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P5 STATE

COVID: DAK SAYS DELAY IN HOSPITALISATION PROVING FATAL, CONTRIBUTING TO HIGH MORTALITY

Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday said delay in reporting to hospitals is the main reason for increase in number of deaths due to Covid-19 in the Kashmir valley....

P7 GONE FOR A TOSS

While it may seem to some that social media is helping students, it is actually true that social media is causing writing to worsen. Student's writing has been affected by social media and is causing teenagers to become lazier, encourages "tech talk", and...



P3 CITY

COVID: 1300 ADDITIONAL BEDS SETUP IN SRINAGAR AS CASES SURGE

Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday visited various Covid Care Isolation Centers established...



Widom Quote!
The Lord's commandment for every one of His slaves is, 'Spend on others, and I will spend on you'. Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh)
—Bukhari, Muslim

15TH RAMAZAN

	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:15	04:14
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:23	04:10



NEWS DIGEST

Soldier Shoots Self Dead In Banihal

JAMMU: A soldier on Tuesday allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself dead inside an army camp in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir. 28-year-old Asangeppa Madar of Karnataka shot himself dead with his service weapon at army's transit camp in Banihal area around 2 am Tuesday, officials said. The young soldier, they said, was posted at the R-centre camp at Banihal. **More On P10**

Truck Mows Down Traffic Cop

SRINAGAR: A traffic policeman was knocked to death by an over speeding truck on the Srinagar-Jammu highway near Qazigund on Tuesday. Constable Abdul Majeed Tantray was critically injured after being hit by an over speeded truck (JK01W-2973) at Chumullah crossing in Qazigund area along the highway in south Kashmir around 7:00 am today. **More On P10**

47 Booked For Grabbing Forest Land

SRINAGAR: Police have registered a case against 47 persons for allegedly encroaching upon forest land in Pahalgam and cultivating cannabis over it, officials said on Tuesday. They said Police station Pahalgam registered the FIR (No 18/2021) under sections of 8/20 NDPS Act and 26 Indian Forest Act on the basis of a criminal complaint lodged by a Forest Range officer of the area. **More On P10**

HC Quashes 2 PSA Detentions

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed detention of two persons booked under Public Safety Act. A bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar quashed the detention order of Abdul Qadoos Rather, a resident of Kupwara who was booked under PSA on 22 November 2019 and Riyaz Khaliq Parry, booked under the law on 17 February last year by District Magistrate Baramulla. **More On P10**

3 Injured After Car Rolls Into Gorge

SRINAGAR: At least three people were injured when the car they were travelling in skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge in Kalaroos area of Kupwara district, officials said Tuesday. A private car carrying three people skidded off the road and rolled into a nallah near Gurdaji in Kalaroos on Monday evening, an army official said Tuesday. He said an army patrol quickly **More On P10**

V-C Prof Talat Discharged From SKIMS

SRINAGAR: Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir, Prof Talat Ahmad was on Tuesday discharged from Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Srinagar after recovering from coronavirus. In a statement issued here, a varsity spokesperson said the KU Vice-Chancellor has been discharged from SKIMS Srinagar today. Prof Talat was admitted to SKIMS Saura on Wednesday last with bilateral Covid **More On P10**

PAGE 1 ANCHOR



SRO Kashmir: Saving Breaths In Valley

Auqib Javeed

BONAPORA, Batamaloo – As one of those unassuming heroes who don't wear capes, Shahid Ahmad is handling the perilous pandemic like a seasoned crisis manager. His calm composure amid a torrent of calls pleading for oxygen machines makes him one of the determined ground troopers holding the fort when the going is indeed getting tough in Kashmir.

Behind a glass counter in a newly-constructed building of an old Batamaloo neighbourhood, Shahid treats the distressed visitors with patience and compassion. "Since last year when Covid left Kashmir gasping for breath, I've witnessed some overwhelming scenes here," Shahid says, as he issues another oxygen cylinder, this time to a distressed son whose mother is struggling to breathe.

"But it feels terrible when people come to return oxygen machines and tell their patients couldn't make it!" As a foot soldier of SRO (Social Reform Organisation) Batamaloo, "a Trust, established in 2004, for the welfare of the poor", Shahid is only predicting the tough times in Kashmir as pandemic lately turned perilous. In the resurgent viral phase, calls for oxygen are buzzing. Some even ring in

the middle of the night when the jetlagged Shahid tries some sleep after a demanding day in office. But the Samaritan leaves bed with a sense of duty, and issues oxygen machine to the distressed caller at the drop of a hat. Unsung heroes like Shahid are silently working on the ground to mitigate the Covid crisis which returned as a bogeyman in Kashmir after wreaking havoc **More On P10**

25 MORE DIE OF COVID-19

J&K Sees Record Single-Day Spike, 3164 Test Positive

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir took another big one-day leap on Tuesday as 3,164 more people tested positive for Covid-19, while the deadly infection claimed the lives of 25 more people across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, among the 25 fatalities, 15 were reported from Jammu division and ten from Kashmir, raising the death toll due to pandemic to 2197 in J&K. A 20-year-old girl and two women aged between 47 to 55 years were among



File Photo: Abid Bhat

the victims who succumbed to Covid-19 since overnight. They said the 20-year-old was resident

Govt Asks DCs To Check Black Marketing Of Oxygen

The Lieutenant Governor led dispensation on Tuesday directed the Divisional Commissioners to keep a strict check on the black marketing of oxygen cylinders and deploy Magistrates and concerned staff to cross check the supply of oxygen cylinders reaching their destinations from the source industrial plants. These directions were passed to the **More On P10**

Teaching, Non-Teaching Staff To Work From Home

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said that teaching and non-teaching staff was not required to be physically present for any educational establishment in Jammu and Kashmir. Top officials of **More On P10**

Sec 144 Imposed In Srinagar To Fight Virus



SRINAGAR: The district administration here on Tuesday ordered imposition of Section 144 CrPc, banning the assembly of five or more persons, in this capital city, to fight coronavirus as cases continue to shoot up rapidly. "In view of massive spurt in positive cases in District Srinagar & after due deliberations, Section 144 CrPc is imposed hereby within the Municipal limits of the district to contain further spread of the epidemic," said Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, in a tweet. "Assembly of five or more persons is banned with immediate effect," he added. Asad's Tweet came in the backdrop of Srinagar reporting 1144 fresh cases of coronavirus during the last 24 hours. Former Chief Minister of J&K and National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said that all the precautions that can be **More On P10**

WHO: Rush To Hospitals, Big Gatherings Worsen India Covid Crisis



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Agencies

GENEVA: People in India are rushing unnecessarily to hospital, exacerbating a crisis over surging Covid-19 infections caused by mass gatherings, more contagious variants and low vaccination rates, the

World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday. India's death toll is now pushing towards 200,000, and hospitals that do not have enough oxygen supplies and beds are turning away coronavirus patients. The WHO is providing **More On P10**

PM's Aunt Dies During Covid-19 Treatment

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aunt Narmadaben Modi who was undergoing treatment for coronavirus infection died at the civil hospital here on Tuesday, the family said. Narmadaben (80) lived in the New Ranip area of the city with her children. "Our aunt Narmadaben was admitted to the civil **More On P10**

CURRENTLY, PART OF THE PROBLEM is that many people rush to the hospital [also because they do not have access to information or advice], even though home-based care monitoring at home can be managed very safely."

Army Chief Visits Eastern Ladakh, Siachen

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Army Chief Gen MM Naravane on Tuesday visited eastern Ladakh and Siachen and reviewed India's operational preparedness in the strategically key sectors, official sources said. He was accompanied by Lt Gen YK Joshi, Army Commander of the Northern Command, and Lt Gen PCK Menon, General Officer

Commanding (GOC) of the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps. The sources said Gen Naravane interacted with troops and complimented them for their steadfastness and high morale while being deployed in some of the harshest terrain, altitude and weather conditions. The Chief of Army Staff was later briefed by Lt Gen Menon on the prevailing **More On P10**

Sunny Weather To Continue Till May 3

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The people in Kashmir valley continue to enjoy pleasant weather even as the night temperature remains few notches below normal, officials said on Tuesday. A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 9.0 degree Celsius against 7.6 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was 0.3 degree

Celsius below normal for this time of the season in the summer capital, he said. Qazigund recorded a low of 6.6 degree Celsius against previous night's 5.6 degree Celsius which was below normal by 1.2 degree Celsius, the official said. Mercury settled at 4.0 degree Celsius against 2.1 degree Celsius on the previous night in Pahalgam. The temperature was below 0.4 degree **More On P10**

HC Asks J&K SSB To Redraw Teachers List In 40 Notifications

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The High Court has upheld its single bench verdict, asking Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board to consider additional points for higher qualification of candidates who had omitted to fill up the same in their application forms against the posts of teachers advertised through as many as 40 notifications in 2017. A division bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and

Vinod Chatterji Koul directed the Board to redraw the list "expeditiously", and, in any case, not later than eight weeks. The Board had invited applications from amongst the eligible candidates for selection against the posts of Teacher vide notification Nos. 06/2017/01 to 06/2017/14 dated 28th of December, 2017 (General

Line); 06/2017/15 to 06/2017/28 dated 28th of December, 2017 (Science/Maths); and 06/2017/29 to 06/2017/42 dated 28th of December, 2017 for different Districts of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Single Judge had directed the Board to call the all the candidates, who had filed petition before the court, for counseling, verify their documents and assess **More On P10**

Writer Marghoob Banihali No More

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Famous writer, scholar and ex-HOD Kashmiri Department at Kashmiri University, Dr Ghulam Mohammad, popularly known by his pen name Marghoob Banihali, passed away on Tuesday at his Srinagar residence after a brief period of illness, family sources said. He was 84. The deceased was the father of renowned psychiatrist, Dr Mushtaq Marghoob. Born in the Giri family in Bankoot area of Banihal in J&K's Ramban district, Dr Marghoob had authored **More On P10**



از نیابت سوپور
عنوان: درخواست منیاب فہیدہ بیکم زچہ مرحوم فیروز احمد میر ساکنہ گرامہ تحصیل سوپور نسبت اجارنی لیکل ہیر سرفیکٹ باپت حاصل کرنے رقم از متبع شدہ بینک اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر عطا لیکل ہیر سرفیکٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے۔ اس ضمن میں پڈارنی حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ مرحوم فیروز احمد میر ساکنہ گرامہ سوپور مورخہ 15-02-2021 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ متوفی مذکورہ کے وارثان بذیل ہے
سلیمہ بیکم زچہ متوفی عمر رسیدہ 68 سال
ریاض احمد تجارت 50
انکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔
تایب تحصیلدار **gms r**

از نیابت سوپور
عنوان: درخواست منیاب فہیدہ بیکم زچہ مرحوم فیروز احمد میر ساکنہ گرامہ تحصیل سوپور نسبت اجارنی لیکل ہیر سرفیکٹ باپت حاصل کرنے رقم از متبع شدہ بینک اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر عطا لیکل ہیر سرفیکٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے۔ اس ضمن میں پڈارنی حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ مرحوم فیروز احمد میر ساکنہ گرامہ سوپور مورخہ 07-12-2020 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ متوفی مذکورہ پیشہ سے مزدور تھا متوفی مذکورہ کے وارثان بذیل ہے
فہیدہ بیکم زچہ متوفی گھریلو کام 45 سال
میر انعام اللہ پسر زیر تعلیم 12
سینہ فیروز زچہ زیر تعلیم 05
انکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔
تایب تحصیلدار **gms r**

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir
NOTICE
Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Abdul Rahim Malik S/o: Ghulam Mohi ud Din Malik R/o: Soibugh Budgam (Transferor) of LMV M 800 . Vehicle bearing registration number JK04B - 3662. Chasis number 19884 Engine no. 336387 Model 2011. in favour of Shri.. Mohammad Ramzan Bhat S/o. Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Soibugh Budgam (Transferee)
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.
Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.480 Dated 27/04/2021 **mcb**

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir
NOTICE
Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Pema Norbu Yolmo S/o: Pasang Thendup Yolmo R/o: AP Humhama Budgam (Transferor) of M/C Royal Enfield. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F - 2322. Chasis number 757409 Engine no. 683501 Model 2019. in favour of Shri.. Ghulam Mustafa Bhat S/o. Mohd Munawar Bhat R/o Gundi Qasar Bandipora (Tranferee)
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.
Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.493 Dated 27/04/2021 **mcb**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL
NIT NO 12 OF R&B/Khanabal/2021-22 /E-TENDERING/837-47 DATED 24-04-2021
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-
S.No Name of Work Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs) Cost of/ Doc. (in Rs) Time of completion Major Head of Account Class of Contractor
1. Providing and Laying 50mm thick Bituminous Macadam and 25mm thick Semidense with 6mm thick seal coat in patches / stretches to Pahlagam Chandanwari road. (Sajay 2021) 67.64 1600 10 Days SANJAY 2021 AAY Class with HMP/ Registered HMPO
2. Providing and Laying Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick Bituminous Macadam in patches and stretches and 25mm thick Semidense with 6mm thick seal coat on interior roads of FCI Godown at Mir Bazar. on the eve of Sajay 2021 34.40 1100 7 Days SANJAY 2021 AAY Class with HMP/ Registered HMPO
Position of AA = Submitted
Position of TS = Ensured
Position of Funds = Ensured
1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:
S.No. Particulars Dated
1 Date of Issue of Tender Notice 24-04-2021
2 Period of Downloading of bidder documents From 26-04-2021 (09:00AM) To 01-05-2021 (04:30PM)
3 Bid submission Start Date From 26-04-2021 (09:00AM) To 01-05-2021 (04:30PM)
4 Bid Submission End Date To 01-05-2021 (04:30PM)
5 Date and time of opening of bid (online) 03-05-2021 (10:30AM)
in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal
2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (Tender receiving Authority).
3. All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form Instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department. (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).
4. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal.
6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
8. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
9. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
10. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
11. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
12. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
13. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
14. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
15. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
16. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
17. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
18. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
19. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.
(Er Qazi Javed Amin)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Khanabal

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir
NOTICE
Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohd Irfan Bhat S/o: Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o: Kawoosa Khalisa Budgam (Transferor) of LMV. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C - 3551. Chasis number 04230 Engine no. 05265 Model 2013. in favour of Shri.. Showkat Ahmad S/o. Ghulam Rasool R/o Hamre Pattan (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Co operative Bank B/U Narbal.
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .
Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.495 Dated 27-04-2021 **mcb**

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir
NOTICE
Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Mudasir Jaffer Lone S/o: Mohammad Jaffer Lone R/o: Budgam (Transferor) of Scooty . Vehicle bearing registration number JK04D - 8213. Chasis number 165769 Engine no. 65807 Model 2015. in favour of Shri . . Mudasir Nabi S/o. Gh Nabi Shiekh R/o Bugroo Khansahib (Transferee)
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.
Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.482 Dated 27/04/2021 **mcb**

Jammu And Kashmir Union Territory
Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
STAGE TENDER E-NITS.NO.:- (01) OF 2021-22 (E-TENDERING)
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF LT. GOVERNOR UNION TERRITORY OF J&K, E-TENDERS ARE INVITED ON ITEM RATE BASIS FROM APPROVED AND ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS REGISTERED WITH J&K STATE GOVT. CPWD/ RAILWAYS/ OTHER GOVERNMENTS/ UNION TERRITORY FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS./
S.No. Name of work Adv. Cost (In lacs) Cost of Tender Doc. Class of Contract Period of Completion Head of Account
01 Maintenance of Irrigation facilities from Vehji Canal and Said Ladi for the year 2021-22 0.70 100/ DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
02 Maintenance of Irrigation facilities from Tongri canal and its distributaries for the year 2021-22 1.80 200/ DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2701-M&R
03 Maintenance of Irrigation facilities from Shah Khul and Check Mirzapora Canal for the year 2021-22 0.70 100 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
04 Maintenance of Irrigation facilities from Reshnagri Canal and Ramnagri Canal for the year 2021-22 0.90 100 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
05 Maintenance of Irrigation facilities from Potterwalkhul, NazimporaKhul and SallerKhul for the year 2021-22 1.00 100 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
06 Maintenance of Irrigation facilities from AraLadi& Chin Ladi for the year 2021-22 1.00 100 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
07 Maintenance of Irrigation facilities from Ahi canal and Sugankhul for the year 2021-22 1.25 150 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
08 Maintenance of irrigation supply from Natoo canal of Irrigation Sub Division ManulZoura for the year 2021-22 0.90 100 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
09 Maintenance of irrigation supply from Sanigloo canal and Lar canal Irrigation Sub Division ManulZoura for the year 2021-22 2.50 250 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2701-M&R
10 Maintenance of irrigation supply from ManulZoura canal of Irrigation Sub Division ManulZoura for the year 2021-22 2.00 200 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
11 Maintenance of irrigation supply from Gadder canal of Irrigation Sub Division ManulZoura for the year 2021-22 0.75 100 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
12 Maintenance of irrigation supply from Imamsahib Storage Tank of Irrigation Sub Division ManulZoura for the year 2021-22 0.90 100 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
13 Restoration of supply channel of Zainapora canal, Rawthpora Canal, Ck Canal for Irrigation Season 2021-22 of Irrigation Sub Division Zainapora 3.10 300 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
14 Silt clearance of intake/ supply channels, sumps, delivery tanks of 12 No. LIS's for irrigation Season 2021 of Zainapora Sub division 3.40 350 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
15 Restoration of supply channels of 06 No. drought pumps for irrigation season 2021 of Sub division Zainapora 1.50 150 DEE Up to 31-03-2022 2702-M&R
POSITION OF FUNDS: BUDGETARY PROVISION
THE CONTRACTOR WILL HAVE TO QUOTE RATES AS PER UNIT RATE ON ADVERTISED FOR EACH ITEM CONSIDERING QUANTITY AS ON FOR EVERY ITEM AND COMPARATIVE SHALL BE GENERATE 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.
1. THE BIDDING DOCUMENT CONSISTING OF QUALIFYING INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SPECIFICATIONS, DRAWINGS, SET OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND OTHER DETAILS CAN BE SEEN/ DOWNLOADED FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE WWW.JKTENDERS.GOV.IN AS PER SCHEDULE OF DATES GIVEN BELOW:
S.No. Particulars Dated
01 Date of issue of Tender Notice 26-04-2021 (10:00 AM)
02 Date of start of downloading. 26-04-2021 (11:00 AM)
03 Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial. 27-04-2021 (10:00 AM)
04 Bid submission end date. 06-05-2021 (4:00 PM)
Date & Time of opening of Bids (online). 06-05-2021 (05:00 PM)
TERMS AND CONDITIONS
1) Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (tender inviting authority). The first lowest bidder has to produce an amount of 3% of Advertised cost in the shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (Tender Receiving Authority) within three days positively after opening of the tenders else his bid will be rejected and the 2nd lowest bidder will be called for the same.
2) The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (Tender Receiving Authority).
3) The bid for the work shall remain valid for period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid.
4) The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
5) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
6) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 days after fixation of contract.
7) Instruction to bidders regarding e-Tendering process:-
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on web site www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from any approved vendor.
c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para- 01.
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
Note:- Scan all the documents on 100dpi with black & white option.
8) The Department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
9) Scanned copy of Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR as applicable pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian must be uploaded with the technical documents of the bid.
10) Price Escalation and Taxes:- The item wise cost/ offer be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes till completion of work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
11) In their user on e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
12) Instructions to Bidder (ITB):-
a. All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their Bids GSTN/PAN/Treasury Challan, & Registration Card duly renewed for the current year.
b. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
13) If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate List/ Quantity Schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/ total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract.
DIPK-904/21
Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division Shopian.

