



## P3 CITY

## DC SRINAGAR VISITS CD, SMHS HOSPITALS TO REVIEW INSTALLATION OF NEW OXYGEN PLANTS

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday visited Chest Disease and SMHS hospitals to oversee the process of installation of three new Oxygen Generation Plants...

## P6

## MISPLACED CONCERNS AND MISINTERPRETED HISTORY

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...



## P5 NEWS

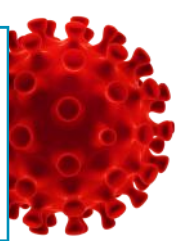
## DHSK ISSUES ADVISORY FOR PREVENTION OF BLACK FUNGUS

Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) on Tuesday issued an advisory for the prevention of Mucormycosis (Black Fungus) after such cases were...



## Quote!

In a time of destruction, create something  
Maxine Hong Kingston



## Kashmir Records 10-12% Drop In Covid-19 Cases: Govt

## NEWS DIGEST

## Ex-Union Minister Chaman Lal Gupta Dies

**JAMMU-** Veteran BJP leader and former union minister Chaman Lal Gupta died after a prolonged illness at his Gandhi Nagar residence here on Tuesday, days after undergoing successful treatment for COVID-19 at a hospital, his family said. Gupta (87) is survived by his two sons and a daughter. He had tested positive for COVID-19 on May 5 and returned from Narayana hospital on Sunday after successful treatment. His condition suddenly deteriorated in the wee hours and **More On P10**

## Search Operation Held In Ganderbal

**SRINAGAR:** The state forces on Tuesday launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Safapora area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. According to reports, a joint team of the army's 13RR, Ganderbal Police cordoned off Waza Mohalla area of Safapora and conducted house to house searches there. Reports said that all entry and exit points towards the area were sealed off by the security forces. **More On P10**

## Grenade Defused in Rajouri

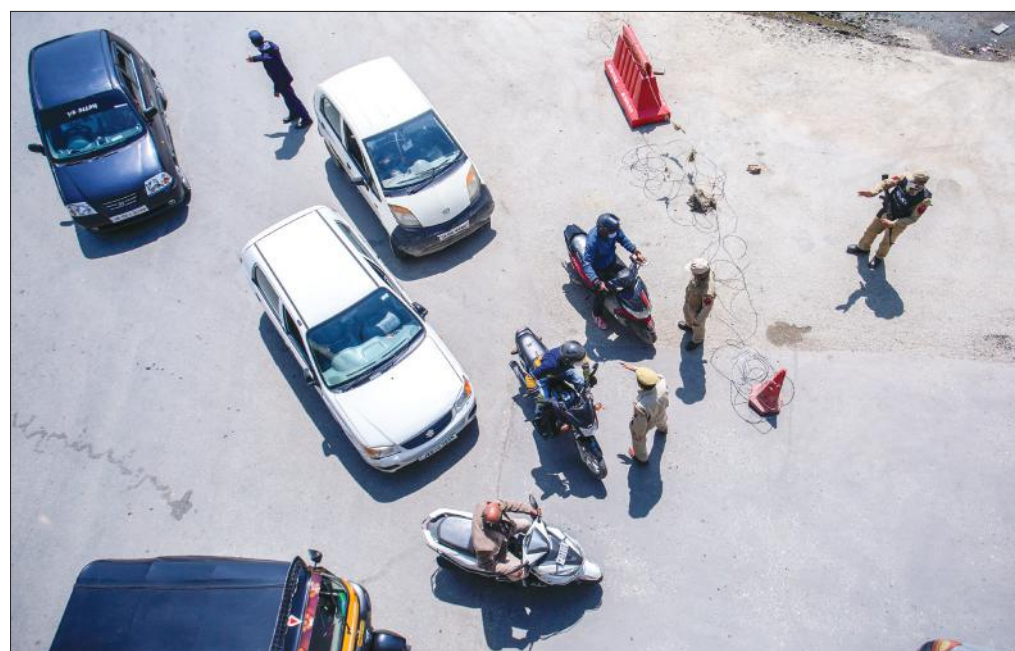
**SRINAGAR:** An unexploded grenade was destroyed by a joint team of police and army on Tuesday in Panj Nara village of Rajouri district. The rusted hand grenade was destroyed on the site by a bomb disposal squad of a local army unit with the assistance of police from Kandi police station, an official said. The grenade, he said, was found lying in bushes following which village elders informed the authorities.

## 2 Pistols Recovered In Poonch

**SRINAGAR:** Two pistols and eleven bullets were recovered during an operation in Mahra village of Surankote in Poonch district, officials said Tuesday. The said that an operation was launched jointly by army and police during which arms and ammunition were found kept hidden in the area. They said that apparently the arms and ammunition were kept in the area in the past years—(KNO)

## 4 Gamblers Held In Ganderbal: Police

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Bashir Ahmad Kambay, Mohd Yousuf Hajam and Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh, all residents of Wakura Ganderbal were arrested by a team of cops from Police Post Shadipora in an input driven raid at Langi Bagh Wakura, a police spokesperson said. Besides playing cards, **More On P10**



## Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The rate of daily COVID-19 positive patients has been coming down by 10 to 12 per cent in Kashmir division over the past few days, a senior

official said on Tuesday.

Kashmir Divisional Commissioner Pandurang K Pole said, "The rate of daily COVID-19 positive patients has been witnessed to be stabilising by 10 to 12 per cent in Kashmir."

He said that, however, there are chances that the mortality rate will remain the same or even increase in the next few days.

Maintaining that the administration has been taking every possible step **More On P10**

## Corona Claims 71 More Lives, 3967 Test Positive



## Firdaus Ali

**SRINAGAR:** Coronavirus claimed on Tuesday 71 more lives in Jammu and Kashmir, the second highest single-day death toll, while 3967 more people tested positive for the deadly infection across the Union Territory during the last

24 hours.

Officials told Kashmir Observer that among the 71 fatalities reported Tuesday, 39 victims were residents of Jammu division and the remaining 32 hailed from different parts of the Kashmir Valley. Their deaths, they said, raised the overall fatality count **More On P10**

## Fresh Vaccine Consignment Arrives: Govt

The Jammu and Kashmir administration said on Tuesday that it has received a fresh consignment of coronavirus vaccine, days after facing massive outrage over the shortage of vaccines in Kashmir Valley. "J&K has today received fresh consignment of Covishield vaccine. The immunisation drive in Jammu and Kashmir division to continue on a war footing from tomorrow, 19th May. The government has also ensured for a continuous supply of **More On P10**

## 10-Member Panel Formed To Tackle 'Third Wave'

As Jammu and Kashmir continues to battle the second wave of deadly coronavirus infection, the Union Territory administration has constituted a 10-member panel for formulating a strategy to meet a possible 'third wave' of the pandemic. In an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) on Tuesday, the former Director of the SK institute of medical sciences (SKIMS) Dr M.S. Khuroo has been named as the Chairman of the ten member committee for **More On P10**

## Govt Orders 50% Attendance In Offices

The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday ordered 50 percent attendance of employees in the government offices in an effort to contain the spread of coronavirus in the Union Territory. In an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), it has been stated that a with a view to ensure adherence to social distancing norms in government offices across the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, **More On P10**

## 90 Days Interim Bail to Jail Inmates

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has decided to release jail inmates in the union territory on 90 days interim bail in view of the Supreme Court directions, an official spokesman said. A high-powered committee, headed by High Court Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, took the decision to release all the jail inmates as per the directions of the Supreme Court in March 2020, he said. Magrey directed the J&K Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) to coordinate with the other two members **More On P10**

## Journalist Gulzar Ahmad No More



## Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Senior journalist Gulzar Ahmad passed away at his home in Budgam after a prolonged illness on Tuesday. He was 70.

Resident Editor with the local Urdu daily, Srinagar News, Gulzar's journalistic career spanned over three decades. Gulzar earlier worked with Kashmir Observer from 1996 till 1999.

Gulzar was unwell for the last three years and was mostly confined to his home in **More On P10**

## J&amp;K Seeks Hi-End Gadgets For Monitoring Flood Situation In Kashmir

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** J&K government has proposed the central government to procure 34 Automatic Water Level Recorders (AWLR) for various stations and tributaries besides 13 Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG) to monitor flood situation in Kashmir.

According to the reports, the Divisional Commissioner P K Pole in a meeting stated that it has proposed to install 11 AWLR stations on river Jhelum and 23 AWLR stations on various tributaries through JTFRP (World Bank—PMU).

In the meeting it was also decided that the office of

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has proposed to install 13 ARG in various catchments to record and communicate the real time rainfall data.

Pole in a meeting also said that it will install 20 Acoustic Doppler Profilers (ADP) or WVRs to record and communicate the real time discharge or flow of Jhelum at nine stations and of various tributaries at 11 stations.

"Office of the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has also proposed to procure other essential equipment for field and office work", reads the official document.

It was also mentioned that the **More On P10**

...Proprietary Rights Over State Land

## HC Upholds Pre-Roshni Orders

## Agencies

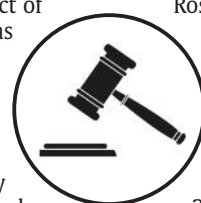
**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday upheld the validity of government orders and schemes on grant of Proprietary or freehold rights over state land prior to coming into effect of Roshni Act which was scrapped last year.

Disposing of a number of petitions, a division bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and Vinod Chatterji Koul made it clear that the government cannot deny the grant of proprietary or freehold rights on any "arbitrary, unreasonable and illegal basis."

"We are unable to accept the argument advanced on behalf

of the Respondents (officials) that all pending cases of applicants under any pre-existing Scheme/Government Order of the (government) stood automatically rejected upon coming into force of the Roshni Act/Rules," the division bench said.

"In any event, since the Roshni Act/Rules having already been declared are null and void by a co-ordinate Division Bench of this Court by its decision dated 9th October, 2020 in PIL No. 19/2011, the Respondents (officials) cannot take shelter under the Roshni Act/Rules to advance such an argument," the court said after examining the decision of the coordinate Bench which it **More On P10**



## Truck Driver Held With Rs 30L Cash

## Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A truck driver, hailing from Kashmir, was taken into custody on Tuesday after Rs 30 lakh unaccounted cash was recovered from his vehicle here, police said.

Mohammad Iqbal of Verinag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district was handed over to Income Tax authorities for further inquiry, a police spokesperson said.

He said police have set up various checkpoints in view of the ongoing COVID-19 **More On P10**

## DOCTOR SPEAKS

## Ashiq Hussain Andrabi

After the government equated the dosage death with vaccine hesitancy in Kashmir valley, the chorus around official Covid response is only growing—with many stressing that the experts in the field should be given the charge to lead and interact with the public on mass-media platforms.

The assertion came a day after Kashmir Observer carried an exclusive

sive official data story blaming jab hesitancy for the valley's slow vaccine rate.

Earlier, Kashmiri netizens decried the dosage disparity between Jammu and Kashmir, saying: "Where are the vaccines?" Many Kashmiri journalists say, Kashmir valley's vaccination drive literally halted on May 15, 2021, followed by "zero doses administered in Kashmir" on May 16.

While the government says it's stockpiling supplies amid "vaccine hesitancy", many in Kashmir assert: "Hesitancy doesn't mean hospitals should remain devoid of critical doses."

Amid competing pitches, the frontline workers are bearing the

brunt by holding the fort, while commoners are facing Covid curfew on their way to health centres "running dry of doses".

To understand what the government calls "vaccination hesitancy" in Kashmir valley, Kashmir Observer spoke to Dr. Shahnawaz B Kaloo of Max Hospital, New Delhi. Dr. Kaloo's celebrated superman avatar during the first phase of the pandemic last year became a twitter sensation.

## How much of this vaccine hesitancy is real?

Well, vaccine hesitancy is not new and dates back to smallpox

vaccination.

However, during the current pandemic, the misinformation is tremendous especially on social media. This has worsened the situation.

## Since you're very active on social media, do you see any role of misinformation in shaping up of this hesitancy?

Unfortunately, social media has worsened the misinformation problem. Conspiracy theorists are getting huge public attention and this has led to chaos. The social media platforms are yet to provide a method to report and flag unscientific or

false information.

It's need of the hour that social media platforms provide a methodology to flag such misinformation.

## What most common safety concerns do the vaccine hesitant/skeptics have?

The concerns are many and mostly ill founded.

## How does this hesitancy pose a threat to herd immunity and complicate this fight against Covid-19?

The vaccine is our strongest weapon against this pandemic.

And we must work towards eradication of this pandemic with vaccination. Otherwise, this health emergency may stay for many years to come.

## Vaccine hesitancy may not necessarily be vaccine refusal and there may be some legitimate concerns about the vaccine. What are some of these genuine concerns that must be addressed at an earliest possible?

