



P3 CITY

**SRINAGAR ADMIN ORDERS ON-SPOT FINE FOR THOSE WITHOUT MASKS**

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday chaired a meeting of Administrative and Medical Officers of the district regarding the containment of Covid 19...

P5 THINK

**BADAM VAER: ALMONDS & AURA**

The other day I cannot believe that after 14 years I am finally back and trying to settle down at my native place. It was an amazing experience to see the better and bitter side of life. It provided me an opportunity to know the world far and beyond. I cherished every...



P7 STATE

**KASHMIR SIKH BODY DEMANDS FRESH PROBE INTO CHATTISINGHPORA MASSACRE**

All Party Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) Saturday, on the eve of the Chattisinghpore massacre anniversary, urged the government to conduct a fresh...

**Widom Quote!**

The brightest light casts the darkest shadow  
—Jess C. Scott

**NEWS DIGEST****CBI Raids Petrol Pumps In Bandipora**

SRINAGAR: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday raided two petrol stations located in two different villages of North Kashmir's Bandipora district following complaints about irregularity in the volume. Sources said that sleuths of CBI accompanied by local police raided two petrol stations located in Pushwari and Markundal villages of Sumbal. **» More On P6**

**Canines Injure Minor In Qazigund**

SRINAGAR: A two-year-old boy was on Saturday injured after he was attacked by the stray dogs at Y K Pora village of Qazigund in South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Officials said that the stray dogs pounced upon a child identified as Salam Ahmad Bhat, son of Roaaf Ahmad Bhat of Y K Pora, Qazigund, resulting in critical injuries to the boy. The dogs, they said, dragged the child but the **» More On P6**

**Man Killed In Head-on Collision**

SRINAGAR: One person was killed and two others sustained injuries in a road mishap at Nanil Akura area in south-Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday. Reports said that the accident happened when a load carrier and bike collided, resulting in on-spot death of a person and injuries to two others. The deceased has been identified as Ghulam Mohammed Paray son of Ghulam Nabi Paray (56), a resident of Nanil and the injured as Abdul Rasheed and Sadiqa (minor) **» More On P6**

**Charges Filed Against 8 'Fraudsters'**

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday filed a preliminary charge sheet against eight people running a private company here over their alleged involvement in illegally receiving cash deposits from the general public. The case was registered in 2017 after Deputy General Manager, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), A K Mattu sought a discreet inquiry into the **» More On P6**

**SMC Shifts Four Enforcement Officers**

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation on Saturday transferred four of its Enforcement Officers and posted them as Zonal Sanitation Officers respectively. According to an order issued by SMC, four enforcement officers, Urfan Hussain Mir, Incharge Enforcement officer East, Mehraj ud din Chowdhry, I/C Enforcement officer Central/North, Mujeeb Hussain, I/C Enforcement officer South, Mohammad Yousuf Qazi, **» More On P6**

**MeT Dept Issues Weather Warning For J&K****Heavy Rainfall, Snow Likely To Disrupt Traffic, Trigger Landslides****Observer Monitoring Desk**

**SRINAGAR:** The Meteorological Department on Saturday issued 'yellow' warning forecasting heavy rain and snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh regions from March 21 which could lead to traffic disruption on the highways and trigger landslides and shooting stones, besides dipping the day temperature sharply.

In an advisory issued here on Saturday, Deputy Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that in quick succession, two Western Disturbances (WDs) are most likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas from March 21 (afternoon). "Under the influence of these weather systems, widespread moderate rain/snow is expected in Jammu, Kashmir and light rain/snow at a few places of Ladakh region on



March 21," reads the advisory. It adds that another WD mostly likely to affect J&K and neighbourhood from March 22 afternoon, will peak intensity during 22 and 23 night. It will gradually decrease thereafter.

"This may lead to temporary disruption of surface traffic mainly on Jammu-Srinagar, Srinagar-Leh, Mughal Road and other major roads. Landslides and shooting stones in vulnerable spots of Jammu-Srinagar, Srinagar-Leh highways. Temporary water logging in low lying areas," the advisory reads.

It also urges suspension and avoiding agricultural and horticultural operations besides draining out excess water. "Dip in day temperature expected," the advisory said. There are four types colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no action, yellow—situation to be **» More On P6**

**Imran Khan Tests Covid-19 Positive Modi Wishes Him Speedy Recovery****Press Trust Of India**

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday tested positive for the COVID-19 and is self-isolating at home, his top aide on health announced, two days after he got the first shot of a vaccine.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Faisal Sultan took to Twitter to confirm that Khan, 68, has contracted the coronavirus on a day when the country registered the highest number of COVID-19 cases since July last year. Khan was vaccinated on Thursday as part of the nationwide anti-coronavirus vaccination campaign which is underway in its first phase.

Khan is reported to have received the first shot of the Chinese-produced Sinopharm vaccine, the only anti-COVID jab available in Pakistan. PM Imran Khan has tested **» More On P6**

**New Power Curtailment Schedule Soon****Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** The power curtailment schedule in the Valley would likely be changed by the end of this month while the officials concerned stated that the summer would be free of curtailments in Kashmir.

Chief Engineer of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Aijaz Ahmad Dar said that the schedule would be changed soon after the fresh weather advisory issued by the concerned department will end. He said that **» More On P6**

**After Go Air, Indigo Starts Night Flight From Srinagar****Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** Indigo, a leading private airline on Saturday launched a night flight from Srinagar International Airport, a day after Go Air started first ever night flight service from the Valley.

"Today another successful trail flight was operated by Indigo



Airlines from Srinagar Airport to New Delhi and there will be no trail flights as of now, now the summer flight movement schedule will be according to the DGCA which is expected to come by next week," Director Airport Santosh Dhoke said.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir PK Pole said the flights operated from the Srinagar Airport were trial flights before **» More On P6**

**Pak Made Rifles Found in J&K: DGP****Press Trust Of India**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbagh Singh Saturday claimed that American assault rifle M4, which was among the seized weapons recently, was being illegally manufactured somewhere in Pakistan or Afghanistan.

He was giving details of the weapons which were smuggled in from Pakistan using drones and other means but



seized by state forces along the border during 2020.

"The weapons seized last

year was huge, incomparable to what we have seized in previous years. In all, there were 475 weapons seized last year. The number was not even half of this in 2019," the top cop of the union territory said.

He said among the recoveries were pistols, AK assault rifles, M4 rifles, narcotics and cash as well.

"M4 actually is an American rifle but there are duplicates manufactured **» More On P6**

**COVID-19 SURGE****Centre Asks J&K To Take 'Necessary Action'****Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** The government of India has asked Jammu and Kashmir administration to take necessary measures for creating awareness among people to follow COVID appropriate behaviour and take necessary action for its strict enforcement so as to fully overcome the covid-19 pandemic.

In this regard Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has written a letter to Chief Secretary J&K, inviting attention to January 27 order by MHA, delineating guidelines for surveillance, containment



and caution.

In terms of Guidelines, State/UT Governments have been mandated to take all necessary measures to promote COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and ensure

wearing of face masks, hand hygiene and social distancing.

Further, these measures on COVID appropriate behavior are also included in the National Directives **» More On P6**

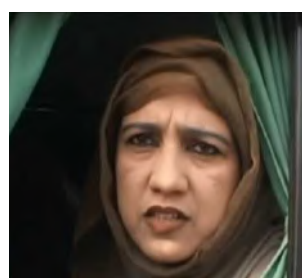
**140 New Covid Cases In J&K**

Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 140 new coronavirus cases, including 29 travellers, taking the tally to 1,28,389, while another person died from the pathogen, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 25 were from the Jammu division and 115 from the Kashmir division, they said. Srinagar district recorded the highest 73 cases, including 17 travellers, followed by 22 in Jammu district, 18 in Budgam and 14 Baramulla districts. In all, **» More On P6**

**Delhi Court Summons Shabir Shah's Wife In PMLA Case****Agencies**

New Delhi: The Delhi Court issued summons against Kashmir's separatist leader Shabir Shah's wife Dr Bilquies Shah while taking cognizance on a charge sheet in a money laundering case related to militant financing. He is currently lodged in Tihar jail under judicial custody.

According to the statement, Enforcement Directorate, in its supplementary charge sheet which was filed last year named Shabir Shah's wife Dr Bilquies Shah as a new accused in the case.



Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana on Saturday while takes cognizance on the charge sheet, issued a summons against Dr Bilquies Shah for her presence in the court on June 9 and also issued a production **» More On P6**

**GMCs To Start New PG Courses****Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** Signifying a major achievement for the healthcare department, new Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in Jammu and Kashmir have been accredited for Diplomate of National Board (DNB) courses in various departments, an official spokesman said on Saturday.

With this, the accredited institutions would get two PG candidates in the certified stream every year, the spokesman said.

Till now, 30 Super Specialty and Broad Specialty courses have been approved by the National Board of Examinations (NBE) which are likely to give 58 seats to the Union Territory.

In new GMCs, the spokesman said two **» More On P6**

**Charges Filed In Scholarship Scam****Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** The Crime Branch on Saturday produced preliminary charge sheet against a West Bengal resident who was arrested in connection with the whopping Rs 1.34 crore scholarship scam.

The charge sheet was produced before the Anti-corruption Court Srinagar against Selem Sheik of Malda, West Bengal, who is in custody of the Crime Branch since his arrest in January last month, an official said. The accused, he said, is involved in uploading fake application forms on National Scholarship Portal for Merit Cum Means Scholarship under Minority Quota for J&K students during the year 2018-19 for district Kulgam. Subsequently, fake verifications **» More On P6**

**'LURED FOR JOB' Inside Kashmir's Child Trafficking Network****Swati Joshi**

Rohan was brought to Kashmir with the promise of a high paying job. But little did he know that he would end up as a household worker in southern Kashmir's Pulwama area.

Before his unwitting valley visit, the minor was living in an ashram in Assam, where he used to work at weddings to earn his livelihood.

One day while returning from a wedding at night, he met a person who asked him if he wanted to earn more money. Rohan who had no one in his family except his little sister decided to go with the man in search of work.

Exhausted by the work, he slept

on the train, unknown of the place the man was taking him. When he woke up he was on his way to Jammu.

"Rohan was brought to Pulwama through a consultancy firm who told us that he was an adult," said Tawseef Ahmad Ganai, a member of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Pulwama.

When Ganai got information about Rohan, he alerted the District Child Protection Unit (DCPO) who gave the boy's custody to the CWC.

On examination, it was found out that Rohan was a student of 8th class, when brought to Kashmir—"meaning that he was around 13 years old," said Ganai.

The consultancy firm was given a

warning and since then it is under the scanner of the CWC, Ganai told Kashmir Observer.

People believe that there is no human trafficking in Jammu & Kashmir, but they're wrong, said Mohammad Sharif Bhat, J&K and Ladakh head of NGO, Save the Children. "I've seen many people having minor non-Kashmiri servants in their homes," he said.

Three years ago, Bhat came across a minor girl from Kolkata who was found on a farm in northern Kashmir's Kupwara district. Alerted by the Information District Social Welfare Officer, the NGO soon rescued the traumatized kid.

"I took her to the hospital and informed the concerned **» More On P6**





### از نیابت چندوسه

عنوان: منقون : مھر ریشی خان و منیدہ بانو و شہم دھڑان ساکنہ چندوسه

برادر عطائی PSC

#### اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر PSC پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں پیواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن پہاڑی بولنے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے ساکن کی مہاند آمدنی 33912 ہے کہہ بذیل افتزاد پر مشقتل ہے

47 سال	RTO Emp	مہم ریشی خان
42	گھریلو کام	منیدہ بیگم
25	زیر تعلیم	ابرار امد
23	زیر تعلیم	بالا احمد
21	زیر تعلیم	نصیبہ بانو
20	زیر تعلیم	منیدہ بانو
17	زیر تعلیم	توین احمد
12	زیر تعلیم	شہم بانو

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تایب تحصیلدار **ajj**

### از نیابت چندوسه

عنوان: منقون : شاہد احمد و راشد احمد و ثناء بانو اولادان عدیل قدیر خان دھندڑ ساکنہ چندوسه برادر عطائی PSC

#### اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر PSC پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں پیواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن پہاڑی بولنے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے ساکن کی مہاند آمدنی 50061 ہے کہہ بذیل افتزاد پر مشقتل ہے

47 سال	ملازم	عدیل قدیر خان
43	گھریلو کام	خالدہ بیگم
20	زیر تعلیم	شاہد احمد
18	زیر تعلیم	راشد احمد
17	زیر تعلیم	ثناء بانو

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تایب تحصیلدار **ajj**

### از نیابت چندوسه

عنوان: منقون : عاشق حسین خان ڈھنڈو و مسرہ بیگم و مہک عاشق و قرت امین و حزیف ساکنہ چندوسه برادر عطائی PSC

#### اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر PSC پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں پیواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن پہاڑی بولنے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے ساکن کی مہاند آمدنی 10000 ہے کہہ بذیل افتزاد پر مشقتل ہے

35 سال	مزدوری	عاشق حسین خان
30	گھریلو کام	مسرہ بیگم
14	زیر تعلیم	مہک عاشق
12	زیر تعلیم	قرت امین
10	زیر تعلیم	حزیف احمد

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تایب تحصیلدار **ajj**

### OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Fayaz Ahmad Beigh S/o Bashir Ahmad Beigh R/o Balchipora Nowshera Srinagar (Transferor) of Alto 800 bearing registration No. JK01W-8363

chasis No: 507663 Engine No: 291217 Model 2014 in favour of Aadil Ahmad S/o Mohammad Iqbal Khan R/o Sadipora Sophina Kmr (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 8028  
Dated: 20/03/2021

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Gh Mohd Mir S/o Ab Wahab Mir R/o Umru Balchipora Sgr ( Transferor) and Shri Manzoor Ahmad Tali S/o Mohd Sultan Tali R/o Saderbal Hazratbal Sgr

(Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab route Permit No / 175/0 MB / EA Covering Vehicle No JK01G- 9574

Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer.

Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S \_Haji Pee Tpt Co Namely Zahoora Ahamd Mir

NO: JK/RTOK /8035  
Dated: 20/03/2021

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir



Government of Jammu & Kashmir,

## Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Tel:0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg@jktourism.or

Sub: - Application for registration of Hotels “The Sheen”, located at Sonamarg, Kashmir.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Tariq Ahmad Hafiz S/o Mr. Mohammad Maqbool Hafiz R/o Kangan, Ganderbal has approached this office for grant of registration for hotel under name and style “ The Sheen” situated at Sonmarg” with 26 rooms;

Whereas, the applicant has submitted documents viz. Sale deed of land, Land revenue documents, Building permission, NOC from Sonamarg Development Authority, NOC from Fire and Emergency Services, PHE, PDD, Character certificate of the applicant with Adhar card/PAN Card, and “Consent to operate” issued by JK PCB;

Whereas, the applicant has submitted latest revenue extract of land appurtenant and underneath hotel;

Whereas, the proposed hotel was inspection by the Committee of officers and it has been observed that hotel has been completed in all respects and all the facilities are available as per norms laid down under the Act;

Whereas, issuance of registration certificate for the hotel is purely for purpose of running operation management of the said hotel and do not confer any right of ownership upon the applicant on the hotel or land appurtenant;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 10 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012, before issuance of registration certificate in favour of Mr. Tariq Ahmad Hafiz S/o Mr. Mohammad Maqbool Hafiz R/o Kangan, Ganderbal, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond period of 07 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite documents.

Sd/-

Deputy Director Tourism,  
Registration

No: Reg/1277/1608/DTK

Dated: 18.03.2021

**DIPK-15322/20**

### از نیابت چندوسه

عنوان: منقون : مھر اشرف خان و مھم ایوب خان و راقب اشرف و عاقب اشرف و حسن اشرف ساکنہ چندوسه برادر عطائی PSC

#### اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر PSC پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں پیواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن پہاڑی بولنے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے ساکن کی مہاند آمدنی 14008 ہے کہہ بذیل افتزاد پر مشقتل ہے

50 سال	مزدوری	مھم اشرف خان
45	گھریلو کام	رفیقہ بیگم
20	مزدوری	راقب اشرف
18	مزدوری	عاقب اشرف
17	زیر تعلیم	حسن اشرف

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تایب تحصیلدار **ajj**

### از نیابت چندوسه

عنوان: منقون : صابر احمد و بابر احمد و نصیرین و انشاء اولادان میر احمد خان ساکنہ چندوسه برادر عطائی PSC

#### اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر PSC پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں پیواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن پہاڑی بولنے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے ساکن کی مہاند آمدنی 12000 ہے کہہ بذیل افتزاد پر مشقتل ہے

40 سال	مزدوری	منیر احمد خان
37	گھریلو کام	نصیرین بیگم
18	زیر تعلیم	صابر احمد
16	زیر تعلیم	بابر احمد
20	زیر تعلیم	انشاء بانو

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تایب تحصیلدار **ajj**

### از نیابت چندوسه

عنوان: منقون : بابر فیاض و فرحان فیاض و ستین فیاض اولادان فیاض احمد خان ساکنہ کنگرہ برادر عطائی PSC

#### اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر PSC پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں پیواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن پہاڑی بولنے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے ساکن کی مہاند آمدنی 44214 ہے کہہ بذیل افتزاد پر مشقتل ہے

52 سال	سرکاری ملازم	فیاض احمد خان
50	گھریلو کام	ربیعانہ بیگم
28	زیر تعلیم	بابر فیاض خان
27	زیر تعلیم	فرحان فیاض
20	زیر تعلیم	ستین فیاض

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تایب تحصیلدار **ajj**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name in School Records has been wrongly entered as Bushan Showkat while my Correct name is Bashan Showkat. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /Her objection in the Office of the Principal Government ML Boys Higher Secondary School Bijbehara Anantnag within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Name:- Bashan Showkat**  
**S/O Showkat Ahmad Dar**  
**R/O Kanlwan Bunspora Anantnag**

mja

### The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education Branch Office, Baramulla

#### NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is given is claiming to have lost his/her marks card/s with the following particulars issued by the J&K State Board Of School Education:-

Seerat Ali Father's Name Ali Mohd Malik R/o Nov-loori Sheraabad Pattan Baramulla  
Details Of Marks Certificate Lost  
Higher Secondary Examination Part-II ( class 12th)  
Roll No 3122503 year and Session Bi-Annual 2019  
D.O.B: 04-02-1985

The said candidate has applied for issuance of duplicate marks certificate/s in this office. Before the same is processed and issued to the candidate, any body having any objection in this regard may file the same in the Board Branch Office Magam within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, Besides the original marks card be treated as cancelled.

Sd/- Asstt. Secretary,  
Br. Office, Baramulla

bmg

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B CONSTRUCTION DIVISION NO.II, SGR.

#### FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**NIT No.197/CDII/18242-52 of 2020-21**

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees )	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	7	6
1.	<b>Fabrication of office/computer/work table station and providing and fixing of partition wall in the office of Chief Engineer PMGSY.</b>	1.12	200/-	10 Days	2059-M&R	DEE

Position of work: Available

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

1	<b>Date of Issue of Tender Notice</b>	
2	<b>Period of downloading of bidding documents</b>	19.03.2021 from 10.00 AM
3	<b>Bid submission Start Date</b>	19.03.2021 from 10.00 AM.
4	<b>Bid Submission End Date</b>	25.03.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	<b>Date &amp; time of opening of Bids (Online)</b>	26.03.2021 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2 <sup>nd</sup> , Srinagar

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov](http://www.jktenders.gov). into acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
- The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued vide this office No. 07/CDII/2011-12/389-414 dated 07.04.2011.

No. 18242-52

Dated: 18.03.2021

**DIPK-15354/20**

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Construction Division IInd  
Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir,

## Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Tel:0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg@jktourism.or

Sub: - Application for registration of Hotels “The Vista”, located at Sonamarg, Kashmir.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Wani S/o Ghulam Mohammad Wani R/o Kangan, Ganderbal has approached this office for grant of registration for their hotel under name and style “The Vista” situated at Sonmarg with 26 rooms;

Whereas, the applicant has submitted documents viz. Sale deed of land, Land revenue documents, Building permission, NOC from Sonamarg Development Authority, NOC from Fire and Emergency Services, PHE, PDD, Character certificate of the applicant with Adhar card/PAN Card, and “Consent to operate” issued by JK PCB;

Whereas, the applicant has submitted latest revenue extract of land appurtenant and underneath hotel;

Whereas, the proposed hotel was inspection by the Committee of officers and it has been observed that hotel has been completed in all respects and all the facilities are available as per norms laid down under the Act;

Whereas, issuance of registration certificate for the hotel is purely for purpose of running operation management of the said hotel and do not confer any right of ownership upon the applicant on the hotel or land appurtenant;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 10 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012, before issuance of registration certificate in favour of Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Wani S/o Ghulam Mohammad Wani R/o Kangan, Ganderbal, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond period of 07 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite documents.

Sd/-

Deputy Director Tourism,  
Registration

**DIPK-15324/20**

No: Reg/1291/1609/DTK

Dated:18.03.2021



# Srinagar Admin Orders On-spot Fine For Those Without Masks

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday chaired a meeting of Administrative and Medical Officers of the district regarding the containment of Covid 19 virus, at DC office, here.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Syed Haneef Balkhi, ADC, Khurshed Ah Shah; Joint Director Planning Srinagar, Assistant Commissioner, Srinagar, Nodal Officer Covid, Dy CMO, Medical Superintendent, BMOs, ZMOs and other officers.

Concerned over the resurgence of Covid 19 virus, Aijaz Asad said the virus is very much present here and chasing us. He stressed strict enforcement of Covid SOPs including the compulsory wearing of masks, maintaining social distance, use of sanitisers and sanitisation.



He said those found roaming at public places without masks shall be fined and subject to Rapid Antigen Test-

ing in the interest of the community at large.

He said the recent spike in posi-

tive cases is a matter of serious concern and adequate administrative, as well as medical measures, are required to remind the public that the deadly virus has not vanished yet instead various strands of the virus have emerged all over the world. He exhorted on the officers present to reactivate functionaries for the containment of Covid virus.

Further, he impressed on the identification of containment zones and the adoption of the required Covid protocol.

He directed officers to fine those persons who have relinquished wearing of masks, added that the person should be tested for Covid on spot.

Besides, Aijaz said that the vaccination process needs to be intensified on full swing to develop preventive immunity in the masses.

## Covid SOP's Go For A Toss As Tourism Dept Organises Cultural Programme In Badamwari

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Hours after District Magistrate Srinagar issued strict directions for adherence to Covid-19 SOPs due to a surge in positive cases, the SOPs went for a toss during a cultural programme organised by the Tourism Department at Badamwari in

Srinagar city.

Hundreds thronged the famous Badamwari garden located in Old City area of Srinagar without adhering to Covid SOPs and the majority of the people were seen roaming without wearing masks.

The programme was organised by the Department of Tourism J&K to announce

the opening of the garden for the general public. Tourism secretary Sarma Hafeez and Director Tourism Dr. GN Itoo were present on the occasion.

Eyewitnesses said that no thermal scanning was done prior to the entry in the garden and there was huge jumbling inside as well. (KDC)

## SDA Evicts Illegal Occupants From Bemina

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar Development Authority on Saturday launched yet another demolition drive near Kargil house and evicted illegal occupants.

Witnesses said that the shopkeepers had constructed concrete tiles pedestals on main road and illegally grabbed the Govt/SDA land. In a swift action against the illegal encroachers, the pedestals on main road were removed and subsequently action was also

initiated against the persons who had illegally occupied the SDA/Govt land at Parimpora Bye- Pass road side and restored the original position.

Authorities have warned the people residing within SDA jurisdiction that any illegal construction/encroachments on Government land. They said that demolition drive against such construction and encroachments shall continue in future. "The demolition drive was successfully executed as per the directions of Vice Chairman", said the officials. (KNS)

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CITY DRAINAGE CIVIL DIVISION SMC

48-Samender Bagh Srinagar.

Phone 0194-2480569, Fax:0194-480569

email:eccitydrainage456@gmail.com

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#### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS e\_NIT NO. 25\_CDC\_SMC\_OF\_2020-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tenders affixed are invited on item rate basis from the Registered / Approved PWD Civil Contractors, whose enlistment cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

S.No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work incld. Deptt. Materials (Amt. in lakhs).	Class Of Contract	Time for completion	Cost of TD In the shape of e-challan	Head of Account
1.	Clearance of drainage net work and Raising of depressed manholes at Khan Colony Channapora.	9.45	C&D	20 days	750=00	14 <sup>th</sup> F.c accorded vide No: SMC/Plg/2020-21/1633-38 Dtd:18.3.2021
2.	Re-Construction of drain near House of Manzoor Ahmad and Muzaffar Ahmad upto House of M.Sadiq Wani near J.L.Park Baghi Mehtab.	4.37	DEE	30 days	450=00	14 <sup>th</sup> FC authorization conveyed No: SMC/plg/2020-21/972-79 dtd.12.10.2020 Dtd.12.10.2020.

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of date and time mention in the detailed e-NIT.

01-	Date of Issue of tender Notice	20.03.2021
02-	Period of down loading of bidding documents/Sale of tender document.	21.03.2021 from 10 AM to 26.03.2021 upto 4.00 PM
03-	Bid Submission Start date	21.03.2021 from 10 AM.
04-	Bid Submission End date.	26.03.2021 upto 4.00 PM
05-	Date and time of opening of Bids on line.	27.03.2021 at 10.30 AM. In the office of Executive Engineer CDC-SMC.
06	List of Soft Copies to be uploaded.	Scanned copy of Treasury challan (Cost of tender document) with S.No. of NIT/work. Scanned copy of Enlistment card with its validity.

#### IMPORTANT CONDITIONS:- (2) TO (6).

1. The bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the e-NIT carefully before uploaded soft copy and short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.  
Note:- As per Circular issued by the Finance department JK UT vide No.A/Misc(2018) -III-895 /I dated:22.12.2020 with other communications which reads as under:-

2. Furnishing of Hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with.  
3. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who's declared 1st lowest (L1) after opening of bids on line.  
4. The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing E-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury challan/Receipt. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury challan/in favour of Executive Engineer, City Drainage Civil Division SMC sgr (Tender inviting authority) may be credited to M.Head 0217 pledged to Executive Engineer, City Drainage Civil Division SMC.

