



P3 CITY

SIX MORE SRINAGAR LOCALITIES DECLARED MICRO CONTAINMENT ZONES

Authorities on Friday declared six more areas of Srinagar city as micro containment zones. The areas include Batamalo, Khanyar, Zaidal and SR Gunj Srinagar to prevent the spread of coronavirus...

P5

THE CORONAVIRUS: A MUSLIM'S PERSPECTIVE

This current pandemic and global crisis brought about by the novel Coronavirus strain has been a source of panic and worry for many, but it is also an opportunity for great reflection. There are important...



P7 STATE

DIV COM CALLS FOR STRICT MASK ENFORCEMENT, FINE ON SOP VIOLATORS

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Friday called for strict mask enforcement through volunteers in Kashmir to contain the spread...



Dry, Warmer Weather Till May 3 In J&K: MeT

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The weatherman on Friday said that dry and warmer weather was expected from April 24 to May 3 even as plains in Kashmir Valley received more rains while upper reaches including the world famous skiing resort of Gulmarg received fresh snowfall.

A meteorological department official told GNS that Srinagar received 37.4mm of rain in the last 24 hours till 0830 a.m. today while it recorded a low of 4.6°C against 8.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 4.3°C

below normal in the summer capital of J&K for this time of the season, he said.

Qazigund, the gateway town of Kashmir, received 15.4mm of rain during the time and recorded a low of 3.6°C against previous night's 4.6°C, the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, received 21.4mm of rain and recorded a low of 0.8°C against 3.3°C on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, received 13.3mm of rain during the time and recorded a low of 1.8°C against previous night's 3.7°C, the official said.

Kupwara had 11.0 mm of rain and recorded a low of 3.7°C against 6.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was 4.3°C



Devout Muslims bow before the Almighty on 2nd Friday of the holy month of fasting at a mosque on the Bund Srinagar.

19 More Succumb to COVID-19, 1,937 Test Positive

Tally Reaches 156,344; Death Toll Reaches 2,111, Active Cases Increase To 16,993, Recovery Rate Decreases To 87.78



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir continue to show a steep rise as 1,937 fresh positive cases were reported on Friday, pushing the

number of active cases to 16,993 which otherwise were less than 600 around a month before.

19 more deaths were reported in J&K in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 2,111 and active 16,993. [More On P6](#)

J&K Tightens Covid Control Measures

- Plans the roll out of vaccination for an additional 65 lakh people in 18-45 age group
- 36 oxygen generation plants to come up in J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam while chairing a high-level meeting to review the public health response to

COVID-19 asked the administration to remain alert and tighten the implementation of existing control measures and SOPs to reverse the upward trend.

Considering the recent surge in the COVID infections, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the officers to strictly implement the strategy of testing, vaccination, strict control in containment zones and promotion of COVID appropriate behaviour among masses to prevent a further surge in the cases. [More On P6](#)

Div Com Calls For Strict Mask Enforcement Through Volunteers

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Friday called for strict mask enforcement through volunteers in Kashmir to contain the spread of Covid-19. The Div Com made these remarks while chairing a Covid-19 review meeting here. He directed concerned teams of NSS, NCC, NYU, SDRF and other volunteers to carry out rigorous Covid-19 SOPs awareness and mask enforcement [More On P6](#)

2 IEDs Detected In South Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Army and police detected and destroyed two improvised explosive device (IEDs) in Pulwama and Shopian district of south Kashmir on Friday, officials said. They said that the first IED was detected at Circle Road in Pulwama district and was later destroyed by a Bomb Disposal Squad without any damage. "The IED, weighing about 3-4 kgs, was covered in [More On P6](#)

Man Held with 10 Grenades in Kupwara

KUPWARA: Combined Forces arrested a man with 10 hand grenades and a pistol in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. The man who is believed to be an over ground worker of militants was apprehended by Forces including soldiers from 28 Rashtriya Rifles, Special Operation Group Sogam and CRPF personnel during a naka at [More On P6](#)

59 Women Help Desks In Police Stations

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday said it has established 59 women help desks in police stations across Kashmir in order to make them more friendly and accessible to women. These women help desks will be the first and single point of contact for any woman walking into a police station, a police spokesman said. He said the in-charges at these help desks are women [More On P6](#)

Wife Of Jailed Hurriyat Leader Passes Away

SRINAGAR: The ailing wife of incarcerated Hurriyat Conference (G) leader and spokesman Ayaz Akbar passed away at her Maloor HMT residence in Srinagar city. Family sources said that Rafeeq Begum, the wife of Ayaz Akbar, who was suffering from cancer from past couple of years, passed away on the intervening night of Thursday-Friday. Ayaz Akbar was [More On P6](#)

Panel Formed For Integrated Development of Logistic Sector

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor-led dispensation Friday granted sanction to the constitution of a Logistic Coordination Committee, aimed for integrated development of the logistic sector, in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to [More On P6](#)

MATTU WRITES TO LG SINHA

Mayor Seeks Closure of Tourist Places, Ban on Group Prayers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation Junaid Azim Mattu has urged Lt Governor to close of all tourists gardens and disallow all congregational prayers and religious gatherings in Srinagar

to contain the continuing Covid-19 surge.

In a letter to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, shared by him on his twitter handle, the Mayor underscored that the second COVID-19 wave mounts an unprecedented challenge and [More On P6](#)

Panel Formed For Integrated Development of Logistic Sector

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor-led dispensation Friday granted sanction to the constitution of a Logistic Coordination Committee, aimed for integrated development of the logistic sector, in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the Government Order No: 361-JK (GAD) of 2021 dated: 23.04.2021 in this regard, Principal Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department will act as Chairman with Principal Secretary to the Government, Agriculture [More On P6](#)

One-Way Traffic On Highway On Saturday Agenceis

SRINAGAR: Traffic authorities on Friday said that one way traffic shall be allowed on Jammu-Srinagar highway on Saturday.

"Tomorrow (April 24), subject to fair weather and better road condition, LMVs (passenger) shall be allowed from Srinagar towards Jammu on Jammu-Srinagar highway. TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic" reads a traffic department communiqué.

"Commuters are advised not to travel on the highway without confirming the status of road from TCU Jammu/ Ramban/Srinagar in view of inclement weather on highway," it said.

4 Extortionists, Posing as Militants, Nabbed In Sopore

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday claimed to have arrested four extortionists in north Kashmir's Sopore township.

In a statement, the police said that a complainant namely Muhammad Ashraf Lone son of Noor Muhammad Lone resident of Highland colony Sopore approached police station sopore and lodged a written complaint to the effect that few days back some unidentified persons wearing masks entered his clinic and threatened him that a hit warrant has been issued against him by Laskar/Jaish-e-Muhammad and if he cannot pay Rupees 5 lakh he will be eliminated. The statement [More On P6](#)

Bone Therapy of Hazratbal Hakeems Bracing in Pandemic

Saima Shakeel

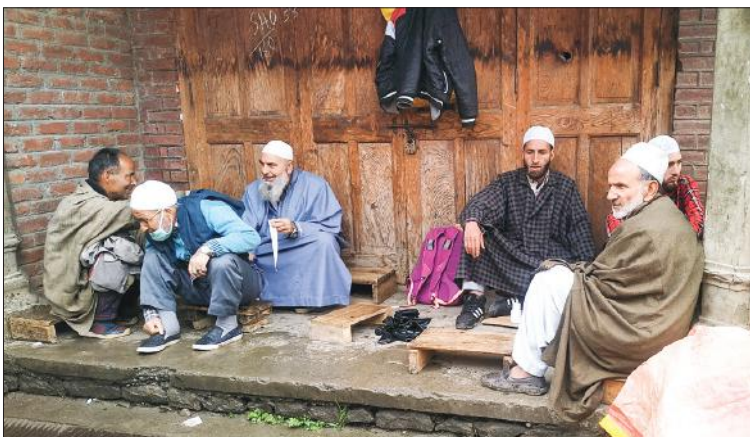
Fearing hospital during the second wave of Covid in Kashmir, a young boy has arrived in busy Hazratbal market with his sore shoulder.

It's Friday and the famous Dargah bazar—filled with the smell of spices and tandoor smoke—is bustling with the masked faithful thronging the sanctum for the condensed congregational prayers.

With painful facial expression, the boy holds his shoulder carefully and approaches an old therapist sitting on a shut-shop front.

Mohammad Ramzan Bangi asks the boy—who can't move his arm due to an accident—to sit down.

The therapist starts rubbing

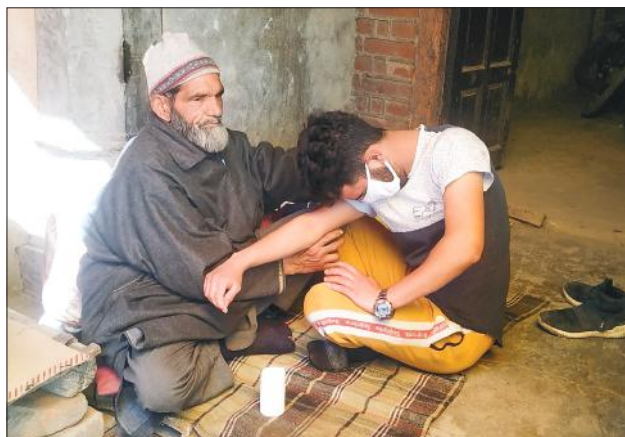


the boy's tender shoulder in an effort to fix his dislocated bone. After putting some white tape around his shoulder, he bids

adieu to the young patient with a big smile. The relieved boy takes out some cash from his wallet and hands it over to the

therapist with gratitude. "Most of these patients are afraid to visit hospitals due to this 'woebah' [pandemic] these

days," Ramzan says in his clam voice. "I try my best to give them right treatment. Rest Allah is the real healer."



WITH COVID SPIKE ONCE AGAIN casting shadow on Kashmir hospitals this Ramadan, the vale's traditional therapists adept at fixing bones are only becoming alternate healers for the distressed community.

The 85-year-old street therapist, called 'Baieng' in Kashmiri, eagerly arrives on his weekly Friday visits to the old Hazratbal market. The elder sits under the basement of an old building and awaits his patients.

Although his skull-capped therapist tribe isn't new to the valley, lately they're witnessing rush due to the Covid crisis.

"Everyone wants to play safe these days," says Abdul Rehman, who's into this traditional treatment from last 35 years.

"Since our health centers are mainly dealing with this [Covid] health emergency right now, so many [non-Covid] patients resort to the safer and simpler means of healing."

The street [More On P6](#)

Several long-term effects of Covid-19 point to massive health burden: Study

Agencies

The researchers of the study confirmed that, despite being initially a respiratory virus, long Covid-19 can affect nearly every organ system in the body.

Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis showed that COVID-19 survivors including those not sick enough to be hospitalized have an increased risk of death in the six months following diagnosis with the virus.

The researchers also have catalogued the numerous diseases associated with COVID-19, providing a big-picture overview of the long-term complications of COVID-19 and revealing the massive burden this disease is likely to place on the world's population in the coming years.

The study, involving more than 87,000 COVID-19 patients and nearly 5 million control patients in a federal database, appears in the journal Nature.

"Our study demonstrates that up to six months after diagnosis, the risk of death following even a mild case of COVID-19 is not trivial and increases with disease severity," said senior author Ziyad Al-Aly, MD, an assistant professor of medicine.

In the new study, the researchers were able to calculate the potential scale of the problems first glimpsed from anecdotal accounts and smaller studies that hinted at the wide-ranging side effects of surviving COVID-19, from breathing problems and irregular heart rhythms to mental health issues and hair loss.

The investigators showed that, af-



ter surviving the initial infection (beyond the first 30 days of illness), COVID-19 survivors had an almost 60 per cent increased risk of death over the following six months compared with the general population.

At the six-month mark, excess deaths among all COVID-19 survivors were estimated at eight people per 1,000 patients. Among patients who were ill enough to be hospitalized with COVID-19 and who survived beyond the first 30 days of illness, there were 29 excess deaths per 1,000 patients over the following six months.

The researchers analyzed data from the national healthcare databases of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The dataset included 73,435 VHA patients with confirmed COVID-19 but who were not hospitalized and, for comparison, almost 5 million VHA patients who did not have a COVID-19 diagnosis and were not hospi-

talized during this time frame.

To help understand the long-term effects of more severe COVID-19, the researchers harnessed VHA data to conduct a separate analysis of 13,654 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 compared with 13,997 patients hospitalized with seasonal flu. All patients survived at least 30 days after hospital admission, and the analysis included six months of follow-up data.

The researchers confirmed that, despite being initially a respiratory virus, long COVID-19 can affect nearly every organ system in the body.

Evaluating 379 diagnoses of diseases possibly related to COVID-19, 380 classes of medications prescribed and 62 laboratory tests administered, the researchers identified newly diagnosed major health issues that persisted in COVID-19 patients over at least six months and that affected nearly every organ and regulatory system

in the body, including:

- Respiratory system: persistent cough, shortness of breath and low oxygen levels in the blood.
- Nervous system: stroke, headaches, memory problems and problems with senses of taste and smell.
- Mental health: anxiety, depression, sleep problems and substance abuse.
- Metabolism: new onset of diabetes, obesity and high cholesterol.
- Cardiovascular system: acute coronary disease, heart failure, heart palpitations and irregular heart rhythms.
- Gastrointestinal system: constipation, diarrhoea and acid reflux.
- Kidney: acute kidney injury and chronic kidney disease that can, in severe cases, require dialysis.
- Coagulation regulation: blood clots in the legs and lungs.
- Skin: rash and hair loss.
- Musculoskeletal system: joint pain and muscle weakness.
- General health: malaise, fatigue and anaemia.

While no survivor suffered from all of these problems, many developed a cluster of several issues that have a significant impact on health and quality of life.

Among hospitalized patients, those who had COVID-19 fared considerably worse than those who had influenza, according to the analysis. COVID-19 survivors had a 50 per cent increased risk of death compared with flu survivors, with about 29 excess deaths per 1,000 patients at six months. Survivors of COVID-19 also had a substantially higher risk of long-term medical problems.