The data from clinical trials should be made public for every vaccine. Plus there should be a national registry of the post vaccination side effects if severe. This will help **More On P10**







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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

**KASHMIR  
OBSERVER**

**Wednesday| 19-05-2021**

**2**

# ‘Middle-aged women should check their blood pressure regularly to avoid heart attacks’



Agencies

**W**omen with mildly elevated blood pressure in their early 40s have a two-fold risk of acute coronary syndromes in their 50s compared to their counterparts with normal blood pressure- suggest the finding of a study. The study was published on World Hypertension Day in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, it is a journal of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC). "Even if they feel healthy, women should have their blood pressure measured by their primary care physician and repeated at regular intervals with the frequency-dependent on the level," said study author Dr Ester Kringeland of the University of Bergen, Norway. "Those with other risk factors for heart disease, such as obesity, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, pregnancy complications, or parents with high blood pressure need more intense monitoring." Previous studies have suggested that high blood pressure is a stronger risk factor for heart disease in women than in men. In addition, young and middle-aged women have on average lower blood pressure than men, but despite this, the threshold for diagnosing high blood pressure is the same in both sexes. This study investigated whether mildly elevated blood pressure (130-139/80-89

mmHg) was a stronger risk factor for acute coronary syndromes in women than in men. Blood pressure was measured in 6,381 women and 5,948 men participating in the community-based Hordaland Health Study at age 41 years. Heart attacks were recorded during 16 years of follow up. The researchers found that in women, having mildly elevated blood pressure was associated with a doubled risk of acute coronary syndromes during midlife. This association was not found in men after adjusting for other cardiovascular disease risk factors. Dr. Kringeland said: "Our analyses confirmed that mildly elevated blood pressure affects the risk of acute coronary syndromes in a sex-specific manner. The results add to emerging evidence indicating that high blood pressure has particularly unfavourable effects on women's hearts." Dr Kringeland noted that the findings probably reflect differences between women and men in how the small arteries respond to elevated blood pressure, but this needs to be further explored. She said: "Young women have on average lower blood pressure than men, but a steeper increase is observed in women starting in the third decade. Since the threshold for high blood pressure is the same in both sexes, young women have in fact had a relatively larger increase



**Those with other risk factors for heart disease, such as obesity, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, pregnancy complications, or parents with high blood pressure need more intense monitoring**

than men before being diagnosed with high blood pressure." Dr Kringeland concluded: "Women should know their blood pressure. To retain normal blood pressure, it is recommended to maintain normal body weight, keep a healthy diet and exercise regularly. Furthermore, it is advisable to avoid smoking and excessive consumption of alcohol and salt." Professor Bryan Williams, ESC Chairperson of the European hypertension guidelines<sup>2</sup> and Chair of Medicine at University College London, UK said: "This is a very important finding with a strong message. It has often been assumed based on the way we are encouraged to estimate the risk of heart disease, that the cardiovascular risk associated with elevated blood pressure in mid-life life is greater for men than women. Importantly, this study suggests that this is not the case and that even mild elevations in blood pressure in women in early and mid-life should not be ignored."

## Free Ayush Immune Booster Medicinedistribution At Distt. Jail Kheribal Mattan Anantnag From Deptt.of ISM (AYUSH)

On the directions of Director Indian Systems of Medicine (AYUSH) J&K & ADMO ISM Anantnag in presence of Distt.Nodal officer AYUSH Anantnag . FREE AYUSH Immune Booster Medicines were distributed at Distt. Jail Kheribal Mattan ANANTNAG , importance of COVID SoPs and vaccination was explained in detail.

mja



## Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**NIT No- 14 of RnB-Sopore of 2021-2022 e-tendering DATED- 17.05.2021.**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of AAA
01	completion of Town Hall at Waterigam.	25.00 lacs	800/-	45 days	27.05.2021	CEE/BEE civil cum sanitary	My Town My pride	Accorded
02	Construction of Sumo stand near Co-operative Godown Puthpora A ward No.02 MC Waterigam	25.00 lacs	800/-	45 days	27.05.2021	CEE/BEE	My Town My pride	Accorded

Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	17.05.2021
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 17.05.2021 (10.00 A.M) to 25.05.2021 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	17.05.2021 from (04.00P.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	25.05.2021 upto (4.00 P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	27.05.2021 at (04.10 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) and Bid security Declaration as per format given in SBD. The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (3% of quoted cost) within the period as specified in SBD.

3. All Bidders have to submit Bid security Declaration form instead of Earnest money as per circular of Finance Department ( Bid Security declaration from is as per Annexure "A" below.

4.The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority ).

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

7. **Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**

7.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

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

7.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per NIT No: 2 of 2020-21 Issued under No:- 641-61 dated: 22.4.2020 PWD form 25 (Double agreement form) and NIT 13 of 2021-22.

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

For and on behalf of the,  
Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Sopore

No:- 1600-20  
Dated:- 17.05.2021

**DIPK-1685/21**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER  
FOR MACADAM WORKS

Fresh e-NIT No. 15 of 2021-2022

DATED: 17-05-2021.

For and on behalf of the President of India , e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc (In Rupees )	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Up-gradation of Bus Adda Nusoo Bandipora by way of P/L GSB,WBM G-II, WBM G-III, P/L 50mm thick bituminous macadam and P/L 25mm thick semidense with 6mm thick seal coat.	169.00 Incl. C/o Bitumen	2600/=	Bid security deceleration form	20 Days	IDMT	AAY with HMPO/ Hot Mix Plant Owner

Position of AAA	Accorded
Position of TS	Accorded

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-05-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17-05-2021 from 06.00 P.M.
3	Bid submission Start Date	17-05-2021 from 06.00 P.M.
4	Bid Submission End Date	24-05-2021 up to 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	25-05-2021 at 10.00 AM in the office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal / Bandipora

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division (tender inviting authority) and Bid security Declaration as per format given in SBD.The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (3% of quoted cost) pledged to Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal / Bandipora within the period as specified in SBD.

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Superintending Engineer R&B circle Ganderbal / Bandipora (tender receiving authority).

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

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)to acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora and Bid Security Declaration must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document) and CDR/FDR (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

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

10. Price escalation and Taxes:- Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

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

13. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

13.1. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-

a. Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.

b. Treasury Challan&/CDR/FDR/BG

c. Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.

d. Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the preceding Month to the issued of NIT

13.2. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

13.3. Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.

13.4. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.

13.5. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including Bid security deceleration form and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises

14. All other terms and conditions shall be strictly as per SBD circulated by this office letter No. CE/RBK/HD/29158-88 dated 10-02-2018

No. EE/R&B/Bpr/413-23  
Dated:17-05-2021

**DIPK-1680/21**

Sd/= Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Bandipora





JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE PERSONNEL imposing lockdown in Srinagar city on Tuesday.

KO Photo, Abid Bhat.

# Govt Nod Mandatory For Wedlock In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Amid a strict Covid-19 lockdown, Srinagar administration Tuesday launched an online application for the permission of scheduled marriage functions in the district.

An official of DC office Srinagar said that in view of the ongoing Corona lockdown, there are many scheduled marriage functions in Srinagar and to make it convenient for the people, district administration Srinagar launched an online application for the permission of the same.

He said that people don't have to come outside of their homes as they have launched a user



friendly application where people can apply for the permission.

He added that this all can be helpful in reducing the movement of people coming for the permission of marriage functions during Corona Curfew and risk of being infected by moving outside gets avoided.

The official further said that the application also hosts a format for providing vehicle permission for the movement of "Baraat."

Pertinent to mention that after the State Executive Committee (SEC), extended the Corona Curfew from 17 May to 24 May, essential, emergency services and scheduled marriages up to permissible gatherings norms were exempted.

Families having scheduled marriage needs go to this web link address: <https://epass-srinagar.nic.net.in/>, and follow the instructions with requisite information asked while seeking the permission.

## Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid Pays Tribute To Mirwaiz Muhammad Farooq

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid Srinagar on the 31st "martyrdom anniversary" of its founder Mirwaiz Moulvi Muhammad Farooq (RA) paid glowing tributes to him for his three-decade-long invaluable contribution towards the propagation of Islamic teachings and values across Kashmir and outside besides fulfilling his responsibility of Qaal Allah Wa Qaala Rasool (SAW) at the historic grand mosque as the Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir.

Anjuman said the spirit with which the Shaheed-e-Millat (RA) highlighted Islam's message of peace, humanity, love, tolerance, brotherhood and religious harmony is a glorious chapter of our milli and religious history.

Mirwaiz Moulvi Muhammad Farooq (RA) made the Auqaf a self-sustained organisation and took several measures to overhaul the Jama Masjid by providing the best possible facilities for the worshippers, the



Anjuman said, adding that such contribution of Shaheed-e-Millat (RA) can never be forgotten, it said in a statement.

Anjuman said that Majlis e Quran Khwani and Husn-e-Qir'at competition functions to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Shaheed-e-Millat (RA) stand cancelled this year due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and nearly two-year-long house detention of Mirwaiz Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq.

Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid has appealed to people to pray for the highest status in Jannah for Shaheed-e-Millat (RA) and all the martyrs of Kashmir in their daily prayers. It also urged people to pray to Almighty Allah to grant us refuge from the deadly outbreak of coronavirus.

## CIK Arrests Two With Brown Sugar In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) apprehended two persons from Srinagar's Batamalo area on Tuesday morning and recovered brown sugar like substance from them.

Official sources that a team from CIK led by Inspector Sajad Ahmed after receiving specific input, intercepted a load carrier (JK02BG 2430) and after frisking the two persons on board including the driver recovered 800-gram brown sugar like substance.

Both the persons boarding the car were arrested on spot. They have been identified as Shakeel Sheikh and Kurshed Sheikh, both residents of Dildar in Karnah area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district. The load carrier has also been seized. (CNS)

## DC Srinagar Visits CD, SMHS Hospitals To Review Installation Of New Oxygen Plants



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday visited Chest Disease and SMHS hospitals to oversee the process of installation of three new Oxygen Generation Plants including two plants of 1000 lpm capacity each and another of 1500 lpm capacity imported from Germany yesterday.

At Chest Disease hospital the DC took stock of the ongoing process of installation of 1500 lpm capacity Medical Oxygen plant.

It was informed that all other supporting infrastructure for the plant is almost ready and it is expected that the plant machinery will be installed and commissioned within a few days of time.

The DC directed the concerned to work in double shifts and ensure the plant is made fully operationalized at an earliest so that availability of sufficient oxygen supply is ensured in the hospital.

On the occasion, the DC asked the Medical Superintendent CD hospital to take immediate measures to increase the bed capacity in the hospital to further strengthen the system to fight the 2nd wave of CoronaVirus.

Later, the DC also visited Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital and inspected the ongoing works

being carried out there for making two new oxygen plants of 1000 lpm capacity each operational.

On the occasion, it was informed that necessary machinery of both the plants have been installed and all possible measures are being taken to make these oxygen plants functional soon.

While interacting with the concerned Engineers and other officers, the DC directed them to ensure both the oxygen plants are made functional by or before May 21.

The DC was informed that besides other augmentation measures, Covid bed capacity has been increased to 290 at SMHS hospital to further strengthen the Covid fight system.

On the occasion, the DC said these three new Oxygen plants will ensure a sustained supply of oxygen for all oxygenated and ICU beds at SMHS and CD hospitals that the administration is keeping a keen eye on the development of requisite health care infrastructure and is taking adequate steps to augment its capacity to contain Covid-19 in the district and ensure better health-care facilities to the patients.

Joint Director Planning, SDM East, Executive Engineers of Mechanical Engineering Department Tehsilidar South and other concerned accompanied the DC during the visit.

## KU Holds Condolence Meet To Mourn Demise Of Dr Mustahson Fazili

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad, faculty members and other functionaries of the varsity Tuesday condoled the sad demise of Dr Mustahson Farooq Fazili, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, who passed away on Monday.

At an online condolence meeting organised by Kashmir University Teachers' Association (KUTA), Prof Talat described Dr Fazili as a dedicated teacher and a humble soul.

"The entire university stands in complete solidarity with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," he said, praying for eter-



nal peace to the departed soul.

Prof Talat reiterated the university is committed to help the families of deceased faculty members.

Dean Academic Affairs Prof Shabir Bhat described Dr Fazili as an able teacher and suggested that the KUTA should

form small crisis management groups to help faculty members during these tough times and contribute to easing the burden on health facilities.

Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir said Dr Fazili was a thorough gentleman and a dedicated teacher who was actively involved in academics and research. He reiterated the need for the entire staff to take all precautions and follow COVID-19 SOPs in letter and spirit.

President KUTA Dr Manzoor A Chachoo recalled Dr Fazili as a dedicated faculty member and an active researcher.

'Fateha' prayers were also offered for the departed soul.

