

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P7 STATE

## GOVT OKAYS CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HIGH COURT IN BEMINA

Authorities have granted sanction to the construction of new Jammu and Kashmir High Court – for Kashmir Division – at Rakhi Gund Aksha in City suburbs at Bemina – at an estimated cost of 908.2 Crores...

THINK

P4 ISRAEL, AN APARTHEID STATE

On April 27, the leading international NGO Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a 213-page report, titled "A Threshold Crossed", condemning Israel for "committing the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution against Palestinians" in the



P3 CITY

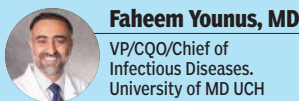
## PRIVATE TRAFFIC BACK ON CITY ROADS EVEN AS CORONA LOCKDOWN CONTINUES

City roads on Wednesday witnessed a brisk movement of traffic even as the corona lockdown continued for the sixth straight day in Jammu and Kashmir. The lockdown was ...



23<sup>RD</sup> RAMAZAN

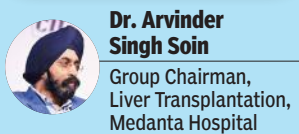
	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:20	04:05
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:29	04:01



**Faheem Younus, MD**  
VP/CQO/Chief of Infectious Diseases, University of MD UCH

### India: What to Do?

1. Fight disinformation. AGGRESSIVELY
  2. Increase vaccinations to >7 M/d (2.5 M/d currently)
  3. Increase genomic sequencing to 3-5% (<1% currently)
  4. Mask up. Limit/stop indoor & mass gatherings
- If done today, results may appear in 2-4 weeks  
Persevere!



**Dr. Arvinder Singh Soin**  
Group Chairman, Liver Transplantation, Medanta Hospital

Seeing a lot of confusion amongst those with previous infection & 1 dose done. Remember there is NO scientific evidence yet showing that previous COVID + 1 dose of Covishield/ Covaxin confers full (2 dose) protection.

ONE is better the NONE. And TWO is better than ONE.



**Dr. Tariq Trambo**  
MD, Critical Care, FIPP, Chairman Spine loop International USA

Took pictures of different masks today. More than 75% of people are not wearing proper mask. This is alarming. Ban them immediately. I repeat, these fancy cloth masks will not save you from Covid unless you wear a surgical mask under it. You will get infected easily. #CovidIndia

...Corona Horror In Kashmir

## 52 Deaths, 4716 Fresh Cases Reported In 24 Hours



Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday reported 52 coronavirus related deaths, the highest ever single-day spike so far, even as 4716 fresh cases

of infection were reported across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 28 more people succumbed to the virus in Jammu division and 24 others at different healthcare facilities

in Kashmir Valley, raising the fatality count since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K last year to 2510.

Among the victims from Valley, officials said, included an 85-year-old man from Shivpora ● [More On P6](#)

## CURBS FREEZE LIFE, HOSPITALS DEFER SURGERIES

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Normal life remained affected in many areas in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday with the imposition of the lockdown in the wake of an alarming surge in coronavirus cases, officials said.

"Restrictions on the movement and assembly of people continued to remain imposed in many districts of the UT in the wake of the lockdown announced by the government," the officials said.

They said while curfew was in place across the Kashmir valley and in Jammu district, restrictions on the assembly of people were also imposed in many areas of the Jammu division.

Security forces put barricades on roads at many places here as well as in other district headquarters of the valley to prevent ● [More On P6](#)

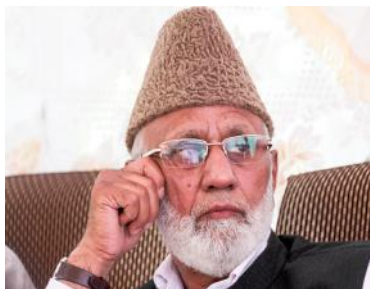
## Jailed Hurriyat Leader Ashraf Sehrai Passes Away

Press Trust of India

**SRINAGAR:** Prominent Hurriyat leader Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai, who was arrested under the Public Safety Act in July last year, died of COVID-19 at a hospital in Jammu on Wednesday, officials said.

The body of Sehrai, 77, was handed over to his family on Wednesday evening and taken in a police escort to Kupwara in north Kashmir, at least 350 km from Jammu, where he would be buried at his ancestral graveyard in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines.

A close confidant of former Hurriyat Conference Chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Sehrai was incarcerated at the district jail in Udhampur. He was shifted to Jammu's Government Medical College (GMC) hospital after



his health deteriorated on Tuesday, the officials said.

Sehrai, who replaced Geelani as chairperson of the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat in 2018, had tested negative for COVID-19 in the rapid antigen test but later his RTPCR report in the evening showed him ● [More On P6](#)

### Shahid's Daughters Write To HM, Seek His Release

The daughters of detained moderate Hurriyat leader Aftab Hilali, popularly known as Shahid-ul-Islam, on Wednesday wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking his intervention for the release of their "ailing father" from Tihar jail. Hilali was arrested in connection with a militant funding case by the National Investigation ● [More On P6](#)

## UNGA President Calls For Peaceful Resolution Of Kashmir Issue

Press Trust Of India

**UNITED NATIONS:** President of the UN General Assembly Volkan Bozkir has encouraged India and Pakistan to resolve the issue of Kashmir "through peaceful means" and said that he supports dialogue and diplomacy, recalling the 1972 Simla Agreement between the two countries.

Bozkir, in response to a question on Kashmir during a press conference here on Tuesday, said that the position of the United Nations on Jammu and Kashmir is governed by the UN Charter and applicable Security Council resolutions.

"I also recall India and Pakistan's Simla Agreement of 1972, which states that the final ● [More On P6](#)

## Shabir Shah Moves Delhi Court Seeking Bail

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court on Wednesday asked the ED for reply on a bail plea filed by Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah who claimed that there was no likelihood of the trial being completed any time soon in the money laundering case due to the current pandemic situation. Shah was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on July 25, 2017 and since then he is in custody.

Special Judge Dharmender Rana issued notice to the agency and sought its response by May 24, when he will next hear the matter.

Shah's advocate M S Khan said the maximum punishment prescribed for the offence of money laundering was seven years, and that he has already spent more ● [More On P6](#)

## Trouble Grows For Ex-BJP Leader Lal Singh

CBI likely to Charge Singh's Wife, Officials In Land Grab Case

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The CBI is likely to name the wife of a former BJP leader and revenue officers in a charge sheet to be filed in a case related to encroachment of a huge tract of government land for running an educational trust, officials said here on Wednesday.

The agency has already sent a letter to the Jammu and Kashmir Revenue Department seeking sanction to prosecute one of their officers in connection with the case, they said.

The CBI has also set in motion the process to file a charge sheet against the chairperson of R B Educational Trust, the wife of a former BJP leader Lal Singh who was also quizzed in connection with the probe, the officials said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) ● [More On P6](#)

## LG Orders Vaccination On 'War Footing'

Directs To Raise 1050 Beds With Oxygen Support Within A Week



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Taking a serious note of the emerging coronavirus situation, the Jammu and Kashmir administration

on Wednesday directed the officials to undertake vaccination drive on war footing besides increasing 1050 beds with oxygen support within a week ● [More On P6](#)

## 5 KAS Officers Deployed In Hospitals

**F**ive Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officers have been deployed on special duty in different hospitals in Jammu and Srinagar for assisting in coronavirus mitigation efforts, an official order said on Wednesday. The order, issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), said the deployment has been made in the interest of the administration. The five KAS officers have been deployed on special duty for assisting the administrations of Government Medical Colleges (GMCs), ● [More On P6](#)

**Shri Manoj Sinha**  
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J & K

# MUMKIN

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A Customized Livelihood Generation Scheme For The Youth Of Jammu & Kashmir.

- Be **Self Employed** with Zero Initial Personal Investment.
- Unemployed youth will be facilitated to procure small commercial vehicles, on subsidized basis, to establish a sustainable livelihood line in the **transport sector**.
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  - Applicants shall have the sole discretion to choose vehicle and manufacturer of their choice.
  - **80%** as Mudra Loan by the Bank.
  - **10%** Special Incentive by Mission Youth, **10%** Special Discount by Vehicle Manufacturer, to be Treated as Margin Money.

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[www.jk.gov.in/jkeservices](http://www.jk.gov.in/jkeservices)

For Further Details Contact:-  
**Assistant Director, District Employment Counseling Centre (DECC) and District Nodal Officer, Mumkin.**

DIPIK-1272/21





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**KASHMIR  
OBSERVER**

**Thursday| 06-05-2021**

**2**

# Screening healthcare workers may act as early warning system for future viruses



Agencies

New research has shown that COVID-19 infections in healthcare workers during the first wave of the pandemic provided an accurate sample of the general population. The study suggests that data from healthcare workers could be used to estimate the severity of future viruses more quickly.

The study, led by researchers from RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences in collaboration with IBM Research, is published in PLOS ONE.

The researchers analysed the infection data from healthcare workers and the progression of the first wave of the COVID-19 outbreak using the reported daily infection numbers in Ireland.

Using similar data in four other countries (Germany, UK, South Korea and Iceland), computer models showed how the disease progressed in different countries related to their approach to testing, tracing and lockdown restrictions.

Healthcare workers in Ireland made up 31.6% of all test-confirmed infections while only representing 3% of the population. However, the researchers found that the healthcare worker data closely related to that of the entire population after using software to create a more accurate picture of how widespread the disease was.

This suggests that governments could use data from only healthcare workers to inform decisions on whether to implement restrictions, wide-scale testing and contact tracing for future viruses.

"As we have seen with the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing countermeasures early can save lives and reduce the spread of the disease," said RCSI Professor of Chemistry Donal O'Shea, who led the work.

"However, wide-scale testing can take time to set up, delaying decisions and costing lives. While the healthcare population is no longer an accurate sample of the general population for COVID-19 due to different vaccination rates, governments could use data from their healthcare worker population to make informed decisions on what measures to implement earlier when future viruses emerge."

The research noted that very few nations were able to set up effective systems that tested the entire population, carried out con-

tact tracing and quarantined those infected with COVID-19.

"Setting up wide-scale testing systems for healthcare workers is much easier than setting up a similar programme for everyone since the infrastructure for testing for diseases is always in place in healthcare settings," said Dr Dan Wu, honorary lecturer in the RCSI Department of Chemistry and first author on the paper.

"A screening programme that tested all healthcare workers would have the additional benefit of catching asymptomatic spread of the disease since all healthcare workers would be tested. If governments could catch highly infectious diseases and implement countermeasures early, this could possibly prevent new viruses from erupting into another epidemic/pandemic."

## Study finds ways to improve scholarly writing

Agencies

Researchers from the University of Arizona and the University of Utah recently examined why most scholarly research is misinterpreted by the public or never escapes the ivory tower and suggested that such research gets lost in abstract, technical, and passive prose.

The study, forthcoming in the Journal of Marketing, is titled "Marketing Ideas: How to Write Research Articles that Readers Understand and Cite" and is authored by Nooshin L. Warren, Matthew Farmer, Tiany Gu, and Caleb Warren.

From developing vaccines to nudging people to eat less, scholars conduct research that could change the world, but most of their ideas either are misinterpreted by the public or never escape the ivory tower.

Why does most academic research fail to make an impact? The reason is that many ideas in scholarly research get lost in an attic of abstract, technical, and passive prose. Instead of describing "spilled coffee" and "one-star Yelp reviews," scholars discuss "expectation-disconfirmation" and "post-purchase behavior."

Instead of writing "policies that let firms do what they want have increased the gap between

the rich and the poor," scholars write sentences like, "The rationalization of free-market capitalism has been resultant in the exacerbation of inequality." Instead of stating, "We studied how liberal and conservative consumers respond when brands post polarizing messages on social media," they write, "The interactive effects of ideological orientation and corporate sociopolitical activism on owned media engagement were studied."

Why is writing like this unclear? Because it is too abstract, technical, and passive. Scholars need abstraction to describe the theory. Thus, they write about "sociopolitical activism" rather than Starbucks posting a "Black Lives Matter" meme on Facebook. They are familiar with technical terms, such as "ideological orientation," and they rely on them rather than using more colloquial terms such as "liberal or conservative."

Scholars also want to sound objective, which lulls them into the passive voice (e.g., the effects... were studied) rather than active writing (e.g., "we studied the effects..."). Scholars need to use some abstract, technical, and passive writing. The problem is that they tend to overuse these practices without realizing it.

When writing is abstract, technical,

and passive, readers struggle to understand it. In one of the researchers' experiments, they asked 255 marketing professors to read the first page of research papers published in the Journal of Marketing (JM), Journal of Marketing Research (JMR), and Journal of Consumer Research (JCR). The professors understood less of the papers that used more abstract, technical, and passive writing compared to those that relied on concrete, non-technical, and active writing.

As Warren explains, "When readers do not understand an article, they are unlikely to read it, much less absorb it and be influenced by its ideas. We saw this when we analyzed the text of 1640 articles published in JM, JMR, and JCR between 2000 and 2010. We discovered that articles that relied more on abstract, technical, and passive writing accumulated fewer citations on both Google Scholar and the Web of Science."

An otherwise average JM article that scored one standard deviation lower (clearer) on our measures of abstract, technical, and passive writing accumulated approximately 157 more Google Scholar citations as of May 2020 than a JM article with average writing.

Agencies

Taking on invite-only audio chat app Clubhouse, Twitter has announced to make its live audio conversation app Spaces available to users with 600 followers or more on both iOS and Android platforms.

The company said it is also working on "Ticketed Spaces" feature for hosts to be rewarded for the experiences they create by getting monetary support, while providing listeners with exclusive access to the conversations they care about most.

Hosts can set ticket prices and how many are available to sell.