از دفتر تحصیلدار محمد شفیع لون با اجلاس ایڈمنسٹریٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول
عنوان: مضمون درخواست عدالت ذریعہ معینہ ذریعہ اولادان ذریعہ اہم جام ساکنہ واڈورہ تحصیل ذریعہ کیر
برادر عطا گئی SC سرٹیفیکٹ تحت SRO294

استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر SC سرٹیفیکٹ چئی کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں ذریعہ کاروائی ہے اور اجزا کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ پڑاں افراد پر مشتمل ہے
ذریعہ اہم جام ولد عبدالرشید قاسم سرکاری ملازم 55-سال
فریدہ بیگم 50
صہبہ بیگم 24
عادل ذریعہ 20
آقرار ذریعہ 15
میر لہناہ 12

انکے علاوہ عمر کی مہمانہ آمدنی رزق و غیر رزق 6390 ہے سرٹیفیکٹ ذریعہ بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر چیں کریں۔ عیداد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

ذریعہ کیر برادر عطا گئی OBC سرٹیفیکٹ تحت SRO294

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عنوان: مضمون درخواست مصمت فاروق وسمیرہ فاروق اولادان ذریعہ اہم جام ساکنہ سوہارہ تحصیل
ذریعہ کیر برادر عطا گئی OBC سرٹیفیکٹ تحت SRO294

استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر OBC سرٹیفیکٹ چئی کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں ذریعہ کاروائی ہے اور اجزا کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ پڑاں افراد پر مشتمل ہے
فاروق اہم جام ولد غلام رسول نثار مزدوری 49-سال
حسینہ بیگم 48
صہبہ فاروق 23
مصمت فاروق 18
احسان فاروق 16

انکے علاوہ عمر کی مہمانہ آمدنی رزق و غیر رزق 6000 ہے سرٹیفیکٹ ذریعہ بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر چیں کریں۔ عیداد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

ذریعہ کیر برادر عطا گئی LC

از نیابت چندورہ
عنوان: مضمون درخواست عبدالرشید خان ولد محمد خان ساکنہ چندورہ برادر عطا گئی PSC سرٹیفیکٹ تحت SRO294

استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر PSC سرٹیفیکٹ چئی کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں ذریعہ کاروائی ہے اور اجزا کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ پڑاں افراد پر مشتمل ہے
عبدالرشید خان 55-سال
ذریعہ ہان 50
غلام خان 30
مدینہ بیگم 28
ساحل اہم 12
میر اہم 09
رومیرہ بانو 06

انکے علاوہ عمر کی مہمانہ آمدنی رزق و غیر رزق 14000 ہے سرٹیفیکٹ ذریعہ بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر چیں کریں۔ عیداد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

ذریعہ کیر برادر عطا گئی LC

از نیابت سوہارہ
عنوان: چھٹی آمدہ از جناب اینڈسٹریٹل ڈپٹی کمشنر صاحب سوہارہ نسبت اجرائی
ڈپٹی کمشنر سرٹیفیکٹ تحت عابد حسین کوہری ولد مرحوم غلام الدین کوہری ساکنہ جاج
قدیم سوہارہ امرگرہ محلہ کرانکھن کالونی

استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر عطا گئی
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جس سے عیال ہے کہ غلام الدین ولد محمد صبور کوہری ساکنہ امرگرہ محلہ کرانکھن کالونی مورخہ 2021-03-24 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ متوفی مذکورہ

محکمہ فلاحہ کنٹرول میں ملازمت کرتا تھا اور دوران ملازمت فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی مذکورہ کی عمر 53 سال تھی متوفی مذکورہ کے وارثان بذیل ہے

گلشن بیگم بیوی متوفی گھریلو کام 50-سال
عاشق حسین پسر 27
افسانہ دختر 25
عابد حسین پسر 23
اختر فکریل دختر 21

انکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد نہیں بتایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ ذریعہ بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر چیں کریں۔ عیداد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

ذریعہ کیر برادر عطا گئی LC

از دفتر تحصیلدار اہت ناگ با اجلاس زیریہ احمد شیخ صاحب
درخواست منجانب: - ساتھ زیریہ و فاطمہ زیریہ خاتون زیریہ احمد بٹ ساکنان انڈولہ تحصیل
و جلعہ بٹ ناگ بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انٹریا سرٹیفیکٹ SRO294

استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنان صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انٹریا سرٹیفیکٹ فتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ تفصیل افراد ذیل درج ہے:-

نام صاحب کنبہ معد ولدیت عمر پیشہ آمدنی
زیریہ احمد بٹ ولد عبدالرحمان بٹ 53-سال مزدوری 4000
رفیقہ زیریہ احمد بٹ 52-سال گھریلو کام
فاطمہ زیریہ دختر 30-سال زیریہ تعلیم
ساتمہ زیریہ دختر 24-سال ---
شاہد زیریہ پسر 18-سال ---

انکے علاوہ کوئی فرد کنبہ میں موجود نہیں ہے ساکن کنبہ تحصیل چندہ سالوں سے وہ ہذا میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور ساکن کی کنبہ کی کل ملکہ آمدنی 6000 ہے تاکہ ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر چیں کریں۔ عیداد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

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نام صاحب کنبہ معد ولدیت عمر پیشہ آمدنی
زیریہ احمد بٹ ولد عبدالرحمان بٹ 53-سال مزدوری 4000
رفیقہ زیریہ احمد بٹ 52-سال گھریلو کام
فاطمہ زیریہ دختر 30-سال زیریہ تعلیم
ساتمہ زیریہ دختر 24-سال ---
شاہد زیریہ پسر 18-سال ---

انکے علاوہ کوئی فرد کنبہ میں موجود نہیں ہے ساکن کنبہ تحصیل چندہ سالوں سے وہ ہذا میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور ساکن کی کنبہ کی کل ملکہ آمدنی 6000 ہے تاکہ ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر چیں کریں۔ عیداد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

ذریعہ کیر برادر عطا گئی LC

از دفتر تحصیلدار اہت ناگ با اجلاس زیریہ احمد شیخ صاحب
درخواست منجانب: - ساتھ زیریہ و فاطمہ زیریہ خاتون زیریہ احمد بٹ ساکنان انڈولہ تحصیل
و جلعہ بٹ ناگ بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انٹریا سرٹیفیکٹ SRO294

استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنان صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ انٹریا سرٹیفیکٹ فتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ تفصیل افراد ذیل درج ہے:-

نام صاحب کنبہ معد ولدیت عمر پیشہ آمدنی
زیریہ احمد بٹ ولد عبدالرحمان بٹ 53-سال مزدوری 4000
رفیقہ زیریہ احمد بٹ 52-سال گھریلو کام
فاطمہ زیریہ دختر 30-سال زیریہ تعلیم
ساتمہ زیریہ دختر 24-سال ---
شاہد زیریہ پسر 18-سال ---

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ذریعہ کیر برادر عطا گئی LC

CORRECTION IN NAME

It is information for the general public that my name is mentioned wrongly in expired Passport and needs to be changed as per my matriculation certificate which is IFRAH RIAZ instead of IFRAH RIYAZ. Now, I am applying for new Passport. If any body having any objection regarding the same, may contact the concerned authorities within a period of seven days, after that no objection will be entertained.

IFRAH RIAZ
D/O Riaz Ahmad Jan
R/o Alnoor Colony, Illahi Bagh,
Buchpora Srinagar.

MCB

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer, Shopian

whereas an application has been received from one Shri Ms Saba Amin D/O Mohammad Amin R/o Chotigam Shopian Owner of the vehicle No JK22A-6929 for cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement with M/S JK Bank H.R Shopian

Now it is therefore. Notified for general information that objectoins if any, to the proposed cancellatin of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the office of Assisnat Regional Transport Officer Shopian within a period of seven (7) days from the publication of this notice in the daily Kashmir Observer

No : 485/MVD/SPN
Dated 23-04-2021

S/D Asst Regional
Transport Officer Shopian

TAS

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION QAZIGUND

E-mail : qazigundphedivision@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 01931-295040

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NIT No: 02/EE/PHED/Qazigund/300-10 of 2021-22 Dated 22/04/2021.

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, fresh e-tenders/rate quotations in single cover system are invited from Computer knowing persons registered under GST for computerization of below mentioned job for Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Qazigund:-

S. No.	Item/Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate
1	Computer typing/ Printing of data work including calculation work on A4 paper size	01 No.	Rate to be quoted by the bidder	
2	Xerox copy of DTP work	01 No.	Rate to be quoted by the bidder	
3	Drafting charges of plans, sections and site plan including colour printing on A4 paper	01 No.	Rate to be quoted by the bidder	
4	Drafting and printing of coloured front page A4 size paper	01 No.	Rate to be quoted by the bidder	
5	Drafting and printing of page of A3 paper size	01 No.	Rate to be quoted by the bidder	
6	Photostat charges of A3 paper size	01 No.	Rate to be quoted by the bidder	
7	Spiral Binding	01 No.	Rate to be quoted by the bidder	

1. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), terms & condition of contract can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the dates shown below:-

i	Download start date	23/04/2021 from 10.00 AM
ii	Download end date	30/04/2021 from 04.00 PM
iii	Bid submission start date	23/04/2021 from 10.00 AM
iv	Bid submission end date	30/04/2021 from 04.00 PM
v	Bid opening date	01/05/2021 at 10.00 AM

2. Bids must be accompanied by bid security Declaration Form on affidavit duly Notarized and cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan for Rs.200/- which should be credited to MH:0215-PHE Government Account as per the format devised / attached with this NIT.

3. The unit rates & prices shall quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of work unless otherwise specified. The intending tenderers will have to quote rates as per unit rate as advertised for each item considering quantity as one for every item and comparative shall be generated for sum total of all items to arrive at L1, L2 and L3 in the overall and shall be accordingly negotiated with successful bidder to arrive at a reasonable/negotiated rate. However, in case of the rate of any particular item is exorbitant to such an extent that it contradicts with the wisdom of the evaluator, the rate of such item shall be considered in accordance with the prevailing market rate with some reasonable contractors profit for evaluating the comparative amongst the bidders.

4. It is mandatory upon the bidder to upload "Bidders Address Format" duly filled in under his seal and signature for future correspondence, which is attached with this NIT.

5. The bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Qazigund on above mentioned date in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present.

6. The Successful bidder has to complete the job within 07 days from the date of placement of allotment order.

7. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents like Bid Security Declaration/Cost of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan/PAN/GST Registration with latest return/Bidders Address Format /Registration / Affidavit for correctness of bid. The technical hard copies of bidding documents are not necessary to deposit in the Divisional office as per standing Govt. instructions.

8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

9. The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days.

10. As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department. However, non-drawl of agreement will not prevent the contract from being enforced upon him.

11. Performance security, bid security, EMD, performance security shall be as per the Circular issued by the Finance Department No.A/ MISC (2018)-3iii-895/J dated 22.12.2020.

12. The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept/reject the bid without assigning any reason thereof.

13. The taxes viz. Income tax, Service tax/GST & Cess shall be deducted from the bidder's claim as per standing Govt. instructions.

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

15. The unit rates & prices shall quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto installation in PHE Division Qazigund.

16. If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the BOQ, such item/items shall be deemed to be the part of the overall/ total contract value and no rate shall be allowed for such item/items.

17. The successful bidder has to supply the items within one week from the date of placement of supply order.

18. In case of delay in supply/installation of items beyond stipulated period, penalty of the maximum 10% of the contract value shall be imposed upon the supplier.

19. Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form-25.

No:PHQ/ 300-10

Dtd: 22/04/2021

DIPK-737/21

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Qazigund

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR

Notice

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Karpnesen S/o Bharat Bhat Naik R/o Ramasana cross Road Tehesana (Transferor) of Taveera bearing registration No. GJO2BH- 0154 chasis No: 013511 Engine No: 160785 Model 2013 in favour of Noor Mohammad Dar S/o Ghulam Nabi Dar R/o Arampora Qamarwari Srinagar (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 1186 Sd/-
Dated: 23/04/2021 Regional Transport Office,
fko Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR

Notice

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Sajad Ahamd Ahangar S/O Ghulam Mohammad R/O Budhan Rai Bazar Delhi Gate (Transferor) of K-10 bearing registration No. DL12CC- 4585 chasis No: 00328477 Engine No: 7135563 Model 2012 in favour of Sajad Ahamd Ahangar S/O Ghulam Mohammad Ahangar R/O Zakura Khawja Bagh Colony Hazratbal (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 1193 Sd/-
Dated: 23/04/2021 Regional Transport Office,

اعزالت ایڈمنسٹریٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

(نائب تحصیلدار اہت ناگ) با اجلاس زیریہ احمد شیخ صاحب۔

درخواست منجانب: - ستارہ بانو زہیرہ مرحوم عبدالرشید وانی ساکنہ لال چوک

اہت ناگ بغرض اجرائی تاریخ فونگی سرٹیفیکٹ بنام عبدالرشید وانی ولد محمد

رسلطان وانی -

استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن /ساکنہ مذکورہ بالانے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست حلفی بیان پیش کیا ہے ساکنہ کے شوہر کا تاریخ

فونگی 13/05/2007 ہے اس ضمن میں سرٹیفیکٹ فونگی نکلنے کا خواہ ہے لہذا سرٹیفیکٹ مذکورہ کو اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی عذر یا

اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ایڈمنسٹریٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

mja

Mu’azzin Of Jamia Masjid Srinagar Muhammad Yasin Shah Passes Away

Mirwaiz Grieved; Sagar Condoles Demise

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid sobs and shrieks, hundreds on Friday bid adieu to Muhammad Yasin Shah, the Mua'zzin of historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, who passed away on Friday morning after a brief illness, at his home in downtown Srinagar.

