



P3 CITY

**AFTER OUTRAGE, CITY MAYOR VISITS KHANKAH-E-MOULLA, ASSURES ACTION**

Following the social media outrage over the destruction of oldest surviving wall murals (Naqashi) at the Khanqah-i-Mualla, the Mayor of Srinagar, Junaid Azim Mattu.

P7 THINK

**RUSSIA'S SPUTNIK V VACCINE**

It has also been deemed to be safe - and offer complete protection against hospitalisation and death. The vaccine was initially met with some controversy after being rolled out before the final trial data had been released. But scientists said its benefit has now been demonstrated....



P5 STATE

**YOUTH OUR HOPE, FULFILLING THEIR ASPIRATIONS TOP PRIORITY OF GOVT: SHAHID IQBAL**

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Mission Director, Skill Development Mission and CEO Mission Youth, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary today visited Pulwama...

**Widom Quote!**

No people who are ignorant can be truly free

—Thomas Jefferson

**NEWS DIGEST****NIA Raids Govt Teacher's House**

SRINAGAR: Sleuths of National Investigation Agency (NIA) accompanied by local Police on Monday carried out searches at the residential house of a government teacher in Ajas village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. An official said that searches were carried out at the residence of a teacher identified as Altaf Ahmad resident of Potu- Mohalla Ajas, tehsil in Bandipora, news agency KDC reported. He said that the National Investigation Agency team from Srinagar has seized a ● [More On P10](#)

**2 Militant Associates Nabbed: Police**

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested two alleged over-ground workers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Bashir Ahmed Bhat and Waseem Ahmed Mir, both residents of Kreeri were arrested during a search operation and two Chinese grenades and 20 rounds of AK-47 rifle were recovered from their possession, a police spokesperson said. The duo, he said, were instigating and motivating youth of the Kreeri area to join the militant ● [More On P10](#)

**Motorcyclist Killed In Sumbal Collision**

SRINAGAR: A young motorcyclist was killed in a road accident in Sumbal area in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Monday. 25-year-old Zubair Majeed Sofi of Tangpora Nesbal lost control over his motorbike and collided with a load-carrier vehicle at Naninari, Sumbal resulting in critical injuries to him, an official said. The injured youth, he said, was immediately rushed to Sumbal hospital from where he was referred to Srinagar hospital for treatment, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. He said that a case under relevant sections of law has ● [More On P10](#)

**Sushil Chandra Appointed Next CEC**

NEW DELHI: Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra was on Monday appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner, the Law Ministry said. According to a notification issued by the Legislative Department of the ministry, Chandra will assume charge on April 13. Incumbent Sunil Arora demitted office on Monday. "In pursuance of clause (2) of Article 324 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Sushil Chandra as the Chief Election ● [More On P10](#)

**'Absolutely Frivolous'**

SC Slaps Fine On Rizvi For Seeking Removal Of Quranic Verses



Press Trust Of India

DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday termed as "absolutely frivolous" a petition filed by former UP Shia Waqf Board chairman Waseem Rizvi

seeking removal of 26 verses from holy Quran and dismissed it with a cost of Rs 50,000.

A bench of Justices R F Nariman B R Gawai and Hrishikesh Roy rejected the petition in which ● [More On P10](#)

**7 Killed After Minibus Falls Off Cliff In Doda**

Press Trust Of India

DODA: Seven passengers, including four women, were killed and three others critically injured after a minibus skidded off a mountainous road and fell into a river in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, police said.

The incident took place on the Thathri-Gandoh road near Piyakul village, 42 km from Doda town, they said.

Superintendent of Police (SP), Bhaderwah, Raj Singh Gouria said the minibus was on its way to Chilli village from Doda when the driver lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a blind curve. As a result, the minibus plunged into the deep gorge.

The bus landed on the Kalnai river bed and its roof was blown away by the impact, another police official said.

Gouria said rescuers, including police, Army and locals, immediately ● [More On P10](#)

**J&K Reports 991 New Corona Cases, No Deaths**

File Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Monday recorded 991 new COVID-19 cases, which took the tally to

1,39,381, officials said.

There was no fresh fatality due to the coronavirus in the union territory in the past 24 hours and the toll stands at 2,034, they said ● [More On P10](#)

**School Sealed For Violating SOPs, Slapped With Rs 30K Fine**

Srinagar: Administration in Budgam on Monday sealed a school and imposed Rs 30000 as penalty after it was found open in violation of the government order in wake of the continuing covid-19 rise. "I Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza (IAS), District Magistrate Budgam, in exercise of powers vested to me under section 144 of the Cr.PC, section 34 of National Disaster Management Act, 2005 do hereby order the closure of (Shah-I-Hamdan) till further orders, besides ● [More On P10](#)

**CAT Quashes Selection List Of Sub-Inspectors**

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Central Administrative Tribunal, Jammu Bench, on Monday quashed selection list of the Sub Inspector (Executive and Armed) in J&K Police prepared in pursuance to advertisement on 30 December 2016.

"The fallacy in the selection procedure adopted by the (officials) can be best demonstrated by the fact that 275 vacancies were advertised in Executive Wing in open merit whereas 310 persons have been selected," a bench of Rakesh Sagar Jain, Member (J) And Anand Mathur, Member (A).

The tribunal ● [More On P10](#)

**LG Worried Over Depleting Water Resources In J&K**

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday expressed serious concern over the depleting water resources in Jammu

and Kashmir and said that his government will not allow any new locality or market to come up on water bodies.

Sinha made these remarks while reviewing the issues of Water ● [More On P10](#)

**'New Film Policy For J&K To Be Unveiled In 10 Days'**

Agencies

Jammu and Kashmir's lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha Monday said that the administration led by him will dole out the "New Film Policy for J&K" within ten days with an aim to bring back the golden era on the silver screen. Addressing the two-day Conference on Tapping the Tourism Potential of Kashmir—Another Day in Paradise at SKICC on the banks of famous ● [More On P10](#)

**Facilitate Ramzan Prayers During Night Curfew: LG**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Superintendents of Police (SPs) have been asked to facilitate observance of prayers during curfew timings in the holy month of Ramadan.

The information was shared by LG through a tweet, a day after the religious organizations appealed to the administration to ensure that the prayers are allowed during the night curfew hours.

"Have directed DCs/SPs to facilitate observance of prayers/



religious functions during the holy month of Ramzan during curfew timings, wherever necessary." Office of the LG tweeted. Pertinently, ● [More On P10](#)

**MeT Predicts More Snow, Rain From April 14**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The weather department on Monday predicted fresh snowfall over higher reaches and rainfall in plains of Jammu and Kashmir from April 14, even as the night temperatures rose across the Valley after rainfall. "There's no forecast of any severe weather till April 14. Expect another spell of light to moderate rain/thunderstorm (in plains) and snowfall over ● [More On P10](#)

**Centre Has To Restore J&K's Spl Status: Mehbooba**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said her party will continue to struggle for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and asserted that India and Pakistan will have to sit across the dialogue table for the resolution of all outstanding issues, including Kashmir.

"We will continue with our struggle for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.... We do not accept your (government's) decision of revoking it," she said at a party function here.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the special status to the erstwhile state was given by the



Constitution of India.

"This position was not given by China or Pakistan. Why is the BJP government pained when we seek its restoration? We had acceded to India on certain conditions and one of them was to protect our identity," she said.

Mufti said the Centre will have to restore Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

"If you care ● [More On P10](#)

**Be a part of HIMAYAT**

**Major initiative to get you trained and placed**

**Counselling begins from 12 April, 2021 to 23 April, 2021**

S.No	Name of PIA	Date of Counselling	Timing	Course Name/ Trade	Duration	Minimum Eligibility	Venue	Panchayat	Block	District
1	Maa Saraswati Educational Trust	Monday, April 12, 2021	1:00 PM	General Duty Assistant/ Machinist	07months/ 04months	10th /08th	Panchayat Ghar, Near Govt. Middle School, Panchayat Ranka, Tehsil Assar, Distt. Doda	Assar	Assar	Doda
2	Wockhardt Foundation	Monday, April 12, 2021	11:00 AM	General Duty Assistant	06 months	10th	Gulpur	Gulpur	Poonch	Poonch
3	Fidelis Corporate Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Monday, April 12, 2021	12:00 PM	Technical Support Executive-Voice	4 months	12th	Townhall, Kulgam	Kulgam	Kulgam	Kulgam
4	TeamLease Services Ltd.	Tuesday, April 14, 2021	12:00 PM	Food and Beverages	7 months	12th	PanchayatGhar, Kalaroos	Kalaroos	Kalaroos	Kupwara
5	Don Bosco Tech Society	Wednesday, April 15, 2021	11:00 AM	CRM Domestic Voice	6 months	10th	Afarwat College of Education, DB Tech Himayat Centre Janabzpora, Baramulla.	Janabzpora	Baramulla	Baramulla
6	Boparais Martial security	Friday, April 16, 2021	12:00 Noon	Security Supervisor	3 months	12th	Panchayat Ghar, Mahore Bagga	Mahore	Mahore	Reasi
7	Apollo MedSkills	Monday, April 19, 2021	12:00 PM	Emergency Medical Technician/ BASIC / General Duty Assistant & Geriatric aide & General Duty Assistant	6 Months	10th / 12th	Panchayat ghar padyari	Padyari	Nagri	Kathua
8	Quess Corp Ltd	Tuesday, April 20, 2021	11:30 AM	Retail Sale Associate	3 months	10th	Bhella Hr sec school	Bhella	Bhella	Doda
9	Learnet Skills Ltd	Tuesday, April 20, 2021	11:00 AM	Food & Beverages- Service Steward	05 months	10th	LIS -Himayat Kupwara, Near FCI Store Bumhama Kupwara	Bumhama	Drugmulla	Kupwara
10	Noida Productivity Council	Tuesday, April 20, 2021	11:00 AM	Retail Sales Associate / Food and Beverages :Hospitality	4 months	Middle - 10th - 12th	NPC Centre, 209 SEC-4, Pamposh Colony, Janipur, Jammu - 180007	Janipur	Jammu	Jammu
11	Terrier security services.	Tuesday, April 20, 2021	12:00 Noon	Data Entry Operator /Unarmed security guard	6 months/4 months	10th / 12th	Sarpanch house poneja, Doda, Jammu	Poneja	Poneja	Doda
12	Terrier security services.	Tuesday, April 21, 2021	11:00 AM	Data Entry Operator /Unarmed security guard	6 months/4 months	10th / 12th	Terrier Training Center, 16 - Haji Mohalla, Saidakadal	Srinagar	Srinagar	Srinagar
13	ICA Edu Skills Pvt. Ltd.	Wednesday, April 22, 2021	11:00 AM	Departmental Manager	7.5 months	12th	ICA, 1st floor , Kidzee school, Anand nagar, Bohri Jammu	Corporation	Jammu	Jammu
14	Learnet Skills Ltd	Wednesday, April 22, 2021	11:00 AM	Assistant Electrician	04 months	10th	Learnet Skills C/O Shivalik College of Education, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, NH-1/A, Near Easy Day Store Shiv Nagar, Udhampur-182101	Udhampur	Udhampur	Udhampur
15	Terrier security services.	Wednesday, April 22, 2021	11:00 AM	Data Entry Operator /Unarmed security guard	6 months/4 months	10th / 12th	Terrier Training center, Shuhama, Near SKUAST University, Ganderbal	Ganderbal	Ganderbal	Ganderbal
16	Quess Corp Ltd	Friday, April 23, 2021	11:00 AM	Data Entry Operator	6 Months	10th	Himayat Centre, Quess Corp Ltd, ABC Plaza, Behind Mugal Darbar, Karan Nagar.	Karan Nagar	Karan Nagar	Srinagar
17	ICA Edu Skills Pvt. Ltd.	Friday, April 23, 2021	11:30 AM	Departmental Manager	7.5 months	12th	ICA, 2nd Floor, Kartar Publisc School	Barnoti	Barnoti	Kathua
18	ManpowerGroup Services India Pvt Ltd	Friday, April 23, 2021	11:30 AM	Retail Departmental Manager	8.5 Months	12th	BDO Office Khour	Khour	Khour	Jammu
19	Learnet Skills Ltd	Friday, April 23, 2021	10:00 AM	Assistant Electrician/ Retail Trainee Associate	04 months/03 months	10th	C/o Mother Teresa Convent Hr. Sec School Dharmani, Near Radha Krishana Temple, Gurah Kalval Tehsil, Rankot	Gurah Kalval-B	Mandli	Kathua
20	Apollo MedSkills	Friday, April 23, 2021	12:00 Noon	Emergency Medical Technician/ BASIC / General Duty Assistant & Geriatric aide & General Duty Assistant	6 months	10th / 12th	Umeed Office, Drugmulla	Drugmulla	Hatmulla	Handwara

**Himayat Mission Management Unit (HMMU)**

**Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, J&K**



# Study reveals females' pain not taken as seriously as men's pain

Agencies

Researchers found that when male and female patients expressed the same amount of pain, observers viewed female patients' pain as less intense and more likely to benefit from psychotherapy versus medication as compared to men's pain.

The results of the study exposed a significant patient gender bias that could lead to disparities in treatments.

The novel research published in the Journal of Pain was co-authored by Elizabeth Losin, assistant professor of psychology and director of the Social and Cultural Neuroscience lab at the University of Miami.

According to "Gender biases in the estimation of others' pain," when male and female patients expressed the same amount of pain, observers viewed female patients' pain as less intense and more likely to benefit from psychotherapy versus medication as compared to men's pain, exposing a significant patient gender bias that could lead to disparities in treatments.

The study consisted of two experiments. In the first, 50 participants were asked to view various videos of male and female patients who suffered from shoulder pain performing a series of range of motion exercises using their injured and uninjured shoulders. Researchers pulled the videos from a database that contains videos of actual shoulder injury patients, each experiencing a range of different degrees of pain. The database included patients' self-reported level of discomfort when moving their shoulders.

According to Losin, the study likely provides results more applicable to patients in clinical settings compared to previous studies that used posed actors in their stimuli videos.

"One of the advantages of using these videos of patients who are actually experiencing pain from an injury is that we have the patients' ratings of their own pain," she explained.

"We had a ground truth to work with, which we can't have if it's a stimulus with an actor pretending to be in pain," she added.

The patients' facial expressions were also analyzed through the Facial Action Coding System (FACS) -- a comprehensive, anatomically based system for describing all visually discernible facial movements. The researchers used these FACS values in a formula to provide an objective score of the intensity of the patients' pain facial expressions. This provided a second ground truth for the researchers to use when analyzing the data.

The study participants were asked to gauge the amount of pain they thought the patients in the videos experienced on a scale from zero, labeled as "absolutely no pain," and 100, labeled as "worst pain possible."

In the second experiment, researchers replicated the first portion of this study with 200 participants. This time, after viewing the videos, perceivers were asked to complete the Gender

Role Expectation of Pain questionnaire, which measures gender-related stereotypes about pain sensitivity, the endurance of pain, and willingness to report pain.

Perceivers also shared how much medication and psychotherapy they would prescribe to each patient and which of these treatments they believed would be more effective in treating each patient.

The researchers analyzed the results of the participant's responses to the videos compared to the patient's self-reported level of pain and the facial expression intensity data. The ability to analyse observers' perceptions relative to these two ground truth measures of the patients' pain in the videos allowed



the researchers to measure bias more accurately, Losin explained. That is because bias could be defined as different ratings for male and female patients despite the same level of responses.

Overall, the study found that female patients were perceived to be in less pain than the male patients who reported and exhibited, the same intensity of pain. Additional analyses using participants' responses to the questionnaire about gender-related pain stereotypes allowed researchers to conclude that these perceptions were partially explained by these stereotypes.

"If the stereotype is to think women are more expressive than men, perhaps 'overly' expressive, then the tendency will be to discount women's pain behaviours," Losin said.

Losin further noted, "The flip side of this stereotype is that men are perceived to be stoic, so when a man makes an intense pain facial expression, you think, 'Oh my, he must be dying!' The result of this gender stereotype about pain expression is that each unit of increased pain expression from a man is thought to represent a higher increase in his pain experience than that same increase in pain expression by a woman."

What's more, psychotherapy was chosen as more effective than medication for a higher proportion of female patients compared to male patients.

Additionally, the study concluded that the gender of the perceivers did not influence pain estimation. Both men and women interpreted women's pain to be less intense.

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BARAMULLA H.Q. SOPORE



Notice  
Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from:  
Ashima Jain D/W/O Ashish Jain R/O Jankpuri B1 West Delhi -110058 (transferor) of



owner of vehicle Fiat Punto 1248 bearing Registration No: DL4CAV5328 Chassis No. MCAT11835E07020443 Engine No: 0108253 Model 08/2010 in favour of Javid Ahmad Mir S/o Khazar Mohammad Mir R/o Mandji Baramulla (transferee).

Now therefore, it is notified that if any person has any objection in this behalf he / she should filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Baramulla (H.Q. Sopore ) within Seven days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. 1912 /ARTO/ Bla.  
Dated: 10-04-2021  
gms

Sd/ Assistant Regional  
Transport Officer  
Baramulla H.Q. Sopore

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Awtar Singh S/o: Jagnath Singh R/o: Zabugh Dalwan Budgam (Transferor) of LMV alto . Vehicle bearing registration number JK04A - 7955. Chassis number 108583 Engine no. 1215478 Model 2008. in

favour of Shri.. Zuhail Farooq S/o. Farooq Ahmad Magray R/o Barzulla Srinagar (Tranferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.229  
Dated 12/04/2021

mcb

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Bal Bhawan Public Senior Secondary School Address Mangal Bazar Lasmi Nagar DL (Transferor) of ETOS bearing registration No. DL 8CAB- 2063 chassis No: 200050769 Engine No: 1309663 Model 2013 in favour of Showket Ahamd Mir S/o Abdul Hamid Mir R/O Chatbal Nawakdal (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 735  
Dated: 12/04/2021  
FKO

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My 9th class pass School leaving certificate for year 1993, was damaged in devastating floods in Srinagar in 2014 now I am applying for its duplicate in this regard if anybody have any kind of objection may file the same to Headmaster Government high School Goshbugh pattan with in the period of Seven days from the date of publication of this notice.  
**Mohammad Altaf Yatoo**  
S/o: Lt. Gh. Mohammad yatoo R/o: Goshbugh pattan gms



## ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tele: 01933-247954/247955.

Website: www.iust.ac.in

### PH.D SELECTION NOTIFICATION NO. 01 OF 2021

The candidates having qualified JRF/NET/SET/GATE bearing following Form Numbers have been provisionally selected for admission to various Ph.D. programmes for the Academic Session 2020-21.

**Computer Science:** 205022, 205292, 205045

**Arabic Language & Literature:** 204952, 505229, 205025, 205056

**Islamic Studies:** 204968, 205012, 205111, 205039

**Economics:** 204969, 204954

**Computer Science & Engineering:** 205197

**Electronics & Communication Engineering:** 205095

**Management Studies:** 205313, 205201, 205387, 205301

**Journalism & Mass Communication:** 205218

**Mechanical Engineering:** 205272

#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The selection is based on the selection procedure notified in Admission Notification (Ph.D.) No. 01 of 2021 dated: 12-01-2021.
- The selection of the candidates is strictly provisional and subject to the fulfillment of eligibility criteria as fixed and determined by the university and production/verification of the original documents/valid JRF/NET/SET/GATE certificate(s) wherever applicable. In case of any discrepancy found at any point of time, the University reserves the right to cancel/modify such selection/admission.
- Provisionally selected candidates are hereby informed to report to the office of the Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora on any working day by or before **22-04-2021 (except on Saturday & Sunday)** alongwith original documents/ copies thereof and requisite fee of **Rs. 22,200/-** for completion of admission formalities.
- Selected candidates are required to submit an affidavit from the 1<sup>st</sup> Class Magistrate mentioning that he/she is not working/studying in any Institution/organization.
- The in-service selected candidates (if any) are informed to submit No Objection Certificate (NOC)/ Study leave from the employer in addition to all the requisite qualifying documents at the time of admission.
- To fill the remaining vacancies, wherever applicable, the University shall conduct the entrance test for which the schedule shall be notified separately.

