Kahar Vs. N. L. Kalna and others—to underline that an order of detention cannot be made after considering the previous grounds of detention when the same had been quashed by the Court. "If such previous grounds of detention are taken into consideration while forming the subjective satisfaction by the detaining authority in making a detention order, the order of detention will be vitiated," the court said, adding, "It is of no consequence if the further fresh facts disclosed in the

grounds of the impugned detention order have been considered."

Referring to another judgement by the top court, Justice Dhar observed that even if the order of detention comes to an end either by revocation or by expiry of the period of detention, there must be fresh facts for passing a subsequent order. "A fortiori when a detention order is quashed by the Court issuing a high prerogative writ like habeas corpus or certiorari, the grounds of the said order should not be taken into consideration either as a whole or in part even along with the fresh grounds of detention for drawing the requisite subjective satisfaction to pass a fresh order because once the Court strikes down an earlier order by issuing rule, it nullifies the entire order."

Subsequently, the court quashed the impugned order of detention against Wani which was passed by the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag 7 July 2020. "Direction is issued to the respondents (officials) to release (Wani) from the preventive custody forthwith, provided he is not required in connection with any other case." GNS

## Registration Dept Increases Working Days



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Revenue Department and IGR, in consultation with NGDRS, Government of India Wednesday took on board the Software Development Unit (SDU) Pune and initiated & got completed shifting of appointments from Old SROs to the newly formed SROs, added additional 5 more slots per day in each of the heavy load SROs and also notified Saturdays as working days vide Circular No. 01- (Rev) of 2021 dated 22.02.2021 for the purpose of Registration.

Directions were issued to the Deputy Commissioners to personally monitor the progress and functioning of SROs.

Crucially, provision for rescheduling of appointment slots was enabled at the level of the jurisdictional SROs to ensure that the additional slots are made

available to those who had already scheduled their appointments but were in the queue with long waiting period ranging from 30-90 days. A public notice was issued to this effect on 26/02/2021. The consequent rescheduling has facilitated the citizens to prepone their Registration slot, sometimes by even 40-60 days, as per the date convenient to them.

These measures have ensured that at present the citizens can schedule slots to their convenience with no waiting period in most of the SROs and even in heavy load SROs, the waiting period has been brought down to 04-09 days only.

The citizens can avail the online facility of availability of additional slots and Saturdays as additional days to schedule their appointments for Registrations. The slots can be booked on <https://ngdrs.jk.gov.in>.

## X-Ray Facility At Anantnag Hospital Defunct

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The residents of Anantnag town on Wednesday alleged that the X-ray plant at District Hospital is lying defunct for the last five days.

The residents said that its printer is not working due to a technical fault. They said that only one X-ray machine is functional. All patients including those who need immediate medical treatment are suffering due to the problem.

The hospital services more than a dozen villages in South Kashmir's Anantnag.

Residents and patients said despite several pleas the health department has not repaired or replaced the X-Ray machine, causing trouble to hundreds of patients who must either go to expensive private clinics or travel long distances for getting an X-Ray done.

One local resident Rafiq Ahmad said that the machine had developed some fault but the hospital authorities have not been able to repair it since, leaving them dependent on private diagnostic centres. (Agencies)

## Protests In Hardshiva Against Ban On Stone Quarrying

Observer News Service

**SOPORE:** Scores of residents of Hardushiva in Sopore Wednesday protested against the ban on stone quarrying in the area.

Protesters assembled at Chatkak Watlab road and blocked the road halting the traffic movement for several hours.

They demanded lifting of the ban on quarrying and said that it is the sole means of livelihood for the people in the area.

The residents said that after the imposition of ban thousands of locals have been rendered jobless and they don't have any other means of livelihood to feed their families.

The residents expressed anguish and raised slogans against the authorities and the mining department and also blamed the forest department as according to them forest officials are claiming that there is a threat to the environment if the quarry remains open.

The locals appealed the LG administration and DC Baramulla to look into the matter and lift the ban on stone quarrying.

## Dr Farooq Visits IUST

Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** Member of Parliament, Dr Farooq Abdullah Wednesday visited Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST). Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Mushtaq A Siddiqi, apprised Dr Abdullah about the past achievements and future action plans of the University. He said that University is striving hard to be a centre of excellence, besides developing and cultivating critical acumen among students.

While lauding the growth showed by the University, Dr. Farooq congratulated the entire IUST fraternity on having built a great reputation as a premier science and technology University, in Jammu Kashmir and the country, within a very short span of time.

Dr. Farooq lauded the efforts of the University in promoting Innovations and Entrepreneurship culture among the students.

## Tipper Crushes Pillion Rider, Injures Motorcyclist

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A speedy tipper on Wednesday afternoon crushed a pillion rider and left the motorcyclist critically injured in North Kashmir's Pattan.

Reports said that a speedy tipper bearing registration number JK05D 2212 hit a motorcycle near Hanijiwara Pattan along the highway, resulting into the on spot death of pillion rider and injuries to the motorcyclist.

The injured motorcyclist was shifted to Trauma Hospital Pattan for treatment. A police officer while confirming the incident identified the deceased as Mudassir Hassan Wani son of Abdul Rashid Wani a resident of Modergund Bandipora and injured as Javid Qadir Lone son of Ghulam Qadir Lone a resident of Arin Bandipora. He said a case has been registered and investigations started.

## Anganwadi Workers Demand Monthly Honorarium

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Association Wednesday staged a protest demonstration demanding honorarium on monthly basis.

Scores of Anganwadi workers and helpers, under the banner of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Association Kashmir, assembled at Press Colony demanding regularisation of the workers and helpers.

"We are demanding maximum honorarium of Rs 21,000 per month on humanitarian grounds until the government of Jammu and Kashmir will take a decision to regularise Anganwadi workers and helpers. We have worked hard for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir but it is unfortunate that we are being neglected by the government now," the protesters said.

They appealed the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to look into the matter and address the demands promptly.



## Economy Central

# Loans, Deposits and Defaults

## J&K Economy from the rear view-Part III



EJAZ AYOUB  
ejaz.ayoub@gmail.com

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

Prior to the epochal Indian economic reforms of 1991, banking in India, like other aspects of the economy, was a tightly regulated industry with dismal growth and limited impact. Unlike today, the lending, deposit and the exchange rates were dictated by the banking regulator —The Reserve Bank of India. There were negligible prescribed norms for recognition and treatment of bad loans and no set requirements for the capital adequacy norms either. To approve a high-value loan or open a branch, a bank had to seek RBI's permission and it would normally take months together for the approval. Moreover, the kind of financial marketplace that India has currently, was nonexistent.

Given the central role played by banking in the present day economic systems, the liberalization also involved changing the paradigm of the Indian banking to align it with the demands of the newly adopted laissez faire form of economy. By the time C Rangarajan retired as RBI Governor in 1997 after serving for almost 6 crucial years of transformation, Indian banking space was buzzing with competition. Credit growth in the form of corporate as well as in segments like car and housing loans had taken off and banking inclusion was accelerating at an impressive pace.

While banking in Indian mainland was expanding in leaps and bounds, J&K's banking space was undergoing a unique transformation. The widespread insurgency in the region in the first half of 90s forced many nationalized banks to wind up their operations in sensitive areas leading to retrenchment of banking penetration instead of expansion. This led to rapid migration of deposits to GoJK owned bank – The Jammu and Kashmir Bank. Despite early impediments and a small base of 810 banking branches and offices in 1996-97, the penetration of banking in J&K, has over a period of time gained momentum and reached some of the most remote areas of the region. The banking network in J&K has registered a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.6% in the last 24 years to reach a milestone of 1815 banking branches and offices in FY 2019-20. However, the lag of 90s is still reflecting as the banking network at all India level grew much rapidly at 4% during the same period of 24 years. (CAGR measure the annual growth rate over time, with the effect of compounding taken into account.)

Continuing with the endeavor of outlining the changes in J&K Economy since 1996-97, this column shall analyze the movement of growth in bank deposits, bank loans and loan defaults. The movement of these variables and the changes in the composition of credit in terms of agricultural loans, industrial loans and personal loans will help us in understanding the health of the economy during various time periods in the last 24 years.

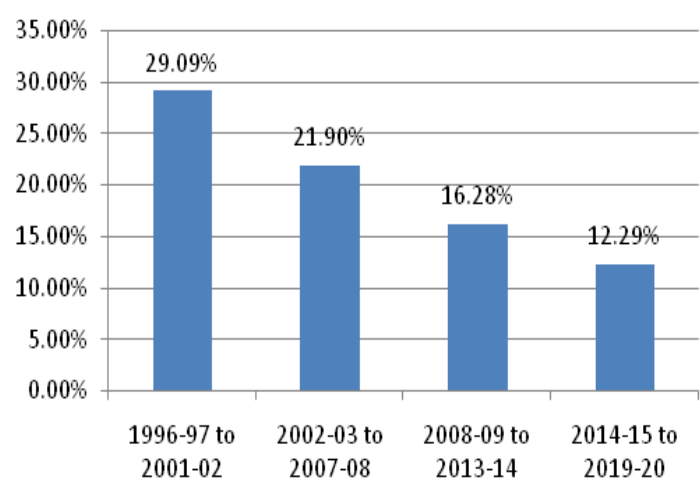
Like in Part-II of the series, in this analysis again, time frame has been segregated into 4 segments of six years. It has been aligned with the changes in political representatives holding the highest Govt. offices because economic policies like tax structure and spending priorities tend to change every time a new dispensation takes over. These in turn have an impact on savings and credit appetite of an economy.

### Credit - Quantity and Quality

Banking system catalyses the growth of an economy by creating an efficient mechanism of aggregating scattered and unutilized savings in the economy and routing it to capital forming entities which in the process help in creating income, jobs, widen tax-base and accelerate overall economic growth. Therefore, the growth or contraction in bank credit does reflect the pulse of the economic health of a region.

Total loans outstanding extended by all the banks operating in J&K at the end of FY 1996-97 stood at Rs. 1259 Crore. After 24 years i.e. at the end of FY 2019-20, this figure has reached Rs.64,126 crore, registering a compound annual growth rate of 18.64%. However, the speed of growth has been losing steam in a very sustained fashion.

### Annual Credit Average Growth



The growth in the four time frames have followed a descending pattern with six years of the fourth time frame i.e. FY 2014-15 to FY 2019-20 registering a very dismal show at an average annual growth of only 12.29%. The last FY in the fourth time frame i.e. 2019-20 in particular at only 5.82% against all India average of 10.87% credit growth per annum, is clearly reflecting the deep stress that J&K's economy is in. Although, the saturation of credit absorption capacity over time does play an important role, but when compared with all India averages, this looks like a J&K specific ailment for sure.

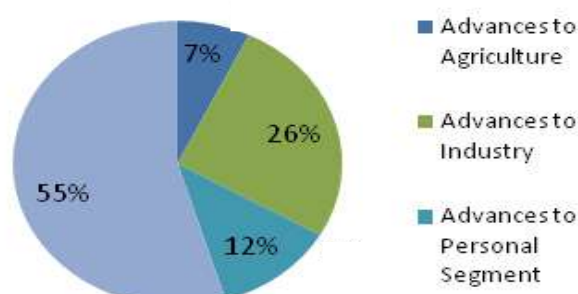
Another indicator which helps in analyzing the proportional growth of credit vis-à-vis J&K's GSDP is the bank credit to GSDP ratio. This indicator also reflects the efficiency of the financial system. To put things into perspective, this ratio for some advanced economies even exceeds 200%. For J&K, in FY 1996-97 the ratio stood at 13.80% and after 24 years it has reached around an acceptable level 40% in FY 2019-20. Although,

this clearly depicts the gradual formalization of economy and subsequent expansion of credit but J&K is still lagging behind the national average by a fair margin which stands at around 50%.