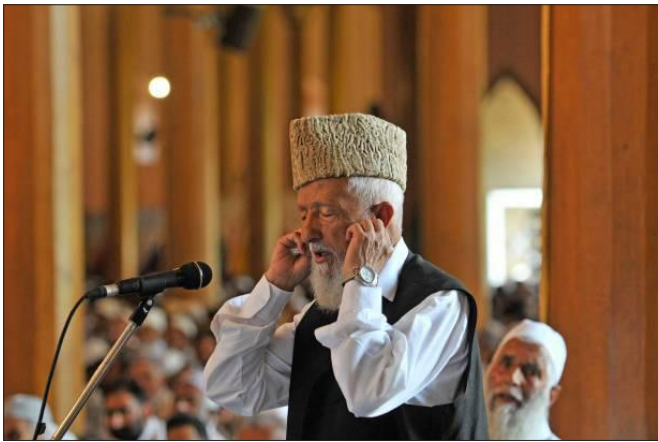
Shah, besides calling for prayers, would recite eulogies at the central mosque on Friday's and other congregational events.

A cross section of society paid rich tributes to the departed and prayed for his eternal peace.

The funeral prayers of Shah were offered inside the Jamia Masjid compound just before the congregational Friday prayers.

Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar expressed grief and sorrow over his demise and termed it a big loss for the religious fraternity of Kashmir.

Ina condolence meeting



chaired by Auqaf General Secretary Haji Altaf Ahmad Bhat, rich tributes were paid to Yasin for his six-decade-long sincere and selfless services to Jamia Masjid.

Amid moist eyes, prayers were offered for the departed soul. The services of the family of Yasin towards Jamia Masjid

for the past century were also recalled by the members.

During the meeting, members recounted that after his father's death, late Yasin would uninterruptedly call for prayer, say "Azan" five times each day at the Jamia Masjid.

They said that the sweet

and melodious voice of the deceased used to attract thousands of Namazis to throng the Jamia Masjid. "Yasin was a great Naat Khwan. His rendition of the Naats would so deeply move people spiritually and emotionally, that they could not control tears rolling down their faces," the meeting recalled.

On hearing about the demise of Yasin, Kashmir's chief cleric and Hurriyat Conference (M) chairperson Mirwaiz Umar Farooq expressed deep grief and termed it a big loss for the people of Srinagar.

Mirwaiz could not attend the funeral prayers of the departed since he is under house detention.

He, however, expressed condolence with the bereaved family and prayed for Jannat-ul-Firdous to Muhammad Yasin Shah. He also regretted that he could not lead the Janaza prayers of

the deceased or pay tributes to his great services at the condolence meet of the Anjuman, nor express sympathy with the bereaved family, personally.

Meanwhile National Conference (NC) Party General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of Yasin Shah.

In his condolence message, Sagar paid tributes to the deceased for his six-decade long service to the Jamia Masjid saying the sweet voice of the deceased will continue to resonate in our ears.

"The passing away of Molvi sahib has deeply saddened me. I pray for peace to his soul in the highest echelons of Jannat and forbearance to the bereaved family and admirers of his at this difficult time. I share their grief and express my unison with them," he said in a statement.

“THE PASSING AWAY OF MOLVI SAHIB HAS DEEPLY SADDENED ME. I PRAY FOR PEACE TO HIS SOUL IN THE highest echelons of Jannat and forbearance to the bereaved family and admirers of his at this difficult time. I share their grief and express my unison with them,”

Kawdara Residents Protest Against Defunct Drainage System



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The residents of Sheikh ul Aalam Colony, Kawdara Friday staged a protest against the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) for 'failing' to repair the defunct drainage system in their area.

Scores of residents assembled in Srinagar's Press Enclave and chanted slogans in favour of their demands.

The residents said that they are facing hardships from the last many decades as the authorities have failed to repair the drainage system in their locality.

"The rain water has submerged our entire locality, but nobody is paying heed to our sufferings from

the last seven days," they said.

"Even after the light rainfall, the entire locality remains inundated with the muddy water due to the poor drainage system," the protesting locals said, adding that such is the height that they (locals) have been asked to get funds from Municipal Corporation for repairing the drainage system.

They appealed the concerned authorities to look into the matter and redress their grievances at an earliest.

SE Drainage, Ehsan Ahmad said that there are few issues with this area and they are trying to resolve them.

"Proposal is under process. We are waiting for the approval following which the work will be started," he said.

However, he said that the drainage system is not meant for throwing sewage and garbage. "The defunct drainage is mostly the outcome of sewage and garbage being thrown into it," he said. He also appealed to people to cooperate and not to throw garbage into the drainage system.

“PROPOSAL IS UNDER PROCESS. WE ARE waiting for the approval following which the work will be started,” he said.

Efforts Underway To Make NIT Library One Among The Best: Director



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal on Friday said that their efforts are underway to make the campus library among the best libraries in the entire country.

To mark the World Book Day at NIT Campus, Prof. Sehgal along with Registrar NIT Prof. Kaiser Bukhari visited Library and Information Resource Centre on the campus and reviewed the progress and arrangements.

Director NIT said books are considered as best companions and have transformed thousands of civilisations around the world. Students should avail t e-resources, read good books to enhance their existing knowledge, he said.

Prof. Sehgal said the main objective of the library is to support academic and research programs and the campus library has the richest collection of more than 70000 text and reference books.

He said the campus library is well

equipped with modern technologies as it is being currently remodelled into a smart library. We have state of art RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) by which users can easily check-in and check-out library books," Dr Sehgal said.

Director NIT informed that the central library is also equipped with wireless security gates that can alert the staff of any unauthorized checkouts.

He said during the 2014 devastating floods in Kashmir around 32654 books were damaged in the library and from the past three years, the administration has not left any stone unturned to make damaged books available again. From the last two years over 10,000 books have been added to the library collection, he said.

Dr. Sehgal said to cater to the needs of SC, OBC, and ST students; the campus library has a separate section that comprises more than 10,000 books. From the same section, students can avail the benefit of reading books and references for a full semester," he said.

Successive J&K Govt’s Approved Constructions In Flood-Prone Areas Of Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Successive Jammu and Kashmir government's have constructed several major government offices in the flood-prone areas of Kashmir—thus raising a question of logic behind the approval of the constructions.

Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FC) division Srinagar in an official communiqué has stated that it has declared Bemina area of Srinagar as flood-prone area and despite that many buildings in the area have been constructed in the area.

The government offices constructed in the flood-prone areas include, Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) complex, Hajj House, Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education (JKBOSE), Technical Education, Composite Regional Centre and Pediatric Hospital Bemina.

According to the official documents, the areas which have been declared flood-prone in Srinagar includes Kursu Padshahibagh, Rajbagh, Jawahar Nagar, Gogjibagh, Solina, Alo-chibagh, Batamaloo, Qamarwari, Bemina, Karan Nagar, parts of Chattabal, Sonwar, Shivpora, Lal Chowk, Maisuma, Hari Singh High Street, parts of Poloviev, Munwarabad, Baba Demb, Khanyar, Gaur Kadal and some parts of Kral Khud.

It is pertinent to mention that in 2014 deluge, several government departments have suffered huge damage to the official record and infrastructure.

Earlier in 2019, Right to Information (RTI) was filed in I&FC department in which the applicant had sought information of copies of NOC granted by the department pertaining to the construction of various buildings including SDA

complex, Hajj House, JKBOSE, Technical Education, Composite Regional Centre, Pediatric Hospital Bemina.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) in a reply had said that the construction of such buildings does not pertain to the division Srinagar but to the Flood Spill Channel (FSC) division Narbal.

Meanwhile, the top officials of I&FC department Srinagar said, "I have to check as to whether the concerned department has sought NOC from the department."

Asked about the status of buildings of several government offices, the official said, "There are some areas which are flood-prone while some places are more vulnerable but that doesn't necessary mean that in some flood-prone areas, construction is not permissible."—(KNO)

Six More Srinagar Localities Declared Micro Containment Zones

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Friday declared six more areas of Srinagar city as micro containment zones.

The areas include Batamaloo, Khanyar, Zadiabal and SR Gunj Srinagar to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Officials said that six more

localities have been declared as COVID-19 containment zones after fresh cases were detected in these areas.

The areas which have been declared as Micro Containment Zones include Reshi Mohalla near Muskaan Resorts Abi Nowpora Kohan Khan, Sonwar, Khashkhash Bagh near Central Jail Rainawari, Khim-

ber ReshiPora near bus stop, Jabeen Guest lane near Abdullah bridge Rajbagh and Majeed Bagh Ganderpora Eidgah.

Officials said that at least these areas have 39 active cases of Covid-19 and to prevent the further spread of the virus, the localities have been declared as micro-containment zones.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-NIT No:- IUST/EW/21/TEND/LIFT/10 Dated:- 23-04-2021

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K State, E-Tenders (in two cover system) are invited on item rate basis, from approved and eligible Vendors for the following work.

Name of work	Providing, Installation and Commissioning of lift Capacity 8 Person in Library Block and Civil and Mechanical Block at IUST Awantipora.
Estimated Cost of Construction	Rs.45,95,000/-
Cost of document	(Non-refundable) Rs. 2000/- (Rupees -Two Thousand only) in shape of Demand Draft Only.
Bid Security Form	As per Annexure "A" attached at Pg.no 66.
Time Allowed for Completion of Work	04 Calendar Months
Document Download Start Date	23-04-2021
Last Date for Online Submission	04-05-2021
Last Date for DD Submission	05-05-2021
Time, Date & Address of opening of tender	Bids shall be opened at Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora on 06-05-2021 at 2:00 pm.
Availability of Tender document	Tender document can be downloaded from website (https://iktenders.gov.in)
The site for the work	Available
Bid Validity	120 Days
Position of AAA	Accorded
Position of funds	Available

Note: Before submitting the bids bidders are requested to go through the tender document.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1479 BC - Thutmose III ascends to the throne of Egypt, although power effectively shifts to Hatshepsut (according to the Low Chronology of the 18th Dynasty)
- 1066 - Halley's Comet sparks English monk to predict country will be destroyed
- 1185 - Battle at Danoura: Yoshitsune Minamoto's fleet beats the Taira during Japan's Genpei War
- 1793 - French revolutionary Jean-Paul Marat is acquitted by the Revolutionary Tribunal of charges brought by the Girondin in Paris
- 1800 - US Library of Congress establishes with \$5,000 allocation
- 1872 - Volcano Mt Vesuvius erupts in Italy
- 1877 - Russo-Turkish War, 1877-78: Russia declares war on the Ottoman Empire
- 1898 - Spanish-American War: Spain declares war after rejecting US ultimatum to withdraw from Cuba
- men of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition launch a lifeboat from uninhabited Elephant Island in the Southern Ocean to organise a rescue for ice-trapped ship Endurance
- 1920 - British Mandate over Palestine goes into effect (lasts 28 years)
- 1920 - Polish troops attack Ukraine
- 1921 - 1st municipal elections for men & women in Belgium
- 1921 - Under Allies supervision, a plebiscite in the Tyrol favors merging with Germany; unhappy with the outcome, Allies give the area to Italy
- 1928 - Fathometer, which measures underwater depth, patented
- 1941 - British army begins evacuation of Greece
- 1950 - Independent republic of South Molukkas declared
- 1950 - US President Harry Truman denies there are communists in the US government
- 1950 - Jordan formally annexes the West Bank
- 1955 - Conference of Bandung against colonialism and for self determination, ends
- 1955 - Gaullists lose elections in France
- 1967 - Vietnam War: American General William Westmoreland says in a news conference that the enemy had "gained support in the United States that gives him hope that he can win politically that which he cannot win militarily."
- 1968 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalatinsk USSR
- 1968 - Mauritius becomes a member state of the United Nations.
- 1971 - Soyuz 10 returns to Earth
- 1980 - US military operation to save 52 hostages in Iran, fails, 8 die
- 1989 - 10s of thousands of student strikes in Beijing, China
- 1990 - Security law violator Michael Milken pleads guilty to 6 felonies
- 1990 - US 66th manned space mission STS 31 (Discovery 10) launches into orbit
- 1990 - West & East Germany agree to merge currency & economies on July 1st
- 1993 - The IRA explodes a 1000kg car bomb in Bishopsgate, London, killing a news photographer and injuring 44 others
- 1996 - The UN and Iraq end a third round of negotiations over Iraq's possible sale of \$1 billion of oil for 90 days for a 180-day trial period
- 2006 - King Gyanendra of Nepal gives into the demands of protesters and restores the parliament that he dissolved in 2002.
- 2013 - 33 people are killed and 115 are injured after a magnitude 5.7 earthquake strikes Jalalabad, Afghanistan
- 2013 - 256 people are killed and 1,000 are injured after a building collapses Savar Upazila, Bangladesh
- 2015 - Armenia commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman Empire

From KO Archives

WITHDRAW BAN ON DANCE BARS: FAROOQ

SHILLONG - National Conference patron, Farooq Abdullah today came out strongly against the government move to ban dance bars in Mumbai and other cities across Maharashtra.

Farooq believes the banning of dance bars would encourage 'prostitution'.

"Where (they (dancing girls) will go now for money to buy food, medicine and education expenses of their children? Mumbai, as we know, is a 'costly city and those dancers were so far eking out a living without selling their bodies," Abdullah told a gathering on spreading awareness of HIV AIDS here Friday.-

"With the Maharashtra government banning the dance bars, these women would be forced to go in for prostitution which would in turn spread the dreaded virus of AIDS into the society," the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir alleged.

The NC leader also voiced concern over truck drivers 'transporting' the HIV/AIDS while ferrying goods.

Lauding the efforts of Assam Rifles Wives Welfare Association, which organised die campaign today, for spreading the awareness among the jawans' families, the Rajya Sabha member said he was sanctioning Rs 5 lakh to the organisation to start AIDS awareness campaign in local languages in remote' areas ; of the North East

(Kashmir Observer, 24 April, 2005)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



Why should the Opposition be stopped from speaking on behalf of those who have no means to hold the government accountable? How fair is it to say that the Opposition spreads bitterness when it is just doing its duty?