No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/21/130

Dated: 12-04-2021

(Errors & Omissions Excepted)-

Sd/-  
Deputy Registrar, Academics



## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JSD (PHE) DIVISION PULWAMA

email : xenpheapulwama@gmail.com



از دفتر ایکزیکیوٹو انجینئر شکتی ڈیپارٹمنٹ (پی.ایچ.ای) ڈویژن پلوامہ

### CORRIGENDUM-2

Subject:- ENIT S. No. 131/PHEP/Fresh of 2020-21

Reference:- This office No. PHEP/7095-7106 Dated. 08-03-2021 followed by No. PHEP/7708-20 dtd. 30-03-2021

The last date of bid submission for the above-mentioned E-NIT is hereby extended by 26-04-2021 upto 1600 hours and the same shall be opened on 29-04-2021 at 1000 Hours.

#### Rest will remain unchanged

NO: PHEP/ 226-38  
Dated:- 12-04-2021

DIPK-417/21

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**JSD (PHE) Div., Pulwama.**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla

Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, executiveengineermdb@gmail.com

### Short Term Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No:-MDB/e-Tender/01 of 2021-22 Dated:-08-04-2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system from Construction Firms / 'A' Class Civil Contractors, Govt /Semi Govt/ Defence Construction Organizations Public Enterprises / PMGSY, NHIDL,NHA, Project Beacon etc. for running of Departmental Hot Mix Plant of Mechanical Engineering Department, Mechanical Division Baramulla at Veerwan Baramulla on yearly hire basis for three financial years i.e.2021-22,2022-23&2023-24..

S. No	Name of Work	Starting Bid Value (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Class of Contractor
01.	Contracting out of Departmental Hot Mix Plant 60-90 Metric Ton / hour Capacity installed at Veerwan Baramulla (District Baramulla) on yearly hire basis for three financial years i.e.2021-22, 2022-23 & 2023-24.	92.40 Lacs Payable in three equal instalments of Rs.30.80 Lacs each	1600.00	Rs.1.85 Lacs	Firms / 'A' Class Civil Contractors Govt / Semi Govt / Defence Construction Organisations/ Public Enterprises / PMGSY, NHIDL,NHA, Project Beacon etc.

The tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given in the 'Abstract; appended to this notice: -

01.	Contract	Contracting out of Departmental Hot Mix Plant 60-90 Metric Ton /hour Capacity installed at Veerwan Baramulla (District Baramulla) on yearly hire basis for three financial years i.e.2021-22,2022-23&2023-24.
02.	Reference to NIT	NIT No. MDB/TS/e-tender/01/2021-22/ Dated:- 08 -04-2021. Issued under Endorsement No: MDB/TS/e-tender/ 68-73 Dated:- 08 -04-2021
03.	Class of Contract	a) Firms / 'A' Class Civil Contractors b) Govt /Semi Govt/ Defence Construction Organisations/ Public Enterprises / PMGSY, NHIDL,NHA, Project Beacon etc.
04.	Time of Contract	Three working Seasons 2021-22, 2022-23 & 2023-24 of working (800 Hours per season).
05.	Starting Bid Value	(Rs. 92.40 Lacs for three years) to be deposited in three equal installments of Rs.30.80 Lacs each before start of every working Season.
06.	Cost of Tender Documents	Rs. 1600.00 (Rupees one thousand Six hundred only) in shape of DD/ Treasury receipt / e-challan / e-receipt to be uploaded in the online bid. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTESHIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
07.	Earnest Money	Rs.1.85 Lacs (One lac eighty-five thousand only)
08.	Online Bidding download / Start Date	09-04-2021 (06:00 PM)
09.	Online Bidding Submission End Date	29-04-2021 (06:00 PM)
10.	Submission of Hard copy (Successful bidder H. only)	(Accepted/ Duly signed Tender Document alongwith original CDR and DD/ tender fee receipt) To be Submitted only by the Highest bidder after opening of the financial bids.
11.	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid (online) (Cover 1st)	30-04-2021 at 02:00 PM in the office of Chief Engineer MED Kashmir
12.	Date and time of opening of Financial Bid (online) (Cover 2nd)	After evaluation of cover 1 <sup>st</sup> in the office of Chief Engineer MED Kashmir

#### Instructions to Bidders:

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format with digital signature on the official website of e- procurement system of J&K Government www.jktenders.gov. in in two covers; viz Techno- Commercial and Financial cover. The uploaded bids shall remain valid for 180 days.

Cover 1st shall contain:

Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit in the Shape of CDR/ FDR from a Scheduled/ Nationalized Bank having Branch in Srinagar/ Baramulla pledged to Accounts Officer, Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir and tender document fee in the shape of DD/ Treasury receipt / e-challan / e-receipt favouring Executive Engineer, Mechanical Engineering Division, Baramulla.

Bank: J&K Bank Branch: T.P Baramulla IFSC Code: JAKAOTESHIL Account No: 0213010200000051

Scanned copy of valid PWD Card/CPWD registration/other Govt. of India registration card.

Scanned copies of the Annexure 'A' & 'B' duly accepted / signed.

Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.

Certificate as per format of Annexure 'B' on firms Letter Head to be uploaded by the bidder

Cover 2nd shall contain:

Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department.

02. The department will not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons.

03. The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and non-transferable.

DIPK-407/21

No: - MDB /TS/e-tendering-/01/2021-22/68-73

Dated:-08-04-2021

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Division  
Baramulla

## District Institute of Education and Trainings Ganderbal

Fatehpura Road Duderhama Ganderbal – 191201 Kashmir

Phone/Fax – 0194-2416152 dietgbl@gmail.com

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamps of Rs.5/= are invited from Registered Sumo Stands for providing vehicles for the year 2021-22 in order to conduct different programmes / allied activities / collection of data for action Research from the schools of District Ganderbal. The number of vehicles needed per day shall differ on different occasions. The rates to be quoted should be for Fuel charges/ litre with respect to mileage of vehicle and an amount to be paid to vehicle Driver per day for haltagge of taxi.

Mileage in terms of kms /litre of Fuel	_____kms /litre of Fuel.
Amount to be paid to vehicle Driver per day (Haltagge)	?

The overall lowest rate quoted shall be taken into consideration and be operational for the year. The last date for the submission of the tenders is 19-04-2021 (Monday) upto 3.00 pm. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

NO/DIET/GBL/

Dated: . .2021

DIPK-430/21

Principal  
DIET Ganderbal







## Dozens Of Migrants Dead After Boat Capsizes Off Djibouti: IOM



Agencies

Thirty-four migrants drowned on Monday after their boat capsized off the coast of Djibouti, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said, the second such accident in just over a month.

Survivors reported that the boat capsized in rough seas at around 4:00 am (0100 GMT) after leaving Yemen with around 60 passengers on board, an IOM official in Djibouti told AFP, asking not to be named.

"The migrants were being transported by people smugglers," Mohammed Abdiker, the IOM's regional director for East Africa and the Horn of Africa, added on Twitter.

"Apprehending and prosecuting people traffickers and smugglers who exploit the vulnerabilities of migrants must become a priority. Too many lives needlessly lost."

There were "many children" among the bodies found, the first official said, adding that survivors were receiving treatment from the IOM and local authorities.

The boat capsized in seas north of the Djibouti port town of Obok, a major transit point for thousands of African migrants in the region trying to reach the Gulf.

It follows a similar accident on March 4 when 20 people drowned after smugglers threw dozens of migrants overboard during a journey between Djibouti and Yemen across the Gulf of Aden.

At least 200 migrants were packed aboard that vessel when it left Djibouti. But about 30 minutes into the voyage the smugglers panicked about the weight on board, and threw 80 people into the sea before turning back towards land.

Two similar incidents in October claimed the lives of at least 50 migrants.

Every year thousands of migrants make perilous boat journeys from the Horn of Africa to war-torn Yemen, many with the aim of travelling overland to Gulf nations in search of work.

It is believed thousands of migrants are stranded in Yemen, where a years-long conflict has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced millions in what the UN calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The strait which separates Djibouti from Yemen is unusual in that it sees migrants and refugees passing in both directions – boatloads of Yemenis fleeing to Africa to escape war, while others head in the opposite direction carrying African migrants to the Arabian Peninsula in search of better opportunities.

## Iran Vows Revenge Against Israel For Nuclear Site Terrorism

Agencies

TEHRAN, IRAN – Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif vowed revenge against Israel for an attack on Iran's main nuclear facilities at Natanz but said it will not stop high-level talks to restore the country's nuclear deal with world powers.

In a private meeting with lawmakers on Monday, Zarif pointed out that top Israeli officials explicitly said they would try to prevent multi-lateral efforts to restore the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which would lead to lifting United States sanctions on Iran.

"Now they think they will achieve their goal. But the Zionists will get their answer in more nuclear advancements," the diplomat was quoted as saying by state-run IRNA.

He vowed "revenge" against Israel and said Iran would not fall into its trap by refusing to engage in talks that could see unilateral US sanctions lifted.

Zarif also promised Natanz will be built stronger than before, using more advanced centrifuges.

"If they think our hand in the negotiations has been weakened, actually this cowardly act will strengthen our position in the talks," he said.

"Other parties to the talks must know that if they faced enrichment facilities that used first-generation machines, now Natanz can be filled with advanced centri-



fuges that have several times the enrichment capacity."

Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the atomic energy organisation, said an emergency power system was established at the Natanz facilities on Monday.

"Enrichment at Natanz has not been stopped and is going strong, although some of the machines that have been decommissioned need to be reevaluated," he said.

The enrichment and centrifuge assembly lines in Isfahan's Natanz, the country's main facilities, were targeted by a large-scale blackout on Sunday that Iran called an act of "nuclear terrorism".

Israel has not officially accepted responsibility for the attack but has imposed no censorship restrictions on its wide coverage by local media, some of which has explicitly said Israel's spy agency Mossad was responsible.

Nournews, an outlet with ties to Iran's security ap-

paratus, cited an unnamed source at the intelligence ministry as saying the person who caused the power outage by disrupting the electrical system has been identified. Steps are being taken to arrest the unidentified individual, it said.

The foreign ministry spokesman also said Iran has already "started to communicate with international authorities and the United Nations" to legally pursue the attack at Natanz.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that he would "never allow" Tehran to obtain nuclear weapons, but made no comment on Iran's accusation that Israel had targeted Natanz.

"Iran has never given up its quest for nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them," Netanyahu said. "I will never allow Iran to obtain the nuclear capability to carry out its genocidal goal of eliminating Israel."

**“OTHER PARTIES TO THE TALKS MUST KNOW THAT if they faced enrichment facilities that used first-generation machines, now Natanz can be filled with advanced centrifuges that have several times the enrichment capacity.”**

## China Considers Mixing COVID-19 Vaccines To Boost Protection Rate

China's top disease control official has said the country is formally considering mixing COVID-19 vaccines as a way of further boosting vaccine efficacy.

Available data shows Chinese vaccines lag behind others including Pfizer and Moderna in terms of efficacy, but require less stringent temperature controls during storage.

Giving people doses of different vaccines is one way to improve vaccines that "don't have very high rates of protection", Gao Fu, the director of the Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said on Saturday, without specifying whether he was referring to foreign or domestic vaccines.

"Inoculation using vaccines of different technical lines is being considered," Gao told a conference in the Chinese city of Chengdu.

Gao said that taking steps to "optimise" the vaccine process including changing the number of doses and the length of time between doses was a "definite" solution to efficacy issues.



Two injections of a vaccine developed by China's Sinovac Biotech, when given shorter than three weeks apart, was 49.1% effective based on data from a Phase III trial in Brazil, below the 50% threshold set by World Health Organization, according to a paper published by Brazilian researchers on Sunday ahead of peer review.

But data from a small subgroup showed that the efficacy rate increased to 62.3% when the doses were given at intervals of three weeks and longer. The overall efficacy rate for the vaccine was slightly above 50% in the trial.

China has developed four domestic vaccines approved for public use and a fifth for smaller-scale emergency use. An official said on Saturday that the country will likely produce 3 billion

doses by the end of the year.

No detailed efficacy data has been released on vaccines made by China's Sinopharm. It has said two vaccines developed by its units are 79.4% and 72.5% effective respectively, based on interim results.

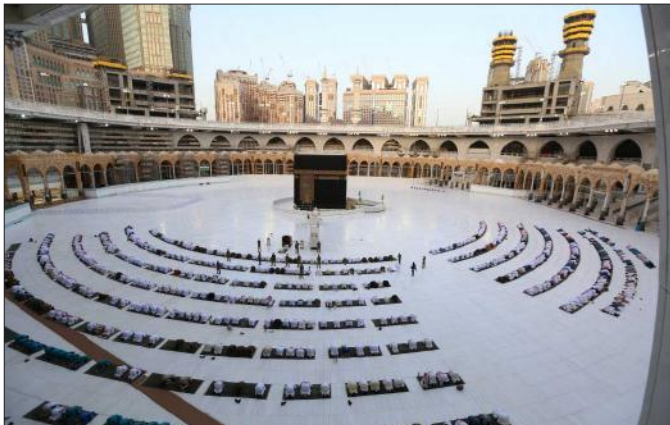
Both vaccine makers have presented data on their COVID-19 vaccines indicating levels of efficacy in line with those required by WHO, a WHO panel said in March.

China has shipped millions of its vaccines abroad, and officials and state media have fiercely defended the shots while calling into question the safety and logistics capabilities of other vaccines.

"The global vaccine protection rate test data are both high and low," Gao told state tabloid Global Times on Sunday.

"How to improve the protection rate of vaccines is a problem that requires global scientists to consider," Gao said, adding that mixing vaccines and adjusting immunisation methods are solutions that he had proposed. -REUTERS

## Saudi Arabia Shortens Taraweeh Prayers At Two Holy Mosques



Agencies

Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdul Aziz on Sunday ordered to shorten Taraweeh prayers at the Grand Mosque in Mecca and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, state news agency (SPA) said.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Sudais, the head of the Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques, announced that Taraweeh prayers would be reduced to 10 rakat from 20 rakat, in strict accordance with the presidency's and other related agencies' precautionary measures and preventive protocols for serving pilgrims and ensuring their safety from coronavirus, reports the Gulf News.

Sheikh Al Sudais emphasized the Saudi leadership's keenness to continue promoting the performance of rituals at the Two Holy Mosques by mobilizing all resources to ensure that pilgrims can perform their rituals in a safe and secure environment that complies with all global health standards used in infection control.

"King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman are continuously following up on everything that would provide the best services for the pilgrims and worshipers during the unprecedented season.

The presidency has equipped its full human and mechanical capabilities to serve pilgrims and worshipers during Ramadan in cooperation with all parties involved in serving the guests of God," he said.

Earlier, Saudi authorities allowed Umrah and prayers at the Two Holy Mosques during the holy month, which is set to begin on Tuesday, but they suspended the i'tikaf (spiritual seclusion) ritual and the iftar meal at the holy mosques.

At the Two Holy Mosques, only vaccinated and immunized pilgrims and worshipers will be allowed to perform Umrah and prayers, and children will not be permitted to accompany pilgrims and worshipers. The Isha prayer permit will include performance of Taraweeh prayers as well.

Following the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020, all mosques suspended not only Umrah but also five regular mandatory prayers, Taraweeh prayers, and iftar meals for domestic and international pilgrims.

The Grand Mosque's capacity has been increased this Ramadan to accommodate up to 50,000 vaccinated Umrah pilgrims and 100,000 worshipers.

## Protests Erupt Near Minneapolis After Black Man Shot Dead By Police

Brooklyn Center (Minnesota) : Hundreds of angry protesters clashed with police in a Minneapolis suburb after a 20-year-old Black man was shot dead during a traffic stop.

The protests in Brooklyn Center came hours before the trial of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer charged with murdering George Floyd, was set to resume in a courtroom less than 10 miles (16 km) away on Monday.

Outside of the Brooklyn Center Police Department on Sunday night, smoke billowed as a line of police officers fired rubber bullets and chemical agents at protesters, some of whom lobbed rocks, bags of garbage and water bottles at the police.

Brooklyn Center's mayor ordered a curfew until 6 a.m. (1100 GMT), and the local school superintendent said the district would move to remote learning on Monday "out of an abundance of caution."

The man killed by police was identified by relatives and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as Daunte Wright, 20. Walz said in a statement that he was monitoring the unrest as "our state mourns another life of a Black



man taken by law enforcement." Late Sunday, a group of about 100 to 200 protesters gathered around the Brooklyn Center police headquarters and threw projectiles at the police department, Commissioner John Harrington of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety said in a live-streamed news briefing. The group was later dispersed.

Another pocket of protesters broke into about twenty businesses at a regional shopping center, with some businesses looted, according to the police and local media reports.

Anti-police protesters have already spent recent days rallying in Minneapolis as the trial of Chauvin, a white former city policeman, enters its third week in a courthouse ringed with barbed wire and soldiers from the National Guard. -REUTERS

### NEWS MAKERS

## Singapore Goes Real Contactless As Robots Home-Deliver Milk, Grocery



SINGAPORE: Hoping to capitalise on a surge in demand for home deliveries, a Singapore technology company has deployed a pair of robots to bring residents their groceries in one part of the city state. Developed by OTSAW Digital and both named "Camello", the robots' services have been offered to 700 households in a one-year trial.

Users can book delivery slots for their milk and eggs, and an app notifies them when the robot is about to reach a pick-up point – usually the lobby of an apartment building.

The robots, which are equipped with 3D sensors, a camera and two compartments each able to carry up to 20 kg of food or parcels ordered online, make four or five deliveries per day on weekdays and are on call for half day on Saturday.

They use ultraviolet light to disinfect themselves after every trip, said OTSAW Digital's chief executive, Ling Ting Ming. "Especially during this pandemic period, everybody is looking at contactless, humanless," he told Reuters. For the time being, staff accompany the robots on their rounds to ensure no problems arise.

Tashfique Haider, a 25-year-old student who has tried out the service, said it could be particularly helpful for the elderly so they wouldn't have to carry goods home.

But a passerby worried the technology might be too much trouble for some. "The younger customers will like it. I don't think they (the older generation) will, because these are gadgets that younger people like," said 36-year-old housewife Xue Ya Xin.

## BAFTAs 2021: 'Nomadland' bags four awards, Anthony Hopkins wins best actor

LONDON: Director Chloe Zhao's meditative drama "Nomadland" emerged as the top winner at the virtual 74th British Academy Film and Television Awards (BAFTA) by bagging four major awards, including the best film.

The movie's lead star Frances McDormand picked up the best actress trophy while the best director award went to Zhao.

The film was a winner in the cinematography category as well.

Zhao, who became the first woman of colour to win the best director at the BAFTA, dedicated the award to the nomadic community who "generously welcomed" her team into their lives.

"They shared with us their dreams, their struggles, and their deep sense of dignity.

Thank you for showing us that



aging is a beautiful part of life, a journey that we should all cherish and celebrate.