A limited group will be able to host Ticketed Spaces in the coming months. Hosts earn the majority of the revenue from ticket

sales and Twitter will keep a small amount as well.

To make it easy to track what's happening and when, you'll also be able to schedule and set reminders for upcoming Spaces in the coming weeks.

On Twitter for iOS and Android, when someone you follow starts or speaks in a Space, it'll appear at the top of your timeline as a purple bubble for as long as it's live.

"When you join a Space as a listener, you can react to what you hear with emojis, check out any pinned Tweets, follow along with captions, Tweet or DM the Space, or request to speak," the company said in a statement late on Monday.

After first testing Spaces with a small group of people on iOS, Twitter in March expanded the test to Android users in India, to give

them a chance to join, listen, and speak in live, host-moderated audio conversations.

According to the company, when you join a Space as a speaker, in addition to talking, "you can pin Tweets to the Space, turn on captions so everyone can follow along with what you're saying, and Tweet the Space so your followers can join".

"Invite people to join by Tweeting or DM'ing them to jump in and then invite them to speak directly from your Space. From there, talk about whatever is happening in your world," Twitter said.

Twitter has also provided safety controls to hosts and speakers.

A host can mute speakers and take away their mic, or remove them from the Space completely if they are found misbehaving.

## Office of the Executive Engineer Jal shakti Division Kulgam

Phone: 01931-295109 e-mail: xenphekgm@gmail.com

E-NIT No: 06/EE/PHE/kulgam/2021-22 under

endorsement No:PHK/ 546-57 Dt. 03 - 05 -2021

For & on behalf of Pre'sident of India , e-tenders are invited (in single cover system ) "on item rate basis" from Registered contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules for the following works:-

SNo	Name of work	Advt. Cost (Rs.in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contract	Time for Compl.	Cost of tender Document	MH of Account
I	Providing of water supply facilities to Covid centres of PHE Sub-Division Kulgam	3.00	Bid security form to be sworn on affidavit duly notarized by attached with the Bid	DEE	Pandemic Period	200/=	Covid
	Providing of water supply facilities to Covid centres of PHE Sub-Division DHpora	3.00		DEE	Pandemic period	200/=	covid

Position of AA :

Accorded Position of funds: Demanded

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings ( if any), Bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: WWW.jktenders.gov.in

As per the Schedule of dates given below:

I	Publishing date of NIT	03-05-2021	15.00	PM
II	Download start date	03-05-2021	15.00	P.M
III	Bid submission start date	03-05-2021	15.00	PM
IV	Bid submission end date	08-05-2021	4.00	PM
IV	Bid opening date	10-05-2021	10.00	A.M

- The bidders shall have to upload the following documents with their bid:
- Scanned copies of Tender Fee & Bid security form to be sworn on affidavit duly notarized by attached with the Bid
- Scanned copies of Registration Card duly renewed & bidders address format.
- Scanned copies of GST Registration & PAN.
- Bidder shall quote rates on item rate basis in the BOQ.
- The rates quoted shall be inclusive of all taxes as applicable at the time of payment.
- The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The bid documents can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given above
- The Hard copies of technical bid shall have to be submitted by the LI in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Kulgam within three days from the date of opening of bids
- The Service Tax/Income Tax/Cess or any other tax shall be effective @ prevailing rates fixed by the Govt. from time to time and shall be deducted at source from the amount payable to contractor.
- The successful contractor shall draw agreement deed with the department within seven days from the date of issue of LOI or allotment whichever is earlier.
- Any injury/loss of the labourers during execution of work shall be the personal responsibility of the contractor.
- All key construction material i.e. GI pipes/pipe specials/cement/steel/chain link/angle etc. shall have to be arranged by the contractor himself.
- No extra carriage lead or lift of any kind of material shall be paid and the payment shall be made as per actual work done on rate basis as per BOQ.
- The contractor shall have to take photographs of each site of work before execution, during execution and after execution of work.
- GEO Tagging of each work shall have to be done by the contractor and the contractor is advised to quote his rates accordingly
- No payment shall be released to the contractor without obtaining Royalty Clearance Certificate of Sand, Aggregate, Nallah Muck, ordinary earth etc. from the Department of Geology & Mining J&K.
- Any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to natural calamities, shall be the responsibility of the bidder till the work is finally handed-over to the Department.
- The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of LOI/Contract allotment as the case may be.
- Anything of historical/significant value unexpectedly discovered on the site during execution of work shall be the property of the Government.
- It shall be mandatory for the executing agency/contractor to ensure safe and adequate supply of electricity required for all the workmen skilled/unskilled deployed at site of work. Besides, no labour below the age of 18 years should be engaged as per the Labour Law.
- Arrangements for sufficient sanitation facility at site be ensured by the executing agency/ contractor for all the workmen to be mobilized at site, besides, separate toilet facilities be provided for Female workers at the site of work.
- Suitable arrangements for supply of potable water at site for all the workmen skilled/unskilled be made by the agency/contractor just before the virtual start of execution at site.
- Insurance cover as admissible under rules shall be provided to all the workers skilled/unskilled deployed at site and the necessary premiums shall be borne by the executing agency/contractor itself.
- It is mandatory upon the executing agency to follow the SOP during COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Other terms & conditions shall remain in force as per Standard Bidding Document (SBD) attached with the NIT.
- Performance guarantee 3% of allotted cost in form of CDR/FDR shall be submitted to the Executive Engineer before the allotment is issued which will be released after the successful commissioning of the work.

Position of AAA : Accorded HEAD OF ACCOUNT

Signed for on behalf of President of India

Executive Engineer  
Jal shakti Division Kulgam

**DIPK-1245/21**

Govt of Jammu and kashmir

## Sher-i-Kashmir Institute Of Medical Scineces

(Deemed Univeristy) Soura Srinagar

### NOTICE

**Subject: Postponement of Practical Examination of PH. D Session-2019.**

It is for the information of all candidates that in view of surge in Covid-19 Pandemic & Lockdown, the Part-II (Practical Examination) for the admission in various ph. d COURSES sSSION-2019 Which was scheduled on 06-05-2021 is hereby postponed till further orders.

Sd/-  
Dean Of Medical Faculty  
SKIMS

SIMS/Acad/30505/427/11/21/4764-68-6360-62  
Dated: 05-05-2021

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## Office of The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Srinagar

Phone: 01942497056: email: xenmnds@gmail.com

Corrigendum No. 02  
for  
RETENDER 02

Subject: SITC of 100 mm Dia. GI pipe (Class C) rising main with allied fittings and accessories at bore well No 12 (Chadoora Chaudary Gund Budgam) under NMS..  
Reference: This office eNIT No. MDS/TS/2021-22/e-tendering/02 Dated : 01.04.2021 under tender ID: 2021\_PWDJK\_121618\_2

Due to single qualifying bid for opening of Cover-II the above referred eNIT issued for the subject work is re-tendered through this corrigendum with following particulars and critical dates:

<b>Estimated cost of the work</b>	<b>Rs. 11.20 Lakhs</b>
<b>Cost of tender document</b>	<b>Rs 1000/-</b>
<b>Date of start of downloading of bids</b>	<b>03.05.2021 upto 18.55 Hrs</b>
<b>Last date of uploading of bids online</b>	<b>11.05.2021 upto 18.55 Hrs</b>
<b>Date of opening of bids online</b>	<b>12.05.2021 at 14.00 Hrs</b>

Note: Those bidders who have already submitted/deposited tender doc fee for the original NIT issued under reference 2021\_PWDJK\_121618\_1/2 need not to submit/deposit fee again, however, proof of previous deposit shall be uploaded with their bid.

All other terms, conditions and technical specifications of the original NIT shall remain same.

**DIPK-1243/21**

Sd/-  
(Er. Rajesh Sharma)  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Division Srinagar

No; MDS/TS/575-78

Dated: 03 .05.2021



# Private Traffic Back On City Roads Even As Corona Lockdown Continues

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** City roads on Wednesday witnessed a brisk movement of traffic even as the corona lockdown continued for the sixth straight day in Jammu and Kashmir. The lockdown was imposed to prevent the virus from spreading while police said that 129 persons were arrested and 586 people were fined in Kashmir for violating the norms.

A day after the government extended lockdown in five J&K districts till May 10, the roads in Srinagar, however, witnessed brisk vehicular movement coupled with traffic snarls at several places.

Eye-witnesses said that the traffic snarls were witnessed at a few places amid lockdown.

They said that such is the leniency on ground that the traffic cops were seen regulating the vehicular movement at Rambagh area today.

Notably, Corona Curfew is in place across Srinagar district and other districts in a bid to prevent the deadly virus from spreading further. The government on Tuesday extended lockdown in Srinagar and four



KO Photo Abid Bhat

other districts till May 10.

Eye-witnesses informed that police and paramilitary troops were deployed although in large number to enforce the lockdown restrictions. The barricades and concertina wires were erected at many places

and bridges to thwart the public movement, they said.

Meanwhile, all the shops and business establishments barring emergency services, standalone shops remained closed throughout the day in Srinagar and other districts of

Jammu and Kashmir. Besides, the public transport with 50 per cent seating capacity was also allowed to ply today by the authorities.

Moreover, police said that during the last 24 hours, Police has arrested 129 persons,

lodged 74 FIRs and also realized fine to the tune of Rs 91,650 from 586 people for violating the guidelines and rules throughout Kashmir valley.

"Besides, 23 vehicles were also seized in Budgam for violating guidelines, restrictions and indulging in illegal excavation and transportation of clay. 11 shops were also seized by police along with the Executive Magistrate in Beerwah and Khansahib areas of Budgam for violating Covid-19 norms," police said.

The special drive against the violators of Covid-19 guidelines and rules continued throughout all the districts of Kashmir Valley to ensure that people adhere to SOPs and guidelines envisaged by the government to curb COVID-19 pandemic, the statement said.

Meanwhile, police urged people to cooperate in containing the spread of Coronavirus by following the SOPs, guidelines and protocols for the safety of the people. "The special drive shall remain continue throughout the districts of Kashmir Valley to strengthen the safety measures," police said.

**BESIDES, 23 VEHICLES WERE ALSO SEIZED IN BUDGAM FOR VIOLATING GUIDELINES, RESTRICTIONS and indulging in illegal excavation and transportation of clay. 11 shops were also seized by police along with the Executive Magistrate in Beerwah and Khansahib areas of Budgam for violating Covid-19 norms," police said.**

## 250-Bed Covid Care Facility Made Operational In Srinagar

**SRINAGAR:** The Army and civil administration in Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday jointly made operational a 250-bed Covid care facility at Rangreth here, a defence spokesman said.

Equipped with a 20-bed state-of-the-art high-dependency unit and 230-bed post-critical care ward, the facility augments government medical health infrastructure significantly, he said.

"Reinforcing its commitment to the safety and healthcare of the Kashmiri Awaam, Kashmir UT Administration and Chinार Corps of Indian Army, today jointly operationalised the 250-bed Dedicated Covid Health Care Cen-

tre at Rangreth," the spokesman said.

He said government and Army resources were mobilised to operationalise the facility in a short time-frame to respond to the Covid surge in Srinagar and adjoining districts.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Zakir Khan, Coordinator, Rangreth Health Services Department and Brigadier Sumesh Seth, Station Commander, Old Airfield Military Station (Rangreth), reiterated their commitment to the service of the Kashmiri people during these distressed times and pledged to work untiringly to extend critical health care to the populace.

### Three Injured In Shaltteng Blaze

Observer News Service

Three persons were injured on Wednesday after a fire broke out in a commercial complex in Shalteng area of Srinagar outskirts.

An official said that fire broke out in a commercial complex of Mohammad Afzal Sofi at Shalteng Srinagar.

In the incident, three persons have suffered burn injuries and have been shifted to SMHS hospital for treatment. The fire has been doused and the complex has got damaged partially in the incident.

### Four-Year-Old Girl Drowns In Srinagar

Observer News Service

A four-year-old girl drowned in water stream in Ahmad Nagar area of Srinagar outskirts.

An official said that a four-year-old girl identified as Afia Showkat Sheikh, daughter of Showkat Ahmad Sheikh of Kangan, at present Ahmad Nagar Srinagar slipped in stream water at Ahmad Nagar.

She was removed by family members and shifted to SKIMS Soura immediately, where doctors declared her brought dead on arrival.

### DC Srinagar Releases Ex-Gratia Relief Of Rs 14 Lacs For Fire Victims

District Development Commissioner (DDC), Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Wednesday released an ex-gratia relief Rs.14,20,900 in favour of the fire victims of Batamalo, Basant Bagh,, Nambchal Fatah Kadal, Aramwari, Haft Chinār, Nawabazar and Bhagwanpora Eidgah Srinagar whose houses/properties were gutted in different fire incidents. The ex-gratia relief was released under SDRF norms.

## 11 City Localities Declared Containment Zones

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** At least 11 areas of Srinagar were on Wednesday declared as Containment Zones in view of the fresh detection of COVID-19 positive cases.

According to the orders issued by the DDMA Srinagar, the areas which have been declared containment zones include Shivpora, Nigeen, Hazratbal, Tailbal, Barbarshah, Zadibal, Umerabad Zainakote, Saidakadal, Qamarwari, Bemina and Eidgah.

The orders issued by the Srinagar DDMA authorities reads that in view of the detection of more than twenty and thirty cases in the areas, the respective areas have been declared as containment zones.

District Magistrate Srinagar, who is also the Chairman of DDMA, Mohammad Aijaz Asad said that it has become imperative to take preventive measures in these localities to contain the further spread of the Covid-19.