Sundays for Srinagar campaign

Need for Robust, Responsible and Sustainable Progress

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

When we have dearth of land in almost every district of Kashmir valley, where shall Government create new landfill sites? During the last 10 years, it is estimated that 15 % rural areas have been urbanized across Kashmir valley but there is no service available to lift the mounds of solid waste lying scattered in these semi urbanized villages

Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) last month launched a sanitation campaign called Sundays for Srinagar. The aim of Sundays for Srinagar is to create awareness about managing solid waste plus undertaking cleanliness drives on every Sunday in different parts of Srinagar city. The sanitation staff of SMC, volunteers from NGOs, public spirited individuals are part of the campaign. This has gained media and public attention after the Mayor and Commissioner SMC have been actively participating in these programmes. Sunday for Srinagar campaign was kick-started from the Humhama area on the International Forest Day i.e March 21st. SMC Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu and Commissioner Athar Amir Khan who were present on the occasion launched the campaign with the plantation drive. The campaign was followed by cleaning open plots, small rivers and water-bodies as well. Sanitation drive was taken up in Shalimar area, Leper colony Lal Bazar, Barzulla near Doodh Ganga river and Tangpora Bypass.

Roadside Garbage Dumps

Roadside garbage collection points can be seen in every town and city of J&K especially in Srinagar city. This is an open violation of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Rules. Whether it is garbage collection point at Hyderpora near Jamkash motors or outside GD Goenka school in Lalbazar or for that matter near Doodh Ganga river at Bagh e Mehtab, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has declared all these sites as their official garbage dumps. These roadside trash collection points look shabby and grubby yet no one is ready to listen.

According to a 2015 survey conducted by London-based City Mayors Foundation, Srinagar was figuring at 92nd place in the global ranking of fastest growing cities. Srinagar is considered to be one of the 100 fastest-urbanizing cities in the world with an annual growth rate of 2.5 per cent. So, not only is finding land for garbage dump-sites extremely difficult, the municipal waste generation is also increasing rapidly in Srinagar along with other adjoining towns like Budgam, Chadoora and Ganderbal. Due to massive urbanization and population growth, during the last 10-15 years the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has not been able to acquire 10 to 15 hectares of land for creating an alternate landfill site as the existing site at Achan is already overflowing.

In 2017, the then deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh announced the formation of a committee, headed by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, to find a suitable land for an alternate landfill site, but the land was not at all found around the Srinagar district. It was officially announced that land for a



new landfill site is not available at all in Srinagar. In such a situation what is the solution to reduce the waste in Srinagar city and to address this problem? Isn't the situation very alarming?

Kashmir valley has limited usable land due to its mountainous terrain. Due to very small land holdings, the 95 % of the farmers here are officially recognized as marginal farmers. The size of small agricultural landholdings in Jammu & Kashmir was estimated at 0.55 hectares during the agriculture census 2015-16. Sources say that this land holding is much smaller (around 0.45 hectares) unofficially. In Kashmir Valley, the size is even smaller.

During the 2010-2011 agriculture census, the average size of operational land holdings in India was 1.15 hectares. This figure was lower, at 0.62 hectares in J&K. Districts in Kashmir valley had even lower landholding sizes than the state as a whole. Kulgam 0.39 hectares Anantnag 0.39, Shopian 0.56, Pulwama 0.48, Srinagar 0.31, Budgam 0.43, Baramulla 0.51, Ganderbal 0.37, Kupwara 0.51, Bandipora 0.48. This figure again came down during the 2015-16 census as discussed above.

When we have dearth of land in almost every district of Kashmir valley, where shall Government create new landfill sites? During the last 10 years, it is estimated that 15 % rural areas have been urbanized across Kashmir valley but there is no service available to lift the mounds of solid waste lying scattered in these semi urbanized villages. The waste is thrown near the banks of rivers, streams, ponds or open agricultural fields. Rural waste management programme under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Gramin has also miserably failed in J&K.

In-house composting

For the last many years, I have been stressing on in-house composting of organic waste (kitchen waste). I along with some friends gave a presentation to the Chief Secretary in December 2018 stressing upon him and his administrative secretaries to at least make in-house composting of MSW mandatory in Srinagar and Jammu cities. I wrote a lot on the issue in the last 6 years. I don't know how many people have taken tips from my previous articles, but during last year's COVID 19 lockdown many people were managing organic waste (kitchen waste) within the boundary walls of the house. I had written a few articles on the issue last summer to guide people on managing kitchen waste.

In-house composting of kitchen waste which is mostly bio-degradable waste or organic waste may be a bit challenging for those families living in multistoried apartments and flats but for a place like Kashmir, Jammu and many other towns and cities where people have some space in front of their house, processing this kind of waste won't be a challenge at all.

I would appeal to newly appointed Commissioner SMC Athar Aamir Khan who seems to be very passionate about managing municipal solid waste to start making in-house composting of organic waste compulsory in some selected colonies of Srinagar city on pilot basis. This can be made part of the Sunday for Srinagar campaign wherein officials of SMC and NGO's can handhold residents in managing kitchen waste within the boundary walls of their house.

How to manage organic waste?

Food waste or organic waste or biodegradable waste consists of 70 % of the total waste generated in Srinagar city or any other town of Kashmir valley. Kitchen waste

management is not rocket science. We need to ensure collection of all the food waste in a separate bin that can be kept in the kitchen. Food waste like egg shells, bones, tea waste, fruit and vegetable waste, leftover rice, bread should not be mixed with plastic waste like chips packets, biscuit packets, milk pouches or diapers. This is the only challenge and within one or two weeks we can learn the art of waste segregation.

The segregated kitchen waste is to be put into a small pit outside around our house or to be thrown into a 70 to 80 litres plastic drum. Within a month or two, the waste will get decomposed into compost and we can use the same in our kitchen garden. If there is enough water in the pit, one can use saw dust to reduce the same. As the days will be warmer now for another 6 to 8 months, managing kitchen waste will be easier. We also need to keep turning the waste after every week. Adding Jaggery (Gudd) with some hot water can stimulate the process of composting. Lastly don't forget to put a lid on the compost pit or bin in order to protect it from rain water.

Conclusion

At a time when land is shrinking and population is on rise, the Government seems to have no concrete plans for scientific waste management for J&K. I appeal Commissioner SMC to involve the Information Education and Communication (IEC) partners who are already working with the corporation for the last several years to hand-hold Srinagar residents on in-house composting of kitchen waste. The Sundays for Srinagar campaign should also focus on creating awareness on in-house composting of organic waste. This must become a public movement and top officials of SMC must constantly be part of the campaign to boost the morale of sanitation staff and NGO volunteers. If the campaign is sustained for a year or so we can reduce 50 % of the city's waste. SMC can also distribute plastic drums to households for composting of organic waste as there are several places in Srinagar where digging of pits is a challenging task due to accumulation of water. In the upcoming summer months the in-house composting can be a success as organic waste gets decomposed easily in warmer temperature. This will motivate more and more residents to start processing organic waste.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is Acumen fellow and Anant Fellow for Climate Action. He is also Chairman J&K RTI Movement. Feedback: bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com

An editorial in The Indian Express ('Disease politics', April 20) complains that instead of fighting COVID-19, the BJP and Congress are fighting with each other. It does lament the uncouth retort of Union health minister Harsh Vardhan to Manmohan Singh for offering "constructive" suggestions to the Prime Minister, but then goes on to advise the Opposition parties and others not to take the moral high ground as they are also responsible for the spread of coronavirus.

The newspaper forgets that it is not a quarrel between rival political parties. That it is the government attacking, mocking the Opposition when it questions its decisions or indecisions and offers suggestions. The government, instead of inviting or welcoming constructive suggestions from the opposition parties, has invested all its energy in delegitimising them.

This is certainly not the way to build a national consensus to face a virus that is testing all our scientific understanding. Why did the government not call an all-party meeting or convene Parliament to seek advice and cooperation from the entire political class when the pandemic was knocking on our doors? How is the Opposition expected to contribute in this battle? All the resources are concentrated in the hands of

the Centre in the name of disaster management. It controls data, which it constantly fudges and manipulates to keep the people confused. Its specialists and agencies, including the ICMR and NITI Aayog, have taken recourse to half-truths and outright lies. It lies in the courts, refuses to give people relief and wants them to manage the crisis on their own. Why should the Opposition be stopped from speaking on behalf of those who have no means to hold the government accountable? How fair is it to say that the Opposition spreads bitterness when it is just doing its duty?

This temptation to put two unequal players on the same plane must be resisted. The belligerent and the desperate cannot be compared. It was not necessary to mention the tail-end of the anti-CAA protests and the farmers' protests to make a feeble criticism

of the Kumbh Mela. The anti-CAA protesters didn't take long to withdraw from the scene. Also, we cannot ignore their disquiet after the unequal citizenship law and the constant reference to the NRC had made their very existence uncertain in India. We heard many protesters telling us that it was better to die from the contagion than live the ignominious life crafted by a state hell bent on disenfranchising them.

The central government should be held responsible for the hopelessness that the Muslims have found themselves in. Similar is the case of the protesting farmers. The deception of the Centre in using the pandemic to first promulgate ordinances which would change the lives of the farmers fundamentally has not been criticised enough. It convened Parliament when the pandemic was on the ascent and rushed through the farm bills with-

out holding due deliberations. When farmers demanded their repeal, the government refused even a parliamentary discussion citing the pandemic as an excuse. And soon, the Centre had started congratulating itself for winning the battle against the virus! It is in this context that the farmers decided to risk their lives and launch an agitation.

How could one not have mentioned the markaz? Communal balancing has become a habit with a section of our society. After many court judgments and scrutiny by a section of the media, one should have the honesty to say that the Tablighi Jamaat gathering can in no way be compared to the Kumbh congregation. In the first case, the government had not put any travel restrictions and not issued orders to not invite people from outside India. Once the directives were issued, the markaz authorities

complied with them. It is all well documented. Yet it has to be invoked to project a facade of "impartiality"!

The Kumbh event was an outrightly wilful criminal act. People holding constitutional office invited devotees to congregate, claiming that the holy waters of the Ganga would keep coronavirus away. When it turned into a horrific spectacle, the Prime Minister appealed to limit it to a symbolic act. It is an act of both omission and commission. In the case of Kumbh, the state is responsible for the spread of the virus and then abdication of its responsibilities when people started dying. Not to have a word of appreciation for Rahul Gandhi, who has been alerting the government since last year and was the first to cancel his election rallies, is unfair. To belittle him is unjust.

It is also a lie to say that in the first phase of the "battle" against the virus there was political unity. There was none. The government never consulted the state governments and refused to share resources with them. Donors were persuaded to put money in the non-transparent PM Cares Fund.

History will remember that the Indian government used the pandemic to fragment Indian society, turn sections of people against each other, and left people to fend for themselves.

Belligerent State not Desperate Citizenry

APOORVANAND | THE INDIAN EXPRESS

The Coronavirus: A Muslim’s Perspective

SABRINA AMRANE

From the plague in Syria to the Black Death in Arabia, attitudes toward epidemic disease in Muslim history is “an eminently practical one: one avoids areas where epidemics are raging, and those who have never been before exposed to a particular disease feel very much more at risk by reason of this fact.”

This current pandemic and global crisis brought about by the novel Coronavirus strain has been a source of panic and worry for many, but it is also an opportunity for great reflection. There are important parallels between the necessary steps to combat the spread of COVID-19 and our Islamic tradition. God-willing, we can take advantage of social distancing to deeply appreciate our religion in ways that directly tie to tackling this issue.

Purity in Islam

Abu Malik al-Ash’ari, the first emigrant to meet Prophet Muhammad(SAW) , reported:

The Messenger of Allah said: “Cleanliness is half of faith.” (ibn al-Hallaj; bk. 2 num. 1).[1]

There cannot be enough emphasis on washing hands at this time. Purity, both physically and spiritually, is so significant in Islam that Muslim jurists dedicate the first chapter of their books on ritual worship to this topic. Tarik M. Al-Soliman says in his article “Environmental Purity and Cleanliness: An Islamic Perspective,”

Purity derives its legality, which furnished it with continuity and validity in the Muslim society, from, the Qur’an, the Prophet’s traditions, and scholars’ consensus.[2]

There are two dimensions of purity: that which deals with the tangible, and that which deals with the intangible. Tangible purity concerns the body, environment, and clothing.

Practicing cleanliness is a symbol of the ethics and morality of a person as a good follower of religious belief.[3]

Maintaining physical hygiene is not only highly advisable to protect one’s self from the transmittance of the novel Coronavirus strain, but is also a major aspect of being a Muslim in general.

The legal element that proves the necessity of tangible purity is obligatory ablution, or ritual cleansing, before prayer. Ablution, along with the five prayers, maintains a biological rhythm in the human body. The various requirements of ablution are intimately tied to bodily health and infection prevention. Washing the nose during wudhu prevents microbe diseases and washing the arms activates blood circulation. Washing the hands, which we are constantly reminded to do these days, helps to prevent pneumonia by reducing the risk of infection from contact with fomites. Rinsing the mouth likewise prevents infections. To maintain oral health, Muslims may also use miswak (or “siwak”), a practice of Prophet Muhammad(SAW) noted by Imam al-Bukhari and other Muslim traditionists (muhadithun).

“According to Islamic teachings, the spiritual purification has a very significant connection with physical cleanliness as it is the fundamental of faith for human beings.” [2] The marriage between tangible and intangible purity cannot be understated. The latter pertains to the purification of intentions and the common good. Many muhadithun open their books with the hadith “Actions are judged by their intentions.” Praying at home instead of in the mosque protects our elders and other immunocompromised individuals in our communities from being at risk of falling ill to this virus. Unfortunately, there has been some resistance to the closure of mosques. Some Muslims appear to either ignore or rebut the logic of staying home during public health crises. Meanwhile, there are videos of muadhins calling out al-salatu fi buyutikum (pray in your homes) instead of hayya alas-salah (rush to prayer) across the Muslim world.

Endless commentary attends—at present and historically—the concepts of purity and impurity, reflecting the enormous importance Islam endows in them. In Muslim societies, the muhtasib (supervisor of bazaars and trade in medieval times) was even assigned an executive position to enforce rulings related to health and hygiene in the streets and markets,

by controlling its contents, patterns of uses, types of users (i.e., healthy versus sick) and their behavior, and the different activities taking place. These applications aimed at preserving the cleanliness, purity, and health of the environment.[2]

The lack of these ethics in certain parts of the world,



Muslim countries included, has brought us to the state we are in now. Impermissible foods in our religion are commodified and major negligence to public health adds insult to injury. There is wisdom in differentiating edible and inedible foods. Al-Soliman posits that Islamic rulings are still applied by Muslims insofar as their personal hygiene, ablution, foods’ and drinks’ ingredients, personal behavior, pet care, and dressing are concerned.[2]

Of course, there are also many examples where modern Muslim societies do not prove to be up to par with these expectations be it due to lack of access to clean water or simply following different trends. In a break-out like this, we can take the time to think about our personal health practices and the ones our communities maintain at-large.