How we treat our elders says a lot about who we are as a society and we need to do better," the director said in her acceptance speech.

The film's win at the BAFTAs consolidates its chances as the frontrunner at the Oscars later this month.

McDormand couldn't connect

virtually for the event but thanked the BAFTAs in a written message.

"Thank you, dear British people. I humbly accept this honour on behalf of the 'Nomadland' tribe and company. We salute you," she said.

Anthony Hopkins-starrer "The Father" won the best actor award for the veteran star, a category where India's Aadarsh Gourav was also nominated for his role in "The White Tiger".

Hopkins, who earned his eighth BAFTA nomination with "The Father", said acting is like a way of life for him.

"It's the only thing I do. I enjoy it. It's a way of life for me..." he said in an interview post the win.

"The Father" also won the adapted screenplay BAFTA.

In the supporting actress category, the award went to South Korea's veteran star Yuh-Jung Yoon for her role as the maternal grand-

mother in "Minari", while Daniel Kaluuya was named the winner in the supporting actor category for his role as the fiery Black Panther leader Fred Hampton in "Judas and the Black Messiah".

In her quirky acceptance speech, Yuh-Jung thanked "snobbish" British people for recognising her as an actor.

"Thank you so much for this award. Every award is meaningful, but this one, especially (to be) recognized by British people, known as very snobbish people, and they approve of me as a good actor.

So I'm very, very privileged and happy," she said.

Kaluuya thanked the makers of "Judas and the Black Messiah", the producers, his mother and friends, and he also remembered his childhood icons. -PTI



# With Local Talent Pool, We Will Make Modern And Self-Sufficient Jammu And Kashmir: LG

**JAMMU:** To Promote Invention, Innovation, and Incubation under the mentorship of industry pioneers and strengthen the ecosystem of entrepreneurship and skill development through Industry-Academia partnerships, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the Centre for Invention, Innovation, Incubation, and Training (CIIT) at Government Polytechnic, Bikram Chowk established at a cost of Rs 181.56 crore.

Congratulating the officials of CIIT Jammu and TATA technologies, the Lt Governor said that the promise that was made by him on 7th December last year, during the inauguration of CIIT Baramulla for speedy completion of the Jammu centre, has been fulfilled.

"With the completion of this centre now, the youth of Jammu division will also get training as per the new technologies for upscaling of their skill sets. It has come at a time when the dynamics of industry requirements are changing rapidly due to continuous advancements being made in today's global technological era", he added.

Jammu, which is known as the city of temples, will now also be identified as the City of Institutions with the establishment of IIT, IIM, Central University, AIIMS, and other educational institutions. It is one of the unique places in the coun-

try which has so many top quality institutions, he continued.

The Lt Governor said that the pace with which human power and technology is changing, it is very difficult to put in words. According to a data, every month 10 innovations are happening in the world which changes the requirements of Market. Today, engineering graduates also have to upgrade their skill sets according to the need of Market, and it is very important in industrial sector of the post covid world.

All these changes the world is undergoing are possible because of the fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0). The ways of traditional manufacturing are moving towards digital transformation in which intelligent robots, Drone, Sensors, 3D printing, Artificial Intelligence play an important role. The basis of Industry 4.0 is cyber and physical production system, where real and virtual worlds are merged and work together, he continued.

The Lt Governor said that during 2019-20, an investment of Rs 28,36,661 crore was done in the Manufacturing sector and under campaigns of Make In India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, it is estimated that in the coming four years a total of 100 million new jobs would be created in the manufacturing sector alone which would amount to 25 % of



the GDP share.

The new Industrial Scheme of Rs 28,400 crore approved by Prime Minister for J&K UT has been formulated with utmost attention to attract as many industries as possible. This scheme will take industrial development to block-level in Jammu and Kashmir, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor observed that it is for the first time that any industrial incentive scheme of the Government of India is striving for balanced industrial development across the UT. Encouraging new investment, the new scheme will also strengthen the existing industries in Jammu and Kashmir and in-

crease their capacity.

Citing the report of the Global Innovation Index 2020, the Lt Governor said that India with strong start-up eco system is third in the world after the US and England. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, our country has emerged as a big hub of start-ups. 70 start-ups have started in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Giving examples of success stories the Lt Governor made a mentioned of Akash, an alumnus of Sri Mata Vaishno Devi University who has started a company to make fuel-saving innovative products in the automobile sector with his friends. He also

spoke about Vivek of Jammu who has started a company to design new types of workplaces and Ashaq of Srinagar who is working on the Robo drone.

The Lt Governor noted that CIIT Jammu would offer 18 certified courses through its 9 competency centres in Innovation Design & Incubation; Product verification and Analysis; Product Lifecycle; Value Engineering and Benchmarking, Autonomous Connected Electrifices; Mechatronics & IOT; Digital Manufacturing, Manufacturing execution System; and Advance Manufacturing Engineering which are vital areas to produce design engineers, product engineers.

It will help to create a large talent pool that will not only get jobs in the automotive industry, aerospace industry, manufacturing industry, electronics, and oil & gas industry but could also start their own start-ups, he observed.

Lauding the collaborative efforts of Government Polytechnic Jammu, and Tata Technologies for designing the courses, the Lt Governor observed that for the M.Tech and B.Tech graduates, they have kept 3 months training for Product Lifecycle Management. "The product Life-Cycle Management is the key driver for Industry 4.0, and is playing an important role in the digital transformation happening in all the factories of India and abroad.

He also highlighted the scope of Mechatronics and IOT course in which engineering students of Jammu will also be able to take training in smart technology, which is currently available only in a few institutions of the world.

The Lt Governor said that with an aim to eradicate the capacity constraints, the UT government is going to provide LG fellowship to 10 promising graduate students to increase our young talent pool.

With our local talent pool, we will make a modern and self-sufficient Jammu and Kashmir, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said that in the post-Covid era, new inventions and new innovations for

the industry and market will emerge from Jammu and Kashmir. With training in digital technologies, our youth will help to strengthen system in service sectors like banks and post offices.

It is necessary to focus on both employment and self-employment, so that the unemployment rate can be further reduced. Now Unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir has come down from 16.1% in September last year to 9%. It is better than Delhi, Goa, Himachal, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand etc. and the credit goes to all sections of the society and our talented youth, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor congratulated the 292 students who are starting their training program from today in different courses and wished for their bright future.

Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, Principal Secretary Skill Development gave an overview of the overall functioning of the department. He remarked that the department received ample funding in the last year to make strides in implementation of various projects and schemes.

Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal, Polytechnic College, gave the details of students enrolled in the institution and future expansion of courses in offering.

The vote of thanks was presented by Sh Sajad Hussain Ganai, Director Skill Development Department

## “Public Services Delivery Through Online Mode Is The Future Of Governance”

**ANANTNAG:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla today inaugurated the Online Legal Heir Certificate System on pilot basis at DC office here.

The portal and the application associated with the system have been developed by National Informatics Centre, Anantnag under the guidance of the DC.

District Informatics Officer, NIC, Jan Mubarak informed the Deputy Commissioner the "sahuliyatang.in" portal has been developed for applying for legal heir certificate through online mode before the concerned Tehsildar.

It was further given out that the Tehsildar will forward the application to the higher authorities as per laid down legal procedure in online mode only.

He said there is also provision of a proper tracking system with dash boards at the disposal of the Tehsildars, SDMs, ACR and the Deputy Commissioner be-

sides the application 'SAHULIYAT' has been developed for the individual applicants.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said providing public services through online mode is the future of governance given its time saving and transparent nature.

He lauded the efforts of NIC and asked the concerned officers to make the process smooth and easy besides awarding the general public about its procedure.

Calling the step a landmark, Dr. Singla said the system will be gradually upgraded for other services as well.

The DC also inaugurated Covid Testing Management System which has been developed for updating the infection status of travellers who are tested at Lower Munda Testing centre.

SDMs Dooru, Bijbihara, ACR and Officials Incharge Covid Testing Centre Lower Munda were present on the occasion.

## Spike In COVID-19 Cases: No Proposal With Dma To 'Close' Pvt Coaching Institutes

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Following the closure of schools in Jammu and Kashmir, the disaster management authorities on Monday said that there was no proposal in the pipeline to close the private coaching institutions to carry academics online.

However, the parents of those wards studying in private coaching centers fear repercussions amid a spike in COVID-19 cases saying that the students are more vulnerable of getting infected because of huge enrolments.

One of the parents Manzoor Ahmad told the news agency, that the government must take some accountability in regulating the private coaching institutes amid a spike in COVID-19 cases and considering the health of the students.

"As per the government, either the risk of students getting infected remains confined to the schools only or there is no risk of getting COVID-19 infected out there in private coaching institutes wherein the student enrolment is multiple times more than the schools," Ahmad questioned.

Ahmad said, "It appears like the government is in nexus with the private coaching institute management and that seems to be one of the main reasons that authorities are not taking a call on the functioning of the institutions."

Another parent Abdul Majeed said that the disaster management authorities seem to be least bothered about the

## DAK re-launches 'DAK-HELPEDESK' App Amid 2Nd Covid-19 Wave.

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Sunday re-launched Android based Mobile application, named as "DAK-HELPEDESK" amid significant surge in covid positive cases during the ongoing 2nd wave of Covid-19 Pandemic. The application can be downloaded from "jkdak.in" through Google.

"The application can be downloaded by people across the region who need online medical consultations either telephonically or through WhatsApp between 9am till 5pm for minor ailments and COVID-19 related information", DAK President, Dr Suhail Naik said.

General Secretary DAK, Dr Owais H Dar said that, "the "DAK-HELPEDESK" has been made available again in view of rapidly spreading COVID-19 disease across the region whereby

it has been urged upon the general public to not to visit hospitals for minor ailments and avoid public gathering so as to break the chain of transmission".

"About 200 Doctors arranged speciality wise have been made available over the mobile application for voluntary teleconsultations", Dr Dar further informed

Doctors Association Kashmir is highly thankful to all the doctors who provided and are providing free teleconsultations to general public at large.

The application has been re-launched after due permission and suggestions from Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education Dept, Shri Atal Dullo.

DAK requests people to follow SOPs in letter and spirit especially wearing of masks and avoid public gatherings and also to get vaccinated at the earliest according to already issued guidelines by Govt.

proposal with the government to announce that the private coaching institutes will function online.

"As of now, there is no proposal in the pipeline with the disaster management authorities to close the private coaching institutions to carry academics online," the official said.

Pertinently, authorities last week closed a private tuition centre in Srinagar after three of its students tested were COVID-19 positive—(KNO)

students studying in private coaching institutes as dozens of students are being taught in a one room and there is no accountability on it.

Majeed said, "As compared to schools, the student enrolment in private coaching has very high enrolment and there is extra risk for students in getting Coronavirus infected."

Meanwhile, officials of disaster management of Jammu and Kashmir said that there was no

## Youth Our Hope, Fulfilling Their Aspirations Top Priority Of Govt: Shahid Iqbal

**PULWAMA:** Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Mission Director, Skill Development Mission and CEO Mission Youth, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary today visited Pulwama and held a review of different ongoing projects under Mission Youth and Skill Development here.

Chairing a meeting, Dr. Shahid Iqbal said that the LGs administration is committed to empower the youth and develop their full potential besides ensuring they are employed in meaningful and sustainable jobs.

He added that the positive engagement of youth will be a permanent feature, adding value to the lives of young through Development of Skill and Training will be a watershed in this regard. He further added that each district will engage with youth and students to know about their interest areas, various concerns and seek their views on a plethora of issues pertaining to today's young generation.

Dr. Choudhary added that a platform is being provided to students and Youth where they can discuss wider issues pertaining to life and Society. He said such sessions will also help in changing the behaviour pattern of dejected youth and students anxious about their careers besides controlling social vices like drug addiction, substance abuse etc.

Meanwhile Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama Baseer Ul Haq



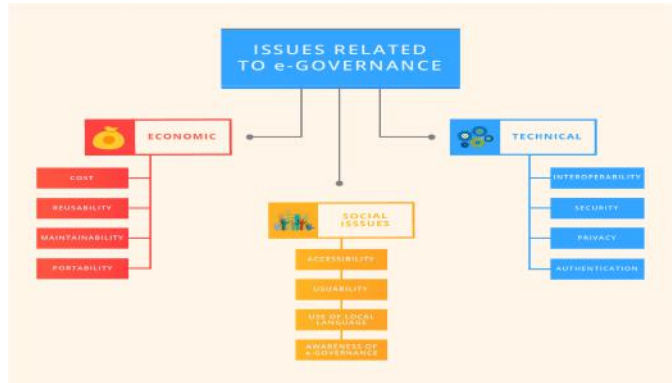
Choudhary informed the Secretary about the status of 200 capacity Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) / Call Center, Skill Development center and District Youth Center development.

Deputy Commissioner also apprised the Secretary that time lines have been set up in accomplishing the target of setting of BPO, Youth Center & Skill Development center in the shortest possible time.

Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Awantipora and Tral, Executive Engineer R&B, Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama, Dy Director Employment, District Youth Services and Sports officers besides other concerned attended the meeting.

While speaking to the media during the visit, Dr. Shahid Iqbal said that Youth is our hope and the priority of the government is to fulfill the aspirations of our young population.

## Wakf Employees Hit Streets Seek 'Reconstitution' Of Board



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Employees of Wakf Board on Monday hit streets as a mark of protest against the delay in "reconstituting" the board under Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019.

Hundreds of Wakf employees under the banner of Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) according to news agency, gathered at press enclave to register their protest against the government failing to reconstitute the board.

The employees carrying placards in their hands which read "reconstitute Wakf Board, regularize our service and release 7th pay commission arrears" appealed the Lieutenant Governor to address the issues on the priority that they confront since the abrogation of Article 370.

They also demanded that their 7th pay commission arrears to be released and service

of Wakf employees regularised.

"Wakf Board Employees Association is a constituent of EJAC an umbrella body of 50 employees unions in Jammu and Kashmir. Our entire leadership supports their demands. We appeal Lieutenant Governor to reconstitute the board under J&K Reorganization Act, 2019," an EJAC leader told reporters.

He said the government could not reconstitute the Wakf Board after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. He also said all developmental works of the Wakf Board lie pending due to delay in the reconstitution of the board.

"Wakf employees face many problems, their 7th pay commission arrears are also pending. We also demand that the service of these employees be regularised and all other issues are addressed at the earliest," he said—(KNO)

### NEWS MAKERS

## Govt Initiates Process To Appoint Heads Of Consumer Commissions In 10 Districts

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move, Jammu & Kashmir government has initiated the process for appointment of heads of District Consumers Disputes Redressal Commission in different districts of the Union Territory.

The department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs has invited applications from eligible candidates for considering their appointment to the post of President, District Consumers Disputes Redressal Commission (district commissions) in different districts of the UT.

According to the notice issued by the department, a copy of which is in possession of news agency, the appointments are being made in Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara, Budgam, Jammu, Udhampur,

Doda, Kathua and Rajouri.

As per conditions governing the appointment, the applicant should be a person who is, or has been, or is qualified to be a district judge.

The head of district commission shall hold office for a term of four years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, the notice states.

The President of the District commission shall be appointed by the UT Government on the recommendation of a selection committee consisting of chief Justice of the High Court or any Judge of the High Court nominated by him (chairperson), Secretary, Consumer Affairs and nominee of the Chief Secretary. As already reported, the government on February 26 this year invited applications from eligible candidates for filling key positions in State Consumer Commission—

## DC Bandipora Conducts Inspection Of Developmental Works

**BANDIPORA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad today conducted surprise inspection of several ongoing developmental projects in the district to check the quality of work going on at such construction sites and to inculcate work culture and ensure punctuality of staff in government institutions.

The Deputy Commissioner on the occasion inspected the ongoing works on new Tehsil Complex Bandipora and interacted with the officers of the executing agencies who informed the DC about the status of works on these projects.

Dr Owais exhorted upon the executing agencies to ensure that the works are completed within the stipulated time frame.

He also held interaction with the Revenue official who apprised him about their grievances and various issues faced by them. The DC assured them every possible support. He directed the officers of Municipal Council to ensure cleanliness in the Tehsil Complex.

Later, the DC visited the District Court Complex and also interacted with the lawyers. He visited the E-Adalat section and other sections. The lawyers informed the DC about the space constraints in the court complex besides other issues.

The DC said that the work is in full swing on the new court complex and the issues of space will be resolved once the project is complete.

The DC also inspected Block Development Office Bandipora and inspected the renovation works. He directed the executing agency to complete the works immediately so that the building is made functional again.

He directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work so that better facilities could be provided to locals and burden at the district hospital can be reduced.

The DC during the inspection was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner Afaz Ali Khan, Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Bandipora, Tehsildar Bandipora Mubashir Saleem Nazki, Officers of R&B and other senior officers of the district.



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the  
Kashmir Observer LLP

Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001

Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.

RNI Registration No: 69503/98

Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16

Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider

Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja

Switchboard: (0194) 2106304

Editorial: (0194) 2502327

Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

## K O V I E W

## More killings

**T**welve militants including a 14-year old Faisal Gulzar were killed in 72 hours in different encounters across South Kashmir. Gulzar reportedly had joined militancy just three days ago. As tragic as these killings are, there is no guarantee that these will deter youth from picking up gun, some of them as young as Gulzar. This has been the story of the last three decades and is likely to be the story going forward. Last year, over 220 militants were killed, most of them from South Kashmir, but this hardly made any difference to the total number of active militants in the Valley. Fresh recruitment simultaneously replenishes the ranks depleted by killings.

There's thus little hope of peace in near to medium future. This hasn't happened over thirty years. And nor, if this long duration is any guide, will it in future. The militancy and the state's response to it will go on. True, the state tackles the unfolding violence institutionally, so will not tire of it, but this unrelenting state of affairs is taking a disastrous toll on the people of the union territory, our new and the future generation. The most rational and effective response to the lingering turmoil is to address the factors which keep it going. But this is something that is and has been last on the minds of the ruling leadership of this country.

There is little hope for the future. As the lingering nature of the situation underlines, even the harshest use of the force has done little to address the turmoil in the former state. Looking at the continuing trend of the public mobilizations during encounters and militant killings from a security-only perspective is to miss the wood for the trees. The point is how can you threaten with tough action a people who march to the encounter sites, conscious of the consequences they might have to face as a result. This is hardly going to deter them. The twelve killings attracted public protests by the people living in the adjacent villages. This too at a time when administration has long given up even the pretence of a soft approach towards the ongoing situation. If anything is going to make a redeeming difference, it is an empathetic understanding of the anger and sentiment sweeping the Valley and a meaningful political engagement to address it. Much like what the union government is currently doing with Pakistan. A peace process that leads to some kind of an understanding between the two neighbours on Kashmir will be game-changing for the situation in the union territory.

## O T H E R O P I N O N

## Women's Domestic Labour

**W**omen's domestic labour has been getting judicial recognition as well as political endorsement. In January, the Supreme Court emphasized the fact that the value of a woman's work at home is no less than that of her office-going husband. Compensating women's domestic work has now found support among political leaders such as Shashi Tharoor and Kamal Haasan. It was even part of the seven-point agenda of the latter's party for the Tamil Nadu polls. Such support is not entirely altruistic; it is tied to the spike in the importance of Indian women as a voting constituency. A 2019 study found that women voters have not only increased — the number of women voting in the 2000s rose to 883 for every 1,000 men from 715 to every 1,000 men in the 1960s — but they have also had a notable impact on re-election outcomes. This was evident in the results of the 2019 general elections. Narendra Modi won considerable support from women voters. Another reason for the new-found support for wages for domestic work was the redistribution of traditional division of domestic labour during the lockdown. With men being forced to lend a hand at home in the absence of domestic staff, there was some appreciation of the need to compensate women for their chores.

