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P3 CITY

500 BEDDED HOSPITAL COMING UP IN SRINAGAR, TO BE MADE OPERATIONAL BY MAY 30

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Monday said that district administration is working on war footing basis to break the chain of Corona virus infection in Srinagar....

P4

PALESTINIAN ISSUE: IS A SOLUTION POSSIBLE?

During the last week hundreds of Palestinian protesters have been wounded by the Israeli police and more than 197 are dead in Gaza and 10 in Israel, 42 were killed in the early hours of 17 May only, after the Israeli...



P7 NEWS

DOCTORS CALL FOR GENOME STUDY, INTENSIVE TESTING IN JAMMU

The Team of Doctors deputed by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Monday called for conducting genome study in Jammu while observing that the high...



Quote!

Life's under no obligation to give us what we expect.
—Margaret Mitchell



Dr. Muzaffar Maqbool
Researcher and Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, GMC

IDIOT (Internet derived Information Obstruction Treatment) syndrome can complicate Covid treatment and is actually causing harm and hampering Covid-19 management.

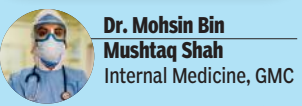
SAY NO TO SELF MEDICATION AND DON'T RISK YOUR LIFE BY ACCESSING GOOGLE FOR TREATMENT#

Let us not behave like one.



Dr. Tariq Trambo
MD Critical Care FIPP, Interventional Pain Specialist

We all are infected or have been infected unless proved - careful please
#COVIDEmergency



Dr. Mohsin Bin Mushtaq Shah
Internal Medicine, GMC

There is no need to retest. If you are asymptomatic you can leave the isolation safely after 14 days.

Kashmiri Held For 'Plotting' Islamophobe Killing

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A youth from south Kashmir's Pulwama district was arrested by the sleuths of Special Cell from New Delhi for allegedly planning to assassinate a hardliner Hindu priest who had made derogatory remarks against the Prophet of Islam last month.

Senior police officials said John Mohammad Dar, a resident of Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir, was apprehended from a hotel in Paharganj here along with a pistol and two magazines as well as with saffron clothes, allegedly for using it as a cover to gain entry. **More On P6**

HC Upholds J&K Bank's Selection Of 1500 BA Posts

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The J&K High Court on Monday upheld its single bench's verdict, dismissing petitions which had challenged Jammu and Kashmir Bank's re-notification for filling up of 1500 banking associates' vacancies.

On March 22 last, the court's single bench had dismissed petitions filed by at least 288 aspiring candidates who had participated in the selection process pursuant to a notification on 6 October 2018 and had

J&K Logs Highest Ever 73 Covid Deaths In A Day

3344 More People Test Positive In 24 Hours

Firdaus Ali

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday the highest ever single-day fatalities due to coronavirus as 73 more people succumbed to the virus while 3344 fresh cases of infection were reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 54 people lost the battle with the deadly infection in Jammu division and 19 others succumbed to the virus at different hospitals



and healthcare facilities in this summer capital. The highest death count reported Monday took the overall number of

fatalities across J&K since the outbreak of pandemic last year to 3222.

Among the victims, officials said, included Assistant Professor at the Kashmir University's Zoology Department Dr. Mustahsan Farooq Fazili, former SSP Mohammed Yaseen Bhat and a youth from Qamarwari area of the city. Besides them, other victims included a woman from Dalgate, who died two days after she was admitted to Chest Diseases hospital, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients.

Officials said that a 68-year-old man from Hamdaniya Colony Bemina died eight. **More On P6**

File Photo: Abid Bhat

Senior Doctors Told To Lead From Front

Amid "increase in mortality rate" among the COVID-19 positive patients, the authorities have ordered senior faculty members of GMC Jammu to make frequent rounds of. **More On P6**

92 Inmates Test Positive In Two Jails

Ninety-two inmates have tested positive for COVID-19 in two prisons of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday, and asserted that all the positive cases are. **More On P6**

7 Oxygen Plants From Germany Reach Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir on Monday received seven new imported oxygen plants from Germany with a cumulative generation capacity of 7,100 litres per minute (LPM). The oxygen plants. **More On P6**

Corona Infected Non-Local Labourers Flee From House

At least 18 non-local labourers, eight among them coronavirus positive, escaped from their rented accommodation. **More On P6**

Not Unequal Dosage, Vaccine Hesitancy Behind Kashmir's Slow Rate: Govt

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: After drawing flak for "unequal dose distribution and vaccine shortage" in the Kashmir valley, the government on Monday blamed the jab hesitancy for Kashmir's slow rate.

The government clarified its stand a day after social media users in Kashmir rolled up their sleeves in anticipation of people getting Covid jab: "Where're the vaccines?"

While the government officials have assured that supply will become regular in a day or two, the official documents reveal how vaccine hesitancy in Kashmir division has been replaced by desperation.

"Despite having received almost similar amount of vaccine doses as winter capital Jammu, the immunisation programme was a tough challenge for medical fraternity in Kashmir valley owing to rumours and fake news on Social Media," a top government official presiding over the vaccine program told Kashmir Observer.

Since 16 January 2021, the official informed, Jammu and Kashmir had received 38,73,360 doses of Covishield and Covaxin.

"Of the total, 19,02,220 were meant for Kashmir Division and 19,71,140 for Jammu Division," reveal the government documents shared by the official.

Total No. Of Doses of Covishield & Covaxin Received by J&K (for ALL)				
Kashmir		1,902,220		
Jammu		1,971,140		
Total Received		3,873,360		

Jammu and Kashmir, according to May 15 data, has achieved vaccination coverage of 61.03% against the national

average of 32.17%.

"It's a huge achievement for the J&K," the official who insisted not to be named claimed.

But, scratch the surface and these documents unravel other intriguing facts.

The summer capital Srinagar, which started vaccination drive at the same time as Jammu, have clocked only 35.52% coverage of the priority group while the latter has achieved 98.48% vaccination.

No. Of Doses of Covishield & Covaxin Received by J&K (for 18-44 years)				
Kashmir	Received on	Jammu	Received on	Total Received
75,000	5/1/2021	75,000	5/1/2021	Covaxin
25,000	5/8/2021	25,000	5/8/2021	Covishield
92,480	5/12/2021	92,470		Covishield
192,480		192,470		384,950

"Another district Kupwara in Kashmir division has achieved merely 27.57% while the worst performing district of Doda in Jammu Division managed to score 46.04%," the official documents in possession of Kashmir Observer reveal.

"Just before the second wave hit the country, same social media warriors in the valley were burning midnight oil to discredit the efficacy of vaccine and entire immunisation programme," the official said.

"Nevertheless, religious leaders, influencers and authorities tried to persuade the people to get vaccinated. The efforts paid dividends and many districts like Ganderbal, Shopian crossed 90% while other districts like Kulgam, Bandipora, Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam did fairly well in the immunisation drive."

Vaccine Hesitancy In Kashmir

The World Health Organisation 11-pages power point. **More On P6**

33 KAS Officers Shifted In Reshuffle

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As many as 33 Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officers on Monday were transferred by the Union Territory government with immediate effect in the interest of the administration.

According to an order issued here, Narinder Singh Bali, KAS, Special Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development available vacancy.

Muzaffer Ahmad Peer, KAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Ganderbal, against an available vacancy, reads the order. **More On P6**

2 Militants Killed In Khanmoh Gunfight



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Ajaz Ali

SRINAGAR: Two local militants of Al-Badr were killed in an encounter with government forces in Khanmoh area of Srinagar outskirts, police said on Monday.

Wasim Bashir Pandit of Kakapora and Mudair Ahmad Khanday of Bargam Awantipora were killed in an anti-militancy operation launched by Special Operations Group (SOG) of police, army's 50 RR and the personnel of CRPF laid a siege around Khanmoh area on Monday, a police spokesperson said.

He said both the militants were affiliated with Al-Badr. "As per police records both the militants were part of groups involved in several crimes including planning and executing of attacks on police and security forces," the police spokesperson said.

He also claimed recovery of arms, ammunition and other incriminating materials from the encounter site. "All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other crimes," he added. Divulging details. **More On P6**



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India



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Tuesday| 18-05-2021

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Subject: Shortlisting/Rejection of the candidates for the post of Assistant Professor, Food Science and Quality Control in Higher Education Department notified vide Notification No.10-PSC(DR-P) of 2017 dated 27.10.2017.

Notice Dated:- 12-05-2021

1. Whereas, the J&K Public Service Commission, vide Notification No. 10-PSC(DR-P) of 2017 dated 27.10.2017, invited online application forms from the permanent residents of Jammu & Kashmir for 15 posts of Assistant Professor, Food Science and Quality Control in Higher Education Department, possessing the prescribed qualification, i.e. Master's Degree level in the relevant subject from an Indian University, or an equivalent degree from an accredited foreign University. In response to the said Notification, the Commission received 196 application forms; and

2. Whereas, the verification/scrutiny of the documents was conducted by the Screening Committee constituted for the purpose and some candidates were found deficient in respect of some Documents. Accordingly, vide Notice dated 24.05.2019. The said candidates were advised to submit the deficient documents; and

3. Whereas, in response to the above Notice, the deficient documents were received from some of the candidates, which were further verified/scrutinized for short-listing of the candidates; and

4. Whereas, it was noted that there is no clarity on equivalence of various degrees with the minimum prescribed qualification; and

5. Whereas, the matter was taken up with the Higher Education Department for clarification; and

6. Whereas, the Higher Education Department furnished the Minutes of the Equivalence Committee held on 10.09.2020. As per the decision of the Equivalence Committee, the M.Tech Degrees obtained in Food Technology, Technology and Management, Food Engineering, Agriculture and Food Science, Horticulture (Food Science), Food Science (Food Safety and Standard), Agriculture Process and Food Engineering, Food Safety and Quality Assurance, Horticulture (Post Harvest Technology), PG in Bio-Technology, Master's in Home Science (Food Science and Nutrition), Master's in Nutrition and Dietetics, M.Sc in Post Harvest Technology, PG in Dietetics and Food Service Management, M.Tech in Food Engineering and Technology are not equivalent to the qualification prescribed for the post viz. Master's Degree in relevant subject i.e. Food Science and Quality Control; and

7. Whereas, shortlisting of the candidates has been done on the basis of the decision of the Equivalence Committee and as per provisions of Rule 51 of J&K Public Service Commission (Business and Procedure) Rules, 1980, as amended from time to time, which provides for weightage to be given to the Academic Performance, outreach and extra-curricular activities, special attributes and teaching skills constituting 57 points (on pro-rata basis i-iv only) with the break-up tabulated as under:-

i)	10 th Class	02 points
ii)	12 th Class	03 points
iii)	UG	06 points
iv)	PG	25 points
v)	JRF	02 points
vi)	M.Phil	03 points
vii)	PH.D	06 points
viii)	Post Doctorate (Minimum one year)	03 points
ix)	Distinction in NCC (holder of "C" Certificate)	03 points
x)	Distinction in Sports certified by the Secretary, J&K State Sports Council to be an outstanding sports person in terms of Sports Council to be an outstanding sports persons in terms of J&K (appointment of outstanding sports) Rules, 1998	01 point
xi)	Gold Medal	01 points
xii)	Teaching Experience at the level of post applied for or immediately above or below (in Gazetted Cadre) 0.25 points for each completed quarter of the Academic Session to the maximum of 03 points	03 points
Total		57 points

8. Whereas, the Rule 51 of J&K Public Service Commission (Business & Procedure) Rules, 1980, as amended from time to time, further provides for the short-listing of eligible candidates to be called for interview in the ratio of 1:3 and as such 27 candidates under OM category for 09 posts, 09 candidates under RBA Category for 03 posts, 03 candidates under SC Category for 01 post, 03 candidates under ST category for 01 post and 03 candidates under ALC category for 01 advertised post are required to be called for interview/viva voce; and

9. Whereas, after compilation of the data with respect to the above weightage points and the ratio to be adopted for short-listing of candidates for interview, the cut of merit under OM Category is 27.17; and

10. Whereas, the ratio of 1:3 could not be followed in respect of categories of RBA & SC due to less number of eligible candidates in these categories; and

11. Whereas, no candidate under ST & ALC categories is eligible for the post of Assistant Professor, Food Science & Quality Control.

12. Now, therefore, the following candidates are hereby shortlisted for the post of Assistant Professor, Food Science & Quality Control for appearing before the interview board.