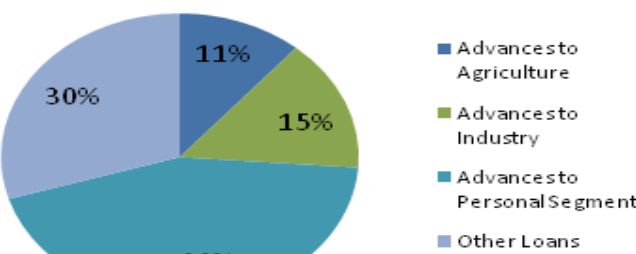
### Where is all this credit getting routed?

Another interesting aspect to analyze will be change in the composition of credit over a period of 24 years. In line with the observations regarding stagnating industries and expanding services sector, the pattern of change in credit complements the fact in a synchronous fashion.

### Sectoral Bank credit pie FY 1996-97



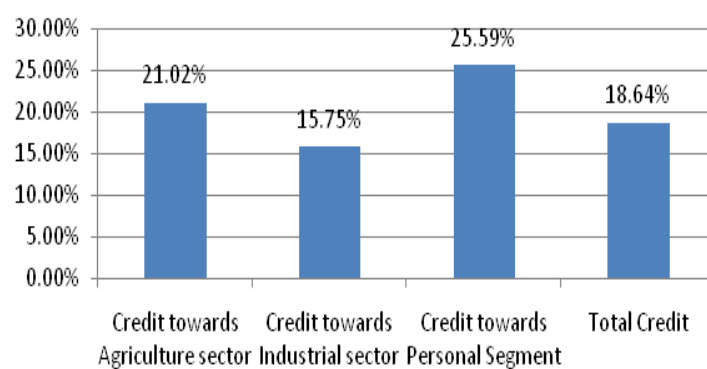
### Sectoral Bank credit pie FY 2019-20



From a share of 26% in total credit portfolio of the banks lending in J&K in FY 1996-97, to only 15% in FY 2019-20, the share of loans extended towards industrial development has not been able to match the pace of personal and other service sector loan segments and also to some extent the agricultural sector.

So far as growth is concerned, Industrial credit has remained an outright laggard at a CAGR of only 15.75% for the past 24 years. Personal loan segment comprising of housing loans, car, two wheeler & other vehicle loans, education loans, consumer durable loans and credit cards has driven the overall credit growth story of the region. It has been growing at an impressive compound annual growth rate of 25.59%. However, the share of housing loan segment in the personal segment pie has come down from 39% to mere 23% in last decade alone. Housing segment, which is very good for the economic development is moving less rapidly than other junk segments like credit cards.

### Compound Annual Growth Rate From FY 1996-97 to FY 2019-20

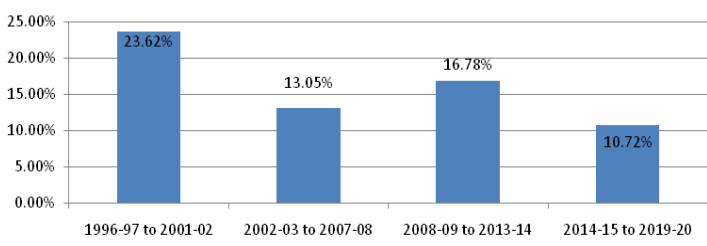


### Our Saving Pattern:

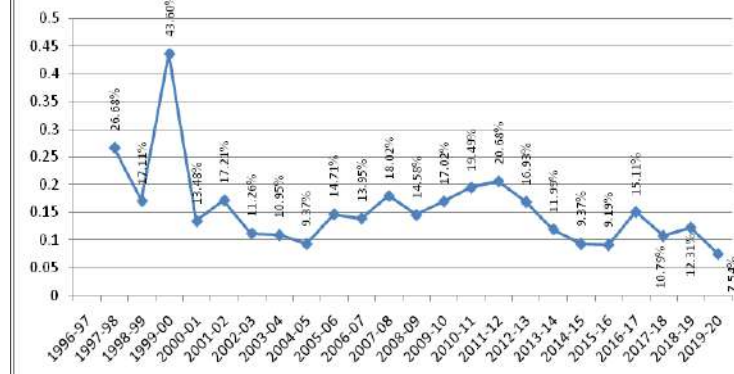
Another aspect from banking which helps us in determining the pulse of the economy is the movement of deposit growth. Although, factors like interest rates and return on asset classes like equities, gold and real estate do influence the movement of deposits, however, the sensitivity of its growth is more dependent upon the change in people's disposable income. In Keynesian economic theory, there is a direct relationship between peoples' income, consumption and savings. The bank deposit growth rate therefore provides an insight about the change in people's income, assuming saving & consumption rate as constant.

From Rs. 4832 crore in FY 1996-97 to Rs. 1,32,830 crore, the deposits have grown at a compound annual growth rate of 15.50% in the last 24 years. In line with the drop in the per capita income in the last time frame i.e. from FY 2014-15 to FY 2019-20, the growth in deposits at an average annual rate of 10.72% has suffered drastically. Pertinently, at only 7.54%, the last financial year i.e. FY 2019-20 has registered one of the lowest deposit growths in J&K in the last 24 years.

### Annual Deposit Average Growth



### Annual Deposit Growth



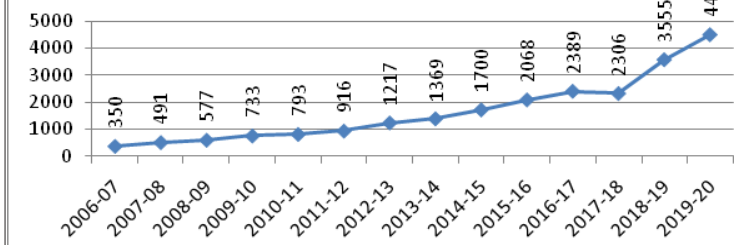
### Default Demons and Bleeding Banks:

Loan defaults-technically known as Non-Performing assets (NPAs) when looked at a macro level helps in understanding the health of any economy. At micro level it reflects the borrower's inability to repay their loans which can be very business specific like poor business idea or totally systemic in nature like the floods of 2014 or the political disruption of August 2014. The spike or slump in NPA numbers reflects the changes in overall economic conditions of a region. It is a matter of fact that the repayment record of borrowers based in J&K is far better despite the economically hostile environments within which they have to operate. The fact can be backed by the impressive recovery record of restructured assets by the banks in J&K after 2014 floods and 2016 unrest. It's so far the best in the industry. Similar arrangements of restructuring allowed by RBI, like the one Uttarakhand was given after cloud burst in 2013, resulted in much stressed recovery numbers compared to J&K. The rise in NPA numbers have mostly been influenced by factors outside borrowers' control-the systemic ones.

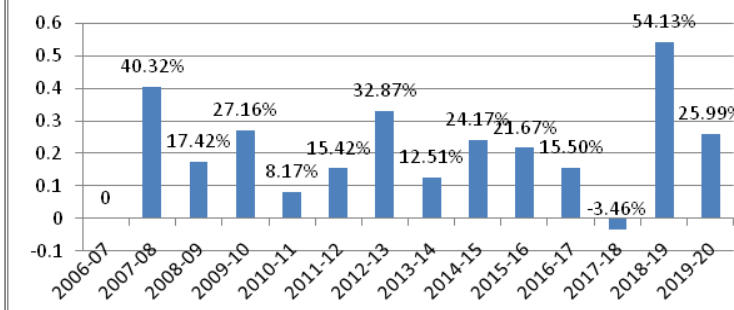
In terms of numbers, the compound annual growth in NPAs in the last 14 years has been clocking around 21.66%. From just Rs. 350 crore in FY 2006-07 to a whopping Rs.4479 in FY 2019-20, the banks operating in J&K have been bleeding profusely (Data on J&K level NPA's was available from 2006-07 only). The last two financial years in particular have been worse with FY 2018-19 registering a YOY spike of 54.13% in NPA's.

The inferences drawn from the performance of advances, deposits

### NPA (in Rs Crore)



### YOY Growth in NPA



and NPAs in the last 24 years of J&K economy reflect a pattern of decelerating economy with plummeting savings, unhealthy composition of credit and rising levels of failed businesses. The last 6 years have been one of the worst periods in terms of credit growth since financial year 1996-97. Whatever expansion of credit has happened, it has been driven by personal loans. The deployment of credit towards industrial development has shrunk drastically. Unlike credit towards productive capital assets which have a direct bearing on improving the output of the economy, unabated rise in personal credit is considered unhealthy as most of it gets directly dumped into consumption. Since most of the consumable items like cars and consumer durables are manufactured outside J&K, the benefits of this credit are skimmed by the outside manufacturers rather than catalyzing the local economic development. Housing & education sectors are the only economically as well as socially healthy sectors in the personal segment which deserve to be promoted. Both these segments have suffered severe contraction.

On the other hand the growth in deposits is reflecting a severe contraction in the household disposable income with FY 2019-20 registering slowest annual deposit growth in the last 24 years. This drag is affecting household risk bearing capacities, consumption budgets and investment appetite. All these factors are lethal for the health of an ailing economy. Besides credit and deposits, there has been an exponential growth in the loan defaults in the last few years. This showcases the speed with which businesses are failing. Moreover, its subsequent squeeze on the lending capacities of the banking companies is only catalyzing the problem. This creates a cold foot attitude of the banks on account of bleeding balance sheets, which in turn chokes the funding space for otherwise economically viable business ventures resulting in an unaffordable delayed recovery. The overall trend in these essential variables is painting a very grim picture. We can only hope that we have bottomed out the trough of this economic slump and the only direction that we move from here grabs the ascent of the cycle towards a much needed economic revival.

Data has been taken from Reserve Bank of India website, various economic surveys and state budgets. In case of conflicting data points, RBI's data has been given preference

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

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# Covishield vs Covaxin

Your vaccine guide to list of possible 'side-effects' "

SANGEERTA OJHA

**The company said that there is a slim chance the vaccine causes a severe allergic reaction. Signs of a severe adverse event include difficulty in breathing, swelling of face and throat, fast heart-beat, rashes all over the body, dizziness and weakness**

India has entered the second phase of its vaccination drive with two Made in India vaccines- Covishield and Covaxin- against the coronavirus disease. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also took the shot of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin to dispel the hesitancy over the Covid-19 vaccine. The government has said both vaccines are safe, but there are some associated side-effects as with any other vaccine. The companies had also put out the list of possible side-effects on their respective websites.

#### Who should not take Covaxin?

Those who have any history of allergies, fever, bleeding disorder or are on a blood thinner, are immune-compromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system, are pregnant, are breastfeeding, any other serious health-related issues, as determined by the vaccinator/officer supervising vaccination, must not take Covaxin. People who have taken another anti-Covid vaccine should not take Covaxin.