## DC Srinagar Seeks Details Of Covid-19 Drugs

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner Srinagar on Tuesday asked all Medical Superintendents of major hospitals and healthcare facilities of the district to submit the information regarding the issue of drugs like Remdesivir, Tocilizumab and other COVID related drugs and medicines, twice a week.

The order was issued following after the administration received complaints regarding the improper usage of drugs.

In an order, deputy commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz said that his office has received complaints regarding improper usage of drugs like Remdesivir, Tocilizumab and other COVID related drugs/medicines, many a time without a proper prescription from the authorised

medical practitioner.

"Some SOSs have been viral on social media flashing the urgent need of Remdesivir and Tocilizumab. Whereas, such a practice can lead to artificial scarcity of mentioned essential drugs and put the life of patients who are in dire need of such drugs in danger. The District Disaster Management Authority has found it necessary to take cognisance of the concern raised by the public and to ensure that these drugs are provided only after proper prescription from authorised medical practitioner of the hospital only."

The order stated that all Medical Superintendents of major hospitals and health-care facilities of district Srinagar shall submit the necessary information twice in a week (every Monday and Thursday) without any failure.

## Parents Urge DPS Admin To Reduce Time Period Of Online Classes

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Parents of the students studying in Delhi Public School (DPS) Srinagar on Tuesday urged the administration to reduce the time period of online classes saying the students are being overburdened and have to spend nearly five hours on mobile screen.

The parents said that not only DPS but other schools should also revise the timetable for online classes in accordance with the guidelines of World Health Organization (WHO) to conduct online classes.

"Currently, the primary standard students of DPS Srinagar on an average spend nearly five hours a day on mobile phones to attend approximately eight online classes. That much of time is overburdened on students and the administration should reconsider the timetable," said one of the parents.

### DIAL-EMMA



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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

### RAILWAYS



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

### HIGHWAY STATUS



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

## This Day in History

- 1585 - Spain confiscates English ships
- 1635 - France's First Minister, Cardinal Richelieu declares war on Spain (Franco-Spanish War 1635-59)
- 1643 - Battle at Rocroi/Allersheim: French army destroys Spanish army
- 1643 Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Connecticut and New Harbor form the United Colonies of New England
- 1649 - England is declared a Commonwealth by an act of the Rump Parliament making England a republic for the next 11 years
- 1652 - Spanish troops occupy Grevelingen
- 1662 U - niformity Act of England goes into effect
- 1749 - George II grants charter to Ohio Company to settle Ohio Valley
- 1792 - Russian army enters Poland
- 1793 - Netherlands captures French island of St Maarten (held until 1795)
- 1796 - Game protection law restricts encroachment on Indian hunting grounds
- 1863 - Siege of Vicksburg, investment of city complete
- 1864 - Battle of Port Walthall Junction, Virginia (Bermuda Hundred)
- 1864 - Last engagement in series of battles known as Spotsylvania
- 1864 - Skirmish at Cassville, Georgia
- 1885 - German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck takes possession of Cameroon and Togoland
- 1900 - World's longest railroad tunnel (Simplon) linking Italy and Switzerland opens
- 1910 - Passage of Earth through tail of Halley's Comet causes near-panic
- 1919 - Kelud volcano on Java, erupts killing 5,160
- 1919 - Mustafa Kemal Atatürk lands at Samsun on the Black Sea coast, beginning the Turkish War of Independence
- 1926 -- French air force bombs Damascus Syria
- 1929 - Chinese warlord Feng Yuxiang declares war on Chiang Kai-shek's nationalist government
- 1939 - Churchill signs British-Russian anti-Nazi pact
- 1940 - Amsterdam time becomes MET (Middle European Time)
- 1940 - French counter attack at Pronne under Gen De Gaulle
- 1941 - Germany occupiers in Holland forbid bicycle taxis
- 1941 - New Nazi battleship Bismarck leaves Gdynia, Poland
- 1943 - Berlin is declared "Judenrien" (free of Jews)
- 1943 - Churchill pledges Britain's full support to US against Japan
- 1944 - German defense line in Italy collapses
- 194 - 5 Start of the 1st Victory Test Cricket between England & Aust Services
- 1953 - Nuclear explosion in Nevada (fall-out in St George, Utah)
- 1958 - US & Canada form North American Air Defense Command (NORAD)
- 1959 - Jan de Quay becomes premier of Netherlands
- 1962 - Indonesian paratroopers land in New Guinea
- 1967 - USSR ratifies treaty with Britain & US banning nuclear weapons in space
- 1971 - USSR launches Mars 2, 1st spacecraft to crash land on Mars
- 1972 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1975 - Farm truck packed with wedding party struck by a train, killing 66 in truck, 40 miles south of Poona, India
- 1976 - Gold ownership legalized in Australia
- 1976 - Senate establishes permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
- 1976 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalatinsk USSR
- 1984 - STS 41-D vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1993 - Boeing 727 crashes into mountain at Medellin Colombia, kills 132
- 1995 - World's youngest doctor, Balamurali Ambati, 17, graduates Mount Sinai
- 1996 - STS 77 (Endeavour 11), launches into orbit

HIJRI  
CALENDAR

07

SHAWWAL  
-UL-  
MUKARRAM

1442

### PRAYERS

FAJR  
3: 50  
ZUHR  
12: 27  
ASR  
5:22  
MAGRIB  
7:31  
ISHA  
9:06

## Boy Electrocuted On May 14 Succumbs At SKIMS

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A 25-year-old youth, who was electrocuted after he came in contact with a live wire at his home Hanjibugh area of Magam in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on May 14, succumbed at SKIMS Soura on Tuesday afternoon.

Officials said that he came in contact with a high tension transmission line on May 14.

They said that he was rushed to sub-district hospital Magam, from where he was referred to SKIMS Soura for further treatment.

He said that the youth succumbed today at SKIMS Soura. The deceased was identified as Lateef Ahmad Sheikh son of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh (25), a resident of Hanjibugh area of Magam.

Meanwhile, a police officer said that investigation into the incident has been started.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I purchased Santro Xing (JK15 1107) from Aijaz Ahmad Baba, S/o Mohamad Syed Baba R/o Hanifiya colony Sopore Baramulla on 17th May 2021. If any case is registered against the said vehicle till 17th May, the seller Aijaz Ahmad Baba will be responsible for it and after this date I will be responsible for it. Moreover any person having objection regarding the purchase of this vehicle can contact me on 7006034174.

**Aijaz Ahmad Dar  
S/O Ali Mohammad Dar  
R/O Sarai Dangerpora Sumbal, Bandipore  
(At present Nishat Srinagar)  
Cell: 7006034174.**

## AFFIDAVIT

I Sheikh Sadat Tawfiq S/o Sheikh Tawfiq Ahmad R/O Baghi Mehtab Srinagar do hereby solemnly declare on oath as under:  
1. That my name Sheikh Sadat has wrongly being introduced in the records in my driving license bearing License no JK0120170001553

2. That correct spellings of my name is Sheikh Sadat Tawfiq  
3. That what has been stated above is true and correct  
4. That this affidavit is solicited for making correct by introducing my correct name Sheikh Sadat Tawfiq as instead Sheikh Sadat of in support of above said facts.

Deponent.

Verification:  
Verified at Srinagar on this the 18th day of may 2021 that the above contents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Deponent

## From KO Archives

## PCK INVITES HURRIYAT LEADERS TO TRAVEL ON KASHMIR BUS

**RAWLAKOT –** President Pakistan controlled Kashmir Sardar Muhammad Anwar Khan has invited leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference to travel to 'Azad' Kashmir on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service

Addressing reporters at Rawalakote Press cub the Pck President said that the bus service was not solution of this core issue between Pakistan and India, However he said that it was a step towards permanent solution of this longstanding dispute He said major objective of starting the bus service was to re-unify the divided Kashmiri families to facilitate them in this regard.

Anwar added the truck service between that between both parts of Kashmir would be started to boost trade between them.

Inviting Hurriyat leaders to visit Islamabad, Anwar said that such consultations among Kashmiri leadership on both sides of the Line of control will help in devising a joint strategy that would be acceptable to Kashmiris on both sides' of the LoC. He said no one he allowed to sell or cash the sacrifices rendered by one lac Kashmiris He said Kashmiri martyrs were heroes of the Kashmiri people and they would realize their mission and will not leave any stone unturned in carrying forward their mission towards a logical conclusion.

(Kashmir Observer, 19 May, 2005)



## How Worrying Is The Variant First Seen In India?

**LONDON:** For the first time in months, people across England are meeting indoors at pubs, restaurants, cinemas, gyms and elsewhere as coronavirus rules were relaxed this week.

But Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned Britons to be cautious and some of the scientists advising him say restrictions might need to be reimposed quickly because of a worrying variant first detected in India.

Here's a look at what we know and don't know about the variant:

### WHAT IS THIS VARIANT?

The COVID-19 variant first identified in India has been classified as a "variant of concern" by Britain and the World Health Organisation, meaning there is some evidence that it spreads more easily between people, causes more severe disease, or might be less responsive to treatments and vaccines.

"The absolute numbers of cases (of the variant) in the UK remain quite small, but the growth rate is quite high," said Nick Loman, a professor of microbial genomics at the University of Birmingham.

To date, there have been more than 2,300 cases identified in Britain. Figures released by Public Health England show cases of the variant first detected in India have tripled in the past week and experts say it's on track to become the most dominant COVID-19 variant in the country.

Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's COVID-19 technical lead, said more information was still needed about the variant's spread globally.

"We need more sequencing, targeted sequencing to be done and to be shared in India and elsewhere so that we know how much of this virus is circulating," she said.

### HOW TRANSMISSIBLE IS THE VARIANT?

We don't entirely know. But according to the minutes of an expert group advising the government last week, scientists said "it is a realistic possibility that (the variant first seen in India) is as much as 50% more transmissible" than the variant first reported in Britain — whose explosive spread led to the country's longest lockdown in January.

"There are plausible biological reasons as to why some of the mutations present could make this variant more transmissible," they concluded.

If the variant proves to be 40 to 50% more transmissible, the scientists predicted that would "lead to a much larger peak" of cases, hospitalisations and

deaths than previous waves of coronavirus — particularly if the government continues with its existing plans to exit lockdown.

Dr Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust and one of the scientists advising the government, said it was entirely possible the COVID-19 restrictions relaxed on Monday might need to be re-introduced soon if the variant's spread leads to a spike in hospitalisations and deaths.

"A very careful lifting (of restrictions) is reasonable, but we may have to reverse that," Farrar warned. Experts think the next few weeks should provide more details about how quickly the variant identified in India is sickening people and whether that might overwhelm hospitals.

Johnson said any proof the variant identified in India is more dangerous could "pose a serious disruption" to the UK government's plans to lift all remaining COVID-19 restrictions next month.

### DO VACCINES WORK AGAINST THIS VARIANT?

Scientists think so but are still waiting for definitive answers.

At a press briefing last week, Marco Cavaleri, head of vaccines at the European Medicines Agency, said the data appeared "rather reassuring" that vaccines made by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna would protect against the variant first seen in India.

He said the agency was still gathering more information on the effectiveness of the shots made by AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson and was "pretty confident" those vaccines too would afford people enough protection from the variant.

"Urgent experimental data is being generated (for this variant)," said Sharon Peacock of the UK COVID-19 Genomics Consortium. She noted that vaccines appear to work against other variants to date but that it is important to determine if one dose is effective or if two are needed.

In the areas of the UK worst hit by the variant, Britain's health secretary Matt Hancock said most people hospitalised had "chosen not to have the jab."

On Monday, Johnson said people over 50 and those with underlying health conditions would have their wait for a second vaccine dose cut from 12 weeks to eight, over concerns about the variant's rapid spread. — AP



## Israeli Strikes Target Gaza Health Infrastructure, Sole Covid Lab



### Agencies

Israeli war planes target critical infrastructure, homes and hospitals in Gaza as the brutal assault enters the ninth day.

Israel is targeting health facilities in besieged Gaza as the brutal assault enters a ninth day, displacing over 50,000 Palestinians.

The death toll stands at 212, including 61 children, with 1,400 people wounded, Gaza Health Ministry said on Tuesday. Gaza residents counted 60 Israeli strikes overnight. There were no immediate reports of casualties from the overnight strikes.

Gaza, under a long-standing Israeli blockade, is now facing critical shortages of food, medical supplies and fuel, with the UN asking for urgent support and access to provide much needed aid.

Missile attacks on Ghazi Al Shawwa building in Rimal neighbourhood killed two people on Monday and damaged the office of Qatar's Red Crescent, officials said.

Al Remal clinic and the administrative building of the health ministry were also partially destroyed, Gaza officials said.

Al Remal clinic was Gaza's only Covid-19 laboratory.

The Israeli military has pum-

elled Gaza with air strikes since May 10, leaving behind a massive trail of destruction across the seaside territory. Israel opened up an artillery warfront on Friday.