"More than twenty and thirty Covid-19 positive cases have been reported from these areas of Srinagar, developing into a cluster of MCZS. We apprehend that the Covid-19 positive patients in the said cluster might have come in contact with many other persons in the area and there are chances of further transmission of the deadly virus in the locality and its surroundings," the order reads.

It states that in order to break further transmission of Covid-19 in the area and its surroundings, it is felt expedient to take stringent measures by restricting movement of people and other activities in and around its surroundings.

"The area of 300 mtr radius from epicentres, shall be a containment zone. There shall be no inward or outward move-



File Pic

ment of any person from/to the said area. In case the spread of clusters goes beyond 300 mtr, the committee headed by the Administrator of the containment zone (Tehsildar) may decide the boundary of the containment zone," it reads.

The order reads that Tehsildars concerned shall be the administrator of the Containment Zones. "They shall coordinate with all the fine departments to ensure the availability of all basic requirements including Food grains, LPG medicines etc in the Containment Zones."

As per the orders CMO Srinagar should activate the Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) immediately for survey and surveillance in the area besides line listing and contact tracing.

"The Commissioner SMC shall deputise teams immediately to sanitise the Containment zones and the exercise shall be repeated as per SOP. He shall submit a daily Action Taken report for perusal of Chairman DDMA. The SSP Srinagar shall ensure that all entry and exit points in the Containment zones are sealed, other than one designated entry and exit for exigencies and emergency and restrictions on movement of the people in the containment zone are affected in letter and spirit as per SOPs," the order states.

The order further states that he shall deploy a requisite number of personnel to man the entry and exit points. "Any person /group/institution found violating the directions of this order shall be booked under relevant act/ rule/law."

The order states that accordingly the containment zones shall be managed and contained by a committee of officers including tehsildar, Executive engineer PWD, SHO, TSO, ward officer SMC, medical officer nominated by ZMO, who shall be responsible for implementing SOPs and directions.

"The committee under supervision of Tehsildars shall be responsible for management and containment of the zone. Administrators should ensure that announcements are made inside the containment zone for restricting movement and implementation of SOPs."

It states that it shall be also ensured that all basic requirements of population are provided at their doorsteps for which administrator can involve any employee of any department within his jurisdiction.

"Tehsildars to establish 24\*7 control room meant exclusively for the Containment Zone. Sub Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) shall be responsible for overall monitoring and supervision and shall ensure teams work in coordinated manner," it states.

## Five-Day Long STC Concludes At NIT Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Five-day long short-term course (STC) on "Semiconductor Physics to Smart Devices to Intelligent Automation" concluded at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday, in which speakers pitched for building up more self-reliant technologies in India.

The virtual event was organized by the Department of Physics NIT Srinagar in collaboration with the Semiconductor Society of India and Prof. MA Shah was the convener of the five-day-long event. The concluding day sessions were attended by more than 350 participants.

While addressing STC, in his keynote address, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal urged students to work hard for the progress and development of the nation.

"Presently, we are still dependent on other countries for various technologies and India is a big country with huge market. The need of the hour is that, we must build facilities where our students can learn and become make India self-reliant for new technologies," he said.

Dr. Sehgal said all sessions of the STC were

an eye-opener for all participants and NIT Srinagar will be organizing such lectures in the future also so that students can get benefited from their initiatives.

He also appreciated physics department faculty including Prof. MA Shah and stated that the department has worked effectively to make five-day STC successfully.

Registrar NIT Prof. Kaiser Bukhari also extended his warm greetings to Physics department for conducting STC successfully.

He said course was aimed to touch various aspects of the growing technology including working principles of semi-conductors, the latest advances, and future devices.

Prof. Bukhari also appreciated the faculty of the Department of Physics particularly Dr. MA Shah. "NIT Srinagar will be conducting such events in the future also," he said.

On the fifth and last day, Prof. Shenoy, Department of Physics, IIT Delhi delivered a lecture on Semiconductor Optoelectronic Devices while Prof. Chennupati Jagdish, AC, MNAE (Australian National University) threw light on Semiconductor Nano-wires: Optoelectronics,

Energy and Neuroscience Applications.

It was followed by a valedictory session of STC, which was presided over by Dr. M. J. Zarabi, Former Chairman, BOG NIT Srinagar, who was Chief Guest on the occasion. Dr. Zarabi's citation and introduction was read by Dean Alumni NIT Srinagar, Prof. M. S. Mir.

On the occasion, Prof. Zarabi said NIT Srinagar is doing good work and hoped that it will continue to touch the skies in near future. The response of the session was very positive and all participants were benefitted from the resource persons, he said.

"I was impressed by the final day sessions and urged NIT Srinagar to conduct more such events for the students. Although skills are important but students should also pay more attention in clearing their doubts and get a good understanding of basics," Prof. Zarabi said.

Sharing his journey, he said the journey of semi-conductor started way back in IISC Bangalore when he was perusing his Bachelors in Electronics and Communications.

Prof. Zarabi said that Dr. Shah at the NIT Srinagar has been the inspiration for young and

bright students in the country.

Prof R. K. Bhaan from the Institute of Defense spoke about the importance of semiconductors for every country particularly India. He cited some recent examples of kill switches between China and India.

He discussed 'why semi-conductor is important for the survival of each country'. There will be a huge demand for semi-conductor 'Kill switches' which every country should have in future, Dr. Bhaan said.

HOD Physics Department and Chairman Short Term Course, Dr. Prince A. Ganai expressed his gratitude to Director NIT, resource persons, and all participants for making the event successful.

"Our students were highly benefitted by all five-day sessions and appreciated the role of Dr. MA Shah for working hard to make the event successful," he said.

Convener and the coordinator of the program, Prof. MA Shah expressed his gratitude to Director NIT and Chairman Semi-Conductor Society of India, Prof R. K Sharma for supporting them in organizing the virtual summit.

Shah said science uncovers the relationship between things and when we get it right, it allows predictions of the future and permits technological interventions that can change things in favorable directions.

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### HIGHWAY STATUS



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

## This Day in History

- 878 - Battle of Edington: Alfred the Great and his West Saxon army defeat Viking army of Guthrum the Old [earliest possible date]
- 1312 - Pope Clement V closes Council of Vienna
- 1527 - Spanish & German Imperial troops sack Rome; ending Renaissance
- 1529 - Battle at Gogra: Mughal Emperor Babur beats Afghans and Bengals
- 1757 - Battle of Prague: Frederick II of Prussia's forces defeat Austrian army
- 1840 - World's first adhesive postage stamp, the "Penny Black", is first used in Great Britain
- 1864 - Battle of Port Walthall Junction, fought in Virginia begins (Battle of Port Walthall Junction), Union victory (US Civil War)
- 1864 - Battle of Wilderness, fought in Virginia, Confederate General James Longstreet seriously injured (Overland Campaign), inconclusive result (US Civil War)
- 1864 - Union Army General Sherman begins advance to Atlanta Georgia during the Atlanta Campaign (US Civil War)
- 1882 - Epping Forest, England, dedicated by Queen Victoria
- 1906- Tsar Nicolas II of Russia claims right to legislate by decree and restricts the power of the Duma (Russian Parliament)
- 910 - George V becomes King of the United Kingdom upon the death of his father, Edward VII
- on Cape Helles launch three attacks to enlarge their beachheads; after terrible losses, they advance about three miles
- East Africa is assigned to Britain and France, German South West Africa to South Africa
- 1933- Mohandas Gandhi begins a 21-day fast in protest against British oppression in India.
- 1945- V-E Day; WWII ends in Europe after Germany signs an unconditional surrender
- 1960- USSR & Cuba resume diplomatic relations
- 1961- 1st practical sea water conversion plant- Freeport, Texas
- 1967- Muhammad Ali is indicted for refusing induction in US Army
- 1980- World Health Organization announced smallpox had been eradicated
- 1989- US space shuttle STS-30 lands
- 2008- Dmitry Medvedev appoints Vladimir Putin as Russian Prime Minister
- 2013- 33 people are killed after an overloaded bus falls into a river in Himachal Pradesh, India
- 2013- Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi receives a four year prison sentence for fraud

## From KO Archives

## TSUNAMI THEORY HAS "SUPPORT" IN KASHMIR

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR** - The report on April 17 that a retired Atomic Energy Department scientist had attributed the Asian tsunami to planetary alignment has come as a boost for those who believe that cosmic changes influence events on earth.

A Kashmiri Naqash Ghulam Jeelani who says he has written about the phenomenon of interplanetary and cosmic forces having a bearing on what happens on earth as far back as 1W1, feels vindicated by the report. Also, he takes issue with the view by some scientists

I hat (he earthquake which caused the Asian tsunami might have changed the earth's spin, Naqash says: "My point is that if at all there is a connect ion between earth's spin, wobble, axial tilt and the tsunami, then the wobble, or change in spin or axial tilt must have occurred first, causing the Asian tsunami."

"Because, primarily my opinion is based on the observation that cosmic changes or forces, and interplanetary changes affect intra-planetary activities and phenomena."

Naqash says that he has neither the resources nor the equipment to collect data about natural disasters but his opinion stems, among other things, from "observations" about the varying frequency of incidence of events such as earthquakes, appearance of comets, cyclones and formation and extinction of geographical features, "which have sometimes occurred at a high rate of movement and sometimes at a comparatively low rate."

Paramahatnsa Tewari, the retired Atomic Energy Department scientist, had said that his conclusion about the causes of the tsunami stems from his theory that all spinning cosmic objects including the sun develop electric fields that repel each other.

According to Tewari on December 26, 2004 when the Saturn, Moon, Earth and the Sun were perfectly aligned, there was an imbalance of these electrical forces on Earth, because the repulsive force due to Sal urn was reduced as it as shielded by the Moon which does not spin, while the Sun, which was on the other side exerted its force on Earth.

Tewari had said that the imbalance pushed solid earth away from the sun causing sc water to overflow due to its fluidity, causing the tsunami.

(Kashmir Observer, 06 May, 2005)



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### K O V I E W

## Runaway surge

With daily coronavirus cases on Tuesday reaching a record 4650, Jammu and Kashmir government has extended the lockdown till May 10 in five districts of J&K. The districts are Srinagar, Baramulla, Budgam, Srinagar and Jammu. Kashmir Valley itself continues to post a new record every day. Out of 4650 cases, Kashmir Valley had 3187 cases and Jammu 1463.

Also, 37 COVID-19 deaths have been reported, so far 25 from Jammu Division and 12 from Kashmir Division. J&K has now 37,302 active positive cases to date while 1,52,109 have recovered. The UT has recorded 2458 deaths so far. As already reported there has been 700 percent rise in new infections in the UT and that too in a matter of few weeks. Going forward, the curve is unlikely to flatten, despite the strict "corona curfew" and its extension. The reason for this is that there's now a full blown community transmission. So, the spread could mainly be triggered inside homes, where people don't use masks and sit close to one another. And with the new variant of the virus alleged to be thrice more infectious than that of last year, it will take a community driven effort than the government measures alone to reign it in. And as we have time and again advocated in this space, the lockdown extended beyond a point will do more harm than good. More so, in a place that has largely been shut down over the last two years. So, the government has to think of more imaginative ways to get a grip on the runaway pandemic.

The administration needs to focus its attention on the stupendous challenge on hand. Any further rise in the cases could plunge Kashmir into a deeper chaos. That is, if it hasn't already. So, the government has to step up. It doesn't have many options. For example, the lockdown can't be extended endlessly after the economic devastation it caused last year. Government has to resort to innovative measures to ensure that the rising curve of the cases is flattened and that the healthcare infrastructure is upgraded to deal with the fresh cases. This can be done if the administration involves civil society and NGOs in the effort. Under the circumstances, a deliberately promoted culture of self-restraint by people and the widespread observance of the Standard Operating Procedures will see us through. Second, the administration has to take firm action against the people who go out without masks or participate in large gatherings. These are the only pragmatic and hopefully helpful tools to tackle the contagion. That too, with least damage to the economy.

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

## 2021-22 needs a new economic blueprint

It is now clear that the second Covid-19 wave will continue to inflict great destruction across India in the coming weeks, as it has done in the past month. It is also clear that unless this second wave can be tamed and infections brought under control, economic activity in the country will continue to shrink. There are localised restrictions in various states and cities in order to curb the spread of the disease. But alongside, there is a deep sense of fear among citizens — who, remember, are also the primary economic agents as producers and consumers. Till the health crisis is addressed, the fear won't diminish, and till fear doesn't diminish, the possibility of the resumption of any kind of normal economic life is dim.

And that is what makes it incumbent on the State to step in with a new economic plan. Given how badly the first quarter has been hit, optimistic projections of economic recovery this year will not hold. Within a month of fiscal year 2021-22, it is also clear the Union budget numbers will not hold, tax revenues will dip, expenditure requirements will increase, pushing through contentious structural reforms will become more difficult (and may not even be advisable), and the State's responsibility for welfare of the vulnerable will only increase.

The central government must draw up a new economic blueprint for the year — this can retain a degree of flexibility given the fluidity of the situation, but it needs to be based on realistic goals, timelines and numbers. This will also allow the Union government to assess the urgent needs of the time — particularly income support to the poor, concessions to the middle class, and perhaps policy tweaks to help the private sector, especially micro, small and medium enterprises, survive and stay the course — and find the required resources for it.

Hindustan Times

# Israel, an Apartheid State



Lori A Allen

Indeed, as Israel's Jewish supremacism became more explicit in recent years, it has become harder to argue against its classification as an apartheid state. How can a rights organisation, or anyone else continue to deny that Israel is an apartheid state after the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, proudly stated that "Israel is not a state of all its citizens ... Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people and them alone"?

On April 27, the leading international NGO Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a 213-page report, titled "A Threshold Crossed", condemning Israel for "committing the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution against Palestinians" in the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT) and in Israel itself.