#### Side-effects of Covaxin

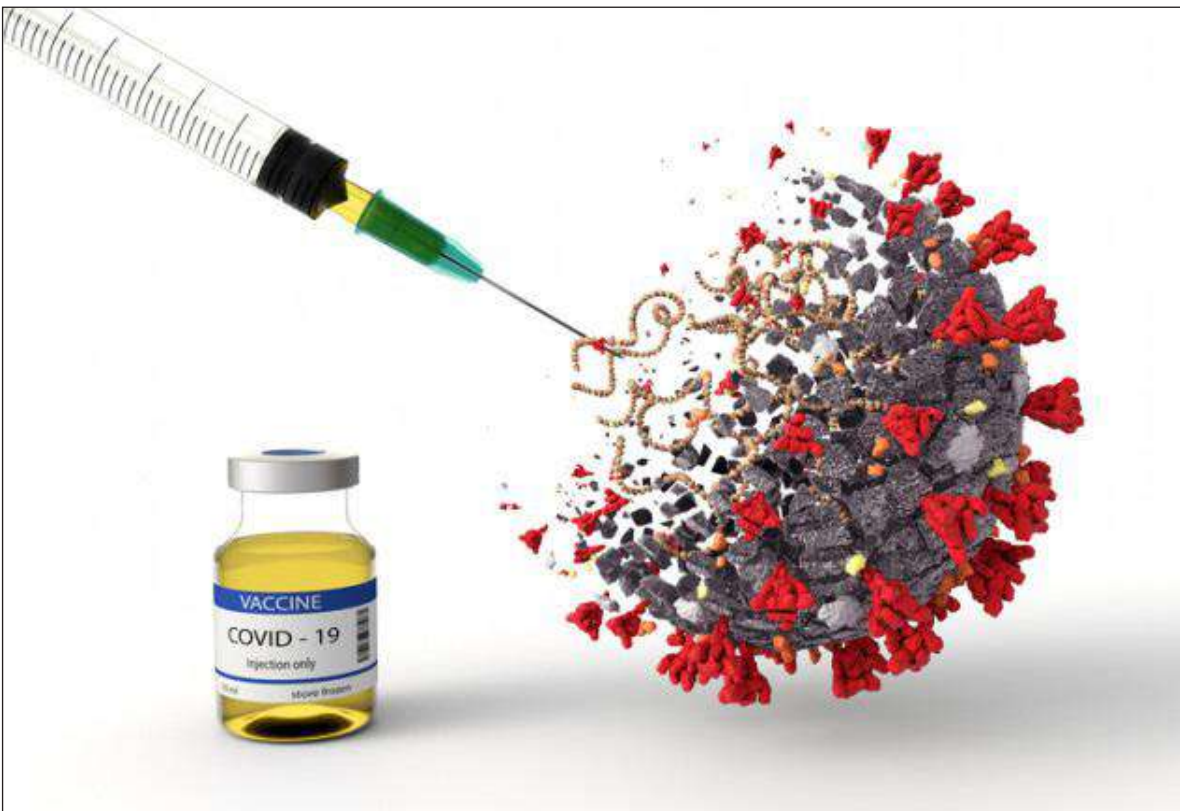
The mild side-effects of the drug include injection site pain, injection site swelling, injection site redness, injection site itching, stiffness in the upper arm, weakness in the injection arm, body ache, headache, fever, malaise, weakness, rashes, nausea, vomiting.

The company said that there is a slim chance the vaccine causes a severe allergic reaction. Signs of a severe adverse event include difficulty in breathing, swelling of face and throat, fast heart-beat, rashes all over the body, dizziness and weakness.

#### Who should not take Covishield?

Serum Institute of India's factsheet said one should not get the Covishield vaccine if the person had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine. Like Bharat Biotech, the SII factsheet also says that if a person is pregnant or plans to become pregnant or is breastfeeding she should tell the healthcare provider before taking the jab. People who have taken another anti-Covid vaccine should not take Covishield.

The ingredients of the Covishield vaccine are "L-Histidine, L-Histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, Magnesium chloride hexahydrate, Polysorbate 80,



Ethanol, Sucrose, Sodium chloride, Disodium edetate dihydrate (EDTA), Water for injection," it pointed out.

#### Side-effects of Covishield

Some of the very common side effects of the vaccines are tenderness, pain, warmth, redness, itching, swelling or bruising where the injection is given, generally feeling unwell, chills or feeling feverish, headache or joint aches.

Covishield is made by Serum Institute of India (SII) and Covaxin is manufactured by Bharat Biotech.

Over 50 lakh people have registered themselves on the Co-WIN portal since the window opened on Monday morning, the Centre said. Nearly 5 lakh beneficiaries above 60 or those aged 45-60 with comorbidities have

received the first jab of Covid-19 vaccine till Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, the government has permitted all private hospitals to give Covid-19 vaccine if they adhere to the laid down norms and also asked the states and union territories to utilise the optimum capacity of private medical facilities empanelled under three categories. The states and Union Territories were also urged not to store, reserve, conserve or create a buffer stock of the COVID-19 vaccines, the Union Health Ministry said in a statement.

Live Mint

## Tough love - The truth of loving through addiction

Drugs have always been around, but the dire pang of modern addiction is different

SARZAH YEASMIN

Often the narrative surrounding drug addiction is centered upon the trials and tribulations of the consumer of the drug, whose temporary well-being and sustenance are dependent on the existence of a set of practices or substances that are damaging to health in the long run.

The derelict state of mental health and addiction care is universal. Whereas drugs are embroiled in widespread street culture, the high-end rehab centres and counselling are within the reach of very few. Turning life around not only depends on snapping out of denial and seeking help but also on the financial ability to invest in the long journey of healing, and even so there is no guarantee of return.

In what may seem like a dead end with relentless cycles of booms and busts, where progress is made only to end in another episode of breakdown, overdose, hospital visits, and frantic loved ones, we forget about the secondary trauma of addiction experienced by family members.

These are the parents, siblings, children, partners who are exposed to the bouts of addictive habits of their loved ones. Watching a loved one suffer and decimate without being able to help and living with a constant fear of loss can be as paralyzing and debilitating as having post-traumatic stress disorder.

We usually hear about secondary trauma experienced by doctors, physicians, nurses, social workers -- people working with traumatized patients and clients. However, it is mostly family members and friends who assume the role of the primary caregiver to loved ones who experience trauma and pain from addiction.

Therefore, we need to expand the definitional limits of secondary trauma to include family members who experience pain in the process of caring for victims of addiction and trauma.

Addiction is more common than we think. It has many facets, reasons, and phases. It may start with a puff of cigarette smoke led by a simple adolescent curiosity in a society that glamorizes smoking but blames individuals who die from lung cancer, or sometimes it may start with a daft display of entering adulthood by smoking weed at a party.

But addiction may also be a way to escape one's reality, trauma, and pain. When we imagine addiction, we see someone high and sweating in a hot room shooting up or injecting heroin and



**If we want to understand the dynamics around youth drug abuse, we need to examine the broader cross-class drug culture and consumption decisions. Where the line between consumption and abuse of substances blurs, there is no active decision making, by this point the consumer becomes an addict**

crashing on the pile of rolls and ashes on the floor, shuddering with the last bit of life that they have left. We let our imaginations run wild when it comes to people and illnesses that we cannot fully comprehend.

But all forms of addiction do not involve class-A drugs or transactions in the dark web and alleys. Some of these decisions and trades are made at doctors' offices, clinics, and pharmacy counters when we obtain prescription pain relieving medications such as anti-depressants, or self-medications as a form of secondary addiction replacing the first source of addiction.

Withdrawal symptoms from many of these classes of medications are extremely severe and can lead to death. Some studies show that it is harder to stop smoking than to stop doing cocaine. Despite being more socially acceptable,

highly advertised, and supported, tobacco and alcohol are the two leading causes of addiction and addiction related deaths.

There can be many wars on drugs but the most common sources of addiction, such as the cigarette, are legal. Criminalizing certain drugs and concurrently leaving out others from the "criminal" category as a policy tool to address addiction is questionable.

When a family member struggles through addiction and failed attempts at withdrawing, the addiction experience becomes collective. Being a constant bystander to pain has its invisible effects on family members' mental health, something that is easily overlooked.

Certain forms of substance abuse are stigmatized which even hinders caregivers and families from talking about them or seeking help. Stefano Bloch, an urban geographer, who writes about the

street and graffiti subculture in the "gang hoods" of Los Angeles, talks about how he felt guilty to leave his mother alone as he was the one who would have to call the police or the hospital if his mother passed out in the bathroom or on the couch from shooting up heroin.

How many times do family members come close to a loved one's death, knocking and breaking doors, growing numb and cold with paranoia, shaking overdosed sons or daughters out of sleep, cleaning up broken plates and glasses, being forced to pay for the same drug that gradually squeezes life out of their brothers and sisters, all the while hiding it from society? The feeling of failure and guilt is never-ending.

Certain forms of addiction are so common in working-class families that we usually leave them out of the national addiction narrative. We do not talk about

the drunken rickshaw puller or construction worker, or a drug dependent member of a poor family physically abusing caregivers and income providers, and stealing rent or grocery money to gamble, socialize, and abuse substances as a mode of recreation.

If we want to understand the dynamics around youth drug abuse, we need to examine the broader cross-class drug culture and consumption decisions. Where the line between consumption and abuse of substances blurs, there is no active decision making, by this point the consumer becomes an addict.

What is intriguing about substance use is that there is no one determinant that explains addiction behaviour. For instance, a study by researchers at the University of Michigan -- on socioeconomic status and substance use habits among young adults -- show that lower family socioeconomic status is associated with higher instances of smoking.

The same study found that alcohol and marijuana uses are correlated with higher family socioeconomic status, two contrary findings for different types of drugs. Adolescents from affluent families have better access to opportunities but that might not necessarily derail them from substance abuse.

Having access to resources to manage withdrawal symptoms gives certain youth a better chance to turn their lives around. In studies focusing on drug consumption practices in Bangladeshi youth, friend circles are commonly cited as the breeding ground for pushing drugs. If that is the case, then how do we explain the choices made by youth who actively decide not to pursue drugs regardless of how popular it is?

Families are lost in this unyielding matrix of drugs, pain, and powerlessness. The reality and the years of life lost behind closed doors are excruciating to bear for many, pushing people to pop pills as an alternative to having a conversation; sometimes we knock on those doors too late.

Criminalizing and stigmatizing victims of addiction or their families further demoralize any slim efforts that they might make to break from the vicious cycle. In the old times our grandparents chewed their tobacco with betel leaves, their lips turned red as the mix crushed in their mouth. Drugs have always been around, but the dire pang of modern addiction is different, an epidemic that our society has failed to address.

Dhaka Tribune



# 'Pawri' Originator, Young Pak Student, On India Loving Her Lingo

## Agencies

**K**arachi: A 19-year-old Pakistani student who shot to fame after her five-second video went viral on social media across the sub-continent, hopes numerous renditions of her monologue will translate into more dialogue between India and Pakistan.

The short video shot by Dananeer Mobeen in the Nathaigali mountains of northern Pakistan and uploaded onto Instagram shows a group of youngsters enjoying themselves by a roadside.

Swinging around the device she is filming on, Ms Mobeen gestures behind her and says, "This is our car, this is us, and this is our party taking place."

Seemingly innocuous, she deliberately mispronounces the English word "party" as "pawri" to poke fun at South Asians

who adopt Western accents. It immediately struck a chord in both India and Pakistan, sparking top trending hashtags on social media, and garnering millions of views and hundreds of spin-offs.