Over 42,000 displaced Palestinians have sought refuge in UN schools in Gaza, which was already struggling to cope with a coronavirus outbreak.

Another 16,000 are with host families.

**Toll on health infrastructure** Hospitals in the poverty-stricken territory, which has been under Israeli blockade for almost 15 years, have been overwhelmed by patients.

Gaza Health Ministry spokesperson Ashraf Qidra said Israeli strikes "threaten to undermine the efforts of the health ministry in the face of the Covid pandemic".

The raids "stopped screening tests ... at the central laboratory", he added, referring to Al Remal.

The rate of positive coronavirus tests in Gaza has been among the highest in the world, at 28 percent.

Qatar and Turkey both condemned the attack on the Red Crescent office.

The targeting of humanitarian and media institutions is a clear violation of international

law, Qatar's foreign ministry said in a statement.

"We invite the international community to step up their efforts to force Israel to end the indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force," said Tanju Bilgic, a spokesperson at the Foreign Ministry.

Israeli air strikes and shelling have damaged at least 18 hospitals and clinics and entirely destroyed one health facility, the World Health Organization said in a new report.

Nearly half of all essential drugs in the territory have run out.

It said the bombing of key roads, including those leading to the main Al Shifa Hospital, has hindered the movement of ambulances and supply vehicles.

Sunday's strikes killed Dr Ayman Abu al Ouf, head of internal medicine at Al Shifa hospital who was also treating Covid-19 patients

### Humanitarian access to Gaza

Palestinian officials said Israel pledged to open its only cargo crossing with Gaza for several hours on Tuesday to allow humanitarian aid — including fuel, food and medicine — to enter.

The Kerem Shalom crossing is the main entry point for goods entering the territory.

## UN Agency Says Situation In Gaza Is Dire



**GENEVA:** The UN humanitarian agency is describing an increasingly dire situation inside the Gaza Strip as the war between Israel and the territory's Hamas rulers rages with no end in sight.

Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, says nearly 47,000 Palestinians have fled their homes during more than a week of heavy Israeli airstrikes. Hamas and other militants have fired more than 3,400 rockets into Israel.

Laerke says electricity across Gaza is only available for six to eight hours a day.

Citing Palestinian authorities, he said 132 buildings comprising 621 housing and commercial units have been destroyed in Gaza. He says another 316 housing units have been severely damaged and rendered uninhabitable.

Israel and Egypt have imposed a crippling blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. Israel says the closures are

**ISRAEL AND EGYPT** have imposed a crippling blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. Israel says the closures are needed to keep the group from rearming, while rights groups view it as a form of collective punishment.

needed to keep the group from rearming, while rights groups view it as a form of collective punishment.

Laerke welcomed Israel's decision to open Gaza's main commercial crossing, allowing essential supplies to flow in for the first time since war broke out on May 10.

COGAT, the Israeli military body that coordinates civilian affairs in Gaza, said the crossing was closed after a mortar attack, several hours after it had been opened in order to allow medical equipment in. — AP

## Gaza Rockets Part Of Resistance, Says Indian Collective



### Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Rockets fired by Palestinians against Israel are part of a "resistance" which is supported by international law, a group of writers and artists led by Arundhati Roy and Nayantara Sahgal has declared, The Hindu said on Monday.

In a statement, the collective accused Israeli government of the killing of Palestinian children and blamed Israeli settlers for illegally trying to snatch Palestinian land. The collective, which includes actor Ratna Pathak Shah, Naseeruddin Shah, novelist Githa Hariharan and economist Prabhat Patnaik, said narration of the latest fighting in Gaza should not deprive Palestinians of their "dignity and right to resist".

"Palestinians in Gaza fired

rockets at Israel. The rockets did not start or define the brutality that followed. The rockets came as part of a resistance — backed by international law — of an illegal occupation," declared the statement from the collective.

It said Israeli retaliation with "extreme force" killed civilians, including children. India taking a stand on the flare-up has told the UN that the Gaza rockets were indiscriminate and the Israeli bombardment was retaliatory, a language not very different from President Joe Biden's comments on the issue.

The collective urged the Egyptian air force to provide a 'no-fly zone' above Gaza strip and pointed to the lack of political will in the Arab world to protect the Palestinians.

## More Than 50 Migrants Reported Drowned Off Tunisia



**TUNIS:** Tunisian authorities say more than 50 migrants have drowned off the coast of the North African country, while 33 others were rescued by workers from an oil platform.

Defence Ministry spokesman

Mohamed Zekri said Tuesday that a boat carrying the migrants sank Monday off Sfax, on Tunisia's southeast coast.

He said navy units were sent to search the water for missing passengers. AP

## US Approves \$735M Weapon Sale To Israel As Missiles Bombard Gaza

### Agencies

US President Joe Biden's administration has approved the potential sale of \$735 million in precision-guided weapons to Israel. Congressional sources on Tuesday said that US lawmakers were not expected to object to the deal despite Israel's relentless assault on Gaza.

Three congressional aides said Congress was officially notified of the intended commercial sale on May 5, as part of the regular review process before major foreign weapons sales agreements can go ahead.

The sale was first reported by the Washington Post.

Congress was informed of the planned sale in April, as part of the normal informal review process before the formal notification on May 5.

Under US law, the formal notification opens up a 15-day window for Congress to object to the sale, which is not expected despite the ongoing Israeli attacks.

The sale of Joint Direct Attack Munitions, or JDAMs, made by Boeing Co, was considered routine at the time, before the start



last week of the fiercest hostilities in the region in years.

There were no objections at the time by the Democratic and Republican leaders of the congressional foreign affairs committees that review such sales, aides said.

At least 212 Palestinians have been killed, including 61 children, in Israeli attacks on Gaza since last week, according to the Gaza-based Palestinian Health Ministry.

More than 1,305 people have also been injured and dozens of buildings destroyed or damaged in the Israeli assault.

### Divide among Democrats over criticism of Israel

Asked for comment, a State Department spokesperson noted that the department is restricted under federal law and

regulations from publicly commenting on or confirming details of licensing activity related to direct commercial sales like the JDAMs agreement.

"We remain deeply concerned about the current violence and are working towards achieving a sustainable calm," the spokesperson said.

But the approval came amid then-mounting criticism of Israel's planned expulsions of Palestinian residents from occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood Sheikh Jarrah, and repeated raids on Al Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam.

"A new crop of younger lawmakers willing to challenge the party's pro-Israel orthodoxy has put pressure on the Biden administration and congressional leaders," the article said.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Wrongfully Convicted US Brothers To Receive \$84 Million

### Agence France-Presse

**WASHINGTON:** Two African-American half-brothers who spent 31 years in prison in the southern US state of North Carolina for a crime they did not commit have been awarded \$84 million, their lawyer said Monday.

"This is the largest jury verdict ever returned in a wrongful conviction case in the history of the United States," Des Hogan told AFP.

Henry Lee McCollum and his half-brother Leon Brown, both of whom are intellectually disabled, were convicted of the 1983 rape and murder of an



**THE JURY SENT A MESSAGE THAT** the old times of ignoring the rights of the poor, the people of color, the marginalised in rural counties, are gone," Hogan said.

11-year-old girl, and claimed to have been forced to sign confessions. They were respectively 19 and 15 years old at the time of their arrest. Their convictions were overturned in 2014 after

the discovery of DNA evidence that placed another man at the scene where the girl's body was found.

McCollum and Brown pursued a federal civil rights case and a jury on Friday awarded them a total of \$84 million in compensatory damages, punitive damages and interest.

"The jury sent a message that the old times of ignoring the rights of the poor, the people of color, the marginalised in rural counties, are gone," Hogan said.

"They are thrilled that they won, they are happy that the jury said the sheriff was wrong," Hogan said. "They were vindicated."

## Man Anonymously Donates \$550,000, His Life Savings, To Japanese City

### Agence France-Presse

**TOKYO:** An elderly Japanese man has anonymously donated his life's savings -- in cash -- to a city outside of Tokyo, an unexpected financial windfall as the economy reels from the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.

The man, who did not identify himself, appeared at city hall in Yokosuka on Monday and asked that a backpack with a letter inside be given to the mayor, the official who met him told AFP.

"We found 60 million yen (\$550,850) in cash inside and a letter saying



"This is the money I've been saving since the first grade. Please make use of it. It's a donation," said the official. The man appeared to be in his 70s or 80s and declined to give his name, saying he

wanted to stay anonymous. "We've never received such a big donation from an anonymous person," the official added.

Mayor Katsuaki Kamiji said in a statement he was

"surprised and moved" by the donation, particularly during the hardship of the pandemic.

"I'm speechless and full of gratitude," he said. Japan is no stranger to anonymous donors.

Last year, a man appeared at the Nara city hall with a bag filled with 30 million yen in cash. He left a note inside saying he wanted the money to be used to help the poor and fund education, according to local media.

And elsewhere last year, a hospital in Kobe received five million yen in cash sent by mail by an anonymous donor.



## Div Com Stresses On Close Monitoring Of Covid Patients In Home Isolation



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Tuesday chaired a weekly Covid-19 review meet.

The meeting among others was attended by Director SKIMS Soura, Principal GMC Srinagar, all Deputy Commissioners and SSPs from all districts through video conferencing. While as DD Health services, Nodal Officer Isolation, Incharge DCCRK and other senior officers and doctors attended the meeting.

At the outset, the Div Com reviewed the district wise progress regarding daily testing, positivity rate and recovery rate, notifying of containment zones, home isolation monitoring, Oxygen, bed facility, functioning of Covid care centre and other Covid-19 measures and arrangements taken for con-

tainment of spread of Covid-19.

The Div Com instructed DCs to ensure daily mask fine reports and smooth home delivery distribution of Covid care kits among the positive patients in home through BMO offices.

He instructed concerned to ensure proper and close monitoring of positive patients in home isolation for their better treatment and recovery.

The Div Com also reviewed the facilities put up at all Triage centres and stressed on their smooth and effective functioning.

He called for proper maintenance of Oxygen cylinder banks and smooth supply and functioning of Oxygen generation plants. He directed concerned to install CCTVs at all oxygen generation plants and covid wards in all hospitals.

The Div Com emphasized that senior doctors conduct daily visits of Covid wards and maintain proper roster.

He said that there was sufficient stock of Remdesivir and other covid related medicines available in the valley.

He said that Oxygen bed capacity should be increased at all Covid dedicated hospitals as per the requirement besides instructing hospital authorities to avoid attendants rush and ensure smooth functioning of all health facilities.



PEOPLE BUYING RATION AMID A LOCKDOWN in Srinagar's Barbarashah area on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## COVID-19

# Relatives Of Deceased Patients Allege Medical Negligence At GMC Anantnag

## DC Orders Inquiry

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The relatives of several persons who died at GMC Anantnag last Tuesday alleged that they lost their loved one to medical negligence of the doctors.

Asif Nazir Pinda, a resident of Sarnal, Anantnag who lost his father, Rayees Ahmad, who also lost his father Asif Dada and who lost his mother and wife within 36-hours on Tuesday alleged that given the facilities available at the GMC Anantnag, it deserves to be PHC as doctors are leaving patients to die and all focus is on how beds can be vacated.

"They aren't conducting X-Rays and tests on time and whenever samples are taken. They are either misplaced or results come after weeks," alleged relatives of those who died of Covid in the hospital. "The doctors don't take care about the situation of the patient when it deteriorates or improves and there is no follow-up plan and senior doctors remain off the

duty and administration claims they are available on phone call and whenever we called them, they were busy."

The relatives of deceased Covid patients further alleged that doctors are arrogant and inexperienced and if attendants won't be there, they will leave everyone to die.

A relative of one of the deceased Covid patient said that attendants have to literary beg for oxygen and ventilation support. "Better is to keep patients at home as doctors at GMC aren't treating but killing them," he alleged.

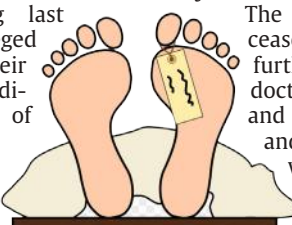
Dada lost his mother and wife within 36-hours at GMC Anantnag.

Asif said that his mother was having minor underlying problems but his wife was just 35 year-old with no underlying problems but "both died due to sheer medical negligence.

Asif, who is father of a toddler, said "all Covid related deaths should be thoroughly investigated and guilty pun-

ished." The video of relatives of deceased alleging negligence by hospital authorities has gone viral on social media evoking sharp criticism. Netizens while reacting to the video demanded constitution of a committee to ascertain the facts and action must be taken against the erring officials. Officials at the GMC termed the allegations baseless and said that Covid-19 management team is working with zeal and zest. Meanwhile, taking immediate cognisance of a video clip circulating on social media, the Deputy Commissioner (District Magistrate) Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla has ordered an inquiry into the matter. The order says, "An indepth inquiry has become necessary to check the veracity of the allegations besides establishing facts and fixing the responsibility."