Website: www.jkdears.com Tel/Fax: 0194-2494585(S)
e-mail : dirjkers@gmail.com Government of Jammu & Kashmir 0191-2474553 (J)

Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing
SDA Colony Bemina, Srinagar – 190018 / Parayvaran Bhawan, Gladeni Transport Nagar Narwal, Jammu - 180006
Notice No. 4 of 2021
Dated: 24-04-2021

NOTICE FOR WALK-IN INTERVIEW
The Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K invites application for Walk-in-interview for engaging Project-Mode Staff for ENVS project purely on temporary, project-mode basis initially for a period of one year likely to be extended with the project. The eligibility, experience, monthly emoluments and number of positions is as provided below:

S.No.	Title	Eligibility Criteria	Experience (Essential)	Emoluments Per month (Consolidated)	Positions
1.	Programme Officer	Essential: PhD in Environmental Science from recognized University. Desirable: Candidates having certification in RS & GIS, Publications in Scopus indexed reputed journals, Development of Environmental Education Material shall be given preference.	3 years	46690/-	1
2.	Data Entry Operator	Graduate with Diploma in Computers/RS&GIS Desirable: Fluent in MS Office (Word, Excel & PowerPoint), CorelDraw/Photoshop.	1 year	14641/-	1

Note: Candidates in their own interest should satisfy themselves, before applying for any position, that they are eligible for the positions applied for viz, requisite qualification and requisite experience. There shall be no change in the eligibility criteria and terms/conditions.

- GENERAL CONDITIONS**
- Only eligible candidates, satisfying above criteria, should report by 10:30hrs for registration and scrutiny of documents on 15th May, 2021 followed by an Interview on the same day from 11:30hrs.
 - Candidates should bring the application indicating position applied for, qualifications and experience, along with a passport size photograph with true copies of testimonials of educational qualifications, research experience, other relevant certificates, mark sheets of all examinations, etc.
 - The appointees shall have to work strictly as per Annual Darbar Move Schedule. The appointees shall have to arrange their own accommodation for Annual Darbar Move purpose.
 - All original documents/certificates must be produced at the time of registration for necessary verification.
 - The interview facilities shall be in place both at the office complex of Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, Parayvaran Bhawan, Transport Nagar, Gladeni, Jammu-180006 and SDA Colony Bemina, Srinagar – 190018.
 - No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.
 - The detailed terms & conditions, application form can be downloaded from the departmental websites www.jkenvis.org and www.jkdears.com.
 - Candidates in their own interest are requested to frequently check the departmental website for updates.

Sd/-
(Dr. Neelu Gera)
PCCF/Director EE&RS
DIPK-907/21

COVID: 1300 Additional Beds Setup In Srinagar As Cases Surge



CO PHOTO: ABDI BHAT

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday visited various Covid Care Isolation Centers established in Srinagar to oversee the arrangements put in place for Covid-19 patients.

The Deputy Commissioner visited Covid Care Centers set up at Indoor Stadium, Maternity Hospital Sanat Nagar, Marriage Hall Sanat Nagar and Haj House Bemina and took stock of the arrangements made for suspected Covid-19 patients.

The DC was apprised that around 1300 additional beds have been set up at Covid Care Isolation Centers in Srinagar to meet out any emergent situation.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned to ensure sufficient supply of Medicinal Oxygen, essential medicines

Vaccination Drive Held At KPC

Observer News Service

A Covid vaccination drive was on Tuesday held at Kashmir Press Club (KPC) Srinagar in which several journalists participated and received the first jab of the vaccine.

Dr Ubaid said that a positive response was seen at KPC today during the vaccination drive. He said that the journalists came forward voluntarily and received the vaccine shot.

"I advise the other people too to come forward and get vaccinated," he said, adding that inoculation is the only way out to fight the deadly pandemic.

A senior journalist Junaid Kathju who was part of the drive said, "There is a need to get vaccinated. If we have to fight this deadly virus, we have to get vaccinated, everybody should voluntarily come forward and get the vaccine shot."

and other necessary requirements at all Covid Care Centers so that patients and medical staff do not face any difficulty in the time of need. He was also directed for making adequate arrangements of washrooms.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned authorities to keep men and machinery ready for maintaining cleanliness in and around these Centers besides sanitisation process. He directed the PDD and PHE authorities to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply to these centers.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner appealed to the people of Srinagar to strictly adhere to Covid-19 appropriate behaviour like wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. He also asked people to restrict their moment particularly in designated covid containment zones to control the spread of coronavirus. He also urged every eligible person to take the Covid-19 vaccine.

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1949 - Former Philippine First Lady Aurora Quezon, 61, assassinated while en route to dedicate a hospital in memory of her late husband; her daughter and 10 others also killed
- 1951 - Mohammad Mosaddegh elected Prime Minister of Iran by the Parliament of Iran (Majlis)
- 1952 - WW II Pacific peace treaty takes effect
- 1956 - Last French troops leave Vietnam
- 1958 - Great Britain performs atmospheric nuclear test at Christmas Island
- 1958 - Vanguard TV-5 launched for Earth orbit (failed)
- 1965 - US marines invade Dominican Republic, stay until October 1966
- 1967 - Muhammad Ali refuses induction into army & stripped of boxing title
- 1969 - Charles de Gaulle resigns as president of France 1971 - Samuel Lee Gravely Jr becomes 1st black admiral in US Navy
- 1972 - Courts award 1968 Kentucky Derby prize money to 2nd place winner due to the winner being given drugs before the race
- 1973 - Over 6000 Mk. 82 500 pound bombs detonate over 18 hrs in a rallyard in northern California. 5500 structures damaged, town of Antelope destroyed, with every building reduced to foundations. Leads to Transportation Safety Act (1974)
- 1975 - South-Vietnam Gen Duong Van Minh sworn in as president till April 30
- 1977 - Andreas Baader and members of terrorist group the Red Army Faction (Baader-Meinhof Gang) jailed for life after a trial lasting nearly 2 years in Stuttgart, Germany
- 1977 - The Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure is signed.
- 1983 - Argentine government declares all 15-30,000 missing persons dead
- 1983 - NASA launches Geos-F
- 1986 - Soviet TV news program Vremya announces a nuclear accident at Chernobyl nuclear power station, 2 days after the event
- 1987 - NBA announces expansion to Charlotte NC & Miami Fla in 1988 & Minneapolis Minn & Orlando Fla in 1989
- 1988 - Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 roof tears off in flight; kills stewardess.
- 1989 - Argentina, hit by rocketing inflation, runs out of money
- 1989 - Iran protests sale of "Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie
- 1991 - Space Shuttle STS 39 (Discovery 12) launched
- 1993 - Carlo Ciampi forms Italian government with ex-communists
- 1993 - Zambian plane crashes at Libreville, Gabon, 30 soccer players die
- 1994 - Aldrich Ames, former CIA officer & wife Rosario plead guilty to spying.
- 1994 - Freddy Thielemans sworn in as Mayor of Brussels, Belgium
- 1995 - Gas explosion in South Korean metro, 103 die
- 1995 - Sri Lankaan BAE748 crashes at Palaly, 52 die
- 2001 - Millionaire Dennis Tito becomes the world's first space tourist.
- 2003 - Andre Agassi recaptures the world no. 1 ranking to become the oldest top-ranked male in the history of the ATP rankings (33 years, 13 days)
- 2005 - The Patent Law Treaty goes into effect.
- 2013 - 8 people are killed and dozens are injured after Taliban attacks on election candidates in Pakistan



HIJRI CALENDAR

15

RAMAZAN -UL-MUBARAK

1442

PRAYERS

FAJR 4:16
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 5:16
MAGRIB 7:15
ISHA 8:43

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER SHOPAIN

No. ARTO/SPN/2021/492 Date: 27/04/2021

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Abdul Ali Rather S/O Mohd Abdullah Rather R/O Awaneera (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Wagan R Bearing Regd. No. JK22-8625 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No. N/A. and Mr. Zahid Manzoor S/O Manzoor Ahmad Ahangar R/O Bijbehara Anantnag (Party No. 2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Imam Sahab Shopain. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer. Any file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Shopain

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

Notice

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Syed Tanveer Hussain S/O Syed Hussain Shah R/O Aram Pora Lal Bazar Sgr (Transferor) of Maruti 800 bearing registration No. JK01P-5834 chasis No: 2812023 Engine No: 4292661 Model 2010 in favour of Mahzoor Ahmad Shah S/O Syd Bashir Ahamd Shah R/O Chand Gam Pulwama (Transferee).

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

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

NOJK-RTOK 1445 Sd/ Regional Transport Office, Kashmir Dated: 27/04/2021

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

Notice

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Priyanka Pujara S/O O.P. Pujara R/O Block RP Bagh DL (Transferor) of ALTO -LXI bearing registration No. DL8CAD-0817 chasis No: 262700 Engine No: 48566 Model 2013 in favour of Zahoor Ahamd Langoo S/O Ali Mohammad Langoo R/O Syed Colony Zakura Sgr (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 1406 Sd/ Regional Transport Office, Kashmir Dated: 27/04/2021

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Khurshed Ahmad Khan S/o: Late Haji Ghulam Mohammad Khan R/o: Gundipora Beerwah Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D-6277 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Finance B/U Sgr.

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

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.489 Dated 27-04-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

Notice

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from sunita Ahuja S/D/O S.K Ahuja R/o 6 MMM Socity Plat No 6 Dwaks DL (Transferor) of LMV bearing registration No. DL8CAF-1694 chasis No: 1032555 Engine No: 037818 Model 2014 in favour of Mohd Younis Zargar S/o Mohd Youf Zargar R/O Khushipora Zainakote (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 1444 Sd/ Regional Transport Office, Kashmir Dated: 27/04/2021

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER Baramulla

H.Q. SOPORE NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from: Mohd Ayoub Parry S/o Haji Ab. Ahad Parry R/O Vellora Kirhama Barmulla (Rohama) (transferor) of vehicle Ford Figo bearing Registration No: HR26BV-8374 Chassis No. MAJ1XXMRJCS4715 Engine No: CS47615 Model 2012 in favour of Samprakesh S/O Mohan Lal R/O H. No 324 Vill Sukhrail Gurgram Hr 122001 (transferee).

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

No. 280/ARTO/ Bla. Dated: 23-04-2021 Sd/ Assistant Regional Transport Officer Baramulla H.Q. Sopore

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER Baramulla

H.Q. SOPORE NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from: Farhan Rasheed D/O Abdul. Rasheed R/O M-Batla House New Delhi (transferor) of vehicle Car bearing Registration No: DL3CB09671 Chassis No. 01189 Engine No: 84823 Model -- in favour of Azfar Rajab S/O Mohammad Rajab Lone R/O Wadura Baramulla (transferee).

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

No. --ARTO/ Bla. Dated: ---04-2021 Sd/ Assistant Regional Transport Officer Baramulla H.Q. Sopore

از نیابت کلتره

معاون: مضمون درخواست: عبدالرشید بٹ ولد عبد اللہ بٹ ساکنہ شی پورہ برادو عطا لگی بیکارڈ اہر سرنیکٹ تحت SRO294

اشتہار برادو آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادو بیکارڈ اہر سرنیکٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فخر بڈا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجراء کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ بڈیل اقرار پر منتقل ہے۔

عبدالرشید بٹ	لازم
محمد عظیم	گھریلے کام
ذہنت رشید	زیر تعلیم

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتایا گیا ہے کہہ کی مہانت آمدنی زرنگ و غیر زرنگ 41138 ہے سرنیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاذ کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تایب قصبہ دار: zj

از نیابت چندوسہ

معاون: مضمون درخواست: وحام احمد ولد حبیب دار ساکنہ شہر پورہ گلگاران برادو عطا لگی بیکارڈ اہر سرنیکٹ تحت SRO294

اشتہار برادو آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادو بیکارڈ اہر سرنیکٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فخر بڈا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجراء کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ بڈیل اقرار پر منتقل ہے۔

شاہ عظیم	گھریلے کام
وحام احمد	مزدوری
مریم عظیم	گھریلے کام

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتایا گیا ہے کہہ کی مہانت آمدنی زرنگ و غیر زرنگ 12000 ہے سرنیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاذ کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تایب قصبہ دار: zj

از نیابت سوپور

معاون: مضمون درخواست: عبدالرشید بٹ ولد عبدالرشید بٹ ساکنہ جھانڈہ سہر پورہ برادو عطا لگی بیکارڈ اہر سرنیکٹ تحت SRO294

اشتہار برادو آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادو SC سرنیکٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فخر بڈا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجراء کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ بڈیل اقرار پر منتقل ہے۔

عبدالرشید بٹ	لازم
محمد عظیم	گھریلے کام
ذہنت رشید	زیر تعلیم

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتایا گیا ہے کہہ کی مہانت آمدنی زرنگ و غیر زرنگ 53094 ہے سرنیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاذ کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تایب قصبہ دار: zj

از نیابت چندوسہ

معاون: مضمون درخواست: اشفاق ظفر و امیر ظفر بھٹران ظفر اللہ بیک برادو عطا لگی سرنیکٹ تحت SRO294

اشتہار برادو آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادو PSC سرنیکٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فخر بڈا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجراء کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ اس ضمن میں پیاری ملت سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن پہلازی بولنے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے کہہ بڈیل اقرار پر منتقل ہے۔

اشفاق ظفر بیک	مزدوری
کوثر پوین	گھریلے کام
اشفاق ظفر	زیر تعلیم
امیر ظفر	زیر تعلیم

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتایا گیا ہے کہہ کی مہانت آمدنی زرنگ و غیر زرنگ 15500 ہے سرنیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاذ کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تایب قصبہ دار: zj

از نیابت چندوسہ

معاون: مضمون درخواست: محمد رحمان و عرفان احمد و رحمان بانو دھامیر بانو ڈویر شیخان برادو عطا لگی سرنیکٹ تحت SRO294

اشتہار برادو آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادو PSC سرنیکٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فخر بڈا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجراء کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ اس ضمن میں پیاری ملت سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن پہلازی بولنے والے طبقے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے کہہ بڈیل اقرار پر منتقل ہے۔

محمد رحمان بانو	مزدوری
ذہنت رشید	گھریلے کام
عرفان احمد	مزدوری
رحمان بانو	زیر تعلیم
ڈویر بانو	زیر تعلیم
رحمان احمد	زیر تعلیم
رحمان بانو	زیر تعلیم
عرفان احمد	مزدوری

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتایا گیا ہے کہہ کی مہانت آمدنی زرنگ و غیر زرنگ 15500 ہے سرنیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاذ کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تایب قصبہ دار: zj

From KO Archives

MANMOHAN AND I WILL RESOLVE KASHMIR: MUSHARRAF

ISLAMABAD - Hoping that Kashmir issue would be resolved during his as well as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenure, President Pervez Musharraf has said both of them realised after their recent talks that they should "seize the moment" and contribute to peace, amity and harmony between the two countries.

Musharraf said he and Singh did not discuss any specific time frame to resolve the Kashmir issue during their recent talks in New Delhi but he expected it to be resolved during their tenures.

"We did not discuss a time frame as such. But one does realise, he does and I do, that we both now are at a juncture in history at a time where we can contribute to peace, amity and harmony between India and Pakistan. We are lucky, I would say to be the personalities, who at this time and at this point, can play a role," he said during an interactive programme 'Apke Roobaroo' on the state-run FTV Musharraf said both he and Singh realised that "we should seize the moment. This is the word. We must seize the moment. Otherwise we would be letting down two nations and the people of Kashmir. Now what is seizing the moment if we both have to be seize the moment, it should be done within our tenure."

(Kashmir Observer, 28 April, 2005)

Hong Kong To Reopen Bars, Nightclubs For Vaccinated Residents



Agencies

Hong Kong will ease social-distancing restrictions by allowing bars, nightclubs and karaoke parlors to re-open and operate past midnight only for vaccinated residents starting Thursday, as the government intensifies efforts to boost the city's lackluster inoculation drive.

Staff and customers must have had received at least a first vaccine dose for the venues to open their doors, Food and Health Secretary Sophia Chan told a briefing on Tuesday. Patrons will need to sign in using Hong Kong's LeaveHomeSafe app.

The new rules will allow bars and nightclubs to remain open until 2am, she said. Tables will be limited to just two people, with four people allowed in karaoke rooms.

The government is also studying a new mobile app venues can use to identify customers' vaccination status, Chan said.

"This vaccine bubble is a very important public health measure," Chan said. "We can have a safe relaxation. But on the other hand, we can also mitigate the risk associated with the relaxation."

While vaccine supply is abundant in Hong Kong, only about 11% of the population has gotten vaccinated with at least one dose, amid public distrust of the government and concerns about the efficacy of Chinese vaccines. The low inoculation rates could hamper the city's efforts to reach the herd immunity crucial to fully reopening, prompting authorities to expand access to all adults and come up with measures favoring the inoculated to encourage more people to get jabs.

Restaurants will also be allowed to relax table limits and operating hours if staff are vaccinated, said Chan, but only in designated "zones" for inoculated customers.