S.NO.	REGNO	NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	CATEGORY	TOTAL MARKS	
8	17011007000116	ASIMA JAN	MOHD YOUSUF SHAH	OM	34.15	
11	17011007000097	ASWINI KUMAR SINGH JASROTIA	SANTOSH SINGH JASROTIA	OM	33.03	
	17011007000104	GULZAR AHMAD NAYIK	MOHD SHAFI NAYIK	OM	32.87	
	17011007000091	KHALID MUZAFFAR	MOHD AMIN RATHER	OM	32.73	
29	17011007000015	HARMEET CHAUHAN	JASWINDER PAL SINGH	OM	31.25	
31	17011007000121	ROMEE JAN	GHULAM MOHAMMAD DAR	OM	30.94	
	17011007000012	HALEEN KOUR	JASWANT SINGH	OM	30.69	
49	17011007000094	NAFIYA QADIR	GHULAM QADIR	OM	29.43	
51	17011007000060	SAHARA SAYEED	MOHAMMAD SAYEED KHAN	OM	29.32	
	17011007000074	SAJAD AHMAD MIR	MOHAMMAD AKRAM MIR	OM	29.07	
53	17011007000113	REHANA AKHTER	NOOR MOHAMAD	OM	28.89	
	17011007000023	TABASUM MAQBOOL	MOHMAD MAQBOOL DAR	OM	28.85	
	17011007000098	SUMAIRA HASSAN KHAN	GULAM HASSAN KHAN	OM	28.79	
55	17011007000100	OMAR BIN HAMEED	ABDUL HAMEED ZARGAR	OM	28.70	
	17011007000077	SHALLU	KAMAL LAL	OM	28.48	
59	17011007000179	AMREEN	AB QAYOOM WANI	OM	28.43	
63	17011007000084	GAZALA AKHTAR	GH MOHAMAD KHAN	OM	28.41	
64	17011007000079	SAJAD AHMAD SOFI	NAZIR AHMAD SOFI	OM	28.34	
67	17011007000014	DEEPIKA NANDA	ASHOK KUMAR NANDA	OM	28.28	
	17011007000109	AMINAH BINT AL HUDA	AGA SYED AHMAD AL MOSVI	OM	28.07	
	17011007000133	AMEETA SALARIA	GURDIAL SINGH SALARIA	OM	27.87	
	17011007000093	JASMEET KOUR	GURCHARAN SINGH	OM	27.86	
73	17011007000086	WAQAS NABI BABA	LATE GH NABI BABA	OM	27.81	
	17011007000024	TARIQ AHMAD GANIE	MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL GANIE	OM	27.81	
	17011007000056	BHARATI SHARMA	SODAGAR MAL KHAJURIA	OM	27.46	
76	17011007000034	SHUABI MOHAMMAD DAR	FAROQ AHMAD DAR	OM	27.25	
81	17011007000064	SHOWKET AHMAD PALA	GH NABI PALA	OM	27.17	
	17011007000117	SAJAD AHMAD RATHER	GHULAM MOHD RATHER	RBA	32.66	
	17011007000059	MANZOOR AHMAD SHAH	GH MOHI U DIN SHAH	RBA	30.66	
	17011007000114	SHAIQ AHMAD GANAI	MOHD AFZAL GANAI	RBA	28.91	
186	17011007000063	MOHD SHAFI	GH MOHI UD DIN	RBA	25.71	
193	17011007000089	BINDIYA SHARMA	OM PRAKASH SHARMA	RBA	22.75	
194	17011007000155	MONIKA HANS	HANS RAJ HANS	SC	29.66	
196	17011007000013	RENU BHARTI	RAM LAL	SC	24.43	

Simultaneously, the candidature of the candidates mentioned below is hereby rejected for the reason indicated against each:-

S.NO.	REGNO	NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	PARENTAGE	CATEGORY	REASONS FOR REJECTION
1	17011007000040	TAJINDER SINGH	YESHPAL SINGH	ALC	MSC BOTANY WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
2	17011007000138	TAWHEED AMIN	MOHD AMIN MALLA	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
3	17011007000192	JASIA NISSAR	PEER NISSAR AHMAD	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
4	17011007000068	SADAF NAZIR	NAZIR AHMED WANI	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
5	17011007000195	BAZILLA GAYAS	GAYAS UD DIN SHAHMIRI	OM	NOT SUBMITTED THE DEFICIENT DOCUMENTS
6	17011007000010	FARHAN MOHIUDDIN BHAT	GHULAM MOHIUDDIN BHAT	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
7	17011007000012	KULSUM JAN	NISSAR AHMAD NAJAR	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
9	17011007000173	HUMA MUKHTAR	MUKHTAR AHMAD SHAH	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
10	17011007000055	SYED INSHA RAFIQ	SYED RAFIQ AHMAD	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
13	17011007000107	TASEEM AHMAD MOKHDOMI	B A MOKHDOMI	OM	MSC IN BIO-TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
17	17011007000143	RUKHSAAR SAYEED	MOHMAD SYED SHAH	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
18	17011007000008	NADIRA ANJUM	ALTAF HABIBULLAH	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
19	17011007000066	UZMA ALTAF	MOHD ALTAF MISGAR	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
20	17011007000045	RAFEYA SHAMS	SHAMS UDDIN MIR	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
21	17011007000188	NADIYA RASHID MALIK	ABDUL RASHID MALIK	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
22	17011007000148	MEHNAZA MANZOOR	MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
23	17011007000035	SHAYEED AHMAD BHAT	GHULAM AHMAD BHAT	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
	17011007000181	DR LUBNA MASOODI	ABDUL MAJEED MASOODI	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
25	17011007000029	TABEEN JAN	KHURSHID AHMAD WANI	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
26	17011007000106	FARAH NAQASH	GHULAM HASSAN NAQASH	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
27	17011007000036	MAEENA NAMAN SHAFIEE	SHAHID NAMAN SHAFIEE	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
28	17011007000039	MOHD KHALID GUL	GH MOHD RATHER	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
30	17011007000196	TEHMEENA AHAD	ABDUL AHAD WANI	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION

33	17011007000047	KAISER YOUNIS	MOHD YOUNIS RATHER	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
34	17011007000037	INSHA ZAHOR	ZAHOR AHMAD GANDROO	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
35	17011007000083	TAHYIA QADRI	MOHAMMAD YOUSUF QADRI	OM	MSC HORTICULTURE (FOOD TECHNOLOGY) WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION
36	17011007000006	ANIKHA FAYAZ	FAYAZ AHMAD ALAKABAND	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
37	17011007000151	FOZIA HAMEED	AB HAMEED SHAH	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
38	17011007000139	MS AWSU JAN	ASSADULLAH DALAL	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
39	17011007000120	MIRZA TAJAMUL HUSSAIN	MIRZA AKHTAR HUSSAIN	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
40	17011007000009	KAUNSAR JABEEN	GHULAM MOHI UD DIN SHINWARI	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
41	17011007000005	SHEMILAH FAYAZ	FAYAZ AHMED SHAH	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
42	17011007000108	BEENA MUNAZA	SHABIR AHMAD KHAN	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
43	17011007000135	OMERA AYOB	MOHD AYOB DAR	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
44	17011007000200	DR ARCHANA BHAT	RAJESH K SHARMA	OM	POST GRADUATION IN DIETETICS & FOOD SCIENCE MANAGEMENT WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
45	17011007000038	MUDASIR AHMAD MALIK	MOHD SHAREEF MALIK	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
46	17011007000004	MASRAT MAQBOOL	MOHD MAQBOOL BHAT	OM	NOT SUBMITTED THE DEFICIENT DOCUMENTS.
47	17011007000146	OMAR BASHIR	BASHIR AHMAD	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
48	17011007000065	NADIA BASHIR	BASHIR AHMAD	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
50	17011007000095	QURAAZAH AKEEMU AMIN	MOHD AMIN BHAT	OM	MSC IN HORTICULTURE (POST HARVEST TECHNOLOGY) WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
54	17011007000156	MIFTHA YASEEN	MOHD YASEEN DAR	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
56	17011007000122	SADIYA JAVAI	JAVAI HUSSAIN QADRI	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
58	17011007000043	KHAN NADIYA JAN	MOHAMMAD NAJEEB KHAN	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
60	17011007000119	QUDSIYA AYAZ	AYAZ HUSSAIN NENGROO	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
61	17011007000182	SEHREEN NASEER	NASEER AHMAD BHAT	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
62	17011007000048	ISHRAT MAJID	ABDUL MAJID THOKUR	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
65	17011007000125	SADAF PARVEZ	PARVEZ AHMAD DAR	OM	NOT SUBMITTED THE DEFICIENT DOCUMENTS.
66	17011007000189	KHUSHNUMA MAQBOOL	MOHD MAQBOOL SHEIKH	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
68	17011007000049	SYED MANSHA RAFIQ	SYED RAFIQ AHMAD	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
69	17011007000101	YASIR REYAZ	REYAZ UL REHMAN	OM	M.TECH DEGREE (FOOD TECH & MANAGEMENT) WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
70	17011007000118	MOHAMMAD SAYEED BHAT	GHULAM RASOOL BHAT	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
71	17011007000044	OMAIS SHAFIQ QADRI	MOHD SHAFIQ UL REHMAN QADRI	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
74	17011007000007	AAYEENA ALTAF	ALTAF HUSSAIN BEG	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
75	17011007000061	SHUMAILA JAN	NISSAR AHMAD NAJAR	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
77	17011007000042	SUHEELA BHAT	MOHD ISMAIL BHAT	OM	M.TECH DEGREE. WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
78	17011007000003	IRSHAD MAJID TAILY	AB GANI TAILY	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
79	17011007000161	SHAFAT AHMAD KHAN	SHOWKAT AHMAD KHAN	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
80	17011007000019	UMAR ZAHOR	ZAHOR AHMAD SHAH	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
82	17011007000075	SYED AAFIA ISHRAT	ISHRAT SHAKEEL	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
83	17011007000128	ANJUM AYUB	MOHD AYUB PARAY	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
85	17011007000153	SUNEEL AHMAD BHAT	GULAM QADIR BHAT	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
87	17011007000101	KHALID BASHIR	BASHIR AHMAD NAIKOO	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
88	17011007000165	NUSRAT AJAZ	AJAZ AHMAD BHAT	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
92	17011007000147	TEHSEEN MASOOD	MASOOD AHMED	OM	PG IN HOME SCIENCE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
97	17011007000169	ALTAF HUSSAIN BHAT	WALI MOHD BHAT	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
98	17011007000085	DUWA	NISSAR AHMAD SHAH	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
100	17011007000130	MUDASIR AHMAD SHAGOO	GH MOHD SHAGOO	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
103	17011007000163	HILAL HASSAN	GH HASSAN WANI	OM	WITHOUT NET/SET/SLET/PHD
104	17011007000118	MAJID AHMAD JAN	NAZIR AHMAD JAN	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
105	17011007000194	FURHEEN AMIN	MOHAMMAD AMIN KHAN	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
107	17011007000166	MANSOOR WASIM MIR	GH RASOOL MIR	OM	WITHOUT NET/SET/SLET/PHD
110	17011007000032	TAHYIA QADRI	MOHAMMAD YOUSUF QADRI	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
112	17011007000145	YASIR ALI ARFAT	MASTER ALI MUHAMMAD	OM	MSC IN BIO-TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
113	17011007000017	SHAHREEN NAZIR	DR NAZIR AHMAD NAZIR	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
115	17011007000096	ISHA GUPTA	RAVI KUMAR GUPTA	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
118	17011007000150	ANJUM REYAZ	REYAZ UL RAHMAN	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
120	17011007000028	BASHARAT YOUSUF	MOHAMMAD YOUSUF MIR	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
123	17011007000134	ASHAQ HUSSAIN NAJAR	WALI MOHD NAJAR	OM	MSC IN TOXICOLOGY WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
126	17011007000026	NISSAR AHMAD MIR	AB RASHID MIR	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
127	17011007000174	SHAFIA ASHRAF	MOHAMMAD ASHRAF BHAT	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
128	17011007000115	ANSHUM SHARMA	ASHOK KUMAR	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
129	17011007000140	MS AMBEREENA NAZIR	NAZIR AHMAD MIR	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
130	17011007000132	MOHAMMAD MASROOR ALI	ALI MOHAMMAD WANI	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
132	17011007000160	RIKHSANA RAHMAN	AB RAHMAN	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
133	17011007000168	RAVINDER KOUR	BACHAN SINGH	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
136	17011007000102	NIDHI SHARMA	CHET RAM SHARMA	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
137	17011007000067	YASMEENA AMIN	MOHAMMAD AMIN GANAI	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
138	17011007000183	ARCHANA BHAT	RATTAN LAL BHAT	OM	MSC IN DIETETICS AND FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
139	17011007000002	HARNOON MAQBOOL WANI	MOHMAD MAQBOOL WANI	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
141	17011007000164	MONIKA PANDETA	SHUBAN JI PANDETA	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
142	17011007000149	FIROOZ JAN	MR AB REHMAN DAR	OM	PG DEGREE IN DIETETICS & FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
143	17011007000185	ROHINI ANAND	SHAM SUNDER ANAND	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
144	17011007000167	BUSHAIR ZAMIL	NAZIR AHMAD NAJEEB	OM	SET CERTIFICATE AFTER CUT OFF DATE.
145	17011007000171	MAJID ABDOUL ROUF	MALIK SAIF UD DIN	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
146	17011007000018	NAZIA NAZIR	NAZIR AHMAD WAGAY	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
147	17011007000154	KANCHAN SHARMA	BABU RAM SHARMA	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
148	17011007000159	BILAL AHMAD BHAT	MOHMAD ABDULLAH BHAT	OM	PG DEGREE IN VETERINARY SCIENCE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
149	17011007000191	NAZIA NISSAR	NISSAR AHMAD BABA	OM	PHD DEGREE AFTER CUT OFF DATE
150	17011007000123	ASIR GANI	MR ABDUL GANI SHAH	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
151	17011007000131	MEHRAB AHMAD	GH MOHUDDIN KUCHAY	OM	MSC IN BIO-CHEMISTRY WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
152	17011007000172	BASHIR AHMAD SOFI	GH AHMAD SOFI	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
153	17011007000021	REHANA RASHID	AB RASHID ZARGAR	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
155	17011007000180	GUNJAN SHARMA	JAGDISH CHANDER SHARMA	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
156	17011007000025	FARHAT SHARIEF	SHARIEF UD DIN MASOODI	OM	MSC IN HOME SCIENCE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
157	17011007000076	SHALINI SHARMA	KUNDAN LAL SHARMA	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
160	17011007000069	SHIVGANI GUPTA	MANMOHAN GUPTA	OM	PG IN NUTRITION & DIETETICS WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
161	17011007000090	ANISA ANJUM MALIK	MOHD YAQUB MALIK	OM	MSC IN AGRI(POST HARVEST TECH) WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
162	17011007000092	AFSHAN	AHMADULLAH TAK	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
163	17011007000110	MUNSHIR AHMAD SHEIKH	RAJAZ AHMAD SHEIKH	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
164	17011007000110	SHAFIYA BASHIR	RAFIQ AHMED SHEIKH	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
165	17011007000157	SAIMAT UL FATIMA	NAZIR AHMAD WANI	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
166	17011007000099	SHILPA SHARMA	SUDERSHAN KUMAR SHARMA	OM	PG IN HOME SCIENCE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
167	17011007000142	RAFIA RASHID	RASHID UD DIN	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
169	17011007000111	RAYEES UL ISLAM	GH MOHI UD DIN	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
170	17011007000198	NAFISA JABEEN	MOHAMMAD AFZAL BHAT	OM	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
171	17011007000136	FAYAZ AHMAD SHEIKH	MOHD ABDULLAH SHEIKH	OM	NOT SUBMITTED THE DEFICIENT DOCUMENTS & MASTER DEGREE IN VETERINARY SCIENCE.
172	17011007000137	SIYAM FARHAT	FARHAT HUSSAIN	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
173	17011007000124	ARJUMAND NISAR	NISSAR AHMAD TAK	OM	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
174	17011007000105	SAJAD AHMAD WANI	AB RASHID WANI	OM	PHD NOT IN RELEVANT SUBJECT
175	17011007000027	AMIR GULL	GH MOHD MOHAND	OM	PHD NOT IN RELEVANT SUBJECT
176	17011007000016	MUDASIR AHMAD BHAT	ABDUL GANI BHAT	OM	PHD IN (HORTICULTURE) FOOD TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
177	17011007000082	FARHEENA IFTIKHAR	IFTIKHAR AHMAD WANI	RBA	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
180	17011007000170	QAYOOM SIDIQUE BAHAIR	MOHD SIDIQUE BAHAIR	RBA	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
181	17011007000041	MUNEEB AHMAD MALIK	SHABIR AHMAD MALIK	RBA	NET CERTIFICATE AFTER CUT OFF DATE
182	17011007000152	NASER AHMED	MOHD SHARIEF	RBA	PHD DEGREE AFTER CUT OFF DATE
183	17011007000190	SYED SUBILA NAZIR	JEJAZ AHMAD MALIK	RBA	PHD DEGREE AFTER CUT OFF DATE
184	17011007000201	SHAHID SIRAJ SHAH	SIRAJ UD DIN SHAH	RBA	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
185	17011007000178	SUMAIRA JAN	MANZOOR AHMAD DAR	RBA	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
187	17011007000020	BILAL AHMAD MIR	MANZOOR AHMAD MIR	RBA	M.TECH DEGREE WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
188	17011007000088	AAFAQ ASHRAF	MOHD ASHRAF MALIK	RBA	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
189	17011007000078	SHOWKAT AHMAD MIR	ALI MOHD MIR	RBA	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
190	17011007000080	AUROOSA JAVID	JAVID AHMAD SHARPO	RBA	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
191	17011007000177	TALAJEL SHARIEF	SHARIEF UD DIN SHAH	RBA	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
192	17011007000126	JAMEEL AHMED	MOHD YASIN	RBA	PG IN GEOGRAPHY WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
193	17011007000146	REETI BALA	DARSHAN LAL	ST	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
197	17011007000158	JAVED IQBAL	BARKET HUSSAIN	ST	PG IN BIOTECHNOLOGY WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.
198	17011007000141	TSERING NORZOM	PUNTSOG DORJY	ST	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
199	17011007000070	AAMIR HUSSAIN	SHABIR HUSSAIN	ST	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
200	17011007000052	YASMIN KOSER	ABDUL RASHID	ST	NOT POSSESSING NET/SET/SLET/PHD
201	17011007000105	TARIQ AHMED MAGREY	GH QADIR MAGREY	ST	PG IN APPLIED GEOLOGY WHICH IS NOT A RELEVANT QUALIFICATION.