Following Protocol

And Allah loves those who make themselves clean and pure.[4]

Following protocol to halt the spread of COVID-19 and to give hospitals more time and resources to cure sick patients should be seen as a virtuous behavior and an act of ‘ibadah (worship). Many of us may still be adjusting to social distancing, which can feel very sluggish and mundane. However, it is important we change our perspective and give meaning to our quarantine—whether voluntary or mandatory. When we value human life in remembrance of our Creator by actively cooperating as a collective unit, we are participating in a joint-effort of worship.

In order to fulfill our duties to God, we must synchronize tangible purity with intangible purity. With the rapid spread of COVID-19, this means implementing certain preventive measures. Quarantine for epidemics is even mentioned in Sahih al-Bukhari. Pre-Islamic Arabs considered it obvious, after witnessing it with their camels, that “such maladies were transmissible directly from one victim to another: that is, they acknowledged ‘contagion’ (‘adwa).”[5] From the plague in Syria to the Black Death in Arabia, attitudes toward epidemic disease in Muslim history is “an eminently practical one: one avoids areas where epidemics are raging, and those who have never been before exposed to a particular disease feel very much more at risk by reason of this fact.”[5] People in the modern world have been able to grasp the fear of epidemics in all classic literature, but perhaps unable to fully understand the gravity of them, never hav-

ing experienced their damage. Now that it is a reality, it has been unfortunate that precautionary steps are not taken too seriously by some. This is the false impression progressive theory gives us — we have been unable to accomplish what people have done millennia ago. We as a global community must limit our travel and local navigation to a minimum. Doing so in efforts to protect Allah’s creations will, by His grace, yield rewards.

In “Epidemics and Ideas: Essays on the Historical Perception of Pestilence,” the author writes,

Ibn Ishaq reports that when a certain leader of the tribe of Quraysh in Mecca died of the smallpox, his sons for several days refused to go near the body to prepare it for burial, because the Quraysh fear smallpox as [other] folk fear the plague.[5]

We have to be this overly careful and fear the consequences of being irresponsible during this pandemic. While the recovery rate for coronavirus is optimistic for young people, those who lack humility, awareness, or both remain with the assumption that they will not be inflicted. Bedouins in history were repelled from contagious diseases not only because of instincts but because they were hyper-aware of their own insignificant physical and metaphysical existence.

There have been great feats of scientific discovery in Islamic history, and the pursuit of scientific studies is respected in our tradition. We can take this time to be grateful for doctors and other hospital personnel who are working diligently to recover those under their care.

In a world where the nation-state is the primary distributor and arbiter of political and economic power, a deeply unfortunate cacophony of developments has pulled back the curtain on its fragility. We see how vulnerable humanity is with the spread of a virus. A threat in one corner of the planet is no longer confined to that village, town, or city. Global connectedness, as it were, has facilitated, not prevented, human suffering. Our susceptibility to sickness is a painful but necessary reminder of our mortality.

While these times can be scary, they are also very humbling. The importance of prevention and preservation of health is highlighted by the words of our beloved Prophet , “There are two gifts of which many men are cheated: health (al-sihhah) and leisure (al-faragh).”[6]

Traversing Tradition

Etiquettes of Asking

How to make dua to get them answered

BINA BEGUM

So, for anything you want in life, find a name of Allah that corresponds to what you are asking for, and then formulate your dua’s based on that

3. Be in a state of wudu & face the Qibla

To increase your chances of your du’a being accepted, try to make du’a with wudu (ablution), facing the Qibla (both not compulsory but desirable).

Abdullah ibn Zayd said, ‘the Prophet Muhammad left (Madinah) to this prayer place, seeking rain. So he made a dua, and asked for rain, then he faced the qiblah and turned his cloak inside-out.’ [Reference: Al-Bukhari: 6343, Muslim: 894]

“And Allah’s names are the best names, so call on Him and leave those who violate the sanctity of His Names. They shall be recompensed for what they did.”

[Qur’an 7:180]

So if you want to make a du’a for rizq, then you could say Ya Ar-Razzaq (the Provider) or Ya Al-Kareem (the Most Generous), please grant me more rizq in my life.

For something like marriage you could call out through the name Ya Al-Wadud (the Most Loving) or Ya Al-Wali (the Protecting Friend), please help me find a loving spouse, or please grant me a righteous spouse, or please make my nikah this year a success.

If you want to make a du’a regarding your deen then you could say Ya-Alim (The knowledgeable one) please make reading the Quran easy for me or please help to me start praying salah or learn more about Islam.

If you want to make a du’a for Allah to open opportunities for you, for someone’s heart to soften or open up, for the gates of provision and sustenance to open, the gates of work to open, then you could say Ya Al-Fattah (The opener).

So, for anything you want in life, find a name of Allah that corresponds to what you are asking for, and then formulate your dua’s based on that.

Recommended reading
We Can Amplify Our Duas by Learning Allah’s Names

During the blessed month of Ramadan, we usually spend our time worshipping Allah through reading the Quran, increasing our voluntary salah such as Taraweeh or Tahajjud and giving more in charity. Subhan’ Allah we have been given the power of du’a, to ask Allah for what we want; and what better month to utilize this opportunity than the month of Ramadan to do this?

Dua is amazing because you are calling directly to Allah, you are having a beautiful intimate conversation with the one created you , asking the almighty for whatever your heart desires. It is good practice as recommended by the Prophet Muhammad to live your life by du’a. Not only to ask Allah for worldly things, but to also be thankful, praise Allah and ask for forgiveness. We are also reminded that Dua itself is a form of worship (as stated in the following hadith):

An-Nu’man bin Bashir (RA) reported: The Prophet (PBUH) said,

“Du’a (supplication) is worship.” [Abu Dawud]

1. Praise Allah and our beloved Prophet (PBUH)

Begin with praising Allah and send salutations to the Prophet Muhammad .

Prophet Muhammad said. ‘When any one of you have performed salah (prayer) and wants to supplicate, let him begin with praising His Lord (swt) and glorifying Him, then send prayers upon the Prophet Muhammad . Then he may supplicate for whatever he wishes’ [Tirmidhi]

2. Call out to Allah by his most beautiful names

When making dua try and apply the name of Allah that is most befitting to what you are asking for.

du’a every single night of the last ten nights of Ramadan? If you make du’a on all 10 nights then it is bound to be answered? Allah is As-Sami (The All hearing) so He’s just waiting for you to call out to Him.

This year make it your mission to make as much du’a as you can, make du’a every night of the last ten nights of Ramadan. Allah never says No. It is either yes, yes but later, or I have a better plan for you. So, believe in the power of du’a, think of the impossible. Nothing is too small for the Almighty. Remember you are speaking to the King of Kings, the creator of the heavens and Earth so nothing is too small for Him.

Recommended Reading
10 Duas to Know for Ramadan and Laylat Al-Qadr
Amaliah Shorts: My Night of Power Seeking Laylatul Qadr

6. Believe and know it will be answered

Although it can be very hard and you may lose hope from time to time, having belief in the power of du’a it self is part of that worship. Allah is the most loving and the most merciful, and he never leaves us without listening and answering our dua. To make dua is to believe Allah will answer your dua and we need to have a good opinion of Allah through our asking. Ask Allah to help you to make du’a if you’re really struggling to find the words to say and ask for Allah to help you call our for what you need and want.

Du’a is truly life changing. Trust and believe.

May Allah accept all our du’as. May He make all our dreams come true, and may Allah accept all our fasts and good deeds during this blessed month. Ameen Ya Rabb.

Amaliah.com

Another Hospital, Another Fire: 13 Die in Virar ICU Blaze in Maharashtra

Press Trust of India

VIRAR: Thirteen COVID-19 patients, including five women, died in a blaze at the intensive care unit of a private hospital in Palghar district of Maharashtra on Friday, police said.

There were 90 patients in the hospital, 18 of them in the ICU, when the fire broke out after a blast in the AC unit, an official said.

TV visuals showed the smoke-filled ICU in a disarray after the blaze, with the ceiling falling off in some places, beds and other furniture strewn around and kin of the deceased wailing outside the hospital.

The fire broke out in the ICU on the second floor of the four-storeyed Vijay Vallabh Hospital at Virar shortly after 3 am, an official said. Firefighters extinguished the blaze at 5.20 am, he added.

There were 18 patients in the ICU when the fire broke out, the official said. Five patients were rescued and shifted to other hospitals in the area, he added.

The other patients in the hospital were not affected as the damage was confined to the ICU, he added.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has ordered a probe into the tragedy, Health Minister Rajesh Tope said. Former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya



said authorities should check if there was a fire safety audit of the hospital, which is over 50 km from Mumbai.

The tragedy comes two days after 22 COVID-19 patients who were either on ventilator or oxygen support, suffocated to death when their oxygen supply stopped suddenly due to a malfunction in the main storage at a civic hospital in Nashik.

District Disaster Control Cell chief Vivekanand Kadam told PTI that the Virar hospital fire was preceded by an explosion in the AC unit of the intensive care unit.

Relatives of the deceased reached the hospital soon after hearing of the incident and

demanding that stringent action be taken against those responsible for the tragedy.

Earlier this year, ten infants were killed in a fire that broke out at a special newborn care unit of the Bhandara district hospital in Maharashtra on January 9. Seventeen infants, aged one to three months, were admitted to the ward at the time of the tragedy.

A fire also broke out in Mumbai's Dreams Mall, which housed a Covid-designated hospital on its third floor, in the intervening night of March 25-26. The fire, which raged for over 40 hours, claimed nine lives, including those of patients on ventilator support.

Faced With Staff Shortage, AIIMS Discontinues Contact Tracing of Exposed Healthcare Workers

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here has decided to discontinue contact tracing of exposed healthcare workers and quarantine of asymptomatic contacts amid the current COVID-19 situation that has led to insufficient resources and shortage of staff.

Only symptomatic healthcare workers (HCWs) will be tested and only those testing positive will be isolated and managed as per the clinical condition.

The decisions were taken

at a COVID-19 review meeting held under the chairmanship of AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria on Thursday.

"In view of the current situation of COVID-19 leading to insufficient resources for contact tracing, and shortage of staff, the risk assessment and contact tracing of exposed HCW and quarantine of asymptomatic contacts should be discontinued. Only symptomatic HCW should be tested and only those testing positive be isolated and managed as per the clinical condition," the AIIMS said.

It has been further decided that asymptomatic healthcare

workers may be able to join work after 10 days period from the onset of symptoms provided that they are afebrile for at least last 24 hours without the use of antipyretics and symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) have improved.

Those who are asymptomatic may join work 10 days from the date of the first positive test.

Amid an alarming rise in the number of COVID-19 patients at the premier facility, Dr Naveet Wig, the head of the department of medicine at AIIMS, who is also the chairperson of the COVID-19 Task Force, on Wednesday had requested all

his colleagues from other departments to provide 80 per cent of residents and 80 per cent of faculty members for COVID-19 management.

Dr Wig had said that in view of an alarming rise in number of COVID-19 patients and the opening of multiple COVID-19 facilities in the hospital, the need of manpower has increased multi-fold.

"To meet this demand, as directed by the director, you are requested to provide 80 per cent of your residents and 80 per cent of your faculty members for COVID-19 management," he had said.

Canada Bans Passenger Flights From India, Pakistan For 30 Days Due To Surge In Covid Cases

AGENCEIS

TORONTO: The Canadian government has banned all passenger flights from India and Pakistan for 30 days due to the unprecedented spike in COVID-19 cases in the region, the longest country-specific travel ban imposed by Canada.

The flight ban took effect from Thursday midnight, Transport Minister Omar Alghabra said on Thursday.

A number of countries like the UK, Australia and Singapore have banned travel to and from

India due to surge in coronavirus infections.

Over 3.14 lakh new coronavirus cases were registered in India on Thursday, the highest-ever single-day count in any country. While the death toll increased to 1,84,657 with a record 2,104 new fatalities. The national recovery rate fell below 85 per cent.

Transport Minister Alghabra said the government imposed a 30-day ban, the longest travel ban Canada has put on any individual country, on passengers flights from India and Pakistan,

based on advice from federal health officials in order to buy time to assess more data, and to provide "certainty" for Canadians considering travelling to the region, the Toronto Star reported.

However, the cargo flights are not banned and Ottawa is still hoping that India, which has suspended vaccine exports, will send the bulk of 1.5 million AstraZeneca doses Canada had purchased through the Serum Institute of India.

Those doses—about 1 million—are now in limbo, at least until June due to export controls in India, officials admitted

on Thursday.

The moves come after the Liberal government came under fire from the Conservative opposition, the premiers of Canada's two largest provinces, and even their own MPs to tighten border restrictions as COVID-19 variants continue to spread in Canada.

The government said it had taken advice from chief public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam, who just a day before had said "country-specific targeted measures can only go so far," and "no border measures are completely 100 per cent effective."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Dry, Warmer

5.0°C on the previous night, the official said. Gulmarg received 29.0cm (near one foot) of fresh snowfall in the last 24 hours, the officials said. The report recorded a low of minus 2.0°C against minus 0.5°C on the previous night, the official said. Reports of snowfall have been received in other upper reaches of the Valley. The Met office has forecast "isolated to scattered light rain/thunderstorm over Jammu and Kashmir divisions" in next 24 hours.

"Weather will improve gradually as the day progresses and from April 24 till 3rd may expect dry and warmer weather in both J&K and Ladakh," said Director Meteorological Department Sonam Lotus.

19 More Succumb

cases continue to increase and the recovery rate decreases with each passing day. 1,937 fresh positive cases reported on Friday pushed the tally of positive cases to 156,344.