"It was the most random video. I initially had no intention of uploading it," Ms Mobeen said, expressing surprise at how viral it had gone and adding the trend showed the power and reach of social media.

"Pawri" monologue renditions have been used by police in India and the Delhi Commission for Women in their social media outreach campaigns.

In one video, two Indian soldiers deployed in snowy mountains give it their own spin with "This is us, this is our gun, and we are patrolling here", while popular Bollywood actors Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone each did a version that also went viral.



Dairy company Amul, known for inculcating trendy takes on current issues in its advertisements, did a "this is our pav-tea" version.

Even politicians jumped on the bandwagon, with leaders using the catchy hook at public events and tweets.

"I'm honoured and grateful for all the love across the border," said Ms Mobeen, expressing her happiness at fostering some rare friendly cross-border dialogue.

Last week, India and Pakistan released a rare joint statement saying they had agreed to observe a ceasefire along the Line of Control, after exchanging fire hundreds of times over past months.

Since the video went viral, Ms Mobeen said she has been inundated with acting and modelling offers, along with requests for product endorsements. Instead, she says she aspires to join Pakistan's foreign services.

## How Apple makes sure your hearing is not impacted

### Agencies

**A**s the Indian market gets flooded with all kinds of wearables and wireless earphones/headphones, monitoring your daily audio exposure is critical as long exposure to sound can impact hearing abilities in the long term.

On the World Hearing Day that fell on Wednesday, your iPhone, iPod touch, or Apple Watch can measure your headphone audio levels so you can monitor your audio exposure over the past hour, day, week, month or year in the Health app.

The Noise app on Apple Watch also measures ambient sound levels in your environment to identify when the decibel level could negatively impact your hearing.

If sounds are too loud, Apple Watch users can receive alerts with a tap on the wrist. All your information is stored in the Health app for

easy access to your data.

"Whether you're listening to music, watching a movie, or talking to a loved one, Headphone Accommoda-



tions help you customise your audio experience to make the world sound crisp and clear," according to Apple.

Amplify soft sounds and adjust certain sound frequencies based on your individual hearing needs.

If you already have your own audiogram, you can add it to your

settings. If not, you'll walk through a series of listening tests that allow you to set up as many as nine unique profiles based on your personal sound preferences.

Sound Recognition feature listens for certain sounds and uses on-device intelligence to notify you when a specific sound is detected.

"Whether you're using your iPhone or iPad, you'll receive a notification when a particular type of sound or alert, such as a fire alarm or doorbell, is detected," according to the company.

Stereo recordings usually have distinct left- and right-channel audio tracks.

"Mono Audio can help streamline the differences by playing both audio channels in both ears. You can adjust the balance for greater volume in either ear, so you won't miss a single note of a concerto or word of an audiobook," reads the information on the company's Accessibility page.



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msphsgr@jkpolice.gov.in

### QUOTATION

Short notice quotations are invited from the registered/reputed suppliers for supply of below-mentioned items (standard type) for Police Hospital Srinagar so as to reach this office on or before by 2 PM within three days.

The successful tenders shall have to supply the items from ready stock and payments shall be made after receipt and verification of the items.

S. No	Item Description
1.	Office Table 2½ x 4½ (D shape, with 4 drawers + cabin)
2.	Computer Table 2½ x 4½ D shape, single drawer + cabin)
3.	Computer Table 30" x 18" single drawer
4.	Revolving Chair with arm, High Back

Note: The Purchasing committee shall have the right to reject any / all the tender items without assigning reason thereof.

DIPK-14308/20

No: PHS//Short-Qu- /2021/1060-63  
Dated: 02-03-2021

Medical Superintendent  
JK Police Hospital, Srinagar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly written as Ruheel Ahmad Pala Instead of Ruhail Ahmad Pala in his DOB certificate. Now I am applying for correction of the same. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Municipal Committee Khrew within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Akram Pala F/o Ruhail Ahamd Pala  
R/o Khrew Pampore

fyp

### PUBLIC NOTICE

In my Daughter's DOB Certificate Her parentage Cast is wrongly written as Bhat Instead of Pala which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Municipal Committee Khrew within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

MUSHTAQ AHMAD PALA  
F/O ADEEBA JAN R/O KHREW PAMPORE

fyp

### Royal Springs Golf Course Cheshmashahi Srinagar

Corrigendum of e-nit No eNIT No 81 of 2020  
Dated 24-02-2021

Kindly ignore special condition No. III. in the NIT which reads "The intending bidders shall have executed similar nature of work supported by allotment evidence/experience certificate from concerned authorities". The bidders do not need to provide any proof of experience/allotment

Also the last date for bid submission is increased till 10-03-2021 (4:00 PM) and the bids will be opened on 11-03-2021

All other terms and condition will remain same as in eNIT No. 81 of 2020-21. Dated 24-02-2021.

Sd/= Executive Engineer  
Royal Springs Golf Course  
Srinagar

No:- RSGC/Exen/2020-21/552-54

Dated:- 02-03-2021

DIPK-NB-6101/20

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION-IIIRD, SHEREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR.

e-NIT No.- e-ED-III / 43 of 2020-21

Dated:- 02-03-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from reputed companies or relevant class registered contractors/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency of JKPD, for Creation works, along with LT Network, (on SITC basis Key Material provided by departmentally) as details below:-

Name of the work.	Estt. Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	EMD (In Rs)	Completion Period	Position of funds
Creation of 100 KVA DT Sub-Station along-with HT and LT Net Work, at Behind Mughal Darbar Sector 1 Lane C Mustafabad Sub Division Zainakote. (Key Material provided by Departmentally like Transformer, Pole and Conductor)	3.35	Rs. 500/-	6700/-	15 days	Authorization Available under Capex 2020-21
<p>1. Bidders are advised to study the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) / Tender Specifications carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examine, of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.</p> <p>2. The tender document is available on website <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:-</p>					
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 02-03-2021; 08:00 PM				
B Sale of Bid Document (Start)	05-03-2021; 10:00 PM				
C Sale of Bid Document (End)	15-03-2021; 2:00PM				
D Clarification start date	03-03-2021; 02:00 PM				
E Clarification End date	04-03-2021; 03:00 PM				
F e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format).	05-03-2021; 10:00 PM				
G e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	15-03-2021; 2:00PM.				
H Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, EMD Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.				
I Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	16-3-2021; 02:00PM				
J Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders				
K Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer ED-III, Sgr.				
L Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender). DD also acceptable, (however Original DD to be submitted on end date of e-Bid submission).	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only).				
M Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (Copy of CDR/FDR/DD, duly pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-IIIRD, Shereen Bagh Srinagar, JKPD, should be up-loaded with e-tender)	Rs6700/- Note:- However, in case of Supply of the key material like Transformer, Poles & Conductor by the Contractor additional EMD @2% of Supply value will be demanded from successful bidder before the placement of LOA.				

DIPK-NB-6116/20

Executive Engineer  
Electric Division-II,  
Srinagar.

Dated:- 02-03-2021

No.- ED-III/TS/

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

## J&K Pollution Control Board Jammu

winter office: November-April!  
Parivash Bhawan Gladni Transport Nagar  
Narwal Jammu (J&K) 180006  
Ph Fax 0191-2476925

Summer Office: May - Oct  
Sheikh Ul Alam Campus  
Behind Govt Silk Factory Rajbagh Srinagar (J&K)  
190008 Ph fax 0194-2311655

Email: membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com

### Public Notice

Subj.: **Public Hearing** for Minor Mineral (River Bed Mineral) Blocks scheduled on 31.03.2021 for i) Block-21, ii) Block-27, iii) Block-34 and iv) Block-35 for Distt. Shopian (J&K).

As per EIA Notification Rule 7(1) Section (III) issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India vide S.O.1533 dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 (as amended till date), **Public Hearing** of the below mentioned mining blocks for minor mineral extraction is to be carried out.

The Public Hearing is being conducted by J&K Pollution Control Board as per requirement of EIA notification. The ToRs (Terms of Reference) have been forwarded by JKEIAA vide nos. i) JKEIAA/2020/321/1405-08 dated 21.11.2020, ii) JKEIAA/2020/348/16012-15 dated 08.12.2020, iii) JKEIAA/2020/351/1758-61 dated 23.12.2020 and iv) JKEIAA/2020/ 355/ 1766-69 dated 23.12.2020 for the said **Public Hearing** along with draft EIAs/EMPs, which is scheduled to be conducted as per below mentioned details:

Name of Agency	Area	Location of minor mineral area / Coordinates	Name of Village/Tehsil / District	Location of public hearing Venue (Date and Time)
Sh. Rakesh Kumar Choudhary S/o Shri Kousla Ram, R/o S-1-B/D, Gandhi Nagar (J&K)	9.37 Hect.	Block-21 having an area 9.37 ha. Ziarat Syed Rehmatullah Nazneenpora upstream nallah Rambura, Distt. Shopian. Coordinates:- A 33°46'04.89" -N 74°52'15.11" -E to E 33°45'58.87" -N 74°52'18.97" -E	VIII.: Ziarat Syed Rehmatullah Nazneenpora. Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date: 31-03-2021. Time: 10.30 am to 12.00 noon. At village: Chitragam Distt.: Shopian (J&K)
Sh. Sahib Singh S/o Shri Parag Singh, R/o Ferozpur, Kalan, Tehsil Pathankot Baheri Bazarg, District Gurdaspur, Punjab	9.43 Hect.	Block-27 having an area 9.43 ha., Army camp Aghama downstream nallah Rambura, Distt. Shopian. Coordinates:- A 33°47'08.12" -N 74°54'11.15" -E to D 33°46'54.62" -N 74°54'15.43" -E	VIII.: Aghama, Chitragam. Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date: 31-03-2021. Time: 12.00 noon to 01.30 pm. At village: Chitragam Distt.: Shopian (J&K)
Sh. Rakesh Kumar Choudhary S/o Shri Kousla Ram, R/o S-1-B/D, Gandhi Nagar (J&K)	9.90 Hect.	Block-34 having an area 9.90 ha. H/O Abdul Gaffar Bhat Sugan, upstream Rambura nallah, Distt. Shopian Coordinates:- A 33°47'34.66" -N 74°57'01.87" -E to D 33°47'41.87" -N 74°56'58.65" -E	VIII.: Abdul Gaffar Bhat Sugan. Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date: 31-03-2021. Time: 02.00 pm to 03.30 pm. At village: Chitragam Distt.: Shopian (J&K)
Sh. Brinder Singh S/o Shri Keemat Lal, R/o Near Chib Resort, Raipur Sattwari, Jammu	9.81 Hect.	Block-35 having an area 9.81 ha. Ab. Gaffar Bhat Sugan, downstream Rambura Nallah Distt. Shopian. Coordinates:- A 33°47'34.62" -N 74°57'04.23" -E to D 33°47'42.72" -N 74°57'01.27" -E	VIII.: Abdul Gaffar Bhat Sugan. Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date: 31-03-2021. Time: 03.30 pm to 05.00 pm At village: Chitragam Distt.: Shopian (J&K)

The Executive Summary of EIAs and draft EMPs in English and Urdu of the above proposed mining blocks are available in the website of JKPCB i.e. [www.jkspcb.nic.in](http://www.jkspcb.nic.in) as well as in the following offices:

- The Commissioner / Secretary to Govt. Forests, Ecology & Environment Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
- Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India Northern, Regional Office, Chandigarh.
- Director, Ecology Environment & Remote Sensing / Member Secretary, JKEIAA Paryavaran Bhawan, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu (J&K).
- Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Board, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.
- Deputy Commissioner, District Shopian, Kashmir (J&K).
- Regional Director, Pollution Control Board, Sheikh-ul-Alam Campus, Rajbagh Srinagar, Kashmir (J&K).
- Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Board, Shopian.
- District Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining Department, Shopian.