SRINAGAR CITY PRESENTS A DESERTED LOOK as the coronavirus lockdown continues across the capital city and other parts of Kashmir to curb the spread of the virus. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

500 Bedded Hospital Coming Up In Srinagar, To Be Made Operational By May 30



SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Monday said that district administration is working on war footing basis to break the chain of Corona virus infection in Srinagar. In order to take first hand appraisal of ongoing work being carried out by Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) for construction of 500-bedded Covid hospital at Khonmoh, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad convened a meeting of concerned officers in his office chamber.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sri-

nagar, Khurshid Ahmad, CMO Srinagar, senior officers of DRDO, PHE, PDD and SMC.

The Deputy Commissioner was informed that the work on said Covid health facility is being carried out on war footing. He was also told that the hospital would have 125 ICU beds and 375 Oxygen beds.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the officers/officials to speed up the pace of work by mobilisation of more men and machinery on job. He directed them to work in double shifts and set a May 30 deadline for making the hospital fully operational.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the of-

ficers of PDD and PHE to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity and water respectively at the site so that ongoing construction work is completed within set timelines.

The DC also asked SMC authorities to take immediate measures for lifting of garbage and debris from the site to pave way for transportation of material besides ensure smooth construction work to avoid any delay.

The Project Manager DRDO thanked the Deputy Commissioner for his intervention in smooth movement of trucks carrying pre fab material.

The DC directed the Chief Medical Officer Srinagar to provide all support to DRDO, including arrangements of health related facilities, hiring/posting of doctors, paramedics, and other healthcare workforce well before the formal functioning of the hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner said that as soon as this 500 bedded hospital set up by DRDO is made functional it will increase the bed capacity to treat Covid-19 patients and will further strengthen the measures undertaken by the Administration to fight Covid-19 in the district.

Anganwadi Workers To Be Imparted Covid Appropriate Training

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Monday convened a meeting with all Block/ Zonal Medical Officers to review the control measures put in place by the district administration in mitigating covid-19 pandemic in the district.

During the meeting, the DC was given brief regarding Covid-19 mitigation measures undertaken at block level including Covid vaccination, sampling, testing and progress with regard to Community Triaging in the district.

The DC directed the officers to increase the sampling/ testing of target groups and give focused attention to areas having higher covid positivity rate for early detection, isolation, and medical treatment of COVID patient.

He also directed for promotion of COVID-appropriate behaviour in

people through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities focusing on precautionary measures, health-related assistance, and helpline numbers.

The DC further asked them to fight the challenge of Covid-19 pandemic with added zeal and dedication to contain its spread besides saving precious human lives.

The DC said that additional manpower will be kept at the disposal of the CMO Srinagar to mitigate Covid-19

The DC also asked the officers to impart necessary training to Anganwari workers to empower them to mitigate Covid-19 and directed for appointing resource persons for the said training.

Among others, incharge Covid War Control Room, Akshay Labroo, Incharge Covid, Masarat Hashim, Deputy Chief Medical Officer Srinagar and other concerned were also present in the meeting.

Lockdown: Over 120 Trucks Stranded In Parimpora Fruit Mandi

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid the ongoing Corona lockdown across Jammu and Kashmir, over 120 truck drivers hailing from different parts of the Country are stuck in Parimpora fruit Mandi, saying that they are facing hardships in search of getting food stuff for the last over ten days.

Talking to a local news agency, Ravi Sonipath, a truck driver from Haryana said he along with some truck drivers are stuck here in Parimpora fruit Mandi for the last over ten days as the Mandi has been closed since then.

He said that the tomatoes worth Rupees two lakh were damaged due to the continuous closure of the Mandi, adding that he is not able to return home as he has to get a fare of Rs 17000 from the traders at the Mandi.

Another driver identified as Gurminder Singh who had reached Mandi with an onion laden truck said that he is also stuck here from the last over 12 days as he has not

been able to receive his fare of about 1.5 lac rupees.

"I will be able to get the fare only when the mandi will be opened again," he said. "We are suffering from many days, as we are not able to manage the food stuff. We are waiting to get our fare so that we can reach our homes," he said.

Fruit Mandi President, Bashir Ahmed said that the truck drivers are stranded as they are not able to unload the trucks amid the ongoing lockdown. He added that they are being allowed to work till 7 AM only due to which the trucks have not been unloaded properly.

"There are highly perishable items in trucks which got rotten. The administration should give us more time to unload the trucks like other parts of the country," he said. "We have discussed this matter with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Muhammad Aijaz Asad who assured that the matter will be resolved soon," he said—(KNO)

DHSK Visits Upcoming Covid Hospital At Khanmoh

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather on Monday visited the site of the upcoming Covid-19 hospital at Khanmoh and interacted with a team of officers from DRDO and officers of various executing agencies.

A spokesperson of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir said that the director visited the upcoming Covid hospital which would be having a 500-bed capacity and would be completed in the shortest period of time.

"Director Health service Kashmir interacted with a team of officers from DRDO and officers of various executing agencies while reviewing the status of a 500 bedded hospital which would be having 125 ICU beds. The Covid Care Hospital is under construction at Khanmoh Srinagar," the spokesperson said.

He said that the hospital is expected to start functioning in the

1st week of June with the support of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and DRDO.

The director emphasized on timely completion of the remaining work and assured all support to the team. He said that the hospital would be completed in the shortest period of time.

The director held an interaction and appreciated the role of engineers of DRDO lead by Anil Khurana, CCE estates North Chandigarh, Brijesh Kumar Maurya, Estate Manager, Zubair Ali, Scientist 'E', Syed Alfaz Daniyal, Scientist 'E', Amit Rai, Scientist 'D', Pankaj Patil, T. O -B, Vikas Panda, To-do and Sanjay Kumar, TO-A.

The director hailed the role of engineers and other executive agencies in the construction of the hospital.

The spokesman said once the hospital is ready it would be a big boost for the management of Covid management in the Kashmir division and a great service to the people.

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1846- US troops attack Rio Grande occupying Matamoros
- 1860- Republican Party nominates Abraham Lincoln for president
- 1869- Surrender and dissolution of the Ezo Republic to Japan.
- 1896-US Supreme court affirms legitimacy of racial separation (Plessy v Ferguson)
- 1896- Khodynka Tragedy: A mass panic on Khodynka Field, Moscow, during the festivities of the coronation of Russian Tsar Nicholas II, results in the deaths of 1,389 people
- 1899-World Goodwill Day-26 nations meet in 1st Hague Peace Conference
- 1917- US Congress passes Selective Service Act, authorizing the federal government to raise a national army for the American entry into World War I through compulsory enlistment
- 1940- German troops conquer Brussels
- 1941- Italian army in Ethiopia under general Aosta surrenders to Britain
- 1943- Allied bombers attack Pantelleria, an Italian island 100 km southwest of Sicily
- 1944- Expulsion of more than 200,000 Tartars from Crimea by Soviet Union begins, they are accused of collaborating with the Germans
- 1948- Arab Legion captures fort on Mt Scopus during Arab-Israeli war.
- 1948-Saudi Arabia joins invasion of Israel
- 1951- UN moves HQ to NYC
- 1951- US General Collins predicts use of atom bomb in Korea
- 1964- US Supreme Court rules it unconstitutional to deprive naturalized citizens of citizenship if they return to home country for more than 3 years
- 1969- Apollo 10 (Stafford/Cernan/Young) launched toward lunar orbit
- 1974- India becomes 6th nation to explode an atomic bomb
- 1974 Nigeria announces 55 percent government participation in all oil concessions
- 1977 - US, USSR and other nations sign the Environmental Modification Convention which prohibits weather warfare having widespread, long-lasting or severe effects

From KO Archives

GRENADE, FIRING ON FATEHA FUNCTION

2 Killed, 18 Injured As Gunmen Attack Gathering

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Unidentified gunmen attacked a memorial service in Bagh-e-Mahtab on the outskirts of the city this afternoon leaving two people dead and eighteen others injured.

The attack was carried out during the fourth day ceremony of the Kashmir Salvation Movement (KSM) chief's brother. Abdul Ghani Bhat, who was shot dead by gunmen on Saturday.

The gunmen struck at around 2:30 pm at Bhat s residence when the KSM chief and former Hizb-ul-Mujahideen divisional commander Zafar Abdul Fatah, was addressing a large number of people gathered there for Fateha khwani, the CNS said

The attackers first hurled a grenade and then opened indiscriminate fire on the gathering, leaving two people, including Fatah and his two brothers Haji Ghulam Muhammad and Basheer Ahmad, injured.

Local residents and the police rushed the injured mourners to the SMHS and the Bones and Joints hospitals.

Two of the injured succumbed to their injuries at the SMHS hospital The deceased have been identified as Mirza Aslam Beig, son of Kh-zir Muhammad a resident of Bagh-e-Mahtab and Imtiyaz Mohi-ud-din son of Ghulam Mohi-ud-din of Lal Nagar Meethan.

The police cordoned off the area and conducted house-to-house searches after the attack but the gunmen had made good their escape before the search operations began

Among the injured where Special Police Officer Basheer Ahmad, Bilal Ahmad of Kralpora. Farooq Ahmad Dar and Mushtaq Ahmad Dar of Nappora. Sopore.Manzoor Ahmad Waar of Handwara, Shahnawaz Ahmad of Paravpora. Manzoor Ahmad of Dagarpora, Handwara, Aijaz Ahmad of Barzulla and Farooq Ahmad Parray and his son Basheer Ahmad of Parraypora.

Talking to the CNS, Kashmir's inspector general of police, Javed Makhdoomi, said that a gunman had lobbed a grenade and opened fire on a mourner's gathering in Shankarpora.

Police and the BSF had been deployed in the area, but the assailants opened fire immediately after hurling the grenade, and guards deployed with Zafar Abdul Fatah also fired back, but the attackers escaped during the exchange of fire.

Abdul Ghani Bhat, for whom the memorial service was being held, was the elder brother of Zafar Abdul Fatah.

Fatah, whose real name is Zafar Akbar Bhat is a former divisional commander of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen who was a key figure in the failed talks between Hizb and the Centre in 2000. He launched a separatist political party,Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement after giving up violence.

He joined the moderate faction of Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq as a general council member.

No militant outfit has claimed responsibility for today's attack or the killing of Bhat on Saturday.

The attack on the mourners came just minutes after several senior leaders' of both factions of Hurriyat Conference had left the house of Bhat after expressing sympathy with the bereaved family, the sources said.

Chairman of National Front Nayeem Ahmad Khan, chief of Anjuman-e-Shaire-Shiayan Syed Agha Hassan Jamaat-e- Islami leader Mohammad Ashraf Laway all belonging to hardline faction headed by Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Peoples Political Front president Fazal Haq Qureshi and Ghulam Nabi Shah, of Awami Action Committee, constituents of the moderate faction led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had just left the house when the attack took place, the sources said.

(Kashmir Observer, 18 May, 2005)

Srinagar Resident Injured In Fire Incident Succumbs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A person among the three persons injured in a fire incident at Shalteng area in Srinagar outskirts in the first week of May succumbed to his injuries.

Three civilians were injured after Baghdadi Restaurant on the Srinagar Baramulla highway caught fire. Fire had broken out in the upper part of the three-storey restaurant. The gas cylinders present in the Restaurant exploded one after another, making it difficult for fire-fighters and locals to douse the flames.

At least three persons had sustained injuries while one of them was wounded due to gas cylinder explosion.

The deceased has been identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Shalteng area.

LAWDA Demolishes Illegal Constructions

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Wing of Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on Monday conducted a demolition drive in the area of Khawajabagh Teilbal, Kral Mohalla Ishber, Ranger stop Saidakadal, Friends Colony Shalimar and Rainawari.

During the drive, two second storeys, one single storey and under construction shops raised in the green belt and residential area were demolished on spot.

It was given out that the violators are taking advantage of the current Covid-19 curfew situation. Besides, legal action warranted under rules was initiated against these violators.

The demolition team faced resistance in the area of Jogi-lanker Rainawari where miscreants hampered the demolition process.