5. All bidders has to submit Bid security declaration Form instead of Earnest Money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of Finance department (Bid security declaration form) as mentioned below:-  
a) The 1st lower bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG with in 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

01. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged as laid down in the detailed e-NIT/Tender Document issued for the work which can be down loaded from www.jktenders.gov.in  
02. The intending tenderers who may wish to submit his e-tender on line shall have to upload the following documents while submitting his tender on line:-  
i) GST No copy uploaded ii) Pan No uploaded iii) CDR uploaded iv) e-challan from Treasury in the shape of Cost of Tender documents. v) Photostat copy of Registration CARD. The cost of tender document in the shape of e-challan be credited to MH-0217 in favour of Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC Srinagar.

03. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned on all working day upto 4.00 PM.

NO: CDC-SMC/5932-60  
Dtd: 20.03.2021  
**DIPK-15399/20**

sd/-/  
Executive Engineer,  
City Drainage Civil Division Sgr.

## THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

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

**Subject:- Admission Notification for B .Pharmacy Degree Course 2020 in Prabha Harjil College of Pharmacy & Preclinical Sciences Madr-e-Meharban Campus of Health Sciences Jammu.**

**Reference:-** i) SRO 505 of 2019 dated : 20-8-2019.  
ii) SRO 640 of 2019 dated: 24-10-2019.

#### Notification No.37 -BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 17 -03-2021

Offline applications on prescribed format are invited from the desirous candidates of UT s of J&K/ Ladakh for admission to B. Pharmacy Courses 2020 in Prabha Harjil College of Pharmacy & Paraclinical Sciences Madr-e-Meharban Campus of Health Sciences, Jammu.

The selection of the candidates shall be Governed by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002, the Rules and Regulations there under, JK Reservation Act, 2004 as amended vide J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, S.O 69 dated 28-02-2020, S.O 127 dated 20-04-2020 and O.M dated:- 09-05-2020 subject to further amendments, if any, made by the Competent Authority, from time to time.

#### Eligibility:

##### (A) B.Pharma Course

Candidate applying for above course shall be eligible, if he/she is :

- Is Domicile of UT of J&K/Ladakh.
- have passed 10+2 examination conducted by the J&K/Ladakh/ Central Government Authorities recognized as equivalent to 10+2 examination by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) with English as one of the subject and Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics (PCM) and or Biology (PCB), (PCMB) as an optional subjects individually Any other qualification approved by Pharmacy Council of India as equivalent to any of above examination.
- must be 17 years of age by or before 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020.

##### (B) B.Pharma (Lateral Entry)

A pass in D. Pharm. course from an institution approved by the Pharmacy Council of India under section 12 of the Pharmacy Act.

#### Submission of Application Forms:-

The interested candidates have to submit their respective Registration Form through offline mode along with the following self attested certificates w.e.f. 19-03-2021 to 29-03-2021 upto 04.00 P.M. during working days only. The application Form shall be available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar and also annexed as Annexure "A" to this Notification:-

- Domicile certificate of UT of J&K/Ladakh as the case may be. For Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by the Competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile Certificate.
- Marks card of Qualifying examination (10+2) & Marks card of D.Pharm course ( For candidates applying for B.Pharm. Lateral Entry only )
- Date of Birth (10<sup>th</sup> Marks card/Diploma) issued by the Board.
- Category certificate (TFW) i.e. Tuition Fee Waiver, if any.
- Fee of Rs 1500/= to be paid either through POS machine available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar by Debit/Credit card.

However, it is for the information of all concerned that afore-titled documents as required for submission of application form shall be considered provisionally and subject to change(s) if any made /issued by the Government subsequently.

#### Note-i :-

- The eligibility is bare minimum/provisional and shall be subject to such changes/bench marks as may be fixed by the concerned University/Authority. The Board shall on receipt of any such communication from the concerned notify the same.
- The information in the application form of the candidate shall in no case be construed as an acceptance of that information/category certificate by the BOPEE. Therefore, if at any stage, it is found that candidate has provided false or incorrect information in respect of any eligibility condition, his/her candidature will be cancelled without any further notice.

#### Instructions:

**Original Documents as mentioned above** required to be submitted in the concerned Institution at the time of Admission once Provisionally selected.

#### Mode of Selection/Admission:-

The seats shall be filled strictly on the basis of merit secured by the candidate(s) in qualifying examination.

In case two or more candidates having same score in 12<sup>th</sup> class, then their tie shall be resolved by considering the following:-  
i) marks obtained by the Candidates in Chemistry, followed by  
ii) marks obtained by the Candidates in Physics & for further tie,  
iii) the D.O.B of Candidates i.e candidate older in age shall be taken into consideration.

#### Note-ii:-

- Mere filling of Application form shall not confer any right to the Candidates for admission.
- The Board has right to reject any application form at any stage, if found false without issuing any notice to the Candidates.

#### Important

#### Intake capacity of Institute for B-Pharma. Course-2020.

Total sanctioned intake	Supernumerary seats under Lateral Entry (10% of total intake)	Supernumerary seats under Tuition fee waiver (TFW) (5% of total intake)
60 seats	6 seats	3 seats

#### Note-iii-

**a)** The seats under Tuition Fee Waiver (TFW) shall be filled by the Board after completion of first / second round of admission, as may be decided by the Board.

**b)** The supernumerary (10%) of total intake i.e 6 seats under Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) shall be filled as per SO 69 dated:- 28-02-2020 and OM dated:- 09-05-2020 issued by J&K Social Welfare Department "provided that the benefit of reservation under this clause shall be available only in respect of those institutions, where the intake capacity of seats has been increased by the Competent Authority from time to time for the said purpose"

**c)** The TFW seats in this course shall be allotted to those eligible candidates whose annual income of the family from all sources is less than Rs. 4.50 lacs or likely to change as and when notified by the UT Government of J&K . The approved format for TFW certificate is available as Annexure "B"

E & O E

**DIPK-NB-6522/20**

No: BOPEE/Adm-02 /2013

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)  
Controller of Examinations,  
J&K BOPEE

Dated: 17 -03-2021

#### DIAL-EMMA



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

#### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



#### RAILWAYS



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

#### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI  
CALENDAR  
06 SHABAN  
1442**

#### PRAYERS

FAJR 5:11  
ZUHR 12:40  
ASR 4:58  
Magrib 6:45  
ISHA 8:06

## This Day In History

- 1942 - Convoy QP9 departs Great Britain to Murmansk
- 1943 - Assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler fails
- 1945 - During WW II Allied bombers begin 4-day raid over Germany
- 1958 - USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test
- 1962 - Yogi the bear becomes the 1st creature to be ejected at supersonic speeds by the US military testing ejection seats
- 1965 - US Ranger 9 launched; takes 5,814 pictures before lunar impact
- 1975 - Ethiopia abolishes its monarchy after 3,000 years
- 1979 - Egyptian Parliament unanimously approve peace treaty with Israel
- 1990 - Namibia becomes independent of South Africa, Sam Nujoma becomes president
- 1991 - 27 lost at sea when 2 US Navy anti-submarine planes collide
- 1991 - UN Security Council panel decided to lift the food embargo on Iraq
- 1992 - Pakistan scores 6-264 to overhaul NZ in exciting World Cup semi
- 1994 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) enters into force after being ratified by the required number of nations
- 1999 - Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones become the first to circumnavigate the Earth in a hot air balloon.
- 2002 - In Pakistan, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh along with three other suspects are charged with murder for their part in the kidnapping and killing of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.
- 2006 - Immigrant workers constructing the Burj Dubayy in Dubai, The United Arab Emirates and a new terminal of Dubai International Airport join together and riot, causing \$1M in damage.
- 2012 - Five former Guatemalan paramilitaries are sentenced to 7,710 years in jail for their role in the Plan de Sanchez massacre in 1982
- 2012 - Greek Parliament votes in favour of an international bailout deal
- 2013 - 42 people are killed and 84 are injured by a bombing in a mosque in Damascus, Syria
- 2013 - At least 45 people drown and 60 are missing after a Nigerian boat sinks off the shore of Gabon
- 2013 - 24 people are killed and 100 are injured by a tornado and hail storm in southern China
- 2013 - The European Space Agency reveals new data that indicates that the universe is 13.82 billion years old
- 2014 -ussia formally annexes Crimea amid international condemnation
- 2018 - Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg admits they "made mistakes" after data on 50 million users is harvested by Cambridge Analytica
- 2018 - Nigerian government confirms 101 out of 110 schoolgirls kidnapped from Dapchi returned
- 2018 - Peru's President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski offers his resignation amid vote-buying scandal
- 2018 - Palestinian teenager Ahed Tamimi accepts plea deal for 8 months in prison after slapping Israeli officer
- 2018 - Suicide bomber kills 31 in crowd celebrating Persian New Year in Kabul, Afghanistan

## From KO Archives

## Student Killed, 10 Hurt In Baramulla School Blast

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A student was killed and ten others were injured when a powerful blast rocked a school, which also housed troops of Rashtriya Rifles in Baramulla district of North Kashmir on Friday, official sources said.

The blast followed by several firing shots took place at Government High School, Nadihal, 55 Km's from here, killing a 10th class student Mohsin Dawar Lone and injuring ten other boys, the sources said adding condition of two students was critical.

The incident took place at 1:05 PM when the students were leaving the school, the sources said adding today being Friday the school observes half day to facilitate the students the students to offer prayers.

The cause of the explosion was not known, the sources said adding that it was either grenade or IED explosion. Rashtriya Rifles troops who were camping in the school, fired several shots in air after the explosion rocked the area, the sources said.

A police party from Bandipora police station immediately rushed to the scene and the whole area was cordoned off, they said. Immediately after the incident panic-stricken villagers rushed the school to inquire about the welfare of their wards.

Several thousand people gathered outside the school and were protesting against the presence of the troops inside the educational institute, the sources said. Reinforcements had been rushed to the area to maintain law and order, the sources said.

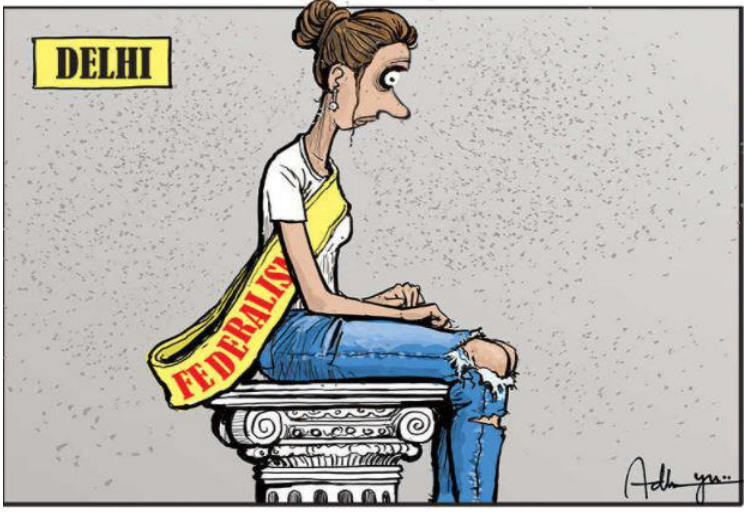
(Kashmir Observer, 21 March, 2005)



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



Ironically, these democratic States have employed democratic methods to undermine individual rights. The countries claim that the burqa hampers social integration and poses a threat to national security. Social integration should not mean forced assimilation, coercion to abandon religion and cultural practices will dampen this project of social integration that these democratic countries are pursuing

# Burqa Ban: Islamophobia Disguised

DANIA SHEIKH

The proposed ban legitimizes the unfounded hostility against burqa-clad women and threatens to alienate the Muslim population and fan communal tensions. The Institutionalisation of religious intolerance does irreversible damage to a country's social fabric

Sri Lanka has grabbed global headlines after its public security Minister Dr. Weerasekera announced in the parliament that he had signed a paper proposing a ban on wearing burqas in public places and shutting down some 1000 madras to eradicate religious extremism in the nation. This bill, if proposed, by the government will most likely be implemented since the Mahindra Rajapaksa government enjoys a two-thirds majority in the parliament.

Weerasekera's statement has perturbed and outraged the Muslim community who perceive it as an attempt to further marginalize the country's Muslims who constitute 10% of the 21 million population of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has been under the scrutiny of UNHCR for human rights violations against its minorities. The Rajapaksa government is infamous for its hostility towards Muslims and Tamils. The current government has been censured by the global watchdogs and international media outlets for forced cremation of the Muslims who died because of covid. The international fury pressurised the government to take down the compulsory cremation policy. This plan to propose a ban on the burqa should be seen in this context of the harsh treatment meted out the country's Muslim populace to understand the ulterior motive behind this ban.

The public health minister Weerasakeera claims that imposing a ban on the burqa is necessary to safeguard the national interest. The government is trying to justify the legality of the ban by claiming that the Quran doesn't mandate women to wear a burqa, it's a cultural practice



that has evolved recently, and therefore imposing a ban on its use will not be an infringement of freedom of religion but it is an outright infringement of freedom choice.