Recognition and appreciation by the powers that be need not guarantee meaningful change. For the latter to take place, women must have an equal stake in devising policy concerning their roles and rights. This, however, remains a pipe dream; the representation of women in Indian politics declined sharply from 23.1 per cent in 2019 to 9.1 per cent in 2021. The women's reservation bill has been awaiting passage in Parliament for more than a decade. The absence of women in institutions of influence has led to other blind spots. There has, for one, been an alarming drop in the participation of women in the nation's labour force; from 30.3 per cent in 1990, it plummeted to 20.3 percent in 2020. Social conservatism — women often leave the labour force so that they can perform household work — gender bias at the workplace, poor wage rates, absence of maternity leave and the lack of safety are some of the causal factors. Reversing the declining labour participation rate among women requires simultaneous interventions at multiple levels — greater enrolment of women in education, supportive families, sensitive legislation that secures employment guarantees and so on. But all of this can happen if the scale and the layers of the challenge are recognized first.

Telegraph India



Huzaifa Ahmad

## A Model Mosque

ASAD MIRZA

**T**he Muslim community should try to evolve the construction of the mosques, at a lesser cost besides fulfilling both functional and practical needs, and making it a centre of learning and practice

In Islam, a mosque is a humble way for man to create a place where divine presence on earth could be called for. The Arabic word 'Masjid' means a 'place for prostration'. It is obligatory for Muslim men to congregate five times each day, for weekly-Friday/Juma prayers and on Eid Al Fitr and Eid Ad Duha, at the local or the city mosque. It is also used as a gathering place for meetings and socialising and is strategically located at a junction to provide easy access to all. The motive to create such a space in the habitat is that one enjoys solitude within the closed structure, and connects to the world externally.

## Architectural growth of mosques

Architecturally a mosque has four main elements namely the congregation hall, a mihrab marking the qiblah (the direction for prayers and the site for the Imam), a minaret (tall tower for the call of azaan), and a hauz (water tank for ablution) and is directed towards the qiblah, the direction in which the Holy Kabaah is, and which Muslims face for their prayers.

Arab-styled hypostyle mosques were the earliest type of mosques, pioneered under the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties. These mosques have square or rectangular plans with an enclosed courtyard (sahn) and a covered prayer hall. Historically, in the warm Middle Eastern and Mediterranean climates, the courtyard served to accommodate the large number of worshippers during Friday prayers. However, the simplicity of the Arab plan limited the opportunities for further architectural innovations.

Persians (Iranians) were the first to depart from the Arabic style. They incorporated design elements from earlier Parthian and Sassanid styles into their mosques. Thus, Islamic architecture witnessed the introduction of such structures as domes and large, arched entrances, referred to as iwans.

During Seljuq rule, as Islamic mysticism was on the rise, the four-ivan arrangement took form. This style firmly established the courtyard façade of mosques, with the towering gateways at each side. The Persians also introduced Persian gardens into mosque designs. Soon, a distinctly Persian style of mosques started appearing that would significantly influence the designs of later Timurid, and also Mughal-era, mosque designs.

The Ottomans introduced central dome mosques in the 15th century. These mosques have a large dome centred over the prayer hall. In addition to having a large central dome, a common feature is smaller domes that exist off-centre over the prayer hall or throughout the rest of the mosque, where prayer is not performed. This style was heavily influenced by Byzantine architecture with its use of large central domes. The Khirki Mosque in Malviya Nagar, New Delhi incorporates this design and has more than 81 domes.

Mosques built in Southeast Asia often represent the Indonesian-Javanese style architecture, which are different from the ones found throughout the Greater Middle East. The ones found in Europe and North America appear to have various styles but most are built on Western architectural designs, some are former churches or other buildings that were used by non-Muslims. In Africa, most mosques are old but the new ones are built in

imitation of those of the Middle East.

Historically, a number of mosques were constructed in India during the Mughal period. However, after partition most of the mosques were built on simple design elements, but with the flow of money sent by economic immigrants and also collected by clerics, the building of mosque in India, soon turned into an expansive one, as every mosque planner wanted to outdo the other.

## An Innovative Mosque

Architect Qutub Mandviwala from Gujarat has established a new trend in mosque design when he planned the Gulistan Mosque at Gulistan Housing Society in Jammu, Kanpur, UP in 2018.

The mosque built on a small plot area of 250 sq. mts is located in a densely populated area. It is situated in a planned community project, which caters to a large number of people, of varied faiths. The simple and the innovative design of the mosque catches the eye of every visitor. It is connected to two main roads and has two entries, one from the main external road, whereas other from the internal community road.

The mosque has been designed with simplicity and precision, using basic plans and little ornamentation. The planning of the mosque is derived keeping in mind the ideologies of the faith and its symbolism in the real world.

A small open patch surrounding the main building is used as a sahn and the two entry points to the mosque



Huzaifa Ahmad

leads to a passage way, that has the wuzu area for ablution and space for stacking footwear.

The main building of the mosque is tilted at an angle, to reflect the prostrating figure while in prayers. The exterior is simple with large courtyard space, beautified with landscaping. A small water body surrounds the minaret at the outside.

The elevation or the facade is covered with carved jaalis (latticed or perforated screens), giving it a Mughal touch, and for filtration of harsh natural light. The magnificence of the light entering in is symbolic of the enchantments the celestial world holds for the humans. The jaali façade weaves a subtle play of shadow and light and provides a dynamic nature to the subtle peaceful quality of the space within as it gives out enough lighting through different seasons. The external heat is also cut out as air is subjected to the venturi effect.

## A Model Mosque

However, at present besides constructing modern and aesthetically pleasing mosques, we should also focus on building mosques, which are functional and serve other community purposes also.

We can take this argument a step forward by envisioning the modern mosque to be a Community Resource Centre (CRC) for the local Muslim community, where the mosque is located. This mosques/CRC should serve as the meeting point of the local Muslim congregation for their religious needs besides social needs also.

The mosque should have a space for a library, a Career Guidance or Counselling Centre, where counsellors could provide expert guidance to the community's youth with regard to their educational and career options and choices, it should also serve as a community interaction centre, which could keep an eye on the poor and ailing sections of the congregation and provide them relief facilities. It should also have a room to give bath and prepare the bodies of the dead for burial.

We should try to make the local mosques, which are architecturally and aesthetically pleasing, not costing much and try to turn them into a multi-functional venue, for the local community, fulfilling both religious and practical purposes and the needs of the local Muslims. An initiative, which was started in some European countries some time ago, has been started recently in India also. Under the initiative local non-Muslims are invited to the local mosque to observe how the prayers

are conducted there besides exposing them to the teachings of the Holy Quran and basic Islamic fundamentals. Initiatives like these will go a long way in building-up an atmosphere of trust amongst different communities and increase inter-faith interactions, which are the need of the hour in the country.

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

*Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. Email: asad.mirza.nd@gmail.com*



OBSERVER  
MAIL

**All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR**

## MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

## RTI through Online Mode for Transparency

**T**his is in reference to a writeup published in your esteemed paper titled as "Information under RTI through Online mode" by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat. The Govt officials are in a habit of denying information and when these officials retire they are on the forefront of using the Right to Information Act (RTI). This is my personal observation during the last several years. Govt of In-

dia has not only destroyed the institution of RTI in J&K, but it is our own officers and bureaucrats from Kashmir who keep denying information and take citizens for granted but when these bureaucrats and officers retire they use the same law to get information on pensionary benefits etc. I am not only criticizing officers but even the clerical staff in Govt offices never want to share information with people as

they think Govt documents and records are their inherited property.

Author has rightly said that digitization of the RTI process is need of the hour. By moving from one post office to another in search of a Postal Order or sending an application by registered post or speed post seems totally absurd when Govt claims to be inching towards digital revolution. I appeal to the Commissioner

Secretary General Administration Department and Secretary Information Technology to sit together some day and discuss this issue seriously. Govt must receive and take applications through a digital mode now.

*Sajad Hussain Mir  
sajad.journalist1@gmail.com*



# Russia's Sputnik V vaccine

RACHEL SCHRAER

Unlike Other similar vaccines, the Sputnik jab uses two slightly different versions of the vaccine for the first and second dose - given 21 days apart. They both target the coronavirus's distinctive "spike", but use different vectors - the neutralised virus that carries the spike to the body

Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine gives around 92% protection against Covid-19, late stage trial results published in The Lancet reveal.

It has also been deemed to be safe - and offer complete protection against hospitalisation and death.

The vaccine was initially met with some controversy after being rolled out before the final trial data had been released.

But scientists said its benefit has now been demonstrated.

It joins the ranks of proven vaccines alongside Pfizer, Oxford/AstraZeneca, Moderna and Janssen.

The Sputnik vaccine works in a similar way to the Oxford/AstraZeneca jab developed in the UK, and the Janssen vaccine developed in Belgium.

It uses a cold-type virus, engineered to be harmless, as a carrier to deliver a small fragment of the coronavirus to the body.

Safely exposing the body to part of the virus's genetic code in this way allows it to recognise the threat and learn to fight it off, without risking becoming ill.

After being vaccinated, the body starts to produce antibodies specially tailored to the coronavirus.

This means the immune system is primed to fight coronavirus when it encounters it for real.

It can be stored at temperatures of between 2 and 8C degrees (a standard fridge is roughly 3-5C degrees) making it easier to transport and store.

## Different second dose

But unlike other similar vaccines, the Sputnik jab uses two slightly different versions of the vaccine for the first and second dose - given 21 days apart.

They both target the coronavirus's distinctive "spike", but use different vectors - the neutralised virus that carries the spike to the body.

The idea is that using two different formulas boosts the immune system even more than using the same version twice - and may give longer-lasting protection.

As well as proving effective, it was also safe with no serious reactions linked to the vaccine during the trial.

Some side effects to a vaccine are expected but these are usually mild, including a sore arm, tiredness and a bit of a temperature.

And there were no deaths or serious illness in the



vaccinated group linked to the jab.

As well as Russia, the vaccine is being used in a number of other places including:

Argentina  
Palestinian territories  
Venezuela  
Hungary  
UAE  
Iran

In a comment published alongside the Lancet paper, Profs Ian Jones and Polly Roy said: "The development of the Sputnik V vaccine has been criticised for unseemly haste, corner cutting, and an absence of transparency."

"But the outcome reported here is clear and the scientific principle of vaccination is demonstrated, which means another vaccine can now join the fight to reduce the incidence of Covid-19."

They pointed out the vaccine had good effect in all age groups, and reduced the seriousness of the disease after one dose.

This was "particularly encouraging" while supply of

the vaccine is limited, they added.

The authors of the Lancet paper pointed out the analysis only included symptomatic cases of Covid, and more work would need to be done to understand whether it stops even asymptomatic cases, and prevents the virus from being passed on by vaccinated people.

Dr Julian Tang, a clinical virologist at the University of Leicester, said: "Despite the earlier misgivings about the way this Russian Sputnik V vaccine was rolled out more widely - ahead of sufficient Phase 3 trial data - this approach has been justified to some extent now."

"Such pandemic-related vaccine rollout compromises have, to be fair, been adopted in the UK vaccination programme also - with the extended intervals between the first and second doses."

"So we should be more careful about being overly critical about other countries' vaccine designs."

....  
BBC Health

## India COVID-19 wave: Seven key questions to health minister

India deserves urgent answers. The health and well-being of its citizens is at stake.

NIDHI RAZDAN

While it is true that many people have been lax about wearing masks and social distancing, why are political rallies still going ahead and being proudly shared on social media by top leaders?



Just as we thought things were getting better, India is reeling from a huge surge in covid cases. This time, every peak that was reached in the first wave in 2020, has been crossed both nationally and in many states, which are reporting all time high daily cases.

We initially took comfort in the fact that the fatalities were on the lower side, but those statistics are also changing. Nothing therefore is more critical at this time than the vaccination drive and that is why, the petty political finger pointing we have seen this week, is both shameful and frankly plays with the lives of millions of Indians.

It began with the Maharashtra government warning that they were running out of vaccines in many places. Responding angrily, the central health minister Harsh Vardhan slammed the Uddhav Thackeray led government, declaring there was no shortage and that this was "nothing but an attempt to divert attention from the Maharashtra government's repeated failures to control the spread of pandemic."

But within a day, reports of vaccine shortages popped up from at least ten other states, including Odisha, UP, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand. These states said they had supplies of just 3 to 4 days left.

The media reported on how many people were turned away from hospitals in Ghaziabad and NOIDA in UP because they had

no vaccines to give. As I write this column, Mumbai's biggest vaccination centre has shut down as it waits for more supplies.

For the centre to claim all is well, is therefore, completely misleading and unacceptable especially in a democracy, where transparency must be maintained at all cost. Instead we are witnessing ugly politics and a bureaucracy that says vaccines are for those who "need" it, not those who "want" it, like its a piece of candy.

Indian officials maintained that no other country has opened up vaccines for those above the age of 45. That is simply untrue. Parts of the US, like New York, are now vaccinating people above the age of 16. President Joe Biden has announced that all American adults will be eligible for vaccines from April 19.

As citizens, we have a right to demand some answers. So here are my questions for the health minister:

1) The question is no longer whether there is a vaccine shortage - there clearly is - so please tell us, what is the shortfall and how will this be made up? How is the government helping to ramp up vaccine production?

2) Why are we adamant on age based criteria alone? Shouldn't policies evolve as the crisis deepens? For example, why can't more people be vaccinated in the states where the most cases are being reported, like the top 5?

3) Why have other vaccines like Sputnik, Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson, not been given emergency authorisation yet? What are we waiting for?

4) Why shouldn't those who can afford it, pay more for their vaccines? By all means, let vaccinations at government hospitals be free, but those who opt for private hospitals should and can pay more. Let them.

5) Since we are now staring at a demand-supply crisis, was it wise to export vaccines to other country's before India's own citizens got them?

6) While it is true that many people have been lax about wearing masks and social distancing, why are political rallies still going ahead and being proudly shared on social media by top leaders? What sort of example are political leaders setting for the rest of the country when they don't give a toss about masks and social distancing themselves?

7) Shouldn't big religious events like the Kumbh have been cancelled?

India deserves answers. Our health is at stake. And until our own leaders and policymakers don't take covid protocols seriously, and don't address vaccine issues honestly, we are riding a very dangerous covid wave.

....  
Gulf News



# Study suggests human noises are altering ocean landscape

The findings of a new study sheds light on the need to reduce human noises in water bodies, suggesting that humans have altered the ocean soundscape by drowning out natural noises upon which many marine animals ranging from shrimp to sharks, rely on.

Sound travels fast and far in water, and sea creatures use sound to communicate, navigate, hunt, hide and mate.

Since the industrial revolution, humans have introduced their own underwater cacophony from shipping vessels, seismic surveys searching for oil and gas, sonar mapping of the ocean floor, coastal construction, and wind farms. Global warming could further alter the ocean soundscape as the melting Arctic opens up more shipping routes and wind and rainfall patterns change.

Yet noise has been conspicuously absent from global assessments of ocean health.

A team led by Carlos Duarte, a distinguished professor at KAUST, trawled more than 10,000 papers and extracted the most rigorous quantitative studies of how noise affects marine animals. "The research goes back nearly 50 years, but this is the first time all the scattered evidence has been assembled and systematically assessed," says Duarte.

Examining the literature, Duarte's team sought to describe ocean soundscapes, how these soundscapes have changed in the Anthropocene, the negative impacts they have on marine ani-



mals, and possible solutions. "We were stunned by the contrast between the wealth of evidence and the general neglect of the problem in scientific debates and policy-making," says Duarte.

Of the 538 carefully chosen papers, 90 per cent revealed significant impacts of human sounds on marine mammals, while 80 per cent identified effects on fish and invertebrates, such as jellyfish. "But there's still a gap in our understanding of the impacts on diving birds and sea turtles," adds Duarte.

Shipping is a widespread problem, disrupting travel, foraging, communication behaviors and the ability of young fish to learn to avoid predators. Particu-

larly concerning was the effect of dampened soundscapes on the hearing of larvae trying to navigate to suitable habitats. "If they miss the call home, they will likely starve to death or be eaten," says Duarte.

Noise pollution has driven many marine animals from their natural territory, although escape is not always possible for species with specific ranges, such as the endangered Maui dolphin. In 2020, when global lockdowns were enforced during the COVID-19 pandemic, noise from shipping fell by 20 percent, and dolphins and sharks were spotted swimming through formerly busy, noisy waterways.

"This is promising evidence of an almost immediate response of marine life to a relaxing of acoustic pressures," says Duarte.

The researchers highlight ways to alleviate anthropogenic noise, such as reducing shipping speeds, fitting boats with quieter propellers and using floating wind turbines.

"Retrofitting only one-tenth of the noisiest boats with better propellers would have widespread benefits," says Duarte. However, marine ecosystems and noise pollution cross international boundaries, meaning that solutions require binding global agreements for restoring a sustainable ocean economy.

## Agencies

Simple foetal heartbeat monitoring is still the best method for determining whether a baby is in distress during delivery and can reduce 30 per cent unnecessary caesareans, suggests a study.

Caesarean delivery is the most common surgical procedure worldwide, performed to expedite birth and avoid neonatal complications. However, the procedures carry risks like infection, excessive bleeding, damage to reproductive organs and blood clots.

Listening to the foetal heart rate using a stethoscope -- intermittent auscultation -- has been used for years to assess the foetal state and whether the baby is experiencing distress that might require a caesarean delivery. Other monitoring techniques have become common in recent years, including echocardiograms and blood tests.

The study, published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, showed that all methods had similar outcomes for babies, but only intermittent auscultation reduced the risk of caesarean deliveries up to 30 per cent without increasing the risk to babies' health.

"Our analysis suggests that all additional methods introduced to improve the accuracy of electronic foetal heart monitoring have failed to reduce the risk of adverse neonatal or maternal outcomes beyond what intermittent auscultation achieved 50 years ago, and



**Our analysis suggests that all additional methods introduced to improve the accuracy of electronic foetal heart monitoring have failed to reduce the risk of adverse neonatal or maternal outcomes beyond what intermittent auscultation achieved 50 years ago, and this may have contributed to the increased incidence of unnecessary emergency caesarean deliveries**

this may have contributed to the increased incidence of unnecessary emergency caesarean deliveries," said researchers including Bassel Al Wattar, Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick, Coventry in the UK.

For the study, the team reviewed 33 studies that included more than 118,000 women, mainly from high-income countries as well as India and Tanzania, to evaluate the effectiveness of different monitoring methods in improving outcomes for mothers and

babies and reducing the number of caesarean deliveries.

Rates of C-sections has risen in the developed world to more than 20 per cent of births, even though the World Health Organization recommends this surgery only for roughly 10 to 15 per cent of cases when the health of the mother or baby is in danger.

The researchers urged investments in developing novel techniques to monitor foetuses to make delivery safer for mothers and their babies.

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

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

Subject: - Admission Notification for conduct of Common Entrance Test for (12thbased) ParaMedical Diploma Courses 2021.