The report undoubtedly marks the crossing of a threshold for the rights group, which has long been shying away from such overt and comprehensive criticism of Israel, to the frustration of Palestinians and advocates of Palestinian rights. But the threshold that the report's name ostensibly refers to is a legal one that, in HRW's analysis, Israel has finally crossed. "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," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of HRW.

So, according to the group, Israel's crimes against Palestinians have reached such severity that they can now be considered as crimes against humanity — crimes deemed by the international community to be some of the most serious, potentially warranting the most serious punishment.

But the designation of Israel's settler-colonial endeavour as a form of apartheid is nothing new. The legal term "apartheid" has long been used to characterise Israel's actions against Palestinians.

The 1973 Apartheid Convention and the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court define apartheid as systematic and institutionally entrenched domination and repression by one racial group over another through "inhuman acts". Among such acts are: "arbitrary arrest and illegal imprisonment of the members of a racial group"; measures "designed to divide the population along racial lines by the creation of separate reserves and ghettos for the members of a racial group or groups"; "forcible transfer"; "expropriation of landed property"; and denial of "the right to leave and to return to

their country, [and] the right to a nationality". All these have been part and parcel of Israel's settler-colonial project in Palestine since the very beginning. And UN diplomats, legal scholars and activists have applied the concept of apartheid to Israel since at least the 1970s.

In 1975, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 3379, which declared Zionism to be a form of racism — later rescinded due to Israeli pressure. Although not defining Israel as an apartheid state, the Resolution made that association explicit. It based its equation of Zionism with racism on previous resolutions, including the 1963 Resolution 1904 (XVIII), which affirmed that "any doctrine of racial differentiation or superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous". Resolution 3379 also drew a line tying Israel to "the racist regimes in Zimbabwe and South Africa", which were "organically linked in their policy aimed at repression of the dignity and integrity of the human being". Other UN debates in this period also recognised the "collusion" of Israel, Zionism, and South Africa's apartheid regime, as in Resolution 3151 of 1973.

After visiting the Holy Land in 2002, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, widely regarded as "South Africa's moral conscience", said what he saw in Israel's treatment of Palestinians reminded him "so much of what happened to us Black people in South Africa", an observation he has since reiterated. Since 2005, student activists on campuses across the globe have been organising educational events during "Israel Apartheid Week". These events are staged to raise awareness of the Palestinian liberation struggle and to highlight the similarities between Palestinians' efforts and the South African anti-Apartheid movement. And in 2017, ESCWA, a UN body, issued a report on Israel's apartheid practices against Palestinians.

Although the HRW report refers to some other applications of the concept of apartheid to define Israel's actions against Palestinians, it focuses on presenting "a detailed legal analysis based on the international crimes of apartheid or persecution". More than

just a legal category, however, the notion of apartheid is a moral and political designation, and this is what makes it so contested and powerful. By giving their report announcement the hashtag #Courage2FightApartheid, HRW acknowledged how political this legal analysis really is, perhaps also hinting at why it has taken the group so long to publicly accept a reality recognised by so many across the world for decades.

Whether HRW's decision to recognise Israel as an apartheid state will be a watershed moment in the decades-old Palestinian struggle and instigate political change remains to be seen. Recent events — such as the February 5 International Criminal Court decision affirming its territorial jurisdiction over the OPT, the January report by Israeli NGO B'Tselem also labelling Israel an "apartheid state", and pitched battles over the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of anti-Semitism that seeks to silence criticism of Israel — already suggest that a tipping point may be approaching.

Indeed, as Israel's Jewish supremacism became more explicit in recent years, it has become harder to argue against its classification as an apartheid state. How can a rights organisation, or anyone else continue to deny that Israel is an apartheid state after the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, proudly stated that "Israel is not a state of all its citizens ... Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people and them alone"?

How can they deny that Israel is committing the crime against humanity of apartheid after the Israeli parliament passed the Jewish Nation-State Basic Law which denies the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel, who make up 20 percent of the country's population?

The HRW report is undoubtedly a positive development and a step in the right direction. But the question we are facing today is not whether Israel is an apartheid state. The question is, when will the international community act in concert to put an end to its obvious and obviously reprehensible system of oppression?

Al Jazeera



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

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## Corporal Punishment — Taking the Debate Forward

As the ghost of the COVID-19 virus continues to sleep Kashmir to nightmares exacerbated by the scenario in India, an issue that had somehow managed to give people something else to the debate was the rude behaviour of the teacher, who in a video, that went viral on social media, was seen slapping his student thirty-one times.

The incident tempted many people to share their views, many of which revealed a strong criticism and resentment against the teacher, while some flagged their defence in his favour. In the spirit of taking this debate forward, two articles, one on Kashmir Life and the other on Kashmir Observer were published. The former was written under the title "Why jailing a teacher is the real tragedy for the society," and the latter titled "Why defending a jailed teacher is the real tragedy for the so-

ciety" appeared after few days, countering the arguments rather the narrative put forth by the first piece in support of the teacher.

The second article skillfully exploited the loopholes of the first narrative and looked as right as rain. The author, while deconstructing the first write up, had also pointed out the flawed terminology used in it. The second article makes it easy to side with it given the way the author has tackled and interpreted the notion put forth by the former write up.

But having said all this, there are few things which deserved a place in both the articles. We see the author of the later write-up "Why defending a jailed teacher is the real tragedy for society," at the beginning of the piece spoke of violence and its ability to transude into the lives of the people. Thus, touching the very nature of the place we live in. However, throughout

the article, the political implications of this move remained untouched, if at all they exist. The author further used an autobiographical account at the end of his response which was again political, wherein he described the army man's incident. But, that seemed to have found a place in the article only to further crush the initial narrative.

The later article, despite citing an incident around politics, hasn't bothered to reflect on the political motivations or implications the move might have. The laws whose implementation by their nature is discriminatory didn't deserve a debate. Despite the mighty display of the law execution by the enforcing agencies, the action by its very nature doesn't free itself from the violence, which according to the author, by the very nature of the society sieves into the minute aspects of our lives. Because the implementa-

tion of such discriminatory laws are fundamentally a form of violence for the condemnation of which a debate should have been conceived.

Conflict may have gifted us a certain degree of dementia but incidents like these must wake us up to the true nature of the society we have been living in. Awakening to an only certain set of stimulus would only wrap us in the apparels of the bodies that see all as equals but some as more equal.

Having said that, I don't stand in defence of the teacher. A wrong was committed but he could have surely been made to understand the wrong and brought to task accordingly by an eligible body. This incident has further revealed that our educational institutions need proper counsellors/trainers to work in coordination with the staff.

Asif Khan  
prolifichkan121@gmail.com



# Qazi Alif Din: The Great Arbitrator and Reformer of Poonch

Qazi Alif Din passed away in Dardunia village in Poonch on December 29th 2020 at the age of 105

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

**The modern method of lok Adalat as mentioned above in many ways is similar to tribal arbitration. There are cases which are certainly less effective in terms of final dispute resolution but as for Qazi Ali Din is considered, his style of arbitration used to be the best among other tribal arbitrators**

The article 39-A of the constitution provides for free legal aid to the marginalized and disadvantaged communities with an aim to promote justice. Articles 14 and 22(1) of the Constitution also makes it compulsory for the State to guarantee equality before the law. In 1987, the Legal Services Authorities Act was enacted by the Parliament, which came into force on 9th November 1995 to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society who cannot afford to hire lawyers to plead their cases in courts. In addition to it, the Government has also provided a mechanism called Lok Adalat which is one of the alternate dispute redressal mechanisms where cases or disputes incomplete in the court of law are compromised cordially in presence of Judicial officers. The lok adalat finds its basis in the preamble of the constitution wherein securing social, economic and political justice is right of every citizen. The Lok Adalat has a chairman, two members, and one social worker. The chairman must be a sitting or retired judicial officer. The other two members should be a lawyer. From a tehsil to district to state to national level there are various legal services authorities. Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 Lok Adalats have been given statutory status and the decision made by the Lok Adalat is considered to be a verdict of a civil court and is ultimate and binding on all parties. There is no provision for an appeal against the verdict made by Lok Adalat.

In addition these legal services authorities or lok adalats there are public many spirited citizens in the society who do similar work but they are the unsung heroes of society. These people whom God has bestowed with great acumen and cleverness do the arbitration in their respective communities. In this alternate disputes redressal mechanism the arbitrator's decision is accepted by both parties. Through this article I am paying my tribute to one such great arbitrator and social worker of Poonch district who had devoted his life towards addressing public issues and above all fighting against social evils in the society.

#### Who was Qazi Alif Din ?

Qazi Alif Din was one of the great arbitrators of Poonch district. He was given the title of Qazi by his community. Qazi is an Arabic word which means judge. Qazi sahib was born in the year 1915 in village Kalai of district Poonch to the family of Abdul Haleem. During the partition of 1947, Qazi sahib migrated to Pakistan but came back to his ancestral village after living in Rawalpindi for some years. Family condition and non-availability of formal schools those days around his village didn't allow him to acquire any school education. But this didn't deter him in seeking knowledge and informal education. When he was around 26



Qazi Alif Din

or 27, Qazi Alif Din started learning urdu and he went on to become one of the finest hands in urdu handwriting. He also learnt Quran when he was in his 30's and memorized a major portion of it as well. He studied Quran exegesis by various exegetes of repute and acquired great knowledge of Muslim personal law.

#### Alif Din as an arbitrator

The Tribal method of adjudication of disputes mostly relate to family, property and land. He was far and wide known for making informal dispute resolution methods by way of arbitration most attractive in Poonch. The modern method of lok Adalat as mentioned above in many ways is similar to tribal arbitration. There are cases which are certainly less effective in terms of final dispute resolution but as for Qazi Ali Din is considered, his style of arbitration used to be the best among other tribal arbitrators. Because of this god gifted arbitration acumen Qazi sahib was known for his abilities and wits not only in district Poonch but even in other parts of Pir Panjal region via a vis adjudication of property and matrimonial disputes. On numerous occasions he was called by executive and judicial officers to seek his opinion and ground situations about various issues.

#### Crusade against money lenders

One of his major services to the poor and underprivileged people of Poonch was relieving them from the menace of compound debt. Rural informal credits were supplied at very high rates making the return extremely difficult for poor peasants. There was a group of people involved in providing

credits on huge interest and then they would ruthlessly exploit the poor. On many occasions the land of these people would be taken away by these money lenders. He helped many aggrieved by way of arbitration by bringing down the interest rates to the banking system and sometimes helping them in paying back the principle amount only. This brought him in conflict with informal money lenders and things became very ugly as well on some occasions.

#### Caste neutrality

During the time of the worst division of society along caste lines, he was able to maintain a caste neutral image for himself that helped him engage with all sections of society to maintain an environment of understanding and mutual respect. He was particularly famous among the poorer and those still on the margins of society. Qazi sahib was always prepared to help them in all matters. He was among very few people who remained uninfluenced by multiple waves of divisions that swept the region. During high days of militancy, he had become a point man to represent people who were sandwiched in insurgency. In matters of politics, he always advocated against voting for a person of his caste if he didn't have merit to his side. He always supported a person or persons who have had an attitude for public relations and stood above caste prejudices.

#### Tailpiece

Qazi Alif Din didn't associate himself to any of the sects of Islam. He remained equidistant to all sects. He always believed that all sects carry a certain amount of truth and it is the clergy that make artificial difference look real. According to him, there is no difference in the basics, it is only the specifics where clerics differ and that common masses have nothing to do with those differences. Throughout his life he stood rock solid against fake faith healers who would loot and exploit people. There are many anecdotes where he personally chased away fake Pir's from villages and ran a campaign against them. His campaign was particularly successful as he could adequately maintain a reputation of being totally sect neutral. Qazi Alif Din passed away in Dardunia village in Poonch on December 29th 2020 at the age of 105. He was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard where hundreds participated in his funeral.

*Hazaroon Saal Nargis Apne Benoori Pe Roti Hai  
Badi Mushkil Se Hota Hai Chaman me Deed Awar Paida*

*The author is an Acumen Fellow and  
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## Altered Mourning

Natasha Mikles

In the past several weeks, the world has looked on in horror as the coronavirus rages across India. With hospitals running out of beds, oxygen and medicines, the official daily death toll has averaged around 3,000. Many claim that number could be an undercount; crematoriums and cemeteries have run out of space.

The majority of India's population are Hindu, who favor cremation as a way of disposing of the body. But the Muslim population, which is close to 15%, favors burying its dead.

Generally, tradition holds that the body is to be cremated or buried as quickly as possible – within 24 hours for Hindus, Jains and Muslims, and within three days for Sikhs. This need for rapid disposal has also contributed to the current crisis.

Hundreds of families want their loved ones' bodies cared for as quickly as possible, but there is a shortage of people who can do the funerals and last rites. This has led to a situation where people are paying bribes in order to get space or a furnace for cremation. There are also reports of physical fights, and intimidation.

#### Do you value independent, non-profit news?

As a scholar interested in the ways Asian societies tell stories about the afterlife and prepare the deceased for it, I argue that the coronavirus crisis represents an unprecedented cultural cataclysm that has forced the Indian culture to challenge the way it handles its dead.

#### Cremation grounds and colonial rule

Many Americans think of cremation happening within an enclosed, mechanized structure, but most Indian crematoriums, known as “shmashana” in Hindi, are open-air spaces with dozens of brick-and-mortar platforms upon which a body can be burned on a pyre made of wood.

Hindus and Sikhs will dispose of the remaining ashes in a river. Many shmashana are therefore built near the banks of a river to allow for easy access, but many well-off families often travel to a sacred city along the banks of the river Ganges, such as Hardwar or Benares, for the final rituals. Jains – who have traditionally given significant consideration to humanity's impact on the environmental world – bury the ashes as a means to return the body to the Earth and ensure they do not contribute to polluting rivers.