Of the exact number of 156,344 cases, 93,508 are from Kashmir and 62,836 from Jammu division. Among 1,937 new cases, 1,091 belong to Kashmir division while as 846 are from Jammu division, reports said adding that the total number of positive cases in Kashmir division have reached to 93,508 including 82,312 recoveries and 1,135 deaths while as total number of positive cases in Jammu division have reached to 62,836 including 54,928 recoveries and 796 deaths.

According to official estimates total number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir are 16,993 including 9,881 from Kashmir division and 7,112 from Jammu division.

With 1,019 more recoveries, the tally of total recoveries in Jammu and Kashmir has reached 137,240 which is 87.78 percent of the total cases.

"Cases tested positive in J&K include 590 from Srinagar, 198 from Baramulla, 68 from Budgam, 62 from Pulwama, 54 from Kupwara, 105 from Anantnag, 13 from Bandipora, 23 from Ganderbal, 32 from Kulgam and 23 from Shopian in Kashmir division while as 789 from Jammu division include 469 from Jammu, 68 from Udhampur, 45 from Rajouri, 27 from Doda, 31 from Kathua, 31 from Samba, 15 from Kishtwar, 13 from Poonch, 38 from Ramban and 51 from Reasi," an official statement released here on Friday evening disclosed.

As per these figures, 37,423 positive cases including 497 deaths and 31,662 recoveries are from Srinagar, 11,255 including 187 deaths and 9,633 recoveries are from Baramulla, 9,469 including 8,588 recoveries and 125 deaths are from Budgam, 6,618 including 6,034 recoveries and 95 deaths are from Pulwama, 6,374 including 99 deaths and 5,888 recoveries are from Kupwara, 5,929 including 5,334 recoveries and 101 deaths are from Anantnag, 5,080 cases including 4,848 and 63 deaths are from Bandipora, 5,062 including 4,755 recoveries and 49 deaths are from Ganderbal, 3,475 including 2,923 recoveries and 58 deaths are from Kulgam and 2,823 including 2,647 recoveries and 41 deaths are from Shopian.

In Jammu division, 31,196 including 26,516 recoveries and 419 deaths are from Jammu district, 5,534 including 5,038 recoveries and 61 deaths are from Udhampur, 4,283 including 3,882 recoveries and 58 deaths are from Rajouri, 3,601 including 3,435 recoveries and 64 deaths are from Doda, 4,052 including 3,601 recoveries and 56 deaths are from Kathua, 3,234 including 2,854 recoveries and 46 deaths are from Samba, 2,849 including 2,770 recoveries and 22 deaths are from Kishtwar, 2,731 including 2,545 recoveries and 30 deaths are from Poonch, 2,352 including 2,195 recoveries and 23 deaths are from Ramban and 3,004 including 2,092 recoveries and 17 deaths are from Reasi.

As per the daily information bulletin 1,719,384 persons in Jammu and Kashmir are under observation while 77,679 persons have been kept under home quarantine besides that

16,993 persons are in isolation.

According to the bulletin, 1,497,141 persons have completed surveillance period and 125,460 persons are under home surveillance besides that so far results of 6,961,115 samples are available. Out of 6,961,115 the number of samples tested negative stands at 6,804,771 while as 156,344 have tested positive, among them 16,993 persons are active, 137,240 persons have recovered and 2,111 persons have died.

J&K Tightens Covid

Informing that certain districts are showing very high positivity rate, the Chief Secretary asked the respective district administrations to ramp up testing in the identified target clusters and prioritize vaccination in the eligible population groups to address the worsening scenario. It was given out that 20-30% of the positive cases being reported are travellers who are being tested at the entry point itself and prevented from mingling with the general population.

It was informed that in the initial phases of COVID-19 vaccination, 75% of health workers, 78% of front line workers, and 38% of citizens above 45 years of age totalling 15,25,604 people have been vaccinated in Jammu and Kashmir with no reported case of any adversity. Districts Baramulla, Budgam, Ganderbal, Shopian, in Kashmir Division and Jammu, Kathua, Ramban, Samba, Udhampur in Jammu Division are the districts having over 40% of vaccination coverage amongst citizens above 45 years of age. The next phase of the vaccination for the 18-45 age group will cover approximately 65 lakh people.

To effectively deliver the vaccines at the grass-root level, Chief Secretary impressed upon greater coordination between the front-line workers of various departments including health, social welfare, school education, rural development, and housing and urban development.

He also urged people to participate in the vaccination drives and get vaccinated on priority to keep themselves and their families safe from the infection. DCs were asked to mobilize the targeted beneficiaries towards the vaccination process through the frontline workers-ASHAs, AWWs, ANMs, etc.

Further, it was informed that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has approved the establishment of 36 oxygen generation plants across the UT to make J&K self-sufficient in catering to the rising demand of oxygen. DCs were asked to ensure the early establishment and functioning of these plants under their respective jurisdictions.

Administrative Secretaries of the departments of Health & Medical Education, Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, besides Divisional Commissioners, Kashmir and Jammu, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), and Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated in the meeting.

Div Com Calls

across all districts of Kashmir.

He said that teams shall carry out the exercise separately and shall also strictly fine people for violation of SOPs.

He said while the Psychiatry department shall restart counselling assistance for the general public through various helpline numbers, the Physical Teachers of YSS department shall conduct virtual exercises particularly Yoga classes for boost of mental as well as physical health of students.

The Div Com also stressed on deployment of volunteers in designated hospitals as a manpower boost in various departments.

Emphasizing on immunity boosting awareness among the people, the Div Com instructed concerned to ensure hassle-free distribution of immunity boost medicine kits among the people.

He said that the medicine is

being distributed free of cost and shall be given through Social Welfare Centers, PHCs, Ayush centres.

The Div Com further stressed on mass awareness through media and instructed concerned exporters to aware people about the new strain, precautions, importance of following SOPs and other related issues through TV, Radio, Print and Social Media.

The Div Com impressed upon maintaining the proper home isolation of positive patients for their recovery.

At the outset, the Div Com took detailed district wise latest trends of positive cases, deaths, persons in home isolation, referrals, containment zones and contact tracing.

The meeting was attended by Director School Education, Director Colleges, Commandant SDRF, HS Regional Red Cross Kashmir, In Charge Covid Control Room, YSS officer Srinagar, HoD SPMGMC, HoD Psychiatry GMC, Div Nodal Officer ISM and other concerned.

4 Extortionists, Posing

further stated that a letter pad of Jaish Muhammad was handed over to complainant where in he was directed to assist the militant organisations by providing financial assistance for carrying out their activities in the area.

The spokesperson elaborating said that upon receiving this information FIR No. 93/2021 U/S 392, 506 IPC 13 ULA was registered in police station Sopore.

Accordingly a team was constituted by senior's to identify and nab the culprits involved in the commission of offences. After tireless and intensive efforts of the team the perpetrators have been identified as Hilal Ahmed Patooson of Abdul Khaliq Patooson resident of Check Roady Khan Sopore, Tahleel Nisar Ahanger son of Nisar Ahmad Ahanger resident of Lal Bab Sahib Sopore, Imran Aziz Gilkar son of Ab Aziz Gilkar resident of Lal Bab Sahib Sopore and Mudasir Hassan Ganie son of Ghulam Hassan Ganie resident of Chinkipora Sopore were arrested and letter pad and Printer were recovered from their possession, he said.

Pertinent to mention here Hilal Ahmed Patooson of Abdul Khaliq Patooson is surrendered militant and has been arrested in the past while busting this gang the owner/doctor of the clinic and people of the area had a sigh of relief, he said.

Panel Formed

the Government Order No: 361-JK (GAD) of 2021 dated: 23.04.2021 in this regard, Principal Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department will act as Chairman with Principal Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department; Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Transport Department, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir, Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu and (a) Representative of Logistic Division of Ministry of Commerce, Government of India to act as members of the constituted Committee.

The Committee is mandated to finalize the Union territory Logistic Policy and Logistic Plans besides to facilitate Ease of Cargo Movement via Green Channels, develop the Transport Nagar for promotion of logistic services and to develop the Logistic and Warehousing hubs and Dry Ports.

It is further ordered that Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu shall set up a logistic cell under her Chairpersonship which shall liaise with the Logistic Division of the Ministry of Commerce, GoI. The cell, as per the order, shall prepare a draft 'Integrated Union territory Logistic Plan' for submission to the Logistic Coordination Committee for consideration.

Mayor Seeks

made as many as ten suggestions with requests for implementations.

Among others, he said all tourist gardens, monuments and tourist sites shall be shut while a negative RT-PCR test report should be made mandatory for anyone entering Srinagar by air or through the road routes.

He also demanded shutting down all OPDs at Government and Private Hospitals to reduce the strain on healthcare infrastructure; ceasing all elective or non-emergent procedures and surgeries at the hospitals till the situation improves and vaccination rates go up. He has also demanded disallowing all congregational prayers and religious gatherings at places of worship in Srinagar besides a 50% attendance roster on rotational basis at all essential services in government and public offices. For non-essential services, he said, a 33% attendance roster on rotational basis be resorted to in government and public offices.

"There should be a 33% attendance roster on rotational basis for teachers of Government and private schools (those that continue to seek presence of teachers for administrative and curriculum dissemination purposes)," he said adding, "There should be a 33% rotational regulation for vendor-markets and flea-markets in Srinagar - regulating crowds that throng these markets." He also demanded constitution of a multi-agency field task-force to enforce COVID guidelines (mask-usage, physical-distancing and restrictions in outdoor and indoor gatherings) besides a comprehensive, multi-media and multi-pronged community awareness campaign with door-to-door initiatives to ensure maximum possible success of the COVID vaccination drive.

Panel Formed

Production & Farmers Welfare Department; Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Transport Department, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir, Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu and (a) Representative of Logistic Division of Ministry of Commerce, Government of India to act as members of the constituted Committee.

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Bone Therapy

therapy for Rehman is an ancestral job, practiced by his "seven generations".

"Patients admitted in different hospitals visit us after feeling no improvement in their condition," he says. "It's all about having faith."

But with health crisis like Covid challenging everything, including the previously-thought effective measures, these Hakeems are only playing safe and according to the book.

"Some of us may not be educated, but our new generation is well-educated who handle every ailment with a great care and caution. Most of us don't treat the patient without seeing his/her X-ray first. And based on that we decide if the patient needs plaster or not."

Talking of plaster and an old woman arrives to get it done.

Limping due to her plastered foot, she walks with the support of her two sons.

"I'm feeling better now," the woman says in relief as the Hakeem carefully opens her foot plaster. After a quick massage and new plaster, she has been asked to visit again next week.

"We initially took her to a city hospital but

her condition didn't improve there," says Imtiyaz, one of the attendant sons of the woman patient.

"It was then someone suggested us to go to Hakeems of Hazratbal. This is our second visit here and she is feeling much better."

Insert Pic 3 here

These traditionalists mainly fix bone fractures, dislocated discs and bone cracks, besides treating skin diseases, sinusitis, arthritis, thyroid and other infections.

"But since most people avoid hospitals these days," says Ghulam Mohammad, a 48-year-old Hakeem from Shahhanpora Habak, "we mostly get to treat the cases of dislocations and back-aches here."

Besides Covid factor, these Hakeems have their own niche following that still prefer these old-timers over the modern-practitioners.

"We don't charge any particular amount for our therapy sessions," Ghulam Mohammad says. "We take what our patients happily give us."

Insert Pic 4 here

In these viral times, many patients also prefer these traditional healers due to their "easy and effective" way of treatment.

Acknowledged for the same treatment, Bashir Ahmad, 65, from south Kashmir's Kulgam is fixing a leg fracture of his young patient at his street workplace.

"I learned this treatment from my father who was treating people in Kulgam," Bashir says.

"Later I shifted to this Hazratbal market during early 1990s and started my therapy here. Since then I'm unabatedly fixing bones of my people in this bazar."

2 IEDs Detected

carbon papers and was kept under an empty cement bag on the roadside," a police officer told GNS.

Meanwhile, a low intensity IED was found in Gagan area in Shopian district.

Official sources said that the Bomb Disposal Squad reached the spot and defuse the IED without any damage.

Man Held with

Dharmbadi area of Lolab Kupwara.

Police sources said that after receiving inputs, a special check-point was laid and a man identified as Ghulam Rasool Var was arrested. They said that 10 hand grenades, a pistol, 2 pistol magazines and 15 rounds were recovered from his possession.

The arrested man is the resident of Gonipora Hyhama.

A formal case in this regard has been registered at police station Lalpora and investigation set into motion.

59 Women Help

police officials who are trained to manage women-related cases.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar has directed for these help desks to give required assurance and support to the women approaching them, the spokesman said.

The IGP also directed the help desks to transfer cases to the departments concerned and take a timely follow-up.

Kumar further said that necessary training, orientation and sensitisation of the staff working at these women help desks will be prioritised.

The help desks will increase the comfort of women approaching the police for counselling and reporting any offence while also increasing their confidence to report abuse at police stations.

The IGP emphasised that these help desks will reduce response time of the police to a situation or crisis.

Wife Of Jailed

arrested in July 2018 by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) over the alleged militant funding case. He along with some top Hurriyat leaders is languishing at New Delhi's Tihar jail.

Over 15,000 KGs Of Spurious Pesticides Seized In Srinagar This Year

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Law Enforcement wing of the Agriculture department in separate raids this year have seized 15,000 Kgs of spurious pesticides in the summer capital of Srinagar alone, officials said.

Senior officials of the law enforcement wing of agriculture department said that first Mancozeb 75 percent WP batch no M-152/038 with manufacturing date 4 January 2021 and Expiry date a3 January 2023 manufactured by M/S Monsoon agro chemicals Pvt. Ltd/ M/S Oswal Crop Protection Pvt Ltd was seized.

They said that the quantity of seized stock of this batch is 4,977 Kgs.

"Later, MITADO with active ingredient Carbendazim 12 percent and Mancozeb 63 percent manufactured by same M/S Monsoon Agro chemicals Pvt Ltd/ M/S Oswal protection of Pvt Ltd was seized thrice in three different raids," the officials said.