### Notification No.052-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 10-04-2021

Online Applications, duly affixed with latest coloured photograph, thumb impression and signature are invited from Domiciles of the Union Territories of J&K /Ladakh, who are eligible and desirous for appearing in the Common Entrance Test for admission to (12thbased) Para-Medical Diploma Courses for the academic session 2021. The selection of the candidates to such courses shall be regulated by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002 and the Rules and Regulations there under; JK Reservation Act, 2004 as amended vide J&K Re-organization Act, 2019, S.O. 69 dated 28-02-2020, S.O. 127 dated 20-04-2020, and subject to further amendments, if any, by the competent authority, from time to time and the guidelines/information as contained in the Electronic Information Brochure-2021 which are available on the official website(s) of the BOPEE [www.jkbopee.gov.in/](http://www.jkbopee.gov.in/) [www.jakbopee.org](http://www.jakbopee.org).

#### Important Information

1. Receipt of online application forms: w.e.f. 17-04-2021.
2. Last date for filling up of the online application forms: 07-05-2021.
3. Fee Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) to be paid online through national Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking.
4. Please download e-information Brochure from BOPEE website(s) viz [www.ikbopee.gov.in/](http://www.ikbopee.gov.in/) [www.jakbopee.org](http://www.jakbopee.org).
5. The syllabus for the examination/test is available in the e-brochure.
6. Date of Entrance Test: to be notified separately.
7. The candidates, in their own interest, are advised to go through the Information Brochure before filling up of Online Application Forms. The Board shall not be responsible for any act of omission or commission in filling up of the Online Application Form by the candidate. It is incumbent upon the candidates to go through the information contained in the e- Information Brochure and agree to follow the conditions contained therein. No candidate can claim any alteration in any of the conditions which have been incorporated in the em Information Brochure and notified in advance.
8. The candidates are further advised to remain in touch with the BOPEE website (s) [www.ikbopee.gov.in/](http://www.ikbopee.gov.in/) [www.jakbopee.org](http://www.jakbopee.org). The Board does not undertake any responsibility for any delay caused in publication of Notices/ Notifications in the Print Media Newspapers) as delay, if any, in such publication(s) is not within the control of the Board, notwithstanding that the Board notifies the same on the official website(s) and for publication in the newspapers simultaneously on the date of issue of the said Notifications/Notices etc.
9. The examination shall be conducted Offline by the Board

#### Help Desk:

The applicants can also contact the Help Desk of I.T. Section of the BOPEE during the office hours and working days only on 0194-2437647 / 0194-2433590/ / 0191-2470102/0191-2479371 and or email:- [helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com) for any assistance / guidance in this regard.

#### Submission of Online Application Forms:

The interested candidates have to upload the following scanned original / self-attested certificates in PDF format with size from 100-200 KB along with the Application Form:-

- (i) domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (Domicile Certificate, if not issued, at the time of filling up of online Application Form, the candidate can upload undertaking certifying that he/she shall submit / produce the same at the time of counselling/admission). For Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by the Competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile Certificate,
  - (ii) Qualifying marks (12thclass) certificate; ( where result is declared)
  - (iii) Date of Birth Certificate(Matriculation Certificate issued by the Board not issued by the Municipal Committee); and
  - (iv) Reserved category certificate, if any,
  - (v) Any other documents, as requested.
- However, it is for the information of all the concerned that afore-titled documents as required for submission of application form shall be considered provisional and subject to change(s) vide any order as may be issued by the Government subsequently.

#### Note:-

1. The candidates can change/ modify their online Application Form at any time before it is "submitted" online. However, for any subsequent modifications, if required, finally the candidates should approach the BOPEE office Srinagar/ Jammu. They are advised, in their own interest, not to share their 'login' details with any other person, lest he/she may get an opportunity to change important details in the Application Form. They can check the status of their Application Form on the official website(s) of the BOPEE. If any form is not confirmed for want of required information, the candidate concerned must report in the BOPEE office Srinagar or Jammu by or before 10thMay 2021 or 3 days after expiry of last date fixed by the Board from time to time, failing which his/her Application Form shall be rejected without any further notice.
2. For online, candidates shall also have to upload their photograph, signature and thumb impression images in JPEG format and size within the range of 10-50 KB as given in the instructions in the e-Information Brochure uploaded on the BOPEE website(s).
3. The candidates must, after filling up all the required entries, ensure that their online payment has been successfully made and all the requisite documents have been uploaded in specified format/ size. Mere downloading of the Application Form does not mean that the candidate has submitted his/her Application Form successfully. Candidate should ensure that he/she keeps checking the status of his/her online application forms until it is scrutinized by the Board and approved/accepted.
4. The candidates should enter valid e-mail address/mobile number on the application form, which shall be used by the Board in sending messages/emails to the candidates, whenever required;

5. For any help / assistance candidates may call "Help Desk" numbers during office hours of the working days available on the website of BOPEE.

#### ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION:

**A. Para-Medical Dipoma Courses: (Medical/Pharmacist / Lab Assistant / Dental Assistant / Ophthalmic Assistant / X-Ray Assistant/ ECG Tech./Anes Tech./ Sanitary Inspector / OTT Tech./ ISM/ Dialysis Tech./ Physiotherapy / DPharmacy)**

A candidate must:

- (i) be a domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (if the candidate(s) applying for this course do not have domicile certificate at the time of filling up application form, he/she is advised to upload an undertaking certifying that he/she shall produce the domicile certificate at the time of counselling). For Candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by Competent authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile certificate;
  - (ii) not have crossed maximum age 35 years old on 01-01-2021;
  - (iii) have passed 10+2 or equivalent examination from recognised Board with Science subjects viz Physics, Chemistry, Biology (PCB) or Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics (PCM) and English securing minimum 40 % marks in aggregate;
  - (iv) be medically fit.
- b. The candidates appearing/appeared in 10+2 (12th Class) examination 2021 can also apply, provided such candidates have qualified the examination at the time of declaration of the result in the Entrance Test /on the date of counselling as may be notified by the Board. Their Entrance. Test result shall remain withheld unless they produce the necessary certificate of qualifying the 10+2 (12thClass) examination;**
- B. GNM Course:**
- A candidate must:

- (i) be a domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (if the candidate(s) applying for this course do not have domicile certificate at the time of filling up application form, he/she is advised to upload an undertaking certifying that he/she shall produce the domicile certificate at the time of counselling). For Candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by Competent authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile certificate;
  - (ii) be 17 years old and not more than 35 years old as on 31-12-2021
  - (iii) have passed 10+2 or equivalent examination from a recognised Board with Science/Arts and English securing minimum aggregate 40% marks for Open Merit Candidates and 35% marks for Reserved Category candidates;
  - (iv) have passed 10+2 with English having 40% marks in Vocational stream / Health Care Science from a recognised CBSE Board/Centre;
  - (v) Registered ANM with 40% marks;
  - (vi) be medically fit;
- b. The candidates appearing/appeared in 10+2 (12thClass) examination 2021 can also apply, provided such candidates have qualified the examination at the time of declaration of the result in the Entrance Test /on the date of counselling as may be notified by the Board. Their Entrance Test result shall remain withheld unless they produce the necessary certificate of qualifying the 10+2 (12thClass) examination;**
- c. For Lateral entry to GNM courses, candidates having Diploma in FMPHW / MMPHW/ANM course registered with J&K Paramedical Nursing Council will be eligible for GNM course and there will be no age bar for such candidates.**

**d. The candidates appearing/appeared in 10+2 (12th Class) examination 2021 can also apply, provided such candidates have qualified the examination at the time of declaration of the result in the Entrance Test /on the date of counselling as may be notified by the Board. Their Entrance Test result shall remain withheld unless they produce the necessary certificate of qualifying the 10+2 (12th Class) examination;**

#### C. ANM Course:

A candidate must:

- (i) be a domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (if the candidate(s) applying for this course do not have domicile certificate at the time of filling up application form, he/she is advised to upload an undertaking certifying that he/she shall produce the domicile certificate at the time of counselling). For Candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by Competent authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile certificate;
  - (ii) be 17 years old and not more than 35 years old as on 31-12-2021;
  - (iii) have passed 10+2 or equivalent examination from recognised Board with Science/Arts and English securing minimum 40 % marks in aggregate;
  - (iv) be medically fit.
  - (v) have qualified in 10+2 Arts or science examination conducted by National Institute of Open school can also apply.
- b. The candidates appearing/appeared in 10+2 (12th Class) examination 2021 can also apply, provided such candidates have qualified the examination at the time of declaration of the result in the Entrance Test /on the date of counselling as may be notified by the Board. Their Entrance Test result shall remain withheld unless they produce the necessary certificate of qualifying the 10+2 (12th Class) examination;**
- D. Medical Record Technician Course in SKIMS Soura Srinagar:**

A candidate must:

- (i) be a domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (if the candidate(s) applying for this course do not have domicile certificate at the time of filling up application form, he/she is advised to upload an undertaking certifying that he/she shall produce the domicile certificate at the time of counselling). For Candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by Competent authority of Ladakh shall be treated as

- (ii) Domicile certificate; be 17 years old and not more than 28 years old as on 31-12-2021;
- (iii) have passed 10+2 examination through recognized Board/University in any stream having secured 50% & above marks for OM & 40% marks and above for candidates belonging to Reserved Category;
- (iv) be medically fit.

**b. The candidates appearing/appeared in 10+2 (12th Class) examination 2021 can also apply, provided such candidates have qualified the examination at the time of declaration of the result in the Entrance Test /on the date of counselling as may be notified by the Board. Their Entrance Test result shall remain withheld unless they produce the necessary certificate of qualifying the 10+2 (12thClass) examination;**

#### Syllabus etc.:

The syllabus, the tentative number of seats, Reservation Policy etc. for the examination are given in the e-Brochure. The examination shall be conducted in one sitting of two hours duration and the paper shall contain 120 questions comprising different sections.

#### Note:-

The eligibility is bare minimum/provisional and shall be subject to such changes/bench marks as may be fixed by the concerned University. The Board shall on receipt of any such communication from the concerned authority/University notify the same, which shall govern the eligibility criteria.

#### Instructions:

**a) The information provided by the candidates in the online Application Form cannot be verified from the original documents by the BOPEE officials before admission of candidates. The information on the Application Form downloaded page or on the Admit Card of candidate shall in no case be construed as an acceptance of such information/category certificate by the BOPEE. Therefore, if at any stage, it is found that a candidate has provided false or incorrect information in respect of any eligibility condition(s), his/her candidature will be cancelled without any further notice/affording any opportunity to him/her;**

#### b) Warning:

**(a) The candidates are warned not to resort to any unfair / fraudulent means or act of impersonation at the time of Entrance Test or upload any objectionable material including a photo of any object, other than his/her own photograph while submitting the online form. In case, a candidate is found taking recourse to such acts, criminal prosecution shall be launched against him/her and his/her abettors. He /she shall be permanently debarred from appearing in the entrance Test in future.**  
**(b) Any candidate uploading image of an object other than his/her own photograph shall be disqualified from appearing in the Examination(s). Besides action as warranted under law shall also be taken against such candidate.**

#### Original Documents required to be submitted in the Institution at the time of Admission:-

- a) Marks certificate of the qualifying examinations (12thclass marks certificate);
- b) Date of birth (Matriculation / Secondary School Certificate) from a recognized Board;
- c) Domicile Certificate for candidates belonging to UT of J&K and ST certificate as a Domicile for candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh ;
- d) Category Certificate, if any;
- e) Any other document as may be required by the Institution.

#### Note:-

**I. The candidates having more than one reserved category certificate can get benefit of only one category indicated and uploaded along with the Application Form, which in no case shall be changed afterwards. The candidate, whose category certificate has not been found valid, will be considered in open merit, if otherwise found eligible without any further notice.**

**II. Candidates who select single choice/preference shall be considered for that course/college /Institute only.**

#### Roll No Slip/Admit Card:

The Notification for downloading of online/electronic Admit Card will be issued separately, if the test is conducted.

#### Venue for Conduct of Examination:

The Examination shall be conducted at Jammu / Srinagar simultaneously.

#### Issuance of Admit Cards and Date of Test:

Information with regard to availability of Online Admit Cards, Venue and Time of the Common Entrance Test will be issued separately in due course of time.

#### NOTE-1:-

The online submitted form is purely provisional and is liable to be cancelled at any stage subject to the final verification of the documents and even at any stage, where such a document is proved to be fake/ false or fabricated.

#### NOTE-2:-

To contain the cases of impersonation, besides certified latest photograph of candidate, the impression of Thumb is most likely to be captured at the time of attendance of candidate on attendance sheet additionally so as to corroborate the same in case a perjury is found at any stage by the Board or concerned indenting department.

#### NOTE-3:-

4% of the available seats are reserved for the candidates of UT of Ladakh in the Govt. Colleges / Institutes of J&K for the year 2021-22 in reference to the above referred letter of GAD.

#### NOTE-4:-

If the number of candidates are less, then the Board may recommend the selection of candidates to these courses on the basis of merit of qualifying marks secured by candidates i.e. marks secured in 10+2 exam along with their preferences.

E & O E

**DIPK-NB-223/21**

Dated: 10-04-2021  
No. BOPEE/Exam-10/2021 BOPEE/Exam-10/2021

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



## Retail Inflation Rises To 5.52% As Food Prices Soar



Agencies

Retail inflation, calculated on the basis of Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased to 5.52 per cent in March, up from 5.03 per cent recorded in February, showed government data released on Monday. Inflation in food basket, or Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), rose to 4.94 per cent in March from 3.87 per cent in February. Vegetable prices declined 4.83 per cent, while cereal and products and sugar and confectionery segments saw prices fall 0.69 and 0.53 per cent, respectively. This, however, was not enough to moderate the price rise in overall food basket. Oils and fats saw the highest price rise at 24.92 per cent, followed by meat and fish (15.09 per cent), non-alcoholic beverages (14.41 per cent), pulses and prod-

ucts (13.25 per cent), eggs (10.6 per cent), fruits (7.86 per cent), spices (6.72 per cent), prepared meals, snacks, sweets (5.39 per cent), and milk and other dairy products (2.24 per cent).

Inflation in fuel and light segment stood at 4.50 per cent, whereas housing segment saw 3.5 per cent price rise. Health services recorded an inflation rate of 6.17 per cent. Transport and communication got costlier by 12.55 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) takes into account retail inflation for finalising its monetary policy. Earlier this month, the central bank had projected retail inflation to remain at 5 per cent in the March quarter of financial year 2020-21 and 5.2 per cent in the first two quarters of the current fiscal.

While retail inflation remained within the RBI-mandated target - 4 per cent with a tolerance band of 2 per cent on either side - it remains on an upward path. This could limit chances of relaxation in interest rates amid the ongoing economic disruption due to coronavirus pandemic. The last time it came down was in December, when it eased to 4.59 per cent, after eight months of rise. It further eased to 4.1 per cent in January, on sharp correction in vegetable and cereal prices, before rebounding to 5.03 per cent in February.

## Govt To Frame New Electricity Policy



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** The Power Ministry has set up an expert panel to prepare the Draft National Electricity Policy 2021.

The Central government, from time to time, in consultation with states, reviews and revises the National Electricity Policy and Tariff Policy under the Electricity Act, 2003.

The government had notified the National Electricity

Policy in February 2005. The Working Group on Power for the 12th Plan had made recommendation for amendment in National Electricity Policy in addition to Electricity Act 2003 and Tariff Policy.

The panel will prepare the National Electricity Policy 2021 and will be headed by Gireesh Pradhan, former Chairman, CERC. Other members include Rakesh Nath, former Chairman, CEA and ex-member, APTEL, CEA Chairman and representatives of MNRE, states of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Gujarat, Niti Aayog, heads of NTPC, NHPC, POSOCO, PGCIL and SECI. The Joint Secretary, Power Ministry will be the convener.

The panel may call invitees from industry including IPP, FICCI, CII, Wind Association, Solar Association for the meetings.

## Gol Making Better Efforts To Tap The Tourism Potential Of J&K: Union MoS Tourism



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel on Monday stated that the central government is making better efforts to tap the tourism potential of J&K.

The Union Minister made these comments while addressing the tourism conference titled, "Tapping the Potential of Kashmir: Another day in Paradise", at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre here.

He said that to improve the flow of tourists into Jammu and Kashmir, this conference has been organised wherein all the stakeholders have been invited to meet, discuss and give suggestions to create better tourism infrastructure in entire J&K.

Patel while expressing his satisfaction over the improving number of tourists thronging Kashmir from past one year, said, "I think after the abrogation of Article 370 and other subsequent developmental works taken with respect to the tourism sector the number of tourists visiting here has increased and this has made us think of giving a makeover to the already existing tourism places here".

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Khan said that after COVID pandemic, we did lot of activities to restore tourism activities here. Several webinars and various strategies were adopted in this direction.

He said that today I can

proudly say of what we made as a humble beginning has started to yield results as there was a sudden spurt of influx of tourists in winters in Kashmir and also in Jammu which encouraged us to go a bit further more and in the depth of the winter, tourism was its one of the highest best, there was no place vacant in Kashmir even the houseboats were booked. This gave me satisfaction that tourism has revived in Jammu and Kashmir.

I convened many sessions with all my officers and from the right guidance from the office of LG and able support from Union Ministry of Tourism. We have been able to give it a further push for the coming summers, I can assure that another 3-4 months when entire country will be blistering with temperature the tourist coming to this place will increase manifold and it will give impetus to our economy.

Since we have the best planners, who have dealt with tourism over the years and they have bundle of experience behind them to actually conceptualise ways and means to tackle and manage tourism in J&K and also explore further means ushering new directions and identifying new destinations that could be included in order to show our tourists our new products.

So far as new destinations are concerned the Govt of J&K has finalized a long list of destinations that we are going to include in our long list of tourism map and then showcase it.

He said under Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD Scheme a number of projects have been taken up and many of these projects are at the verge of completion. The private players have to come forward to do the handholding to the UT Govt and help in creating better infrastructure.

Union Secretary Tourism said that we have been striving hard since the pandemic to help revive tourism in J&K, the efforts in revival started in winters and the process will continue in summers especially the for the domestic tourist and it should set an example as and when we open up the visa for international tourists.

Secretary Tourism, J&K, on the occasion highlighted some of the historical tourism sites in J&K and the importance they hold in the tourism map of J&K. He said a visit to J&K is a great experience all year round and all the four seasons have something unique to offer.

Additional Director General, Ministry of Tourism Gol, presented the welcome address. She said that domestic tourism is growing leaps and bounds here and time has come to discuss what products we have to offer and the products that we need to work on.

She said the need of the hour is to showcase quality products including Golf, Culinary tourism, heritage, Neolithic sites and Arts and Crafts besides religious tourism.

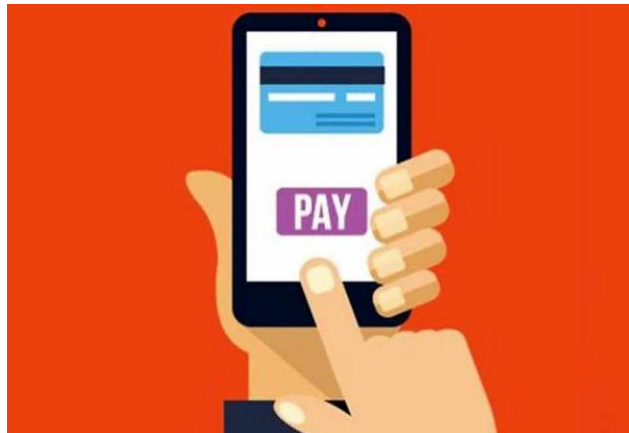
Secretary General FICCI, Dilip Chinoy and Chairperson, FICCI Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Committee and CMD the Lalit Suri Hospitality Group, Jyotsna Suri also spoke on the occasion and gave their insights about the tourism of J&K and ways and means to improve it further.