Eateries whose staff have all received their first vaccine doses will be allowed to extend their dine-in hours to 12am and have up to six customers per table in the zones.

Patrons will be required to sign in via LeaveHomeSafe.

Capacity will be limited to 50%. Measures will be further relaxed for restaurants whose staff have had both vaccine doses and a waiting period afterward of 14 days, Chan said.

Israel Uses 'Apartheid' To Subjugate Palestinians: HRW

Agencies

Israel is committing "crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution" against Palestinians and the international community must reevaluate diplomatic relations with the state, a leading human rights group said in a report on Tuesday.

The 213-page report from Human Rights Watch (HRW) details how Israel has sought to maintain Jewish-Israeli hegemony over the Palestinian people from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

"While much of the world treats Israel's half-century occupation as a temporary situation that a decades-long 'peace process' will soon cure, the oppression of Palestinians there has reached a threshold and a permanence that meets the definitions of the crimes of apartheid and persecution," Kenneth Roth, executive director of HRW, said.

"Those who strive for Israeli-Palestinian peace, whether a one or two-state solution or a confederation, should in the meantime recognise this reality for what it is and bring to bear the sorts of human rights tools needed to end it."

Israel dismissed the organization's report, calling it "propaganda".

"Human Rights Watch is known to have a long-standing anti-Israel agenda, actively seeking for years to promote boycotts against Israel," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"Their decision not to share this report for review or comment with any Israeli authority is clear indication that it is a propaganda pamphlet, which lacks all credibility."

The HRW report follows a conclusion reached by Israeli rights group B'Tselem, which published a study last January that found Palestinians, di-



vided into four tiers of inferior treatment, are denied the right to self-determination.

Ines Abdel Razek, an advocacy director for the Ramallah-based Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy organisation, said the HRW report is a welcome development in shifting the goalposts of international engagement towards applying international law and human rights – rather than "sanctifying a two-state solution as an empty mantra that has only comforted Israel in its impunity."

"[It] is clearly of major political importance in order to advance the urgent need to reframe the political understanding about Palestine and Israel," she told Al Jazeera, "although frustrating for Palestinians to see that the world needs validation from international or Israeli NGOs spelling out what we have been documenting, analysing, saying and writing for decades."

For Mouin Rabbani, a co-editor of Jadaliyya, an independent research website, the existence of apartheid has been "voluminously substantiated" by Palestinians and their supporters for decades.

"It is thus not Israel but rather HRW that has crossed a threshold," he said. "HRW is the industry leader in its field,

and that it has finally caught up with reality is in my view a significant development."

The report's significance, he continued, lies in HRW "explicitly denouncing Israel as an apartheid regime, calling for Israel to face real and serious consequences for what the report terms 'crime against humanity'."

"Perhaps most surprisingly, given its record on such matters, [HRW] is for once not 'balancing' its analysis of Israel with ritual denunciations of Palestinians," Rabbani added.

Framing 'apartheid' as anti-Semitic

HRW's report lists a range of Israeli abuses committed against the Palestinians: sweeping movement restrictions against Palestinians in the occupied territories, the demolition of homes and "near-categorical denial" of building permits, the military occupation, land expropriation, and rejection of the residency rights of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

In fact, the Israeli government's own words and actions – such as the 2018 nation-state bill, which defined Israel as the "nation-state of Jewish people", and its unrelenting settlement expansion policy, all point to its intent to preserve its domination, HRW said.

Israel Examines Heart Inflammation Cases After Pfizer Covid Shot

Agencies

Israel is examining dozens of cases where people experienced heart inflammation after receiving Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE's coronavirus vaccine. Health officials are investigating whether the cases are connected with the shot which has been administered to more than 5 million people, Corona Commissioner Nachman Ash said Sunday in an interview with Radio 103FM. The government identified 62 incidents of inflammation of the heart muscle, or heart-muscle membrane, Channel 12 reported last week, citing a health ministry study.

The condition developed in one out of 100,000 people who received the shot, while the incidence rate for men of 18 to 30 years was one in 20,000. Two people died and the rest recovered.

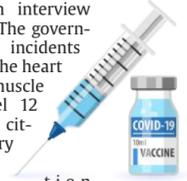
The study doesn't show with certainty that there's a higher rate in mortality or an increase

in heart muscle inflammation cases, the Health Ministry said in an emailed response to questions.

"It looks like the benefit of the vaccine is so great that even if we do find a connection between some of the cases and the vaccine, it won't be justified to take any action regarding the vaccine," Ash said in the interview. The information has been communicated with Pfizer, he said.

Pfizer is aware of the Israeli cases of myocarditis, the company said in a statement.

"We have not observed a higher rate of myocarditis than what would be expected in the general population," it said. "A causal link to the vaccine has not been established. There is no evidence at this time to conclude that myocarditis is a risk associated" with the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine, the company said.



Western Australia Premier Says India's Covid-19 Tests Inaccurate, Unreliable As Returning Flyers Test Positive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Premier of the Western Australia state Mark McGowan on Tuesday alleged that COVID-19 tests conducted in India for returning travellers were either inaccurate or unreliable which are impinging on the integrity of the system and causing some issues.

McGowan's remarks came after authorities in Western Australia said that four people in hotel quarantine in Perth tested positive for coronavirus following their return from India.

Western Australia health authorities are concerned that the majority of returning travellers were from India where the infection has been rising alarmingly.

McGowan told a local TV channel: "I have just been advised at this morning's emergency management team meeting that 78 of the 79 passengers on this flight had been in India recently."

"Our expectation is the number of positive cases from this group of people will grow and potentially grow significantly."

We obviously have a problem with India. Some of the tests conducted in India either aren't accurate or aren't believable, and clearly that's causing some



issues here, McGowan said.

He pinpointed that the large numbers of people arriving in Australia with the virus showed the system was failing, and he questioned if all of the test results being produced by people before boarding flights were accurate.

"If there are tests that are inaccurate or a bit dodgy being produced so that people get on flights, that is impinging on the integrity of the system and that is why we are suffering these problems," he said.

McGowan also urged people to not to travel to India unless there was an extreme emergency.

"In the middle of a pandemic that is killing hundreds of thousands of people across India, there is no need to go to India for anything but the most extreme of reasons now," he said, adding "I can't think of many (reasons) to be allowed to travel."

Meanwhile, Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews on Tuesday said the situation in India was absolutely devastating.

Iran, US Warships In First Tense Mideast Encounter In A Year

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – American and Iranian warships had a tense encounter in the Persian Gulf earlier this month, the first such incident in about a year amid wider turmoil in the region over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal, the U.S. Navy said Tuesday.

Footage released by the Navy showed a ship commanded by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard cut in front of the USCGC Monomoy, causing the Coast Guard vessel to come to an abrupt stop with its engine smoking on April 2.

The Guard also did the same with another Coast Guard vessel, the USCGC Wrangell, said Cmdr. Rebecca Rebarich, a spokeswoman for the Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet. Such close passes risk the ships colliding at sea.

Iran did not immediately acknowledge the incident in the southern reaches of the Persian Gulf, which resulted in no injuries or damage.

"The U.S. crews issued multiple warnings via bridge-to-bridge radio, five short blasts from the ships' horns, and while the (Iranian) Harth 55 responded to the bridge-to-bridge radio queries, they con-



tinued the unsafe maneuvers," Rebarich said. "After approximately three hours of the U.S. issuing warning and conducting defensive maneuvers, the (Iranian) vessels maneuvered away from the U.S. ships and opened distance between them."

The Wall Street Journal first reported on the incident, which involved the Iranian Harth support ship and three Iranian fast-attack craft. The Coast Guard units operate out of Bahrain as part of Patrol Forces Southwest Asia, its biggest unit overseas.

The interaction marked the first "unsafe and unprofessional" incident involving the Iranians since April 15, 2020, Rebarich said. However, Iran had largely stopped such incidents in 2018 and nearly in the

entirety of 2019, she said.

In 2017, the Navy recorded 14 instances of what it describes as "unsafe and or unprofessional" interactions with Iranian forces. It recorded 35 in 2016, and 23 in 2015.

The incidents at sea almost always involve the Revolutionary Guard, which reports only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Typically, they involve Iranian speedboats armed with deck-mounted machine guns and rocket launchers test-firing weapons or shadowing American aircraft carriers passing through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil passes.

Some analysts believe the incidents are meant in part to squeeze President Hassan Rouhani's administration after the 2015 nuclear deal. They include a 2016 incident in which Iranian forces captured and held overnight 10 U.S. sailors who strayed into the Islamic Republic's territorial waters.

"U.S. naval forces continue to remain vigilant and are trained to act in a professional manner, while our commanding officers retain the inherent right to act in self-defense," Rebarich said.

NEWS MAKERS

Oscars 2021: Chloe Zhao Wins Best Director, Anthony Hopkins Best Actor

Agencies

Nomadland won best picture while its star Frances McDormand took home the lead actress Oscar on Sunday on a night of several firsts and a return to Hollywood glamour after a long pandemic shutdown.

In a major upset, Britain's Anthony Hopkins won the best actor trophy for his role as a man battling dementia in *The Father*. The Oscar had been widely expected to go to the late Chadwick Boseman for his final film, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

China native Chloe Zhao was named best director for Searchlight Pictures' *Nomadland*, making her the first Asian woman and only the second woman ever to take home the trophy. She described making the film about the travel-



ing van community in modern America a "crazy, once-in-a-lifetime journey."

Youn Yuh-jung, 73, won the best supporting actress Oscar for her role as a cantankerous grandmother in immigrant tale *Minari*. She was the first South Korean actor or

actress to win an Oscar. It has been 11 years since Kathryn Bigelow became the first woman to win the director Oscar, for Iraq war drama *The Hurt Locker*.

Britain's Daniel Kaluuya was named best supporting actor for his role as 1960s Black Panther activist Fred Hampton in *Judas and the Black Messiah*.

The movie *Soul*, the first from Pixar to feature a black lead character, won best animated feature.

Social distancing forced a rethink of the ceremony, moving it to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. After strict COVID-19 testing and quarantine protocols, nominees and their guests sat, mostly maskless, in a cabaret-style set or chatted in an outdoor courtyard.

The winners were chosen in a secret ballot by the 9,000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Bhutan To Provide Liquid Oxygen To India To Help Combat Covid-19

THIMPU: Bhutan will supply life-saving liquid oxygen to India which is battling an unprecedented second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, signalling a practical manifestation of the "uniquely close and friendly" bilateral ties, the Indian embassy here said on Tuesday.

Every day, 40 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen produced by the oxygen plant will be exported to Assam using cryogenic tankers, the embassy said in a statement.

The liquid oxygen to India will be supplied from the new plant being set up at the Motanga Industrial Estate, Samdrup Jongkhar district by a Bhutanese company, S D Cryogenics Gases Private Limited, it added.

The oxygen plant has a domestic investment of 51 per cent by the Bhutanese company and FDI component of 49 per



cent by Assam-based Indian company Meghalaya Oxygen Private Limited.

This is a practical manifestation of the uniquely close and friendly ties between India and Bhutan, the statement said.

The provision of oxygen by Bhutan will augment India's efforts to win the fight against COVID-19 and save precious lives, it added.

India is struggling with a second wave of the pandemic with more than 3,00,000 daily new coronavirus cases being

reported in the past few days, and hospitals in several states are reeling under a shortage of medical oxygen and beds.

On Tuesday, the Union Health Ministry said that India's total tally of COVID-19 cases has climbed to 1,76,36,307 with 3,23,144 people testing positive in a day, while the national recovery rate has further dropped to 82.54 per cent.

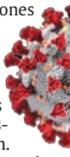
The death toll increased to 1,97,894 with 2,771 daily new fatalities, it said.

COVID-19: 173 Localities Across Kashmir Declared Containment Zones

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to prevent the COVID-19 cases from spreading, government has, so far, notified over 170 localities as Micro Containment Zones and Containment Zones across Kashmir valley. A total of 173 areas have been notified as Micro Containment Zones and Containment Zones in the ten districts of Kashmir region. Most of the Micro Containment Zones and Containment Zones are in Srinagar with officials informing that 13 areas in the summer capital have been notified as Containment Zones while 47 have been declared as Micro Containment Zones. Data revealed that a total of 28 areas have been declared Micro Containment Zones and Containment Zones in South Kashmir's Anantnag district while three, four and eight localities respectively have been

notified as Micro Containment Zones and Containment Zones in Shopian, Pulwama and Kulgam districts. Besides, the central Kashmir's Ganderbal and Budgam districts, a total of 33 areas localities have been notified as Micro Containment Zones and Containment Zones. The official data revealed that 17 areas in Budgam have been declared as MCZ and CZs while in Ganderbal eight areas each have been notified as Micro Containment Zones and Containment Zones. In northern districts, a total of 39 localities have been declared as Micro Containment Zones and Containment Zones with data collected revealing that 12 areas have been declared as MCZs and CZs in Kupwara district while seven and 20 areas have been notified as Micro Containment Zones and Containment Zones in Bandipora and Baramulla districts respectively.



Six Drug Peddlers Arrested In Anantnag, Kulgam: Police Drug Hideout Busted In Bijbehara

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Jammu and Police Tuesday said it arrested six drug peddlers in South Kashmir's Anantnag and Kulgam districts and busted a hideout concealing huge consignment of drugs in village Tulkhan Bijbehara. A police spokesperson said that based on specific information, a police party from Police Station Bijbehara at a checkpoint established at Tulkhan crossing intercepted a person identified as Farooq Ahmad Baht resident of Marhama. During checking, 10 bottles of codeine phosphate were recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to Police Station where he remains in custody. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No 92/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Bijbehara and investigation was set into motion. During the course of investigation and questioning of the arrested drug peddler, investigating team learnt that he was procuring drugs from a drug dealer identified as Ashraf Khan of Tulkhan village. "On this information, a police party from Police Station Bijbehara along with Executive Magistrate raided the house of the drug dealer. During searches of the house and the courtyard, 34.7 ki-

lograms of charas Powder, 80 bottles codeine phosphate & 4500 capsules of Spasmaproxyvon concealed in an underground hideout, which was busted using a JCB, were recovered. The drug dealer has been arrested and shifted to Police Station where he remains in custody. Similarly in Kulgam, a police party of Police Post Frisal during patrolling at Kharpora intercepted a vehicle (Wagner Car) bearing registration number DL9CP-2664 with four persons on board. They have been identified as Waqar Ahmad Dar son of Muhammad Yaseen Dar, a resident of Padshahibagh Srinagar, Muhammad Aslam War son of Ghulam Hassan War, a resident of Arwani Bijbehara, Bilal Ahmad Hanji son of Muhammad Maqbool Hanji, a resident of Kharpora Frisal and Mehrj-ud-din Wani son of Ghulam Muhammad Wani, a resident of Nowpora Kharpora Frisal. During checking, 42 bottles of codeine phosphate & 130 grams of charas were recovered. They have been arrested and shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized. "A case vide FIR number 21/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Yaripora and further investigation is in progress."



A HEALTHCARE WORKER takes a nasal swab sample from a local resident for a COVID-19 test in a Micro Containment Zone in Srinagar on Tuesday, KO Photo/Abid Bhat

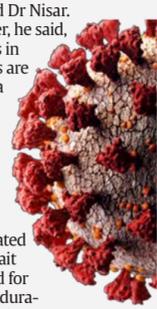
COVID: DAK Says Delay In Hospitalisation Proving Fatal, Contributing To High Mortality



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday said delay in reporting to hospitals is the main reason for increase in number of deaths due to Covid-19 in the Kashmir valley. In a statement, DAK said that covid-19 patients arrive at hospitals only when their condition worsens. President of DAK, Dr Nisar said early medical intervention is key to reduce Covid deaths. However, he said, patients come to hospitals when their lungs are largely affected which decreases their chances of survival. "We receive patients with critically low oxygen saturation levels as low as 50-60 percent," he said. Dr Nisar said many patients have bought oxygen

cylinders and oxygen concentrators and use them at homes to ease symptoms and report to hospitals only when their condition deteriorates. "This delay in reporting to hospitals is proving fatal and is contributing to the high mortality among Covid-19 patients," he said. "One big problem with Covid is silent hypoxia, a condition in which patients have extremely low blood oxygen levels, and yet do not show signs of difficulty in breathing," Dr Nisar said. He said despite Covid pneumonia patients have remarkably low oxygen saturation, they are alert, talking normally and walking around. "And by the time they feel trouble breathing and reach out for help they are already dangerously sick and need to be put on ventilators and most of them die," said Dr Nisar. Further, he said, ICU beds in hospitals are full. "As a result of which, a patient whose condition has already deteriorated has to wait in a ward for a longer duration which increases complexities." The DAK president said shifting critically-ill patients who are on life-support from various hospitals to Covid-19 designated hospitals is also contributing to increased mortality. "Shifting them to dedicated hospitals is leading to interruption and delay in treatment," he said, adding most of these Covid death cases have underlying medical conditions which is liable to get neglected in Covid centres for want of specialists and equipment. "We need to revisit the existing protocols for shifting critically-ill patients, who test positive for Covid-19 at different hospitals," he added.



ONE BIG PROBLEM WITH COVID IS SILENT HYPOXIA, A condition in which patients have extremely low blood oxygen levels, and yet do not show signs of difficulty in breathing," Dr Nisar said.

Govt Constitutes Sub-Committee To Identify Posts For People With Benchmark Disabilities

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Close on the heels of identifying posts suitable for persons with benchmark disabilities, the administration of Jammu & Kashmir has set-up a sub-committee for its revision. The committee has been empowered to identify new post(s) or any other existing post(s) which are suitable for the persons with benchmark disabilities. While identifying the posts, the sub-committee, according to an order shall also specify

the type of benchmark disability for which the identified posts are suitable. The recommendations of the sub-committee comprising Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director Social Welfare Jammu, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Health Services Jammu and Executive Director J&K Rehabilitation Council shall be deliberated in the expert committee for further report to the government. The senior most Director Social Welfare shall be convener of the committee which shall meet at regular intervals, the order states. On November 27, 2020, the government constituted an expert panel headed by administrative secretary Finance and comprising administrative secretary General Administration Department, administrative secretary Social Welfare Department and others to identify posts in different departments which can be held by respective category of persons with benchmark disabilities in respect of the vacancies reserved for the disabled by the government.