In first raid 5097 Kgs of batch M-111/125 were seized and later 597 Kgs of batch M-111/127 and 4337 Kgs of batch M-111/126 were also seized, they said.

Deputy Director Law enforcement Kashmir Mohammad Younis Choudhary that they are taking samples of every pesticide being sold in the market and if testing of samples shows it can prove harmful to our agriculture/horticulture sector, it is being seized and misbranded.

Pertinently, fruit growers across Kashmir said that their crops are under threat from spurious pesticides in circulation and the main reason for the scab and diseases in orchards is because of spurious pesticides.

Choudhary said that the sale of spurious pesticide is a concern. "It is a serious concern and every possible effort is taken to control it," he said.

He added that drive against spurious pesticide dealers is going on with full pace across Kashmir and in coming days it will be intensified—(KNO)

NC For Ensuring Availability Of Essentials In Micro-Containment Zones



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Friday asked the JK administration to ensure the availability of all essentials in the areas which have been designated as micro-containment zones following a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases.

Expressing concern over the scarcity of essentials in the localities designated as micro-containment zones across Kashmir, Party's Additional Spokesperson Sarah Hayat Shah said with the government placing these areas under strict lockdown and tight perimeter control, the people residing in such areas are suffering from acute scarcity of essentials and other household items.

"The measure was taken indicating a worrying trend of

more positive cases in those areas. However, the populace living in these localities besides being weighed down by the rampaging COVID-19 is also suffering from a scarcity of essentials. The administration seems to have turned volte-face to the problems faced by them on a daily basis. Having specific areas designated as containment zones alone won't help, the situation calls for proper containment and management strategy also which includes ensuring people living in these all essentials and civic amenities," she said.

She said every effort which is taken in all earnest by the administration to curb the COVID-19 sprawl is welcome but while drawing such micro-containment zones, the supply chain of essentials to locals should be ensured. "The onus should also be on the citizens and community in these designated zones and everywhere else in Jammu and Kashmir to support the administration in its COVID-19 mitigation and manage efforts by strictly adhering to required government advisories and COVID-19 protocol," she said.

Covid: DAK Demands Risk Allowances For Healthcare Workers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid a surge in covid-19 cases, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) Friday demanded risk allowances and two-and-a-half days of salary for the employees of the health department in lieu of attending night duties, on call duties and duties on gazetted holidays across J&K.

President DAK, Dr Suhail Naik in a statement said that doctors and other healthcare workers are working day and night tirelessly to sustain uninterrupted services and are managing both pandemic and non-Covid patients successfully at the cost of their own lives.

"Our fraternity has lost many doctors and paramedics while dealing with this devastating pandemic, which has literally collapsed the health sectors across the globe. We all are under constant potential threat to contract many infectious diseases and it is very unfortunate that successive governments have failed to provide much desired risk allowances to fraternity," Dr Naik said in a statement.

Dr Owais H Dar, General secretary DAK said that the ongoing pandemic has invariably increased the risk of contracting lethal infection and then spreading it to family members.

The frontline health workers, he said, are working round the clock in order to provide treatment to both Covid and non covid patients and are also proactively in-

Div Com Calls For Strict Mask Enforcement, Fine On SOP Violators

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Friday called for strict mask enforcement through volunteers in Kashmir to contain the spread of Covid-19.

The Div Com made these remarks while chairing a Covid-19 review meeting here.

He directed concerned teams of NSS, NCC, NYC, SDRF and other volunteers to carry out rigorous Covid-19 SOPs awareness and mask enforcement across all districts of Kashmir.

He said that teams shall carry out the exercise separately and shall also strictly fine people for violation of SOPs.

He said while the Psychiatry department shall restart counselling assistance for the general public through various helpline numbers, the Physical Teachers of YSS department shall conduct virtual exercises particularly Yoga classes

for boost of mental as well as physical health of students.

The Div Com also stressed on deployment of volunteers in designated hospitals as a manpower boost in various departments.

Emphasizing on immunity boosting awareness among the people, the Div Com instructed concerned to ensure hassle-free distribution of immunity boost medicine kits among the people.

He said that the medicine is being distributed free of cost and shall be given through Social Welfare Centers , PHCs, Ayush centres.

The Div Com further stressed on mass awareness through media and instructed concerned exporters to aware people about the new strain, precautions, importance of following SOPs and other related issues through TV, Radio, Print and Social Media.

The Div Com impressed upon maintaining the proper home isolation of positive patients for their recovery.

services," Dr Dar said.

Dr Imtiyaz Bandy, Spokesperson DAK stressed that despite innumerable assurances from higher ups, "none of our genuine demands were fulfilled till date".

DAK appealed the LG to personally intervene in the matter at the earliest, so that the morale of fatigued fraternity shall be elevated in this crisis.

OUR FRATERNITY HAS LOST MANY DOCTORS AND paramedics while dealing with this devastating pandemic, which has literally collapsed the health sectors across the globe.

Police Arrest Three, Fine 817 For Violating SOP

Observer News Service

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday said that it has arrested three persons and fined a total of 817 persons for violating the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) across the Valley.

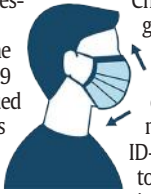
"Police arrested three persons in the last 24 hours, lodged two FIRs and also realised the fine to

the tune of Rs 108,890 from 817 people for violating the COVID guidelines," a police spokesman said in a statement.

The drive against the violators of COVID-19 guidelines/rules continued throughout all the districts of Kashmir Valley, it said.

In Sopore, the drive was held in town

Sopore, Bus Stand, Waterpore, Fruit Mandi, Warpora Chankhan and Dandgiwacha to ensure that people adhere to SOPs guidelines envisaged by government to curb COVID-19 pandemic and also to discourage hoardings/over pricing.



Govt Directive For Employees Draconian: PC Demands Roll Back Of The Order

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) Friday expressed serious concern over the recent government order about the creation of Task Force to terminate the government employees without any inquiry, terming such order traumatising and humiliating for government employees in Jammu and Kashmir.

Former Legislator and senior leader of the party, Muhammad Khurshid Aalam said that the government employment is

a basic source of livelihood for the majority of the people in the state and issuance of such 'Farmaans' will only snatch such basic facilities from the conflict-torn masses.

Alam added that there are already rules and regulations in place in the Civil Service Rules of Jammu and Kashmir through which the erring officials could be brought to the book and in the past also, there have been numerous instances when action against the employees violating the CSR has been taken. However, said Alam, the deci-



sion to create a task force and terminate a government employee without an inquiry looks frighteningly draconian and shocking.

He added that even the people who commit the heinous crimes are given an opportunity to defend themselves and present their case. "But here, the scenario looks entirely different. The complainant, investigator as well as the executioner is the government. The accused has no say, no representation and no podium to defend him or her own self. Such orders only belittle the institutions of justice and fair play. Such actions would also create new fault lines between the government and the people and will turn the situation wor-

risome with each passing day," PC leader said.

Alam demanded immediate rollback of the order, underlining that there was no need to create a new set of rules when the existing ones are already well drafted, deliberated and demarcated. He appealed to the Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to revoke the order so that confidence of the employees could be regained afresh and new bonds of trust and harmony could be achieved for Jammu and Kashmir's overall prosperity and development.

'BDO Hampering Development' Elected Representatives Of Bandipora Protest

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The elected representatives of Bankoot block in north Kashmir's Bandipora district including Panchs, Sarpanhs and BDC Chairman Friday staged a protest demonstration against the Block development officer (BDO) Bankoot for halting the development works in their block, allegedly without a reason.

Shouting slogans against BDO Bankoot and other officers, protestors assembled outside the Deputy Commissioner's Office Bandipora and said there are several issues within the block and administration has failed to address them which in-turn affects the developmental works badly in their block.

They further said that the concerned BDO and other staff are not cooperating with them,

which creates a gap between public and Block Developmental Officers.

The protestors said that they were not receiving any positive response from the block officials during their visit, which is resulting in anger among them as well in local people.

The protestors accused the BDO of deliberately not releasing the payments to labourers for the works completed so far.

BDC chairman Bankoot, Bashir Ahmad while demanding intervention of higher authorities said that their work is pending just for want of a single signature of the BDO.

When contacted, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Ali Afsar Khan said that they have not received any complaint in this regard so far. "Still, I will look into the matter personally," he said.

27-Year-Old Kangan Resident Dies In Gurez

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: A 27-year-old youth from Kangan area of Ganderbal died under mysterious circumstances in Gurez tehsil of North Kashmir's Bandipora district last night.

An official said that the deceased has been identified as Javid Ahmad Khan son Abdul Hamid Khan, a resident of Kangan.

Block Medical Officer Gurez, Dr Tahira said that the body was brought to SDH Gurez and the cause of his death will be ascer-

tained after the post-mortem examination for which they have not received permission from his family yet.

Meanwhile, the deceased's family members are facing hardships to bring his body back to Kangan as traffic movement on Bandipora-Gurez road is still suspended following fresh snowfall in the area.

An official, however, said that the body will be taken to the deceased's ancestral home by road as it will be open for traffic tomorrow.

59 Women Help Desks Established In Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Fifty Nine Women Help Desks (WHDs) have been established across Kashmir, an official communiqué said on Friday.

These WHDs will be the first and single point of contact for any women walking into a Police Station and the in-charges thereof are Women Police Officials.

The officials of Women Help Desks are perfectly trained to manage any type of women related cases being registered in the Police Station.

A police spokesperson said that Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar has directed these desks to be considerate and transfer the cases to the concerned and follow up the cases giving required assurance and support to the women approaching them.

He further reiterated that fur-

ther necessary training, orientation and sensitization of the staff working at or in relation to Women Help Desks at Police Stations will be prioritized.

"These Women Help Desks have been established to provide desirable increased comfort for women to approach Police. The establishment of these Women Help Desks will increase in approachability of women to Police Stations for counselling and reporting any offence related to them and this will increase in confidence of women to report abuse at Police Stations."

IGP Kashmir emphasized that these Women Help Desks will reduce response time by police to reach a situation or crisis.

It is pertinent to mention here that any person especially women in distress can Dial 112 for any emergency.

J&K Bank Budgam Shut After Two Employees Test Covid Positive

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Jammu and Kashmir Bank authorities in Budgam on Friday ordered closure of J&K Bank's main branch for at least five days after two of its staff members tested Covid positive.

Chief Medical Officer Budgam, Dr Tajamul said that two employees of JK Bank Budgam

tested covid positive.

He said that after the sanitisation of the bank, the bank was closed for next 5 days

He said the primary contacts of the two employees will be tested after a quarantine of 5 days while all the primary and secondary contacts of the affected employees have been advised to self isolate.

NEWS MAKERS

Landslide Damages Six Shops In Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: A landslide triggered by incessant rains Friday damaged six shops in Charar-I-Sharief area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

At least six shops owned by a local Masjid committee were damaged due to landslides triggered by heavy rainfall in the area, local residents said. However no loss of life was reported in the incident. (CNS)

Body Found Hanging in Kishtwar Forests

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police Friday recovered a body in the forests near Kishtwar town.

Officials said police received information that a body was hanging near Bardan Gadrash Nag Devta Temple. A team of police reached the spot and took the body into their custody. An identity card was recovered from the body on the basis of which he was identified as Pradeep Kumar son of Bihari Lal, a resident of Janwas Sarathal. The body was later shifted to District Hospital Kishtwar for post-mortem and legal action was initiated.

18 Stranded Civilians Rescued At Khardung La Top

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Army on Friday said that its Siachen brigade rescued at least 18 civilians and some vehicles after they got stuck in heavy snowfall at North Pullu and Khardung La Top.

"On April 21 evening, due to heavy snowfall, vehicle traffic was disrupted along the route from North Pullu - Khardung La Top - South Pullu leading to civilian vehicles getting stranded near Khardung La Top and North Pullu. The Indian Army troops of the Siachen Brigade immediately launched a rescue operation to extricate the stranded civilians," an army statement said.

The Army said that at a distance of five Km from North Pullu towards Khardung La Top, three vehicles were stranded between snow slides and one vehicle had overturned. "Indian Army detachments from North Pullu alongwith the Avalanche Rescue



Teams cleared the snow slide and rescued eight civilians from the site. After checking their health parameters at North Pullu, few civilians who were from nearby Khardung Village were dropped off to their respective houses and the remainder was accommodated at Khalsar."

"At Khardung La Top, a total of 10 civilians and one Scorpio, one Civil Gypsy and a mini bus were rescued. They were provided immediate first

aid and medical screening was carried out to check their vitals," Army said, adding that all these civilians were provided food and accommodation from within the limited resources available with the Indian Army detachment at the site.

"The timely and bold actions of the Indian Army in extreme weather saved precious human life and was well appreciated by the locals," it added.

Two Handwara Coaching Centres Sealed For Violating Covid SOPs

Observer News Service

HANDWARA: District Administration on Friday sealed two coaching centres for violating Covid SOPs in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The two coaching centres, 'Apex classes and Shaheen public school' were closed by a team led by Naib-Tehsildar Handwara along with police.

"The closed institutes were found violating the government orders regarding the closure of all sorts of physical classwork in schools and coaching centres," the official said.

Naib Tehsildar, Bashir Ahmed along with SHO Handwara also intensified the market checking to implement the government guidelines.

During the inspection, Handwara police appealed public to strictly adhere to Covid protocols to combat the spread of the infection. (KNS)

Bad News For Rajasthan Royals, Jofra Archer Out Of Entire IPL 2021



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Friday announced that star fast bowler Jofra Archer will not play in the on-going 14th Indian Premier League, compounding his franchise Rajasthan Royals' misery.

The 26-year-old Archer returned to bowling this week with higher intensity, and the ECB and Sussex medical teams will continue to monitor his progress.

"Archer will now step up his training regime starting next week and will be in full training with Sussex. It is expected that he will return to cricket in the next fortnight if he can continue to bowl and prepare pain-free," the ECB said in a statement.

"The ECB will confirm which matches he is expected to play in due course."

Last week, Archer was given

the all-clear by his hand consultant to resume training as his right hand continued to heal following his operation on March 29.

His IPL franchise RR was desperately hoping that he would be available at least during the back-end of the tournament.