It further directs the Principal GMC Anantnag to constitute a team of specialist doctors who shall conduct an indepth inquiry, fix responsibility if any, and suggest measures for avoiding such incidents in future. As per the order, the DC has sought inquiry report within three days—(KNO)



## DHSK Issues Advisory For Prevention Of Black Fungus

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) on Tuesday issued an advisory for the prevention of Mucormycosis (Black Fungus) after such cases were reported in COVID-19 patients in many parts of India.

"Better control of the sugar levels during COVID with or without steroids. Judicious use of steroids observing correct timing, correct dose and correct duration," the advisory said.

According to a statement, the advisory said that there should be judicious use of antibiotics or anti-fungal.

"To use clean, sterile water for humidifiers during the oxygen therapy, use distilled or sterile water, never use unboiled tap

water or mineral water," it said.

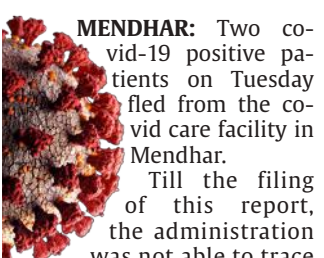
"Fill up to 10 mm below the maximum fill line, check the water level twice daily and top it up as necessary. Ensure that once a week all the components of the humidifier should be soaked in a mild antiseptic solution for 30 minutes, rinsed with clean water and dried in air," the advisory said.

As such, All Chief Medical Officers/ Medical Superintendents/ Block Medical Officers and administrators of private hospitals are hereby directed to adhere to the above said guidelines strictly in order to prevent Mucormycosis.

Furthermore, Chief Medical officers are directed to ensure that the safety of steroids by retail medical shop owners is regulated and dispensed only under a valid medical prescription.

## Two Covid Positive Patients Flee From Covid Care Facilities In Mendhar

Observer News Service



**MENDHAR:** Two covid-19 positive patients on Tuesday fled from the covid care facility in Mendhar.

Till the filing of this report, the administration was not able to trace the duo.

Officials said that the Block Medical Officer informed concerned police officials fled from Covid-19 Health centre new emergency block Mendhar and Covid Care Centre Boys Higher Secondary School Mendhar and that their whereabouts were unknown.

The Medical Officer requested that an FIR be registered under Disaster Management Act under relevant sections against

the duo and that the absconder be traced as soon as possible to stop further spread of the pandemic in the community.

The Medical Officer has in the meantime also requested that deployment of sufficient police personnel at both the centres as had been already sought vide Letter No.: BMO/MDR/314-19 dated 11-05-2021, to avoid such incidents in future. (CNS)

## Non-Local Drug Peddler Dies In Pulwama Jail

Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** A non-local drug peddler, who was arrested last month died at Sub Jail Pulwama on Tuesday.

Senior jail officials said that a non-local resident, who was arrested in a drug peddling case and lodged at Sub Jail Pulwama under NDPS Act, died after he fell unconscious.

He said he was shifted to Dis-

trict Hospital Pulwama where doctors declared him dead.

He was identified as Harbajan Singh (29) of Gurdaspur.

He further added that Harbajan was arrested on 12 April from Naina village of Pulwama along with drugs and was shifted to sub jail just before 15 days.

The body of the deceased will be handed over to his legal heirs after all legal medico-legal formalities.

## PCC Acts Over Illegal Garbage Dumping In Sopore

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (PCC) has acted over the dumping of municipal solid waste at Darnambal Sopore near Tarzoo as local villagers and activists have been alleging the site was a forest land and a wetland area which was violating all the environmental laws including MSW Rules 2016 and Wetland Conservation & Management Rules 2017.

Member Secretary Pollution Control Committee (PCC) issued a direction to its Regional Director Kashmir asking him to constitute a team of officers to visit the site along with District Incharge of PCC Baramulla.

Pertinently a written complaint had been received by Member Secretary through the gram sabha of four village panchayats in Tarzoo Darnambal area in Sopore which appealed the Pollution Control Committee J&K (PCC) to stop the illegal waste dumping by Municipal Council Sopore.

In addition to it Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement had also been constantly pursuing the Pollution Control Committee and National Green Tribunal (NGT) to stop the illegal practice of MC Sopore as the land was forcibly taken from local panchayat and large chunk of forest land was identified for setting up of new site.

MC Sopore last year created a waste disposal site at Ninglee which was shut down after Chief Justice visited the site

herself in October as locals filed a PIL in J&K High Court. Locals allege that after her retirement the officers from district administration and MC Sopore started dumping municipal waste which includes biomedical waste at Darnambal locality which is again violating MSW Rules , Biodiversity rules , Wetland conservation and management rules 2017.

Chairman RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat appreciated the action taken by the Pollution Control Committee. "I appreciate the action taken by the J & K Pollution Control Committee (PCC). I express my gratitude to the Chairman and Member Secretary of J&K PCC for their timely action. We hope the environmental compensation of Rs 1.30 crore which was been already imposed on MC Sopore will also be recovered from them soon," he said.

On April 10 the gram sabha of four village panchayats in Tarzoo Sopore passed a resolution asking the Municipal Council Sopore to stop illegal garbage dumping in Darnambal. The resolution had no takers the local said.

"On one hand the Govt says they respect the decisions taken by gram sabhas and panchayat institutions but in our case it seems our resolution has also been dumped with the municipal waste. By the new order from JK PCC we are hopeful that people of Tarzoo and adjoining villages will get justice said Ajaz Ahmad Dar, a local social activist and Patron Central Auqaf Committee Tarzoo."

## Next 10 days Crucial, People Must Follow Covid SOPs: DDC Pulwama

Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** Amid a steep surge in Covid-19 cases, the district administration in Pulwama has advised people to cooperate with them as whatever steps are being taken at district level or divisional level are for the betterment of public.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Chaudhary Baseer-ul-Haq in a press conference said that the situation with regard to corona virus in the district is under control and has started to get stabilised.

He said that the number of positive patients has started to decrease while as the death rate is also declining.

"My goal is to save people's lives as they are precious than anything and our request to the people will be continue following Covid appropriate behaviour to beat this deadly pandemic," the DC Pulwama said. "Imposing restrictions is not to hurt people financially but to keep them and their near and dears away from this pandemic."

He further stated that next ten days are crucial as if people continue to follow precautions and SoPs in letter and spirit, the Covid graph will definitely decline and "we may be able to resume our activities again."

District Commissioner Pulwa-

ma said that at present there are 2800 cases in the district while the recovery rate has increased to 80 per cent.

He said that there is no create fear but there is no alternative to following Covid appropriate behaviour and if anyone comes positive, he should not get panic but contact authorities to get treatment.

Meanwhile a private industrial company located in Lassipora industrial area of Pulwama district of south Kashmir donated an ambulance equipped with modern equipment to District hospital Pulwama in presence of District Development Commissioner Pulwama.

The District Development Commissioner Pulwama formally inaugurated the ambulance in the presence of CMO Pulwama and the Chairman of the private industrial company and handed over the ambulance to CMO District Hospital Pulwama.

On the occasion DDC said that this ambulance can be of great use to the people in this difficult time of Code 19 and this step of this organization is commendable.

He said that other organisations should also come forward and help the people in this difficult time so as get rid of pandemic.

It is pertinent to mention here that this ambulance was donated by Al Noor Agri Fresh Company—(KNO)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN  
DISTRICT HEALTH SOCIETY BANDIPORA

Email-cmobandipora3@gmail.com,dpmbandipora@gmail.com,dpmubandiporal@gmail.com Tele-fax-019572255551

Subject: - Provisional selection list of Audiologist Cum Speech Therapist under NHM District Bandipora.  
Consequent upon the advertisement No. 002 of 2020 dated 09/09/2020 regarding hiring of 01 (Audiologist Cum speech Therapist) under NHM in District Bandipora and subsequent selection made by the board of officers constituted under Deputy Commissioner Bandipora (Chairman District Health Society), for which the interview was held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 in the office chamber of Chairman District Health Society Bandipora, the following candidates have been provisionally selected in order of their merit on contractual basis under NHM.

S.No	Name	Parentage	Address	District	Total Points out of 100
01	AAMIR GANIE	AB GANI TALEE	ASHAM	Bandipora	86.21

Terms and Conditions:  
1. The engagement is purely on consolidated basis and shall remain in force for a period of one year only and subsequent drawal of honorarium shall be subject to verification of date of birth/academic and technical certificates/experience which shall be verified by the concerned DDOs from the concerned institute/competent authority. In case of adverse report regarding authenticity of documents, the engagement shall be cancelled straight away.  
2. In case the appointee wants to quit the service, he/she shall have to inform the department before one month.  
3. He/she shall have to work at the place against which he/she has been engaged and shall not be eligible for transfer from the place of posting in any case.  
4. He/she shall be terminated at any time for non performance, indiscipline, absenteeism from duty or any other reason without any prior notice.  
5. He/she shall have to submit an affidavit duly signed by 1st Class Magistrate that he/she shall not claim for any regularization of his/her services in the Department/Government.  
6. He/she shall not be entitled to any allowances or monetary benefit whatsoever except as admissible under the scheme.  
7. He/she shall report in the office of U/s as mentioned against each along with all original documents/testimonials, for their duties within 02 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the engagement order will be treated as cancelled without any prior notice and consequently the waiting list shall be operated.  
8. The hiring shall be governed by other terms and conditions that are not specifically mentioned herein but are made applicable in case of such appointments at any time by the contracting authority.

Vice-Chairman,  
District Health Society

No. CMO/BPR/NHM/21-22/292-296

DIPK-1700/21

Dated: 15 /05/2021.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B)  
RIGHT RIVER CIRCULAR ROAD DIVISION, SRINAGAR

ABBREVIATED TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 07/RRCR/1249-55 of 2021-22DATED: 15/05/2021.

S.No. 1 Fresh of Pervious NIT No. 5.

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees )	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Restoration of road surface (Pits) damaged by Power Grid Corporation PDD Department from Hawal to Nowshera on KZP road and from Hawal Chowk to Aali Masjid Via Sazgaripora Srinagar by way of earthwork, sand filling, stone soling/GSB filling, WBM Grade-II, Grade-III, 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 25mm thick Semidense with 6mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix to be laid with paver)	Rs.25.40 lacs Incl. C/o Bitumen	1100/-	15 Days	M.H:- Deposit Contribution AAA:- Accorded vide No. SE PWD(R&B) CRP/PDD/1 of 2020-21, Dt:22-03-2021	"AA" Class with HMPH Or HMPH
2.	Improvement / Upgradation of Baghati Shoor road RD 0-650 Mtrs. (From CRPF Camp to Masjid Bilal) by way of 50mm bituminous macadam and 25mm thick Semidense with 6mm thick seal coat in stretches. (Machine mix to be laid with paver)	Rs.9.69 lacs Incl. C/o Bitumen	600/-	10 Days	3054-M&R	"AA" Class with HMPH Or HMPH
3	Improvement / Upgradation of Sazgaripora Hawal road by way of 50mm bituminous macadam and 25mm thick Semidense with 6mm thick seal coat in stretches. (Machine mix to be laid with paver)	Rs.6.00 lacs Incl. C/o Bitumen	300/-	8 Days	3054-M&R	"AA" Class with HMPH Or HMPH

Position of AAA: Approved  
Position of funds Committed  
1. The bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-05-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	15/05/2021 from 5.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	15-05-2021 from 6.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	21-05-2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	22-05-2021 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer Right River Circular Road Division Sgr.,

DIPK-1721/21

Executive Engineer,  
Right Riv.Cir.Rd. Div.Sgr.



KASHMIR  
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## K O V I E W

## No vaccines

Kashmir Valley has run out of vaccines. On Sunday, there was zero vaccination in ten districts of Kashmir valley. Similarly, on Saturday, the vaccination was done only in three districts of the Valley - Shopian, Ganderbal and Baramulla. This should be a cause of deep concern at time when the Covid-19 has spread like a wild fire and more people are dying as a result. What's more, the infection is no longer only fatal for the elderly people with co-morbidities but attacks with equal vehemence the healthy young people. On Sunday, the age of the youngest person who died due to Covid-19 was just 23.

However, on a positive note, the vaccination in Jammu is continuing, albeit at a slower pace. On Sunday, as zero doses were administered in the Kashmir region, 9,144 people were vaccinated in Jammu. Over the last several weeks, the deaths due to Covid-19 have been more in Jammu than in Kashmir. But the number of infections in Kashmir has invariably been twice that in Jammu. This calls for speedy vaccination in both the regions if the government is serious about reigning the contagion in. The shortage of vaccines in the Valley thus doesn't reflect well on the administration. This has all but halted the fight against the pandemic.