KU Extends Last Date For UG Admissions Till May 10

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir has extended the last date for admission to 1st-2nd Semester Choice Based Credit System Scheme for BA/B.Sc/B.Sch/B.Com/BCA /BBA/B.M.M.M.C/OCMIL (General/Honors) programme at Under-Graduate level (in respective colleges) up to and including May 10, 2021. The eligibility and all other conditions for admission can be ascertained from the already-issued detailed notification available on the University website www.kashmiruniversity.ac.in.



Gujjar And Bakerwal Community Seeks Investigation Into Fake ST Certificates Scam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: Expressing concern over fake Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates issue, the representatives of Gujjar and Bakerwal communities Tuesday demanded Government must re-verify all the ST certificates of employees recruited in Jammu and Kashmir in Government jobs since 1991, through its Tribal Department, and sought action against fake certificate racketeers active in J&K. The representatives of Gujjar community alleged that there are fake ST certificate holders who are employed in various government departments. Choudhary Munshi a representative of Gujjars in a press conference in South Kashmir's Kulgam while sharing details showed "documental proof" of some fake schedule tribe certifi-

cate holders who are doing government jobs on the basis of the certificate. He also drew attention towards Supreme Court's recent order that if anyone is found guilty of using a forged caste certificate for getting education and employment, the person will lose the degree and job. "The apex court in a historic decision has also ordered that there can be no leniency or consideration of long years of service if anyone has used a fake caste certificate for getting admission or a job," he added and said that this decision must get implemented. "This is disfavour with Gujjar Community & we appeal district administration Kulgam to verify the matter at the earliest," he said. He threatened if probe is not initiated in this regard then they will come on roads to protest till their demands are met.

Abdullah's, Lone, Bukhari Others Condole Demise Of Margoob Banihali

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) Party President, Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah, Peoples Conference chairman Sajjad Lone, Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari, State Congress President GA Mir and others on Tuesday expressed profound grief over the demise of noted academician, renowned poet and writer and Sahitya Academy awardee Prof. Ghulam Muhammad Giri also known as Margoob Banihali, who breathed his last on Tuesday. In his condolence message, Dr Farooq paid tributes to the deceased saying that the passing away of Margoob Sahib has left us culturally impoverished. He said Margoob Sahib was a representative of the renaissance generation of writers and poets. I am deeply saddened at his passing away, I pray to Almighty to grant the deceased highest stations in Jannat. Omar Abdullah in his condolence message said the passing away of Margoob Sahib has sent shock waves across the literary landscape of Kashmir. The duo expressed solidarity with Dr Mushtaq Margoob, the son of the deceased at this difficult time. Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Gani Lone has expressed grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Kashmir's noted academician, poet and prolific writer, Dr Margoob Banihali. In his condolence message, PC Chairman highlighted Sahitya Academy Awardee, Dr Margoob's immense contributions in the field of literature, terming his demise a major loss for society in general and for the world of literature in particular.



Lone said that his absence will be deeply felt in times to come and void he has left among in the literary landscape of Jammu and Kashmir will be extremely difficult to fill in. The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Ghulam Ahmad Mir Tuesday expressed profound grief over the passing away of eminent scholar and academician Dr. Margoob Banihali. In his condolence message, JK-PCC President G.A. Mir described the passing away of Margoob Banihali as a great loss to J&K and said the deceased has contributed enormously to Kashmiri Language and literature and also recalled his best services as academician and writer. Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday expressed deep shock and grief over the demise of Prof. Margoob Banihali, a noted scholar, academician, writer and the well known poet. In a condolence message issued here, Bukhari described Prof. Banihali as a luminary whose contribution in the field of Kashmiri language and literature is an acclaimed treasure for generations to come.

KU Condoles Demise

SRINAGAR: University of Kashmir Tuesday condoled the demise of Prof Margoob Banihali, noted academician and former Head of the varsity's Department of Kashmiri. Recalling the vast contributions of Prof Banihali to Kashmir's literary and cultural spheres as well as to the growth and development of the Department of Kashmiri, KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad, officers of the varsity administration, deans and faculty members prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and also expressed their sympathies with the bereaved family in this hour of grief. The contributions of Prof Banihali, they said, will always be remembered.

NEWS MAKERS

Training Programme On Integrated Supply Chain Management Begins AT SKUAST-K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Extension SKUAST-K Tuesday kick started a four day online training programme on Integrated Supply Chain Management in High Value Crops from 27-30th April 2021, in collaboration with MANAGE, Hyderabad. The program was chaired by Prof. J.P Sharma Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K and among the dignitaries present in the inaugural session were Dr. P.Chandra Shekara DG MANAGE Hyderabad, Prof. Mush-taq Ahmad Wani, Associate Director Extension (Agri), Prof. Masood Saleem Mir Associate Director Extension (AS), Dr Shalinder Singh Deputy Direc-



tor Behavioural Studies MANAGE, Hyderabad, Program Coordinators of KVKs, Scientists from the Directorate & KVKs and participants from 5 Institutes and line departments. The session started with a welcome address from Prof. Masood Saleem Mir followed by

the training overview of Dr. Faraha Naz Rasool Deputy Director, Training, D.G Manage applauded the efforts of SKUAST Kashmir in conducting various programmes in skill and entrepreneurship development. He affirmed concerted and continued support to SKUAST-Kashmir in the areas of skill and agribusiness ventures. Prof. J.P Sharma in his pioneer precedence highlighted the importance of such trainings and stressed on the need for conglomeration of Extension services and Strategies for Doubling the farmers income. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Sushil Kumar & Dr. Purshottam Singh moderated the session.

Police Arrest Two, Fine 963 Persons For Violating Covid SOPs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police Tuesday said that it arrested two persons, lodged two FIRs and also realised a fine to the tune of 105,440/- from 963 people for violating the guidelines/rules. A police spokesperson said that besides, six vehicles were also seized for violating Covid-19 SOPs. Moreover, the spokesperson said, police in Budgam and Sopore held review meetings with the Imams, religious leaders and Aulqaf Committees regarding adherence to the COVID-19 containment measures to be followed in Masajid. The meetings were held at Police Stations Beerwah, Magam, Chadoora, Char-e-Sharief, Tarzoo and Panzalla. The meetings were chaired by respective SHOs. Meanwhile, a police official said that the police arrested two drivers along with their vehicles in Khanshabad area of the district. He said three drivers were found ferrying passengers more than the capacity prescribed by the authorities in view of the Coronavirus resurgence at Khanshabad Budgam. Three passenger vehicles (Tavera) with registration numbers JK01N 6080, JK04C 5381, JK01AN 7008 driven by the arrested drivers were also seized. Police identified the arrested driver as Ghulam Hassan Khan son of Bashir Ahmed Khan, a resident of Kheirigund, Tawseef Ahmed Mir so of Abdul Rehman Mir, a resident of Muniapaye and Abdul Rasheed Bhat son of Ghulam Mohiuddin Bhat, a resident of Shamsabad Khanshabad.

Kidnapped Minor Girl Rescued In Kulgam, Accused Arrested

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police in Kulgam Tuesday recovered a kidnapped minor girl and arrested the accused person involved in the commission of crime. "On 25/04/2021, PS Kulgam received a complaint from a person stating there in that his daughter (name withheld) had been kidnapped by one person namely Sanik Ahmad Khanday son of Abdul Rashid Khanday resident of Tarigam," a police statement said. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 62/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Kulgam and investigation was initiated. During the course of investigation a team headed by SHO PS Kulgam was constituted. Acting on specific leads, the team was able to recover the kidnapped girl and arrest the accused person. He has been shifted to PS Kulgam where he remains in custody. "After fulfilling all medico-legal formalities, the girl has been handed over to her legal heirs. Investigation into the matter is in progress."

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Opportunity for peace

India's Covid catastrophe is likely to impact the pace of the fledgling re-engagement between India and Pakistan. It may take some time before New Delhi emerges from this unprecedented crisis. Meanwhile, the Covid situation may go some way to generate more goodwill between the two neighbours. Pakistan's Eidhi Foundation has offered to send a fleet of 50 ambulances kitted out for Covid-19 patients, along with emergency medical technicians, office staff, drivers and supporting staff, to India. This was followed by Pakistan government offering to provide relief support to India "including ventilators, Bi-PAP, digital X-ray machines, PPEs and related items" as a gesture of solidarity. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan also extended his sympathy for the victims of the pandemic in India. "Our prayers for a speedy recovery go to all those suffering from the pandemic in our neighbourhood & the world," he tweeted. Such cooperation at a time when India is grappling with a Covid-19 Tsunami will work as an important Confidence Building Measure between the two countries and help propel their engagement going forward.

Though the two countries have been talking to each other through back-channel for some time now, the engagement has been encountering some issues. Pakistan wants India to take some more CBMs in regard to Kashmir before a formal dialogue can take off. Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in an interview to with Turkey's Anadolu Agency on Sunday said that Pakistan would be "more than happy" to talk to India and resolve the outstanding issues if New Delhi was willing to "revisit" some of its decisions to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. This is expected to create what Pakistan says will be "an enabling environment" for talks.

India, on the other hand, has said that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. India has, however, put the onus on Pakistan to create an environment free of terror and hostility.

If anything the current Covid-19 tragedy in India has underlined the significance of the need for India, Pakistan cooperation as neighbours. This has lent fresh resonance to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's wisdom that "you can change friends but not neighbours". Pakistan and India can't escape each other. Nor can they, as Qureshi pointed out to Anadolu Agency, go to war as both are nuclear powers. A war would thus mean a mutually assured destruction. So, there is no other way but to engage and work to resolve their long pending issues. This alone is guarantee for a peaceful and prosperous subcontinent.

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

Failing the Test

After a week of empty statements on India's urgent requirement of raw materials to ramp up vaccine production as it battles a gigantic second wave of COVID, the United States has said it will "rapidly deploy additional support" to this country. But it evidently took a tsunami of outrage from Indians on social media — this time without government provided hashtags — about the hollowness of a strategic partnership that allows the US to so readily abandon an ally, plus the revelation in US media that the country was sitting on a stockpile of 40 million AstraZeneca (Covishield in India) vaccines that were unlikely to be used, and representations by leading experts that the Biden Administration should share these with countries in need. It apparently took all this for US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken to step in and clear the air. But a historic opportunity was already lost. In a horrific week in which Indians grappled with ever new peaks of COVID numbers — new infections and deaths — the US seemed to be washing its hands of India's crisis. It has sparked more questions in India about the several "strategic partnership" agreements between the two countries under the Biden Administration. After all, Trump donated ventilators to India at a time when the pandemic was raging in his country, and Delhi responded by sending hydroxychloroquine on his request.

Just weeks after the upbeat "Quad" summit, at which the leaders of Australia, India, Japan and the US pledged to "collaborate to strengthen equitable vaccine access for the Indo-Pacific", a US State Department spokesman said "it's not only in our interest to see Americans vaccinated; it's in the interests of the rest of the world to see Americans vaccinated". It should be obvious to all that the virus knows no borders. And that India, with its sharp spike in cases in this wave, poses a global health threat. It is in the interests of the world to ensure that Indians are vaccinated.

It was reckless of India to give away or sell 66 million vaccines to countries across the world without securing supplies for its own people first. Vaccine Maitri was not misplaced as long as it was restricted to countries in the neighbourhood looking to India for help. But shipping out millions of doses to faraway countries whose dependence on India is not as urgent was ill conceived. Now the "pharmacy of the world" is desperate for vaccines, and medical oxygen. It is far from atmanirbhar.

Indian Express

Hindrances in way of
Central RTI Act in J&K

Designated officers not trained. Government Websites not being updated in spite LG's intervention

DR RAJA MUZAFFAR BHAT

Isn't it the duty of the present government to make the designated FAAs and PIOs aware of the provisions of RTI Act 2005? Those trained between 2011 and 2015 have retired or been promoted to higher posts. Who will reach out to the people, especially those living in far-off regions in J&K and Ladakh? Don't these people have the right to access information from the government?

Post article 370 abrogation dozens of central laws were extended to Jammu & Kashmir. RTI Act 2005 is one such act which is operational in J&K with effect from October 31st 2019. The J & K Government hasn't trained the Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs) designated under the Right to Information Act (RTI). Neither any workshops nor any training sessions have been for the designated Govt officers. Even when the article 370 was intact, only a handful of RTI awareness programmes were held especially between 2015 to 2018. Pertinently, there was a provision under section 23 of the erstwhile J&K RTI Act 2009 for taking up awareness and training programmes on RTI for Govt officers and citizens both. When the PDP-BJP Government failed to act, I was forced to seek judicial intervention in 2018 by filing a PIL before the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir. It was surprising to know that only two RTI workshops had been conducted between 2015 and 2018. This was revealed by the government in a written response before the High Court. The J&K Institute of Management Public Administration & Rural Development (IMPARD), had organized these workshops in which 42 officers, mostly Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs), were trained.

DC Rajouri's misleading information

A false and misleading information was submitted by the then Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri in response to my PIL. The DC office Rajouri had sent the information before the General Administration Department (GAD) who then submitted it before J&K High Court. It was claimed that 617 RTI workshops were conducted in Rajouri for citizens between 2012 and 2018. GAD submitted these details to the High Court. When I sought the participants' list, photos, press releases, videos and other details of the workshops by filing a separate RTI application, the DC office Rajouri said no photos, videos or official press releases were available. I submitted a counter statement before the High Court exposing the DC office Rajouri, but the PIL on J&K RTI Act 2009 became automatically infructuous after abrogation of Article 370 as the said law was also repealed.

In contrast to this, between 2011 and 2013, more than 75 RTI workshops were conducted by IMPARD, in which more than 2,500 government officers were trained. This was also revealed through a written response by the government to the High Court.

In addition to it, G R Sufi and Khurshid Ganai, former State Chief Information Commissioners, also conducted several RTI and sensitization workshops in various districts of J&K and Ladakh. The government also failed to digitise its record and make its voluntary disclosure, as mandated under the J&K RTI Act 2009. There is a similar provision in RTI Act 2005. Ganai issued at least three circulars between 2017 and 2018 to the government, but there was always a lukewarm response from public authorities.

No respect for LG's intervention

In spite of the Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha's intervention on digitization of government records and updation of websites, government officers are least



bothered. This is mandated under section 4 (1) (b) of RTI Act 2005. The Commissioner Secretary GAD issued a circular on January 21st 2021 and gave a deadline of February 18 but even that seems to have been inconsequential I had brought this matter to the notice of the L-G, Manoj Sinha, during a meeting on January 18, 2021.

The Government websites continue to be in shambles. The information on J&K RTI Act 2009 continues to be there on many official Government websites which includes the official website of Higher Education Department, Industries and Commerce Department, Pollution Control Board, Jal Shakti Department and many others.

No Training workshops

I had never imagined that a time would come when not even two dozen officers would be trained by the government in three years. From June 18, 2018, soon after the BJP withdrew support to the PDP-lead government in J&K, we were directly ruled by the centre. Now RTI Act 2005 has been extended to J&K, creating many difficulties for us. The people of J&K and Ladakh have been deprived of a separate State Information Commission. We file our 2nd appeal before the Central Information Commission (CIC), where it takes years to get justice. We feel disempowered. I am now planning to file a fresh PIL on non-implementation of RTI Act 2005.

Isn't it the duty of the present government to make the designated FAAs and PIOs aware of the provisions of RTI Act 2005? Those trained between 2011 and 2015 have retired or been promoted to higher posts. Who will reach out to the people, especially those living in far-off regions in J&K and Ladakh? Don't these people have the right to access information from the government?

Has any district administration conducted any RTI awareness programmes in Kargil, Zaskar, Drass or Nubra areas of Ladakh in the last three years? Has any workshop on RTI been organised in Poonch, Kupwara or Kishtwar? Unfortunately, the government has not even trained its designated officials in Budgam district, which is located near Srinagar. In January this year, under RTI Act 2005, I sought details about such awareness programmes/workshops in Budgam conducted between November 1, 2019 and January 2020. The designated PIO in the deputy commissioner's office, Budgam, gave me a misleading reply. He said information is not available in the repository of his office. I didn't ask for a 40- or 50-year-old official record?

I don't blame the poor PIO, but the authorities at the helm are to be blamed. Unfortunately, people are not even able to seek information from a Tehsildar or a Block Development Officer (BDO). Is this a responsive administration?

Legal binding on Government

The government is under a legal obligation to make people aware about RTI law, plus hold training sessions for designated officers (PIOs, FAAs) so that they have a better understanding of the RTI Act. Section 26 of RTI Act 2005 says that the government has to develop and organise educational programmes to advance the understanding of the public, in particular disadvantaged communities, as to how to exercise the rights contemplated under the RTI Act.

Section 26 of RTI Act 2005 further reads:

"Encourage public authorities to participate in the development and organisation of programmes referred to in clause (a) and to undertake such programmes themselves. Promote timely and effective dissemination of accurate information by public authorities about their activities and train Central Public Information Officers or State Public Information Officers, as the case may be of public authorities and produce relevant training materials for use by the public authorities themselves."

Conclusion

By not holding RTI awareness, the government is not only defeating the institution of RTI in J&K, but depriving people of freedom of expression and speech as well. The government will have an excuse of Covid-19, but what has stopped it from having online sessions on Zoom, Skype, Google Meet, etc? If the government was sincere, hundreds of officials could have been trained through these online platforms in the last 18 months. Why can't the Govt do it now? Let the Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners and HoD's be given a clear direction to hold at least 2 to 3 RTI workshops in a month for people and Govt officials both.

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

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Unscientific Vaccine Hesitancy in Health Care Workers

On April 20 2021, three months after the vaccination drive against Covid-19 started in Jammu and Kashmir, there was a report published in The Hindu revealing that only 54.41% of healthcare workers, that include doctors, had been vaccinated in the Union Territory. While Jammu has inoculated 63.63% of doctors and paramedical staff, Srinagar had been able to vaccinate 49.56% of healthcare workers. District Bandipora had inoculated 42.88% of healthcare staff while district Ganderbal had vaccinated 42.65% of their staff. It is pertinent to mention that the vaccination was first opened for frontline workers only which included healthcare workers. Also, by the virtue of their work, the healthcare staff works at the places where vaccination drives were

held. Therefore, the inaccessibility or difficulty in getting the vaccination can be easily ruled out.