All concerned are hereby informed through this notice to send their suggestions / written objections or comments on or before 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 2021 addressed to Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Board, Parivash Bhawan, Gladni, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu (09.30 AM to 05.30 PM) on any working day or by email [membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com](mailto:membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com)

The panel for conducting public hearing shall be as under:

- District Magistrate, Shopian, J&K or his representatives not below the rank of Addl. District Magistrate.
- Regional Director, JK Pollution Control Board, Rajbagh Srinagar, Kashmir) or his authorized representative.
- District Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining Department, Shopian.

All interested persons/organizations/groups/stakeholders are invited to participate in the above mentioned Public Hearing on the aforementioned date, venue and time and give their suggestions, view/comments and objections, if any, to the authorities, conducting the Public Hearing.

Any person having interest in this public hearing can also have access to the Executive Summary of EIAs from Office of District Pollution Control Board, Shopian.

DIPK-NB-6094/20

(B.M. Sharma) JFS  
Member Secretary  
JKPCB, Jammu



## JKI To Make Awareness About Its Outlets For Customers Benefits

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities have decided to make awareness about outlets of Jammu Kashmir Industries Limited so that customers get benefitted by purchasing well quality products.

An official said that Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce Ranjan Prakash Thakur, IRTS has directed officials to make awareness about outlets of Jammu Kashmir Industries Ltd.

"These outlets guarantee the customers about the genuineness of the products being sold and efforts need to be made to generate the awareness about them so that the footfall of these outlets increases," Thakur has directed officials.

In December last year, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the "Experience Centre cum Sales Outlet" of Jammu Kashmir Industries (JKI) Ltd worth Rs 6.50 crores, at Shaheedi Chowk, Residency road.

The LG has stressed to formulate a viable marketing strategy and to open sale outlets outside Jammu and Kashmir. He directed for constituting a three members committee to finalise Brand names of silk and woollen products by organising a public competition to get suggestions for the brand names.

He has also directed JKI authorities to make awareness about its

outlets so people get better quality products.

Thakur, who recently took over as Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce J&K, also visited the JK Bazaar outlet of Jammu Kashmir Industries Ltd at JK House Prithvi Road New Delhi along with Additional Resident Commissioner on Wednesday.

During his visit he was informed that the centre has been developed to exhibit the rich crafts and cuisine of J&K especially the Handicrafts Handlooms Silk and Wool Products. Further the products made in the various craft clusters in J&K which are being developed under the World Bank funded Jehlum Tawi Flood Recovery Project are also being exhibited at the outlet.

Principal Secretary I&C appreciated the designs and products especially the waistcoats and coats which have been manufactured at the various units of JKI. Later, he also visited the Handicraft emporium located at Baba Kharak Singh Marg to assess the working of the said outlet.

During his interaction with the employees he assured them that their issues would be looked into and resolved at the earliest. He also visited the Liaison office cum display centre of JKI located at Baba Kharak Singh Marg which is being renovated and the work is expected to be completed very soon. (KINS)

## Dir Agri Reviews Financial Progress Under CAPEX/CSS



Observer News service

**SRINAGAR:** The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal on Wednesday chaired a meeting of all divisional Heads and Chief Agriculture Officers of Kashmir division at Lalmandi, here.

During the meeting, the Director took a detailed review of physical/financial progress report under CAPEX/CSS (02-2021), major physical achievements, details of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs)/Farm Machinery Banks, status of DBT, progress on basic data survey, status of KCC/

PM- Kisan/PM-KMY Schemes, progress under Soil Health Card Scheme, status of registration of FPOs and PM-Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises PM (FME).

The Director on the occasion directed the concerned officers to speed up the execution of the works and complete the targets within stipulated time frame. He also laid special emphasis on the progress on different CSSs and projects being implemented.

In order to make Farm Machinery available within the reach of small and marginal farmer's collective ownership, custom hiring centers

are being promoted in a big way.

It was informed that during the current year 2020-21 the department is already in a process to provide 67 CHCs throughout the valley under Submission of Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM).

Director stressed upon the officers to register maximum no of FPOs and FIGs as these groups will prove to be beneficial for strengthening rural economy. He said these groups will not only help in strong marketing linkage, but also create new avenues for the development of the farm sector.

## Government May Cut Excise Duty On Petrol, Diesel By Rs 8.5 Per Litre Without Hurting Revenues



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government has room to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by up to Rs 8.5 per litre without impacting its target for revenue from the tax on the two fuels, analysts said. Petrol and diesel prices hover at a historic high following a relentless increase in rates over the past nine months.

There have been calls by opposition parties as well as sections of society to the government to reduce excise duty to ease consumer pain. "We estimate excise duty on auto fuels in FY22 (April 2021 to March 2022), if it is not cut, at Rs 4.35 lakh crore versus budget estimate of Rs 3.2 lakh crore. Thus, even if excise duty is cut by Rs 8.5 per litre on or before April 1, 2021, FY22E budget estimate can be met," ICICI Securities said in a note.

It expressed optimism for an excise duty cut given demand recovery, impending privatisation and inflation concerns but expected it to be more modest than Rs 8.5 a litre. Excise duty was raised by Rs 13 and Rs 16 per litre on petrol and diesel between March 2020 and May 2020, and now stands at Rs 31.8 on diesel and Rs 32.9 per litre on petrol.

The increase in excise duty was to mop up gains arising from international crude oil prices falling to a two-decade low. But, with oil

prices recovering, it has not yet restored the taxes to their original levels. "If the cut is more modest, which we expect, FY22 excise duty will be higher than the budget estimate," ICICI Securities said.

Central and state taxes make up for 60 per cent of the retail selling price of petrol and over 54 per cent of diesel. Petrol is priced at Rs 91.17 per litre in Delhi and diesel comes for Rs 81.47. The rates of regular petrol had last month crossed the Rs 100-mark at a few places in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, which levy the highest value-added tax (VAT) on the fuel in the country.

Between November 2014 and January 2016, the government had raised excise duty on petrol and diesel on nine occasions to take away gains arising from plummeting global oil prices.

In all, duty on petrol rate was hiked by Rs 11.77 per litre and that on diesel by 13.47 a litre in those 15 months that helped the government's excise mop-up more than double to Rs 2,42,000 crore in 2016-17, from Rs 99,000 crore in 2014-15.

The government had cut excise duty by Rs 2 in October 2017, and by Rs 1.50 a year later. But, it raised excise duty by Rs 2 per litre in July 2019. It again raised excise duty on March 2020, by Rs 3 per litre each. In May that year, the government hiked excise duty on petrol by Rs 10 per litre and that on diesel by Rs 13 a litre.

## PayPal To Hire Over 1,000 Engineers For India Development Centres In 2021

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Digital payments major PayPal on Wednesday said it will hire 1,000 engineers this year for its India development centres across Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad.

PayPal will hire 1,000 engineers for the development centres in these three cities over the course of the year across software, product development, data science, risk analytics and business analytics streams at entry, mid-level, and senior roles, a statement said.

The India Technology Centres currently employs over 4,500 people

across the three centres. PayPal India has also announced its plans for campus hires from top engineering colleges across India. The company highlighted that the pandemic has accelerated the shift towards digital payments and highlighted the benefits of adopting a digital first approach.

PayPal's products and services have become even more relevant now and hence, the need to focus on technology innovation across AI/ML, Data Science, Risk and Security, Customer Experience and other key areas, it said.

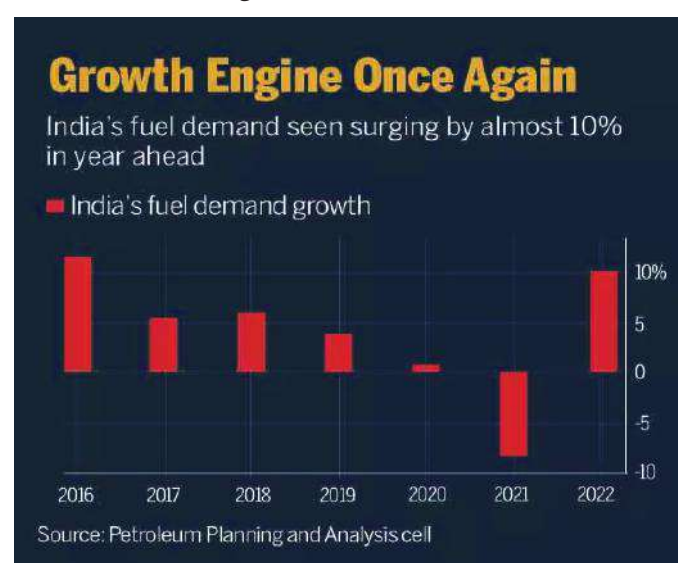
"Our India Technology Centres are the largest for PayPal outside of the US and play a pivotal role in enabling

us to constantly innovate and remain ahead of the curve," Guru Bhat, VP Omni Channel & Customer Success, GM, PayPal India, said.

He added that as digital payments move from a nice-to-have to an essential service, the company is focused on investing in and nurturing world-class technology talent to continue to offer products and services that meet the needs of its growing base of consumers and merchants.

Last month, PayPal said it will stop offering domestic payment services within India from April 1, and instead focus on enabling more international sales for Indian businesses.

## India Set For Record Oil Demand On Recovery From Covid Washout



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** India, once the center of global oil demand growth, expects its fuel consumption to bounce back during the coming year as the nation recoups the losses caused by Covid-19.

Demand for gasoline, diesel and other fuels will reach a record 215.24 million tons in the 12 months through March 2022, according to estimates by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of the oil ministry. That's almost a 10% rebound from the current year, which has been hit hard by the virus.

At one stage last year, India's fuel consumption plunged by as much as 70%, led by the world's biggest lockdown. The measures forced a sharp reduction in crude processing and imports, and helped drive a slump in international oil prices.

On Thursday, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and allied nations will discuss

how much crude to pump, and India is urging them to open the taps.

The world's No. 3 oil importer and consumer expects strong demand for transport and industrial fuels to drive next year's rebound.

Consumption of diesel -- an economic barometer and the country's most-used fuel -- will grow by more than 13%, as will demand for gasoline. Overall fuel demand in the current financial year, which runs to March 31, is expected to fall 8.5%.

India's economy pulled itself out of recession last quarter, helped by a boost in government spending and the reopening of an economy that's mainly driven by domestic consumption. It was one of the few major economies to post growth in the final three months of 2020. A trend for more commuters to use personal cars -- instead of buses, trains and other modes of public transport -- is expected to drive India's demand for gasoline.

## Sugar Output Jumps 20% In October-February, Few Mills Close Early: Report

**MUMBAI:** Indian sugar mills' output rose by a fifth to 23.38 million tonnes in the first five months of the 2020-21 marketing year from a year earlier, while a few mills closed operations ahead of normal schedule, a trade body said on Wednesday.