Meanwhile, the authorities have warned the residents living in the LAWDA jurisdiction not to indulge in illegal construction activities or dumping the construction material in the restricted areas without permission.

KU Assistant Professor Dr Mustahson Dies Of COVID-19

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Assistant Professor of Zoology Department at University of Kashmir (KU) Dr. Mustahson Farooq on Monday died of Covid-19.

Earlier on Sunday, Head of Department (HoD) of Department of Electronics at University of Kashmir, Professor Ghulam Mohiudin Bhat on Sunday died due to COVID-19, official sources said.

KUs registrar, Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir confirmed to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Dr. Mustahson Farooq Fazili who was tested positive for COVID-19 died today.

AYUSH MEDICAL AID CAMP ORGANISED AT D.C.OFFICE ANANTNAG



- On the directions of Director Indian Systems of Medicine (AYUSH) J& K & ADMO ISM Anantnag . Free Medical aid camp organised at office Complex of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Immuno boosting medicines were provided to employees of DC office , importance of COVID SoPs and vaccination was explained in detail. MJA

Demise



With profound Grief and sorrow, we inform the demise of Mohammad Yousuf R/o Sheikh Dawood Colony Sec-A near SBI Bank, Bagati Kanipora , Srinagar who breathed his last on Saturday 15/May/2021 after brief illness. (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Illahi Raajjoun).

The family of deceased has urged relatives and friends to pray for departed soul and not to visit their home for any condolence in view of covid-19 pandemic. It is also informed that in view of prevailing circumstances no congregational Majlis e Fateh khwani will be held at Ancestral Graveyard.

Bereaved Family

9861887324,6005073065,9797684485

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Gaza Horror

With the Israel-Palestine conflict entering the second week, 57 nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) met on Sunday to address the escalation of tensions in the Middle East. The Israeli bombardment of Gaza has claimed a vast number of civilian casualties. On Saturday, Israeli air raids flattened a Gaza building housing Al Jazeera and other media offices. The current flare-up began a month before when Israeli police acted against Palestinians protesting home evictions and the denial to pray at the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. The clashes soon led to communal clashes in Israel's mixed cities with Jewish and Muslim population and escalated into cross-border fighting between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza. Israel has been merciless in its bombardment of Palestine areas as the razing of Al-Jazeera building makes it clear. Indian journalist bodies including the Editors Guild of India (EGI) on Sunday strongly condemned the "brazen" Israeli airstrikes on the building housing the offices of the Associated Press, Al Jazeera and other news media outlets. The OIC meeting is the first international effort to address the conflict. The United Nations chief Antonio Guterres has warned of an "uncontainable crisis" and called for an immediate stop to the "senseless cycle of bloodshed, terror and destruction".

There has also been anger in Kashmir leading to protests in some areas. Police in several cases have taken action against the protesters, in one case, booking an artist who had made a mural in support of Palestine. This, at a time, when people all over the world are registering their protest against Israeli aggression and the loss of Palestinian lives.

It remains to be seen how soon the growing international diplomatic effort will influence the two parties to end the latest round of hostilities. Most Arab countries support an independent Palestinian state, at least verbally. But after the recent recognition deals with several OIC members, Israel can hope for a subdued condemnation.

Once again, the biggest loser in the ongoing conflict has been the image of the US. It has stayed short of asking Israel to stop the use of disproportionate force. The US, which had the power and influence to broker a peace between Israel and Palestine has already dented its credibility to act as an honest mediator, perhaps irreparably so, by moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The brutal massacre of Palestinians has only put in sharper relief the Muslim haplessness. There is no way this bloodshed will stop if the Palestinians don't get justice. And that is unlikely to happen if the world of Islam remains powerless and divided. Massacre of Palestinians is one more wake-up call for the Muslim world to reflect over its weakness and seek to address the causes responsible for it.

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

In a New Light

On Friday last, justices UU Lalit and KM Joseph, in response to a plea for bail filed by Gautam Navlakha, an activist jailed in the Bhima Koregaon case, asked the legislature to consider the "possibilities that house arrest offers". The Court's proposition needs to be taken seriously.

While discussing the need to decongest prisons amid a spreading pandemic, the Court has rightly invoked the prisoners' right to health. Their age and comorbidities must also be important factors that must be taken into consideration. So far, that does not seem to be the case in most parole cases, particularly for political prisoners booked under stringent laws. Justice Joseph spoke about countries such as South Korea and the erstwhile Soviet Union employing house arrest to deal with "troublesome political dissenters". This observation should nudge the high-powered committees deciding parole to look afresh at the category of prisoners deemed fit to be released. In cases such as Bhima Koregaon, under trials, including 83-year-old Stan Swamy, who is suffering from Parkinson's disease, have been denied bail. Tehreek-e-Hurriyat chairman, Ashraf Sehrai, died two weeks ago after a long incarceration in Udhampur without bail. Hany Babu, a Delhi University academician arrested in Bhima Koregaon, suffering from an eye infection, is now Covid positive as well. The Supreme Court had to intervene to ensure adequate medical care to ailing journalist Siddique Kappan. An undertrial in the Delhi riots case, student leader Natasha Narwal was refused bail to visit her ailing father — she was finally given bail to conduct his last rites.

A judicious reading of chargesheets is necessary before deciding bail applications, particularly of prisoners with co-morbidities and age-related ailments. In this context, the Court's suggestion to consider house arrest for thought crimes is particularly relevant.

The Indian Express

Palestinian Issue: Is
A Solution Possible?

Asad Mirza

During the last week hundreds of Palestinian protesters have been wounded by the Israeli police and more than 197 are dead in Gaza and 10 in Israel, 42 were killed in the early hours of 17 May only, after the Israeli rocket attacks and bombing by Israeli planes on Palestinian settlements in the west Bank. Jerusalem has witnessed the worst unrest in years with Arab communities inside Israel holding continuous demonstrations against the atrocities during the Holy month of Ramadan.

Events leading to the current crisis

Tension had been brewing in the Old City of Jerusalem since the end of the last month, in addition to a series of events converging at once, reaching a crescendo last Monday (10 May).

On one hand Palestinians are frustrated by a decision of Mahmoud Abbas, the 85-year-old leader of the unpopular semi-autonomous Palestinian Authority, to postpone planned elections, PA's last parliamentary ballot was held in 2006. On the other hand, results of an election held in March earlier has further emboldened Israel's far right, bringing a party of Jewish ultra-nationalists allied with the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to power.

In addition, since the beginning of the the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Palestinians have complained of what they term as unnecessarily severe restrictions by Israeli police, who prevented them from gathering on steps outside the Old City — an unofficial tradition after evening prayers.

Amid rising tensions, there was an increase in communal violence, with videos shared online of street harassment and several attacks between Jews and Palestinians. Events came to a head in late April when hundreds of far-right Israelis marched down city streets chanting "death to Arabs" and confronted Palestinians.

Added to this was the anger building over an Israeli court ruling, due on 10 May, on whether Israeli authorities would evict dozens of Palestinians from the majority-Arab East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah and give their homes to Jewish settlers.

On 10 May, thousands of flag-waving Israeli nationalists were due to march through Muslim neighbourhoods in the Old City in a provocative parade that celebrated Israel's capture of the city in 1967. Though the court date was rescheduled and the march was rerouted, it added increased passions across both the parties.

Historical Context

Jewish families claim they lost land in Sheikh Jarrah during a war in 1948, when Israel was created, a conflict in which hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were also displaced.

Israel recaptured East Jerusalem from Jordanian forces in the 1967 war and later annexed it. Under Israeli law, Jews who can prove pre-1948 title can claim back their Jerusalem properties. But no similar law exists for Palestinians who lost homes in West Jerusalem.

Why is Jerusalem a flashpoint?

Jerusalem has always been at the centre of the Israeli-Palestinian tensions, as several holy sites revered both by Jews and Muslims are situated in the city.

Israel considers all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state. The Palestinians want the eastern sector of the divided city to be recognised as the capital of their future state.

The Al-Aqsa mosque compound situated at the southeast corner of the Old City of Jerusalem occupies a 35-acre rectangular esplanade. The area was seized by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War, along with the rest of east Jerusalem, which was later annexed in a move that has never been internationally recognised.

Muslims revere this area as Al-Haram al-Sharif, and the compound houses the famous golden Dome of the Rock shrine, a seventh-century structure, believed to be where Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) ascended to heaven and the Al-Aqsa mosque, which used to be the mosque towards which Muslims used to turn while praying, before the Grand Mosque at Makkah was declared as the Kabbah, after it was cleared of the idols by the Holy Prophet. It is the third-holiest site in Islam after the Grand Mosque in Mecca and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, both in Saudi Arabia.

The site is also revered as the holiest site in Judaism because it housed both the First and Second Temples. In Hebrew, it is referred to as Har Ha Bayit — the Temple Mount.

“The response as expected has been muted and is more subdued because of the recent wave of establishing ties with Israel by different Arab countries, which are more guarded now due to the regional geo-politics or just political pressures. Though the Arab leadership has been found wanting, the response of the public at large has been that of continued support to their Palestinian brethren

Jews are allowed to visit the compound, but are forbidden from praying there for fear of sparking tensions with Muslim worshippers.

Israel has several times tried to change the status quo and occupy the whole of Jerusalem. In 1996, an Israeli decision to open a new entrance to the west of the plaza sparked clashes that left more than 80 people dead in three days.

And a controversial visit to the plaza in September 2000 by the then right-wing opposition leader Ariel Sharon was one of the main triggers for the second Palestinian Intifada, which lasted from 2000 to 2005.

In July 2017, the compound was temporarily closed after three Arab Israelis opened fire at Israeli police near the site, killing two of them, before fleeing into the sacred compound, where they were shot dead by security forces.

In 2020 access to the compound was closed to the public during the month of Ramadan due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the reopening was subject to strict sanitary conditions with a limit on the number of worshippers.

Arab Countries' Response

The reaction and response by different Arab

countries and organisations over the recent flare-up has been the same as always. They issued hollow statements and discussed the situation telephonically with each other. The UN also just expressed its desperation; the UN Secretary General has warned that the latest Israeli-Palestinian conflict is heading for "an uncontrollable security and humanitarian crisis".

The response as expected has been muted and is more subdued because of the recent wave of establishing ties with Israel by different Arab countries, which are more guarded now due to the regional geo-politics or just political pressures. Though the Arab leadership has been found wanting, the response of the public at large has been that of continued support to their Palestinian brethren.

Why Indian Muslims support Palestine?

The Indian Muslims and to a certain extent the Indian polity also, during the last 70 years has been supportive of the Palestinian cause. One reason for this was that they were experiencing the same troubles and repercussions, though not up to that level, after the partition of India at the hands of the British, who were also responsible for creating the state of Israel.

Thus, the colonialists are responsible for creating two permanent sores in the Middle East and Indian subcontinent, to safeguard their interests and submerge the populace in a continuous state of flux. In addition, India being one of the lead-

ing promoters of the Non-Aligned Movement, its leaders always had good rapport with the Palestinian leaders and supported their cause to the maximum; a fact that was endorsed even by late Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he led the coalition Janata Party government.

In the given circumstances it seems too wishful to hope that this conflagration would die, as Israel to camouflage its military aggression, tries to give it religious colours to win its populace for support. And we know, once religion creeps into any political issue it becomes too difficult to solve it.

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

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Aadhaar Should not be Mandatory

The Unique Identification Authority of India has clarified that no one should be denied vaccine, medicine, hospitalization, or treatment just because they do not have an Aadhaar is the right move. It should not be misused as an excuse for denial

of any essential service. If a resident does not possess Aadhaar for some or other reason, they must not be denied essential services as per Aadhaar Act now. The UIDAI advises that in case of any such denial of service or benefit, the matter should be brought to the notice

of the higher authorities of the concerned departments. State Governments should develop a mechanism to ensure the identity of any person through alternative identification proofs and provide them essential services, and benefits timely. The Aadhaar should not be mandatory

in this pandemic because people are facing challenging situations in their lives.

....
Amit Singh Kushwaha
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Tragic Tunes of Lost Idol

After losing his family members to a deadly disease, a young Kashmiri singer is now living the same fate. In absence of family backing, the yesteryear's sensation is once again seeking public support, this time to save his life.

Zaid Bin Shabir

SETTLING down into a nest of present miseries and fortified by the uncertainty of future, on this evening of May 2021, Sheikh Anas slowly makes his way towards a doctor's clinic near Karan Nagar area in Srinagar.

With each tip and toe on the stairs, his sense of destitution transforms his heavy puffs into something far more vicious and distressing.

His heaving chest had callously transformed his steady walk into a staggering position that had already detached him from the hasty world around. But, without minding the encircling pace, he makes his way into the waiting room with a gasping chest and a grinning smile.

While he's heaving himself up near the ledger, his sore-eyes are firm on the rusted walls fortified by a banister, few masked souls, constant pain and worry and a large Computed Tomography machine.

After a while, as he ensuingly sits on a bench, he helps himself to retard his audible puffs—quite visible by the thumping hand on his chest. While doing that, he seems struggling to stand-up as he's called for the therapeutic experience but somehow the nearby banister caters to his needs.

Some moments later, he counteracts his lost state of mind and then continues the short journey filled with struggling steps and a desponding-heart. And soon, like a geriatric figure, he's sitting inside a large-chamber opposite to a recognized face.

"Would I've the same fate as my beloved brother and mother?" he asks the doctor in that chamber before an eerie silence grasps the settings.

Anas aka 'Chota Mehdi Hassan' — the long obliterated fame of Indian Idol — is a quintessence witness of what a failed fate looks like.

His rise and fall has dominantly described the life of one who is trapped in fateful coincidences, unable to escape the consequences of destiny.

The tale of torment etched in Anas's life forces a person to wonder what more tribulations are yet to be faced by this sufferer, who had witnessed the gash of destiny in the early years of life itself.

Often, his life's enduring test coerces many jaws to drop-down as the failed fate's radical strokes not only unnerves but also leaves one sobbing.

His life's pacific beats have taken many unexpected lurch near the end, turning harmonious to claustrophobic to weightless. Indeed, Carl Jung's "The right way to wholeness is made of fateful detours and wrong turnings", doesn't apply in Anas's unwavering life.



When he was on song.

The festive fall of 2005 was one of the most lavish times that the Sheikh family had celebrated in the past few years. Their ancestral house in Downtown's Khanyar locality was reverberating with "Mubarak" chorus.