The government has held that this ban is necessary to tackle the growing fundamentalism in the country which provides a breeding ground for terrorism. Anti-Muslim sentiment surged in the country after the Easter bombings in 2019 which was carried out by ISIS and claimed the lives of about 258 people. The country's Muslim population since then has been at the receiving end of the angst and hatred, immediately after the attack, several Muslim shops and houses were gutted down. The punitive measures being taken against an entire community expose the bias and prejudice of the establishment against the Muslims.

Terrorism cannot be tackled

by resorting to islamophobia, maligning Islam and Islamic practices is not an antidote for terrorism. People have to be treated with dignity. Deprivation of a safe political and social space is unjust and denies them the right to practice their religion and culture freely. The proposed ban legitimizes the unfounded hostility against burqa-clad women and threatens to alienate the Muslim population and fan communal tensions. The Institutionalisation of religious intolerance does irreversible damage to a country's social fabric.

The ban is being viewed by many political analysts as an attempt to stoke communal tensions and to appease the majority Buddhists population of the country for electoral gains. The fact that the minister made this announcement from a temple makes his motive explicit. Establishing a link between Islam and terrorism is the oldest

trick in the bag to stir up xenophobia. The majority appeasement and violation of human rights poses a bigger threat to national security than a piece of clothing ever can.

The UNHCR has been critical of several European nations which have imposed a ban on wearing burqas in public spaces. Recently, Switzerland held a referendum in which 51% of the population voted in favour of outlawing the burqa in public places. UN Human Rights Council criticised the Swiss ban as "discriminatory" and "deeply regrettable".

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said in a statement: "Vague justifications on how the wearing of face coverings would be a threat to safety, health or the rights of others cannot be considered a legitimate reason for such an invasive restriction of fundamental freedoms."

It added that "in the wake of

a political publicity campaign with strong xenophobic undertones, Switzerland is joining the small number of countries where actively discriminating against Muslim women is now sanctioned by law", which is "deeply regrettable." Ironically, these democratic States have employed democratic methods to undermine individual rights. The countries claim that the burqa hampers social integration and poses a threat to national security. Social integration should not mean forced assimilation, coercion to abandon religion and cultural practices will dampen this project of social integration that these democratic countries are pursuing.

Imposing a ban on wearing a burqa is bad as its compulsion. Penalizing people for their choice of clothes is an assault on human rights, it is condescending and reverses the progress made by the feminist movement.

As far as national security is concerned these states have done little to curb the gun violence which has surged rapidly in the past few years. Similar enthusiasm hasn't been shown to ban the acquisition and possession of firearms. The starkly different response towards terror attacks carried out by non-Muslims reveals blatant Islamophobia. Religion and ethnicity become irrelevant when the perpetrator of the mass shooting isn't a Muslim.

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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## Hydropower projects are wreaking havoc in the Himalayas

The deadly February 7 flash flood in Uttarakhand should not be blamed on 'nature's fury' alone.

Prakash Kashwan | Neelima Vallangi

On February 7, a Himalayan glacier broke and caused a flash flood in the North Indian state of Uttarakhand. The avalanche smashed two hydroelectric dam projects and killed more than 200 people. A total of 205 people were reported missing in the disaster, but so far only 74 bodies and 34 separate body parts have been recovered from the debris. Local authorities have declared those still unaccounted for as "presumed dead" and initiated the process of issuing death certificates for them.

Environmentalists who have been studying Himalayan glaciers for decades have linked this deadly disaster, like many others before it, to climate change, adding weight to the growing calls for aggressive climate action in the region.

Attributing the blame for the flash flood solely or mainly to the ongoing climate crisis, however, risks obfuscating the failure of national and international agencies involved in construction projects in the region to act on the lessons learned from past disasters.

Less than 10 years ago, in 2013, flash floods left more than 5,700 people dead in Uttarakhand. Back then, experts quickly drew links between the disaster and the numerous hydropower construction projects in the high mountain valleys in Uttarakhand, arguing that these projects had exacerbated the intensity of the floods. "The disaster is a costly wake-up call," Peter Bosshard, the policy director at International Rivers, said in the aftermath of that deadly flood. "It shows that nature will strike back if we disregard the ecological limits of fragile regions like the Himalayas through reckless dam building and other infrastructure development."

After the 2013 flash flood, the Supreme Court of India also mandated a national panel of experts to investigate the policy failures responsible for the disaster. After conducting an investigation, the panel called for hydropower development in this "disaster-prone" region to cease, arguing that it significantly amplifies the damages caused by natural disasters. It also asked for the installation of a flood warning system. Later, two Supreme Court justices noted that they "are very much concerned about the mushrooming of a large number of hydroelectric projects in Uttarakhand [...] The cumula-

tive impact of those project components like dams, tunnels, blasting, muck disposal, mining, deforestation, etc. on the ecosystem has yet to be scientifically examined."

Indian governmental agencies, however, refused to heed these warnings and continued their efforts to build dams on Himalayan rivers. Today, there are plans to build over two dozen medium and large hydropower projects in Uttarakhand alone. Dozens more are planned in other parts of the Indian Himalayas.

Environmentalists argue that the construction of the Tapovan Vishnugad hydroelectric project, one of the two damaged by the February 7 flash flood, likely increased the damage caused by the disaster. This dam was being built by India's National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), with the financial backing of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Both the NTPC and ADB were undoubtedly aware of the warnings environmental groups and other agencies have been issuing about hydropower development in the area since at least 2013. Their apparent decision to ignore these warnings cost the lives of hundreds of people working on the project site on the fateful morning of February 7. Had it not been a Sunday, the number of fatalities on the site would have been significantly higher.

The second project affected by last month's flash flood, the Rishiganga Hydroelectric Project, was not merely damaged but completely swept away by the violent surge. And the disaster did not hit that construction without warning, either.

The Rishiganga project site was struck by a cloudburst, floods and landslides sev-

eral times between 2008-2016. None of these incidents led to the project's suspension. In the summer of 2019, the residents of Raini village, world renowned for the role they played in the Chipko (Hug the Trees) movement of the 1970s, filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in the Uttarakhand High Court, calling on the district magistrate of Chamoli and the state government to review the environmental and social impact of the Rishiganga Hydroelectric Project site. The PIL also did not lead to any constructive action.

Those behind the hydropower projects in the Indian Himalayas long defended their efforts against criticism from environmentalists by arguing that these hydropower plants would reduce India's harmful emissions and the detrimental effects of climate change on the local population. Indeed, the construction of hydroelectric dams in the Himalayan river valleys is

part of a national plan to cut emissions linked to the energy sector. If and when these plans are fully realised, the disaster-prone Indian Himalayas will have one dam every 32 kilometres.

But, as the fate of the Rishiganga project clearly demonstrated, building carbon offset projects in fragile ecologies is a dangerous and misguided endeavour. The Rishiganga project was approved under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It was anticipated that once fully operational, the project would deliver emission reductions equivalent to 49,585 metric tonnes of CO2 per annum. Those anticipations were washed away, quite literally, in part because of the damage that the project likely caused to the local ecology and geology.

The rapid expansion of hydropower projects in the region is not fuelled only by a desire to produce clean energy, either. The continuing "water war" between India and China is also a motivating factor behind the mushrooming of these projects in the Indian Himalayas. In November 2020, the Power Construction Corporation of China, a Chinese state-owned company, announced plans to develop a massive hydroelectric project, with production capacity of up to 60 gigawatts, on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo river. India responded by announcing plans to build a 10-gigawatt project on the Siang, the main tributary of the same river, to "offset the impact of the hydropower project by China".

Whether they are built solely to produce clean energy or in response to region-

al rivalries, the hydropower projects in the Indian Himalayas pose a significant threat to the region's ecology and the wellbeing of local communities. Despite repeated warnings from experts, local authorities and government agencies involved in these hydroelectric projects have failed to enact proper safeguards.

Even after last month's deadly flash flood, then Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Tirath Singh Rawat refused to acknowledge the role the massive hydropower projects in the region has played in bringing about this tragedy. Instead of committing to take the necessary precautions to prevent its repeat, the chief minister called the incident a "natural disaster" and reiterated his commitment to hydropower development. The central government, meanwhile, merely read out a statement announcing the number of dead and missing persons in parliament.

More than 550 hydroelectric projects are under construction or being planned throughout the Himalayas in China, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan. Without discounting the potential benefits of small-scale hydropower projects, national and international agencies active in the region should put in place ecological and social protection measures to ensure these projects do not cause more harm than good.

That such measures have not been put in place despite thousands of deaths in dozens of disasters that have struck the region over the past two decades, is a damning indictment of the failure of international and national environmental governance. International and multilateral agencies, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and national energy corporations, must be held to account for these major lapses.

To avoid tragedies similar to the February 7 flash flood in the future, the question of climate action should be debated in tandem with the broader question of adopting an ecologically-sensitive model of development. To achieve this, we should stop attributing the blame for such disasters solely to "nature's fury", and start holding national and international agencies and policymakers accountable for their failings.

Al Jazeera





# NAUROZ: A Festival Of Life

*Kashmir belongs more to Central Asia than to South Asia, owing to its glorious ties with the region in terms of geography, culture, traditions, religion and much more. However the bitter fact is that the rich Central Asian or to be precise Persian influence in Kashmir is on decline. It is where the significance of Nauroz, an annual celebration across Central Asia, has increased manifold in Kashmir.*

*Nouruz is the festival of spring celebrated across Central Asia. Nouruz starts at the exact moment of the vernal equinox, commencing the start of the spring. In Kashmir however, the festival has sadly attained sectarian connotation and this has decreased its significance for the general public.*

*Below we reproduce excerpts from an article written by renowned Iranian scholar, Dr Ali Shariati, underlining the significance of this great festival. -Editor*

Nauroz is a great chance for recollection of lots of great memories. Memories of relationship between man and nature, which is renewed each year. This forgetful child of nature who has got himself so much engaged in artificial affairs and pre-scheduled engagements, that he/she has even totally forgotten his own lovely mother.

Nauroz is celebrated every year, and talked about each year again. Much has been said about it, and you have heard a lot in this regard. So is there no point in talking about it once again?

Of course there is! Do we not renew Nauroz each year. So let us also hear about it repeatedly as well. It is boring and even nonsense to repeat a scientific or a literary text. Wisdom rejects repetition, but sensations welcome it. Nature too, likes repetition, and the societies need it.

Nature is basically made up of repetition. A society is strengthened through repetition, sensations gain their life from it and Nauroz is a beautiful, repetitious story in which the nature, sensations and the society are all engaged, yet it never gets old or boring.

Nauroz, which has for long centuries been the master and most gracious of all the national ceremonies around the world, maintains its young, strong, lively existence, because it is not an imposed, an artificial or a political ceremony.

It is the ceremony of the universe, the happiness day of earth and the birthday of the sun and the skies. The glorious day when every natural phenomenon evolves, blooms and resolves filled with the sweet anxiety of many "startings".

The national ceremonies of the other cultures often encourage men and women to leave their workshops, farms, deserts, alleys and streets, gardens and pastures, and then gather up in rooms under the ceilings, behind closed doors.

They gather in such surroundings as bars, dances, cellars, saloons and houses.. in places that are heated with gas, lit with light bulbs, filled with smoke, made pretty with artificial colors, decorated with paper or plastic flowers and ornaments, scented with perfumes or burning herbs... Nauroz, on the contrary, grabs the people's hands kindly and pulls them joyfully along with it out of their small surroundings in rooms, behind closed doors, under ceilings, from among tall buildings and cement pavements in and around towns into the glorious vast pastures, green areas and the broad, kind embrace of nature, where everyone feels free and jubilant.

The kind spring sun warms them and brightens their day, the glory of witnessing renewing of creation and themselves excites them, the wind and the spring rain beautifully designs new scenes which are already background with bloomed buds of various colors and scented with:

*"Smell of rain,  
smell of spearmint,  
smell of soil.  
And smell of boughs that are wet of gentle spring rain and shining clean"...*

Nauroz is a great chance for recollection of lots of great memories. Memories of relationship between man and nature, which is renewed each year. This forgetful child of nature who has got himself so much engaged in artificial affairs and pre-scheduled engagements, that he/she has even totally forgotten his own

lovely mother.

**He/She Is Now Called Back To The Kind Embrace Of His Loving Mother With The Magical Spell Of Nauroz. There, They Will Together Joyfully Celebrate This Happy Reunion.**

The careless child will find out about his/her own origin in the kind embrace of his/her mother, and the mother's face will bloom in finding back her lost child, shed tears of happiness for this happy occasion, cry joyfully in spring thunders, get young and pretty another time, and briefly speaking, like the Prophet Yaqub(AS), who regained his lost sight after smelling the scent of Yusuf's (AS) shirt, will be bestowed a sharp sight to see her dear child once again.

**The More Complex Or Heavier Our Artificial, Technical Civilization Will Become, The More Urgent The Need To Reunion With And Return To The Nature's Embrace.**

Thus, unlike traditions, that get old and incompetent, and sometimes even useless as time goes by, Nauroz gets younger, prettier and stronger with the passage of time, and that is because Nauroz is a third way for reconciling between the two sides of the long cultural aware that has been going on since the era of Lao-Tso and Confucius until the recent days of Roseau and Walter.

Nauroz is not merely a good chance for relaxing and being happy, but a bare need of the society and the vitally needed spiritual food for a nation.