Archer suffered a cut to his hand while cleaning at his home in January shortly before flying to India to prepare for the Test series earlier this year.

The ECB's medical team managed the injury throughout the tour, and it did not impact his availability. A fragment of glass was removed during the operation to his middle finger on his right hand.

Rajasthan Royals Director of Cricket Kumar Sangakkara had admitted that missing Archer was a "big blow" and hoped that he would be "available at some point of time".

Back From COVID, All-Rounder Axar Patel Joins Delhi Capitals

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: All-rounder Axar Patel has rejoined the Delhi Capitals squad after recovering from COVID-19 and said that getting to meet his teammates after a 20-day quarantine comes a close second to his Test debut as the "best moment" of his life.

The 27-year-old had initially checked into the Capitals' team hotel on March 28 in Mumbai with a negative test report but he returned positive for the dreaded infection on April 3 and was transferred to the BCCI's designated medical facility with mild symptoms.

"It has been really great to come out of quarantine after 20 days and meet my teammates. This is the best moment in my life after my Test debut," Axar was quoted as saying in a media release from DC.

The left-arm spinner added that watching his IPL side win most of its matches kept him motivated.

"I was alone in my room for 20 days and I didn't have anything to do. I was watching the matches and one good thing was that our team won most of the matches, so I got even more motivated to re-join the side," he added.

Earlier, the Delhi Capitals posted a video of Axar meeting his teammates in the camp.

"Smiles and hugs all around as Babu returned to the DC camp," the franchise posted.

"Aadmi dekh ke hi toh mujhe maza aa raha hai (I'm getting joy just by seeing people)," Patel said in the video. Axar attended his first training session with the team on Wednesday and the all-rounder said he is not pushing himself too hard at the moment.

"I have started batting and bowling practice, but I haven't pushed too hard during training."

"I have spoken to the doctors about how I should go about my training,



and I am carrying out my practice according to their suggestions."

When asked about the directions given to him by skipper Rishabh Pant and head coach Ricky Ponting, Axar said, "Rishabh and Ricky sir have told me to train keeping in mind about how my body is reacting to practice drills in the next two-three days."

"We are not thinking ahead too much at the moment, we are just focusing on how my body is reacting to training sessions."

Axar was the second IPL player to get infected by the virus after Royal Challengers Bangalore opener Devdutt Padikkal.

There have also been a couple of incidents of false positives in the tournament. Axar's DC teammate, South African pacer Anrich Nortje, had to spend extended time in quarantine due to a false positive result for COVID-19.

Nitish Rana had also tested positive after joining the Kolkata Knight Riders camp but his next RT-PCR result turned out to be negative.

In Axar's absence, the Capitals had roped in young Mumbai left-arm spinner Shams Mulani as IPL's first short-term COVID-19 replacement.

The Capitals are slated to take on Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Sunday.

Principal Secretary I&C Visits CFC, Cricket Bat Units At Sethar



Observer News Service

SETHAR: Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce, Ranjan Prakash Thakur, on Friday said that the Common Facility Centre (CFC) at Sethar, Anantnag would soon be renovated and upgraded to provide the state of art infrastructure to the unit holders of Cricket bat industrial zone.

Principal Secretary said this during his visit to CFC, Sethar and various cricket bat units. He was accompanied by Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir, Nazim Khan and General Manager, DIC, Anantnag, Peerzada Zahoor Ahmad besides other officers of DIC.

During the inspection, Principal Secretary gave on spot directions to Director, I&C to immediately prepare DPR for renovation and upgradation of the CFC.

It is pertinent to mention here, that the CFC, Sethar was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.61

crore with plant and machinery installed by PPD, Meerut at a cost of Rs. 2.46 crore. The objective of this CFC is to facilitate seasoning of willow clefts and provide all facilities to the Cricket Bat Unit holders under one roof.

During a brief interaction with the Cricket bat unit holders, Principal Secretary impressed upon the unit holders to use modern techniques in production of world class cricket bats. He said that LG, Manoj Sinha, is keen towards promotion of cricket bat industry of Kashmir enabling the Kashmir cricket bat become a world class product.

Thakur said that all the industrial units of Kashmir will get quality power supply within a period of six months as transmission infrastructure is being upgraded. He said that our main aim is to promote the industrial growth in this region and the present administration will provide all facilities to the unit holders. The government has

already taken up various initiatives like New Industrial Policy 2021-30, New Land Allotment Policy 2021-30 and New Central Sector Scheme for industrial growth in J&K.

Meanwhile, the Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association put forth their demands regarding early issuance of Forest License which are pending at Forest Department for a long time as the said area stands already notified as the Industrial Zone from Jawbrara Awantipora to Donipora Sangam on 2019 by the Industries Department. The Association requested to provide basic infrastructure facilities to the unit holders like uninterrupted power supply.

Principal Secretary assured the unit holders that he will convene a meeting of all the stakeholders soon to discuss promotion of Kashmir Willow Bat besides discussing formulation of a comprehensive plan for promotion of Kashmir Willow bat at global level.

IPL 2021. KKR Vs RR, Preview

KKR Hope To Revive Campaign Against Beleaguered Rajasthan Royals

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: A desperate Kolkata Knight Riders will look to bring their campaign back on track after a hat-trick of defeats when they face a beleaguered Rajasthan Royals in their IPL clash here on Saturday.

Big on paper, KKR, led by England's World Cup winning skipper Eoin Morgan, have so far failed to come together as a unit and slipped to sixth in the table after starting the tournament on a high against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Facing bottom-placed Rajasthan Royals, who have been the most inconsistent team so far in the season, KKR will be desperate for a turnaround.

The rise of Pat Cummins as a batsman in their 18-run defeat to CSK will provide a big boost but it can't paper over the failure of their star batsmen, who have floundered even while chasing even modest target. The seamers too have leaked runs in the death overs.

Having struggled on Chepaug's slow surface, KKR had hoped to return to winning ways at the Wankhede but Faf du Plessis and Ruturaj Gaikwad took their attack to the cleaners and amassed a massive 220 for 3 in their previous match.

If that was not all, their famed top-five, including Shubman Gill and Morgan, surrendered inside the Powerplay.



Andre Russell and Dinesh Karthik then revived the chase before Cummins produced some sensational powerhitting, slamming a 34-ball 66 not out before running out of partners as KKR finished on 202 after being 31/5 in 5.2 overs.

"Everyone's pumped. I am sure if we get a win or two and we will be on our way and flying. I think there's a feeling that we can win from basically anywhere," Cummins had said.

The other positive has been Russell's return to form. It was his 54 off 22 balls that had set the tone and it would not be a bad play for Morgan to promote the Jamaican up in the order, while Cummins provides late blitz.

The skipper will himself look to get back among runs, while he will be equally concerned about Gill, who once again failed to convert his starts and he returned with a

golden duck against CSK.

Rajasthan Royals, on the other hand, are coming into the match after a humiliating 10-wicket loss against RCB. Sanju Samson's men have failed to inspire after posting their only win of the tournament, against Delhi Capitals in their second match.

Samson has fizzled out after a blazing 119 against Punjab Kings and the top and middle-order look brittle with Jos Buttler, Manan Vohra and David Miller enduring poor form.

Bowling is also a big concern for the inaugural edition champions as their big buy Chris Morris and Mustafizur Rahman have struggled to check runs.

They also have limited overseas options with Jofra Archer and Ben Stokes ruled out because of injuries, while Liam Livingstone have left citing bio-bubble fatigue.

'Hurt' Babar Azam Blames Middle-Order For Stunning Loss To Zimbabwe

Press Trust of India

HARARE: Lashing out at his batsmen, Pakistan captain Babar Azam on Friday said that the below-par performance of his team against Zimbabwe in the second T20 International has hurt him.

Zimbabwe, without regular T20 captain Sean Williams and senior batsman Greg Ervine due to injuries, won a low-scoring match by 19 runs, with Brendan Taylor leading them for the first time in seven years.

"Our performance today has hurt a lot and it was very poor cricket from us," Babar said after Pakistan's shock defeat to the lowly ranked Zimbabwean side at Harare Sports Club.

The Pakistan captain said they should have won the match easily, adding that the middle-order has not been performing.

"Given that we chased down 200 totals in South Africa our performance today with the bat was very disappointing. We can't blame the pitch or conditions for

it. Our middle-order is struggling a lot and we are not able to finish matches."

Babar, who top-scored for his team, said one must also give credit to Zimbabwe for a fantastic bowling and fielding performance.

"Yes the pitch was not that easy but as professionals this is no excuse for our performance."

Babar said Pakistan needed to address their problems ahead of the T20 World Cup later this year.

"We knew how the pitch would play but none of us applied himself and we lost wickets at critical stages. I would like to give credit to Zimbabwe for very disciplined bowling and they didn't drop their catches. Their fielding was impressive."

This was Pakistan's first defeat against Zimbabwe in the T20 format.

"Our openers also didn't just give the start we needed."

"In the T20 matches before the World Cup we will try to plug in the weak areas and get a good combination going."



Virat Kohli Says Devdutt Padikkal 'Is One To Look Forward In Future'



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Devdutt Padikkal is a "great talent" and "one for the future", feels RCB captain Virat Kohli, who is happy that the stylish left-hander has put to rest all debates with regards to his strike-rate after his maiden IPL hundred against Rajasthan Royals here on Thursday.

Padikkal smashed an unbeaten 101 off 52 balls in an opening stand of 181 with his skipper as RCB won the game by 10 wickets.

"It was an outstanding innings. He (Devidutt) batted really well for his first season last time as well. There was a bit of a talk about accelerating after 40-50, this was the best way to put it to rest," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"He is a great talent, great one to look forward in the future. I had the best seat in the house," Kohli couldn't stop praising the 20-year-old Bangalorean enough.

Kohli enjoyed playing a passive role as the skipper wanted his young teammate to get a hundred.

"Tonight, my role was different and I wanted to hang in there. In the end I picked my spots, the pitch

was good. We spoke about it (the 100), he (Devidutt) said finish it off. He said (there could be) many more to come, I told him 'you tell me that after you get the first one.'"

Kohli now wants Padikkal to build on this knock.

"I want him to build from here and really help the team. He deserved to get the hundred today, flawless innings."

He also praised the bowling attack for restricting Royals to 177 for nine on a placid deck.

"We don't have many stand-out names in bowlers, but we have effective bowlers. Guys who can do it day in day out. Four out of four times we've been the stand-out team in the death overs. We actually restricted 30-35 runs. Dev's innings was outstanding, but for me the bowling which was aggressive, optimistic was key."

Young Padikkal said that all he wanted to do after recovering from COVID-19 was to wait for his turn.

"To be honest it's been special, all I could do was wait my turn. When I had Covid all I wanted was to come here and play, and when I missed the first one (game), it really hurt me," Padikkal said.

Olympic Host Japan Issues 3rd Virus Emergency In Tokyo, Osaka Area

Agencies

TOKYO: Japan declared a third state of emergency for Tokyo and three western prefectures on Friday amid skepticism it will be enough to curb a rapid coronavirus resurgence just three months ahead of the Olympics.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced the emergency for Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Hyogo from April 25 through May 11.

The step is largely intended to be "short and intensive" to stop people from travelling and spreading the virus during Japan's "Golden Week" holidays from late April through the first week of May, Suga said. He is due to explain the measures at a news conference later Friday as he seeks the public's understanding.

Japan's third state of emergency since the pandemic began comes only a month after an earlier emer-



gency ended in the Tokyo area. For days, experts and local leaders said ongoing semi-emergency measures have failed and tougher steps are urgently needed.

Past emergency measures, issued a year ago and then in January, were toothless and authorized only non-mandatory requests.

The government in February

toughened a law on anti-virus measures to allow authorities to issue binding orders for nonessential businesses to shorten their hours or close, in exchange for compensation for those who comply and penalties for violators.

The measures this time are to include shutdown orders for bars, department stores, malls, theme

parks, theatres and museums. Restaurants that do not serve alcohol and public transportation services are asked to close early. Schools will stay open, but universities are asked to return to online classes.

Mask-wearing, staying home and other measures for the general public remain non-mandatory requests, and experts worry if they will be followed.

Japan, which has had about half a million cases and 10,000 deaths, has not enforced lockdowns. But people are becoming impatient and less cooperative and have largely ignored the ongoing measures as the infections accelerated.

Osaka, the epicenter of the latest resurgence, has since April 5 been under semi-emergency status, which was expanded to 10 areas including Tokyo, a step promoted by Suga's government as an alter-

native to a state of emergency with less economic damage.

Osaka Gov. Hirofumi Yoshimura, who on Tuesday requested the emergency, said the semi-emergency measures were not working and hospitals were overflowing with patients.

The virus surge, fueled by a new, more contagious variant detected earlier in Britain, has spread rapidly across the country.

The government has also been slow in rolling out vaccinations, leaving the population largely unprotected before the Olympics begin on July 23.

The May 11 end of the emergency, just ahead of an expected visit by International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, triggered speculation that the government is prioritizing the Olympic schedule over people's health.

Bilbao, Dublin Dropped As Euro 2020 Host Cities, Seville Added

Agencies

GENEVA: Bilbao and Dublin were removed as host cities for this year's European Championship on Friday because they could not guarantee having enough fans in stadiums, and the games were moved to Seville, St. Petersburg and London.

The changes to the 12-city hosting plan for Euro 2020 come only seven weeks before the 24-nation tournament kicks off in Rome on June 11.

The decision was first revealed by Poland soccer federation president Zbigniew Boniek, who posted it on his official Twitter account while he was attending a UEFA executive committee meeting.

Poland, Spain, Sweden and Slovakia were scheduled to play

their Group E matches in Spain and Ireland. UEFA selected Bilbao and Dublin in 2014 but their places were at risk because authorities there could not give guarantees about fans attending amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The three games in Bilbao will move within Spain to Seville. St. Petersburg, which was already set to host four games in the tournament, now gets the three Group E games from Dublin.

Dublin's game in the round of 16 was moved to London, giving Wembley Stadium an eighth match. Both semifinals and the final will also be played at Wembley.

Munich, which had also been at risk, was relieved by UEFA, the German soccer federation said in a statement.