At a time when the administration was expected to double down on the vaccination, the exercise has all but stopped. More so, at a time when due to the virulence of the second wave, people are coming forward to get jabs. The vaccine hesitancy that had earlier held back the inoculation drive has now given way to a frantic race to get vaccinated. And understandably so. The vaccination is now the only credible defence against the contagion. And sooner the government inoculates the people against the infection, earlier we could return to a normal life.

This is also the only way that the economy could be reopened and the people could go back to work. This is more important for Kashmir Valley which has remained largely under a lockdown over the last two years. Thousands of people have lost jobs as a result. Tourism sector, the mainstay of Kashmir's economy, that had just picked up is now again down in dumps. And the sector is unlikely to revive until the end of the current Covid-19 phase, which may not be before the early autumn. The only way the administration could advance the end of the second wave is by expediting the vaccination in both the regions of the union territory.

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

## Move on plan

The Centre has, finally, drafted a blueprint to tackle the spread of the coronavirus in rural India. The guidelines, communicated to the states on Sunday, tick quite a few right boxes, especially with regard to linking village-level makeshift facilities with primary and community health centres and the relatively better-equipped hospitals at the district level. They talk of ensuring supplies of basic requirements of Covid care, including oxygen cylinders. The SOP correctly recognises the degrees of severity of the disease — it lays down protocols for isolating asymptomatic carriers and treating patients with mild and severe Covid symptoms. However, given the scale of the challenge, much more will need to be done.

Reports, including in this newspaper, have highlighted how inadequate supplies and the country's well-known digital deficit have hobbled the access of rural residents to vaccines. The SOP's silence on a roadmap to increase the penetration of the vaccine in the countryside is glaring given that a large number of districts reporting more than 10 per cent positivity are in rural areas. With the pandemic increasing the work burden of ANMs, ASHA and anganwadi workers — they have been engaged in contract tracing, disseminating information and as vaccinators — the delivery of nutrition and other healthcare-related services has also been affected. With the guidelines now requiring these community-level workers to be at the frontlines of village-level pandemic control teams, their work could become even more onerous. The SOP does delineate the roles of PHCs, CHCs and district hospitals. But to take on the crisis, these rural healthcare centres will need more doctors and technical staff — ventilator operators, for instance. These demands cannot be met overnight. But keeping the damage of the pandemic to the minimum requires that no time is lost in making these investments.

*The Indian Express*



The League against Imperialism (LAI) 1927, attended by Jawaharlal Nehru

Misplaced Concerns and  
Misinterpreted History

Many in India are supporting Israel's colonial enterprise in Palestine without knowing that India's official position has always been Pro-Palestine

Sheikh Imran

It may come as a shock for many in the RW camp that Indian national movement leaders were vocally against Zionists, who were seen as “Westerners” backed by “imperialist forces” in their quest to create a neo-colonial state

The newly found love for Zionists from well-known public figures in India is intriguing but quite ignorant. One of the youngest MPs of ruling BJP, Tejaswi Surya tweeted recently, “I stand with Israel”. Similarly news anchors, TV personalities and actors believed to be close to BJP are explicitly calling for extermination of Palestinians with some of them recommending the extension of Israeli tactical aggression to Kashmir as well. Ironically, much to the dismay of these people, India's official position remained pro Palestine at the UNSC.

It seems like all the cheerleaders of Israel's colonialism are making a mockery of the legacy of their anti-colonial forefathers.

Since the proclamation of a Jewish state in the middle-east, the region has been experiencing troubles and instability which has snowballed into a major humanitarian crisis over the passage of several decades. The enigma of nations around the world to recognize Israel plagued most of the nations around the globe and India was no exception to it. One of the basic principles influencing India's view of Israel back then was based on the fact that Israel, if established and recognized in the middle-east, will be an approval of a colonial state similar to the British Empire. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of Indian nation on whose ideals of non-violence, Satyagraha, Atithi Parmodharma and Vasudeva Kutumbakum modern Indian state is believed to be founded, is quoted by Louis Fischer, a renowned American journalist to the effect that the Jews had a good case but he was hopeful that the Arabs should not be wronged.

He wrote, “I do believe that the Jews have been cruelly wronged by the world. “Ghetto” is by far as I am aware, the name given to Jewish locations in many parts of Europe. But for their heartless persecution, probably no question of their return to Palestine would ever have arisen. The world should have been their home, if only for the sake of their distinguished contribution to it. But, in my opinion, they have erred grievously in seeking to impose themselves on Palestine with the aid of America and Britain and now with the aid of naked terrorism. Their citizenship of the world should have and would have made them honoured guests

of any country.”

Gandhi kept reaffirming his sympathies with the persecuted Jewish community but continued to call out the American and British efforts in creating discord and fueling violence. He wrote, “No wonder my sympathies go out to the Jews in their unenviably sad plight. But one would have thought adversity would teach them lessons of peace. Why should they depend on American money or British arms for forcing themselves on an unwelcome land? Why should they resort to terrorism to make good their forcible landing in Palestine?”

After gaining independence, India maintained a position boldly inclined towards Palestine — it was fundamentally against the idea of division of Palestine. Since the early 1950s, both India and Israel maintained minimal contacts despite having no direct conflict between them. Indian nationalist movement leaders in 1920s supported the Palestinian cause against the British rule. It was this shared opposition to British imperialism that political links were established between Indian and Arab leaders.

India's first Prime Minister and one of the leading figures of Indian national movement Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru held meetings with Arab leaders, like the Brussels Conference of Oppressed Nationalities. Nehru even had found a linkage and a similarity between the partition of erstwhile India and Palestine, something he needed to oppose. The former Indian Prime Minister and freedom fighter blamed British for tactically dividing Palestine and tyrannising the actual Arab inhabitants of Palestine. He was in favour of a single Palestinian state based on federal principles. This was the official position of India as well.

It may come as a shock for many in the right wing camp that Indian national movement leaders were vocally against Zionists, who were seen as “Westerners” backed by “imperialist forces” in their quest to create a neo-colonial state. Another major reason for India to oppose Zionism was the religious nature of their nationalism, a position opposed by Indian National Congress in case of the establishment of Pakistan as well. Going back to one of the quotes of the father of Indian nation M.K Gandhi, India's position was made crystal clear, “Palestine belongs to Arabs in the same

sense that England belongs to the English or France to the French”.

When the issue of partition of Palestine came up at United Nations, India along with many newly independent states rejected this division and in fact suggested a unified Palestinian state based on a federal structure.

Not only should Indians supporting Israel learn and practice their anti-colonial past,

they should also try to rid their sleeves off of the anti-semitic roots in some of their inclinations as well. M.S Golwalkar, the former Sar Sangchalak of the RSS in his book, We and Our Nationhood Defined expressed his admiration for how Germany under the command of Adolf Hitler exterminated millions of innocent Jews.

“To keep up the purity of the nation and its culture, Germany shocked the world by her purging the country of Semitic races-the Jews. National pride at the highest has been manifested here. Germany has also shown how well-nigh impossible it is for races and cultures, having differences going to the root, to be assimilated into one united whole, a good lesson for us in Hindustan to learn and profit by”.

The right in India is again propounding a very dangerous offshoot of one of the darkest blots of modern history-the holocaust. Although they have no genuine concern for the victims of the horrific and barbaric extermination of millions of innocent Jews, yet they are screaming in their cacophonous jingoistic euphoria just because in Israel is against an Arab Muslim population.

The ignorance of the history and the foreign policy of India by some Parliamentarians and public figures leaning to the right is astounding. It now raises serious questions on the diligence of Parliamentarians like Tejasvi Surya and news anchors who hosted IDF personnel on their prime time shows.

Those trying to be on the right side of history need to revisit the dark memories of the holocaust and as a solemn tribute to the victims should say, “Never Again” — this time for Gaza and Palestine.

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

*The author is a freelance columnist*



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

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## Rehabilitate COVID orphans

The step by the Andhra Pradesh Government to establish designated child care institutions for children whose parents are either undergoing treatment or have suc-

cumbed to the COVID 19 is in the right direction. The State Government has set up 32 institutions to provide food, shelter, and education to deprived children. The registered child will be handed over either to

the kinship care of a suitable guardian, or the child will be moved to the adoption framework. The authorities should ensure better rehabilitation services for COVID orphans and abandoned children. Society

needs to offer support to them. This is the need of the hour.

...  
Amit Singh Kushwaha  
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# Understanding The Science Of Landslides-Part II

Afroz Ahmad Shah

It is logical to surmise that in Kashmir the landslides are primarily caused by an interaction between the geology, geomorphology and hydrology and climate plays a key role in enhancing the slope failures, as was witnessed recently. This becomes obvious when we understand the geology of the Kashmir Basin

In my previous article (Understanding the Science of landslides-Part I, Kashmir Observer April 03) I had discussed various causes for a landslide. Today, I will discuss some of the major geological features, which can trigger such movements and how that is related to the landslide hazard in the Kashmir Basin.

#### Slope Material

It is logical to think that any material which can destabilize the slope can cause landslides. Therefore, the physical and chemical properties of slope material are very important to understand the landslides. For example, solid rocks (like granite) can form stable slopes even at greater slope angles because of their stronger internal strength. However, some stronger rocks can become inherently weak if these are underlain by weaker rocks. For example, if a slope is made up of different layers of rocks (Figure 1A), which have different physical and chemical properties, the chances of a landslide will increase. If a weak rock (shale) is sandwiched between hard rock layers (say sandstone), it will make the slope susceptible to failure, because this layer has low shear strength. Similarly, loose unconsolidated sand has no cohesive strength, which can become prone to sliding.

Clay minerals are particularly interesting, because their properties directly affect landslides. Some of these minerals can expand when water enters their structure. For example, such types of clay minerals are smectites or montmorillinites. Once water enters them, it increases their volume because of water absorption. However, when these minerals dry out, which means the water is taken out; it makes them contract (Figure 1B and C). This expansion and contraction can make a rock layer weak and therefore prone to sliding. This kind of behaviour is also quite remarkable in Peat, which is an organic-rich material and is accumulated in the bottoms of swamps as decaying vegetable matter. The soils which contain such materials are called Expansive and Hydro-compacting Soils.

Bedding Planes are again another critical aspect, which cause landslides; because in the geological sense these are the planar layers of rocks upon which sediment deposition occurs or in other words we can say it represents a surface that separates each layer from those above or below it (Figure 1A). It means bedding planes are boundaries and as we know boundaries are weaker, because water or fluid can enter along these planes and can enhance landslides. Therefore, these are also called the planes of weakness and in rocks these usually record a change in depositional circumstances, which are generally represented by changes in grain size, composition, colour etc.

Similarly, faults, fractures, joints etc can cause structural weakness, because along these planes the fluids can penetrate the material and can cause the contraction or expansion, which enhances the weathering and erosion of the material and ultimately it may cause landslides. Also, if these weaker planes are parallel to the slopping surface, the material can easily be taken down the slope under the influence of gravity (Figures 1A, 1C).

In some soils (called Sensitive Soils) the clay



minerals are arranged in a random fashion and therefore, there are a number of pore spaces (voids) between the particles, which are usually filled with fluids (this arrangement is referred as the "House of Cards"). Often the grains are glued together by salts (such as gypsum, calcite or halite). However, when water infiltrates into the soil, it is absorbed on the clay surface and also enters the pore spaces to dissolve the salts, which leads to the complete collapse of the house of cards (Figure 1B). If such soil is put through contraction or some sort of disturbance then the structure is rearranged and the spaces are reduced. This can cause the landslide movement, because the shear strength of the material is reduced.

Metamorphic rocks are those rocks which are formed due to changes in pressure, temperature, deformation and fluids over a long period of geological time. Generally, due to the intense deformation these rocks form closely spaced layers (called foliation, similar to bedding), along which the material becomes susceptible to failure. These planes are the planes of structural weakness, because fluids can enter through these surfaces and alter the material through physical and chemical processes (Figure 1D). Also, if these weaker planes are parallel to the slopping surface, the fluids reduce the shear strength of the material, which can easily be taken down the slope under the influence of gravity.

#### Understanding The Landslide Hazards Of The Kashmir Basin

Keeping the above theoretical background in mind it is logical to surmise that in Kashmir the landslides are primarily caused by an interaction between the geology, geomorphology and hydrology and climate plays a key role in enhancing the slope failures, as was witnessed recently.