What else is capable of brightening up cold hearts, in a dark world, based upon ever-on-going changes, revolutions, separation and loss, disintegration and dissolving, where the only thing that is stable and never subject to change is ever-renewing itself and instability?

What else can make a nation invulnerable in the

phers and scientists who have considered Nauroz "The first day of creation, when God, in ancient Persians mythology created the universe".

What a beautiful story it is. Even prettier than reality itself! Doesn't every human being honestly feel that the first day of spring is the first day of creation repeated again?

**If God Set A Beginning For Life On Earth, That Day Must Have Doubtlessly Been The Nauroz Day. Surely, Spring Has Always Been The First Season Of The Year. God Must Not Have Ever Made Summer, Winter Or Fall The First Season Of The Year, Nay!**

The first grass on earth must have surely started sprouting on the first day of spring, the rivers must have started running then, and the buds blooming which means Nauroz must have always been on the first day of spring, simultaneous with the renewing of creation.

"Soul" must have surely been created in this season. Love's first bow must have stricken a heart on its first day, and the sun risen for the first time on the very same day, marking the start of the clock of the universe.

**Islam, Which Wiped Off All The Discrimination And Colors Of Racism And Tribalism, And Changed The Form Of Many Traditions, On The Contrary Polished The Beautiful Facade Of Nauroz. It Approved Of This Glorious Tradition, Let Its Sapling Continue To Grow And Get Stronger...**

The two great events of appointing Ali (AS) as the Prophet's spiritual inheritor (Shah-e-Vilayat) and choosing him as the Calif of the Muslims and Emir of all the believers (Amirul Mu'menin) have both been on Nauroz day and surely what a great coincidence!

This glorious celebration, which had begun its life with the ancient soul and love of a nation, was now doubly fortified with the holy spirit of a great religion,

What a beautiful story it is. Even prettier than reality itself! Doesn't every human being honestly feel that the first day of spring is the first day of creation repeated again?

cruel path of the carriage of time, which destroys anything in its path, breaks and crashes any pillar and demolishes any base?

No nation is formed within a night, one generation's era, or even two. A nation can be described as the continuous string of many generations that time, this pitiless, thoughtless sword of nature, separates their physical connections along the course of their history.

Unfortunately, we cannot have a two-way correspondence with our ancestors those who have formed the soil of our nation.

The horrendous, deep valley of history is dug. The long, hollow centuries have formed a great impassable gap between us and them. It is only our traditions that speaking away from the sharp eyes of the cruel time executioner, can kindly take our hands and convey us spiritually to the other side of this terrifying valley, thus reconciling between us and our glorious past, our ancestors.

It is in the holy face of these traditions that we can feel their presence by our side today, and Nauroz celebrations are among the steadiest, most gracious of these traditions.

It has never been an excuse to be "careless, cheap and forgetful", but a pretext to announce the lively determination of our nation to be and to continue to be and maintain strong ties with a glorious past, which the time factor and the invaders of different races have always tried in vain, to wipe off the scene of existence.

Nauroz has always been so dear. To Zoroastrian clergies, to sagacious old men in ancient history, to Muslims and to Persian speaking people all over the world.

Everyone has considered Nauroz a beloved one, and talked about it sympathetically. Even the philoso-

Islam, as well.

The main prophesy of Nauroz yet, is to polish the stains of sadness and hopelessness off the betrayed hearts..., and blow the soul of jubilation in the corpse of this land and its people.

And yet that is not all. Nauroz is responsible for strengthening the ties between the present generation and all our wise ancestors in the past on the one hand, and strengthen the ties of these all with mother nature on the other hand.

And we, in these happy moments, light the.. fire of Nauroz once again, and deep in our conscience, tread the black death-stricken deserts of hollow centuries, and get ready to celebrate Nauroz along with all the men and women.

Thus, we proudly proclaim our lively existence as a happy wise nation, standing tall amid the heavy winds of horrendous incidents which are capable of uprooting any strong tree, but not our nation's.

We announce that we are alive and we will continue our proud existence on this land till the end of the time, even in this dark century when our enemies, and particularly the usurper West, are fiercely determined to make us foreign with our own culture, so that we will be their obedient slaves, with no personality of our own to rely on.

So let us renew our alliance with all our ancestors and with all the different races of our nation, as well as with our mythology in this historical intersection of time, beliefs and traditions.

Let us borrow the precious inheritance of love from them and promise to be faithful inheritors of it. Let us promise as a nation, never to die.



## MeT Issues

watched), amber –government agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red –action needed by the agencies.

Meanwhile, barring famous tourist resort of Pahalgam in South Kashmir, mercury remained above normal in the Kashmir Valley.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 6.0 degree Celsius against 5.8 degree Celsius on the previous night. The minimum temperature was 1.3 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the year in the summer capital of J&K, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 4.4 degree Celsius against 5.7 degree Celsius on the previous night while mercury settled at minus 0.2 degree Celsius against 0.7 degree Celsius on the earlier night at Pahalgam. It was minus 0.3 degree Celsius below normal at the famous resort.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 4.3 degree Celsius against previous night's 6.0 degree Celsius, the official said.

The minimum temperature settled at 2.8 degree Celsius in Kupwara against 6.6 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded minimum temperature of 0.5 degree Celsius against minus 0.0 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said. The temperature at the world famous skiing resort which received nearly 3ft fresh snowfall last week is minus 2.3 degree Celsius normal for this time of the year, the official said. (With agency inputs)

## Imran Khan Tests

positive for Covid-19 and is self isolating at home, Sultan said in a tweet.

Khan's spokesman Dr Shehbaz Gill said that the prime minister has just a slight fever and cough.

The report of Khan contracting the coronavirus came on a day the country reported 3,876 cases in the past 24 hours, the highest number since July last year. On July 2 last year, 4,432 cases were reported.

Pakistan started its COVID-19 vaccination drive in February after the first arrival of China-gifted vaccine doses, with frontline health workers given the priority for inoculation, while on March 10, the country started vaccination for the general public, starting with people aged 60 and above, Geo News reported.

Issuing a clarification on Khan's vaccination, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination said that antibodies develop two to three weeks after the 2nd dose of the 2-dose COVID-19 vaccines.

Prime Minister Imran Khan was not fully vaccinated when he contracted the virus. He only got the 1st dose and merely 2 days ago which is too soon for ANY vaccine to become effective. Anti-bodies develop 2-3 weeks after the 2nd dose of COVID vaccines, it said on Twitter.

On Sunday, he was scheduled to interact with the public via telephone calls. However, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senator Dr Faisal Javed said that a new time and date will be announced soon.

"Due to PM Imran testing positive for Covid-19, a new date for live interaction with the public will be announced soon. Lots of prayers for everyone and PM Imran, he said in a tweet.

Javed added that Khan was experiencing "mild symptoms" and will continue to work from home over video conferencing.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his best wishes to his Pakistani counterpart for a speedy recovery from COVID-19.

Modi tweeted his wishes to Khan, "Best wishes to Prime Minister @ImranKhanPTI for a speedy recovery from COVID-19."

Minister for Industries Hammad Azhar said that the vaccine develops more than 80 per cent immunity two weeks after the second injection.

Furthermore, no cabinet minister, including the Prime-Minister, nor any of their relatives jumped the queue or violated the priority order to receive the vaccine, he said.

Chief Minister of Punjab Usman Buzdar said that the recent spike in COVID-19 cases and positivity rate is alarming and we all need to be extra careful and strictly follow safety protocols!!

Supporters and ministers of Khan, a former captain of the Pakistani cricket team, started sending messages of goodwill soon after the news of his diagnosis was shared with #ImranKhan becoming the top trend on Twitter.

Minister for Science Fawad Chaudhry said that the people of Pakistan are praying for their leader. "May God return him to good health soon."

Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi said that the premier will recover soon and be back to work "in a flash".

Khan had been active until Friday when he visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and inaugurated a highway and an academic block of a university.

He urged the citizens to ensure the full implementation of norms to prevent the surge in cases of coronavirus.

Pakistan officials last week said that the country was hit by the third wave of the pandemic.

According to the Johns Hopkins University's coronavirus tracker, Pakistan has so far reported 623,135 cases and 13,799 deaths.

In July last year, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was treated for the coronavirus.

Last year, several Pakistani lawmakers contracted the coronavirus, with prominent among them being Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) leader and Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Syed Aminul Haq, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb, Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed.

Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, PTI Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Jai Prakash, Minister of State for Narcotics Shehryar Afridi and PTI's chief whip in the National Assembly Aamir Dogar had also been diagnosed with COVID-19 last year.

In June, MNA Munir Khan Orakzai died, days after recovering from the coronavirus.

National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser was also infected but recovered.

Eight members of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly had also been infected with the coronavirus.

## Centre Asks J&K

for COVID-19 Management, which have to be strictly followed throughout the country, the letter reads.

"After the steady decline in COVID-19 cases for about 5 months, for the last few weeks, the number of COVID cases are showing an increasing trend in several parts of the country. It has been observed that it is largely due to laxity in the observance of COVID appropriate behaviour by the people, especially in the crowded places," Bhalla underlined in the letter.

Keeping in view the fresh surge of cases and upcoming festivals, it will be important to ensure compliance of the guidelines and to strictly enforce COVID appropriate behaviour, such as wearing of face masks, hand hygiene and social distancing among people, he said.

"I would, therefore, urge you to take necessary measures for creating awareness among people to follow COVID appropriate behaviour and simultaneously take necessary action for its strict enforcement, so as to fully overcome the pandemic," he said, adding, Further, necessary orders/guidelines, issued by the respective Slate Governments/UT Administration in this regard, should be widely disseminated to the public and to the field functionaries for implementation."

## 140 New Covid

there were 29 travellers who had tested positive in the past 24 hours.

While 11 districts did not report any fresh cases, five other districts had cases in single digits. The number of active cases was 1,191, while 1,25,218 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

The death toll rose to 1,980 after one fresh death was reported from Kashmir division in the union territory in the past 24 hours, they added. (PTI)

## Delhi Court

warrant for Shabir Shah who is currently lodged in Tihar Jail in the matter.

Advocate Naveen Kumar Matta, representing ED had submitted that Dr. Bilquies Shah along with Shabir Ahmad Shah had received an amount of Rs. 2.08 Crore from Mohd. Aslam Wani (co-accused, currently on bail).

ED stated that, Mohd. Aslam Wani in his statements recorded under Section 50 of PMLA, 2002 had admitted that all the amounts were in cash and were handed over to Shabir Ahmad Shah and on three occasions to Dr. Bilquies Shah. She received the said amount knowing fully well that her husband had no known sources of income and this money could not have been obtained through illicit means.

Chargesheet stated that it clearly implies that Dr. Bilquies Shah was an active accomplice of Shabir Ahmad Shah in his illicit criminal activities. She did not file Income Tax Returns during the period preceding the year 2013 as she had no other income except meagre income from private practice, besides her salary to declare.

ED stated that Shabir Ahmad Shah is the main accused and is the conspirator who had devised the whole scheme of money laundering so as to obtain illicit funds from outside India to further the nefarious designs of causing unrest in Jammu and Kashmir. Shabir Ahmad Shah was in regular touch with Hafeez Sayeed, a global terrorist, head of Jamat-ud-Dawa, an organization banned under UNSC resolution no. 1267 Shabir Ahmad Shah was in regular touch with Mohd. Shafi Shayar, based in Pakistan, whose Pakistani phone number was provided by him to Mohd. Aslam Wani for collecting the crime money in Delhi on his behalf.

Shabir Shah, in his defence earlier stated that there is no evidence of any nature connecting the Shabir Shah with Aslam Wani.

He is a respectable person and is a known political leader. He is a chairman of the Democratic Freedom Party and allegations levelled against him are motivated and based on falsehood, he added. (AGENCY)

## GMCs To Start

seats have been granted by the NBE to GMC-Doda in the department of Anesthesia, GMC-Kathua has been granted two seats in the department of Community Medicine and two seats in Pediatrics, while two seats have been granted to GMC-Anantnag in the department of Dermatology, and provisional accreditation has been granted to GMC-Rajouri in the department of Orthopedics.

Additionally, GMC-Jammu has also been granted accreditation in Hospital Administration and Psychiatry departments, the spokesman said.

He said the GMC-Srinagar has been granted accreditation in DrNB Neuro-Surgery and SKIMS Srinagar in Anatomy and Physiology departments and two seats have been approved in each of these accredited departments.

The DNB courses have been introduced in the district hospitals and new GMCs besides old GMCs and SKIMS in order to strengthen the institutions, decongest the GMCs and to address the shortage of specialists in the Union Territory, the spokesman said.

In March 2020, the District Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu became the first hospital in Union Territory to get six seats for DNB courses in the department of Medicine and Anesthesiology.

A total of 42 seats were granted to the institutions of Jammu and Kashmir and 21 candidates have already joined the various accredited streams, he said.

Under the dynamic leadership and concerted efforts of the Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department, Atal Duloo and Mission Director, NHM, J&K, Choudhary Mohammed Yasin, eight district hospitals and all GMCs and SKIMS had applied for DNB courses to the NBE.

"A total 129 applications were submitted by the institutions, out of which 23 applications of old GMCs/SKIMS, five applications of new GMCs and two applications of District Hospitals have been approved by NBE and a total of 58 seats have been granted to the accredited departments consequent to the concerted efforts and hard work of teams of the institutions," the spokesman said.