The family's apple of an eye, Anas, had brought laurels to the family by becoming the first Kashmiri to be selected among the final fifty category of the famed reality show, Indian Idol—a career that earned him fame.

"In that overwhelming moment my family had spent a few lakhs on just eatery, leaving aside the costs of thousands of dates, sweets and other items that were distributed among the needy," recounts Anas with a languorous voice.

And soon this vigorous boy—who witnessed the reality of living in a strife-stricken valley traumatised under the noose of barrels and rubbles of downtown and on top of these dominating factors, who borne the brunt of some societal elements that tried to suffocate his talent and dreams—was auditioning in front of India's top renowned troika: Anu Malik, Sonu Nigam and Farah Khan.



Discreet from his present tale of trauma, nobody could guess that he was once a lightning-rod in the City of Lights, that too at a time, when many of his tribesmen were still finding means to crossover to the other side of the Jawahar tunnel.

"Kashmiris have to put extra efforts in their work than any non-Kashmiri because of our historical fateful coincidences including our highway," Anas laughingly told his Indian Idol comrades in 2005.

But, whenever the situation demanded, this small-town boy never shied and remained at the forefront of giving non-chalant explanations of real Kashmir to his Mumbai compatriots.

And of what fathomable character he was, it didn't take long for the new battery of final-fifty to eventually surrender their mediocrity and adore this valley boy.

By the time the opening segment of final-fifty concluded, Anas had become the new face of the show.

"Few critical decisions that changed the course of the show from 'tedious to exciting' were his handiwork," one of Anas's Mumbai friends says while eulogising his friend.

The Khanyar boy's well-maintained distinction among show producers had somehow brought him closer to Bollywood, including the famed duo, Sajid-Wajid.

Later, when he voiced his concern against the shady policies of the show—that had deteriorated the workforce—he was brushed aside by the people closer to the power-centre.

"I stumbled and learned, even as the intensity of that fall increased my pain," Anas says with a lost face.

But his vocal stand had flashed ire on many faces and soon the augmenting vested interests in the new singing camp started to evolve, with many obscure backbones of the show trying to denounce Anas for his antecedental mountain roots.

By then his new confidants had un-muted themselves and spoke in a flurry of fervent support, unaware that their protest was against an already fixed fate.

"In the long run, if it wasn't for their support, my career would've ended even before its boom," Anas told his father on the same day.

In the camp, it was obvious why the list of major decisions was triggered with 'write him off'. Till the concluding segment of final-fifty, Anas never indicated a sign of guilt for his stance on the mediocre policies of the show and soon wrote a letter to Farah Khan for the same, who in her correspondence wrote, "Inshallah...you're the next big thing in Bollywood".

"If Anas's remedies for incremental TRP were followed that year, Indian Idol would have still been the biggest and highest earning reality show in India," said a close-friend of Anas who now works as an assistant music composer in Bollywood.

"The show-makers are now craving for Anas like character who would put some check on the deteriorating balance of the show."

Sometime later, before his departure as one of the final-fifty, Anas had already paved his way to earn the title of "Chota Mehdi Hassan"—who was seen sharing the stage with Ayushmann Khurrana and Neha Kakkar.

Amid the sense of earnestness, as his career kept on booming in Indian show business, the fate back home proved too robust and shattered his family with vicious revelations.



Smiling over sorrows.

Much opposite to their younger son's eminent and glorious life, the leftover Sheikh family in Kashmir was facing a cursed side of life.

In 2005, their stylish son, Owais, who wore big brands and maintained a distinction for his smart looks in his locality, was diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

The day he was diagnosed—when a cough that he had told his parents was "annoying" him and an aching stomach that he had been dragging, thinking he must have pulled a muscle—turned out to be symptoms of stage-4 cancer.

At that time, Anas was a new cult being discussed for his harmless ubiquity and disseminating talent among the movers and shakers of the tinsel town.

The Sheikh family did put a brave-face against their elder son's malady but the disease was too deadly and had spread across Owais's intestine.

"When my father took his (Owais's) biopsy report to the doctor, he was directly told that he won't survive and will die in a span of 2 months," recalls Anas while remembering his screamer but righteous brother who would support his younger sibling whenever the time required him.

And with Anas's fall in the final-fifty, Owais's health fell to a point of no turning-back.

"I came to this world with Allah's will and with His will I'm going back," Owais had smilingly told his family minutes before he passed away, peacefully, in his mother's arms in their new home in Batpora locality of Srinagar.

The day he died, it was exactly one month and eight days after the diagnosis.

"He was too young to die," Anas laments as he mulls over his own words.

"When I returned home after his funeral, I was so distraught that I hardly came out of my bedroom for days together. The biggest regret in my life is not seeing his face one last time."

It's said at one point of life when Owais had turned into a sketch of bones and had already known his fate against the monstrous disease, he had asked his father to stop spending on his treatment and save the amount for Anas's future.

"At the brink of death, my brother still cared about my future," says Anas. However, his departure lacerated more wounds among the already scattered family that had spent almost half of their life-saving on reviving their son.



The brother that was.

Anas's mother, the indomitable but highly regarded lady, loved her elder son the most and spent an inordinate amount of time with her sons not only because she was their mother but because she loved being with kids. She was a bit of a child herself.

"She had married in her early youth and in some ways she never lost the youth inside her," Anas smilingly talks about his mother.

Over the summer, she would study the names of birds in a book that was gifted by Owais and, with utter focus, write a list of the ones she'd seen. She had a vivid sense of what makes children feel safe, and she believed in a child's experience of the world. Everyone trusted her, even when a grave situation would baffle their minds.

"She was a saintly figure," says a lady who was the Sheikh family's neighbour for many years, "who knew the remedy of broken-hearts and shattered souls."

But, as this 'pious mother' spent her 2005 fall days wailing and pleading before the Almighty for her departed son, the longing for her dark-haired-boy had already taken a toll on her health.

Then, one hazy morning, she was seen lying unconscious in the kitchen with frothy saliva wrapping around her lips. "We immediately ferried her to SMHS, where after a brief medical examination and few tests, a revelation from the doctor devastated us," Anas says.

After months of caring for her late son's clothes, wailing for his return and issuing her resentment to her lord, the indomitable mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"We came to know about her condition almost three months after Owais's death," says Anas.

The months of grueling chemotherapy sessions had once again found its way into the Sheikh family. The cancer had spread to a major portion of her body. This wasn't likely to be a story that ended well. But, in a last-ditch effort, she tried to remain smiling without expressing the agony she was going through.

Her family never noticed a progress from her chemo-treatments. It was a brisk business. Needles and bags were efficiently hustled into place.

"As the drugs slid up the IV into her arm, we watched the enemy invoking more and more pain to her," says Anas while recalling those miserable memories. "I had to witness my beautiful mother being consumed by pain and death."

One night, Anas woke in the dark and saw that his father had come downstairs and was looking at mother, fists punched into his pheran pocket, shoulders hunched.

"He stood for minutes, gazing down on her sleeping face," recalls Anas.

"In those last few days, she began to look very young. Her face had lost so much weight that the bones showed through, like a child's. Her eyebrows and eyelashes were very black. I held her hand. I smoothed her face. Her skin had begun to feel waxy, but was also covered with little grains, as if she were in the process of exfoliating."

And then, when all her family members were by her side, she peacefully died.

"Her breath slowed and then she opened her eyes to look at us and we told her the things we had to say, and then she passed away," Anas says before a storm of overwhelming emotions dusts him for a while.

The deaths of their beloveds were

enough to exhaust the family from its settled financial condition and bestow Anas a life that was both nauseated and riveted.

"There were many last words I had wanted to say, and couldn't. Perhaps that was because our creator knew already that any comfort in their reply could be false," says Anas before the muezzin's call to prayer silenced the room.

In the coming years after their deaths, Anas's life withered like a plucked rose but destiny was trying to fulfill few responsibilities by caressing his traumatised life and, eventually, after a few years of struggle, he was seen recording in the confines of Navi Mumbai's Lambodara Studio.

However, this sun-kissed city boy's career didn't cease under the guidance of Shankar Mahadevan in Mumbai, but it soon boomed to a point where his work-chart was booked with daily performances in concerts.

It was about the same time when he started working as an assistant for Vivek Gopalaman—Bollywood's one of oldest music composers.

When he became a recognised face among the renowned of the industry, the lacerations of the past were slowly departing providing a sense of relief to Anas. But, it didn't take long until another evil shadow casted him away.



Calling for support.

At the fag-end of 2014, when the ravaging floods swept the valley, a new devastation huddled Anas's booming path. His father—a headman who witnessed the viciousness of life and devastation of family—died after suffering a massive cardiac arrest.

"I'd never thought that my birth was just an experience of witnessing my loved ones leaving my side," says Anas. "Allah has bestowed me a wretched life considering my endurance for these tests."

With senior Sheikh's death, the Mumbai dreams for this valley boy came to an end.

And then years later, on a chilly afternoon of January 28, 2021, when Anas was recording his new song in a Srinagar studio, a hunch of dizziness seeped into his senses and made him unconscious for three coming days.

"I thought it was all because of my exhaustion," he says while adjusting his left amputated arm—brunt of a childhood accident that he had willingly accepted.

But, destiny was unwilling to end this young man's misery. He was diagnosed with a meningiomas—a skull base tumor.

The deadly disease that had devoured his brother and mother—besides making his father's life miserable to the point where his heavy heart burst in pain—had now made him a new target.

As the early financial exhaustion disrupted his normal life, Anas is now fighting against this disease without any cash in hand.

"We had collectively spent around Rs 55 lakhs on my mother's and brother's treatment, but destiny had already planned a struggling life for me that was longing for treatment and family support," says Anas.

Now, as the conditions are turning meager, Anas has started a crowdfunding campaign requesting people to donate for his treatment. "Except for the donation," he says, "I can't afford Rs 17 lakh for my treatment."

As the conversation comes to an end, Anas pulls over to a framed family collage. There's him and his late beloveds—all smiling—displaying the peaceful days of their life.

He rubs his hand on their faces as the grief of the past is again lacerating. For a while, he cups his hands into his face to mourn an unfortunate amalgam of family wistfulness, a foregone fame and an instance of radical shift that no longer carries the rustic shade by his side.

J&K Logs Highest

days after he was admitted to the hospital. A 57-year-old woman from BK Pora Kanipora Budgam died two days after she was admitted to the SMHS hospital, they said.

A 73-year-old woman from Buchpora Srinagar died at JLNH hospital Rainawari Srinagar, they said. A 42-year-old man from Pattan Baramulla died a day after he was admitted to the SKIMS Soura, they said.

A 75-year-old man from Qamarwari died ten days after he was admitted with bilateral community Acquired Pneumonia, officials said.

About the new cases of infection detected Monday, the officials said that 1418 were reported from Jammu division and 1926 from the Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally of infected persons in J&K to 247952.

Giving district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 495 cases, Baramulla 118, Budgam 376, Pulwama 145, Kupwara 124, Anantnag 228, Bandipora 137, Ganderbal 82, Kulgam 164, Shopian 57, Jammu 613, Udhampur 228, Rajouri 106, Doda 90, Kathua 115, Samba 89, Kishtwar 27, Poonch 56, Ramban 43 and Reasi 51.

Moreover, they said, 4042 more patients have recovered, 1082 from Jammu Division and 2960 from Kashmir Division. There are 50852 active cases—20716 in Jammu and 30136 in Kashmir, they added.

2 Militants Killed

of the encounter, the police spokesperson said that a joint cordon and search operation (CASO) was launched on a specific input of the police regarding presence of militants in the area.

“During the search operation, as the presence of militants got ascertained they were given repeated opportunities to surrender, however they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter,” he said.

In the ensuing encounter, he said, two militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

The police spokesperson said that the last rites of the killed militants shall be performed after conducting medico-legal formalities and the nearest family members of local militants shall be allowed to participate in the last rites.

“In this connection police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared off of all the explosive materials, if any,” he said.

However, army in a separate statement issued this evening claimed that the two militants were associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad outfits.

An army spokesperson further said that initially the search operation was launched in Lilhar Pulwama on Sunday and after fresh leads CASO was started in Khanmoh area on Monday.

“The Security Forces took extreme caution during the fire fight and there was no collateral damage,” he added.

Meanwhile, reports said that the two storey house where the two militants were hiding, suffered major damages during the firefight.

Scores of people converged at the gunfight site as soon as the forces retreated from the area. Many villagers, including women were seen waiting after the encounter culminated with the killing of the two local militants and left a trail of destruction, reports said.

Senior Doctors

wards where the COVID positive patients are admitted.

In a communication to Principal Government Medical College Jammu, Atal Dulloo (IAS), Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education Department, has ordered the ensuring supervision of the patients by the senior Faculty members.

“As you are aware that mortality rate in COVID positive patients has increased and there is need for reducing the same which requires immediate corrective measures,” he said in a communication.

“It is desirable that the senior Faculty members of the concerned departments of your institution be directed to increase their presence

Kupwara district jails through special Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) screening pushed the active cases among inmates to 115 out of a total of over 4,570 prisoners in all the jails, officials said.

The special drive in the two jails was carried out nearly two weeks after a prominent separatist leader and chairman of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai, who was lodged in Udhampur district jail under Public Safety Act, died of COVID-19 at a government hospital on May 5.

Officials said the highest 72 prisoners and seven staff members tested positive in Udhampur district jail.

A total of 479 inmates were subjected to RAT testing in the jail premises, they said, adding that 20 inmates tested positive for COVID-19 among 272 prisoners in Kupwara district jail.

Officials said all the positive prisoners are asymptomatic and were lodged in separate barracks.

Last year, two elderly prisoners -- one each in district jail Rajouri and Sub-jail Bhaderwah -- succumbed to the virus, while the rest of the 540 infected prisoners recovered after successful treatment.

Earlier, 21 prisoners tested positive in Kathu district jail on May 10, while one inmate each was tested positive in district jail Jammu and central jail Kotbhalwal Jammu a few days earlier. (PTI)

7 Oxygen Plants

were carried by an Indian Air Force aircraft from Munich in Germany and reached Srinagar Airport in the afternoon.

“New Oxygen Plants including 5 of 1000 LPM, one of 1500 LPM and one of 600 LPM capacity will further add 7100 LPM to the existing availability,” Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha said in a tweet.

He said this will hugely augment oxygen supply to the health infrastructure in the UT.