The country is the world's second biggest sugar producer and the higher output could weigh on global prices. In the current marketing year that begun on October 1, 502 sugar mills have started operations, but 98 mills stopped crushing by February end, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said in a statement.

Around 70 mills had stopped crushing by February end last year. Maharashtra, the country's second biggest sugar producing state, churned out 8.5 million tonnes of sugar in the first five months of the



season, compared to 5.07 million tonnes a year ago, ISMA said.

Mills have contracted to export 3.2 million tonnes of sugar so far in the current marketing year, but shipments are slowed by shortage of trucks and containers as well as

adequate availability of vessels at the ports, the trade body said.

Logistical bottlenecks could trim India's sugar exports by 12% to 5 million tonnes in the current marketing year, industry officials told Reuters last week.

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# A Calligraphy Artist, a Fashion Designer and How to be a Woman Entrepreneur in Kashmir

KAISER ANDRABI

Every morning 25-year-old Mehvish Dilbar from Srinagar opens a drawer of her cupboard, fetches a box filled with a variety of colors and brushes, places them next to the canvas pinned on cardboard, and calligraph the letters from the Quran.

"Calligraphy is the peace of my mind and it refreshes my soul," she says gently.

The vibrant Dilbar is a young woman from Kashmir who started calligraphy to make a living during the pandemic. Her interest in calligraphy developed last April when Covid-19 lockdown was imposed across the country. An artist since school days, Dilbar tried her hand in calligraphy too. In May 2019, she uploaded her first work on Twitter which was warmly appreciated by netizens. Soon, people started texting her for orders.

"I opened an Instagram page for my work and within months, my page received a good response," says Dilbar. "I am not taking orders on a regular basis but still I earn more than 6000- 8000 in a month from it".

It takes her almost two to three hours to complete one frame. "I have to draw the outline, then I have to color the background and finally I need to draw strokes with multiple brushes on the canvas to make it attractive for the customers," Dilbar tells News18.

Compared to market rates for calligraphy, the artist has kept her pricing low in order to strengthen her customer base in and outside the valley.

Like hundreds of young women entrepreneurs from Kashmir as well as other states, however, Dilbar soon began to face trolling and negativity from netizens after just a few months of success in the field.

"I was new in the online business and many people took advantage of it. Many times, people used to place the order and then disappear which resulted in loss of my material and energy," Dilbar recalls.

Not just pranks and fake orders, Dilbar also received unwanted and sexist texts asking her about her gender. The constant online heckling took a toll on her mental health. She eventually ended up deleting her page in fear.

Although she still receives orders from customers on her personal account, Dilbar says she is planning to reopen her public page with and feels confident that this time would be different.

Like Dilbar, 28-year-old Iqra Ahmed is an inspiration for young men and women entrepreneurs of Kashmir. She was the first to start an online clothing store in the Valley in 2015 and in a short period, she gained popularity and success in the



market.

Ahmad has always dreamed of becoming a fashion designer and work for preserving traditional and cultural Kashmiri attire and fashion. After completing her Masters in Linguistics from the University of Kashmir, the young artist stepped into the entrepreneurial field in 2015 via an Instagram page named "Palav", which literally means clothes in the Kashmiri language.

Ahmad has grown up with a love for Kashmiri culture which she acquired from the stories of her 66-year-old father, Hakeem Javaid, which has fuelled her passion for traditional Kashmiri clothes.

while pursuing her master's in 2014, she started experimenting with new designs that she learned by herself, on her own clothes. Her experiments won her compliments from her close friends and motivated her to convert her hobby into her profession.

After completing her degree, even as Digital India thrived, Ahmad's business, mostly through Instagram also thrived and started receiving a warm response from customers. "Back in 2015, the culture of online business was limited in the Valley and there were many stores with the name Palav," she said.

"So, in spring 2016, I changed my business's name to Tul Palav (pick clothes)." Backed by her family's unconditional belief in her vision, Ahmad started picking trends from western clothing fashion and

implemented it on the traditional pherans, suits, and shawls.

Frequent internet shutdowns

In August 2019, when internet services were suspended in the valley after the Indian government revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 360, online entrepreneurs like Ahmed faced severe losses. Not only did they lose connectivity with their customers from around the globe, but they also missed the season of weddings where for which many had stocked up a collection for customers. "We suffered huge losses after 2019's internet lockdown and then the pandemic added to the woes," Ahmad recalls.

"I created Instagram to connect to my customers. Luckily I managed to get thousands of customers from every corner of the world. Till August 2019, I had 50K followers on my verified page, but in one snap I lost my account while using a virtual private network (VPN) to access the internet," Ahmad added.

Even After four months of shutdown when internet services partially restored to 2G speed in Kashmir, social media sites were barred by the authorities to access. To access the sites, many in the valley like Ahmad opted for VPN services. In doing so, her account was hacked by a young boy in Turkey. "I tried every possible way to get my account back but all my attempts were in vain. The boy is currently selling socks from my account,"

said Ahmad.

She opened a new account and currently, Ahmad has nearly twenty-five thousand followers on her Instagram page, with a team of twelve people working with her – locals and non-locals. "Once an order is placed, I start working on it as per the requirements of my customers," Ahmad said. For her, the satisfaction of a customer comes first, and "if the customer feels unsatisfied, we take our products back." Six-years after establishment, Ahmad's Tul Palav business till pre-August had a turnout of 4,00,000 to 5,00,000 rupees per month.

"I never thought that I would become an entrepreneur," Ahmad said. "Social media helped me make my dream a reality, and I feel lucky that I can employ other people as well."

Like other online business ventures in the state, however, the long and untimely internet bans hit her business as well. "Internet ban is a big challenge for every online business," she said. "There were times when we lost our customers as we couldn't contact them online on time."

Recalling some of her online customers, the designer said, "A lot of people think that those who are doing business on Instagram are not professional and react very immaturity." Ahmad, however, never lets these things pull down the spirit of her team.

Initially, customized tilla pheran was her key product. With time, however, Ahmad has now started adding more features to the products. Today she has a variety of products to offer, including pure silk suits, bridal wear, pheran, casual-wear, shawls, and handicraft suits within the range of 5,000 to 40,000 INR.

"Tul Palav's motive is to design attractive garments and start a new trend in the market, while focusing on traditional craftsmanship," said Ahmad. "I started Tul Palav to preserve and sustain the Kashmiri culture while keeping a grip on new trends in fashion as well."

After four years of starting her venture during which Ahmad has worked hard with dedication to make her venture successful, Ahmad plans to open a physical store in the uptown area of Srinagar. She has even rented a store. But due to ensuing unrest since August 5, 2019, the store has been unable to properly launch.

"Business has immense scope in Kashmir especially for girls but what we lack is support and platform," she said. For her, if people take initiative and stand for what they believe in and "that will make anyone financially independent," said Ahmad.

## Bombay HC Asks Amazon to Take Down Film Over Use of Actor's Photo Without Consent

Press trust of india

**NEW DELHI:** The Bombay high court has directed the Amazon Prime Video platform to take down the Telugu film, V, until the makers of the film delete a scene in which an actor's photograph was allegedly used without prior permission.

Justice Gautam S. Patel on Tuesday heard a defamation suit filed by model and actor Sakshi Malik against Venkateshwara Creations Pvt Ltd for allegedly using her photograph without permission in their movie. The film released on Amazon on September 5, 2020.

LiveLaw has reported that that case dates back to 2017 when Malik commissioned a photographer to prepare her photo portfolio. The actor shared some of those photos on her Instagram account.

Malik's advocate Saveena Bedi said Venkateshwara Creations Pvt Ltd had used her photo without her permission in the film, representing her photo as that of a commercial sex worker in the story.

According to the suit, this was an unauthorised invasion of privacy and unauthorised use of private material.

"It seems to me self-evident that it is not possible to use the image of any person for a commercial purpose without express written consent. If images are to be used without such express consent, they must be covered by some sort of legally enforceable and tenable licensing regime, whether with or without royalty. Simply using another's image, and most especially a private image, without consent is prima facie impermissible, unlawful and entirely illegal. In a given case, it may also be defamatory, depending on the type of use," the court said.

The order copy was made available on Wednesday.

"The fact that the image has been illicitly used is bad enough. It only makes matters worse when used in a plainly derogatory and demeaning vein," Justice Patel said.

The court directed the OTT platform to take down the movie within 24 hours until the scene is deleted.

"It is not acceptable for them (movie's makers) to merely pixelate or blur the images. The entire sequence, which has the image of the plaintiff (Malik), is to be removed immediately," Justice Patel said.

Malik's advocate Bedi had argued that the actor has a huge fan following on social media and has also appeared in a few Bollywood songs.

Justice Patel in the order noted that the contentions raised by Malik and her lawyer were correct.

"Indeed, I do not believe there is any other way of looking at it," the order said.

The defendant claimed that they had contracted with an agency to procure the image and had assumed that prior approval would have been taken from the woman, whose photo was to be used.

The court, however, noted that this argument of the defendant seemed "less than compelling".

"Surely any right-thinking motion picture producer would have insisted on seeing an approval or consent by the model or person who is featured or to be featured," Justice Patel said, adding that this must be the standard procedure everywhere.

The court said once the defendant has made the necessary alteration and deletion, the same will have to be shown to Malik and her advocate.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## Petitioners Fail ....

Vishwa Guru India Vision of Sardar Patel. The petition also demanded that the Farooq Abdullah's membership of Parliament be declared null and void and sedition charges be slapped on him under Section 124-A of IPC.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Kishan and Hemant Gupta while dismissing the petition said that the petitioner failed to substantiate his allegation that Farooq Abdullah had sought help of China and Pakistan against India following abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019.

The petitioners were fined Rs 50000.

During a television interview in 2020, Farooq Abdullah had said he wished that with China's support, Article 370 of the Constitution, will be restored.

## Army Soldier ....

Rajouri Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital's Superintendent Dr Javaid Iqbal Choudhary told reporters that it appears to be a case of suicide.

The soldier fired few bullets on himself, one of which passed through his heart, he said.

Police registered a case and began an investigation, they said.

## LG Asks Forest ....

the country in 2006 but was not extended to Jammu and Kashmir."

"Forest dwellers in J&K have so far been deprived of their rights over the forest in accordance with the Act," the Lt governor said.

"Jammu and Kashmir is moving on the path of development and it is the responsibility of the Forest department to strike a balance and ensure that the fragile environment of the place, known as paradise on earth, does not suffer any harm," Sinha said.

Terming forest employees "heroes", the Lt governor said, "They are risking their lives to keep poachers, encroachers and land mafia at bay. They play an important role in the growing man-animal conflict and are also keeping forest fires in check."

"Your job is no less than of a soldier guarding the border or a policeman maintaining law and order. I salute your bravery and pay my tributes to those who have laid down their lives while discharging their duties," he said, and asked the Forest department to observe September 11 every year as a day to pay tributes to their martyrs.

Earlier, officials said around 100 forest employees have laid down their lives in the line of duty over the past three

decades.

## Social Cohesion ....

social cohesion and collective responsibility is the soul of our country; it is this creative movement that sowed the seeds of reformism in our country. Social work and the spirit of selfless service have been in our traditions and culture since ancient times, the Lt Governor maintained.

Terming social service as a part of life, the Lt Governor observed that through service to others, we can transform the life and society around us. Be it cleaning in Swatch Bharat Abhiyaan, becoming voice of the weak, caring for patients or supporting the marginalised groups, it all happens with the sense of service and social responsibility towards others", the Lt Governor maintained.