The workers who run shmashana often belong to the Dom ethnicity and have been doing this work for generations; they are lower caste and subsequently perceived as polluted for their intimate work with dead bodies.



The act of cremation has not always been without controversy. In the 19th century, British colonial officials viewed the Indian practice of cremation as barbaric and unhygienic. But they were unable to ban it given its pervasiveness.

However, Indians living in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Trinidad often had to fight for the right to cremate the dead in accordance with religious rituals because of the mistaken and often racist belief that cremation was primitive, alien and environmentally polluting.

#### Rituals and a long history

The earliest writings on Indian funerary rituals can be found in the Rig Veda – a Hindu religious scripture orally composed thousands of years ago, potentially as early as 2000 B.C. In the Rig Veda, a hymn, traditionally recited by a priest or an adult male, urges Agni, the Vedic god of fire, to “carry this man to the world of those who have done good deeds.”

From the perspective of Hindu, Jain, and Sikh

rituals, the act of cremation is seen as a sacrifice, a final breaking of the ties between the body and the spirit so it may be free to reincarnate. The body is traditionally bathed, anointed, and carefully wrapped in white cloth at home, then carried ceremonially, in a procession, by the local community to the cremation grounds.

While Hindus and Sikhs often decorate the body with flowers, Jains avoid natural flowers for concern of inadvertently destroying the lives of insects that may be hidden within its petals. In all of these faiths, a priest or male member of the family recites prayers. It is traditionally the eldest son of the deceased who lights the funerary pyre; women do not go to the cremation ground.

After the ceremony, mourners return home to bathe themselves and remove what they regard as the inauspicious energy that surrounds the cremation grounds. Communities host a variety of post-mortem rituals, including scriptural recitations and symbolic meals, and in some Hindu communities the sons or male members of household will shave

their head as a sign of their bereavement. During this mourning period, lasting from 10 to 13 days, the family performs scriptural recitations and prayers in honor of their deceased loved one.

#### The changing times of COVID-19

The wave of death from the COVID-19 pandemic has forced transformations to these long-established religious rituals. Makeshift crematoriums are being constructed in the parking lots of hospitals and in city parks.

Young women may be the only ones available to light the funerary pyre, which was previously not permissible. Families in quarantine are forced to use WhatsApp and other video software to visually identify the body and recite digital funerary rites.

Media reports have pointed out how in some cases, crematorium workers have been asked to read prayers traditionally reserved for Brahmin priests or people from a higher caste. Muslim burial grounds have begun to run out of space and are tearing up parking lots to bury more bodies.

#### The work of the dead

While other important rituals such as marriage and baptism may take on a new appearance in response to cultural changes, social media conversations or economic opportunities, funerary rituals change slowly.

Historian Thomas Laqueur has written on what he calls “the work of the dead” – the ways in which the bodies of the deceased participate in the social worlds and political realities of the living.

In India's coronavirus pandemic, the dead are announcing the health crisis that the country believed it had conquered. As recently as April 18, 2021, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was holding crowded political rallies, and his government allowed the massive Hindu pilgrimage festival of Kumbh Mela to proceed a year early in response to the auspicious forecasts of astrologers. Authorities began to act only when the deaths became impossible to ignore. But even then, the Indian government appeared more concerned about removing social media posts that were critical of its functioning.

India is one of the world's largest vaccine-producing nations, and yet it was unable to make or even purchase the needed vaccines to protect its population.

The dead have important stories to tell about neglect, mismanagement or even our global interdependence – if we care to listen.

*By arrangements with  
The Conversation*



# States' power to identify backward classes abrogated by 102<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional amendment: SC

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court, by a majority 3:2, on Wednesday held the 102nd Constitutional amendment, which also led to setting up of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), took away states' power to identify socially and educationally backward classes under their territory for grant of quota in jobs and admissions.

The 102nd Constitution amendment Act of 2018 inserted Articles 338B, which deals with the structure, duties and powers of the NCBC, and 342A which deals with power of the President to notify a particular caste as SEBC and power of Parliament to change the list.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan, in their four separate verdicts, however, was unanimous on other key issues such as the Maratha quota law was invalid and the 1992 Mandal judgement, capping

total reservation to 50 per cent, did not need a relook or reference to larger bench.

While Justice Bhushan wrote 412-page long verdict for himself and Justice Nazeer and was in minority on the point whether the 102 Constitutional amendment takes away the right of states to identify SEBC.

Justice S Ravindra Bhat wrote 132-page long verdict and Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Hemant Gupta, in their separate judgements, concurred with Justice Bhat and his reasoning in holding that states have lost their power to identify SEBC under their territory after 102nd Constitutional amendment.

Writing the majority judgement on this aspect, Justice Bhat, said, By introduction of Articles 366 (26C) and 342A through the 102nd Constitution, the President alone, to the exclusion of all other authorities,

is empowered to identify SEBCs and include them in a list to be published under Article 342A (1), which shall be deemed to include SEBCs in relation to each state and union territory for the purposes of the Constitution.

The states can, through their existing mechanisms, or even statutory commissions, can only make suggestions to the President or the Commission, for inclusion, exclusion or modification of castes or communities in the SEBC list, Justice Bhat said.

The states' power to make reservations, in favour of particular communities or castes, the quantum of reservations, the nature of benefits and the kind of reservations, and all other matters falling within the ambit of Articles 15 and 16 except with respect to identification of SEBCs, remains undisturbed, the judgement, endorsed by two other judges, said.

All the five judges of the bench, however, held the 102 Constitutional amendment as valid and it did not affect the federal polity and did not violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

Article 342A of the Constitution by denuding States power to legislate or classify in respect of 'any backward class of citizens' does not affect or damage the federal polity and does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution of India, Justice Bhat said.

All judges also concurred on aspects such as the Indra Sawhney judgement, also known as the Mandal verdict, did not require to be referred to a larger bench.

They also concurred on the issue that the Maharashtra State Reservation (of seats for admission in educational institutions in the State and for appointments in the public services and posts under the State) for Socially and Educationally Backward

Classes (SEBC) Act granting 12 and 13 per cent reservation for Maratha community in addition to 50 per cent social reservation is not covered by exceptional circumstances as contemplated in Mandal judgement.

The state government, on the strength of the Maharashtra State Backward Commission Report chaired by M C Gaikwad has not made out a case of existence of extraordinary situation and exceptional circumstances in the state to fall within the exception carved out in Indra Sawhney judgement, Justice Bhat said.

All judgements said the appointments made in government jobs and admissions in post graduate courts after the Bombay High Court verdict of 2019 upholding Maratha quota and September 9, 2020 order of the top court staying the implementation of quota will not be affected.

## Body Of BJP Leader's Mother Lies In Morgue As Family Goes Into Hiding

**BURDWAN (WB):** Kakali Kshetrapal, a BJP leader's mother, was killed in post-poll clashes in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman but her body has been lying in the morgue for two days as her family members went into hiding after police started a hunt for them in connection with the murder of two TMC workers.

Clashes broke out in Nabagram in the Jamalpur police station area between the supporters of the TMC and BJP on Monday, a day after the election results were announced.

Kakali (47), the mother of BJP's Nabagram area chief Ashish Kshetrapal, was allegedly killed in the clashes. TMC workers Shajahan Shah (30) and Bibhash Bagh (27) were also allegedly killed, police said.

Soon after the incident, central forces were deployed in the area and police started a manhunt, following which Kakali's family members along with

several local BJP leaders went into hiding.

Police said on Wednesday that they have arrested 11 people in connection with the incident based on the complaints filed by both the parties.

Even as Kakali's body was lying in Jamalpur Hospital for a long time on Monday none of the BJP leaders went there, local party workers said.

Later, police took the body to Jamalpur police station. On Tuesday, the body was sent to the police morgue in Burdwan Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem and it has been lying there ever since.

Venting frustration, local BJP workers said that none of the party's leaders went to the hospital even for once.

On the other side, several TMC leaders visited the village after the clashes and were through out with the family members of the two party workers killed.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## 52 Deaths, 4716...

who died at SMHS hospital, a day after he was admitted there. A 55-year-old woman from Delina died at Indoor stadium Khawajabagh Baramulla, two days after being admitted to the converted-health facility.

A 65-year-old man from Nowgam died at SMHS Hospital, two days after he was admitted, they said.

A 65-year-old man from Noor Bagh died six days after he was admitted at SMHS hospital, they said.

A 26-year-old man from UP, At Present Habba Kadal died at SMHS hospital, five days after he was admitted.

A 50-year-old woman from Khanyar died at SKIMS Soura, a day after she was admitted to the tertiary care hospital, they said.

A 70-year-old man from Safa Kadal died at JLNH hospital, a day after he was admitted there, they said.

An 82-year-old woman Sonwar died a fortnight after she was admitted to a hospital here, they said.

A 65-year-old woman from Aalochi Bagh died 12 days after she was admitted to the SMHS hospital, they said.

A 75-year-old from Nowpora and a 75-year-old man from Alamgari Bazar died at SKIMS Soura within four days of their admission to the tertiary care hospital.

A 62-year-old from Sarnal and one more patient died at GMC Anantnag, days after they were admitted there, they said.

A 50-year-old woman from Zafron Colony Pampora died hours after she was admitted to SMHS hospital, they said.

Among the 4716 cases detected during the last 24 hours, officials said that 3198 were from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 1518 from Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected across the Union Territory to 196585.

Giving district wise details, officials said that Srinagar reported 1125, Baramulla 511, Budgam 277, Pulwama 362, Kupwara 148, Anantnag 255, Bandipora 96, Ganderbal 108, Kulgam 238, Shopian 78, Jammu 598, Udhampur 165, Rajouri 175, Doda 28, Kathua 158, Samba 38, Kishtwar 39, Poonch 92, Ramban 102 and Reasi 37 new cases of coronavirus.

Moreover, they said, 2338 more patients have recovered, 544 from Jammu Division and 1794 from Kashmir. There are 39628 active cases – 14076 in Jammu and 25552 in Kashmir. (With GNS inputs)

## Curbs Freeze...

the movement of people, they added.

The officials said while the restrictions are being implemented strictly, essential and emergency services are allowed.

The officials said shops, fuel stations and other business establishments were shut across the valley, while public transport was off the roads.

On April 29, the Jammu and Kashmir administration imposed a curfew in 11 districts in a bid to tackle the surge in COVID-19 cases, which was subsequently extended to all the 20 districts the next day.

The curfew, which was supposed to end at 7 am on May 3, was extended in the twin capitals of Jammu and Srinagar besides Budgam and Baramulla till 7 am on Thursday.

However, the authorities in other districts of the valley also ordered the extension in the restrictions till Thursday.

The state on Tuesday recorded its biggest single-day spike with 4,650 fresh COVID cases, taking the tally to 1,91,869, even as 37 fatalities over the last 24 hours took the toll to 2,458, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 1,463 were from the Jammu division and 3,187 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 1,311 cases, followed by 598 in Jammu district and 417 in Anantnag district.

The number of active cases has reached 37,302 in the union territory, while 1,52,109 patients have recovered so far, the officials said. The death toll in the union territory due to the pandemic rose to 2,458 as 37 fresh deaths -- 25 in Jammu region and 12 in Kashmir valley -- were reported in the past 24 hours.

The authorities in Jammu issued an order on Wednesday deferring routine surgeries in government and private health institutions in the division, owing to the ongoing surge in COVID-19 cases.

Issued by Divisional Commissioner Raghav Langer, the order, however, said emergency services and critical care required for co-morbid and dialysis patients, and maternal and

child health services would continue as usual.

"In view of the prevailing situation of COVID-19 pandemic in Jammu Division which demands optimal utilisation of available resources so that the existing infrastructure/healthcare facilities are not overburdened, the elective/routine surgeries are required to be deferred," Langer said in the order.

He said the main focus of the healthcare system at this juncture was the management of COVID-19 cases.

"All elective/routine surgeries shall be deferred in government as well as private health institutions in the division; unless there are pressing medical reasons and the benefits of such procedure outweigh the risk related to COVID-19 situation and its fallout," the order said.

Langer directed district magistrates and chief medical officers to conduct random inspections and audits of healthcare institutions to enforce compliance of the order.

"The order shall be reviewed periodically based on the evolving COVID-19 situation," he said.

## LG Orders...

across the Kashmir Valley.

The directions in this regard were passed by the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha in a series of meetings with senior Doctors and Chief Medical Officers of Kashmir Division here at Civil Secretariat, in which he reviewed the Covid-19 situation and containment measures put in place to effectively control the spread of coronavirus, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, directed the health department officials to increase additional 1050 oxygen beds in Kashmir division within a week to ensure immediate treatment for the people requiring hospitalization. Sinha said that the move will substantially improve the health infrastructure and help out patients in the hour of crisis.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG emphasized on taking comprehensive measures for better patient care management and directed CMOs of Kashmir Division to ensure triaging and judicious referrals. He said that District Hospitals are fully equipped to handle Covid cases with present deployment of best doctors.

"The Lt Governor further directed for effective and prompt availability of Ambulance services so that Ambulances are made available to needy, as and when required," the official spokesperson said.

He further said that the LG asked the Doctors to talk to people at religious gatherings and create awareness regarding Covid-19 SOPs, besides highlighting the information related to Covid control measures through various communication media.

"Our priority is to break the chain of virus for which combined & collective efforts need to be taken to save precious human lives," said Sinha, as per official spokesperson.

"Vaccination must be done on war footing to reduce the mortality rate. Focused attention needs to be given towards Covid-19 testing and contact tracing, besides speedy completion of the process of the first dose of vaccination," he added.