“My deepest gratitude to Hon’ble PM @narendramodi for providing 7 Oxygen plants to JK UT. With his intervention, these Oxygen plants were airlifted by @IAF_MCC from Munich, Germany and safely landed at Srinagar Airport today at 12:45PM,” the LG added. (PTI)

Corona Infected

in Dadsara area of south Kashmir’s Tral town leaving villagers in a state of shock and fear.

According to the reports, eight labourers living in a rented building in Dadsara tested positive for Covid-19 a few days ago following which they were advised by the officials to stay under home quarantine. However, paying no heed to the advise, all the infected non-labourers abandoned their rented accommodation and escaped from there during the intervening night of May 16-17, reports said.

Ten more labourers have also fled from their apartment and remain untraced.

“We had requested the administration to quarantine these labourers at some designated government building, but our requests were ignored. We don’t know where these infected labourers are right now,” Shabir Ahmad, a local said.

Another local said that district administration has been informed about the incident and they were told that Surveillance team has been activated to trace these labourers.

Tehsildar Dadsara Sajid Ahmed feigned ignorance about the incident, but said he will ascertain the facts. (KNT)

Not Unequal Dosage

presentation on Covid-19 vaccination defines vaccine hesitancy as a “delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services” and it is “influence by factors such as complacency, convenience and confidence”, another senior government official said.

“In Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in Kashmir division vaccine hesitancy model added other factor- rumours,” he said.

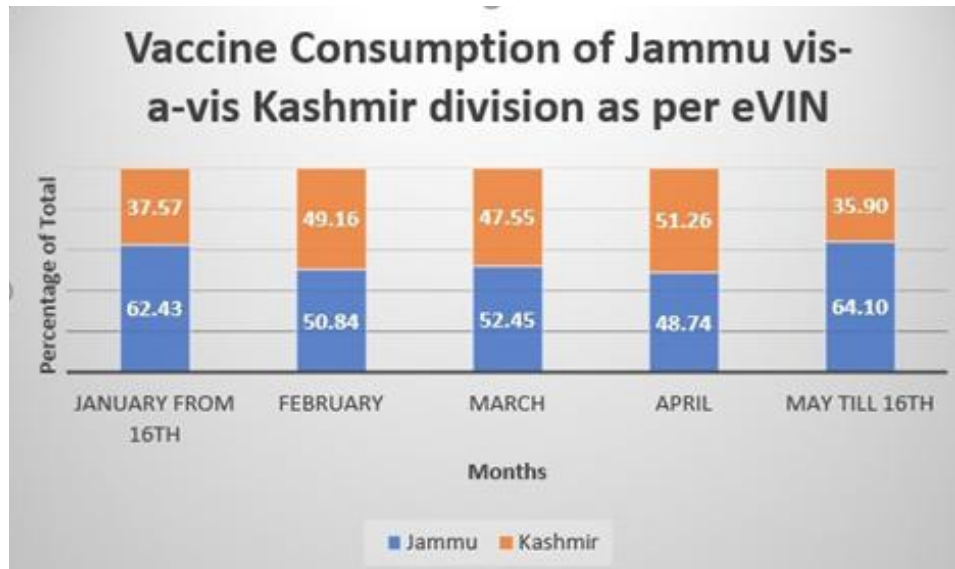
“Complacency, convenience and confidence garnished by rumours not only delayed vaccination drive in Kashmir division in comparison to Jammu but also put additional burden on authorities to mount a campaign roping in mass media, influencers, religious leaders to get the job to protect themselves and their family members.”

“This excludes the health care workers and front line warriors. Even in March when the people were persuading the citizens, the health officials were perplexed that stocks were lying unused in Kashmir Division while citizens in Jammu were getting jabbed.”

A government official said in the first week of March religious leaders were roped in to persuade the people in Kashmir division.

“Women doctors were advising the women-folk not pay to heed to the rumours that Covid vaccine causes infertility. On March 10, the total availability of vaccine in Kashmir Division was 10,19,000 while in Jammu total available doses were 7,92,000.

“Doctors were scared what to do with 10 Lakh plus doses when people were reluctant. The surge in Kashmir division vaccination drive came only after April 15 while Jammu’s performance was as steady. This is the reason why Jammu could last for few extra days beyond May 13. The April surge could be attributed to twin factor- appeal from top religious leaders and growing awareness among the masses about threat from mutant virus,” the official said.



Blaming some media outlets and social media users for misleading the public about dose shortage, the official said, “They conveniently buried the data which was already in the public domain. There was no discrepancy in distribution of Covid vaccine doses but initial vaccine hesitancy at local level in Kashmir division. Despite that our UT average is better than the national average and many other states.”

Acheivement of vaccination since 16th January to 31st March 2021							
State / District	HCW Vaccinated Dose 1	HCW Vaccinated Dose 2	FLW Vaccinated Dose 1	FLW Vaccinated Dose 2	45+ Citizens vaccinate d Dose 1	45+ Citizens vaccinate d Dose 2	Total Doses
Anantnag	5,269	2,316	15,726	7,240	21,324	85	51,960
Bandipore	2,115	652	7,301	2,817	5,478	31	18,394
Baramulla	6,163	2,157	21,051	8,148	54,732	86	92,337
Budgam	4,659	2,038	16,067	7,959	20,440	132	51,295
Doda	2,991	1,602	8,518	4,135	21,344	59	38,649
Ganderbal	1,627	861	5,114	1,880	8,111	6	17,599
Jammu	17,894	10,544	42,242	19,090	90,515	195	1,80,480
Kathua	4,645	2,415	8,425	4,498	29,739	110	49,832
Kishtwar	1,487	641	7,630	3,263	4,570	16	17,607
Kulgam	3,610	1,412	5,881	2,368	10,307	134	23,412
Kupwara	4,608	2,047	12,689	4,674	10,198	52	34,268
Poonch	3,376	1,641	8,206	3,658	10,822	22	27,725
Pulwama	3,097	1,241	13,993	5,887	20,075	78	44,371
Rajouri	5,123	2,814	9,730	4,843	14,710	61	37,281
Ramban	1,990	909	5,084	2,156	4,919	9	15,067
Reasi	3,150	1,639	7,766	3,139	5,136	21	20,851
Samba	2,783	1,648	10,266	4,291	17,175	42	36,205
Shopian	1,411	680	4,619	1,751	10,265	26	18,752
Srinagar	7,495	2,589	37,864	14,883	13,152	82	76,065
Udhampur	3,951	2,494	11,351	4,731	19,788	159	42,474
Grand Total	87,444	42,340	2,59,223	1,11,411	3,92,800	1406	8,94,624

Even in Medical Health Infrastructure, J&K today has 47 Oxygen Plants, he said. “14 more will become operational within this month and in the next 6-month, we will have 99 Oxygen plants.”

And as far as vaccine is concerned, the official said, within a day or two, “we will receive the consignment. I urge everyone to get vaccinated. Our top most priority is to vaccinate entire population of the priority group within 10 days.”

HC Upholds J&K

was conducted online, but before completion, the selection process as a whole was cancelled, they said. They contended that the action on part of the bank infringes their legal rights and the same was also “arbitrary”. “The cancellation of the selection process was challenged by the appellants by invoking the extraordinary jurisdiction of the Court. The writ Court dismissed the petition recording that as the petitioners were only prospective candidates, they have not acquired any indefeasible right to seek selection/appointment on the basis of the advertisement alone and therefore the cancellation of the selection process do not infringes any of their legal right,” a division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mishra and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul.

“There is no arbitrariness in the cancellation of the selection process as the court records that it stands admitted to the appellants that the respondents (bank) had the authority to cancel the selection process.”

The division bench observed that the stand of the bank that the recruitment process in question had gone wrong “stands substantiated by the records.”

“The respondents (bank) have construed the recruitment district wise and framed the merit list accordingly. Moreover, the respondents have not applied rule of reservation in selection process which certainly was incurable,” the court said, adding, “Therefore, the cancellation of selection process is justified and is not arbitrary.”

As regards the argument that reservation is not applicable, the court said it is a debatable point.

However, the court said that in such circumstances if the process as a whole has

been cancelled it cannot be said to be illegal or arbitrary. (GNS)

33 KAS Officers

Ms. Kanta Devi, KAS, Deputy Labour Commissioner, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Udhampur, against an available vacancy.

Pawan Kumar, KAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajouri, against an available vacancy.

Akramullah Tak, KAS, Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Budgam, against available vacancy.

Jyoti Rani Slathia, KAS, Joint Director, Employment, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Reasi, against an available vacancy.

Sham Lal, KAS, Additional Mission Director,

J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, against an available vacancy.

Sachin Dev Singh, KAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, against an available vacancy.

Department, has been posted as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Kathua, against an available vacancy.

Gulzar Ahmad, KAS, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Baramulla, against an available vacancy.

Swaran Singh, KAS, General Manager, J&K Road Transport Corporation, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Ramban, against an available vacancy.

Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, KAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Bandipore, against an available vacancy.

Mohammad Ashfa, KAS, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Doda, against an available vacancy.

Rizwan Asgar, KAS, Collector, Lakes and Waterways Development Authority, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Shopian, against an available vacancy.

Ms. Nazwan Nazki, KAS, Deputy Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Social Welfare, Kashmir is transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Pulwama, against an available vacancy. Shurjeel Ali Naiku, KAS, Deputy Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Kulgam, against an available vacancy.

Ms. Mir Zahida, KAS, Deputy District Election Officer, Budgam has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Budgam, against an available vacancy.

Shabir Ahmad Wani, KAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Horticulture Department has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Kupwara, against an available vacancy.

Shafiq Ahmad, KAS, Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Rajouri has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Poonch, against an available vacancy. Mr. Zakir Hussain, KAS, Deputy District Election Officer, Reasi has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Kishtwar, against an available vacancy.

Deebah Khalid Peer, KAS, Deputy Director, Handicrafts, J&K has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Srinagar, against an available vacancy.

Aijaz Ahmad Shah, KAS, Deputy Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir holding additional charge of Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Pulwama, against an available vacancy.

Johar Ali, KAS, Sub-Registrar, Srinagar (West), has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Kupwara, vice Bashir Ahmad Bhat, KAS, who has been asked to report to the General Administration Department for further posting.

Kashmiri Held

into the temple situated in Ghaziabad neighbouring Delhi.

Dar, according to the police, wanted to assassinate Dasna Devi temple’s head priest Swami Yati Narsinghanand. The police claimed to have recovered a .30 bore pistol, two magazines, 15 live rounds, one saffron kurta, one white ‘pajama’, a ‘kalawa’ and wooden beads from his possession.

On April 3, Narsinghanand made blasphemous remarks against Prophet of Islam during a during a press conference organised by Akhil Bharatiya Sant Parishad (Ghaziabad) at the Press Club of India.

Following outrage and a complaint from AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, the Delhi Police had registered an FIR in April against the rightwing Hindu leader for allegedly hurting the sentiments of a community.

Last month, Narsinghanand and Dasna Devi Mandir were in news after a 14-year-old Muslim boy who went inside to have water was assaulted by the priest’s disciple.

During interrogation, Dar told the police that he is a carpenter by profession and was booked by the Sangam police station in Anantnag for stone pelting during 2016 protests triggered by Hizb commander Burhan Wani’s death, police said.

He had come across a man named Abid while roaming in his fields in December last year who had informed him that he was from Pakistan and associated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), police said. They became good friend and met twice after that -- first in December 2020 and then in April 2021. They also were constantly in touch with each other on WhatsApp, police said.

In February, he, along with his sister and her father-in-law, came to Delhi for treatment of his nephew who has some heart ailment. They stayed at a guest house near Jama Masjid, police said.

When he returned to Kashmir after the treatment of his nephew, Abid assigned him with the task to assassinate Swami Narsinghanand, saying the head priest of the temple had committed ‘Gustakh-e-Rasool’, officials said.

Abid taught him weapons handling and gave Rs 6,500 cash. Abid also transferred Rs 35,000 in Dar’s account. Thereafter, Abid asked Dar to go to Delhi and procure weapon from one of his sources, police said.

Abid promised Dar that he would be paid a substantial amount for carrying out the assassination. Abid informed that a person named Umar will take care of him in Delhi, police said.

On April 23, the accused left for Delhi. Dar and Umar kept in touch with each other through an app named Telegram. Umar was supposed to arrange his recce and stay in Delhi and also to provide access to Yati Narsinghanand to carry out his killing, officials said.

Dar met Umar in Jama Masjid area who shifted him to a hotel in Paharganj. Umar also brought the puja items and saffron dress as a cover to gain entry in the temple, police said.

by making frequent rounds of wards, where the COVID positive patients are admitted, so that such patients are properly looked after and treated, which will help us in reducing the mortality also,” the communication added.

92 Inmates

asymptomatic and have been isolated in separate barracks.

The latest detection in Udhampur and

Official documents reveal that between January 16 to March 31, 2021, Srinagar district registered 13,152 vaccinations of 45 and above citizens. During the same period Jammu district’s figure was 90,515.

“Between April 1 to May 15, 2021, Srinagar clocked 99,240 vaccinations while data from Jammu shows remarkable progress with 2,74,552 Covid doses to citizens above 45,” the data shows.

DAK Sounds Alert Over Black Fungus In Covid Patients

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) Monday said a rare but deadly fungal infection called Mucormycosis is infecting Covid-19 patients.

Sounding alert, DAK said if left untreated the disease can be fatal for covid patients.

"Cases of mucormycosis, commonly known as black fungus are being reported in several states of the country among recovering and recovered Covid-19 patients," DAK said.

DAK statement said chances of fungal infection increase in Covid patients who are diabetic and are taking steroids. "Diabetes lowers the body's immune defenses, Covid exacerbates it and then steroids act like a fuel to the fire."

It said Covid itself leads to lymphopenia, therefore predisposing patients to opportunistic fungal infection. The use of ordinary water in humidifiers which are used during oxygen therapy could be another factor. "In order to prevent this life-threatening disease in Covid patients, doctors should use steroids judiciously and ensure there is no misuse of steroids. People who have diabetes should keep their

sugar levels in control. And, use sterile water for humidifiers during oxygen therapy."

It said the fungus is ubiquitous and is found in soil, air and decaying food. Despite being common in the environment, it does not cause infection in healthy humans. However, when the body's defenses have been weakened, the fungus gets a chance to infect with devastating results. "After inhaling fungus from the air, it can go into nose, sinuses, eyes and brain leading to loss of vision and even death in some cases. It can also affect lungs."