The low percentage of vaccination of healthcare workers seems to be coming from the rumours going on that vaccination is not safe. While publicly, all healthcare workers, including doctors, have been motivating people to get vaccinated, and in many cases, they have used their own example of vaccination to inspire confidence. However, the existing official data says more than half of them in Kashmir have been lying. There were many reasons as to why the government had first restricted vaccination to the healthcare workers. One of them was the fact that they have to deal with Covid positive patients. The vaccination would

make them immune to getting infected by the virus and they could deal with the patients without putting their lives at risk. Another reason, as the common people, saw in it was that it inspired confidence in the vaccination in an era of the plethora of information and disinformation that is present on the internet. Since doctors themselves study about and deal with viruses and vaccination, if they would take the job without hesitation, the general populace had no reason to doubt the vaccination process.

As the government opens vaccination to all adults from 28 April 2021, it should have first got its healthcare staff fully vaccinated so that it could inspire confidence among the masses. If half of the people who are armed with all the proper

information about Coronavirus and the vaccination process are not getting vaccinated, the general population would get the impression that there is something really wrong with it. It is either that the government has not been able to convince the healthcare workers in Jammu and Kashmir about the safety of the vaccination or the healthcare workers do not believe in the science of vaccination anymore. If despite the existing information about the vaccination, the doctors and other healthcare workers cannot make up their mind to get vaccinated, they have failed science.

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Gone For A Toss

Impact of Social media on Student's Writing Skills

VIJAY GARG

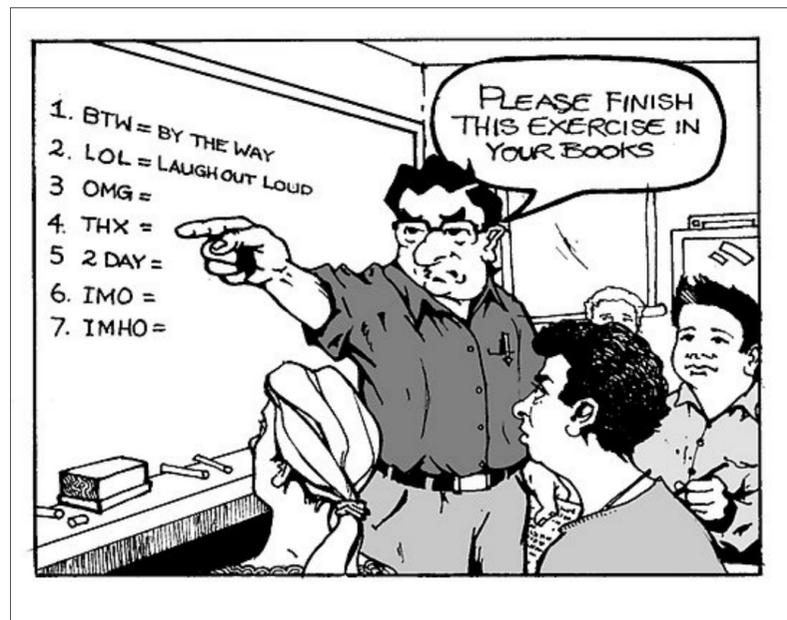
I sometimes feel like I'm dependent on my phone. I use my phone on a regular basis and have to go from text language to writing something for school. It sometimes gets me confused with what words I should use. I know that if I go through a long period of time texting like the summer, I start to incorporate some of the ways I would type in a text into my schoolwork and the way I talk

While it may seem to some that social media is helping students, it is actually true that social media is causing writing to worsen. Student's writing has been affected by social media and is causing teenagers to become lazier, encourages "tech talk", and limits the student's communication skills. Nine out of ten teenagers use social media (Huffington Post). With this epidemic, the way students are writing is taking a turn for the worst.

One cannot disregard that social media is going to affect lives. For a teenager that means that they're constantly on their phones. I know from my own experiences that a cell phone can be a distraction and causes me to become lethargic. Teens have to switch from text lingo to writing a paper for an English class. Students have to be able to switch from text lingo to proper English, but they are not able to flip the switch. The constant use of text talk carries on not only into writing but also the way you talk. Social media and text messages are "consistently associated with the use of particularly informal written communication techniques, along with formatting problems, nonstandard orthography, and grammatical errors" according to a 2010 report by Clarion University. Some of these words and lingo have been added to the dictionary and are changing the way that teenagers speak. In addition, 64 percent of students reported inadvertently using a form of shorthand native to texting or social networking in their writing (Pew Internet & American Life Project). This also brings up the issue of social media encouraging people to spell things wrong, because some people just don't even care about the way they're spelling things. Students are not able to go from informal writing to formal writing, causing writing to worsen.

Besides all these ideas, students are not able to communicate their thoughts on paper in their writing and in communicating. This is to their writing. They use social media to help the students get feedback and assistance. Likewise, students are able to share their works on social media and get commentary quickly, rather than waiting for a long time. At the same time, social media is helping and has a positive effect on students.

From my own experiences as a teenager, I sometimes feel like I'm dependent on my phone. I use my



phone on a regular basis and have to go from text language to writing something for school. It sometimes gets me confused with what words I should use. I know that if I go through a long period of time texting like the summer, I start to incorporate some of the ways I would type in a text into my schoolwork and the way I talk. I have to mentally flip the switch, but other teens aren't realizing that.

In conclusion social media is present in everyday lives. It's causing teenagers to be more careless with

their writing, and when will the social media switch turn off? Social media causes writing to worsen, but can also have a positive effect. At the same time, students should be able to balance their social media lingo and lifestyle with the real world and writing.

The author is a retired principal Government Girls Senior Secondary School, MHR Malout Punjab

The Science Behind the Tsunami

After early success, India's daily COVID infections have surpassed the US and Brazil. Why?

NATHAN BARTLETT

Last week, the chief executive of Pfizer said anyone who receives its COVID-19 vaccine will probably need to have a third dose within 6-12 months after being fully immunised, and then likely one dose every year going forward.

We'll need these because it's likely that, for many of us, immunity will begin to wane within that time frame. The vaccine will also need to be tweaked to cover new coronavirus variants as they emerge.

The advantage of mRNA vaccines like Pfizer's is they're much easier to update than the "viral vector" vaccines like AstraZeneca's. We should still use AstraZeneca now for over-50s, but our best long-term strategy is to use mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, and therefore to develop the capacity to manufacture them here in Australia.

Immunity to coronaviruses doesn't last

We know our immunity to different coronaviruses wanes over time. This is true for the four common cold (endemic) coronaviruses that circulate all the time — there are always sufficient numbers of people who have lost their immunity to ensure these viruses can persist and continue to cause respiratory illnesses.

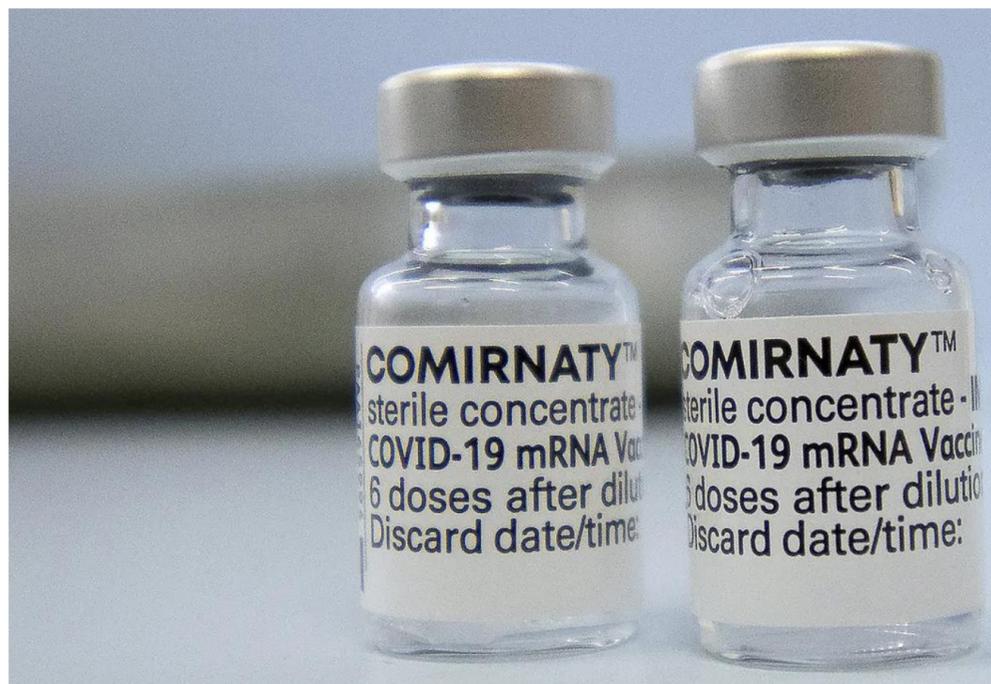
Our immunity to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, also seems to wane quickly, although the rate at which this happens can be quite variable. Data suggest immunity acquired from the Pfizer shot is pretty robust for six months, but it isn't clear how quickly our immunity is lost after that. However, it's reasonable to predict that within 12 months of a population being vaccinated, a substantial number of people will have likely lost protection against SARS-CoV-2. This will particularly be the case if the prevalent SARS-CoV-2 strain circulating at that time is substantially different from the virus against which people were originally vaccinated.

This relates to the fact that some coronavirus variants have mutations that reduce the effectiveness of vaccine-induced immunity. They've been described as "variants of concern" and include a virus that originated in South Africa, which has reduced the efficacy of both the AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines. As the pandemic surges around the world, more variants will certainly crop up.

Both waning immunity and viral variants will conspire to reduce our protection over time. So we'll need booster shots, ideally updated to deal with the viral variant that poses the greatest threat.

Using AstraZeneca is not our best long-term solution

I understand why Australia's government originally prioritised getting the AstraZeneca vaccine. It's easier to manufacture, store and distribute. It made sense in the ear-



One word that has dominated discussions about why cases have increased again is laaparavaahee (in Hindi), or "negligence". The negligence is made out to be the fault of individuals not wearing masks and social distancing, but that is only part of the story

ly stages of the pandemic. And it's still an effective vaccine that people, here and abroad, should be receiving as soon as possible — any immunity is better than none and you will

certainly be protected from severe COVID-19. But as time goes on, using the AstraZeneca shot isn't the best long-term strategy.

One reason for this is what immunologists call "vector immunity". The AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines use a viral vector, which is an inactivated (cannot replicate) form of a common type of virus called an "adenovirus". They use this adenovirus as a delivery vehicle to get DNA into our cells to give them the instructions to develop immunity against the coronavirus. However, you can't be repeatedly immunised with this type of vaccine because you'll likely develop immunity to the adenovirus vector (the delivery vehicle) itself. When that happens your immune system interferes with the delivery vehicle getting into your cells and the effectiveness of these vaccines would erode over time.

What's more, in a very, very small number of people, this viral vector seems to be linked with an extremely rare but serious blood clotting syndrome. In these people, it's thought that a consequence of the immune response to the viral vector is their immune systems make "auto-antibodies". These are antibodies that, in addition to fighting a foreign invader (or targeting the adenovirus-based vector used in the AstraZeneca vaccine), also

attack our own cells. In this case, these auto-antibodies are attacking blood cells called platelets, leading to the blood clots and low platelet counts seen in around 1 in 250,000 people vaccinated with the AstraZeneca shot.

There are also clotting concerns with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is also an adenovirus-vector-based vaccine, after six women developed the condition in the United States out of 6.8 million given the shot. However, this link is yet to be proven for this vaccine.

By contrast, mRNA vaccines like Pfizer's (and Moderna's) can be updated much more quickly. Pfizer just needs to rework its RNA sequence to cover variants, which is a minor modification. Nothing changes about the delivery system of the vaccine, so reapproval will likely be much easier. Regulatory bodies have indicated there will be a quick path for approval for vaccines updated for variants.

The mRNA vaccines consist of a lipid-based delivery system that protects the mRNA and gets it into cells. Then, the cells can start manufacturing the spike protein to present to your immune system. There's no protein in the vaccine itself, so there's no chance of developing immunity to the vaccine components.

Our immunity to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, also seems to wane quickly, although the rate at which this happens can be quite variable. Data suggest immunity acquired from the Pfizer shot is pretty robust for six months, but it isn't clear how quickly our immunity is lost after that

mRNA vaccines are our best bet going forward

There's a fear among researchers, including myself, that we'll be chasing our tails with these new variants. We'll identify a new variant and set out to update our vaccines against it, but by the time the formulation is updated, approved, manufactured and distributed, we may already be dealing with another variant, or many variants across different locations.

It's absolutely vital Australia develops the ability to make mRNA vaccines onshore, particularly if new variants pop up here or in our region. This will be far more effective than waiting months to get new shots from overseas.

Federal health minister Greg Hunt has indicated Australia is interested in developing this capacity.

Right now, the AstraZeneca vaccine still has a role in Australia's current vaccine strategy. We have it and we can make more of it, so let's get it out there for over-50s as well as give those under 50 the opportunity to make an informed choice to have this vaccine.

So few Australians currently have immunity to the virus, we remain vulnerable to outbreaks. If there are new outbreaks, we would have to rely on lockdowns, masks and other strategies again, and could find ourselves back to where we were last year. And let's not forget people will become ill and some will die. The vaccine rollout is lagging, and we really need to catch up as soon as possible.

But as time goes on, the AstraZeneca vaccine will become less attractive, and mRNA vaccines such as Pfizer's should eventually take its place.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Explained: How long can COVID-19 vaccine protect you from the virus? Here's what experts say

Agencies

How long does protection from COVID-19 vaccines last?

Experts don't know yet because they're still studying vaccinated people to see when protection might wear off. How well the vaccines work against emerging variants will also determine if, when and how often additional shots might be needed.

"We only have information for as long as the vaccines have been studied," said Deborah Fuller, a vaccine researcher at the University of Washington. We have to study the vaccinated population and start to see, at what point do people become vulnerable again to the virus?

So far, Pfizer's ongoing trial indicates the company's two-dose vaccine remains highly effective for at least six months, and likely longer. People who got Moderna's vaccine also still had notable levels of virus-fighting antibodies six months after the second required shot.

Antibodies also don't tell the whole story. To fight off intruders like viruses, our immune systems also have another line of defence called B and T cells, some of which can hang around long after antibody levels dwindle. If they encounter the same virus in the future, those battle-tested

cells could potentially spring into action more quickly.

Even if they don't prevent illness entirely, they could help blunt its severity. But exactly what role such memory cells might play with the coronavirus - and for how long - isn't yet known.

While the current COVID-19 vaccines will likely last for at least about a year, they probably won't offer lifelong protection, as with measles shots, said Dr. Kathleen Neuzil, a vaccine expert at the University of Maryland.

It's going to be somewhere in the middle of that very wide range, she said.

Variants are another reason we might need an additional shot.

The current vaccines are designed to work against a particular spike protein on the coronavirus, said Mehul Suthar of the Emory Vaccine Center. If the virus mutates enough over time, vaccines might need to be updated to boost their effectiveness.

So far, the vaccines appear protective against the notable variants that have emerged, though somewhat less so on the one first detected in South Africa.

If it turns out we need another shot, a single dose could extend protection of the current shots or contain vaccination for one or more variants.



The need for follow-up shots will also depend partly on the success of the vaccination push globally, and tamping down transmission of the virus and emerging variants.

Pfizer's ongoing trial indicates the company's two-dose vaccine remains highly effective for at least six months, and likely longer. People who got Moderna's vaccine also still had notable levels of virus-fighting antibodies six months after the second required shot

Study lists factors enabling bacteria to survive on kitchen, hospital counters

Agencies

A team of researchers identified critical factors that enable dangerous bacteria to spread disease by surviving on surfaces in hospitals and kitchens.

The study published in the journal PLOS Biology focuses into the mechanisms which enable the opportunistic human pathogen *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* to survive on surfaces and could lead to new ways of targeting harmful bacteria.

To survive outside their host, pathogenic bacteria must withstand various environmental stresses. One mechanism is the sugar molecule, trehalose, which is associated with a range of external stresses, particularly osmotic shock - sudden changes to the salt concentration surrounding cells.

Researchers at the John Innes Centre analysed how trehalose is metabo-

lised by *P. aeruginosa* to define its role in protection against external stresses. Combining analytical biochemistry and reverse genetics - using mutated bacteria lacking key functions - they show that trehalose metabolism in *P. aeruginosa* is connected to the biosynthesis of the carbon storage molecule glycogen.

Experiments showed that disruption of either trehalose or glycogen pathways significantly reduced the ability of *P. aeruginosa* to survive on man-made surfaces such as the kitchen or hospital counters.

The study found that while both trehalose and glycogen are important for stress tolerance in *P. aeruginosa* they counter distinct stresses: trehalose helps the bacteria to survive in conditions of elevated salt; glycogen contributes to survival in dry (desiccated) environments.

The findings raise the possibility of targeting the trehalose and glycogen

pathways to limit pathogen survival on man-made surfaces.

"We have shown how a dangerous human pathogen *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* responds to environmental challenges, such as salt stress or drying out. Disrupting the production of certain stress-tolerance sugars in this bug significantly reduces its ability to survive on kitchen and hospital work surfaces," said the corresponding author of the study Dr. Jacob Malone.

An unexpected finding was how the bacteria operates different pathways for different stresses, said Dr. Malone. "Conventional wisdom says that trehalose was responsible for both phenotypes, but we have shown that trehalose only protects against osmo-stress and glycogen is needed to protect against desiccation. We were also surprised to see such a marked drop in surface survival when we disrupted the pathways in the bugs."

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Tele: 01942476816; 01942485175 (fax) Sgr / 01912479692; 01912479643 (fax) Jammu

Expression of Interest for providing PoL/fuel to the Departmental Vehicles of Directorate of Information & Public Relations, J&K, Srinagar/ Jammu

Sealed Expression of Interest (Eol) are invited from the owners of reputed filling stations of HPCL/BPCL/IOCL located in the twin cities of Srinagar and Jammu for providing fuel (Diesel/Petrol/M. Oil POL) to departmental vehicles (LMVs) of the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, J&K. The Expression of Interest should reach to the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, J&K, Rail Head, Bahu Palaza, Jammu by or before 27.04.2021

The interested filling stations owners shall into an agreement of providing fuel (Diesel/Petrol/M. Oil POL) to departmental vehicles (LMVs) of the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, J&K for a period of one year to commence from the date of agreement as per the following terms and conditions:

1. The Filling Station Owner shall ensure proper and timely supply of fuel (Diesel/Petrol/M. Oil POL) to departmental vehicles (LMVs) of the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, J&K.
2. The billing of payment for supply of fuel on monthly shall be settled in the first week of the next month.
3. The prevailing market rates against the POL shall be final / unchanged and shall remain the same till the period of agreement.