Congratulating the Vice Chancellor of Visva Bharati University, and President NAPSUI, for organising the three day-long event, the Lt Governor said that Vishwa Bharati's motto, 'The whole world is a house', inspires us to understand and live the philosophy of life expounded by venerable Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore for which he performed rigorous penance and hard work throughout his life. The tapobhoomi on which this program is being held is known for the works done for Village improvement, rural development, and the rise of our villages.

The Lt Governor called upon the professionals of all social works, to work together on literacy, health, sanitation, poverty, malnutrition, population, child labour, women empowerment, corruption, and drug abuse and wherever policy intervention is needed.

Social service is the real prayer and worship. The more you get absorbed in serving others, the closer you come to yourself. Strive with a goal-oriented approach for balanced, inclusive and sustainable development in every corner of the country along with socio-economic progress of all individuals, said the Lt Governor while addressing the young students.

Speaking on the contribution of great social reformers, the Lt Governor said that there have been many great social reformers in our country who influenced the philosophy of welfare and development in this country. Who can forget Raja Ram Mohan Roy's reforms, including women's education and widow marriage. Even today, there are problems in our society, which can be faced with social cohesion and collective responsibility, added the Lt Governor.

There is a need to work with harmony and public participation on how to use our strengths, how to bring positive

changes in the lives of others. In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, we have taken this public participation as a mass movement, taking education, health, and cleanliness campaigns to every panchayat and its positive results are visible, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said that our country has played a major role in countering the Corona Pandemic, and has led the entire world to fight it. "We are one of the leading countries in the management of Covid-19, we have created two vaccines not only for our own population, but we are sharing it with the whole humanity. In this way, we have discharged both individual social responsibility and global social responsibility", the Lt Governor remarked.

The Lt Governor praised the work done by Vishwa Bharati for social service. He said that following in the footsteps of Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore, in 1963, Visva Bharati started the first Bachelor's Degree in Social Work across the country, and in 1977 the Master's degree program began. Presently, under the leadership of Prof. Ashok Kumar Sarkar, Visva Bharati's Social Department is doing commendable work.

Regarding Visva-Bharati, Gurudev had rightly said that this Gurukul represents India, and that it has a wealth of ideas for everyone. Visva Bharati is a glimpse of the best culture of our country, and I am very happy that you are working for the spiritual transformation of students and awakening of the service, he added.

Concluding his valedictory address, the Lt Governor congratulated the organizing team and all participants of this conference. He hoped that the ideas emanating from this program will be shared with various stakeholders and reach the last person of the society.

Prof. Bidyut Chakrabarty, Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati University; Prof R P Dwivedi, President, NAPSUI, besides prominent personalities, experts, and scores of students from various fields attended the event in person and through virtual mode.

## Not A Cakewalk ....

It was January 2020, and Kashmir was still reeling under the previous year's communication blockade—imposed in the region in the run-up to the abrogation of Article 370.

"We started from a very small room in our kitchen garden," Shahid says. "The response was so overwhelming that in first two months we didn't get time to relax."

Everything was going fine until the outbreak of Covid-19 made their dream venture a shut shop.

But the duo didn't give up, waited for the right time, and resumed as soon as the lockdown thawed.

It's because of their resilience that they've today become 'sellers of hot cakes' in town. Be it designer cakes, marriage cakes, anniversary cakes, tea cakes or any other variety, the siblings make it sure to deliver it with style and substance. Apart from cakes, they're equally known for their cookies and different types of breads.

"The orders for the cakes come across the city," Sameer says. "We also take bulk orders and provide dessert for weddings."

"Price range of designer cakes depends upon the design and weight," Sameer, who manages the venture, continues. "We also take orders 3-4 days prior to delivery date."

Like Kashmir's other new-age self-starters—driven by the motto: "be employer, not employee"—Shahid and Sameer provide employment to at least 7 people and are planning to hire more in coming months.

Inside his manufacturing facility, Shahid credits his yesteryears' preparation for his present day enterprise.

"The concept of being a self-starter evolved during my college days only," he says. "I was always an active member of various business clubs and cultural committees. I guess that enterprising spirit helps you in the long run of your life."

Like many other Kashmiri boys, Shahid was also equally fascinated by cooking and baking and would try experimenting with things.

"This love for baking slowly grew stronger and it became my passion," the banker turned baker says. "But I never knew that one day I will make profession out of pie."

## CBI Arrests....

received Rs 10,000, the CBI alleged in the FIR.

After getting the complaint, the agency laid a trap around the place where remaining bribe was scheduled to be received.

"The CBI caught the patwari red handed while demanding and accepting the remaining bribe amount of Rs 13,000. Searches were conducted at the residence of accused which led to the recovery of incriminating documents," CBI Spokesperson RC Joshi said.

## 95 Traffic, 36 COTPA ....

Meanwhile, police urged the general public to follow the rules in letter and spirit. Persons found violating Government orders will be dealt as per law, police said.

## Block Diwas....

administration today to executing

agencies / departments for execution of various rural infrastructure works which included 150 Lakh to RDD for 43 works, 43 Lakh to power department for 6 sub-stations, 15 Lakh to Education and PHE for 3 works. All the works were earlier selected by concerned Panchayats and estimates prepared by departments.

DC Srinagar taking note of demands raised by Chairperson, Block Development Council, DDC Member and Panchayat heads sanctioned funds on account of snow clearance efforts of Panchayats , funds for hiring technical manpower at PHC as well as sports equipment.

He also appealed the Panchayats to propose setting up of Libraries at ward level after completion of ongoing initiative of one library in each panchayat, achieving universal enrolment Inder SEHAT scheme providing insurance cover for treatment cost upto Rs 5 Lakh, enrolment of youth for skill development initiatives, departmental schemes of farm related departments like Horticulture, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

He appreciated the efforts made by RDD, Horticulture and Agriculture in Harwan for supporting farmers to improve farm income and strive for more crop per hectare.

At Panzinar, DC Srinagar took note of issues arising out of jurisdictional issues related to Power, Water supply , Health and ICDS with adjoining districts for which matter was taken up to ensure participation of officers on regular basis.

He asked the BDC Chairperson, DDC members and PRLs to actively participate in planning process. Review of progress on Back to Village programme was also conducted and directions issued to departments for expediting same and enhancing scope under convergence.

Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Govt Medical College conducted an awareness session on COVID-19 vaccinations, importance of precautions and safety measures. Horticulture departments distributed saplings of various high yielding varieties of fruit crops meanwhile enrolment was done under different schemes.

BDO Khanmoh Iqra Syeed along with officers from various departments conducted the proceedings at Khanmoh.

Assistant Commissioner Development Bilal Mukhtar and District Panchayat Officer Kundanbir Kour organised the programme and conducted proceedings at Harwan and Panzinar meanwhile another programme was organised at Srinagar Hq.

Jt Director Planning Mohammad Yaseen Lone, SDM Harvinder Singh, senior officers from line departments and projects were also present.



## ICC T20I RANKINGS

## KL Rahul Retains Second Spot, Virat Kohli Climbs To 6th



## Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** India's KL Rahul maintained his second position while his captain Virat Kohli gained one spot to be at sixth in the latest ICC T20 International rankings for batsmen issued on Wednesday.

With 816 rating points, Rahul is behind England's Dawid Malan (915) who retained the top spot. Kohli has 697 points.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam (801) moved up one place to third while Australia's white-ball captain Aaron Finch (788) slipped to fourth place. South Africa's Van der Dussen (700) also moved up a place to be fifth in the list.

Players from New Zealand and Australia made significant gains in the rankings updated after the first two matches of the ongoing series between the two sides.

New Zealand left-hander Devon Conway's 99 not out in the Christchurch opener helped him gain 46 spots and reach 17th position after just eight matches,

while opener Martin Gupthill gained three slots to reach 11th position after his knock of 97 in Dunedin.

For Australia, Marcus Stoinis gained 77 places to be at 110th position while Matthew Wade moved to 118th spot.

Among the bowlers, there has been no change in the top five with Afghanistan's Rashid Khan (736) leading the chart.

South African Tabraiz Shamsi (733), Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman (730), England's Adil Rashid (700) and Australia's Adam Zampa (676) all held their position in the top five.

No Indian featured in the top-10 among bowlers.

New Zealand's Tim Southee (up one place to sixth), Mitchell Santner (up two places to seventh), Ish Sodhi (up three places to 11th) and Trent Boult (up 24 places to 49th) also progressed in the bowlers' list.

Australia's Jhye Richardson has re-entered the list at 115th

## Advisor Farooq Khan Expresses Gratitude For Making 2nd Khelo India Winter Games A Grand Success

## Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Farooq Khan on Wednesday expressed his gratitude for making the second National Khelo India Winter Games, organised by Union Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with J&K Sports Council and J&K Winter Games Association, a grand success.

The event was held at Gulmarg and took place between 26th of February to 2nd March, 2021.

The Advisor also thanked the participants and sports organisations and associations who participated in the games and made it a mega sports event.

More than 1200 players from 27 states and UTs participated in the

second National Khelo India Winter Games, he added.

The Advisor said that it is a step towards making India's presence felt in the International Winter Games arena and also make J&K a hub of winter sports.

The Advisor also appreciated the efforts put by all the concerned agencies and departments for timely completion of the arrangements. He specifically thanked the players and people of Kashmir for their unconditional support and endless endeavours for making this sports event a landmark in sports history.

The agencies and departments which were involved and put their efforts in making the second National Khelo India Winter Games

a grand success included Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, JK Tourism, PDD, Health Department, JK Police and other Security agencies, as well as, Gulmarg Development Authority, Hoteliers Association Gulmarg, Traffic Police, Print and Electronic media, Sports Authority of India, High Altitude Warfare School, among others.

He also thanked Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and DC Baramulla who worked round the clock for successful arrangements needed to be made for the event.

The sports events were organised in many games which included Snow Shoe Race, Ice Skating, Ice Hockey, Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Snowboarding Ski Mountaineering and others.

## 'There Is Too Much Noise About Spin-Friendly Tracks,' Says Virat Kohli

## Press Trust of India

**AHMEDABAD:** Stop the noise, tighten up that defence and get on with the game -- a combative Indian skipper Virat Kohli said on Wednesday ahead of the fourth and final Test against England as he navigated persistent queries on the spin-friendly tracks in the country.

India annihilated England inside two days in the Pink-ball Test at Narendra Modi Stadium, Motera, days after the visitors crumbled on another spin-assisting pitch in Chennai in the second Test.

England managed 112 and 81 in the Ahmedabad Test after scoring 134 and 164 in Chennai as Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel tormented them in turns.

"There is always too much noise and too much conversation about spin tactics," Kohli said at the pre-match press conference ahead of the fourth and final Test starting here on Thursday.

"I am sure if our media is in a space to contradict those views or present views which say that it is unfair to criticise only spin tracks, then it will be a balanced conversation."

Kohli, at the end of the third Test, had blamed the batsmen's technique for their failure on the Motera track.

"But the unfortunate bit is everyone plays along with that narrative (spinning tracks) and keeps making it news till the time it is relevant. And then a Test match happens, if you win on day 4 or 5, no one says anything but if it finishes in two days, everyone pounces on the same issue," he said.

When asked what he thought were the skills required to survive on such challenging spin tracks, Kohli emphasised on having a solid defence, which, he believes, is not the strongest anymore thanks to shorter formats.