The statement said symptoms include pain and swelling in eye or face, headache, nasal discharge and black crusts in the nose

"Treatment of mucormycosis involves removing of all infected tissue through surgery and following with antifungal amphotericin B.

"There is an urgent need to make people aware about the disease.

A high degree of suspicion should be there with the doctors who are treating Covid patients and any nasal, facial and eye complaints should not be ignored because early detection and timely intervention holds the key."

AAC Pays Tribute To Mirwaiz Farooq, Gani Lone



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Awami Action Committee (AAC) paid tributes to its founder leader Mirwaiz Moulvi Muhammad Farooq (RA) on his 31st "martyrdom" anniversary.

In a statement, it also paid tributes to the Martyrs of Hawal and to Abdul Gani Lone on his 19th martyrdom anniversary.

AAC said that various commemorative functions held each year to pay tributes to the late leader over a period of one week called 'Hafta-e-Shahaadat', which

included organising free medical and blood donation camps, seminars, stand cancelled as the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic is ravaging though J&K and also due to AAC and All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) chairman Mirwaiz Muhammad Umar Farooq's continued detention at home since August 5, 2019.

Collective Fateha prayers at the Martyrs graveyard Eidgah and the commemorative rally thereafter as well as the shutdown to honour Shaheed-e-Millat, Shaheed-e-Hurriyat and the martyrs of Hawal stand postponed due to the covid circumstances.

Awami Action Committee (AAC) appealed people and Imams of masajid to remember the slain leader in their prayers and pray for his highest station in Jannah as well as for Hawal Martyrs and all the martyrs since 1931.



A BAKARWAL FAMILY WALKING ALONG the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar on Monday amidst a coronavirus lockdown. KO Photo Abid Bhat

...COVID-19

Doctors Call For Genome Study, Intensive Testing In Jammu



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Team of Doctors deputed by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Monday called for conducting genome study in Jammu while observing that the high mortality here may be because of the double mutant Indian strain.

Addressing a press conference here today after visiting several covid care facilities in Jammu and Samba districts, the team advised for intensifying testing in the areas wit-

nessing huge surge in cases.

"There is need to increase testing in such areas and the samples, as per the protocol, be sent to Delhi for genome study" the team of doctors said and assured that the results would be shared with the UT within a week's time.

The Visiting team comprising Dr. Mahesh Waghmare, NCDC, Dr. Pranay Verma, Joint Director NCDC & Dr. Navneet Sharma, Professor Internal Medicine, PGI, Chandigarh also called for strict enforcement of

Covid Appropriate Behaviour in the public places.

They further advised for intensifying the surveillance of the home isolated cases, so that patient is shifted to the hospital well in time when required.

Efficient Triage facility and framing of discharge policy was also emphasized for better patient management and adequate bed availability.

Earlier, the team, after arriving here on Sunday, visited GMC Jammu and had a threadbare discussion with the Doctors, besides visiting the isolation wards. On day two, the team visited District Samba and inspected the containment and micro containment zones & met with surveillance teams working at the grass-roots level.

Later in the afternoon, they held a virtual meeting with IDSP teams of 10 districts of Jammu Division.

The meeting was also attended by Choudary Mohammad Yasin, Mission Director NHM, J&K, Dr. Renu Sharma Director Health Services Jammu and the Chief Medical Officers of all districts.

To Mitigate Impact Of Third Wave Of Virus, Vaccination Important For All: Microbiologist 'Avail Second Dose At Interval Of 12 Weeks'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With prolific sampling of people for SAR COV2, the work pressure on GMC Microbiology Lab has also increased manifold but everything is being managed very diligently and smoothly by the concerned GMC administration and Laboratory Staff while working without relenting, said Dr Lenah Bashir, Lecturer Microbiology, Government Medical College, Srinagar.

She said the Microbiology Department is guiding physicians in diagnosis of the Covid Virus through testing the samples collected at GMC Microbiology Lab and other identified centers.

While mentioning the mild and severe symptoms of the disease, Dr Lenah said that cough, cold, loss of taste and smell, and fatigue are mild symptoms

whereas breathlessness is a condition of severe infection. "Severe symptomatic patients should be shifted to hospital for treatment and monitoring".

Regarding infection detection, she said two types of swabs are collected including nasal and throat swab. She added that Rapid Antigen Testing or RT-PCR will identify the presence of infection. However, she stressed that any individual who will test negative through RAT testing should also go for RTPCR testing.

While sharing the details regarding availability of results, she said that RAT results are made available within fifteen minutes while RTPCR takes two days time due to its procedure and heavy load of samples. To cope up with the demand, the lab is working continuously without any break, to give results within least possible time.



Dr Lenah said that Real Time reverse transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) is the gold standard for SARS COV2 detection. "This molecular test targets more than one gene of SAR COV 2. I.e N gene & RdRp gene", she informed about detection of multiple mutants by RTPCR. Moreover, she said "these targets are considered best for invitro diagnostic detection, hence, it will show similar sensitivity and specificity in such situation", she further added.

Regarding double mutant covid virus, she said that double mutant strains of SAR COV2 are showing heightened infectivity

and escape from the body's immune systems, hence increases lethal infections. "Previously infected people have a greater chance of re-infection due to double mutant", she said.

The Microbiology expert confirmed that vaccines are safe and requested people not to deny themselves of covid vaccination and avail the opportunity to get inoculated with two doses at the interval of twelve weeks. Depriving oneself of vaccination is an unwise decision some people make as they fall for misconceptions spread by Social Media, she said while dispelling unverified conceptions.

She maintained that adherence to SOPs and Guidelines by normal and symptomatic persons will help to control contagious Corona virus.

While speaking about the threat of third wave and mitiga-

tion measures for it, Dr Lenah Bashir emphasized on extended lockdown, Abiding of lockdown rules, Avoiding gatherings and mandatory masking. "More importantly vaccination is to be made available to all", she said. Besides, she said that hospitals have to be strengthened further.

Testing capacities have already been expanded and is being taken care of by the administration in terms of manpower as well as facilities, she maintained.

Regarding Black Fungus, she said, "it is a fungal infection which affects people with weakened ability to fight infections like diabetes, malignancy etc." and advised to strictly monitor blood glucose levels of such individuals and judicious use of steroids.

In this regard she said not to hesitate to seek medical attention and relevant microbiological investigations.

Expedite Vaccination Of Jail Inmates, Prison Staff: Justice Magrey

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 11th High Powered Committee (HPC) meeting today passed slew of directions for the release of jail inmates, except those involved in serious crimes, to decongest the prisons in the Union Territory of J&K.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, who is also Executive Chairman of J&K Legal Services Authority, for implementation of directions of Supreme Court of India with regard to the containment of coronavirus in J&K prisons.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Home Department, Shaleen Kabra; DGP Prisons, Dr B Srinivas; Member Secretary JK Legal Services Authority, MK Sharma and other concerned.

The Committee was constituted by the Jammu and Kashmir government following an order by the Supreme Court on March 23, 2020 and May 07, 2021, directing the States and the UTs to decongest jails to ensure social distancing among the prisoners.

At the outset, the Committee appreciated the efforts of prison department for not only managing the COVID-19 breakout in the prisons but also for maintaining hygiene in the jail premises.

The Members of the Committee discussed and deliberated upon the proposed category of prisoners, who may be considered for grant of interim bail for 90 days in view of the present circumstances.

The Committee decided to release all the jail inmates who were earlier released on parole or on interim bail for 90 days as per the directions of the Supreme Court in March 2020.

Justice Magrey directed the Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority to coordinate with the other two members of the Committee to find out the category of convicts/UTPs who can also be released pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Such an exercise shall be completed within a week and the report be placed before the Committee.

Justice Magrey directed the DGP (Prisons) to coordinate with the Health department to ensure vaccination of jail inmates as well as staff on priority.

Besides this, the Committee directed the jail authorities to take appropriate steps by ensuring that the inmates and the staff wear masks and maintain social distancing and by keeping the frequently visited areas like kitchen, bathrooms etc. hygienic to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, further directed the Legal Service Institutions across the UT of J&K to provide the services of Panel Lawyers to the inmates who are eligible to be released from the custody by moving applications on their behalf.

It also called for the additional release of prisoners on paroles or interim bail orders for which DGP Prisons and member Secretary JKLSA were asked to workout modalities within the stipulated time.

The Committee also suggested for the creation of additional accommodation or temporary accommodation within or outside jail complexes for ensuring strict adherence to Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs) of COVID-19 issued by the medical experts.

Further, the high powered committee also decided to discontinue all the visits of outside visitors including NGOs but while doing so the families of the jail inmates will have excess to meet the prisoners by use of virtual mode or by phones.

Frequent sanitization of jails and better medical facilities were also decided to be ensured in all the jails of J&K.

The Committee decided to accelerate to hold awareness campaigns among jail inmates regarding SOPs to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee further decided to ensure safety of prisoners by frequent testing and complete vaccination of jail inmates along with the jail staff.

It also called for the measures like transportation of released inmates by providing them proper transport facilities in view of Corona curfew.

Vaccine Scarcity In Kashmir Exposes Chasm Between Govt Claims And Reality: PC

SRINAGAR: Former minister and senior Peoples Conference leader Syed Basharat Bukhari Monday asked the government to establish a constant contact with the aggrieved masses amid the prevalent health crises in Kashmir and address their mounting concerns pertaining to the acute shortage of COVID-19 vaccines.

Bukhari in a statement issued said the situation merits the government's thorough, constant and fervent attention and that the chaos prevalent on the ground has put the masses in dire straits.

"On the one hand the government is asking people to get vaccinated and on the other, they are turned away from the health centers in hordes due to the non-availability of vaccines. There is a deep chasm being witnessed between the government claims and reality on the ground. It is ironic to find that in the last four days, mere two hundred people per day in Kashmir have been vaccinated. The numbers are excruciating and at the same time telling as well. The dreadful surge in the COVID deaths in the region demands mass level immunization but there is serious

incongruity being witnessed in the approach of those at the helm in administration," Bukhari said.

He added that the acute dearth of vaccines in Kashmir has to be addressed on priority and that the administration must constitute special teams that could monitor the situation on the ground on an hourly basis. Bukhari said that there is a dire need for the government to become responsive about people's woes and concerns and update them on regular basis about the measures being taken to address the crises.

"The communication wedge between the masses and the government is widening with each passing day. There is a need for transparent and long-term vaccination planning to avoid a catastrophe. The administration must, through a detailed consultative process, provide a timeline of how many vaccine doses are likely to be available over the next few weeks and months. Vaccine availability should not be a state secret. There should be complete clarity regarding this. The more people know where they stand, the better it is," Bukhari added.

J&K Jails Overcrowded, Reveals Data 4572 Prisoners Lodged In 13 J&K Jails Against Capacity Of 3426

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The jails in Jammu & Kashmir are overcrowded as 4572 inmates are lodged in 13 jails against their overall capacity of 3426.

At present, J&K has 13 functional jails which includes two central jails, nine district jails, one special jail and one sub-jail. The UT had two sub-jails but one of them was denotified and declared as a holding centre for lodging Rohingya refugees.

On March 5, this year, the J&K's Home department de-notified Hira Nagar sub-jail and declared it as a holding centre under the Foreigners Act.

The disclosure that J&K jails are

overcrowded has come to fore at a time when the Supreme Court has directed the States/UTs to decongest prisons in the wake of the second wave of COVID-19.

In 2020, the Supreme Court had also passed similar directions after the outbreak of COVID-19. On the Court's directions last year, the J & K government constituted a high-level panel headed by Justice Rajesh Bindal to decide on the category of prisoners to be released.

The panel decided to grant special parole of eight weeks to all those who have been convicted in one case only and have spent more than ten years (eight years in case of women) in jail, except those involved in militancy-related cases, convicted for intermediate or large

quantity recovery under NDPS Act or convicted under POCSSO Act or convicted for offence against woman, or convicted for offence of acid attack or foreign nationals.

It had also directed the authorities to consider the release of all those who have been sentenced to imprisonment for three years with or without fine and the conviction has been upheld by the Appellate Court but revision against the judgment by Appellate Court is pending before the High Court.

Similarly, in case of under-trial prisoners, the panel proposed to the government to grant them 60 days' interim bail, extendable for another period in case the circumstances so demand, on furnishing surety and personal bond—(KNO)

Female Doctor Booked In Baramulla For Violating Covid Protocol

Observer News Service



BARAMULLA: The Jammu and Kashmir police Monday registered a case against a lady doctor and polyclinic at Kunzer area in north Kashmir's Baramulla district for violating the set COVID-19 protocols issued from time to time in wake of the rise in virus cases in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

A police spokesman in a statement said that while enforcing the lockdown in the district and implementing the orders thereof, inaction undertaken by Police Station Kunzer, the case has been registered against a lady doctor and private medical Center Apollo Poly Clinic for violating instructions and covid protocols in Gokhama area of Kunzer in Baramulla district.

The statement said that the said lady doctor Dr. Muzzamil who is posted at Trauma hospital Pattan besides doing private practice in Clinic at Gokhama Kunzer also violates Covid protocols by making huge public rush in the Clinic.

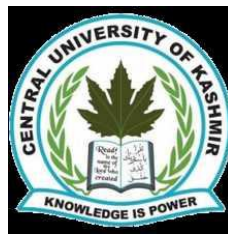
It said that accordingly, Duty Magistrate along with SHO PS Kunzer taking serious action, sealed the clinic on spot, an FIR was registered under relevant sections of the law, and investigation started.

CUK Condoles Demise Of KU Faculty Members

GANDERBAL:

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, Finance Officer, Prof. Fayaz A Nikka, faculty members and administrative staff of the Central University of Kashmir (CUK) condoled the demise of Prof. Ghulam Mohi ud Din Bhat, senior Professor, University of Kashmir and Head of the Electronics and Communication Engineering, at varsity's Institute of Engineering, Zakura, Dr. Mustahsan Farooq Fazili, Assistant Professor, Zoology Department, KU and the father-in-law of Abdul Rashid Bhat, Deputy Registrar, CUK.

In a condolence meeting held online with Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir in chair, the participants expressed sympathies with the bereaved families in this hour of grief and prayed for peace to the departed souls. They described the deceased faculty members as teachers par excellence.