Sd/-

(Rahul Pandey) IAS
Director Information & PR

No: INF/Tpt-29/2021/313-16

Dated: 2.6 -04-2021

DIPK-880/21

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL ABDUL AHAD AZAD MEMORIAL DEGREE COLLEGE BEMINA CLUSTER UNIVERSITY SRINAGAR.

NAAC Re-Accredited Grade 'A'

Website: www.gdcbemina.com, Email: gdcbemina@gmail.com

AAAMDCB/CUS/21/748

Dated: 26/04/2021

ADMISSION NOTICE

The applicants who have been selected by Cluster University of Srinagar for admission to UG Programmes of BA/B.Sc./B.Com at Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College Bemina are informed to complete the college level admission formalities mainly choice filling of subject combinations and admission fee at <http://www.admaamdcbin/form/home.html> from 29th of April to 9th of May up to 4:00 pm.

The schedule for submission of hard copies of documents and verification will be issued separately. At present, there is no need to visit the college personally.

DIPK-924/21

Principal

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

Tel/Fax: 0194-2433590- , 2437647 (srinagar) : 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
website: <http://www.iakbopee.org> email: ceoiakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: - Extension in time for deposition of Representations by the candidates who have applied for admission to B.Ed. (Kashmir in IASE) / B.Ed. (Special Education in CRC) Courses Srinagar-2021: objections, thereof.

Reference: Notification No. 053-BOPEE of 2021 dated 15-04-2021;

Notice No: 043-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 26-04-2021

It is notified for information of all the concerned candidates that the last date for deposition of representations, if any, and submission of deficient documents by the candidates for admission to B.Ed. in Institute of Advance Studies in Education (formally Govt. College of Education) M.A Road, Srinagar & B.Ed. (Special Education) in Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Bemina, Srinagar 2021 notified vide Notification No. 053-BOPEE of 2021 dated 15-04-2021 is hereby extended up to 30-04-2021 at 4.00 PM. The candidate(s), if any, who fail to submit the deficient documents within the prescribed time, their candidature shall be treated as cancel on their own risk and responsibility.

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as laid down in the above referred to notification.
E&OE

DIPK-NB-494/21

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

No. BOPEE/Exam-03/2021

Dated: 26-04-2021

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SUMBAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No. 07/ET/R&B/SUMBAL of 04/2021.
(Single Cover System)

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of Tile path and Devri Gate for Sultan Badshah Asthan Alia Manz Mohalla Ward No.10 M.C Sumbal, (Phase Ist)	7.74	300/-	30 Days	Normal	CEE/DEE
2	Development of M.C Sumbal Office Hall by way of Construction of Aluminium Partitions.	6.20	300/-	15 Days	Normal	CEE/DEE
3	Construction of 2 No Soakage (trench) at Chan Mohalla near Imambara H/O M. Yousuf Dar, Mohd Yaqoob Dar, Zulfiqar Dar and Fayaz Ahmad Dar at M.C Sumbal.	1.30	200/-	15 Days	Normal	DEE
4	Construction of Tile path from Bashir Ahmad Taknoo to H/O Mohd Akbar Taknoo, Gh. Hassan Taknoo and others at Ward No.12, Gunzri Mohalla (M.C Sumbal).	1.75	200/-	10 Days	Normal	DEE
5	Construction of road by way of Nallah Muck from Culvert to dumping site phase (Ist) M.C Sumbal.	3.68	200/-	15 Days	14 th F.C	DEE

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds: Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	26.04.2021 from 9.00 A.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	26.04.2021 from 10.00 A.M.
4	Bid Submission End Date	03.05.2021 upto 4.00 P.M.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	04.05.2021 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal

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

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

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

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

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

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

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

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

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

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

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. Price escalation and Taxes:- The %age quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

12. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

DIPK-866/21

Sd./
Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Division Sumbal
/R.MIR/

No. R&B/Sbl/21/181-87.

Dated: -24-04-2021.

CAIT Seeks Action Against Amazon, Flipkart Over Non-Essential Supplies



Agencies

MUMBAI: "They have now started taking undue advantage of the pandemic by making illegitimate financial gains by supplying non-essential items which have been strictly prohibited by many state administrations due to ongoing lockdowns to prevent the spread of Covid-19," said the letter written by CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khan-

delwal. The traders' body alleged that amidst the pandemic, the e-commerce players are trying to capture the market share from small traders by defining every item as essential including mobile phones and accessories.

CAIT also said that the government should bring in "a new press note with clarifications with regards to what is permitted and prohibited for marketplace e-commerce entities, to expedite the process and save the industry for the ulterior motives of these foreign entities".

It also blamed the government of turning a blind eye to the "violations" of the e-commerce giants as they are "larger than life corporations".

Fuel Prices Unchanged As Covid Surge Keeps Crude Stable

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Accordingly, pump price of petrol and diesel remained at Rs 90.40 a litre and Rs 80.73 a litre respectively in Delhi. It is the 13th consecutive day when fuel prices have not been revised.

The price of the two auto fuels had fallen by 16 paise and 14 paise per litre respectively on April 15 after a 15 day break when OMCs kept its prices static. Thereafter revision of fuel prices have been halted.

Across the country as well, the petrol and diesel price remained unchanged on Tuesday but its retail levels varied depending on the level of local levies in respective states.

Premium petrol, however, continues to remain over Rs 100 a litre in Mumbai and several other cities across the country.

The OMCs went on price cut for the first time this year on two consecutive days -- March 24 and 25 after keeping oil prices steady for past 24 days. Price was again reduced



on March 30. Thereafter, fuel prices have remained unchanged for past 15 days before falling again on April 15.

In all petrol prices have fallen by 77 paise per litre while diesel by 74 paise per litre in 2021 so far.

Earlier, petrol and diesel prices increased 26 times in 2021 with the two auto fuels increasing by Rs 7.46 and Rs 7.60 per litre respectively so far this year.

With global crude prices at around \$66 a barrel mark, OMCs may have to revise fuel prices upwards again if there is any further firming up. OMCs benchmark retail fuel prices to a 15-day rolling average of global refined products' prices and dollar exchange rate.

NBFC Body Urges RBI To Allow Loan Restructuring

MUMBAI: The NBFC body, in its letter to the RBI Governor, said that the borrower accounts, which are 'standard' accounts as on March 31, 2021, may be allowed restructuring without any downgrade in asset classification, subject, however, to the lending NBFCs undertaking fresh credit assessment of the borrowing entity.

It requested the RBI to consider advising banks and financial institutions to allow one-time restructuring of loans given by them to small NBFCs only (NBFCs with total asset size of less than Rs 500 crore).

The FIDC further urged the central bank to increase the overall support outlay to AIFIs from Rs 50,000 crore to at least Rs 75,000 crore.

"While the existing allocation for other sectors may continue at their prescribed limits, the additional Rs 25,000 crore may be made

available exclusively to medium and small NBFCs, through SIDBI, for period of 3 years," it said.

Sonam Chandwani, Managing Partner at KS Legal & Associates said that in the midst of the second wave of Covid-19, the NBFCs are more likely to be knocked back than before, therefore, permission for loan restructuring and liquidity support from the RBI would offload immense pressure off small and medium-sized NBFCs.

"Moreover, considering the fact that NBFCs are highly risk averse, flow of liquidity would undoubtedly enable consumers and small firms to heave a sigh of relief. Also, though the lockdown has witnessed saving of only a minimal class of the population, cash crunch is still evident, thereby permitting loan restructuring could avoid coercive recovery measures," she said.



Resurgence In Covid-19 Cases Cast Dark Shadow On Various Sectors

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The second Covid-19 wave has derailed recovery of multiple sectors, including automobiles, aviation and construction, that were cruising towards normalcy. The battered auto industry witnessed significant improvement during October-February of the previous financial year (FY21), but is now going through a slump phase.

Likewise, sentiments in the housing sector are slowly moving towards the negative zone. As for the aviation sector, domestic air traffic has already fallen by more than half in recent days and industry executives expect rising Covid-19 cases and increasing lockdown restriction from various states will remain an overhang on air traffic, derail-

ing its recovery.

"Walk-ins at showrooms are down by over 50 per cent and fresh bookings have dried up completely," Vinkesh Gulati, president of auto dealer body FADA told this publication. "The passenger vehicle (PV) segment is placed better as we have bookings for 2-3 months, but the two-wheeler segment is in a bad shape as inventory level here is very high at about 60-70 days but sales have rock-bottomed," he added.

According to Gulati, PV retail sales will fall month-on-month in April and overall auto sales in Q1FY22 would be lower by 30 per cent when compared with sales during Q1FY2020, he said. The sector may now recover only in the third quarter of this fiscal. Coming to housing sector, in-

dustry executives believe that the April-June quarter will get impacted due to the rampant spread of the virus. "The second wave is not expected to end the good run that we saw in the recent months but will be a blip that would last for 2-3 months," said Anuj Puri, Chairman - ANAROCK Property Consultants.

Sales may fall by 10-15 per cent in Mumbai region but will recover in the subsequent quarters as cases recede. Similarly, the resurgence in Covid-19 cases has cast a dark shadow on the aviation sector with the top three airlines expected to log net losses of Rs 10,000 crore this year, say analysts. "The industry is seeing a drop of 30 per cent in booking, when compared to March numbers," said Nishant Pitti, co-founder of EaseMyTrip.

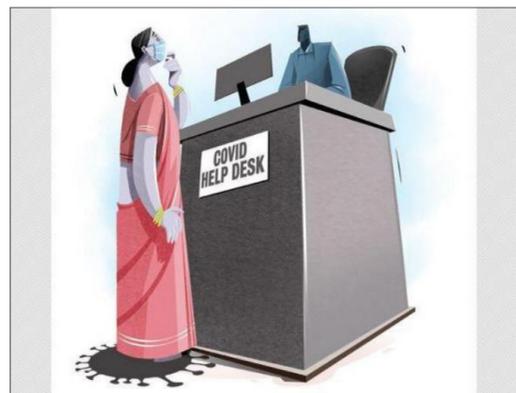
Government Sets Up Helpdesk To Streamline Process Of Exports And Imports Of Essential Goods

Agencies

NEW DELHI: In a bid to streamline the process of exports and imports of essential items like oxygen, Covid-19 drugs and other related items, the commerce ministry on Monday said it has started a Covid-19 helpdesk. The helpdesk is aimed at speedy resolution of issues of exporters and importers pertaining to international trade such as customs clearance delays and banking matters, apart from clearing various documentation processes, according to an official statement.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), an arm of the commerce ministry, will monitor the status of exports and imports, and difficulties being faced by trade stakeholders in view of the surge in Covid-19 cases. The decision was taken after various trade stakeholders sought suitable resolutions to issues arising in respect of international trade. "Helpdesk would also collect and collate trade related issues concerning other ministries/departments/ agencies of central and state governments and will coordinate to seek their support and provide possible resolution," the ministry said.

To handhold the trade relating to clearances, an online form has been created to seek details in a structured format and redress



the grievances. "The status of resolutions and feedback may be tracked using the status tracker under the DGFT helpdesk services. Email and SMS would also be sent as and when the status are updated," it added.

The government on Saturday exempted basic customs duty on import of COVID vaccine, medical-grade oxygen and related equipment to boost domestic availability and make them cheaper. Accordingly, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had directed its officers to clear all import consignments, including life-saving

drugs and oxygen equipment, used in Covid-19 treatment on the highest priority. "It is requested that all customs formations may be sensitised of the urgency of this matter and may be directed to give high priority for customs clearance of import of Covid-related goods," it noted.

Names of officials made public
CBIC has already made public the names and contact details of nodal officers for facilitating Covid-19 customs assistance to trade. The apex decision-making body has asked all customs zones to clear such items in the shortest possible time.

GST Return Verification Through OTP Allowed

Agencies

The government has provided relief to GST taxpayers from a physical visit to tax office for verification of digital signature required on return forms. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has allowed taxpayers to file return

code (EVC) that would be a kind of one time password (OTP). This would eliminate the need to verify the returns forms filed by taxpayers through digital signature by visitation to GST offices.

According to the CBIC notification, EVC facility to authenticate returns filed under the two forms will be available to



forms GSTR-1 and GSTR 3B through an electronic verification from April 27 to May 31.

Reserve Bank Of India Caps Tenure Of Private Bank CEOs At 15 Years



Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India on Monday capped both the tenure and age limit for senior management including that of chairmen in all private banks. While the cap for non-executive directors, and chairman is set at 75 years, their tenure is fixed for 8 years. They can rejoin after 3 years, if found fit.

Likewise, the posts of Managing Director (MD), Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as well as Whole Time Directors (WTD) are capped at not more than 15 years. These new norms will be applicable for all private sector banks including small finance banks and wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign banks. However, foreign banks with branches are excluded.

Banks have to implement this by October 1. The upper age limit is fixed at 70 years. Besides, MDs & CEOs or WTDs who have already completed 12 or 15 years by October 1, are allowed to complete their current term. The circular is an outcome of the discussion paper issued last June to review the framework for governance in commercial banks to address a few operative aspects.

"It is clarified that the extant instructions on upper age limit for MD & CEO and WTDs in the private sector banks would continue and no person can continue as MD & CEO or WTD beyond the age of 70 years. Within the overall limit of 70 years, as part of their internal policy, individual banks' Boards are free to prescribe a lower retirement age for the WTDs, including the MD & CEO. MD & CEO or WTD who is also a promoter/major shareholder, cannot hold these posts for more than 12 years. However, in extraordinary circumstances, at the sole discretion of the Reserve Bank such MD & CEO or WTDs may be allowed to continue up to 15 years," it noted.

Individuals will be eligible for re-appointment as MD & CEO or WTD in the same bank, if considered necessary and desirable by the board, after a gap of three years, subject to meeting other conditions. During this cooling period, they shall not be appointed or associated with the bank or its group entities in any capacity, either directly or indirectly.

Toyota Acquires Lyft's Self-Driving Unit For \$550 Million



Agencies

TOKYO: Toyota Motor Corp. has acquired the self-driving division of American ride-hailing company Lyft for \$550 million, in a move that highlights the Japanese automaker's ambitions in that technology.

The acquisition, announced Tuesday, was carried out by Woven Planet Holdings, a Toyota subsidiary that began business in January and focuses on innovations and investment in projects such as "smart cities," robotics and automated driving.

Of the payment, \$200 million will be paid upfront, and \$350 million over a five-year period, according to Toyota.

The Woven Planet project will bring together engineers and researchers in mobility services, software and sensor assets and automated driving systems to further develop the technology, according to Toyota.

"This deal will be key in weaving together the people, resources, and infrastructure that will help us to transform the world we live in through mobility technologies that can bring about a happier, safer future for us all," said Woven Planet Chief Executive James Kuffner.

Woven Planet is driving towards its mission to combine the innovative culture of Silicon Valley with world-renowned Japanese craftsmanship to create the mobility solutions of the future," said George Kellerman, who oversees investments at Woven Planet.

All the world's top automakers are working on technology to make vehicles smarter, cleaner and more connected. Lyft, founded in 2012, offers a ride-sharing and rental network.

Also Tuesday, Toyota announced it will work with Japanese automakers Suzuki Motor Corp., which makes small cars, Subaru Corp., Daihatsu Motor Co. and Mazda Motor Corp. on next-generation vehicle communications devices.

SHORT TAKES

Kia Motors India Is Now Kia India

NEW DELHI: Kia India has announced the relaunch of its brand in India with a focus on illuminating its transition from an automaker to a provider of advanced and eco-friendly mobility solutions.

Kia India, which is wholly owned by Kia Corporation, introduces the company's refashioned logo and brand slogan, "Movement that inspires".

The versatile compact SUV Seltos and the subcompact crossover SUV Sonet, both of which are updated for the Indian market under the newly stylized logo, will be unveiled to the market in the first week of May, 2021.

During the brand showcase, Kookhyun Shim, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Kia India unveiled the refreshed Seltos with the new Kia logo.



Signalling the bold transition, the company name has changed from Kia Motors India to Kia India, dropping "Motors," which symbolizes Kia becoming an enterprise that invests in and produces more than

just vehicles to offer a long range of sustainable mobility solutions.

"In the Indian context, the brand slogan "Movement that inspires" represents Kia's ambitious plans for leading the future

mobility revolution in the country with premium products equipped with unique design and segment-first features, advanced digitized services complemented by one of the largest networks by any new entrant brand in the country. In line with the change, Kia India also intends to attain full capacity utilization of its state-of-art manufacturing facility in Anantapur in a move to facilitate faster production and delivery of its vehicles."

New Brand Slogan - "Movement that inspires" is at the heart of Kia's new brand purpose of inspiring consumers through products, services, and their experiences with the brand. Kia's new brand slogan emphasizes that movement is at the genesis of human development. It enables people to see new places, to meet new people, and to have new experiences. This connection is the essence of

Kia's new brand slogan, to enable human progress by providing innovative in-car spaces, exciting new products, and meaningful, convenient services that inspire customers and free up time for the activities that they enjoy the most.

The new logo of Kia is a symbol of the new brand slogan and values it promises to offer customers through future products, services, and the experiences these enable. Kia seals its brand promise by developing the new logo to resemble a handwritten signature. The rhythmical, unbroken line of the logo conveys Kia's commitment to bringing moments of inspiration, while its symmetry demonstrates confidence. The rising gestures of the logo embody Kia's rising ambitions for the brand, and, more importantly, what it offers to the customers.

SRO Kashmir

in Delhi and other Indian states.

Kashmir administration says it's ready to tackle all the challenges and has made sufficient arrangements to face the second wave.

However, reports suggest that Kashmir's primary tertiary-care hospital may run short of space and services if the number of Covid patients continues to grow at the present rate.

To support the health infrastructure, many welfare bodies have joined the government to fight this pandemic on the community level.

Among them, SRO Kashmir has been at the forefront to avert the humanitarian crisis created by Covid from last year when Kashmir got its first Covid positive case.

Soon as the authorities put the entire Srinagar under strict restrictions, people found it hard to buy essentials and avail healthcare services.

In the backdrop of this distress situation, a Srinagar-based social activist thought of doing something for the needy.

Mohammed Afaaq Sayeed from Srinagar first created a group on Facebook to help people to fight the fallouts of the pandemic virus and to create awareness about it.