"Defence is imperative. Because of influence of white-ball cricket, Test cricket is witnessing consistent results but it is just a by-product in reference to batting that the defence part of the batting is being compromised," he said.

"That grind of playing four-five sessions is not the focus these days and everybody wants to put on 300-350 runs on the board quickly. Probably people are not focussing on defence, they have to switch to other formats, so the game is fast paced."

"So definitely the skill is required and it's not just the sweep shot. For me it's defence. This aspect of batting has gone back a bit."

Kohli cited one of India's losses in New Zealand when the team struggled on a seaming pitch. He recalled how it was the batsmen's technique, and not the track, that came in for scrutiny.

"We lost in New Zealand on day three in 36 overs. I am sure none of our people wrote about the pitch. It was how India played badly in New Zealand."

"None of the pitches were criticised, no one came and saw how the pitch was doing, how much the ball was moving and how much grass was there on the pitch," he said.

Kohli said his team has been successful over a period of time for adapting to conditions instead of complaining about them.

"The reason for our success is

that we have not cribbed about any pitch we have played on and we will continue to play like that.

"We all need to be honest with ourselves what is the idea behind continuing this narrative and what purpose it serves people who keep continuing the conversation which is one-sided," he said.

Now that the contest will be played with the red ball, he was asked if the pink ball made it tough for the batsmen, Kohli retorted with a firm no.

"I don't understand why a ball or a pitch, all these things are brought into focus why don't we focus on the fact that batsmen were not skilled enough to play on that pitch properly. It was bizarre display of batting by both the teams."

"...it's not (because) of change in ball-colour. It's still round, still weighs five-and-a-half ounce, so I don't know what difference it makes suddenly. The surface was different in Chennai. This track (Motera) in general had more pace and that's the result of the clay laid on the pitch."

"If you make just a ball or a pitch helping the bowler, the focus, then you are not really reading the game properly in my opinion. I don't think the red ball is going to change that whatsoever."

Kohli was also asked if it is good for the game, from a global fans' perspective, to take undue advantage of home conditions.

"I would love if you ask this question to England, New Zealand and Australia. This question is irrelevant to me at this point of time."

Another question thrown at him was what he thought of a Test match finishing inside two days.

"We play to win. People should cherish India's win. Not every Test is finishing in two days. If team is playing bad only then it happens, we need to look at things objectively."

## Agar Takes 6, Finch Finds Form As Australia Defeat New Zealand In 3rd T20

## Agencies

**WELLINGTON:** Glenn Maxwell dashed 70 from 31 balls, Aaron Finch returned to form with 69 and Ashton Agar took a career-best 6-30 as Australia beat New Zealand by 64 runs in the third Twenty20 international on Wednesday to keep the five-match series alive.

Maxwell reached a half century from 25 balls during an over in which he hit 28 runs -- two sixes and four fours -- from the bowling of Jimmy Neesham. At its end, his innings included eight fours and five sixes and set Australia on course to its commanding total of 208-4.

Tall Tasmania fast bowler Riley Meredith took 2-24 in his international debut, then Agar claimed six wickets in succession to stifle New Zealand's reply. The home team was bowled out for 144 in 17.1 overs.

Meredith dismissed Tim Seifert (4) in his first over and claimed the prized wicket of New Zealand captain Kane Williamson (9) in his second to put New Zealand under pressure early.

Agar first dismissed Devon Conway (38), then took the wickets of Glenn Phillips (13), Neesham (0) and Tim Southee (5) in the space of five deliveries, suppressing New Zealand's dangerous lower middle order. He removed Mark Chapman (18) and Kyle Jamieson (11) to snuff out any chance of a late rally and achieve his second five-wicket bag in T20 internationals.

"It's always good to get wickets, particularly when you go wicketless in the first two (matches)," Agar said. "But when you have 200 on the board it makes my job a lot easier."

"The boys bowled beautifully up front and I was lucky to have a great team around me."

Finch rediscovered his form after a lean Big Bash season and after making only 12 and 1 in the

first two matches of the current series which New Zealand won by 53 runs and four runs, respectively. His 69 in partnerships of 83 with Josh Philippe (43) and 64 with Maxwell set a strong foundation for Australia's innings.

Finch survived two confident lbw appeals in the first over, then hit his stride, striking the ball powerfully down the ground and over the leg side to reach his half century from 34 balls with a six from a free hit off Ish Sodhi.

His partnership with Philippe gave Australia a strong tempo which saw it reach 38 after five over and 89 at the mid-point of its innings.

Philippe, who made 2 on debut in Christchurch, followed his 45 in Dunedin with another impressive innings of 43 from 27 balls.

Maxwell took the tempo from new heights, using an impressive array of shots both orthodox and unorthodox. He used ramp shots to take advantage of vacant third man or simply muscled the ball over the large boundaries at Wellington's regional stadium where the match was played without spectators.

Maxwell said he struggled at first to get the pace of the pitch and took only three runs -- all singles -- from the first seven balls he faced before hitting his first boundary. From then on, boundaries came as a torrent, notably in the 17th over when he took the long handle to Neesham and went from 30 to 58.

His innings was full of improvisation and he even changed hands at one point.

"I wasn't doing much good right-handed so I thought I'd try left-handed," he said.

Maxwell was out to the last ball of the 18th over with Australia 194-4 and it didn't fully capitalize, adding only 14 runs from the last two overs.

## Giant-Slayer Deepak Kumar Answers His Parents' Queries On 'What Will You Gain From Boxing?'

## Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** "Padhai likhai kar lo, boxing se kya milega (What will you gain from boxing)?" Deepak Kumar distinctly remembers this question that his parents and grandmother had posed when he decided that he belonged in the ring back in 2008.

Ten years down the line, he was ready with his answers -- a national champion in 2018, a silver medalist in his maiden Asian Championship appearance in 2019 and last week, he stunned the reigning Olympic and world champion at one of the oldest and most prestigious events in Europe -- the Strandja Memorial in Bulgaria -- before securing a closely-fought silver.

"It was my chachaji (uncle) who felt I could be a boxer and don't ask me why, because I don't know. He wanted to be one but could not because there was nobody to guide him," the 23-year-old told PTI in an interview after landing back in the country.

The youngster hails from Haryana's Hisar -- the 'City of Steel' as they call it for being India's largest manufacturer of galvanised iron.

It also gave Indian boxing one of its most successful names in Vikas Krishan Yadav, a two-time Olympian, a world champion-

ship medalist and also an Asian Games champion.

Deepak is quite chuffed about the gradual strides he is taking towards "making it really big some day."

"Chachaji (Ravinder Kumar) had a friend circle which was closely linked to boxing and he kind of prodded me into taking up the sport and I liked it. I am the first sportsperson in my family, such a proud feeling. And Chachaji is getting to live his dream through me," he said.

A Naib Subedar in the Indian Army, Deepak recalled the time he brought up his interest in boxing with his home guard father and home maker mother.

"They wanted me to focus on education. They both said 'what will you gain from this?'...My grand mother joined in too but then my uncle persisted and so did I. Eventually, they all came around," he said.

"It's not that I had a rough upbringing, I was taken care of but I always wanted to be self-reliant and help my parents. So, in my early years, I used to do the job of collection for a friend's newspaper vending agency. No, I wasn't a vendor myself, I just sometimes went and did the collection of payments."

"It was like earning some pocket money to take care of some of my dietary needs," he recalled.

## No Fans From Abroad For Postponed Tokyo Olympics

## Agencies

**TOKYO:** The postponed Tokyo Olympics look like they will take place without any fans from abroad when they open in just under five months.

The Japanese newspaper Mainichi said on Wednesday the decision had been made to exclude foreign fans. It cited only unnamed sources involved in the discussions. It said a final decision would be made within the month.

In the current situation it is impossible to bring in foreign spectators, the newspaper said, citing an unnamed government official.

The report came just an hour before Tokyo organizers held five-party talks online with the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the central government of Japan.

Fans were reported to be a key part of the discussion and IOC President Thomas Bach hinted at hard choices to be made in com-

ments before the meeting.

We will focus on the essentials, Bach said before the meeting began without reporters present. That means mainly the competitions. This has to be the clear focus. In this respect we may have to set one or another priority."

The Olympics are to open on July 23. The exclusion of foreign fans has been almost a foregone conclusion with the games being held during a pandemic. The Japanese public has been openly opposed to the games, and one sticking point has been the risk presented by visitors entering the country. The other has been the soaring costs.

The games will involve 11,000 Olympic athletes, and later 4,400 Paralympians, and tens of thousands of coaches, judges, sponsors, media and VIPs. Bach said he was encouraged at the number of national Olympic committees that were getting athletes vaccinated. The IOC said it encourages vaccinations but will not require them.

## IND VS ENG 4TH TEST

## With World Test Championship Final In Sight, India Ready To Unleash On England

## Press Trust of India

**AHMEDABAD:** A ruthless India will not take their foot off the pedal while taking England for another "spin ride" in the high-stakes Test series finale starting Thursday, aiming to not just complete another dominant home performance but also realise their World Test Championship dreams.

Virat Kohli's men need at least a draw to maintain the current 2-1 scoreline to qualify for the Lord's final against New Zealand while England at best can heal Tim Paine's January scars by letting Australia a lucky passage to the summit clash with a win.

While a draw always seems a safe option in a game like this but Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri, with their attacking instincts, wouldn't like to play a defensive game which at times can be counter-productive.

India laid a venomous trap on the refurbished Motera and with the pink ball, demolished England inside two days, messing more with their minds than getting any tangible help from the track.

Axar Patel bowled ramrod straight and England had their heads "spinning" from the start. The play has worked well for the hosts since the second Test in Chennai.

Both Ajinkya Rahane and Zak Crawley felt that the track for the fourth Test looks "similar" to what they got in the previous two matches but the red ball which skids less off the surface compared to the pink one promises to make it a bet-



## TEAMS (FROM)

**INDIA:** Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant (wk), Washington Sundar, Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Mayank Agarwal, Hardik Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav, KL Rahul

**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.

ter contest between the two teams.

This is a Test match where England have little to gain save salvaging a bit of pride in a drawn series while India have everything to lose.

Despite being India's most prolific Test captain in terms of numbers, Kohli would be the first one to admit that he hasn't had the kind of success his illustrious predecessor Mahendra Singh Dhoni had with regards the ICC events.

While this is an ICC event of a different kind, no one more than Kohli would be itching for a course correction and build his own last-

ing legacy as a captain.

For that, he wouldn't pull back punches. And on another track that helps his 'snipers' Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin, Kohli would love to see an 'inflation' in their current cumulative tally of 42 wickets for the series.

With Indian spinners accounting for 49 of the 60 English wickets in the first three Tests, it was anybody's guess as how things will pan out in the final Test at the 'Narendra Modi Stadium'.

Kohli wouldn't have any complaints with his spinners, who have delivered what was expected of

them, but the batting has left a lot to be desired in the entire series. It's just that England have been worse in their last four innings.

But that is no sound explanation for Indian batsmen's failure to dominate the proceedings in their own backyard. Rohit Sharma's 296 runs in three games is 120 runs more than second best Ashwin (176 runs), who got a hundred on a difficult Chepaunk track.

Save Rohit, none of the Indian batsmen have felt too comfortable till now on the turners on offer.

Kohli, despite two fifties, hasn't



Caringly yours

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