Earlier, Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr G N Itoo presented a PowerPoint presentation on potential of tourism in Kashmir, wherein he showcased the number of tourist destinations in J&K.



**SPEAKING ON THE OCCASION, ADVISOR TO** Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Khan said that after COVID pandemic, we did lot of activities to restore tourism activities here.

## India Sees 76% Growth In Digital Payments In Last 12 Months



Agencies

**BENGALURU:** Online transactions saw a growth of 76 per cent in the first quarter of 2021 as compared to 2020, as tier 2 and 3 cities and towns continued to contribute over 50 per cent of all online transactions, a new report said on Monday. After seeing a steep decline in 2020 owing to the pandemic, travel industry grew by 50 per cent while real estate was up by 69 per cent in the first three months of this year.

As tourism opened up, Jammu and Kashmir made it to the top 10 'Digitally Inclusive States/Union Territories' for the first time, with a growth of 36 per cent in online transactions in the January-March period, ranking above Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, according to data provided by full-stack financial solutions company Razorpay in its 'The Era of Rising Fintech' report.

Payment options such as Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) saw a whopping growth of 569 per

cent in the last 12 months, owing to consumers avoiding bulk payments and preferring affordable payment modes.

UPI continues to be the preferred payment option followed by debit Cards, credit cards and netbanking.

"Over 50 per cent of this digital adoption is coming from Tier 2 & 3 cities today, which indicates that this is not just an urban phenomenon. Small Businesses are providing newer payment methods and reaching out to a wider customer base that transcends geographical boundaries," said Vedanarayan Vedantham, Head of SME business, Razorpay.

In the last few months, consumers have increasingly been ordering online and F&B industry witnessed growth of 69 per cent from January to March.

"Schools, colleges and online educational institutes have increasingly been accepting online payments for fees and salary payments, reflecting a 40 per cent growth in online transactions," the report mentioned.

## Lockdown Panic Triggers Sell-Off, Sensex Down Over 1,700 Pts



Agencies

**MUMBAI:** Accordingly, the new cases count has crossed 1.5 lakhs for the first time on April 11.

This spooked investors and led the S&P BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 to crash by over 3.5 per cent each.

Around 1.55 p.m., Sensex traded at 47,842.31, lower by 1,749.01 points or 3.54 per cent from its previous close of 49,591.32.

The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange traded at 14,313.90, lower by 520.95 points or 3.51 per cent from its previous close.

"Taking cues from SGX Nifty, our market started the week on a negative note. Nifty opened gap down and continued its downward momentum," said Jay Purohit,

Technical & Derivatives Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

"Selling pressure is quite severe as Nifty fell by more than 500 points and touched 14,283 levels."

According to Gaurav Garg, Head of Research at Capital-Via Global Research: "The response from various state governments have been to impose lockdowns which has created a panic in the market and we are seeing sell off across the sectors."

"All the support levels have been breached and the mood of the markets seems very bearish. Investors are advised to exercise caution while creating any fresh positions. The volatility is expected to remain in the market because of the underlying uncertainty."

## Parimpora Fruit Mandi To Be Developed, Renovated On Modern Lines: Advisor Khan

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Ahmad Khan on Monday visited Parimpora Fruit Mandi where he inspected the status of basic infrastructure and availability of other paramount facilities. During his visit to the Fruit Mandi, he underlined the need to develop and renovate it on modern lines for promotion of fruit trade besides developing its capacity to cater to the future demand of the business activities. He said Parimpora Fruit Mandi is the face of Kashmir horticulture industry and its development is imperative to give flip to the fruit trade.

During his visit, he chaired a meeting of officers and Fruit Association members in which different issues were raised by the Association representatives which needed prime focus for early redressal.



The meeting was attended by the Director Horticulture, Aijaz Bhat, Director Agriculture, Mohammad Iqbal Choudhury, Director Marketing and Planning, OSD to Advisor, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, ACR, Srinagar, President and Vice-President of the Association besides other officers and members.

Advisor called the Association of fruit dealers of the Mandi as the main stakeholders who have to share responsibility and asked them to cooperate with the government for beautification and development of mandi.

On the occasion, the President Fruit Mandi Association, Shabir Ah Shabir apprised Advisor regarding multiple issues confronted by them including bad condition of interior roads, lack of drainage facility, deficiency of electric transformers, shortage of electricity, encroachment of land belonging to Mandi, regularization of land and shop leases, collection and disposal of organic garbage and other issues.

Advisor on the occasion issued directions to concerned officers for macadamisation of all the interior roads as well as the main roads leading to the Mandi so that transporters don't face any problem.

He also directed the Director Marketing and Planning and Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Srinagar to identify the land for truck terminal.

Advisor was informed that the earlier terminal available to the mandi truckers was converted into the bus stand and requested that the truck terminal shall be provided to them as soon as possible.

Advisor further directed officers of KP-DCL to provided three electric transformers with enhanced capacity as the demand for electricity in the mandi has increased besides CA store is also coming up there.

Advisor Farooq Khan also impressed upon the ACR and Tehsildar Parimpora to demarcate the contours of the land belonging to the mandi and identify the encroached 24 kanals. Besides, he directed that the encroached land shall be retrieved immediately.

### SHORT TAKES

## BE YOU: Well-Known Makeup Artist Launches Her Beauty Lounge In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:-** Monisa Zargar, a famous makeup artist in the town, started a world-class and sophisticated makeup studio—BE YOU

—The Beauty Lounge on Monday. The studio is laced with heavy make-up equipment where women can do nail extensions, eyelash extensions, eyelash and eyebrow perming and tinting.

Apart from these services, they have hydrafacial (which is one of its kind in Kashmir), and we have galvanic and high-frequency machines for skin treatments.

The studio was inaugurated by her mother and mother-in-law at Jawahar Nagar locality of Srinagar



city. Over 30 guests were invited to the inauguration ceremony.

Since her childhood, Monisa Zargar has been fond of beauty brushes. She would initially adorn her relatives on special occasions,

like marriage ceremonies and other parties.

Over the years, the walled passion became a full-fledged profession for this Srinagar girl.

She believes wearing the right

make-up is not as easy as it looks. You need a lot of experience and patience, to give a complete "diva" look.

Zargar completed a one-year course in Cosmetology from Lakme in New Delhi. After one year she landed back in Kashmir and did many projects with Bollywood celebrities.

Initially, her journey started through her social media page, where she received a lot of positive responses.

She has done make-up for many Bollywood celebrities including Ex-Bigg Boss contestant Shehnaz Gill popular music rapper Badshah, Jigar Saraiya—a popular singer and music director in Kashmir.

## ICICI Prudential Multi-Asset Fund:

Investments Made Through Monthly Blips Increased

**SRINAGAR:** When it comes to Multi-Asset Fund, one of the most popular names in this category is the ICICI Prudential Multi-Asset Fund managed by marquee fund manager S Naren. As the category name indicates the fund allocates 10-80% in equity, 10-35% in debt, 10-35% in gold ETFs/ETCDs, and 0-10% in REITs and InvITS. Such a strategy to invest in various asset classes aims to provide capital appreciation by investing in equities, stability and accrual returns by investing in debt, hedge against inflation by investing in gold, and yield enhancement by investing in REITs & InvITS and by writing covered call option.

As a result of the contrarian bets taken and judicious asset mix, the fund has

been consistently among the top performers in this category. On a one-year basis, the fund has generated returns to the tune of 61.6% as against the category average of 42.44%. On a three and five-year basis as well, the fund has outperformed its peers and category averages delivering 10.04% and 14.8% respectively.

Since its inception (October 2002) the scheme's NAV has grown around 34x. If an investor would have invested Rs. 10,000 through SIP in this fund since inception, the value of the investment would be close to a whopping Rs.13 cr against an investment of Rs. 22.1 lakh. Interestingly, in the 5-yr and 10-yr periods, the scheme has never given negative returns. Source: Value Research, Data as on April 05, 2021



# LG Addresses The Conference On “Tapping Tourism Potential Of Kashmir”

- ‘J&K Tourism sector is being developed as per vision of sustainable development goals’
- ‘Efforts on to strengthen hospitality segment and establishment of a robust tourism infrastructure system’

**JAMMU/SRINAGAR:** Tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir is being developed as per the vision of sustainable development goals. Besides, dedicated focus is given to strengthening the hospitality segment and for establishing a robust tourism infrastructure system.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said this in his video message during the conference on “Tapping Tourism Potential of Kashmir”, organized today at SKICC, Srinagar.

The objective of the event was to showcase the Myriad tourism products of the UT of J&K and promote J&K tourism as the destination for leisure, adventure, eco, wedding and MICE tourism.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sanctioning Rs 786 crore for promotion of tourism and culture of Jammu & Kashmir, which is Rs

509 crore more than last year's budget. He also thanked the Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture, Sh. Prahlad Singh Patel for providing continuous support and interventions for the development of various tourist destinations and human resources while involving all stakeholders.

The Lt Governor said that Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir has immense potential. It needs to be explored properly. There are many tourist places in Kashmir, which are the favorite destinations of the film industry since the 60s-70s.

But apart from that, there are hundreds of more unexplored places, which people are not aware of. He stressed on the need to promote unexplored sites of J&K, which have been left unattended by filmmakers.

We are working towards developing state-of-the-art resources through public and private investment. The golden era of Kashmir would once again be brought back to the silver screen through the New Film Policy which is being announced by the J&K administration within a few days, he added.

J&K Government has adopted a five-pronged approach for effective transformation of the tourism potential of J&K. A comprehensive mechanism is being laid down to provide the best facilities to corporate golfers, tourists and food connoisseurs, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor observed that despite setbacks faced due to Covid pandemic, the UT administration has taken sufficient steps for the revival of tourism in J&K and for providing employment to individuals associated with the sector.

Referring to a recent report, the Lt Governor said that the unemployment rate of 16.1%, in September last year, has been reduced to 9% by March 2021. The tourism sector has a big role in reducing the unemployment rate here, which is far lower than other states like Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

The Lt Governor said that the discussions of today's conference would prove beneficial in using the full potential of Kashmir Tourism as Wedding Destination, Film Tourism and MICE Tourist Management. Kashmir has high potential in these three areas.

He further said that a number of policy interventions have been made to provide financial support to various stakeholders from the tourism sector. To facilitate ease of travel, night time operations have also been allowed at the Srinagar Airport, he added.

Tourists these days want to connect with the locals and enjoy first-hand experience of the craft and culture and therefore, would like to prefer a wholesome experience over prefab tour packages. J&K has enough potential in this regard and sufficient

promotion is needed for the same, the Lt Governor maintained.

The Lt Governor said that tourism industry is developing environmentally friendly, quality tourism based on natural and landscape values.

Experts from all over the world believe that transport sector and rural/urban economies also benefit greatly through expansive cooperation in tourism sector. Lately, similar effects have started emerging in Jammu & Kashmir also, observed the LT Governor.

In his address, Union MoS, Sh. Prahlad Singh Patel said that this conference has been organised to improve the flow of tourists into Jammu and Kashmir, wherein all the stakeholders have been invited to meet, discuss and give suggestions to create better tourism infrastructure in entire J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Baseer Khan said that after COVID pandemic, we did lot of activities to restore tourism activities here. Several webinars and various strategies were adopted in this direction.

Union Secretary Tourism, Sh. Arvind Singh said that we have been striving hard since the pandemic to help revive tourism in J&K, the efforts in revival started in winters and the process will continue in summers especially for the domestic tourist and it should set an example as and when we open up the visa for international tourists.

## J&K Prime Mover Of Tourism Revival Phase In India: Union Tourism Secretary

**SRINAGAR:** There are signs of recovery in the country's domestic tourism sector amid the COVID-19 pandemic and Jammu and Kashmir has been one of the prime movers of this revival phase, Union Tourism Secretary Arvind Singh said on Monday.

Addressing a two-day conference on “Tapping the Tourism Potential of Kashmir- Another Day in Paradise” organised by the Ministry of Tourism on the banks of the famous Dal Lake here, Singh said the ministry has taken several initiatives for the revival and promotion of tourism in the country in the recent times.

“We all know how the pandemic has affected the tourism sector... It has caused some kind of a crisis in all segments of the economy and most certainly for the tourism industry.

“However, we have seen the signs of recovery from this winter and the movement of people across the country has started. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been one of the prime movers of this recovery phase,” he said.

The official noted that the Centre has been striving hard since the pandemic outbreak to help revive tourism because international travel has been banned following the lockdown.

Referring to the conference, Singh said the effort is to ensure that the revival which has happened in the winter season, continue in the summer season

and be a sustained recovery process, especially for domestic tourists.

“Tourism is one of the largest contributors to the economy of J-K as most of the economic activities in the UT are based on tourism or the allied services,” he said.

The tourism secretary emphasised that J-K continues to be one of the focus areas of the Centre and the tourism ministry under the Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes, and projects worth Rs 562.79 crore have been sanctioned for the development of tourism infrastructure in the UT.

“Most of these projects are in the completion stage and once completed, they will fulfil the vision of the ministry of providing enhanced experience to visitors at all these destinations,” he said.

Singh said connectivity is another focus area and the ministry is working tirelessly with the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to make improvements.

“Srinagar is now connected to all major cities of the country by air. Recently, direct flights have also started from Bengaluru and Ahmedabad to the Valley, and it has provided a much awaited connection with different parts of the country, including south India. Night flights have also commenced at Srinagar airport, adding to the influx of tourists to the UT,” he said.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## ‘Absolutely Frivolous’

Rizvi alleged that these 26 verses of Quran promoted terrorism.

In his plea, Rizvi has stated that Islam is based on the concepts of equity, equality, forgiveness and tolerance but due to extreme interpretations of the said verses of the holy book, the religion has been drifting away from the basic tenets.

The plea of Rizvi has drawn massive backlash with several Muslim outfits and Islamic clerics protesting against the former chairman of the Waqf Board.

Last month, an FIR was registered in Bareilly against Rizvi for allegedly hurting religious sentiments of Muslims with his petition in the top court.

The FIR was registered at the Kotwali police station following complaints by Anjanam Khuddam-e-Rasool secretary Shan Ahmed and an organisation known as Ittehad-e-Millat council.

## 7 Killed After

swung into action and shifted 10 critically injured persons to the hospital, where four of them were declared brought dead and another succumbed to injuries during admission.

Two more critically injured persons died during treatment at Doda district hospital and Government Medical College (GMC) hospital in Jammu, he added.

The deceased have been identified as Yasir Hussain (26), Shukar Din (60), Kali Begum (50), Anju Devi (28), Sudesha Devi (40), Kalu Begum (40) and Prem Chand (60), the SP said.

Three of the injured are undergoing treatment at GMC, Jammu, he said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force (IAF) joined the operation to airlift the injured.

“A message was received late afternoon regarding a bus that had toppled into the valley near Doda. An IAF helicopter of 130 HU captained by Wing Commander Mukul Khare was immediately pressed into service to rescue the critically injured passengers,” a defence spokesperson said.

He said the helicopter swiftly reached the Doda playground from where four injured passengers and seven attendants were embarked.

The helicopter got airborne for Jammu. The injured passengers were quickly disembarked into an ambulance and were handed over to the authorities for further treatment, the spokesperson said.

He said the IAF responded swiftly and rescued the individuals so that they could get medical attention as soon as possible.

## J&K Reports

Out of the fresh cases, 499 were reported from the union territory's Jammu division and 492 from the Kashmir division, the officials said, adding that the 991 cases included 383 travellers.

Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 303 cases, including 56 travellers, followed by 181 cases in Jammu and 160 cases, including 157 travellers, in Reasi, they said.

Moreover, they said, 418 more COVID-19 patients have recovered—43 from Jammu Division and 375 from Kashmir Division. There are 7908 active cases—2788 in Jammu division and 5120 in Kashmir Valley.

## Mehbooba’s Daughter

Democratic Party (PDP) chief said.

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah also tested positive for the disease recently as Jammu and Kashmir has been witnessing a spike in the number of fresh coronavirus cases over the last few weeks. (PTI)

## School Sealed

imposition of penalty to the tune of Rs. 30000 (thirty thousand only) for violating SOPs/guidelines,” reads an order.

The Deputy Commissioner ordered Tehsildar Budgam to close the premises immediately and report him the compliance.

The order followed amid complaints that Shah-I- Hamdan Educational Institute Khumani Chowk Bemina Budgam was conducting physical classes in violation of the

government's directions.

The Deputy Commissioner had ordered Chief Education Officer Budgam to ascertain the facts who later inspected the institution and found normal class work was going on in the school.

“The act of school administration may have serious ramifications, as COVID-19 infection has not been controlled and Government has strictly directed that normal school work shall not be operated as the young kids are among the vulnerable groups,” the Deputy Commissioner underlined, adding, “the act of school administration has been perceived as sabotage of efforts of District Administration in controlling the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and sealing of the premises was found necessary in order to safeguard the precious lives.” (GNS)

## CAT Quashes

rejected the reply by officials that the extra selection of 35 candidates belongs to the other categories and vacancies in which categories have been corresponding reduced.

“The procedure adopted by the official respondents is in violation of the settled law that ‘The entire reservation quota will be intact and available in addition to those selected under open competition category.’”

The applicants had stated that vide advertisement (Pers-A-400/2016/75303-403) dated 30-12-2016, applications were invited for posts of Sub Inspector (Executive/Armed Wings) in J&K police.

The applicants had stated the 35 appointments were made illegally, arbitrary and unjustifiably and consequently it blatantly disturbed the category wise breakup of posts as notified in the advertisement notice.

They said it violated the notified preference cum merit criteria as also Rule 7 of the J&K Special Recruitment Rules, 2015, notified vide SRO 202 of 2015 dated 30-06-2015. The applicants through their counsel had sought direction to the officials to consider them and consequently treat them as selected/appointed against the post of Sub Inspectors (Executive/Armed) in J&K Police in the pay scale of Rs. 9300-34800 +(4240) – Grade Pay) (GNS).

## LG Worried Over

Resources Development and Management in the UT at Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority (WRRRA) complex on Monday, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the LG asserted that the conservation of water resources is the top priority of the J&K administration and that the public should also come forward to realize its duty by understanding the importance of every drop of water. Sinha also said that development was necessary, but it should not happen at the cost of natural resources.

“I assure all the citizens of UT that no new locality or market shall be allowed to come up on water bodies. Conservation of water resources is the top priority of the UT administration,” the LG said, as per the official spokesperson.

He further said that the LG observed that the UT is rich in water resources, but due to unplanned development and increase in population, the availability of clean water is very much in danger and hence, the management and regulation of water resources becomes more important.

“Managing water should not be a concern only of the authority or administration. The public should also come forward to realize their duty by understanding the importance of each drop of water,” Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

He further said that the LG Pointed out alarming situation of reducing numbers of ponds and depleting water resources and cited survey conducted in Jammu and Kashmir in 1998 that noted that there were 1248 natural water sources, rivers, ponds etc.

“However, during the satellite mapping of the same in 2009, this number was reduced to just 565. It is a matter of serious discussion,” the LG said.

Underscoring the value of water and water resources, he said, the LG called upon all those involved in the management of water resources to understand the sensitivity of the situation.

“Considering our water resources as living

bodies, we have put in all our efforts for their effective management using technical tools, so that we can save water resources for the future generation,” he said, as per official spokesperson.

He further said that Sinha observed that necessary focus was not given to water resources management in Jammu and Kashmir.