"We created that group after a lot of brainstorming with my colleagues and friends, including doctors, journalists and traders," Sayeed recalls.

"And the response was overwhelming. Within a month we reached the membership of over 16,000 people, which has risen to 22,000 now."

The admin of the group under the name of 'Coronavirus Watch J&K' used to post the things related to coronavirus, seeking suggestions from the doctors about Dos and Don'ts.

Soon the group started receiving distress calls from people regarding the shortage of food and other essentials.

"A lot of people were asking for help and many others were willing to donate for the cause," Sayeed recalls. "We decided to help people, but lacked team."

It was then Sayeed approached the SRO Kashmir for the cause which one year down the line would not only touch countless lives, but also become a synergic community response from Kashmir.

Sayeed's move was measured, as SRO Kashmir had a history of relief and rehabilitation works, especially after a massive earthquake struck Kashmir in 2005.

The welfare body was also active on the ground during the 2014 floods, when the overflowing Jhelum made muck and mess of the South Asia's second oldest city—Srinagar.

"Initially, we would collect donations from locals and try to resolve the issue in and around Batamaloo," says Javed A. Dar, chairman and the founding member of SRO Kashmir.

"But as the situational crisis became frequent in Kashmir, we decided to spread out with the helping hand."

During political lockdowns in recent past, the welfare body helped people by arranging ambulances, medicines and other essentials.

Sayeed used the same crisis-mitigation experience, expertise and infrastructure of SRO Kashmir to deal with the pandemic pathos.

"But to avoid the rush of the people in contagion, we had to temporarily shift the office to another place," Sayeed says.

Initially, the welfare body was able to deliver food kits to over 1500 families at their doorsteps. The food was sufficient for a family of six for a month.

After months of food program, the NGO started helping expecting mothers with nutrition kits and other needy items, based on the proper prescription of gynecologists.

"Our woman volunteers handled the program very efficiently and everything went on smoothly," Sayeed says.

After months of helping people through various programs, the group finally decided to "prepare for worst".

The shift in the strategy came after the strict Covid restrictions were eased out in the valley.

As shops and other business establishments were reopened, people started taking the virus lightly. Soon, more and more cases were reported along with the rising Covid casualties.

"So keeping this thing in mind," Sayeed continues, "we had another video session where many doctors including based outside India suggested that we should procure oxygen concentrators as most of the hospitals were running short of that."

SRO Kashmir soon put aside all its programs and decided to work on the Oxygen Kashmir program.

In the first attempt, it procured around 100 oxygen cylinders, which has now risen up to over 200 bulk, high-flow oxygen cylinders.

Within a few days, people with Covid-19 symptoms felt the dire need of oxygen. And as the hospitals were unable to cater the demand, SRO Kashmir chipped in, and helped people with oxygen concentrators.

"We would get around 50-100 distress calls every day and night," Dar says. "People were in dire need of oxygen. And we kept ourselves on our toes and tried to fill the void."

Since its inception, 'Oxygen Program' supported more than 750 patients at hospitals and homes.

As more and more people knew about SRO Kashmir's 'Save the Breath' initiative, they started donating for the cause.

Other than bank transfers, the team also got 'Sadqah and Zakat' in kind — like rice, edible oil, spices, tea, etc. for the needy section of the society.

"Such was the response that our volunteer team even received chocolates and other eatables from our donors," Sayeed says.

"This boosted our morale and our intention of doing more for the public welfare."

Under the same program, SRO Kashmir has also reached out to many COVID positive patients with life-saving drugs and other medical equipment.

For touching peoples' lives, the welfare body mostly drew emotional response from the strife-ridden community.

On August 14, 2020, a woman from Downtown Srinagar donated a gold ring for SRO Kashmir's "Oxygen Kashmir" campaign.

Sayeed terms the gesture as an overwhelming moment for the members.

"She had come to our office to return an oxygen concentrator which she had taken for

her ailing family member few weeks ago," he recalls.

During the same time, Sayeed received another distress call from a girl at around 12 in the night.

The anxious girl was crying on the phone as her mother was "about to die".

"Her mother was in dire need of oxygen but it was too late," Sayeed recounts. "Our volunteers were asleep and the office was closed. So I drove the car and arranged the oxygen cylinder for the woman."

On the next day, the group received the call that the woman is alive and doing well as they could arrange the oxygen on time.

"This gave us so much happiness that we are able to save someone's life," Sayeed smiles.

Similarly, when a teenager from Srinagar died in a road accident last year, his father came to SRO Kashmir's office to hand over Rs 3600 retrieved from his dead son's pocket.

"The money had blood stains of his son," Sayeed recalls. "Rather than keeping them as his dead son's souvenir, he told us that only you deserve this." Such moments kept boosting the confidence of the members of the welfare body amid stressful situation.

In October last year, a woman donated Rs 42000 in cash for the NGO to procure an oxygen concentrator.

"She wanted to dedicate and donate the equipment in the name and memory of her recently deceased father," Sayeed says.

"There are countless such emotional moments where donors donated warmly."

But apart from 'saving breaths' in Kashmir, SRO Kashmir also arranged more than 160 Plasma donors for Covid patients through its 'Plasma for Kashmir' program.

The group has a separate team for motivating the donors for their lifesaving plasma. "Everything goes through website," Sayeed says, adding that they facilitate and arrange everything for donors.

Plus, SRO Kashmir's free 24x7 ambulance service has been ferrying more than 800 patients every month on an average. The ambulance would cover 360 kilometers every day.

From last year itself, the welfare body has catered around 5000 patients in Kashmir.

"We also provide counselling and advice to many distressed people on the phone on a daily basis," Sayeed informs.

According to the data on its website, SRO Kashmir last year closed more than 8000 SOS / Help calls and forwarded 400 cases to other NGOs for redressal.

"But this past winter was challenging, as unscheduled power cuts threatened the oxygen supply of the critical patients," Sayeed says. "We had to arrange 7 power generators and procure bulk oxygen cylinders to counter the crisis."

And now, as the second wave has already gripped the valley and created another distressing situation, SRO Kashmir is planning to expand the operation to the other parts of the valley.

"We may be currently catering the health emergency in the city itself, but we have given oxygen cylinders to the people of Budgam, Kupwara and other districts," Dar says. "We will also get some relief and that will strengthen our operation throughout Kashmir."

Meanwhile, at Bonapora, Shahid is serving the distressed Kashmiris with the deep sense of devotion. Leaving his office counter, he even ferries the heavy oxygen machines for the glum visitors.

"We are all in this together," Shahid says, with a smile. "If we don't work for each other's welfare, who will?"

25 More

of Tral and died a week after she was admitted to SKIMS Soura. A 55-year-old woman from Qazigund died three days after she was admitted to SKIMS Soura, officials said.

A 65-year-old man from Habak Srinagar died eight days after he was admitted to SKIMS Soura, they said. An 80-year-old man from Damhal, diagnosed "HTN DM, COVID+, ARF", was declared brought dead at GMC Anantnag at around 8:45 am today, they said.

A 75-year-old man from Zainpora died a day after he was admitted to GMC Anantnag after being diagnosed with "HTN t2DM and Covid positive", they said.

Reports from Kupwara said that a 65-year-old woman from Karnah died at JLNH Hospital Rainawari here while a 47-year-old from Tangdar died at SMHS hospital.

A 62-year-old woman from Bagh-i-Mehtab Srinagar also died at JLNH Rainawari, one among the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients in Kashmir Valley.

The officials further said that a 75-year-old woman from Rose colony Mehjoor Nagar, who was admitted on April 23 with bilateral Community Acquired Pneumonia, died at SMHS hospital.

A 72-year-old woman from Hawal Srinagar died at SKIMS, nine days after being admitted to the institute. A 56-year-old man, administrative officer in a government department, from Barzulla here, admitted with bilateral CAP, died at SMHS hospital.

Among the record single day spike of 3164 cases this year, officials said, Kashmir Valley reported 2134 new cases while the remaining 1030 were detected in Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected by the virus since last year to 166054.

Giving district wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 1144 cases, Baramulla 197, Budgam 174, Pulwama 70, Kupwara 97, Anantnag 143, Bandipora 123, Ganderbal 66, Kulgam 90, Shopian 30, Jammu 489, Udhampur 65, Rajouri 68, Doda 41, Kathua 100, Samba 98, Kishtwar 30, Poonch 39, Ramban 40 and Reasi 60.

Moreover, they said, 1457 more patients have recovered—656 from Jammu Division and 801 from Kashmir Valley. There are 22283 active positive cases in J&K, 8847 in Jammu and 13436 in the Valley.

Govt Asks DCs

Divisional Commissioners during a meeting convened by LG's Principal Secretary, Nitishwar Kumar in which he reviewed the mechanism put in place in the Districts for addressing the situation, an official spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, the Principal Secretary sought the latest status from the concerned Deputy Commissioners regarding the installation of Oxygen Generation Plants across the UT and passed strict directions for

installation of the same in the shortest possible time, wherever pending.

According to the official spokesperson, Kumar also took stock of the number of beds available in Covid Health Centres, Covid Care Centres and Hospitals in each District and directed them to augment the same.

Emphasizing on developing a quick response system in all Districts, the Principal Secretary, he said, enquired about the functioning of Covid Control Rooms, besides execution of incoming calls and handling of Covid related queries.

"The Deputy Commissioners apprised the Principal Secretary about the status of installation of Oxygen Generation Plants. It was informed that civil works for most of the plants have been completed and the same would be made functional at the earliest besides, test runs in some of the installed oxygen generation plants are also being done after which they will be made functional to their designated capacity," the official spokesperson said.

He further said that the meeting was also informed that the Covid Control Rooms are operating 24x7 helplines for providing necessary assistance to public and keeping a check on people in Home isolation in all the Districts of the UT.

While directing to ensure speedy installation of oxygen plants in the hospitals, he said, the Principal Secretary asked the DCs to closely monitor the works and use the option of employing multiple teams and night shifts wherever necessary.

"The Principal Secretary asked the Divisional Commissioners to closely monitor the overall situation and ensure the provision of logistics and equipment required at the District hospitals in both regions," the official spokesperson said.

"He also instructed the Divisional Commissioners to keep a strict check on the black marketing of oxygen cylinders and deploy Magistrates and concerned staff to cross check the supply of oxygen cylinders reaching their destinations from the source industrial plants," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the Principal Secretary, while seeking the details of bed capacity in different government hospitals across the UT, directed the DCs to ramp up the numbers of beds with oxygen support system.

"The Principal Secretary further issued directions to all Deputy Commissioners to ensure strict adherence to Covid SOPs and enforcement of ceiling on the number of people allowed in congregations and functions in their respective districts. He advised them to ensure that people provide a prior intimation of the functions to the respective Tehsildars and receive a receipt of the same," he said.

Keeping in view the surge in the Covid cases, he said, the directions were also passed to declare new micro containment zones for mitigating the spread of coronavirus.

The official spokesperson further said that the Principal Secretary advised the DCs to develop a suitable mechanism by monitoring situations in the district hospitals and use an effective referral policy so as to avoid the possibility of sudden load of Covid cases in Level 1 tertiary care Covid Hospitals in Jammu and Srinagar.

"The Principal Secretary asked the Deputy Commissioner to take onboard the religious leaders in their districts in motivating people to adopt covid appropriate behaviour and minimize public gatherings," he said.

"He also directed the Deputy Commissioners for intensifying the vaccination drive in the age-appropriate categories and to deploy robust testing and contact tracing methods for mitigating the spread of the deadly virus," he added.

Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir Divisions, besides Superintendent Engineers of concerned departments were also present during the meeting held through virtual mode, the official spokesperson said.

Teaching, Non-Teaching

the State Executive Committee said that the teaching and non-teaching staff of all Schools, Colleges, Technical education and Skill development institutes was not required in-person.

The official said that the staff shall work from home and the decision was taken in view of the surge in Covid-19 cases across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sec 144 Imposed

done need to be taken to check the spread of the virus.

"1144 cases in Srinagar District alone. That's a third of all the cases in J&K. The health system is already strained & we need to help by taking all the precautions we can to check the spread of this virus," Omar tweeted.

WHO: Rush To

critical equipment and supplies to India, including 4,000 oxygen concentrators, which only require an energy source, WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said.

Less than 15% of people infected with Covid-19 actually need hospital care and even fewer will need oxygen, he said.

"Currently, part of the problem is that many people rush to the hospital [also because they do not have access to information or advice], even though home-based care monitoring at home can be managed very safely," Jasarevic said.

Community-level centres should screen and triage patients and provide advice on safe home care, while information is also made available via hotlines or dashboards, he said.

"As is true in any country, WHO has said the combination of relaxing of personal protective measures, mass gatherings and more contagious variants while vaccine coverage is still low can create a perfect storm," he said. (Reuters)

PM's Aunt

hospital some ten days ago after her condition deteriorated following coronavirus infection," said Prahlad Modi, the prime minister's younger brother.

"She breathed her last at the hospital today," he said.

Her husband Jagjivandas, brother of the prime minister's father Damodaradas, had died many years ago, said Prahlad Modi. (PTI)

Avalanche Kills

out of danger, the sources said. The Siachen glacier at the height of around 20,000 ft in the Karakoram range is known as

the highest militarised zone in the world where soldiers have to battle frosts and high winds.

Avalanches and landslides are common at the glacier and temperatures can drop to as low as minus 60 degrees Celsius.

Truce Holds In

the deputy commissioner of Poonch district in Pakistan controlled Kashmir, told reporters on a military-escorted visit to the area.

But education has since resumed, health facilities reopened and people can move around, he said, providing "a very positive effect on the psychological life of the people."

The deal effectively reinstated an earlier ceasefire signed by the two sides in 2003 that had been trampled by thousands of violations in recent years.

Pakistan's military said the original deal had largely held until 2016, when tensions exploded in Kashmir, resulting in a surge in violence between the two sides.

As fighting along the LoC raged, ties between the rivals went into freefall with India repeatedly accusing Pakistan of sending infiltrators across the frontier, while Islamabad lambasted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for stoking Hindu nationalist sentiment against Muslims.

The two sides came close to another all-out war after an attack by a Pakistan-based militant group inside Indian Kashmir in 2019 led to tit-for-tat air strikes.

'Can't trust the enemy'

But even after stepping back from the brink, fighting along the LoC escalated, reaching an apex last year with thousands of clashes reported.

But the damage from the coronavirus and slowing economies in both countries -- along with a geopolitical tug of war -- appears to have convinced India and Pakistan to halt for the time being.

"Both countries have an interest in cooling tensions right now," said Myra MacDonald, the author of multiple books on the conflict.

"Because of Covid, but also because India faces problems on its disputed frontier with China, while Pakistan has to address both its own economic difficulties and the fallout of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan."

The truce appears to be holding, with the Pakistan military saying there had been "no significant" ceasefire violations since the deal was signed.

For residents living near the ceasefire line, the end of fighting has brought back a sense of normality after years of strife.

"Schools were closed. Kids who used to go to mosques also got confined to their houses," said Tooba Imitiaz, who fled her home two years ago but recently resettled in Poonch.

"There were a lot of psychological problems. Our children would start shouting 'mortal, mortal' when they even hear a small thud."

The Pakistan military said about 1.5 million residents live along the ceasefire line under their control, where they have long relied on a network of community bunkers and home-made shelters to weather the perennial bouts of unrest over the valleys.

The ridges and valleys bisected by the LoC continue to host tens of thousands of troops armed with heavy weapons, with some outposts between the rivals just a few dozen metres apart.

But even as fighting has come to a halt, residents said they are still wary of the deal -- and fear fighting could flare at any time. (AFP)

Army Chief Visits

security situation and operational preparedness in the region. He is scheduled to return to the national capital on Wednesday.

India and China were locked in military standoff at multiple friction points in eastern Ladakh since early May last year but they have completed withdrawal of troops and weapons from the North and South banks of Pangong lake in February following a series of military and diplomatic talks.

The two sides are now engaged in talks to extend the disengagement process to the remaining friction points.

Sunny Weather

Celsius during this time of the season in the famous tourist resort in South Kashmir, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 7.2 degree Celsius against normal of 8.1 degree Celsius previous and last night's 1.5 degree Celsius, the official said.

Kupwara recorded a low of 5.1 degree Celsius against 4.2 degree Celsius on the previous night which is below normal by 2.7 degree Celsius for this time of the season in north Kashmir district, the official said.

Gulmarg skiing resort in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, recorded a low of 4.0 degree Celsius against 4.5 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said. It was 0.2 degree Celsius below normal in the resort, the official added.

The MeT office has predicted "dry and warmer" weather till 3rd May in both J&K and Ladakh.

HC Asks J&K

their grade based on documents so produced by them.

"From the perusal of the pleadings on record and upon hearing the learned counsel for the parties, we find that the origin of the controversy lies in the format of the application form so prescribed by the Board for the selection process in question," the division bench said, adding "This is so because the column relating to qualification, as appeared in the online application form, had shown B. Ed/ M. Ed and the candidates, by mentioning the higher qualification of M. Ed, obviously and clearly meant that they had already obtained B. Ed qualification without which they could not have acquired the higher M. Ed qualification."

In simple terms, the court observed that the purpose of writing the qualification as B. Ed/ M. Ed was to take care of a situation where a candidate having obtained only B. Ed qualification, could not subsequently claim that he/she has obtained the degree of M. Ed as well.

"However, on the other hand, where the candidate makes mention of higher qualification of M. Ed, it is implicit in such qualification itself that the candidate has already obtained the lower qualification of B. Ed without which it is not possible for the candidate to acquire

the reflected higher qualification."

In such circumstances, the court said that it do not feel that the candidates by mentioning the qualification as M. Ed have violated any of the terms or conditions in the application format.

"It is the case of the Board that only such candidates who have entered the requisite qualification in their application forms will get preference, but this claim does not match with the qualification column of B. Ed/ M. Ed so prescribed by the Board in the application format, thereby misleading the candidates/ Writ petitioners in filing up their application forms."

Accordingly, the court has directed the Board to assign appropriate points to all the relevant qualifications omitted by the petitioners in their online application forms, including the qualification of B. Ed "of course, in case the same have been acquired by (them) prior to the last cut-off date of the advertisement notice concerned; evaluate their merit on the basis of such award of points; and redraw the final selection list(s) for the posts in question, accordingly."