In order to reach out to the people with vaccination, the LG instructed for starting vaccination in each municipal ward through dedicated teams. He further called for deployment of more mobile vans for vaccination purpose.

As per the official spokesperson, SMC Commissioner, Athar Amir Khan informed the meeting that mobile vans are operating in 36 municipal wards, which will be increased in coming days.

The official spokesperson said that the LG asked the Health Officers to put in all out efforts to further improve the functioning of health institutions. Senior Doctors must reach out to every patient admitted in the hospitals, he maintained.

"The Lt Governor also received the first hand appraisal about the functioning of Oxygen generation plants and passed specific directions for ensuring sufficient availability of Oxygen supply in all health institutions. It was informed that a few oxygen plants will become functional by the end of this week," he added.

He further said that Sinha instructed the concerned officers to ensure that all newly installed Oxygen plants have a back up buffer stock of oxygen cylinders. He further called for rational utilization of oxygen supply in all hospitals so that patients do not face any inconvenience.

"The Lt Governor directed the CMOs to utilize maximum available resources for patient care at their respective health institutions, besides extending online consultation of doctors

to patients to overcome the unnecessary rush of patients in hospitals," the official spokesperson said.

"The Lt Governor asked the CMOs to hire meritorious medical graduates to strengthen human resources in the health sector. He further asked them to identify the doctors and other paramedical staff who have retired from government services and keep close liaison with them," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG lauded the Medical fraternity for their tireless efforts in fight against the deadly virus and urged them to work with added zeal and dedication in a well coordinated manner to defeat Covid-19.

"He asked the Health functionaries to build up morale and confidence of people and ensure the availability of all requisite facilities for the patients to increase the recovery rate," he added.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and Baseer Ahmad Khan - Advisors to Lt Governor; BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary to the Government, Industries & Commerce; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Mohammad Ajaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; HoDs of various departments and other senior officers of the Health department attended the meetings, in person and through virtual mode.

## 5 KAS Officers...

Chest Disease hospitals and SKIMS in coronavirus mitigation efforts, Commissioner Secretary Manoj Kumar Dwivedi said in the official order.

According to the order, Prem Singh has been posted at GMC, Jammu; Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani at SKIMS, Soura; Shabir-ul-Hassan at GMC, Srinagar; Hamida Akhter at Chest Disease Hospital, Kashmir; and Rakesh Kumar Gupta at Chest Disease Hospital, Jammu.

The order stated that these officers will be responsible for coordinating the work in triage centres and ensure that appropriate medical guidance is provided by doctors in sending patients to the correct facility for treatment. They will also assist the hospital managements (director/principal) in monitoring and managing the oxygen supply and utilisation.

The officers would also ensure compliance of decisions taken by the recently formed COVID Apex Management Group headed by the chief secretary and those of respective divisional commissioners, it said.

"Further, Director SKIMS/Principal, Government Medical College (Jammu/Srinagar) shall delegate certain powers/authority to the officers as may be required for managing COVID pandemic," the order said.

Earlier, on May 2, the Jammu and Kashmir administration had deployed 41 junior scale officers at various places, including airports and railway stations, across the union territory for assisting in coronavirus mitigation efforts.

Jammu and Kashmir reported a record single-day rise of 4,716 COVID-19 cases on Wednesday that pushed the infection tally to 1,96,585 while 52 more fatalities took the death toll to 2,510, according to officials.

## Jailed Hurriyat...

positive after his death, they said, adding that he had COVID-19 symptoms and his oxygen levels had fallen.

According to the officials Sehrai, who had been jailed in Udhampur since July 13, 2020, had been suffering from various ailments. He complained of breathlessness on Tuesday and was taken to the district hospital in Udhampur.

When his situation did not improve, he was moved to the GMC, about 55 kilometres away, where he breathed his last around noon on Wednesday, following acute respiratory distress, the officials said.

Sehrai was one of those detained during a lockdown ahead of the revocation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into two union territories in August 2019. He was finally arrested under the PSA from his Barzaulla residence in Srinagar in July last year.

Same year Sehrai's son Junaid Sehrai was killed by Indian armed forces in an encounter in Srinagar.

Junaid had joined the Hizbul Mujahideen group in March 2018 and was later killed in an encounter with government forces in Srinagar on May 19, 2020.

Sehrai was Geelani's main supporter and aide when he launched the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat in 2004 after parting ways with the Jamaat.

He was appointed as acting chairperson by Tehreek-e-Hurriyat in March 2018 and was later elected as chairperson for three years after Geelani stepped down from the post.

Born in 1944 in Tekipora village of Lolab Valley in Kupwara district Mohammad Ashraf Khan, alias Sehrai completed his primary education in his hometown and secondary education from Lolab High School in 1959. After clearing secondary examination, he moved to Uttar Pradesh where he did Bachelors from Aligarh Muslim University.

Political parties across the spectrum in Jammu and Kashmir mourned the death of Sehrai with Peoples Conference president and former minister Sajad Lone saying, "Sehrai Sahib was a political leader not a terrorist".

In a series of tweets, Lone remembered his meeting with the leader and asked, "And why did he have to die in incarceration and not at his home amongst his kin and loved ones. Have we become so weak that an old infirm dying person is a threat to the state? I am not being critical. But please introspect"

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said numerous political leaders continue to be under detention in Jammu and Kashmir "purely" for their ideology and said "in today's India one pays a price with his life for dissent".

"The least GOI can do in such dangerous circumstances is to immediately release these detainees on parole so that they return home to their families," she wrote on twitter.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) expressed grief over the separatist leader's death in Jammu and said he was a well-known religious and scholarly figure of Kashmir.

Senior CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said in view of the prevailing COVID-19 crisis, it would be appropriate if cases of prisoners are reviewed and those who are not involved in heinous crimes are released.

Hurriyat Conference-led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq condoled Sehrai's demise and alleged "inhumane attitude" of the authorities.

The separatist amalgam claimed that despite repeated appeals to release political prisoners lodged in various jails on humanitarian grounds in view of COVID crises, "authorities are playing with their lives".

"Hurriyat Conference once again asks the government authorities to release all political prisoners lodged in jails across J-K and outside in view of the COVID catastrophe on health and humanitarian grounds and save their lives," it added.

## Shahid's Daughters...

Agency (NIA) in 2017 and he tested positive for COVID-19 inside the high security prison last week.

"...for the last around a week he has been shifted to some undisclosed location and we have no contact with him. We do not even know if he is alive. The recent death of jailed senior politician Ashraf Sehrai at a hospital in Jammu, a few hours after he was hospitalized has made us even more worried about the well-being of our father," Suzain Shah (18) and Sundas Shah (14) said in a letter addressed to the home minister.

The letter was circulated on social media. The daughters of the separatist leader claimed that the condition of their father, who has comorbidities, including acute diabetes, deteriorated after testing positive.

"Our father has always worked for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue and thus, deserves every compassion in these testing times," they said, requesting Shah to consider their appeal for their father's release on humanitarian grounds and save their family from devastation.

## UNGA President...

status of Jammu and Kashmir is to be settled by peaceful means in accordance with the UN Charter," said the Turkish diplomat and politician who is serving as the President of the United Nations General Assembly since 2020.

The Simla Agreement, signed by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1972, is a bilateral agreement that rejects any third-party mediation on the Kashmir issue.

"So there again, I mentioned that I call on all parties to refrain from taking steps that could affect the status of Jammu and Kashmir. In general, I support dialogue and diplomacy, and I encourage both Pakistan and India, neighbours, to resolve this dispute through peaceful means. This was the message I gave; it will be the same message if a question is asked when I'm in Pakistan," Bozkir said.

The UNGA President said that he will be travelling to Bangladesh and Pakistan later this month on the invitation of the respective governments.

He said that he had also planned a visit to India during his trip to South Asia but postponed it due to an "unexpected situation", referring to India's COVID-19 crisis.

India on August 5, 2019 revoked provisions of Article 370 which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcating the state into two union territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

## Trouble Grows...

had in September last year registered a case against R B Educational Trust through its chairperson and Singh's wife Kanta Andotra, former deputy commissioner of Kathua Ajay Singh Jamwal and former tehsildar of Marheen Avatar Singh.

Besides them, then Naib Tehsildar Chann Rorian (Marheen Tehsil) Des Raj, then Girdawar Ram Pal, then Patwari Sudesh Kumar and other unidentified persons were named in the FIR.

The role of the revenue officer emerged during the probe and the Revenue Department has been approached seeking sanction to prosecute him, the officials said

The educational trust runs a school, B Ed (Bachelor of Education) and nursing colleges on the land, they said.

Following the registration of the case, the CBI had conducted searches at the premises of the educational trust, its chairperson and residential premises of other accused in 10 locations, including Jammu and Kathua, which had led to the recovery of documents related to movable and immovable property, etc.

The probe agency had in June, 2020 registered a preliminary enquiry (PE) on the allegations of encroachment of a huge tract of public/ government/forest land in Kathua by certain people in violation of the Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act in connivance with revenue and forest officials, the CBI had said earlier.

"It was further alleged that the accused were involved in the conspiracy with the said educational trust through its chairperson to allow the trust to retain the land beyond the permissible ceiling limit of 100 standard kanal fixed in the Agrarian Reforms Act by deliberately giving the wrong exemption of 32 kanals of grazing land as per said Act and showing the land as 'orchard', which was not an orchard as per revenue record," it said.

"It was further alleged that the accused were involved in the conspiracy with the said educational trust through its chairperson to allow the trust to retain the land beyond the permissible ceiling limit of 100 standard kanal fixed in the Agrarian Reforms Act by deliberately giving the wrong exemption of 32 kanals of grazing land as per said Act and showing the land as 'orchard', which was not an orchard as per revenue record," it said.

It was also alleged that the educational trust, in connivance with the other accused, got wrong calculation done of standard kanal of the land measuring 316 kanal and 17 marlas to escape the ceiling imposed by the JK Agrarian Reforms Act, the CBI said.

Kanal and marlas are traditional land measurement units.

## Shabir Shah...

than half of that period.

The accused has spent three years and nine months as an under-trial. The said period is one-half period of the punishment prescribed for the offence under section 4 (punishment for money-laundering) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the application said.

Advocate Qausar Khan, also representing the accused, added that he was entitled to be released on bail as per law.

The advocate said, There is also no likelihood of the trial being completed any time soon given the current pandemic situation. Hence, no useful purpose is going to be served while keeping him in custody.

The application added that the co-accused Aslam Wani was already granted bail by the High Court of Delhi in December 2018 itself.

The accused undertakes to abide by any conditions, if so, imposed by the court, it said.

According to the prosecution, in August 2005 case, the special cell of Delhi police had arrested Wani, an alleged hawala dealer, claiming that Rs 63 lakh were recovered from Wani, of which Rs 52 lakh were allegedly to be delivered to Shah.

According to the prosecution, Wani had claimed that he had given Rs 2.25 crore to Shah. The ED had later registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Shah and Wani in 2007.



## Government Should Not Downplay Covid Crisis: DAK

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Making people aware and educating them about pandemic is a must but downplaying crisis creates mistrust which can have severe repercussions, DAK president Dr Nisar-ul-Hassan said on Wednesday.

He said that Covid-19 is new virus and educating and making people aware about its pattern and effects is a must, however, government claims must be based on facts.

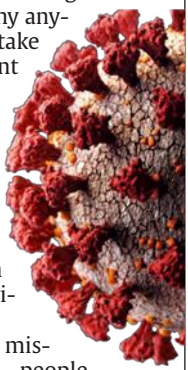
"By saying everything is alright and everything is available in adequate quantity can make people lapse and they may move out and abundant the precautions," he said. "When government claims one thing and people witness different scenes at hospitals and other places,

it creates mistrust and then people hardly believe government about any anything and they take every government claim false."

Whatever the ground situation would be same must be communicated with people so that people can prepare to face crisis in same way.

He said that if mistrust is created, people won't adhere to the Covid appropriate behaviour which can have a bad impact.

It is pertinent to mention here that beds in almost every hospital of Srinagar district are fully occupied.



## 129 Arrested, 586 Fined For Violation Of Covid SOPs

Observer News Service

**T**he Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said that during the last 24 hours, it has arrested 129 persons, lodged 74 FIRs and also realized fine to the tune of 91,650/- from 586 people for violating the guidelines/rules throughout Kashmir valley. Besides, 23 vehicles were also seized in Budgam for violating guidelines/restrictions and indulging in illegal excavation and transportation of clay. 11 shops were also seized by police along with Executive Magistrate in Beerwah and Khanshab areas of Budgam for violating Covid-19 norms.

"The special drive against the violators of Covid-19 guidelines/rules continued throughout all the districts of Kashmir Valley to ensure that people adhere to SOPs/ guidelines envisaged by government to curb COVID-19 pandemic."

## Drinking Water Shortage Hits Ananatnag's Arabal Village

Observer News Service

**DOORU:** Scores of residents of Arabal area of Dooru in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday staged a protest against Jal Shakti department for 'failing' to provide them regular water supply in the month of Ramadan.

The protesters said they are facing water shortage for the past two months, accusing the Jal Shakti department of failing in restoring water crisis in the area amid the holy month of Ramadan.

Altat Ahmad Rather, one of the protesters, said they are without drinking water from the past two months and the concerned department is watching

as a mute spectator. "We are being forced to consume contaminated water amid the month of holy Ramadan, which has affected our health," he said.

Another protestor said: "We rarely get tap water for the last few days. We are not able to perform the ablation properly due to lack of tap water."

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti department Dooru, Firdous Ahmad said that the pipeline was damaged which led to shortage of water in the area.

He said that the issue of the people will be resolved soon as the department will come up with proper water supply line towards the locality shortly.