Moreover, he said 28 more departments of District Hospitals and GMCs have been assessed by the NBE and their accreditation is awaited.

For meeting the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms in DNB districts, NHM J&K has got additional sanction of staff nurses for DNB institutions and currently 42 additional nurses have also been provided to each district hospital implementing DNB programme, the spokesman said.

He said additional beds along with the accessories and monitors have been provided to these hospitals by NHM.

The Centre has also approved establishment of eight-bedded Hybrid ICU in each DNB district hospital, the spokesman said. He said these measures are expected to drastically improve the health care services in the far-flung districts and would improve the services in the tertiary care institutions as well.

"This is also expected to markedly bring down the referral from the far flung districts to the already overburdened tertiary care institutes of the Union Territory, the spokesman said.

## Charges Filed

were conducted from the institutes which did not exist in the states mentioned in the application forms. A case (FIR No. 04/2020) U/S 420, 468,120-B, 201 RPC and 66 (D) IT Act stands registered against him, he said.

According to the official, the accused in connivance with others have shown the fake beneficiaries to be the residents of district Kulgam and got deceitfully verified by the district social welfare officer Kulgam and managed to transfer the amount of RS. 1,34 crores from the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India into the Bank accounts of 463 fake beneficiaries of District Malda, West Bengal maintained in various branches of State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, United Bank of India (Now PNB), Allahabad Bank, IDFC Bank and Bangiya Vikas Gramin Bank.

## Road To Peace

political and democratic demands of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Recent statement of Pakistan army chief calling for burying the hatchet and moving the Indo-Pak relationship forward is a positive development. But we must be reminded that aiming for low hanging fruit like movement of goods and people through Wagah border or giving India a passage to Central Asia via Pakistan and Afghanistan while putting Kashmir issue at the back burner is akin to missing wood for the trees," Mehbooba said.

"If they are really sincere and mean business they must know that the process of reconciliation has to begin with Kashmir. While statements back and forth indicate a movement forward but people of Jammu and Kashmir continue to be shrouded in the veil of darkness without any reprieve in sight," she added.

Addressing the convention senior party leader Dr Mehboob Beg lauded the steadfastness and resolve of party president Mehbooba Mufti for her constant advocacy of resolution of Kashmir issue despite the full frontal assault on the party and its leadership.

"Our leaders are languishing in jails, party president is constantly in the eye of the storm but PDP as an institution refuses to buckle under pressure and continues to be the people's movement as envisaged by party founder Mufti Mohammed Sayeed," Beg said.

## 'Restlessness' Among

Jammu and Kashmir Rajni Patil on Saturday said developmental process in the Jammu and Kashmir has received a major setback.

Patil was reviewing the current situation, besides organizational affairs and activities in Pulwama and Srinagar Districts during her five day's tour in J&K, according to a statement issued here.

JKPCC President G.A. Mir and other senior leaders held interaction with party workers and also reviewed the party activities in both the districts.

Rajni Patil interacted with party cadres in Pulwama District, then visited Srinagar Party Office and urged workers to gear up for the challenges ahead, besides putting a united fight against the anti-people and wrong policies of the government, "which is responsible for the economic losses, restlessness among the people in J&K."

She said the developmental scenario in J&K got set back, unemployment has risen considerably; people have suffered huge economic losses.

"Unfortunately the rising trend of people's grievances have even failed to invite the attention of the government which is a big source of disappointment and anguish among the people, who have realized that their voices are not being heard by the BJP government rather they are being suppressed aiming to cover up the wrong doings on the part of BJP Govt," she said, adding, "Mere making tall claims and promising sky won't change the reality, the fact of the matter is that BJP government has utterly failed to address people's problems, It is an established fact, that government has not come up with any programme or policy with regard to development, curbing unemployment and resolution of other issues concerning people in J&K".

On this occasion AICC in-charge send a clear signal to party workers and leaders across J&K to get united to strengthen the party further at grass root level, as that, the Congress Party is committed to safeguard the rights of the people, won't compromises on its stated position of working and serving people to the best of its ability, which is the party's legacy.

Speaking on the occasion, JKPCC President laid emphasis over highlighting the issues concerning people especially economic crisis and other important issues like rising unemployment and huge losses caused to JK's economy after revoking special status of J&K, as that, people have witnessed only restrictions, communication gag, besides the Covid 19 made the situation more complex for the people, irony is that Centre government is ignoring every genuine issue in order to hide its failures on all fronts.

Mir also hit out at the Centre for unprecedented price hike on petroleum products and essentials and expressed surprise over the

attitude of the BJP government.

"On the one hand BJP govt is adamant over not to reverse the price hike and on the other hand it is appealing people to vote for it, now it is the sole responsibility of the voters to respond to BJP's terror tax and price hike on everything especially petrol, diesel and essentials," Mir said.

## After Go Air,

which the airlines seek the approval from the DGCA.

"DGCA is going to revive the report and all the deliberations are to be made by DGCA if there is any intervention required. With that, the flight period is going to extend which will also result in increase in flight movements at Srinagar Airport", he said.

Earlier, after getting the approval from the DGCA for trail night flights from Srinagar Airport, the safety teams of Go Air and Indigo Airlines had arrived in the valley to check out the feasibility while operating the night flights from Srinagar Airport after which the report is also to be submitted to DGCA and approval from the DGCA is also expected to come in next week for summer Schedule flight operations at Srinagar Airport.

Commissioner Secretary Tourism Sarmad Hafeez said this is a positive Development as far as the air connectivity between the valley and rest of the country is concerned.

Pertinent to mention the flight operations at Srinagar Airport were only day bound, and with the successful trial night flights from Srinagar Airport by Go Air and Indigo Airlines, the Summer Flight Schedule is expected to come by next week.

## New Power

possibly the power scheduled will be altered by the end of the ongoing month, saying that the schedule would have been changed in case the people could have cooperated with the department.

"We are supplying the electricity at par with the demand," he said.

Asked about the upcoming summer months, the Chief Engineer KPDCL stated that the season would be free of curtailment, adding that the electricity may get affected only when there is any bottleneck.

## Pak Made Rifles

somewhere in Pakistan or Afghanistan," he claimed.

Singh said drugs are being smuggled in from Pakistan using drones and other means.

"If I say the gift of narcotics substance is coming from there (Pakistan), it will become clear to you -- be it the Kashmir border, Rajouri-Poonch or Jammu Kathua Samba border. For some time now, narcotics are being dropped using the drones.

The quantity of narcotics that has been seized is unprecedented. We are making our best efforts to counter this menace in an organised manner," he said.

Singh said a new wing -- anti narcotics task force -- has been set up in the Crime Branch to deal with the drug menace.

On the infiltration of militants from Pakistan, the DGP said he would like to believe that it will remain low during this year as well.

"I can't say whether it will rise with changing weather because the security grid is working effectively. But I believe that it will stay low as there is a complete stop on ceasefire violations since the dialogue was resumed. We don't have any information about infiltration. If there are such attempts, we are geared up to deal with it," he added.

About the list of militants active in Srinagar and the reasons for that, the DGP said that some youth have joined militancy in Srinagar and that is because of the fact that "radicalization is taking place by the elements who are not happy with the peace."

"Situation is not alarming. We have an ecosystem where we deal with such issues. As far as other districts, we will have to put our heads together where religious leaders, social activists have to play a role to ensure youth are kept away from the gun," he said.

He said last year, three dozen youth, who had joined militancy were brought back while 12 youth surrendered at live encounters.

Asked whether there is a policy for those who lay down their arms, he said: "Those who surrender will get all the dividends of good life," he said.

On the missing army jawan Shakir Manzoor from Shopian district, Singh said "We don't know where he has been killed and buried. We are trying to trace his whereabouts. When we get to know something we will share it with his family."

## CBI Raids Petrol

They said, the raid was conducted following complainants that these petrol pumps are cheating customers on quantity.

The petrol station at Markundal belongs to Abdul Hamid and another at Pushwari Naidkhai belongs to Khursheed Ahmad. (KDC)

## Canines Injure

locals managed to evacuate the child to Emergency hospital Qazigund where from doctors referred him to GMC Anantnag--(KNO)

## Man Killed In

Rasheed with serious injuries was immediately evacuated to a medical health facility.

PHC Mattan while confirming the incident to local news agency GNS said that they had received a person injured in the incident and was later on referred for advancement treatment.

## Charges Filed

functioning of 'Kim Future Vision Services Limited/Kim Infrastructure and Developers Limited' located near Ghumat here, a spokesperson of the Crime Branch said.

He said the charge sheet was filed against Ravinder Singh Sidhu and Kanchan Kumar Dutta of New Delhi, Palvinder Singh and Sukhpal

Brar of Punjab, Umeshwar Jha of Uttar Pradesh, Lekh Raj of Himachal Pradesh, and Vinod Kumar Raina and Rajesh Peshin of Jammu, for illegally receiving cash deposits from the public as a non-banking financial company (NBFC).

On receipt of the complaint, a preliminary inquiry was conducted by Crime Branch, Jammu in which it was found that the company was registered with the Registrar of Companies, NCT-Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi, and its objective was to raise infrastructure.

It, however, had no authority to collect deposits from public as the company was registered with the RBI as an 'A' category NBFC and was authorised to collect deposits only within the state of Punjab, the spokesperson said.

During investigation, computers of the company were seized and other material evidences -- oral, documentary and circumstantial -- were collected which proved that the accused have committed criminal breach of trust, he added. (PTI)

## SMC Shifts Four

I/C Enforcement officer West shall be deemed to have been relieved from their present place of postings and will look after as I/C Zonal Sanitation Officers of respective areas, reports said.

## 'Lured

authorities," said Bhat. "It was later found out that the girl was suffering from tuberculosis."

As per the records of Save the Children, a majority of minors are trafficked to Kashmir from Jharkhand. However, according to a study by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in 2019, most incidents of children missing are reported from Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi and Bihar.

The common causes of trafficking were forced marriages, child labour, domestic help and sexual exploitation, among others, mentioned the study.

As per the data of 2011 Census, India had 10.13 million child labourers, between the age of 5-14, with Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh being the most affected states.

Kashmir receives many minors through consultancy firms who are employed as house workers.

A majority of such helpers are employed in Srinagar, said Farooq Ahmad, a Srinagar CWC member. Minor girls exceed boys in the city, he added, and their number is only increasing.

Recently, Farooq came across two-three minors who were brought to the valley through consultancy agencies. One of them was a minor girl from West Bengal whose mother had died and her father, a drunkard, sold her to the agency which brought her to Kashmir, Farooq told Kashmir Observer.

Due to the pandemic, the minor girl was kept at a shelter in Srinagar for some time, before sent to the West Bengal CWC.

However, the condition in other districts of Kashmir is relatively better. According to Fahmeeda Maqbool, Chairperson CWC Ganderbal, the number of cases of non-Kashmiri minor helpers is quite less in her district.

On being asked how the CWC handles such cases, Maqbool said that at first the date of birth is checked and if it does not comply with the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, the child is taken under the care of CWC, and strict action is taken against the offender.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 prohibits employing children below 14 and 15 years, but there is no procedure laid down in any law for deciding in which employment children are banned.

The Act was first amended in 2016, and then again in 2017. The current Act prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14, but they can work in family business/enterprises, only if they are non-hazardous.

Advocate Shah Faisal, J&K director of Human Right Law Network (HRLN), told Kashmir Observer that he comes across numerous cases of minors being held by people without their will.

"There was this case of a child from West Bengal who wanted to go back home but the household where he was working didn't let him leave," Faisal said.

"After I filed a complaint against the family to the Chief Magistrate, the child was brought immediately and proper action was taken against the family."

Another case which the advocate recalled is of a 15-year-old Rohingya girl who was sold in Delhi at Rs 70,000 to a Kashmiri, who married her soon after arriving in the valley.

The girl's uncle contacted Faisal and a writ petition was filed to rescue her.

According to the advocate, the consultancy agencies which bring minors to Kashmir violate many norms. They provide a fake list, filled with fake numbers of parents of the minors, Faisal said. "While most of the agencies claim that the child does not have a birth certificate, they consider them above 18."

Even the families hiring minor helpers justify themselves by saying that without their assistance the child would starve, he said.

"But money paid by the families is not paid to the minor but to their agents," asserted the advocate. "This is totally an inhuman act which should be tackled strongly."

## Bhat Family Bereaved

With profound grief, we inform the demise of **Ghulam Rasool Bhat** R/o Maisuma, Srinagar who left for heavenly abode on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (Thursday).

The congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2021

(Monday) at 10:30 AM at their ancestral graveyard Dalgate, Srinagar. After that condolence meeting will held at their residence Maisuma.

Bereaved: Zahoor Ahmad Bhat,

Tariq Ahmad Bhat, Shabir Ahmad Bhat (Sons)

Contact: 7006834855, 7006690698





## 'Vaccination Is Safe, Important To Eliminate Virus'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Administration Kashmir Saturday held a vaccination drive for various Ulemas and Muftis, who were administered vaccine shots against Covid-19 at SKIMS Soura, here.