This exercise, the court said, shall be undertaken and concluded by the Board expeditiously, and, in any case, not later than eight weeks from the date of this order. (GNS)

Writer Marghoob

more than fifty books.

In his academic career spanning decades, he was initially posted as Tehsil Education Officer before he joined Kashmiri University's Persian department as a professor.

The versatile academician that Dr Marghoob was, he soon rose to head the varsity's Kashmiri Department even as he also served in various other departments in different capacities.

After his retirement, Dr Marghoob dedicated his life to literature and research work that earned him laurels both at the national as well as international level.

Different literary organizations based in Dr Marghoob's native town Banihal have paid their tribute to the deceased author and prayed for the highest place in Jannah while also expressing condolences to the bereaved family. (CNS)

Soldier Shoots

The reason behind the soldier's extreme step was not immediately known.

Meanwhile, police have started proceedings as per the law in this regard.

Truck Mows

an official said. A resident of Baramulla, Tantray succumbed to his injuries before he could be removed to the hospital for treatment.

The early morning accident, the official said also led to disruption of traffic on the busy Srinagar-Jammu highway for some time.

Meanwhile, police have arrested the truck driver identified as Mushtaq Ahmed Sufi and started further investigations in this regard.

47 Booked For

"All the accused who encroached forest land belong to village Lidroo located nearby," a police officer said. "One and all involved in drug trafficking and cultivating narcotic drugs will face the wrath of law," he added.

HC Quashes

The court directed authorities to release them from preventive custody immediately and forthwith unless not required in some other case.

In the case of Riyaz Khali Parray, the court observed that he was detained under preventive detention for his alleged involvement in subversive activities which led to the registration of FIR No.161/2019 under Sections 18, 39 of ULA(P) Act and 7/25 Arms Act.

"In the FIR, the petitioner (Paray) was released on bail by Special Judge (Designated Court), under NIA Act, Srinagar, on 6 th of February, 2020, whereas Superintendent of Police, who forwarded the relevant record including dossier and other connected documents to the detaining authority vide his communication dated 14th of February, 2020, interestingly, did not bring the factum of petitioner having been released on bail in FIR No.161/2019, to the notice of detaining authority," the court said, adding, "It is because of this omission on the part of Senior Superintendent of Police, the detaining authority has categorically stated in the grounds of the detention that the detenu was under judicial remand and that there was every likelihood of his being admitted to bail."

The detaining authority, the court said, has also noted that there was well-founded apprehension based on report received from field information that Parray, if released on bail, would again indulge in subversive activities

"In view of aforesaid, it is clear that either there is lapse on the part of police to provide all relevant material to the detaining authority or there is lack of application of mind on the part of detaining authority," the court said, adding, "The fact, however, remains that at the time of passing of the detention order, the detaining authority was not aware whether the detenu was in police/judicial custody or he stood released on bail. It is difficult for me to say as to what impact it would have made on the satisfaction of the detaining authority but it cannot be denied that it was a relevant information that was required to be produced before the detaining authority to enable it to derive subjective satisfaction with regard to necessity of placing the petitioner under preventive detention." (GNS)

3 Injured After

rushed to the spot and rescued the three injured inmates before removing them to the hospital for treatment.

Brett Lee Donates 1 Bitcoin Towards India's Fight Against COVID-19



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Inspired by his countryman Pat Cummins' gesture, former Australian pacer Brett Lee on Tuesday decided to donate one bitcoin (approximately Rs 40 lakh) to help India in its fight against the raging COVID-19 pandemic.

Cummins on Monday won lots of hearts when he announced a USD 50,000 donation towards the PM CARES Fund for oxygen supplies in India's hospitals ravaged by a deadly second wave of the pandemic.

"It saddens me deeply to see people suffering due to the ongoing pandemic. I feel privileged to be in a position of making a difference and with that in mind, I'd like to donate 1 BTC (Bitcoin) to Crypto Relief to help with the purchase of oxygen supplies for the hospitals across India," Lee said in a statement which he posted on Twitter.

"India has always been like a second home for me. The love and affection that I have got from the people of this country both during my professional career and even

after my retirement, holds a special place in my heart."

On Tuesday evening, one bitcoin was trading at over Rs 40 lakh. Bitcoin is not considered legal tender in India but that has not stopped Lee, one of the fastest bowlers to have played the game, from lending a helping hand.

Like Cummins, who plays for Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL, Lee is also in India as part of the IPL commentary panel.

"Now is the time to be united and ensure we do as much as we can to help the ones in need. I'd also want to thank all the frontline workers who have been working round the clock during these tough times.

"I request people to please take care, stay at home, wash your hands and head out only if absolutely necessary, wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Well done Pat Cummins for the initiative yesterday," Lee said.

The 44-year-old represented Australia in 76 Tests, 221 ODIs and 25 T20s during an immensely successful international career.

IPL 2021

'Will Ensure Players Reach Home,' Says BCCI Amid COVID Cloud On IPL

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI on Tuesday said it would do everything to ensure that foreign players competing in the IPL reach their respective countries seamlessly once the tournament ends, a day after three Australians quit the event amid an upsurge of COVID-19 cases in India.

Andrew Tye (Rajasthan Royals) and the duo of Kane Richardson and Adam Zampa (both Royal Challengers Bangalore) withdrew as apprehension set in after a couple of weeks went by smoothly for the league held in front of empty stands across six venues.

"We understand that many of you are apprehensive about how you will get back home once the tournament concludes... We want to apprise you that you have nothing to worry about," BCCI COO Hemang Amin said in a letter addressed to the players.

"The BCCI will do everything to ensure that you reach your respective destinations seamlessly. The BCCI is monitoring the situation very closely and is working with the government authorities to make arrangements to get you home once the tournament concludes.

"Be rest assured that the tournament is not over for BCCI till each one of you has reached your home, safe and sound," he added.

India is recording over 3 lakh daily cases for the past few days and the health infrastructure is



struggling to handle the rise with shortage of oxygen and some crucial medicines adding to the crisis.

Australia on Tuesday suspended all direct passenger flights from India with immediate effect until May 15 due to the "very significant" spike in COVID-19 cases.

Kolkata Knight Riders mentor David Hussey acknowledged that Australians in the IPL are a "bit nervous" about getting back home in the wake of the situation here.

Amin lauded the players for carrying on.

"As some of you have said, 'if we can help distract people from all the troubles of recent times, even if it is for a short while, we have done a great job.' When you all walk out onto the field, you are bringing hope to millions of people who have tuned in.

"If, even for a minute, you can

bring a smile on someone's face, then you have done well. While you are professionals and will play to win, this time you are also playing for something much more important," he concluded.

Several England and New Zealand players are also competing in the event but haven't yet spoken about their concerns. The IPL final is scheduled to be held on May 30 in Ahmedabad.

As many as 14 Australian players remain in the event, including stars such as Steve Smith (DC), David Warner (SunRisers Hyderabad) and Pat Cummins (Kolkata Knight Riders), as well as coaches Ricky Ponting (DC) and Simon Katich (RCB).

Commentators Matthew Hayden, Brett Lee, Michael Slater and Lisa Sthalekar are also among the Australians involved with the league right now.

After IPL Exit, Aussie Players Zampa, Richardson Fly Back Home

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Australian cricketers Adam Zampa and Kane Richardson, who had opted out of the Indian Premier League citing personal reasons, will be flying back to their country on Tuesday night via Doha.

The two are currently in Mumbai while their franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore has moved to Ahmedabad, where it will be taking on Delhi Capitals.

"They (the duo) will be flying back to Australia via Doha later tonight," a well placed source told PTI.

Already, Rajasthan Royals pacer Andrew Tye has exited the country due to the COVID-19 surge. Australia on Tuesday suspended flights from and to India till May 15 because of the pandemic's second wave that is ravaging the country.

As of now, the IPL still has 14 Australian players, including big names like Steve Smith (Delhi Capitals), David Warner (SunRisers Hyderabad) and Pat Cummins (Kolkata Knight Riders).



Ricky Ponting (DC) and Simon Katich (Royal Challengers Bangalore) are among the high-profile Australian coaches, while iconic former players such as Matthew Hayden, Brett Lee and Lisa Sthalekar are part of the tournament's commentary team.

The eight-team event is being played in front of empty stands across six venues and has even barred food from outside the designated team hotels in its latest dikats to strengthen the bio-bubble.

'Australians In IPL Will Have To Make Own Arrangements For Return,' Says Oz PM

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Tuesday said cricketers competing in the IPL will have to make their "own arrangements" to return home after his country banned all flights from India in the wake of a deadly second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic there.

Australia on Tuesday suspended all direct passenger flights from India with immediate effect until May 15 due to the "very significant" spike in COVID-19 cases.

"They have travelled there privately. This wasn't part of an Australian tour. They're under their own resources and they'll be using those resources too, I'm sure, to see them return to Australia in accordance with their own arrangements," Morrison was quoted as saying by 'The Guardian'.

Three Australian players—Andrew Tye, Kane Richardson and Adam Zampa—have withdrawn from the league amid the escalating health crisis. India is recording over



3 lakh daily new cases and more than 2,000 deaths per day right now.

Chris Lynn, who plays for Mumbai Indians, has requested Cricket Australia to arrange a chartered flight to take the players home after the IPL is over.

The league matches will end on May 23, followed by the qualifiers (May 25, 28) and eliminator (May 26) and the final (May 30) -- all scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad.

Cricket Australia, on its part, has adopted a wait and watch approach for now.

"Cricket Australia and the Australian Cricketers' Association remain in regular contact with Australian players, coaches and commentators taking part in the Indian Premier League, which is being conducted under strict biosecurity protocols," a CA statement read on Monday.

"We will continue to listen to feedback from those on the ground in India and the advice of the Australian government. Our thoughts are with the people of India at this difficult time."

'Wanted To Win For People Of India, Says FC Goa Coach Juan Ferrando

Press Trust of India

MARGAO: FC Goa head coach Juan Ferrando is heartbroken after his team conceded a last-minute equaliser in its AFC Champions League match against Al Rayyan, saying the side wanted to win for the people of India who are battling a deadly second wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

FC Goa conceded an 89th minute goal to squander a chance to become the first Indian club to win a match in the prestigious AFC Champions League (ACL) as it played out a 1-1 draw with Al Rayyan of Qatar in Goa on Monday.

"It is difficult when you lose in the last minute. But, the truth is that we are playing against very good teams. It is a pleasure to play against Persepolis, Al Wahda and Al Rayyan," Ferrando said.

"It was a very important game because the situation in India is very difficult at this moment. We were thinking that if we win it will be a good moment for the Indian people because it's very difficult for the players at the moment.

"They were talking about playing for India because I know about the difficult moments. But, we conceded at the last moment. This is football," he added.

Jorge Ortiz gave FC Goa the lead in the third minute of the Group E



match but Ali Ferydon equalised with just a minute left in the regulation time.

Al Rayyan had the majority of possession in the first half but it was an even contest in the second session.

"Of course, we need to improve. We have our next match against Al Wahda. There are some injuries, and it is difficult to prepare. The medical staff have been working tirelessly," Ferrando said.

"We needed to be better during the transition prior to conceding. That's a big difference between

the other teams playing here and us. It was a terrible moment for my players to concede at the last moment. They were also exhausted," he expressed.

The Gaurs are currently on three points from five matches with their last game slated against Al Wahda FSC on April 30.

The Indian Super League side went out of reckoning for a knock-out berth after Al Wahda of the UAE beat last season runners-up Persepolis FC 1-0 in another Group E match played earlier in the day.

'World's Oldest Sharp Shooter' Chandro Tomar Contracts COVID-19

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Octogenarian shooter Chandro Tomar, nicknamed 'Shooter Dadi', has tested positive for COVID-19 and admitted to a hospital due to difficulty in breathing.

The Twitter page of the 89-year-old legendary shooter, hailing from the Baghpatt village in Uttar Pradesh, posted the development.

"Dadi Chandro Tomar has tested positive for coronavirus and has been admitted to a hospital due to breathing problem. God protect all - Family," a tweet on her page read.

Chandro was already 60-plus when she picked up the gun for the first time but went on to win many national competitions, even inspiring a Bollywood movie on her.

She is believed to be the oldest woman sharp shooter in the world.

She took part in several competitions along with her sister Prakash Tomar, also one of the oldest female sharp shooters in the world.

Prakash also featured in the movie inspired by their lives, during which they broke all kinds of stereotypes, including battling patriarchy.

While the men at home objected to their shooting, they were helped by their sons, daughters-in-law and granddaughters as they would quietly sneak out of the house to practice the sport in a nearby range.

Once she got hooked on to the sport, there was no looking back as she went on to win medals at



numerous competitions, all coming when Chandro was well into her 60s.

Shooter Dadi won many awards in senior citizen category including Sri Shakti Sanman presented by the President of India himself.

She had picked up a rifle by chance, after a younger member in the family expressed her interest in enrolling herself at a newly-built shooting range in their village.

Accompanying their daughter to the range, one day they picked up the gun, pulled the trigger, took a shot and impressed the coach in range. They welcomed the actresses portraying them in the biopic in their village, where they had stayed for some time and observed their mannerism and tried learned their dialect. India reported over 3.23 lakh new COVID cases and 2,771 deaths since Monday.

CSK Vs SRH, Preview

In-Form Chennai Clear Favourites Against Struggling Hyderabad

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Operating like a well-oiled unit, Chennai Super Kings will start as overwhelming favourites when they clash with struggling Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League (IPL) match, here on Wednesday.

The MS Dhoni-led CSK have bounced back in style after losing the opening match. They are on a roll with four straight wins and will hope that the new venue -- Feroze Shah Kotla ground -- also favours them.

The three-time champions had an underwhelming 2020 season but the team, packed with seasoned players, is now displaying the efficiency it is known for.

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been the driving force behind CSK's impressive run so far.

His blistering assault on Harshal Patel in the final over shut out RCB on Sunday. He has been among the wickets with his accurate left-arm spin apart from effecting stunning run-outs.

Openers -- Faf du Plessis and Ruturaj Gaikwad -- have found form while Suresh Raina and Ambati Rayudu are due for big knocks.

The CSK batters are aware of the Rashid Khan threat but the rest of the SRH attack doesn't inspire much confidence.

Hyderabad rely heavily on their

foreign recruits, led by skipper David Warner, opener Jonny Bairstow, Kiwi great Kane Williamson and Rashid, which is a cause for concern.

Their biggest weakness is a fragile batting order and over-reliance on the top order.

The inability of the team's Indian middle-order to step up has cost SRH more often than not and the think-tank needs to get the combination right if they have to move out of the last spot on the points table which they currently occupy.

Warner needs to shrug off his poor run and for that he needs to negotiate CSK pacer Deepak Chahar, who has impressive ability to strike upfront, well.

Apart from Chahar, spin all-rounder Jadeja and veteran Imran Tahir along with Sam Curran form a strong CSK bowling unit.

SRH will need one of Warner, Bairstow and Williamson to go big and hope that the middle-order can make a meaningful contribution to thwart CSK.

The Hyderabad bowling has been patchy with the experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar lacking consistency while the absence of yorker specialist T Natarajan due to injury is a huge blow.

It's an onerous task for SRH to reverse their fortunes with the limited resources they have at their disposal.

Football Leagues Have Set Template For Sports To Continue Amid Lockdown: Morgan

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: England and Kolkata Knight Riders captain Eoin Morgan is pained to see the surge of COVID-19 cases in India but indicated the ongoing IPL could still go on as Bundesliga and Premier League have set the perfect "templates" for sports to continue amid lockdown.

Returning to India in less than six months after the 2020 edition was staged in UAE amid the pandemic, IPL found itself in the grip of a second wave of COVID-19 with few Australian players and India's Ravichandran Ashwin exiting the event.

With India's health crisis system crumbling, several states have clamped stringent restrictions, including night curfews and lockdowns.

"Certainly in the UK last year we went through severe lockdown for a prolonged period of time, and it looked for a long time cricket wasn't going to be played," Morgan said in a virtual press conference after KKR beat Punjab Kings by five wickets on Monday.

"I think when we first came out of the lockdown, I remember the first sport being on TV was probably in New Zealand and in Australia. It was the Rugby Union's league and then slowly, the Bundesliga started and the Premier League started.

"And that almost displayed that you can play while the country is almost in full lockdown. So, certainly, there's a template

to make that happen, it has happened. But also, as long as it doesn't disturb what's happening in the public eye."

Sending out his message to fight the pandemic together, Morgan said: "...we fight this together, no matter where in the world you are, and so things like social distancing, going out wearing masks, and just generally trying to stay as safe as you can, are very important messages to portray."

His KKR teammate and Aussie world number one Test bowler Pat Cummins has showed the way by donating USD 50,000 to PM Cares to "purchase oxygen supplies for India's hospitals".

While many of his compatriots left the country in fear of the pandemic, Cummins was the first cricketer in this year's IPL to publicly announce such a contribution on Twitter as he also urged his fellow players to chip in.

"We are constantly talking about this situation that's unfolding outside of our bubble. It's not nice to be honest, watching from afar, certainly considering how lucky we are to be in a bubble and not be affected by it very much," Morgan said.

"We obviously lend our support and heartfelt attitude to everybody who is ill or going through tough times."

Playing their first match in Ahmedabad this season, KKR snapped their four-match losing streak with a five-wicket win over Punjab Kings to jump up to fifth place from bottom of the table.

Thangarasu Natarajan Thanks BCCI, Medical Team After Knee Surgery



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's yorker sensation Thangarasu Natarajan on Tuesday underwent a surgery to treat a knee injury that had ruled him out of IPL-14.

The Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer was ruled out of the League last week due to the injury that he originally picked up during the tour of Australia earlier this year.

He thanked the BCCI and medical team for looking after him.

"Today, I underwent knee surgery - and am grateful for the expertise, attention and kindness of the medical team, surgeons, doctors, nurses and staff. I'm grateful to @bcci and to all that have wished well for me," Natarajan tweeted.

The 30-year-old Natarajan had

played only two games for Sunrisers Hyderabad this season.

It is understood that he had never fully recovered from the knee injury because of heavy workload he endured on the tour of Australia.

After the tour of Australia, he had gone for rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy. It is believed that he was declared fit to make a return for the limited overs series against England despite not being 100 per cent match ready.

Natarajan became an overnight sensation with his yorkers at the death during the last IPL and subsequently played all three formats for India in Australia.

After he was back in India from Australia, it was never made public that he had sustained a knee injury.

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