“There have been many discussions in the past on water resources development and management, rehabilitation of rivers and lakes and flood control, but no concrete work has been done on the basis of them,” the LG said.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG also noted that in Jammu and Kashmir Water Regulatory Authority was established in 2012 and a water policy was also planned in 2016-17, but could not be implemented in a scientific way.

“Like the authority of other states and UT, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the authority had wide rights for inter-regional allocation of water, project evaluation, establishment of water tariff, etc. But still, there were many shortcomings,” the official spokesperson quoted LG as saying.

He further said that the LG observed that all water resources are not self sustainable and that rational management is necessary for better and sustainable management of our precious water resources.

“Quoting the old adage that necessity is the mother of invention, the Lt Governor said that the best water resources management done in the world is by Israel. Whether it is Drip irrigation, Advance Filtration, Water Leakage Detection, Rain Water Collection or Treatment System, all these techniques were invented by Israel. Israel has given a revolutionary contribution in water management system,” the official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, expressed his gratitude towards the Prime Minister for signing MoUs with a number of countries which are pioneers in Water Resources Management. Under these MoUs, technical expertise on water resources development and management is to be shared through the workshops. A number of states including Punjab, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have taken the benefit of the expertise of Israel in Desalination of water bodies.

“The Lt Governor asserted that with Sh. G. S. Jha as the Chairperson of the JK-WRRRA, many previous issues have been resolved and with his rich experience as Chairman of Central Water Commission, much more work would happen in Water Resources Management in the UT. The Lt Governor assured all support of the UT administration to the Authority and added that sanction has been granted for filling 19 additional posts in JK WRRRA,” the official spokesperson said.

Later, as per the official spokesperson, Israeli expert Mr. Niv Pintow gave a detailed presentation on Water Resources Management and optimum development in J&K. Pertinently, Mr. Niv and the team of Mekorot Company has already done significant work in Punjab and Maharashtra in the field of Water Resources management.

The official spokesperson said that the LG also informed that an MoU has also been signed with a Space agency of England to provide necessary inputs in formulation of required plans to efficiently tackle floods like the one that happened in 2014.

“This is a major step and will help in providing risk forecasts in terms of casualties due to floods in the river, collapse of buildings, disruptions in infrastructure and economic losses,” he said, as per official spokesperson.

According to the official spokesperson, Engineer Ghanshyam Jha, Chairperson Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority, described the agenda of the Authority and the policy framework to improve Water Assessment, inter-sectoral allocation, regulation, enforcement, irrigation, flood mitigation and other important issues for effective management of water resources.

He also thanked the Lt Governor for creation of 19 posts in the Authority for its smooth functioning, the official spokesperson added.

BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; M.Raju, Commissioner Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Chief Engineers and other senior

officers of Jal Shakti Department and JK WRRRA were present during the presentation.

## New Film Policy

Dal Lake here, through virtual mode, the LG Sinha said that J&K government has almost finalized the new film policy after through deliberations with the stakeholders and the same will be announced within ten days from now.

“The policy will be out within ten days from now. The policy entails a road map on how we can bring back the golden era of 70's and 80's on the silver screen. We have been reading and hearing that Kashmir used to be the favorite Bollywood destinations of the film makers in 60's, 70's and 80's. We as a team will work to bring back the same culture,” the LG said, adding that the policy has been framed after thorough consultations with various important stakeholders within J&K and other parts of the country. “A road map will be followed on how to bring back the golden era and film culture in Kashmir,” he said.

About the new tourist destinations, the LG said that serious efforts are on to revive the tourism and a number of new tourist destinations are being explored. “We are focusing on putting in place a better tourism infrastructure at the new tourist places so that tourists can enjoy and explore new places hassle free. For this, we have invited private players as well,” he said.

He said despite Covid-19 pandemic, Kashmir witnessed the highest number of domestic tourist arrivals than the rest of the states in India since December 2020. “This of course helped to revive the tourism in Kashmir,” he said.

He said that many steps were taken to ensure ease of travel for the tourists. “There are night flights operating from Srinagar airport. There is a direct flight from Srinagar to Bengaluru now,” the LG said.

He said tourists are coming to Kashmir not just to explore the places, but to connect with the people of the Valley as well—

## Facilitate Ramzan

the government has imposed night curfew in several districts of Jammu and Kashmir in wake of the surge in COVID-19 cases.

## MeT Predicts

higher reaches during April 14th night to April 15,” Director meteorological department Sonam Lotus said.

For next 24 hours, the MeT office here forecast “isolated very light rain/thundershowers in the upper reaches of Kashmir and Pirpanjal range of Jammu division. Mainly dry weather on the plains of Jammu and Kashmir.”

Regarding the outlook for the subsequent two days, the MeT office said there is a possibility of “isolated to scattered light Rain/thundershowers/Snow.”

Meanwhile, a meteorological department official said that the minimum temperature settled at 7.8 degree Celsius against 6.4 degree Celsius on the previous night in Srinagar. The temperature in the summer capital, which received 8mm of rains in 24 hours till 0830 a.m., was 0.2 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the season, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 7.2 degree Celsius against 4.0 degree Celsius on the previous night and received rainfall of 9.6mm during the time, the official said.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum of 4.0 degree Celsius against 0.9 degree Celsius on the earlier night while the famous resort in south Kashmir received 13.6mm of rain.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 5.8 degree Celsius against previous night's 4.8 degree Celsius while it had 6.0mm of rain, the official said.

Kupwara recorded a low of 5.2 degree Celsius against 5.1 degree Celsius on the previous night and received 8.6mm of rain, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 0.2 degree Celsius against 0.0 degree Celsius on the previous night while the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir received 14.6mm of rain, the official said.

## Centre Has

about the people of Jammu and Kashmir, you will have to return what you have snatched from us,” she said.

The PDP chief said India and Pakistan will have to hold talks for resolving their outstanding issues, including the problem of Jammu and Kashmir.

“One day the two countries have to sit together to resolve all the outstanding issues if they want peace in the region,” she said.

Mufti said the SAARC summit should be held so that the issues between the two neighbouring countries are resolved.

“I hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi goes to Pakistan for the summit.... As (former prime minister) A B Vajpayee had said, we can change friends, but we cannot change neighbours,” she added.

## NIA Raids Govt

cell phone from his possession, adding that this was the second raid at his residence from the probing agency (NIA)

Earlier, a raid was carried out around six months ago.

## 2 Militant

ranks for increasing the militant activities for which the aforesaid person have managed to procure some grenades and other arms and ammunition.

“Case under relevant law has been registered and both have been arrested,” the police spokesperson added.

## Motorcyclist Killed

been registered in the concerned police station and further investigation has been taken up

## Sushil Chandra

Commissioner with effect from the 13th April, 2021,” the notification read.

Chandra was appointed as an election commissioner on February 14, 2019, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

He would demit office on May 14, 2022.

Under him, the Election Commission (EC) would hold assembly polls in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

The term of the assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Punjab ends on various dates in March next year.

The term of the Uttar Pradesh assembly ends on May 14 next year.

New assemblies have to be constituted before their five year term ends.

Chandra was the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes before he joined the EC.

Following the retirement of Arora, the three-member poll body as of now has a vacancy. While Chandra will be the new CEC from Tuesday, Rajiv Kumar is the other election commissioner.

Chandra, an IIT graduate, is a 1980-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre).

Since Chandra has expertise in taxation and investigation, he has helped the poll panel in election expenditure by political parties and candidates, a senior EC official said.

Before Chandra, T S Krishnamurthy was the other IRS officer to be appointed as election commissioner. He went on to become the chief election commissioner in 2004.

Chandra completed his B.Tech from Roorkee University and LLB from Dehradun and joined IRS in 1980.

He has served in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat and Mumbai and has worked in the areas of international taxation and investigation at various places.

He was commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) International Taxation at Delhi.

Before being appointed chairman of CBDT, he was member (Investigation) in the Board.

Besides the last Lok Sabha polls, Chandra also was part of preparations in holding assembly elections in Delhi, Haryana and a few other states.

He is also an ex-officio member of the Delimitation Commission tasked to redraw the assembly constituencies of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir has provision for a legislature. At present it is under central rule.



## SRH Coach Bayliss Talks Williamson Exclusion And Samad Decision

Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Trevor Bayliss said New Zealand batsman Kane Williamson was left out of their opening IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders as he needs more time to be match fit.

Batting at number four, Williamson had scored 317 runs in 11 innings for SRH last season, while Bairstow was equally impressive with 345 runs after opening the innings in the previous edition in the UAE.

"We just felt that Kane needed a little bit of extra time to get match fit and a little bit more time in the nets," Bayliss said in the post-match press conference after SRH lost to KKR by 10 runs on Sunday night.

"He would have played in place of Jonny Bairstow obviously if that had occurred. But we aren't too perturbed about that, Jonny has been in form recently in white-ball cricket here in India. Kane will obviously come into calculations as the tournament unfolds."

Bairstow made 55 batting at number four but Wriddhiman Saha, who opened the innings, was dismissed cheaply for seven runs on Sunday night.

Saha had made an instant impact as an opener last year when SRH rested Bairstow to accommodate Jason Holder in the playing XI and find the right balance after a mid-tournament slump.

It worked as the Sunrisers reached the play-offs where they lost to Delhi Capitals in the Qualifier 2.

"At the moment what we wanted to do is reward the guys who finished the tournament last

year," Bayliss said.

"We got off to a slow start last tournament but came back well to reach the finals (playoffs). Someone like Saha opening and batting so well in that tournament we felt we should reward the guys who finished it so well for us last year."

However, Bayliss made it clear that Bairstow, who plays at no 4 in T20s but opens in ODIs for England, remains one of the options for the opening slot.

"Depending on fitness and form, we know Jonny can open the batting and keep as well. It gives us options but yes he has done well for England at number 4 recently," said the 58-year-old from Australia.

SRH had promoted Vijay Shankar ahead of Abdul Samad with the team requiring 57 off last 24 balls.

However, the move didn't work as Shankar could score only 11 off 7 balls, while Samad smashed Pat Cummins for a couple of maximums. SRH eventually fell short by 10 runs.

"Vijay, in our practice matches that we had a few days ago, was our best player," Bayliss said.

"He struck the ball beautifully and made 95 in one of the games, hit a lot of the balls long way over the fence. It's always difficult in those situations whenever you go in you have to go pretty much from the first ball you face."

"Samad in a short space of time last IPL and this one has shown that he has a lot of talent and is a clean striker of the ball. I think as he gets more experience, he will get more opportunities."

Sunrisers Hyderabad will next face Royal Challengers Bangalore in Chennai on Wednesday.

## Tottenham Coach Mourinho Moans As Solskjaer's United Claim PL Victory

Agencies

**LONDON:** A season that provided the flickers of a title challenge is now turning into the worst of Jose Mourinho's managerial career.

Of all the managers to inflict Tottenham's 10th loss of the Premier League season, it was Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who replaced Mourinho at Manchester United.

Maybe that explains why Mourinho was so irritated with Solskjaer after a 3-1 home loss to United saw Tottenham fall six points from fourth place. That spot is occupied by West Ham again after the east London club beat Leicester 3-2 on Sunday.

The post-match focus at Tottenham was less on Edinson Cavani's diving header that put second-place United 2-1 in front and more on the circumstances that denied the forward the game's opening goal.

Cavani had slotted through Hugo Lloris' legs after the ball was rolled into his path by Paul Pogba. But then the goal was ruled out after a lengthy VAR review penalized Scott McTominay for a push on Son Heung-min who went tumbling to the ground.

"The game has gone ... if that's a clear and obvious error," Solskjaer said.

"We shouldn't be conned but I have to say, if my son stays down like this for three minutes ... and he needs his 10 mates to help him

up, he won't get any food."

Mourinho bristled at Solskjaer's criticism of Son, who did go on to break the deadlock in the 40th minute.

"Sonny is very lucky that his father is a better person than Ole because I think a father you always have to feed their kids, it doesn't matter what they do," Mourinho said.

"If you steal to feed your kids, you steal. I am very, very disappointed. Like we say in Portuguese, 'Bread is bread, cheese is cheese.' I told Ole what I think about his comments."

After discovering what Solskjaer had said in a TV interview and quickly challenging him on it, Mourinho was disappointed not to be asked for his reaction in the news conference.

"It's really sad that you don't ask me about it," Mourinho said.

"It's really sad you don't have the moral honesty to treat me the way you treat others."

Never before in a career that has seen Mourinho win domestic titles with Porto, Chelsea, Inter Milan and Real Madrid has the Portuguese lost as many as 10 league matches in a season.

While David Moyes another former United manager could be leading West Ham into the Champions League for the first time, Mourinho is set to miss out at a second attempt at qualification with the 2019 beaten finalists.

## DC Inaugurates T-20 Open Cricket Tournament For Girls At Kulgam



Observer News Service

**KULGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Monday inaugurated the T-20 open cricket tournament for girls at Sports Stadium here.

The tournament was organized by District Administration in collaboration with Department of Youth Services and Sports, Kulgam in which at least 8 girl cricket teams are scheduled to participate.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said that sports activities have a significant impact on the social and mental development of youth adding that games inculcate leadership qualities and imbibe spirit of discipline.

He also added that youth engagement in sports activities will also play a significant role in distancing youth from drug addiction which at present has evolved as a big menace.

On the occasion, the DYSSO also highlighted the sports events and

activities organised by the department in the district during the last year and said that multifarious sports activities will be organized across the district this year too.

The DC also felicitated U-19 cricket team of Kulgam district who participated and won the UT- Level cricket tournament held at Jammu.

Present on the occasion were ACR, DYSSO and other district Officers besides parents of girls participating in the ongoing cricket tournament.

## DYS&S Organises Mini-Marathon At Pulwama

Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary today said that the sports events add value to life through inculcating team spirit and tolerance. The DC said this while flagging off the 'Mini Marathon' organised by District Youth Services and Sports (DYS&S) in collaboration with 99 Fitness Studio at Pulwama in which more than 200 youths and children took part.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said that sports imbibes leadership qualities besides they lead to a healthy lifestyle and play a key role in delaying the early onset of lifestyle related diseases.

The marathon started from Peaks Auto Gangoo and culminated near Govt Degree College for Women Pulwama.

At the culmination of the marathon, a prize distribution ceremony was organised where the Deputy Commissioner distributed prizes among winners.

District Sports Officer Noor ul Haq, other officers and officials were present on the occasion.

## IPL 2021: Twitterati Express Anguish With Memes Over Abdul Samad Being Sent In Late

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, Sunrisers Hyderabad all-rounder Abdul Samad had already made rounds on the internet with some amazing knocks in the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League. Having earned a spot in his side's playing XI, the young lad has once again grabbed a few eyeballs in SRH's first game of IPL 2021 against Kolkata Knight Riders.

With a target of 188 runs on the board, Sunrisers Hyderabad had a bad start as the opening duo of Wriddhiman Saha and David Warner was able to post just 10 runs in total. Then came Manish Pandey who played an amazing knock of 61 off 44 balls for his side.

Batting at the No. 4 spot, Jonny Bairstow was in good form and SRH fans had high hopes from him. But a delivery by Pat Cummins sent Bairstow back to the pavilion in the 13th over. Nevertheless, Bairstow aggregated a total of 55 runs at a strike rate of 137.50 for his side.

At that point, SRH was in dire need of some big overs as the target was to score 86 runs off just 42 balls. So, experienced Afghan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi was sent on the field, but he got caught out after hitting a couple of good shots. Then came in all-rounder Vijay Shankar, who too



was sent back to the pavilion on delivery by Andre Russell.

Finally, after losing their fifth wicket at the end of the 18th over, SRH went on with hard-hitting all-rounder Samad. He started casting his magical spell from the very start and smashed his first delivery by Pat Cummins out of the ground. A back-of-length delivery just side off, Samad carefully examined what he needed to do and hit the ball hard at just the right moment.

A couple of deliveries later, Samad went on to showcase some more of it. It was a slot ball by Cummins this

time and Samad elegantly dispatched it straight down the ground.

Following his spell-bounding knock, many fans and cricket experts went on to say that if SRH would have sent Samad earlier in place of two batsmen, things could have been different in the match. In fact, some sites providing IPL betting tips had already suggested that Samad could be one of the top performers of the match.

Besides, cricketers Irfan Pathan and Aakash Chopra also expressed their frustration over Samad being sent in so late in the batting order.

## 'We Have A Destructive Batting Unit,' Says KKR Captain Morgan

Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** Kolkata Knight Riders possess one of the most destructive batting line-ups in the IPL, something which was on full display during the 10-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad, said skipper Eoin Morgan.

It was an emphatic batting display by KKR's top-order with opener Nitish Rana (80 off 56 balls) going on the rampage in company of Rahul Tripathi (53 off 29 balls) in a 104-run partnership as they were 145 for one after 15 overs.

A mini-collapse followed but that did not derail them as vice-captain Dinesh Karthik's cameo of 22 not out from nine balls took them to a challenging 187 for six.

batting innings."

Talking about Karthik, who was seen batting at No 6, Morgan said the wicketkeeper-batsman is happy with the role given to him.

"Dinesh is happy with where he is at the moment. Obviously we're in regular conversation with him being the vice-captain and me being captain."

KKR's big-hitting Russell (5 off 5 balls) may not have clicked with the bat but the Jamaican was seen bowling at the death as he defended 22 runs in the last over.

"I'm delighted. Andre has been a big part of the franchise for a long time now," Morgan said.

"Obviously, when you are a player of that talent and ability, you can offer so much at any stage, and today he did that.



"One of the many strengths we have within our squad is two of the most talented guys in the country opening the batting for us," Morgan said at the post-match virtual media conference.

Free from the "burden" of captaincy, Karthik smashed two sixes and one four to ensure that they do not go on backfoot after losing Andre Russell, Rana and Morgan for three runs.

"Tripathi today at No. 3 played beautifully, and the middle-order we have is extremely versatile. When Dinesh plays like that or Andre plays the game he can play, you're going to see a very destructive batting unit that has potential to win you matches."

The skipper was all-praise for Rana who played the match-winning knock, days after recovering from a bout of COVID-19.

"I'm delighted for Nitish obviously a match-winning innings today. The thing that impressed me the most about his innings was the method that he used."

"He played really aggressively and always took a positive option, which really did set up our

Bowling at the death is not an easy job to do, and he managed to get us over the line."

Veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who was given the first over of the match, almost took the prized-scap of David Warner but his catch was dropped by Pat Cummins at point.

Harbhajan did not bowl after the impressive first over and Morgan defended the decision.

"It's more to do with match-ups. There's a lot of preparation that goes into the analysing of the opposition team, and him bowling the first over of the game was a decision based on that," he said.

"He created a great opportunity. Unfortunately the catch was dropped. And the role that he played from then on, obviously using his experience to speak to other players, was outstanding."

"Since he's arrived in the camp, he's had more energy than anybody have seen within the squad so fantastic. Hopefully he can continue doing that."

KKR next take on Mumbai Indians here on Tuesday.

## MI Vs KKR, Preview: Clinical KKR Hope To Get It Right Against Nemesis MI



Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** Fresh from their clinical display against Sunrisers Hyderabad, two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to set the record straight against nemesis Mumbai Indians in their second IPL match here on Tuesday.

Having missed the last two playoffs, KKR looked a completely different unit, in the manner in which they defeated SRH by 10 runs in their IPL opener here on Sunday.

Be it the aggression shown by the top-order or the explosive finish by Dinesh Karthik, KKR's displayed a fearless approach under skipper Eoin Morgan.