This becomes obvious when we understand the geology of the Kashmir Basin first (Figure 2). The geology map suggests two major sedimentary systems, both of which are made up of unconsolidated sediments, mostly deposited by lakes, riv-

ers and glaciers (older sediments are known as Karewa group, see Figure 2). This is important to comprehend because unconsolidated sediments are easily saturated with water, as they contain a large number of pore-spaces, and such material could easily fail if pore pressure exceeds the shear-strength or strength of the material. If sediments are mostly of fine grained mud; then such a soil absorbs a large amount of water and can swell, leading to instability and failure. The landslide hazard is much more dangerous in areas where some amount of pre-existing slope exists, for example areas on SW of the Kashmir basin (Figure 2) are mostly tilted towards NE because of active faults and hence prone to slides, these include some portions of Budgam, Beerwah, Pattan, Baramullah etc. However, only those slopes will fail which full-fill the failure criteria discussed above and in my previous article. For example; if dense vegetation is sitting on top of a slope, it might survive failure, because plant roots often tightly hold the soil and strengthen it. The NE portions of the Kashmir Basin (Figure 2) are subsided and prone to inundation during flooding, and some portions of this region could slide or subside if conditions favour.

Further, these unconsolidated sedimentary systems of the Kashmir Basin on which most of us live are sitting on top of either sedimentary rocks or igneous rocks (these are consolidated rocks). Thus if such information is precisely known, which I am not sure is available, it could aid in understanding the landslide hazard in greater detail. Therefore, the primary task is to map the underlying rocks in detail, and prepare landslide hazard maps for the whole of the Jammu and Kashmir state. This should be done as quickly as possible given the fragile topography of the region, which if neglected, can prove disastrous.

Dr Afroz Shah is Assistant Professor  
Structural Geology,  
Universiti Brunei Darussalam

A rapidly growing and changing country like India should focus on avoiding emissions by setting key sectors on a low carbon growth path, with robust climate institutions and laws, writes Mohit Garg

As the world faces the dual challenges of Covid-19 and climate change, there has been growing acceptance of the fragilities of our energy, economic and health systems. India has been hailed as a global leader by Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations for its Covid-19 response efforts of supplying critical medicines to more than 150 countries. During the 19th Darbari Seth Memorial Lecture, Mr. Guterres also acknowledged the role of India as an emerging superpower in the fight against climate change. During the pandemic, India's proportion of Renewable Energy (RE) rose from 17% to 24% while coal-fired power declined from 76% to 66%. This has been a phenomenal leap for India that pushed for 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities' based on historic emissions in 1990s and championed the idea that industrialised nations (global north) must reduce their emissions and create an institutional mechanism for climate action funding for global south to augment their mitigation capacities (without binding commitments) while not hindering their economic growth.

India is one of the fastest growing economies with third highest GHG emissions in the world. According to the first ever climate change assessment report of India prepared by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), India's average temperature has already risen by 0.7oC between 1901 and 2018 due to Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and is expected to rise by 4.4oC by 2100. Climate change has multiple repercussions on development, food and water security, health, gender equity and poverty alleviation efforts of India with a densely populated 7500 km coastline susceptible to extreme weather events like sea-level rise, storms and floods, third largest ice mass in north — the Great Himalayas, biodiversity rich Western Ghats and North East and nearly one billion people living in rural areas whose livelihoods depend on climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, fisheries, livestock and forests.

India ranked fifth in the Global Climate Risk Index 2019. Earlier seasonal snowmelt, depleting glaciers and uncertainties in monsoon patterns threaten agriculture output and fresh water supplies. Rapid urbanisation, rising temperatures, changes in precipitation, extreme rainfall events, altered coastlines, depleting water tables and destroyed biodiversity hotspots affect migration, conflicts and spread of diseases. Around 44% of India is under various degrees of drought conditions. The worst affected are the poor, marginalised, indigenous, women and the future generations.

While much of climate change crisis in India is a result of the excesses of industrialised world, there are domestic drivers as well. Primarily the overwhelming reliance on thermal power in energy generation which accounts for roughly 68% of total GHG emissions, and an inefficient agricultural policy which encourages high yield, low nutrition, excessive water guzzling crops like rice and wheat in arid and semi-arid regions which exacerbates any climate change induced monsoon variations. About 90% of its groundwater goes into irrigation and about 80% of it goes to rice and wheat.

According to Research Institute of Humanity and Nature Japan, poverty alleviation measures would result in 50% increase in GHGs. But this increase can be contained by designing adequate food, energy and transport

policies. India has potential to raise its RE capacity from the initial goal of 175 GW to 500 GW by 2030. Switching to RE would reduce dependency on uncertain coal and gas supplies while at the same time reduce GHG emissions of the country and create more employment. Co-benefits like improved air quality, water use, land use and biodiversity; improved social sustainability related to livelihoods, income distribution, migration and housing has incentivised political support. India has pledged to invest USD 100 billion in clean energy over five years. The Smart Cities and Smart Mobility plans coupled with policies like Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME-II) would ensure that India embarks on a sustainable transport growth.

Focus on forests and urban green spaces could mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration, enhance resilience to droughts, flash floods and landslides, improve resilience of coastal infrastructure, reduce vulnerability to extreme heat by reducing ambient temperatures and support native wildlife and biodiversity.

India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) at Paris COP21 includes pledge to reduce its emissions intensity by 33-35% over 2005 levels, produce atleast 40% of its energy from renewable and sequester additional 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2eq through afforestation by 2030. According to Climate Action Tracker, India is the only major country whose actions to combat emissions are compatible with the goal of limiting global warming to 2oC.

While India is on its way to fulfil first two pledges, it needs to reorient some of its policies and regulations to fulfil the third pledge along with tackling food and water insecurity and ecosystem damage. The administrative planning levels like states and districts do not usually match up with the relevant agro-ecological zones or catchments. The probabilistic forecasting, urban resilience and adaptive capacities of states are usually very weak. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is done by consultants hired by project proponents themselves and around 20% of the project fees is made only on grant of approval, which results in increased possibility of manipulation of documents by underplaying the environmental and social impacts of the projects under consideration. If small and marginal farmers plan to switch to hardy crops like chickpeas and traditional grains like sorghum and pearl millet, they face constraints of timely credit, seeds, irrigation, labour, insurance & market access leading to high and unsustainable cost of cultivation.

Focus on forests and urban green spaces could mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration, enhance resilience to droughts, flash floods and landslides, improve resilience of coastal infrastructure, reduce vulner-

ability to extreme heat by reducing ambient temperatures and support native wildlife and biodiversity. Drip irrigation and water sprinklers coupled with solar pumps, mulching and bed plantation can boost water availability at a fraction of the cost of large bridges and irrigation projects. Old water harvesting structures like water tanks and check dams should be rejuvenated for water harvesting and conservation, which suits local ecology and managed by local communities. Government can encourage shifting away from rice and wheat by providing appropriate scientific support and financial incentives (like MSP) to the farmers. Switching to Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) from EIA would be instrumental in evaluating ecological ramifications of projects and ways to address them at the initial stage itself, by making regional plans rather than individual project assessments to evaluate the cumulative impact of the projects in a region, by hiring independent consultants for individual large project EIAs and by ensuring public participation to improve assessment and scrutiny.

While India is committed to NDCs till 2030, it needs long term goals for sustainable, equitable and carbon free growth to follow a 1.5oC path through confluence of technology, policy, financial and social actions. In the build up to Glasgow Climate Summit, a rapidly growing and changing country like India should focus on avoiding emissions by setting key sectors on a low carbon growth path, with robust climate institutions and laws. This would help in further garner political support for enhanced mitigation and setting net-zero targets which are achievable and credible.

The writer is Fellow, Anant Fellowship for Climate Action and Superintendent of Police, Narayanpur District, Chhattisgarh

Daily Pioneer



# ‘Eating more fruit, vegetables linked to less stresses’



Agencies

Eating a diet rich in fruit and vegetables is associated with less stress, according to new research from Edith Cowan University (ECU).

The study examined the link between fruit and vegetable intake and stress levels of more than 8,600 Australians aged between 25 and 91 participating in the Australian Diabetes, Obesity and Lifestyle (AusDiab) Study from Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute.

The findings published in the journal

Clinical Nutrition revealed people who ate at least 470 grams of fruit and vegetables daily had 10 per cent lower stress levels than those who consumed less than 230 grams. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends eating at least 400 grams of fruit and vegetables per day.

Lead researcher, PhD candidate Simone Radavelli-Bagatini from ECU's Institute for Nutrition Research, said the study strengthens the link between diets rich in fruit and vegetables and mental wellbeing.

"We found that people who have higher fruit and veggie intakes are less stressed than those with lower intakes, which suggests diet plays a key role in mental wellbeing," said Ms Radavelli-Bagatini.

Mental health conditions are an in-

creasing problem in Australia and around the world. Around one in two Australians will experience a mental health issue in their lifetime. Globally, approximately 1 in 10 people live with a mental health disorder.

According to Radavelli-Bagatini, some stress is considered normal, but long-term exposure can significantly impact mental health.

"Long-term and unmanaged stress can lead to a range of health problems including heart disease, diabetes, depression and anxiety so we need to find ways to prevent and possibly alleviate mental health problems in the future," said Ms Radavelli-Bagatini.

The benefits of a healthy diet are well known, but only 1 in 2 Australians eat the recommended two serves of fruit per day and fewer than 1 in 10 eat the recommended five serves of vegetables each day.

"Previous studies have shown the link

between fruit and vegetable consumption and stress in younger adults, but this is the first time we're seeing similar results across adults of all ages," said Ms Radavelli-Bagatini.

"The study's findings emphasise that it's important for people to have a diet rich in fruit and vegetables to potentially minimise stress." While the mechanisms behind how fruit and vegetable consumption influences stress are still unclear, Ms Radavelli-Bagatini said key nutrients could be a factor.

"Vegetables and fruits contain important nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, flavonoids and carotenoids that can reduce inflammation and oxidative stress, and therefore improve mental wellbeing," she said.

"Inflammation and oxidative stress in the body are recognised factors that can lead to increased stress, anxiety and lower mood."

"These findings encourage more research into diet and specifically what fruits and vegetables provide the most benefits for mental health."

The research is part of ECU's recently launched Institute for Nutrition Research, which aims to investigate how nutrition can help prevent and treat chronic health conditions.

## Parks not only safe, but essential during coronavirus pandemic: Study

Agencies

Published in the Journal of Extreme Events, Drexel's study "Urban Park Usage During the COVID-19 Pandemic" surveyed park visitors over a three-month period from May to July 2020 at small and mid-size parks in New York and Philadelphia. And it compared park usage numbers to rates of COVID-19 transmission in the areas directly surrounding the parks.

"Despite early speculation that parks could become gathering points for large groups of people and contribute to the transmission of COVID-19, our research did not find a strong correlation between COVID-19 cases in neighbourhoods near parks and the number of people using them," said Franco Montalto, PhD, a professor in Drexel's College of Engineering who led the

research team.

In the early months of the pandemic last spring, public health guidance recommended avoiding gathering in large groups outside. As a result, many municipalities closed public playgrounds with high-touch areas, like swings and sliding boards, out of an abundance of caution. But most public parks remained open and, according to the study, those in Philadelphia and New York continued to be used throughout the pandemic.

The researchers selected 22 small, urban parks, 15 in Philadelphia and seven in New York City, located in or near neighbourhoods representing a variety of levels of relative population density and vulnerability, according to Census data and the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index -- a tool that uses Census data to identify communities that could need support during natural disasters and crisis situations. This allowed the team to account for these factors when examining the possibility of a link between park use and COVID-19 transmission.

What it found is that, regardless of the city or social vulnerability of the adjacent neighbourhoods, in areas that were more densely populated, parks tended to see more use. But this increased usage did not equate to the higher transmission of COVID-19 -- which was more closely associated with the vulnerability of the neighbourhoods, according to the study.

"Though a more extensive epidemiological study is required, this research provided no evidence that park usage contributed to COVID-19 spread," they wrote. The number of park visitors increased with density in Philadelphia, as did the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

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GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR(UT)  
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR**  
**DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT AND COUNSELLING CENTRE,SRINAGAR**  
(Mantoo House, Post Office LaneRajbagh Srinagar-190008)  
Mail ID:deandccsgr@gmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**MUMKIN-NEW POSSIBILITIES**  
(A customized Livelihood Generation Scheme For The Youth Of Jammu & Kashmir)

The "MUMKIN" scheme proposes to establish a sustainable livelihood in transport sector by providing financial assistance to the unemployed youth for purchase of new small Commercial Vehicles. Small Commercial vehicles will include mini-trucks, light commercial vehicles,pick-ups and any other mode of transport of similar nature under public carrier permit. The applicant shall have the full liberty to choose any Small Commercial Vehicle of any approved model/make of his/her choice.

**Eligibility for Registration:**  
The applicant must be a domicile of Jammu and Kashmir.  
All the unemployed youth of the district between the age group of 18-35 who have not availed any kind of financial assistance/incentive/subsidy under any self-employment scheme run by the Government.  
The applicant must be Unemployed (certified by the Sarpanch /Municipal councilor.)  
Having a valid Driving License or engage a driver with a valid driving license.  
The applicant should have been granted a permit by an appropriate authority to ply the vehicle for passengers or goods, as the case may be.  
No criteria regarding income of the family would be considered for the eligibility under this scheme.