Among others, Director, SKIMS Soura, Dr A.G Ahangar, CEO Muslim Waqf Board, Mufti Farid-uddin, In-charge Divisional Covid Control Room, Kashmir, Tahir Ahmad Magray, State Surveillance Officer, Dr Talat Jabeen were also present on the occasion. On the occasion, around a dozen imams and muftis from various Waqf Board associated Shrines and Masajids were administered jabs and put under observation by a team of doctors and para-medical staff.

Speaking on the occasion, scholars expressed their gratitude to the Divisional Administration for vaccination and urged people to come forward to get vaccinated for their

safety and good health. They termed rumours associated with the vaccine as baseless and appealed to people to get themselves vaccinated without any doubt. They said the vaccine is safe and important to eliminate the virus from Kashmir.

Scholars further urged people to follow the covid SOPs religiously and not to lower the guard even if the situation has improved.

Director SKIMS Soura, A. G Ahangar while speaking on the occasion deliberated on the importance of vaccination and said that though the Covid-19 has taken ugly shape in most of the parts of the world, however, with the dedication of all frontline workers the virus has been controlled to spread further in the valley.

He said that today's vaccination drive has been held under the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole where various scholars have been administered vaccine shots.

## Body Of 35-Year-Old Found In Poonch

Observer News Service

**POONCH:** Body of a 35-year-old man was Saturday found in Surankote area of Poonch district.

Officials said that the locals of Draba Qureshi Mohalla spotted the body on the road during the intervening night of March 19 and 20.

They informed police station Surankote. Later a police party rushed to the spot and

recovered the body.

After preliminary investigation, they said, the person was identified as Basharat Khan, a driver by profession, son of Lal Khan of Drogian sector Baffliaz. The body has been shifted to SDH Surankote for post-mortem.

SHO Surankote Mohammad Rashid said Police has filed an FIR under the relevant sections of the law and further investigations are going on. (CNS)

## J&K BJP Asks People To Follow COVID-19 Protocol

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP on Saturday expressed concern over the spike in coronavirus cases in the union territory and appealed to the people to religiously follow COVID-19 protocol to avoid resurgence of the viral disease.

BJP spokesperson Brigadier (ret'd) Anil Gupta said the vaccination drive in progress, people have become careless and stopped

adhering to various protective measures that were mandated for every citizen.

"The BJP appeals to the people to remain vigilant and strictly adhere to the COVID-appropriate behaviour in view of a large number of fresh cases being reported from many states including our neighbour Punjab... there has also been a sudden spike in our Union Territory as well during this week," he said in a statement here.

## Kashmir Sikh Body Demands Fresh Probe Into Chattisinghpura Massacre

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** All Party Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) Saturday, on the eve of the Chattisinghpura massacre anniversary, urged the government to conduct a fresh probe in the killings so that culprits are nabbed and justice is provided to the families of the victims.

In a statement, the chairman of APSCC Jagmohan Singh Raina urged the government to go for a fresh probe into the incident and allow the Justice Pandan Commission to further investigate the incident as Brackpura and Chattisinghpura cases are interlinked.

Raina in the statement said that even after the passing of 21 years the people of Jammu and Kashmir especially the Sikhs of the valley are waiting for justice and urged the state and central governments to nab the culprits.

He said that the Indian Government has blamed the militants for the massacre and also has claimed to have killed at least five of the men who carried out the brutal massacre. "But so far India is yet to present hard evidence backing up its claims," the Committee said in the statement.

The statement said that according to the police, nearly 20 militants carried out the massacre at Chattisinghpura and so far only



five have been caught and killed which later proved wrong.

"The killed persons which the police claimed to be 'militants' were actually innocent residents of Brakpura proved by judicial inquiry of Justice Pandan Commission," the statement added.

"Also their bodies were burnt and hastily buried in a nearby village. The drama created by the officials was fake and melodramatic that on their behalf they said that the militants were caught in a burning house during a gun battle and their bodies were charred beyond recognition," the statement said.

APSCC questioned whether the men killed on that day were actually involved in the Chattisinghpura killings or not. "So far the police have failed to produce any

hard evidence that they were involved — leaving many in Kashmir to question whether the security officials in the troubled region really knew who killed the men of Chattisinghpura."

"So far the Committee made by the Government to find out the mystery of killings of Sikhs in Kashmir. Now we urge the UT and the Central government to go for a fresh probe in the killings of Sikhs. If they fail to do so then, we will consider it as a huge injustice with the Sikhs of Kashmir."

After the massacre, the then CM — Dr Farooq Abdullah publicly assured that the culprits will be soon arrested as they had some clue and assured all assistance. "But till date the promises made by the former CM have proven a hoax."

## Couple Arrested For Duping Man Of Rs 50 Lakh In Jammu

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Crime Branch officials on Friday said that a couple was arrested for allegedly cheating a man and duping him of Rs 50 lakh under the garb of getting a franchise for opening a medical laboratory in Jammu.

According to the sources the crime branch Jammu arrested Harmohinder Singh, COO (Chief Operating Officer) SERA CUE Labs Pvt Ltd and his wife Gurpreet Kour in the duping case of Rs 50 lakh.

While divulging the details about the case, Crime Branch said that the accused were not cooperating in the investigation of the case and constantly evaded arrest by changing their locations for the last two years.

In a statement, Crime Branch said that during the investigation, it has been found that they were involved in duping and cheating many people on the same pretext for which six criminal cases stand registered against them in different states, including Crime Branch Jammu, Gurgaon, Mohali, Jalandhar Punjab, Alwar Rajasthan and Vikaspuri Delhi.

They said that a written complaint was lodged by the victim, Naman Singh, alleging therein that the accused couple visited the house of the complainant and persuaded and allured him for getting a franchise for open-



ing the lab under SERA brand at Jammu, the officials added.

"The accused couple further told the complainant that an amount of Rs 50 lakh has to be paid for appointing the complainant as franchisee and opening medical laboratory under SERA Brand and an amount of Rs 35 lakh would be paid as franchise fee, which would be non-refundable and Rs 15 lakh security deposit, which would be refundable" they said.

The statement further mentioned that an agreement was executed between the company through them and the complainant, which has been duly registered by sub-registrar Jammu. That in pursuance of the said agreement, the complainant has paid an amount of Rs 50 lakh on different dates.

They were produced before the court of law and their police remand has been sought for further investigation. (CNS)

## Four Booked For Allegedly Raping Woman In Rajouri

Observer News Service

**RAJOURI:** Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday booked four men hailing from Kangan area of Kashmir's Ganderbal district for allegedly kidnapping and raping a woman.

The victim is a resident of Barnara

village of Sunderbani Tehsil of Rajouri district and went missing in October last year after which a missing report was lodged.

Officials said that a few days ago, the woman informed police and her family members that four men from Kangan area of Ganderbal kidnapped her and raped

her repeatedly.

On the basis of investigation and victim's statement, a case under FIR number 27/2021 under sections 366, 376-D, 342, 34 IPC was registered in Sunderbani police station and further investigation is underway to ascertain the facts of the case. (CNS)

## OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATIONS CLUSTER UNIVERSITY SRINAGAR

Gogji-Bagh Campus, Srinagar-190008

www.cusrinagar.edu.in, e-mail: controller@cusrinagar.edu.in, controllercus@gmail.com, controllersecrecy@gmail.com

Date Sheet for Integrated B.Ed.-M.Ed. Semester-III Regular-Batch 2019  
Time: 02:30 P.M. TO 04:00 P.M.

DATE	SUBJECTS
29-03-2021 (Monday)	ICT in Education
01-04-2021 (Thursday)	OPTIONAL PAPERS I. Environmental Education II. Human Rights Education III. Health and Physical Education IV. Early Childhood Care and Education

Note:

1. Candidates can download their Admit Cards from the University Website [www.cusrinagar.edu.in](http://www.cusrinagar.edu.in) by signing in to students sign-in after the detailed centre notice is issued.
2. The candidates must carry valid identity cards with them on each day of examination for identification.
3. Candidates shall not carry any communicative device including mobile phones and other electronic devices with them in the examination centre.

No: CUS/Exam/Date-Sheet/IG/B.Ed-M.Ed-III Sem/297-304/2021

Dated: 20-03-

2021

Sd/-  
Controller of Examination  
Cluster University Srinagar

DIPK-NB-6552/20

## Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)

(A J&K Government Undertaking)

2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Sanat Ghar building Bemina Srinagar

Email: aimavijay@gmail.com

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE No:30 of 2020-21 Dated: 18-03-2021

For and on behalf of the Managing Director of Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Cooperation Limited, online tenders are invited from reputed contractors who are registered with CPWD/MES/PWD of appropriate class in India.

Name of work	Adv. Cost. In lacs	Earnest money	Class of contract	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Position of AA
Construction of Main gate with RCC pillars and sign board at Industrial Estate Redbugh Kupwara	1.78 lacs	3560.00	"D" Class civil	100.00	15 working days.	Accorded

Terms and Conditions:

1. The tender documents for the above job can be seen on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 18-03-2021 (1200Hrs)
2. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 18-03-2021 (1200Hrs) onwards.
3. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 18-03-2021 (1200Hrs) upto 08-04-2021 (1630Hrs) only.
4. The uploaded Pre-Qualification bids in the first instance on the website will be opened on 09-04-2021 (1200Hrs).
5. In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day. The financial bids of only those firms shall be opened who qualify in pre-qualification bid, intimation in respect of opening of financial bids shall be notified separately.
6. Cost of tender document shall be deposited in Account No CC-0148020100001980, JFSC Code JAKAOKARRAN, J&K Bank Branch Karan Nagar Gole Market Srinagar and receipt be uploaded online. Earnest Money Deposit (in shape of CDR/FDR) in original, favouring General Manager, SICOP Kashmir shall be uploaded online.
7. The Managing Director J&K SICOP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.
8. All documents as required in SBD should be uploaded with the pre-qualification bid

Sd/-  
General Manager Projects  
SICOP Kashmir

DIPK-NB-6524/20

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (South) Awantipora CANCELLATION

Ref: JSD/PHE/MDSA/ e-NIT No: 121 of 2020-21 DATE: 24 -02-2021

Due to No response, the above mentioned NIT S, no 01 is hereby cancelled. The work shall be tendered afresh.

DIPK-15383/20

No: JSD/PHE/MDSA/3977  
Date:20/03/2021

Sd/  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical  
Division (South)  
Awantipora

## Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

Address: Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal Ph.01942951904

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT NO.218/2020-21 issue under endorsement No.18391-18400  
Dated:18 -03-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Item Rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Restoration of road surface b.w.o P/L GSB, WBM G-I and G-II in patches/Stretches of Zakura Pandach road.	06.00	300/-	10 days	3054 M&R	DEE/CEE
2	Construction of covered cement concrete drain on Lar-Wahidpora road near Masjid Sharief Yanihama (Balance Portion). Name of scheme:- Construction of Drain at Yanihama near masjid sharief and impt. of road from Dar Mohalla to Dangerpora junction & Yanihama to Baba Mohalla under State Sector.	01.00	200/-	10 days	4059 S/S	DEE

Position of AA: Accorded

Position of funds: Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20.03.2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20.03.2021 from 6.00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	20.03.2021 from 6.30 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	26.03.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	26.03.2021 at 04.05 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).

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

4. The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

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

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25

No. 18391-18400

Dated: 18.03.2021

DIPK-15361/20

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Ganderbal



## New Zealand Defeat Bangladesh By 8 Wickets In 1st ODI

### Agencies

**DUNEDIN:** New Zealand needed just over 21 overs Saturday to overtake Bangladesh's total of 131 and win the first of three one-day cricket internationals by eight wickets.

Bangladesh, recently out of managed isolation, were never comfortable in unfamiliar batting conditions at the University Oval and were bowled out by New Zealand in only 41.5 overs. Mahmudullah's 27 from 54 balls was its highest score.

After Martin Gupthill crashed 38 runs from 19 balls with three fours and four sixes at the top of the order, New Zealand was always on target to win plenty of overs to spare.

Henry Nicholls made an unbeaten 49 in his 50th ODI to steer New Zealand to victory in the 22nd over, combining in a 65-run partnership for the second wicket with Devon Conway (27).

New Zealand won the toss and sent in Bangladesh in cool and overcast conditions. When Trent Boult produced a late out-swing with the first ball of the match which surprised and beat Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal, it was clear the tourists were in for a tough day.

"It was nice to get over the line and start the series with a win," Boult said.

"We kept them to a decent total and it was nice to chase it down with only a couple of wickets down."

Swing was short-lived but Bangladesh struggled to score freely on a pitch which was slow and holding and against a New Zealand attack which produced containing lines and lengths.

Bowling into the batsmen and pitching short of a length, the New Zealand bowlers – especially Boult who took 4-27 – cut down scoring options both square of the wicket and down the ground.

Bangladesh struggled to 33-2 af-

ter 10 overs and posted their 50, with three wickets down, in the 16th over.

Thanks to Gupthill, New Zealand's 50 came without a wicket down and in only five overs, and it reached 100 in the 16th over.

Bangladesh had lost all 28 of its previous ODIs against New Zealand in New Zealand, mainly because of the discomfort of its batsmen in conditions which favor the bowlers and the problems its bowlers have had in adapting to those conditions.

The tourists felt they had a chance to break that losing streak on Saturday because New Zealand was without senior batsmen Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor and leading bowler Tim Southee. Tom Latham captained New Zealand in his 100th ODI.