Morgan's intent was evident right at the toss when he chose to leave out their most-trusted lieutenant, Sunil Narine.

The left-right opening combination of Nitish Rana and Shubman Gill started to attack right from the first ball, clearly indicating that the new approach had Morgan's success mantra written all over it. Boasting of a solid middle-order in Andre Russell, Karthik and Morgan, 2020 was a season of promise for KKR but some rulerless planning did not help their cause.

This time KKR have further bolstered their middle-order by adding Bangladesh superstar Shakib Al Hasan, while Morgan, in his full season as skipper, gives a new dimension to the side.

Rana's deft wrist work and brute power was on full display on Sunday and it ensured that they stayed ahead despite Rashid Khan's twin blows in the form of Gill and Russell.

After Rana's 56-ball 80, it was underfire Karthik who hit an unbeaten 22-run cameo from nine

balls to propel KKR to a winning total of 187 for 6.

And KKR would look to come out all guns blazing against the five-time champions on Tuesday. They have won just once in their last 12 games against MI, and have an overall lopsided 6-21 head-to-head record.

But eventually it will all boil down to battle of wits between Morgan and Rohit Sharma, under whose captaincy MI has won a record fifth IPL title last season in UAE.

MI will pose real challenge for KKR as the title holders would be desperate to secure their first win of the season after their two-wicket loss to Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL opener on Friday.

KKR found it easy against SRH bowlers, which lacked firepower but in Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult, MI attack will be a completely different proposition.

Gill's struggle to bat at T20 pace has been a concern for KKR and it will be interesting to see the young opener's approach against the finest in the business. Often known as slow starters, MI lost the other day due to individual brilliance of RCB's Harshal Patel and AB de Villiers on a two-paced wicket here.

In his debut match for MI, Chris Lynn was their top-scorer, albeit with some stroke of luck as he survived some edges and mishits.

If Quinton de Kock is still in quarantine, MI may have to persist with Lynn at the top, otherwise they may go back to their preferred left-right opening combination of Rohit and de Kock.

MI's explosive middle-order consisting Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan and the Pandya brothers -- Hardik and Krunal -- also failed to fire to be restricted to 159 for nine.

## Two Coaches Test Positive For COVID-19 At National Women's Boxing Camp

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Two assistant coaches at the national camp for Indian women boxers here have tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantined with mild symptoms.

The development was confirmed to PTI by a source close to the team, which is training at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi.

"Two women coaches have tested positive so far. They have been quarantined but the camp is progressing as scheduled," the source said.

This comes after 10 members of the men's contingent in Patiala, including national head coach C A Kutappa, were found positive in tests conducted a few days ago. It is also learnt that following the positive reports of the two coaches, who are down with fever, other members of the camp were also tested on Monday.

"Some of the boxers have also been unwell but none of them are from the Olympic-bound group. The results of the tests conducted at the camp on Monday are still awaited," the source said.

## COVID-Hit Pakistan Super League To Resume From June 1

Press Trust of India

**LAHORE:** The postponed matches of the sixth edition of the Pakistan Super League will be held in Karachi from June 1 to 20 with the nation's cricket board promising a zero-tolerance approach towards all those who breach the COVID-19 SOPs.

The participants will begin their seven-day quarantine from May 22, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) revealed.

The League was postponed after several players tested positive in March after Peshawar Zalmi coach Daren Sammy and captain Wahab Riaz breached the bio-secure bubble by meeting with their franchise owner Javed Afridi, who was not part of the bubble. Before the postponement, 14 league matches were conducted between February 20 and March 3.

The decision to resume PSL-6 was taken by PCB's Board of Governors during a virtual conference call on Saturday.

The PCB had appointed a two-person fact-finding panel to review the bio-security protocols, bylaws and arrangements for the PSL-6 and make recommendations on how to better ensure implementation of a bio-secure environment for future events.



Peshawar Zalmi coach Daren Sammy and captain Wahab Riaz reportedly breached the bio-secure bubble by meeting with their franchise owner Javed Afridi.

"The BoG discussed and debated the panel's findings in detail. They expressed their disappointment at the failures that were highlighted in the report and advised remedial actions needed to be taken."

"The BoG endorsed all recommendations of the fact-finding panel, including robust and stringent implementation of the pro-

ocols, as well as maintaining a zero-tolerance approach towards all those who breach the Covid-19 SOPs, which are put in place for safeguarding the health and safety of all participants."

The statement further stated that the PCB was in final stages of appointing a globally-recognised safety management company in

order to ensure the safe resumption and completion of PSL 6.

"The members were informed that a mandatory seven-day quarantine period for all participants will commence from 22 May in one hotel and following three days of training sessions, PSL 6 matches will resume on 1 June with the final scheduled for 20 June," it added.



## Indian Panel Gives Emergency Approval For Russia's Sputnik V vaccine



### Agenceis

The vaccine, proved 91.6% effective against Covid-19, has been approved for use in more than 50 countries

An expert panel of India's drugs regulator has recommended emergency use approval for Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine, two sources said on Monday, which could make it the nation's third to be approved as infections surge again.

India overtook Brazil to become the nation with the second-highest number of infections worldwide after the United States, as it battles a massive second wave, having given about 105 million doses among a population of 1.4 billion.

The panel of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) recommended the authorization, said two people familiar with the matter, who sought anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to media.

Most panel recommendations are generally accepted by the regulator's chief.

Neither Dr Reddy's Laboratories, which markets the vaccine in India, nor the drugs regulator, responded immediately to Reuters' requests for comment.

India is now using two vaccines, one developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, and the other by domestic firm Bharat Biotech. Shares of Dr Reddy's ended up 5% after the Economic Times newspaper reported the news.

The firm has helped run a small domestic trial to test the vaccine's safety and ability to generate an immune response. Sputnik V, developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Institute, has proved 91.6% effective against Covid-19 and has been approved for use in more than 50 countries.

The Russian Direct Investment Fund has signed deals to produce more than 750 million doses of Sputnik V in India with six domestic firms.

## As 1 Of Every 6 Daily Infections Is Now In India, Huge Kumbh Crowds

### Agenceis

LUCKNOW: Hundreds of thousands of Hindu devotees flocked on Monday to take a holy bath in Ganges river in Uttarakhan's Haridwar, even as the nation racked up the world's highest tally of new daily coronavirus infections. With 168,912 new cases, India accounts for one in six of all new infections globally, although the figure is still well below the US peak of nearly 300,000 new cases on January 8.

In Haridwar, nearly a million devotees thronged the banks of the Ganges to participate in the months-long 'Kumbh Mela' or pitcher festival.

"The crowd here is surging...the police are continuously appealing to people to maintain social distancing," police official Sanjay Gunjyal told Reuters at the site.

By mid-morning a million people had taken a dip in the river, believed to wash away one's sins.

As India's second wave of infections builds, with fewer than four per cent estimated to have been vaccinated among a population of 1.4 billion, experts say the situation could have a long way to go before it starts getting better.

"After cases declined in January-February, we were very comfortable," said a panel of high court judges in the western state of Gujarat, calling on authorities to take urgent steps to rein in the outbreak.

"Almost everyone forgot that there was ever corona," added



the panel, headed by Chief Justice Vikram Nath. A full opening of the economy from last year's crippling lockdown, coupled with the mass religious festivals and political rallies in states heading to elections have fuelled the crisis.

Monday's new infections carried India past Brazil for a tally of 13.53 million, data compiled by Reuters shows, ranking it the second-most infected country after the United States, with 31.2 million.

TALLY FEARED TO DOUBLE IN TWO MONTHS

India's tally is on course to double in two months, according to estimates based on data from the Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering.

Yet authorities appeared unwilling or unable to stop events that could lead to a calamitous spread of the disease.

Thousands of people are attending political rallies in four big states set for elections this month,

including two events on Monday in the eastern state of West Bengal, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to speak.

"With 1.2 million active cases, and the daily number reaching 200,000, it's bizarre to have poll rallies and a full Kumbh Mela," political commentator Shekhar Gupta said on Twitter.

Officials and experts said authorities had underestimated the resilience of the virus, believing they had beaten it after daily cases fell below 10,000 in early February.

Officials in the worst-hit state of Maharashtra, home to the financial capital of Mumbai, said they were considering a broader lockdown this week after large closures at the weekend.

It is necessary to break the cycle (of infections)," said a senior state official who sought anonymity.

"We are working on identifying industries and services that need to be exempted."

## 'I've Never Seen A Disease Like COVID-19': World-Renowned S African Indian-origin Academic

### Agenceis

World-renowned South African Indian-origin academic Prof Hoosen Mahomed Jerry Coovadia has described the COVID-19 pandemic as something he has never seen in a career of over six decades.

Dr Coovadia, now retired at 80, was speaking from his residence in Durban after the launch of the 7th edition of his seminal textbook 'Paediatrics and Child Health', 37 years after he first published it.

"Coronaviruses have been around for a long time, but I've never seen a disease like COVID-19," Coovadia told the weekly Saturday Independent as he confirmed that both he and his wife Dr Zubie Hamed have been vaccinated against the deadly virus. According to Johns Hopkins University tracker, the number of confirmed cases in South Africa are 1,557,527 and 53,256 people have died.

Internationally acknowledged for his groundbreaking research in HIV/AIDS transmission from mother to child, Coovadia said COVID-19 in children was mostly mild, but could be worse if there were other underlying conditions such as tuberculosis. Coovadia's research, which focused on the subject of breastfeeding reduced transmission of HIV/AIDS infections to children from 40 mothers per 100 births to just one per hundred.

"Mother to child transmission has almost been wiped out," he said, citing the antiretroviral drugs now available.

Commenting on the latest edition of the book, published by

Oxford University Press, Coovadia told the weekly: "Back in 1984, all the [medical] books we had were British. There was no textbook in the developing world, which particularly addressed the problems of children in Southern Africa."

That was the impetus to start writing, but I have to highlight it was a team effort and I collated research from different universities, he said.

The only major changes to the book are subjects such as drugs, which have changed over the years, Coovadia said.

After completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Natal, Coovadia gained his medical degree in Bombay, where many of his peers at the time went to study medicine due to the highly limited positions for this at South African universities. Apartheid-era quota systems gave most of the positions at universities to the minority white community.

After further studies in the UK, Coovadia returned home to rapidly rise through the ranks at his Alma Mater until his retirement, doing what he said he loved most teaching students. In a previous interview with PTI, Coovadia explained that it was during his student years in India that his political activism was awakened.

He became active in the struggle against apartheid upon his return, participating in the preliminary discussions and negotiations at the Congress for a Democratic South Africa, the precursor of final negotiations, which led to Nelson Mandela being installed as the country's first democratically elected president.

## Bengal Polls: 28% Phase 6 Candidates Have Criminal Record, Says Report

### Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Of the 306 candidates contesting in the sixth phase of the Bengal Assembly polls, 28 per cent have declared criminal cases against themselves, according to a report by poll rights group Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The West Bengal Election Watch and the ADR have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of all the 306 candidates in 43 constituencies, who are contesting in the sixth phase of the West Bengal polls to be held on April 22.

"Of the 306 candidates, 87 (28 per cent) have declared criminal cases and 71 (23 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves," the ADR said.

Among the major parties, 14 of the 23 (61 per cent) candidates from the CPI(M), 25 of the 43 (58 per cent) candidates from the BJP, 24 of the 43 (56 per cent) candidates from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and five of the 12 (42 per cent) Congress candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.



Twelve of the 23 (52 per cent) CPI(M) candidates, 20 of the 43 (47 per cent) Trinamool candidates and four of the 12 (33 per cent) Congress candidates analysed have declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

The report further said 19 candidates have declared cases related to crime against women.

"Of the 19, one has declared cases

related to rape," it said.

The report further said five candidates have declared cases related to murder and 22 have declared cases related to attempt to murder against themselves. Twelve of the 43 constituencies that will go to polls in the sixth phase are "red-alert" constituencies.

"Red-alert" constituencies are those where three or more candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves.

Of the 306 candidates, 66 (22 per cent) are crorepatists, the report said.

28 of the 43 (65 per cent) TMC candidates, 19 of the 43 (44 per cent) BJP candidates, two of the 12 (25 per cent) Congress candidates and four of the 23 (17 per cent) CPI(M) candidates analysed have declared assets valued at more than 1 crore.

The report also said 129 (42 per cent) candidates have declared their educational qualification to be between the 5th and 12th standards, while 165 (54 per cent) have declared an educational qualification of graduate or above. Four candidates are diploma holders, seven are just literate while one is illiterate.

85 (28 per cent) candidates have declared their age to be between 25 and 40 years, while 162 (53 per cent) have declared their age to be between 41 and 60 years. There are 59 (19 per cent) candidates who have declared their age to be between 61 and 80 years.

The report said 27 (nine per cent) female candidates are contesting in the sixth phase of the West Bengal Assembly polls.

## Non-Adherence To Covid Norms, Virulent Strains Could Be Behind Surge In Infections: AIIMS Chief



### Agenceis

NEW DELHI: People not adhering to COVID-appropriate behaviour and the circulation of highly infectious strains of SARS-CoV-2 could be the primary reasons behind the surge in coronavirus infections in India, AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria said on Monday.

He also warned that if the situation is not reversed, then the galloping infection rate will eventually cause a huge strain on the country's healthcare system. He sought stricter enforcement of COVID-appropriate behaviour on the ground level by the administration and authorities.

"Around February, when cases started to decrease, people became lax towards following COVID-appropriate behaviour as they thought the virus had become ineffective.

"People are taking the disease lightly now. If you go out, you see that market-places, restaurants and shopping malls are crowded and full of people and these all are super-spreader events," Dr Guleria said.

Earlier, if one sick person was able to infect around 30 per cent of their contacts, this time those getting the disease are infecting a larger number of people, he said.

"So, the rate of spread of the infection is fast possibly due to the highly infectious and transmissible strains circulating," he added.

Various strains of SARS-CoV-2, including the UK, South Africa and Brazil variants, are circulating in India and have been termed

as highly transmissible by experts.

Dr Guleria said the entire humanity is going through a difficult time and "unless it is important, people should not venture out. Also, it has to be ensured that there is no gathering and stricter enforcement of COVID-appropriate behaviour has to be ensured".

"We may lose the gains we have made so far if we do not pay heed now," and the situation may completely get out of control, he said.

"If the situation is not reversed, then the galloping infection rate will eventually cause a huge strain on the healthcare system also," he stressed.

The AIIMS chief also urged people to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Though the vaccine will not protect a person from contracting the infection, it will prevent its progression to a severe form and thereby reduce mortality, Dr Guleria said.

But wearing a mask and following other protocols is equally important, he added.

India on Monday recorded the biggest single-day jump of 1,68,912 fresh COVID-19 cases that took the infection tally to 1,35,27,717, according to Union health ministry data.

Ten states -- Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan -- have shown a steep rise in daily cases, accounting for 83.02 per cent of the infections reported in a day.

## Delhi Court Reserves Order On Shashi Tharoor In Sunanda Pushkar Death Case



### Agenceis

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has reserved its order on the issue of framing of charges against Congress leader Shashi Tharoor in a case related to his wife Sunanda Pushkar's death at a hotel in Delhi.

Special Judge Geetanjali Goel, who is likely to pronounce the order on April 29, heard arguments from the counsel appearing for Delhi Police as well as Mr Tharoor.

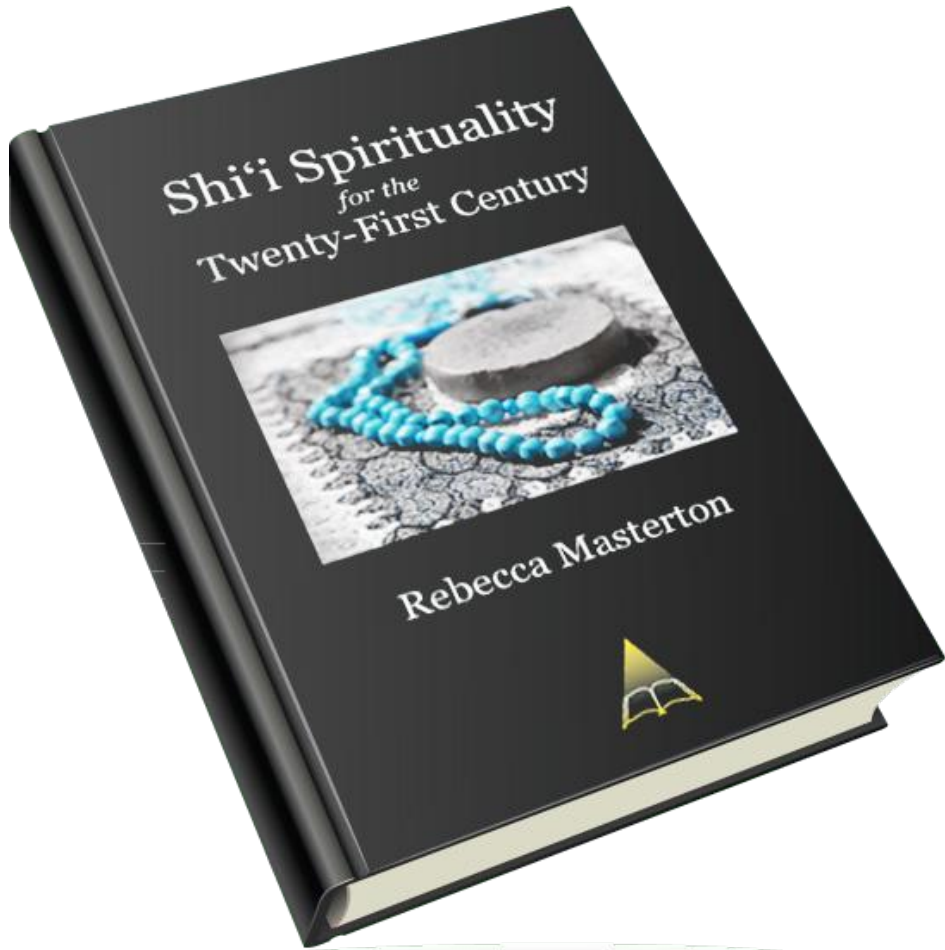
During the arguments, while the police sought framing of various charges, including 306 (abetment of suicide), Senior Advocate Vikas Pahwa, appearing for Mr Tharoor, told the court that the investigation conducted by the SIT completely exonerated the politician of all the charges levelled against him.

Mr Pahwa sought Mr Tharoor's discharge in the case, saying there was no evidence against him to prove the offence punishable under either section 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) or 306 (abetment of suicide) of IPC.

Sunanda Pushkar was found dead in a suite of a luxury hotel in Delhi on the night of January 17, 2014. The couple was staying in the hotel, as the official bungalow of Mr Tharoor was being renovated at that time.

Mr Tharoor was charged under sections 498A and 306 of the Indian Penal Code by Delhi police, but was not arrested in the case. He was granted bail on July 5, 2018.

## Shi'i Spirituality For The Twenty-First Century



“Lectures that reflect upon the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBU), his daughter Fatima, his granddaughter Zaynab and the Twelve Imams [as], and consider how our lives may be illuminated and our hearts strengthened in the fraught atmosphere of an often toxic modern age.

### About the Author

Rebecca Masterton converted to Islam in 1999 and has been teaching and writing for twenty years.

Order the book from here:

[https://shop.aimislam.com/products/shii-spirituality-for-the-twenty-first-century?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=2d43c6f45&\\_ss=r](https://shop.aimislam.com/products/shii-spirituality-for-the-twenty-first-century?_pos=1&_sid=2d43c6f45&_ss=r)