## Ex-Magistrate Among Four Die Of Covid-19 in Rajouri, Poonch Districts

**RAJOURI:** An Ex-Executive Magistrate among four persons have lost their lives due to Covid-19 in Rajouri and Poonch districts respectively since Wednesday morning.

An official said that in Poonch a Naib-Tehsildar, who was referred to Jammu from SDH Surankote died due

to the virus. "He was posted in Harni Niyabit of Surankote."

Meanwhile, officials said that three person died in GMC Rajouri including a 24-year-old youth from Kotli village of Manjakote, a woman from Nowshera tehsil and a man from Thanamandi Tehsil

## J&K Admin Establishes 24X7 Control Room In Jammu For Distribution Of Medical Oxygen

Image for representation



Press Trust of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday set up a 24x7 oxygen war room' in Jammu to monitor and manage the supply and distribution of the life-saving gas.

The move comes after the administration faced flak on social media as people alleged that NGOs and volunteer groups were unable to procure oxygen cylinders for COVID-19 patients, in the absence of any help from the government.

The Industries and Commerce (I&C) department of Jammu division on Wednesday established 24 7 oxygen war room (control room) at Udhog Bhawan here to monitor and manage the supply and distribution of

oxygen, an official said.

Madhur Anand has been nominated as nodal officer for the control room and the public can contact on the numbers-- 9469593931 and 9469593933--in case of emergency, she said.

The war room will be in constant touch with consumers and suppliers of medical oxygen and take immediate necessary steps whenever needed, the official said.

The order issued by Anu Malhotra, director, industries and commerce department, however, did not mention if the NGOs and other volunteer groups are permitted to fill oxygen cylinders.

Several volunteer organisations providing free oxygen cylinders, oxygen

concentrators, oximeters, medicines, facilitation of doctor consultations and food to coronavirus patients since the pandemic outbreak last year criticised the L-G administration for total failure in supporting them.

"Kashmiri Pandit (KP) volunteers are busy in providing oxygen cylinders to people in need since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation turns from bad to worse with every passing day, we receive hundreds of calls for oxygen and other allied necessities. We have exhausted our available oxygen supply, Vikram Koul, president, Kashmiri Pandit Volunteers (KPV) said.

He said his team reached out to the Jammu and Kashmir administration in granting permission to fill the empty oxygen cylinders but in vain.

Sunita, whose 87-year-old mother was saved by the intervention of one such volunteer group, said the administration should extend all help to NGOs working for providing oxygen cylinders and other medical necessities to COVID-19 patients in home quarantine.

## Govt Okays Construction of New High Court In Bemina Estimate Project Cost Pegged At 908.2 Crore

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities have granted sanction to the construction of new Jammu and Kashmir High Court – for Kashmir Division – at Rakhi Gund Aksha in City suburbs at Bemina – at an estimated cost of 908.2 Crores.

A Government Order No. 3456 – JK (LD) of 2021 Dated 04.05.2021, a replica of which is in possession of Srinagar-based news agency Global News Service – authenticated by Achal Sethi, Secretary to Government, Department of Law and Parliamentary Affairs – states that Administrative approval is accorded to the construction of New High Court at Rakhi Gund Aksha Bemina at an estimated cost of Rs. 908.20 Crores (Nine Hundred Eight Crores and twenty lakh only) with the execution of the project through Public Works Department.

The approval, as stated, has been however subjected to fulfillment of certain conditions, which include that the proposal is strictly devised and designed as per relevant latest I.S Code and Specifications of PWD/CPWD and that same is authenticated and proof checked by the competent authorities and while designing, latest HFL has to be taken in consideration for flood prone locations and adequate provisions in design need to be incorporated for making the structures resistant to earthquakes.

The Electrical /Mechanical/ Electronic Components are authenticated by the Competent Authority of relevant field and the standard specifications are followed as per CPWD, NBC and L.S Standards, it says.

The order lays down that specification as defined in CPWD PLINTH AREA RATE SCHEDULE 2020 for the type of structure proposed in the DPR, are followed and adopted for the execution of the works.

The rates of items, not covered in JK-SSR or any other relevant schedule, shall con-

form to analysis of rates based on authentic Data Book, to be computed and approved by the Competent Authorities well before invitation of tenders in accordance with set Codal procedures, it states.

The lump sum provisions, either in terms of percentage or fixed, as made for certain components of DPR are provisional and shall be subject to detailed estimates based on actual detail/requirements and relevant rates, to be framed and approved by the Competent Authorities well before invitation of tenders in accordance with set Codal Procedures, says the order.

That e-tendering mode is followed for fixation of award of contract for execution of the project and fragmentation of the project, while tendering is not allowed, it further states.

This issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department conveyed vide U.O.No. FD-VII-10(26)99-2000-11 dated:-09-04-2021, it concluded. (GNS)

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## Kashmir Roads In Shambles: CE R&B Says Macadamisation Going On

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Roads and Buildings Department (R&B) Kashmir Wednesday said that the department has already started the much needed macadamisation of roads amid and the department is committed to complete the macadamisation of 900 km road length in the months ahead.

Pertinently, complaints are pouring in from corners of Kashmir with people especially commuters saying that they are facing immense hardships

as most of the roads have developed potholes and are dilapidated.

Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir, Showkat Jeelani said: "Process of macadamisation has already started, as it is a continuous process for the year and it will keep going accordingly."

Asked about any halt due to COVID 19 he said: "There is no hindrance due to pandemic, even it's easy to work under lockdown, and we will continue our task positively and complete the target of macadamising the 900 km road length as soon as possible."

## NIA Charges Pak Woman, 2 LeT Workers

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday filed the first supplementary chargesheet against three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives, including an absconding Pakistani woman, in an online recruitment case registered last year in West Bengal.

The chargesheet was filed in the NIA special court, Kolkata against Tania Parveen alias Isaranoor and Refite of Malayapur-Baduria (North 24 Parganas), Sayyad M Idris alias Munna of Anganavadi (Karnataka), and absconding accused Ayesha alias Ayesha Burhan and Ayesha Siddiqi of Gali Brahwal village of Sargoda in Punjab (Pakistan), an NIA spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said the case was initially registered on March 18 last year at the Baduria Police Station in North 24 Parganas district following the arrest of Parveen, a member of the proscribed Pakistan-based terrorist organisation.

The NIA had re-registered the case after taking over the investigation on April 5, 2020 and had already filed a chargesheet against Parveen under various sections of the stringent UA(P) Act.

"Parveen was a college student and was radicalised and recruited in cyberspace by Pakistan-based cadres of LeT. She

was co-admin of various social media groups espousing secessionist ideas on Kashmir with accused Ayesha Burhan, a Pakistan-based cadre of LeT's women's wing," the spokesman said.

The spokesperson said Parveen in association with other accused members of LeT in India and Pakistan indulged in unlawful activities, radicalised, recruited and motivated other people through cyberspace for a violent Jihad (holy war) against India.

"She and other accused were brainwashing impressionable youth and propagating the ideology of LeT, thus conspiring to wage war against the State," the spokesperson said as more charges were framed against her in the latest chargesheet.

On Apr 15, the NIA arrested schoolteacher Altat Ahmad Rather from his residence in north Kashmir's Bandipora district in the case.

"Investigation has revealed that Rather is a schoolteacher in Bandipora and was a sympathiser of the LeT. Parveen had come in contact with him over social media platforms and he was instrumental in introducing her to LeT members based in Pakistan, in pursuance of a conspiracy to radicalise, motivate and recruit youths for violent Jihad' (holy war) on India," the NIA had said.

However, Rather was not named in the chargesheet as further investigation in the case is still going on, officials said.

## Kidnapped Girl Rescued, Accused Arrested In Kulgam

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday claimed to have recovered a kidnapped girl in Kulgam and arrested the accused person involved in the commission of crime.

A police spokesman in a statement said that on 19-07-2020, police station Manzgam received a complaint from a person stating therein that his daughter (name withheld) had been kidnapped by Imran Gorsi aka Abrar son of Mir Mohammad Gorsi, a resident of Yarikha DH Pora.

Accordingly, police said that a case FIR No. 34/2020 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Manzgam and investigation was initiated.

An investigation team headed by SHO Manzgam under the supervision of SDPO DH Pora was constituted. Acting on specific leads, the team was able to recover the kidnapped girl and arrest the accused person from Yarikha DH Pora Kulgam. He has been shifted to PS Manzgam where he remains in custody, police said.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Three RDD Contractual Employees Terminated On Charges Of 'Corruption'

Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** Authorities in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday terminated three contractual Technical Assistants of Rural Development Department (RDD) after their alleged involvement in corruption.

Addressing a press conference, District Magistrate Kupwara, Imam Din said that an inquiry was established at block Sogam after a complaint related to corruption was registered.

"The committee formed to investigate the corruption allegations recommended their



termination from the contractual services after the trio were found involved," he said.

He identified them as Waqar Ahmad Wani, Abdul Rouf Mir,

and Jameel Ahmad Khan. "The three technical assistants were terminated from the contractual services based on a report filed by the committee," he said.

An Executive Engineer and Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) were also suspended.

The DM said that the name of an operator has also surfaced in the charges and "we have asked the concerned officials to communicate his name for further course of action who, however, is believed to have resigned from the post already."

He said this order is a caution for all other government

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (JSD) PHEDIVISION, KULGAM

email : xenphekgm@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh E-NIT No. 04 of 2021-22 ISSUED

UNDER NO:PHEK/510-22 Dated.01-05-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) are invited on item rate basis with maintenance period of Three Years which includes DLP of one year from reputed and resourceful contractors

/Firms/companies/joint venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> for the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer Engineer, Special PHE Division Kulgam and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No:- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e- procurement portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender documents (Non- refundable/Non-Transferable) should be the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer PHE Division Kulgam

S.N	Name of work	Amon unt	Ernest money	Time for completion	Cost of TD	Class of contract	Tender receiving authority
0							
1	Providing and laying fitting of pipes for retrofitting of WSS Hanjen Behibagh under JJM which includes maintenance for a period of three years which includes DLP of 12 months	74.66	Bid security form to be sworn on affidavit duly notarized be attached with the Bid	30days	2000/=	Aay	Executive Engineer Special PHE Division Kulgam
2	Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme Kujjer kaladren by way of .construction of chain link fencing around structures, construction of one No.sluce chamber, construction of PST, providing, L/F of pipes which includes maintenance for a period of three years which includes DLP of 12 months (Fresh)	87.41		30days	2000/=	Aay	

**Position of Funds:- Available; Major Head of Account: JJM**

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Portal "<http://jktenders.gov.in>" as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	01	05	2021	400 Hrs
2	Download start date	01	05	2021	400 Hrs
3	Bid submission start date	01	05	2021	400 Hrs
4	Bid submission end date	10	05	2021	1600 Hrs.
5	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	11	05	2021	1000 Hrs.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

DIPK-1179/21

Executive Engineer,  
JSD (PHE) Div, Kulgam

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I have lost my driving license bearing DL No: JK0120180001678. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of RTO Kashmir within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Sameer Hussain Mir**  
S/O Gh Mustafa Mir  
R/o Jafferi Mohalla Mujgund Srinagar

AJKO



## PSL Franchises Ask PCB To Move Remainder Of Tournament To UAE



Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** The PSL franchises have written to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), asking it to shift the re-scheduled matches of the league's sixth edition from Karachi to UAE amid a fresh surge of coronavirus cases in the country. The PCB had to postpone PSL-6 abruptly on March 4 with just 10 out of 34 matches completed due to COVID-19 cases among players and officials.

The tournament is scheduled to resume on June 1, with the final slated for June 20.

A letter from all six teams asking to move the remaining games of the rescheduled 2021 edition of the tournament out of Karachi to the UAE was sent to the board last week, according to a report in 'ESPNcricinfo'.

The report added that the PCB is "believed to be considering the request and reviewing current plans."

As per the original plan, all

teams are to assemble in Karachi by May 23 and begin their mandatory seven-day quarantine. 16 league stage matches will be played between June 2-14.

The playoffs are slated to be played between June 16 and June 18. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in cases recently and there is a partial lockdown in parts of the country.

Last week, the Pakistan government announced it will reduce the number of international flights by 80 percent to help curb rising COVID-19 cases. Last month, the PCB had appointed a two-person fact-finding panel to review the bio-security protocols, bylaws and arrangements for the PSL-6 and make recommendations on how to better ensure implementation of a bio-secure environment for future events.

After the date of resumption was revealed, the teams participated in a replacement draft as several foreign players had pulled out of the event.

## IPL 2021: 8 Englishmen Reach Back Home, Aussies Await Flight To Maldives

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Englishmen were the first ones out with eight of them landing in London, while the Australians awaited an escape to Maldives as IPL's foreign recruits charted their way back home assisted by the BCCI on Wednesday.

Jos Buttler, Jonny Bairstow, Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Sam Billings, Chris Woakes, Moen Ali and Jason Roy landed in London to begin a 10-day quarantine before heading to their respective homes.

England skipper Eoin Morgan, Dawid Malan and Chris Jordan are expected to board a flight to London within the next 48 hours.

"I can confirm that 8 of the 11 England players in India managed to get on a flight to Heathrow last night and have landed this morning," an England and Wales Cricket Board spokesperson told PTI.

"They will now quarantine in government approved hotels. The remaining three – Jordan, Malan, Morgan – should leave India within the next 48 hours," he added.

The Australians, on the other hand, were still waiting to know when they can fly out to Maldives, where they will stay for a few days before flying home. The detour has



been forced by the Australian government's travel ban on India till May 15 because of the explosion of COVID-19 cases here. Their Prime Minister Scott Morrison has refused to consider an exemption and Cricket Australia has also ruled out seeking one from the government.