Bangladesh in turn was without the fulcrum of its batting lineup. Shakib Al Hasan was left at home on paternity leave, but coming into this series in form after a 3-0 home series victory over the West Indies, the tourists felt confident.

Apart from Mahmudullah, Mushfiquur Rahim made 23 from 49 balls and Liton Das made 19 from 36. Boult struck at both ends of the innings, removing Tamim (13) and Soumya Sarkar (0) within three balls in the fifth over, then taking a catch to dismiss Das. He returned to capture the last two wickets to fall.

Jimmy Neesham dismissed Das and Mushfiquur, then had a hand (literally) in dismissing Mohammad Mithun, by deflecting Mahmudullah's straight drive onto the stumps at the non-striker's end after Mithun had left his ground. Mahedi Hasan, on debut, hit a six for his first runs in ODIs and looked determined to lift the scoring rate but he fell to left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner for 14.

"There were a lot of soft dismissals," Bangladesh captain Tamim said. "No doubt they bowled extremely well but we played some loose shots and we have ourselves to blame."

## Cristiano Ronaldo Named Italian League Player Of The Year Again

### Agencies

**MILAN:** Cristiano Ronaldo was named the Italian league player of the year on Friday for the second successive time.

Ronaldo won the prize in 2019 after his debut season at Juventus. The awards did not take place last year because of the coronavirus pandemic. Ronaldo scored 31 goals in 33 league matches last season and helped Juventus to a record-extending ninth successive Serie A title.

"At the beginning it was hard to play in empty stadiums, but the aim was to win, and we did it," the 36-year-old Ronaldo said.

"I am happy and lucky. Persistence, confidence, work ethic, pas-

sion—those are all the secrets that allow me to keep playing. I feel motivated and you have to be every year, otherwise you won't manage to win at 34, 35, 36 or 40 years old."

Juventus forward Cristiana Girelli received the best female player award. Atalanta's Gian Piero Gasperini took home the coach prize and his side was team of the year. Atalanta finished third in Serie A for the second straight season and also reached the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

The Gran Galà del Calcio awards, which are voted for by a mix of footballers, coaches, referees and journalists, are normally presented at a glittering ceremony. Amid the ongoing pandemic, they were presented in a televised show.

# With Only Pride At Stake, Real Kashmir Take On Punjab In I-League Today



### Press Trust of India

**KALYANI:** Real Kashmir and Punjab FC will play for pride when they face each other in an I-League phase two match at the Kalyani Municipal Stadium here on Sunday.

Real Kashmir started the season with a flurry of great results and were unbeaten in the initial nine games but they haven't managed to deliver the desired results when the stakes were high.

As a result, they are out of the title race. The Snow Leopards now find themselves in the sixth spot with 18 points from 13 games.

Speaking at the pre-match press conference, goalkeeping

coach Jonathan Craig said, "A lot has happened over the past few weeks and with a bit more luck we would have been way higher on the table. It has been a combination of a lot of injuries and tired bodies.

"We will be asking the same work ethic, fire, desire, and passion from the players for the next match. We want to finish the game with three points tomorrow so the work ethic is going to be very very important."

Punjab FC have played some quality football in the season but lately, results haven't gone their way. They haven't been able to produce what it takes to get the job done.

A lacklustre performance in

their last match saw them lose 0-1 to TRAU and Punjab will have to find the missing pieces in the jigsaw if they are to take all the three points against the Snow Leopards.

"I think we have made a statement in our first season, we have shown that we can be competitive in the I-League which we are very happy with. When we look back on the games, we could have won the championship," head coach Curtis Fleming said.

"This is not about just the one season. It is about what we want to achieve in the long run. I think till the last minute of this season everyone has to give everything for us and prepare for next season. I have no doubts that we are going to be stronger next season."

## BCCI Releases IPL SOP: Bubble Transfer For Indian And English Players, No Vaccination As Of Now

### Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The cricketers who are part of the ongoing India versus England series, as well as the IPL, will not have to undergo mandatory seven-day hard quarantine as they will be transported from one bubble to another as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) released on Saturday.

Also, the BCCI has made it clear that no individual associated with the IPL will be vaccinated as of now as the government of India has put a system in place which is currently being adhered to.

The SOP, which is in possession of PTI, states: "Players who

are coming from bubble created for India vs England series may directly join the franchise squad without serving mandatory quarantine period provided.

"After the conclusion of series, they directly move to team hotel either by bus or chartered flight...if travel arrangements are to the satisfaction of CMO, such players can directly enter team bubble without need to serve quarantine or undergo RT PCR tests," the SOP stated.

Similarly, for all franchises who are having prior camps in bio-secure bubbles, if their travel arrangements are satisfactory they will be entitled bubble-to-bubble transfers.

However, if the CMO is not satisfied, then all those players need to undergo seven days of hard quarantine and return with three negative tests.

The SOP stated that at this point, the government has not specified anything on the vaccination of elite athletes.

"In India, the first group to get vaccinated is healthcare and frontline workers. The second group is persons above 60 years of age as of January 1, 2022 and person between 45 to 59 years with comorbid conditions. The government is yet to announce the schedule of vaccination of other groups of people including elite athletes."

## 3 Shooters, Including 2 From Indian Pistol Team, Test Positive For COVID-19 At ISSF World Cup

### Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Three shooters, including two from the Indian pistol men's team, have tested positive for COVID-19, National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) sources said on the second competition day of the ISSF World Cup here on Saturday.

The shooters are currently self-isolating in their team hotel. Those who were sharing the rooms with the three shooters as well as their other teammates have also been isolated after undergoing COVID tests.

The results of the roommates and other team members, though, have returned negative.

A source said two among the three shooters are from the Indian contingent.

"The shooters have been sent into isolation as per protocols. Testing is being done on a daily basis and that's their results have come to light," a source close to the federation told PTI.

"Everything is being done as per the protocols laid down by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) and in consultation with its technical director," another NRAI source said.

"The better news is that the results of the roommates and teammates have returned negative," he added.

In all, four shooters have already been afflicted by the dreaded virus since the teams started arriving for the tournament, which started on Friday at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.

Countries have been allowed to field their MQS (Minimum Qualification Score) shooters in place of the ones ruled out from the main teams owing to contracting the virus.

The roommates of the three shooters will be allowed to take part in the tournament as their test results have returned negative. The name of the shooters have been withheld in line with protocols.

On Thursday, a top international shooter returned positive for COVID-19, following which he was sent to a hospital.

The shooter was first tested at the airport and then again on Thursday. He is asymptomatic and the shooter has never visited the range.

A total of 294 shooters from as many as 53 countries, including Korea, Singapore, USA, United Kingdom, Iran, Ukraine, France, Hungary, Italy, Thailand and Turkey, are participating in the tournament.

As per the ISSF guidelines, no spectator is allowed inside the range for the tournament that carries ranking points aiding in Tokyo Olympic qualifications.

## PV Sindhu Falters At All England Badminton Semifinals

### Press Trust of India

**BIRMINGHAM:** Reigning world champion P V Sindhu suffered yet another semifinal defeat at the prestigious All England Championships as she went down tamely in straight games to Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in the women's singles in Birmingham on Saturday.

Sindhu, the Olympic silver medalist, couldn't match the pace, power and precision of her younger world number 11 rival Chochowong and lost 17-21 9-21 in a match that lasted 43 minutes.

The world no. 7 Indian had also lost at the semifinal at the 2018 edition as well.

Sindhu came into the semifinal contest with an overwhelming 4-1 head-to-head lead over the 23-year-old Chochowong, whom she had beaten at the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals in January.

But all that statistics didn't matter as Chochowong showed immaculate defence and played at a searing pace to outclass the Indian.

On Friday night, Sindhu, seeded fifth, had defeated Japan's third seed Akane Yamaguchi 16-21 21-16 21-19 in an intriguing quarter-

final match to make it to the last eight stage.

Sindhu had battled for an hour and 16 minutes to eke out her first win over world number five Yamaguchi in last four meetings.

"I am playing against her after quite a long time. I'm sure she would have trained very hard. The match was a good, tough long match I would say," she had said.

Sindhu, who had reached the finals at Swiss Open, played an aggressive game, matching Yamaguchi with her speed and retrieving skills but unforced errors allowed the Japanese to jump to a 11-6 lead, a deficit she couldn't erase as the Japanese pocketed the first game.

After an error-prone start to the second game, Sindhu moved to 6-2 with some superb shots. She then led 8-4 with the Japanese missing the lines twice. Sindhu got five game points and won the game easily.

In the decider, Yamaguchi came back to make it 15-15 and then grab the lead with another superb return at 18-17.

Sindhu then made it 19-18 with a couple of points and then grabbed the match points with Yamaguchi going wide. The Japanese then hit the net as Sindhu won the match.

## Why Sri Lanka Cricket Needs A System Overhaul To Stop Slide

### Agencies

**COLOMBO:** Once a dominant force in world cricket, Sri Lanka's slide internationally has opened debate in this island nation about whether democracy and a free hand in the administration of the sport is working.

Sri Lankans have long embraced cricket, a colonial legacy, as their own. It's not only the country's most popular sport, but also a unifying factor.

This week marked the 25th anniversary of Sri Lankan cricket's most celebrated achievement — the World Cup triumph in 1996. But the memories of those peaks had fans and critics wondering how it all could have gone downhill so quickly.

Since 2015, Sri Lanka has won just 19 and lost 31 of the 57 test matches it has contested.

Once the pace-setters in the one-day format, Sri Lanka's record in one-day internationals since 2015 is 33 wins and 64 defeats, including three in a row against the West Indies last week.

In Twenty20s, the quickest and most vibrant from of the game in recent years, Sri Lanka's record is 19-47.

After winning the World Cup final over Australia in 1996, Sri Lanka has twice been runner-up in the biggest ODI event. It also won the World Twenty20 title in 2014, five years after being runner-up, but hasn't qualified for the semifinals of any major tournament in the last six years.

Though initial defeats were thought to be temporary in the wake of retirements to some of the biggest stars in the game, the prolonged failure has exposed a system that is no longer producing top-quality players.

Past international players and analysts blame administrators and a lopsided Sri Lanka Cricket constitution and a bloated voting system for stymieing the development of the game domestically.

Democracy "has not worked as far as Sri Lanka Cricket is concerned. There are many loopholes in the constitution which have been exploited by the administration and the clubs," cricket analyst Callistus Davy said.

Sri Lanka Cricket's constitution allows for elected officials to simultaneously hold executive positions in clubs at first-class level, increasing the potential for conflicts of interest.

Davy said the government has fired the



elected cricket board and installed interim administrations eight times since 1999, citing corruption and mismanagement.

The running of the game has reverted to elections each time, though, because of International Cricket Council regulations which dictate democratic governance of the sport at national level.

Sri Lanka Cricket's next elections for a two-year term are set for May 20.

Analysts and past players say there are simply too many first-class clubs, which dilutes the talent pool of players but expands opportunities for officials and administrators.

There are 24 clubs playing in first-class competition in Sri Lanka, far higher than the numbers competing in larger countries such as India. Australia, which has a slightly bigger population than Sri Lanka, has six first-class teams in the men's domestic competition.

More teams also mean more votes. This year, 144 votes cast by regional associations and clubs (comprising four provincial associations, six other cricket associations such as the Defense Services Sports Board and the Sri Lanka University Sports Association, 22 district associations, 28 so-called controlling clubs and 22 affiliated clubs) will decide the office bearers for Sri Lanka Cricket.

Past and current players have for long called for the reduction of clubs to focus more on quality than quantity.

Arjuna Ranatunga, Sri Lanka's World Cup-winning captain, said the success had brought more money into the domestic game, and that made it more attractive for people to get

into the administration of the sport.

"Before we won the World Cup, there was (not much) money involved . . . so many people were hesitant to come into the board," Ranatunga said.

"After '96, money started coming, that is where all these business people . . . some others with their groups got into cricket."

Ranatunga said the sports minister needed to intervene again and appoint leaders to govern the sport, and he was confident the ICC would be OK with an interim administration appointed solely for the propose of reforming domestic cricket.

"What has happened to cricket because of democracy? We have already gone down," he said.

Sri Lanka's former opening batsman and manager Brendon Kuruppu said officials were preoccupied with local infrastructure at the expense of closing the gap between domestic and international cricket.

"We have too many domestic clubs playing but we have a pool of about 75 players of international quality," Kuruppu said. "There have been proposals to bring down the clubs down to about 10 (but) it never happens with an elected body because they are looking for votes."

Muttiah Muralitharan, the all-time leading wicket taker in test cricket, is among the dozen people who've sought court intervention to reform cricket governance.

They have petitioned the Court of Appeal to appoint an independent committee to draft a new constitution, and have pointed to other countries where similar moves have worked to improve the strength of the domestic game and the national team.

Sri Lanka Cricket secretary Mohan de Silva rejected suggestions that the board encourages the high number of clubs to maintain voting blocks.

"One cannot say democracy doesn't help produce players," he said. He believes the lack of qualities coming through at school level "the cradle of Sri Lanka's cricket" is having a direct impact at senior level.

De Silva said the board recognized that there was a need to reduce the number of first-class clubs and overhaul the constitution. But, he added, the clubs needed to be encouraged or gently persuaded to take that path because a two-thirds majority is needed to make constitutional reforms.

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