Israel-Palestine: US Blocks UN Statement For Third Time In A Week

Agenceis

A third United Nations Security Council emergency meeting in a week – amid the deadly Israeli offensive in Gaza – has again ended with no concrete outcome after the United States blocked a joint statement calling for an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

The meeting on Sunday came after the US reportedly twice blocked over the last week resolutions that would have condemned Israel's military response and called for a ceasefire. Nearly 200 people, including 58 children, have been killed in the intense bombing of the besieged enclave of two million people.

Israel has justified its bombing campaign as a retaliation to rocket attacks by Hamas fighters. But the Gaza-based Hamas movement said its actions were a response to the Israeli policy of forced displacement of Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem and the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque by Israeli forces last week. Israel had missed a Hamas deadline to withdraw its forces from the mosque compound.



The latest round of inaction also comes as US President Joe Biden has given no signs of plans to step up public pressure on Israel, instead repeatedly stressing Israel's right to defend itself.

Critics, including members of Biden's party, have accused the administration of whitewashing Israeli strikes, which have killed at least 198 Palestinians in Gaza and wounded more than 1,000 others.

At least 10 Israelis, including two children, have been killed by rockets

launched from Gaza since Monday. US ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, told the emergency meeting that the US was "working tirelessly through diplomatic channels" to stop the fighting.

"The United States has made clear that we are prepared to lend our support and good offices should the parties seek a ceasefire," she said.

Still, no joint statement emerged from the council, despite negotiations lead by Norway, China and Tunisia.

The US, China, France, Russia and United Kingdom are all permanent members of the security council, giving them veto power over joint statements. China had previously called out the US as being the sole dissenting voice on the issue.

On Monday, a senior Fatah official told Al Jazeera that they were disappointed with the US position.

"The positive and serious vibes in the recent Biden's call to President Abbas did not reflect themselves on the US position at the UN Security Council last Tuesday," Sabri Saidam, Fatah Central Commit-



tee member, told Al Jazeera, referencing the Saturday call between Biden and Palestinian president.

"Deeds not words is what's needed!" he added.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres began Sunday's meeting with an appeal for a ceasefire.

"This senseless cycle of bloodshed, terror and destruction must stop immediately," he said. "All parties must respect international humanitarian law and interna-

tional human rights law."

Gaza Pummelled By Fresh Israeli Strikes, More Than 200 Dead In A Week



Agenceis

Palestinian Health Ministry says 200 people have been killed so far, including 59 children since the start of Israel's attack on blockaded Gaza.

Israel has launched dozens of air strikes in besieged Gaza, targeting agricultural fields, streets and infrastructure in the Palestinian enclave in the latest wave of its aggression that has split into a second week.

At least three Palestinians were killed by an Israeli air strike on a car in Gaza on Monday, medics said.

Another Palestinian was killed in an aerial attack on the town of Jabalya, she said.

Israel's air strikes have killed 200 people since the late hours of May 10, including 59 children, with another 1,300 people wounded, according to Gaza Health Ministry. Rocket attacks in Israel have killed 10 people, including one child.

Gaza Mayor Yahya Sarraj told Al Jazeera TV that the air strikes had caused extensive damage to roads and other infrastructure.

"If the aggression continues we expect conditions to become worse," he said.

He also warned that the territory was running low on fuel and other spare parts. The UN has warned that Gaza's sole power station is at risk of running out of fuel. The territory already experiences daily power outages of 8 to 12 hours and tap water is undrinkable.

Electricity and water cuts are being experienced in areas near the

targeted areas, witnesses added.

Israeli warships deployed in the sea also launched a scathing on Gaza's coast.

"My children couldn't sleep all night even after the wave of intense bombing stopped," said Umm Naeem, 50, a mother of five, as she shopped for bread in Gaza City after the latest Israeli air strikes.

"What is happening to us is too much, but Jerusalem deserves all the sacrifices."

Israel said its air strikes killed a senior Palestinian commander.

Meanwhile, Palestinian political party Hamas said its military wing retaliated to the Israeli attacks, firing rockets on the cities of Beersheba and Ashkelon, and also targeting some settlement areas.

In the Israeli air assault early on Sunday that killed 42 people, families were buried under piles of cement rubble and twisted rebar. A yellow canary bird lay crushed on the ground.

Shards of glass and debris-covered streets blocks away from the major downtown thoroughfare where the three buildings were hit over the course of five minutes around 1 am local time.

The hostilities have repeatedly escalated over the past week, marking the worst attacks on the territory since the devastating attacks of 2014.

"I have not seen this level of destruction through my 14 years of work," said Samir al Khatib, an emergency rescue official in Gaza. "Not even in the 2014 war."

Rescuers furiously dug through the rubble using excavators and

bulldozers amid clouds of heavy dust. One shouted, "Can you hear me?," into a hole.

Minutes later, first responders pulled a survivor out.

World concern had already deepened after Israel's air strike destroyed several homes on Sunday.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al Maliki said more than 10,000 civilians have been displaced in Gaza due to Israeli attacks, at an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Sunday.

"Ongoing barbaric bombardments on Gaza has led to the displacement of more than 10,000 Palestinian citizens and the destruction of hundreds of homes across the region," he said.

In New York, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres told the Security Council that fighting in Israel and Gaza were "utterly appalling" and called for an immediate end to fighting. However, the top UN body's open debate on the tensions amid the Israel's attacks in Gaza ended with no concrete outcome.

This third session of the UN Security Council (UNSC) this week came after the US's two moves to block a joint statement that would condemn Israel for the violence and call for a ceasefire.

Netanyahu defends bombing of media offices

On "Face the Nation" programme on US network CBS, Netanyahu defended another Israeli air strike a day earlier that destroyed a 12-storey building where the Associated Press and the Al Jazeera TV network had offices.

Saudi Arabia Lifts Travel Ban On Citizens

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RIYADH: There was excitement but no crowds early on Monday morning at Riyadh's international airport as Saudi Arabia lifted a ban on citizens travelling out of the Gulf state without prior permission from authorities.

Saudi nationals who have received at least one COVID-19 vaccination shot a minimum two weeks prior to travel, those who have recovered from the coronavirus disease within the last six months, and those under 18 will be allowed to travel for the first time since March 2020.

"It's a great feeling, thank God, we are happy, especially after the difficult period we and the entire

were only a few travellers early on Monday after the suspension was lifted at 1 a.m. local time.

"I think people are worried about the coronavirus variants such as the one in India, and new developments in some countries," Al Tamimi said.

There are 13 countries Saudi nationals are still banned from visiting without prior permission, whether through direct or indirect flights due to COVID-19 risks.

Saudi Arabia, with a population of some 30 million, reported 825 new coronavirus infections on Sunday, taking total caseload to 433,094, including 7,162 deaths.

Authorities said on Sunday more than 11.5 million vaccines had been administered in the Gulf Arab state so far.



world have suffered," said Bandar Al Nawash, a passenger waiting in the departure lounge of King Khalid International Airport.

Fellow national Faisal Al Tamimi said he had expected large crowds at the airport, but there

"Thank God ... today we can travel whether for tourism or for business. God willing this pandemic will be over and everyone will be able to travel," said Jaber Al Mahadi, another traveller at the airport on Monday morning.

'I Drink Cow Urine Every Day, So Don't Have Covid': BJP MP



Bhopal BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur has said cow urine extract offers protection against lung infections and coronavirus.

"Gau-mutra ark" (cow urine extract) of a desi cow keeps us away from lung infection. I am in a lot of trouble (health issues) but I take the 'gaumutra ark' every day. After this, I am not supposed to take any other medicine for coronavirus. I am not affected by coronavirus infection.

"I believe God will keep me protected as I am using this medicine of 'gaumutra ark,'" the Bhopal MP said while addressing a function in Bairagarh area of Bhopal to dedi-

cate oxygen concentrators on Sunday evening. She said cow urine is like a "life-saving" medicine.

In April, a Madhya Pradesh Congress leader had announced a reward of Rs 10,000 for anybody who spots Thakur in public alleging that she was "missing" from the scene when the people need her help as an MP.

During her speech, Thakur said she has been helping people "without publicity" in the second wave of coronavirus pandemic.

Various statements of Thakur, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case, have sparked controversies in the past.

"No Place For Professionals": Congress On Virologist Shahid Jameel's Resignation

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NEW DELHI: The Congress hit out at the Centre over the resignation of noted virologist Shahid Jameel from a national panel on genome sequencing of coronavirus, alleging that there is no place for professionals in this government.

The opposition party alleged that the Prime Minister "Modi government's aversion for evidence-based policy-making has pushed India into the current crisis."

"The resignation of Dr. Shahid Jameel, one of India's best virologists, is really sad. Modi Sarkar has no place for professionals who can speak their mind freely without fear or favour," senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

The resignation of Dr. Shahid Jameel, one of India's best virologists, is really sad. Modi Sarkar has no place for professionals who can speak their mind freely without fear or favour. <https://t.co/fnpDUdf4>

— Jairam Ramesh (@Jairam_Ramesh) May 17, 2021

"How much longer will India suffer due to their ignorance," the party asked on its official Twitter handle.

Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari asked if Mr Jameel quit on his own or was "forced to quit".

Another Congress spokesperson Jaiver Shergill shared a video of BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur citing the benefits of cow urine in Covid times. "No wonder top virologist Shahid Jameel has quit Govt Covid Panel because BJP Brigade believes in quack formulas rather than scientific facts," he tweeted.

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi cited Mr Jameel quitting as head of INSACOG to target the prime minister. "INSACOG had warned PM in early March about the dangerous Indian mutant but govt paid no heed. Jameel has frankly said that govt didn't take science into account. We're paying for Modi's scientific illiteracy," he said on Twitter.

Days after pointing out that scientists are facing "stubborn resistance to evidence-based policymaking", Mr Jameel quit as the head of INSACOG, a central government panel that conducts genome sequencing of coronavirus. An official said the virologist did not give any reason for his decision.

Hamas Leader: Iran Among Front-Runners In Championing Palestinian Cause

Agenceis

The head of the political bureau of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has offered his warm gratitude to Iran, saying the Islamic Republic is one of the front-runners in championing the cause of Palestine and Jerusalem al-Quds.

"Through your Excellency, I would like to send my regards to the Leader and the people of Iran and emphasize that the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the leading countries in supporting the cause of Palestine and Holy al-Quds," Ismail Haniyeh said in a phone call with Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Haniyeh pointed out that an extensive battle is ongoing for the liberation of al-Quds and said resistance is a symbol of sacredness and purity which has unified all Palestinians to support al-Quds and al-Aqsa Mosque.

"We ask God to make Islam and Muslims victorious both in Palestine and in Iran," he added.

Velayati also thanked Palestinians for their struggle, courage, prudence and perseverance in the face of Israeli crimes, voicing hope that a meeting will be held in Iran soon after the Palestinians' victory.

"The honorable people of Palest-

tine have resisted the crimes of the occupying Zionist regime for more than a quarter of a century. They have fought and offered martyrs to show that they are the flag-bearers of the Islamic awakening," said Velayati, who is also the secretary general of the World Assembly of Islamic Awakening.

On Sunday, Velayati told Ziyad al-Nakhlah, the secretary-general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, that Iran will continue to fully support Palestine against the Israeli regime's atrocities.

He predicted that the divine promise on the liberation of all occupied Palestinian lands and Jerusalem al-Quds will come true.

Nakhlah, for his part, hailed Ayatollah Khamenei's brave stance on the Palestinian issue and said no other country has adopted such a position.

Tehran: 'Legitimate resistance' only way to fight Israeli occupation, Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement, strongly condemning Israel's incessant aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip, which entered its second week on Monday, saying the attacks are a blatant violation of human rights, humanitarian law and international law.

"Regrettably, due to the disgraceful support of some Western states, we see that the aggression

of the Zionist regime has intensified, and therefore, the Palestinian people, who are fighting to regain all their rights, have an inherent and natural right to defend themselves," Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said at the beginning of his weekly press conference on Monday.

Khatibzadeh said "legitimate resistance" is the only way to counter the aggression and occupation of the Israeli regime until the steadfast nation of Palestine achieves all its rights and exercises its sovereignty over the entire land of Palestine.

He underlined that safeguarding Palestine's rights is not an "Arab-Islamic" issue, and urged the international community to join hands with Islamic and freedom-seeking countries to stand by the brave people of Palestine against Israeli violence.

"We also call on nations, organizations and Islamic governments, especially the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to stand in a united front with the oppressed and defenseless people of Palestine against the blatant aggression and terrorist acts of the Zionist regime's army," he said.

The spokesman further said Israel's criminal activities must be recognized in the world as "genocide" and "crime against humanity".

NEWS MAKER

Free At Last To Hug And Party: UK Reopens For Business

Agenceis

London: Friends will hug, pints will be pulled and swathes of the British economy will reopen on Monday giving 65 million people a measure of freedom after the gloom of a four-month COVID-19 lockdown.

Most of the British will be free once again to hug, albeit cautiously, drink a pint in their pub, sit down to an indoor meal or visit the cinema after a series of lockdowns that imposed the strictest restrictions in peacetime history.

The biggest public health crisis in a century was accompanied by a drastic extension of state power; during England's lockdowns police broke



up parties and protests alike, shut down religious services and handed out fines of up to 10,000 pounds (\$14,000) to youngsters for partying. As freedom beckons once more, there is excitement.

"I shall be hugging literally everyone I can get my hands on," British actress Joanna Lumley told The Telegraph newspaper. "I shall snatch babies from their mothers, and lean over zimmer frames."

"I shall hug girls at the till, the picture framer, and lads playing footie in the park. Much later obviously I shall be hugging police personnel as I am charged at the station. Hugger-mugger, that's me."

Beside the euphoria, though, there is also anxiety.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who before he imposed three national lockdowns had railed against the "nanny" tendencies of the British state, advised people to cuddle cautiously and served notice that the spread of the coronavirus variant first identified in India meant that the final UK reopening in June could be delayed.

"Together we have reached another milestone in our roadmap out

of lockdown, but we must take this next step with a heavy dose of caution," Johnson said in a statement.

There is growing concern about variant B.1.617.2 which British scientific advisers say will become the dominant variant in the United Kingdom and which is more transmissible than B.1.1.7 (the variant first identified in Kent, England).

Broadly, from Monday in England gatherings of up to 30 people will be allowed outdoors, two families will be allowed to meet indoors; cafes, bars and restaurants will reopen for indoor service; care home residents will be allowed to have five visitors; and face coverings will no longer be compulsory in schools.