"All Australians are assembling in Delhi and from there they will head to Maldives by a charter flight," a franchise official told PTI.

CA's interim chief Nick Hockley said the BCCI is helping in every possible way to ensure a smooth return for the 14 players, members of the coaching staff and commen-

tators, who are in India right now.

"What the BCCI is working to do is to move the entire cohort out of India where they will wait until it's possible to return to Australia," Hockley told reporters in Sydney.

"The BCCI has been working on a range of options. That's now narrowed down to the Maldives and Sri Lanka. The BCCI is committed not only to the first move but also to putting on a charter to bring them back to Australia," he added.

IPL also featured cricketers from South Africa (11) and New Zealand (10) West Indians (9), Afghanistan (3) and Bangladesh (2).

## Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman Nominated For ICC Player Of The Month



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Pakistan batsmen Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman were on Wednesday nominated for the ICC 'Player of the Month' award for April following their stupendous performance in the limited-overs series against South Africa.

The ICC on Wednesday announced the nominees to recognise the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket and for the first time, the list didn't feature any Indian.

Besides the Pakistan duo, Nepal batsman Khushal Bhurtel was the other player to be nominated in the men's category, the ICC stated in a media release.

The nominees among the women's cricketers comprised the Australian duo of Alyssa Healy and Megan Schutt and New Zealand's Leigh Kasperik.

Last month, Pakistan captain

Babar had become the No.1 ranked batsman in the ICC ODI Player Rankings, ending India captain Virat Kohli's long reign at the top of the charts.

Babar's match-winning 82-ball 94 in the third ODI against South Africa helped him gain 13 rating points to reach a career-best 865 points.

He also contributed 122 from 59 balls in Pakistan's successful chase in the third match of a T20I series against the same opposition.

His compatriot Fakhar also produced stellar performances during the month, scoring two centuries in the ODI series victory over South Africa, including a magnificent 193 in the second match in Johannesburg.

Nepal's Khushal, on the other hand, was the leading run-scorer as his team won a tri-series also featuring the Netherlands and Malaysia.

His significant contribution with the bat totalled 278 runs, including four half-centuries in five matches.

## Bookies Tried To 'Fix' IPL Match At Kotla, Reveals Anti-Corruption Boss

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The recently-suspended IPL witnessed potential corruptors plugging an accredited cleaner at Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla ground for doing "pitch-siding" which helps ball-to-ball betting, BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit chief Shabbir Hussain Shekhdad Khandawala has revealed.

The new modus operandi was observed during one of the IPL games at New Delhi where a designated cleaner was using the time lag between actual match action and live TV coverage to help in ball-by ball betting, which is also known as court-siding or pitch siding.

Pitch-siding is the practice of transmitting information from sporting events for the purpose of gambling, or directly placing bets.

"One of my ACU officers caught a person and handed over the details to Delhi Police. While that particular offender managed to flee leaving behind his two mobile phones, ACU lodged a complaint with the Delhi Police," Hussain, a former DG of Gujarat Police, told PTI on Wednesday.

"We are thankful to Delhi Police that in a separate incident they caught two other persons from the Kotla on ACU tip-off."

The Delhi Police arrested two people with fake accreditation cards during the IPL match between Rajasthan Royals and SunRisers Hyderabad on May 2.

"So on two separate days, these people managed to get access to Kotla. The one who fled came in the garb of a cleaner. However, we have all his details as he was employed for the tournament. His Aadhar Card details have been handed over to Delhi Police," Hussain said.

"I am confident that he will be nabbed in a day or two. He is a small fry working for a couple of hundred or some thousand bucks may be," the ACU supremo said.

But he did agree that lower-rung staff might be used by a big-



ger syndicate since, because of COVID-19, there is no access to hotels given the bio-secure measures.

"...as situations and circumstances change, so does the modus operandi of crime. But we are up for it," Hussain said.

So how did cleaning staff come under the ACU radar?

"He was standing (inside Feroz Shah Kotla premises) in a secluded area all by himself and so one of our officers approached and asked him 'What are you doing here?'"

"He said: 'Main apne girlfriend se baat kar raha hoon.' (I am talking to my girlfriend)."

"My officer then asked him to dial the number he was talking to and then asked him to hand over the phones. Just when he was going through the contents of his phone, the guy fled from the spot," Hussain revealed but did not divulge during which match the incident took place.

What was more interesting was that he was wearing the IPL accreditation card which all the class IV staff are given during the tournament from bus drivers, to cleaners, porters etc.

"It was one of the evening matches in Delhi. He was wearing an I-card. Also what raised suspicion was he had two mobiles," he said.

"The information he may be supplying could be to someone more influential among bookmakers and so we needed to inform the Delhi Police. Delhi Police has responded positively and thus next instance two people were arrested."

Hussain also confirmed that the ACU didn't receive any complaint of corrupt approaches being made to players or support staff involved in IPL during the 29 games that were held.

"Obviously with bio bubble and no crowd around, it certainly becomes a bit easier to manage as there is no physical proximity of (face to face meeting with players) questionable characters. When there is crowd, it becomes difficult to check anyone and everyone," Hussain said.

He also said that during the Mumbai leg, the hotel in which SunRisers Hyderabad team was staying had three people with questionable past record and whose names were there in ACU database. However, they couldn't come in contact of the players.

"The moment we had information, we got in touch with Mumbai Police. The Police Commissioner of Mumbai took immediate cognisance and the Mumbai Police got hold of those three," he added.

## Former Australia Spinner Stuart McGill Kidnapped And Then Released: Police

Press Trust of India

**NE W DELHI:** Former Australia leg-spinner Stuart MacGill was allegedly kidnapped from his home in Sydney and then released after an hour-long ordeal last month, New South Wales police said on Wednesday.

Quoting Australian police, the country's media reported that four men were detained in connection with the alleged kidnapping following a raid.

The incident took place on April 14 when he was bundled into a car and driven to a remote location, after which he was assaulted and threatened with a firearm.

"I know it was only an hour that he was held but it would have been a horribly frightful hour to endure," NSW Police superintendent Anthony Holton was quoted as saying by the local media.

In a press release, New South

Wales state police said an incident was reported to them on April 20.

The statement said "detectives from the robbery and serious crime subsequently commenced an investigation and four men -- aged 27, 29, 42 and 46 -- were arrested" in the early hours of Wednesday.

The police said the kidnapping was financially motivated.

"He was seen as someone that they could get money from, although no money was paid prior to him being released."

MacGill, a former leg-spin bowler, ended his international career with 208 wickets in 44 Test matches for Australia between 1988 and 2008.

His stint in top-flight was overshadowed by fellow Australian great Shane Warne, who is second on the list of all-time leading wicket takers in Test cricket.

The 50-year-old MacGill retired from cricket in 2008.

## 'Favouritism In Pakistan Cricket,' Discarded Pacer Junaid Khan Makes Sensational Claim

Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Discarded left-arm pacer Junaid Khan believes players remain insecure about their future in Pakistan cricket, alleging that most cricketers get a proper run in the national team if they are close to the captain and team management.

The 31-year-old, who has picked up nearly 190 wickets in 22 Tests, 76 ODIs and 8 T20 matches, has not been selected for any format for his country since May, 2019.

"It is like if you are on good terms with the captain and team management then you will probably get a proper run in all formats to prove your worth," he said in an interview to the CricketPakistan.com website.

"If you don't have close relations with them then you are in and out." He lamented that he wasn't given a long run despite being a consistent performer.

"I used to be part of the national team in all three formats. I used to ask for rest but I wasn't given rest."

"Then came a time when I got in the bad books and was being ignored due to likes and dislikes. I was performing but was not being given a proper chance," he said.

Junaid said despite being the

second-highest wicket-taker after Hasan Ali in the Champions Trophy in 2017, he was excluded from the squad, including for the World Cup 2019, after being initially named in it.

"I just got into the bad books of selectors that is all."

Junaid, however, made it clear he had not given up hope of playing for Pakistan again and was very much active on the domestic front for his province.

"I am regularly playing domestic cricket and I believe if selection is done justly I should be in consideration."

Junaid said selection in Pakistan cricket depend on which city the player belongs to.

"If you belong to a big city, then people raise their voice for you. People like me and Yasir Shah are from Swabi. There is no TV channel or media person from Swabi, so there is no pressure on selectors regarding our selection from the media," he said.

Junaid said he had "got a great offer from the United States of America (USA)" but he refused.

"I am being offered more money than what I earned while playing for Pakistan during my peak. However, I refused the offer as I still want to represent Pakistan," he said.

## Mary Kom, 2 Other Olympic-Bound Female Boxers To Train At ASI Pune

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom, along with two other Olympic-bound boxers, will train at the Army Sports Institute in Pune leading up to the Tokyo Games after the national camp for women in Delhi had to be disbanded owing to COVID-19 cases among pugilists and support staff.

Mary Kom (51kg) will join another Olympic-bound boxer Lovlina Borgohain (69kg), who is already at the facility. Simranjit Kaur (60kg), also bound for Tokyo, will train there too but after completing the COVID-19 post-recovery isolation. The boxers will be placed in three separate groups with two sparring partners each to ensure that the risk of infection is minimal.

However, Pooja Rani (75kg), who

has qualified for the Games too, will continue to train at Bellary's Inspire Institute of Sports, which is her current base. Mary Kom will not have immediate company of her coach and former boxer Chhotel Lal Yadav, who continues to be in isolation after testing positive for the dreaded infection last month. Yadav is expected to join the camp after returning a negative test in the next few days.

"I am leaving today, looking forward to it. Chhotel will come in a while so it will be fine. I hope to get vaccinated also during my time there," Mary Kom told PTI.

"The training was thrown haywire after the suspension of Delhi camp but, hopefully, it will now get back on track. I might even train with the men boxers who are there at ASI. I routinely train like that to be in good shape," she said.

## Man City Beat PSG 2-0 To Book First Champions League Final

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** By the time Riyad Mahrez completed the counter-attack that sealed Manchester City's spot in a first Champions League final, it looked so effortless overcoming a Paris Saint-Germain lineup that lost its cool and composure.

"Then they lost their nerve and started to kick us and it was good," Mahrez said.

It was the Paris-born winger who netted twice before PSG had Angel Di Maria sent off. City won 2-0 to eliminate last season's finalists 4-1 on aggregate on Tuesday.

"They had the red card," Mahrez said, "and after, it was more comfortable for us."

It's been anything but comfortable for City getting a shot at lifting European football's top prize for the first time despite 13 years of lavish investment.

Even reaching this semifinal required a fight in court to overturn a ban from this season's Champions

League for breaching UEFA's financial rules.

And it's only two weeks since the Abu Dhabi-owned team exposed itself to fresh sanctions for joining a brief, ill-fated bid to split to help form a breakaway European Super League.

Now City could win the competition it tried to leave in what could be an all-English final on May 29 in Istanbul if Chelsea overcomes Real Madrid on Wednesday. Chelsea and Madrid played to a 1-1 draw in the first leg.

"Of course, we've invested money in the last decade since Sheikh Mansour took over the club, but it's not just about this," City manager Pep Guardiola said.

"If you want to think it's just about money, it's OK. But there is a lot of incredible things behind the scenes."

It's not just City that's endured frustration in its quest to win the biggest prize in European football. Guardiola, a Champions League winner as Barcelona coach in 2009 and 2011, has been waiting a decade



to return to the final.

He fell short three times with

Bayern Munich and has taken until his fifth season at City to even reach

the semifinals.

"To reach the Champions league final is so difficult," Guardiola said.

"It's the toughest one, but we did it."

City is now accustomed to success – sitting on the brink of its third Premier League title in four seasons after already collecting the League Cup last month. But its only continental title came with the now-defunct European Cup Winners' Cup in 1970.

"This club needed the final, these players needed the final," City defender Kyle Walker said. "For these players to not be in a Champions League final is a disappointment every year."

PSG missed out on a second shot at lifting a first European Cup after losing last season's final to Bayern Munich, and Mauricio Pochettino's lineup is even struggling to defend the French title.

"Disappointed and very sad," said Pochettino, who lost the 2019 Champions League final as Tottenham manager. "We played well but we didn't have the luck that you

need in football."

And in the clash of European football's Gulf-funded big-spenders, it was the Qatari visitors from Paris on the backfoot quickly in Manchester.

After scoring City's winner in Paris last week, Mahrez took only 11 minutes to score in the second leg. The move began with a long ball, with defender Oleksandr Zinchenko running onto a long ball from goalkeeper Ederson.

"It's something we work on all the time," Mahrez said, "and today it worked good."

Zinchenko passed to Kevin De Bruyne, whose shot was blocked by Keylor Navas but Mahrez was alert to the rebound to put the ball through the goalkeeper's legs on a field covered in the remnants of a spring hailstorm.

Mauro Icardi was proving ineffective in a PSG attack shorn of Kylian Mbappé, who wasn't fit enough to start and never entrusted with being deployed from the bench.

There were headers over from Marquinhos and Neymar but PSG

could find no way past a defense that had Rúben Dias proving such a robust barrier.

The PSG back-line was easier to breach, which happened again in the 63rd minute. There was a surging run down the left flank by Phil Foden before a combination with De Bruyne and a cross delivered for Mahrez to sweep into the net.

"We fought to the end," PSG midfielder Marco Verratti said. "When you play against big teams, it's impossible to attack for 90 minutes without suffering. We have to accept that."

The frustrations of PSG were clear, even without any crowd to create any intimidating atmosphere. The visitors finished the game with 10 men just like in the first leg after Di Maria was sent off with 20 minutes to go for kicking at Ferdinandinho.

PSG turned on the referee, with midfielder Ander Herrera in a post-match interview accusing Bjorn Kuipers of directing an expelative at PSG teammate Leandro Paredes. It wasn't heard by Pochettino.