**Mode of Financial Assistance:**  
The Scheme Banking Partner shall extend loan facility to the extent of 100% of the On-road Price of the vehicle to be purchased under the scheme.  
Mission Youth, J&K shall provide an amount of Rs. 80,000 or 10% of On-road price of the vehicle (whichever is minimum). Similarly, the vehicle manufacturer shall also provide an upfront special discount, not less than the amount of subsidy provided by Mission Youth towards the loan account of the beneficiary.  
No collateral security required for availing the scheme.

**How to Apply:-**  
In order to avail the benefits under the "MUMKIN" scheme, one has to visit the official portal by entering the URL <https://www.jk.gov.in/jkeservices>  
Users shall be directed to the page and have to click on Citizen Registration if he/she has not registered before on the e-service portal to create login ID, password and Citizen ID. (No need to create again, if already have one).  
Visit e-services portal with the user ID and pass word. Having done this, click on "Mission youth" to apply for MUMKIN scheme.  
Fill in the details asked and upload the required documentsviz: DOB, Unemployment certificate, Ration card/Domicile certificate, Driving license.  
Applicants who intend to engage a driver to operate the vehicle are required to upload in addition to the above:  
Driver's photograph.  
Driver's driving license.  
An affidavit to the effect that applicant will engage a driver to operate the vehicle for a period not less than 3 years or till the applicant acquires his/her license or till the liquidation of the loan in full, whichever is earlier.

Desirous eligible candidates are further advised to register with the District Employment & Counseling Centre Srinagar online at <http://jakemp.nic.in> before applying for the scheme.  
For Further Details Contact:-  
Deputy Director, District Employment & Counseling Centre,Srinagar  
Email : deandccsgr@gmail.com  
Contact No. : 9149565637

SD/  
Mohd Rouf Rehman(KAS)  
Deputy Director Employment  
(Nodal Officer ,DLIC-MUMKIN)  
District Srinagar

No: DE&CC/Sgr/MUMKIN/2021/55-59 Dated: 18.05.2021.

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

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)  
Website: [www.jkbopee.gov.in](http://www.jkbopee.gov.in) E-mail: [coejakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:coejakbopee@gmail.com)/[helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Extension in date of joining to B. Ed. Course-2021 in Institute of Advance Studies (IAS), M.A. Road ,Srinagar and B.Ed. Special Education Course-2021 in Composite Regional Centre(CRC), Bemina , Srinagar.

**Reference:** :- I) Notification No. 033-BOPEE of 2021 dated: 06-03-2021.  
II) Notice No. 038-BOPEE of 2021 dated:05-04-2021.  
III) Notification No. 053-BOPEE of 2021 dated: 15-04-2021.  
IV) Notice No. 043-BOPEE of 2021 dated: 26-04-2021.  
V) Notification No. 060-BOPEE of 2021 dated: 04-05-2021

**Notice No. 049 -BOPEE of 2021**  
**Dated: 18-05-2021**

Due to prevailing Covid-19 situation in J&K and the requests made by Principals of the respective colleges, the Board has decided to extend the last date for completion of admission process for Admission to B.Ed Course 2021 vide Notification No: 060-BOPEE of 2021 dated 04-05-2021 upto **05-06-2021(03:00 P.M.)**.The heads of the institutions are requested to furnish the shortfall, if any, on 05-06-2021 at 04:00 P.M positively.

For online joining, candidates are advised to go through the Notification No: 060-BOPEE of 2021 dated 04-05-2021.

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the e-Information Brochure and the Notification No. 060-BOPEE of 2021 dated 04-05-2021.

E & O E.

DIPK-NB-782/21

No. BOPEE / Exam-03/ 2021

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

Dated: 18-05-2021

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TLMD II PAMPORE, KASHMIR,

J & K Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.

**NOTICE INVITING e- Bids**

**NIT No. TLMD II/ 13 of 2021 dt:15-05-2021.**

The Executive Engineer, TLMD II Pampore Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation, for and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, invites online e-bids from registered electrical contractors fulfilling eligibility and qualification requirements specified here under for Supply, Installation, erection, testing and commissioning of 03 no. 36 kV CTs at 125 MVA, 132/33 kV Grid Station Awantipora including dismantling of the existing CT's. Submission of e-Bid shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms & conditions with full understanding of its implications. The tender is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid, submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

a	Date & Time of downloading of NIT.	The NIT Documents can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> from 15.05.2021 (4.00 P.M) to 15.05.2021 from 4.00 Pm
b	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	15.05.2021 from 4.00 Pm
D	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time	25.05.2021 up to 4.00PM.
F	Date & time of online opening of Techno-Commercial bids	26.05.2021 at 4:00 Pm
G	Date & time of online opening of Financial bids	Will be communicated to qualified bidders
H	Estimated cost	Rs. 2.53 Lacs
I	Venue of opening of e-Bids	The Office of Executive Engineer TLMD II Pampore Kashmir J&K.
J	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 200.00 (Two Hundred rupees only) in the shape of non-refundable Demand Draft drawn in favour of Executive Engineer TLMD-II Pampore As per Govt. circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dated 22.12.2020, bidders are exempted from EMD. However Bidders will have to make a declaration on Stamp Paper of Rs. 100 that in case of any default on account of wrong declaration, submission of fake documents, hiding or concealing any information etc, the bidder will be blacklisted from participating in any of the future bids and the licensee of such bidder will be revoked for a minimum period of three years.
K	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Committed
L	Status of funds	

DIPK-NB-767/21

SD/  
Executive Engineer



## Govt Officers Living In Ivory Towers, Not Alive To Covid-19 Situation: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**NEW DELHI:** Covid-19 has not spared even a single family and still central government's officers are living in "ivory towers" oblivious of ground realities, observed the Delhi High Court which on Tuesday was of the view that manufacturing of Sputnik V vaccine in India is giving an opportunity to the nation staring at shortage of vaccines.

"God bless this country," was another remark of a bench of Justices Manmohan and Navin Chawla which castigated the Centre for not being alive to the pandemic situation that is taking so many lives.

The bench said the collaboration of Panacea Biotec with Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) for manufacturing of Sputnik V vaccine should be seen as an opportunity to ensure its usage here and in such matters instructions are to be taken from the highest authorities that too within 30 minutes.

It said "no one is applying its mind" when there is an opportunity for the government to get millions of vaccines and it should use this as a window.

"Otherwise, deaths will continue to happen. Every day you are castigated by each and every court and still you are not awake.

"Which bureaucrat is giving you instructions. Is he not alive to the situation? God bless this country. That is why we are facing this situation. In such matters instructions are to be taken from the highest

authorities that too within 30 minutes," the bench said.

It added, "Does your officer not see so many deaths are taking place in the country and we are short of vaccines. Your client is not alive to the situation."

The bench, which was critical of the Centre's stand on the issue, said "You (government) are so short of vaccines and you are not taking it through. May be it is an opportunity for you. Don't be so negative. It is like a raging fire and nobody is bothered. You people don't understand the larger picture or what.

"Tell your officers it is an opportunity for you, don't lose it. No one is applying its mind. The virus has not spared any single family. Your officers are living in ivory towers," the bench said.

The high court's observations came while hearing a plea of Delhi-based Panacea Biotec seeking to modify a July 2020 order, by which the firm had undertaken not to prosecute further the execution proceedings instituted by them in relation to an arbitral award, running into crores of rupees, passed in its favour and against the Centre.

The company, in its fresh application, sought release of the arbitral award saying it needs funds at the earliest in the larger interest of humanity as it has already manufactured trial batches of COVID vaccine Sputnik V in collaboration with RDIF and the process of manufacturing scale-up batches is on.

The bench said, "This court is of the view that in today's time there is acute shortage of vaccines in India and the collaboration of applicant (Panacea Biotec) with RDIF gives India an opportunity to ensure that the vaccine manufactured by the applicant is used for sale in India." The court issued notice to the Centre and asked it to examine the plea and file a reply within a week and listed it for hearing on May 31.

## "Will Jump Off Roof", Says Woman Over Husband's Black Fungus Treatment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**INDORE:** The video of a woman threatening to jump off the roof of a hospital in Indore in Madhya Pradesh if her husband, suffering from Mucormycosis or black fungus infection, does not get an injection required for his treatment went viral on Tuesday.

A hospital official said the woman's 40-year-old husband had been administered Amphotericin-B injections but he would need more shots and this had left her disturbed.

"I am speaking from Bombay Hospital. My husband is admitted in this hospital with black fungus infection and has pain in his eyes and jaws. The injection (Amphotericin-B) is not available in this hospital. Where should I take him in this condition," the woman said in the video.

"If I don't get the injection today, then I will jump off the

roof of the hospital and commit suicide. I have no other option left," she says further in the video message addressed to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state Health Minister Prabhu Ram Choudhary and Indore Collector Manish Singh.

Meanwhile, Bombay Hospital general manager Rahul Parasher said the woman was counselled but she is in a disturbed state of mind at present.

"Her husband has been administered 59 Amphotericin-B injections but his requirement is more. These injections are not available in the hospital at present and patients are being treated for Mucormycosis with other anti-fungal drugs," Mr Parasher explained.

On Monday, a Minister had said 122 patients were admitted in Indore with Mucormycosis.

The shortage of Amphotericin-B injections is being highlighted by patients as well as political leaders over the past few days, including Congress Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh who has written a letter on this issue to the Chief Minister.

Mucormycosis, a rare and dangerous fungal infection, is being seen in some COVID-19 patients as well as those who have recovered from the infection.



**A TREE FELL ON A CAR, DAMAGING IT** in Mumbai as the cyclone crossed the Arabian Sea [Rafiq Maqbool/AP]

## 100'S Dead & Missing As Cyclone Batters COVID-Hit West India

AGENCIES

**A**t least 21 people have been killed and nearly 100 others missing after a monster cyclone slammed into western India, compounding the misery for millions of others who are enduring a devastating coronavirus surge.

Hundreds of thousands of people were without power after Cyclone Tauktae, one of a growing number of increasingly severe storms in the Arabian Sea blamed on climate change, hammered the Gujarat coast on Monday evening.

The cyclone packed gusts of up to 185 kilometres (115 miles) per hour, uprooting trees and knocking down power lines and mobile phone towers as it barrelled inland while weakening slightly.

One support vessel serving oil rigs that were hit by immense waves off the coast of Mumbai sank and 96 of the 273 people who had been on board were missing, the Indian Navy said on Tuesday.

The defence ministry said 177 people were rescued from the vessel, with operations expected to continue throughout the day in "extremely challenging sea conditions".

Al Jazeera's Parni Mittal, reporting from New Delhi, said

the colossal cyclone – the biggest to hit the region in decades – has claimed at least 21 lives as savage winds swept through flimsy homes and uprooted trees and electricity pylons.

Although the cyclone was one of the fiercest to hit the area, better forecasting than in recent years allowed for strong preparations and more than 200,000 people in danger zones were evacuated from their homes.

Mumbai authorities on Monday closed the airport for several hours and urged people to stay indoors as huge waves battered the city's seafloor.

**COVID-19 catastrophe**

The deadly weather system has hindered India's embattled response to a coronavirus surge that is killing at least 4,000 people daily, and pushing the health system to breaking point.

"A lot of preparation that was made for the cyclone was made keeping in mind that we are still in the middle of a devastating second wave of the pandemic," said Al Jazeera's Mittal.

Mumbai shifted on Sunday about 600 COVID-19 patients in field hospitals "to safer locations", while sea levels swelled as high as three metres (10 feet) near the seaside town of Diu.

In Gujarat, all coronavirus

patients in hospitals within five kilometres (3.1 miles) of the coast were also moved. But one patient died in the town of Mahuva after he could not be moved in time before the storm hit, doctors said.

Authorities there scrambled to ensure there would be no power cuts in the nearly 400 designated COVID-19 hospitals and 41 oxygen plants in the area.

More than 1,000 COVID-19 hospitals in coastal towns had been provided with generators, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani told reporters.

The state also suspended vaccinations for two days. Mumbai did the same for one day.

**'Terrible double blow'**

"This cyclone is a terrible double blow for millions of people in India whose families have been struck down by record COVID-19 infections and deaths," said Udaya Regmi from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The organisation said it was helping authorities to evacuate people most at risk in coastal areas, providing first aid, masks "and encouraging other critical COVID-19 prevention measures".

Last May, more than 110 people died after "super cyclone" Amphan ravaged eastern India and Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal.

## Don't Worry, Covishield Second Jabs Effective Even At Six Months: Experts

**F**our to six weeks, six to eight or eight to 12? The increasing gap between two Covishield doses in India while the UK reduces its window has laypersons confused, but several experts say there is little reason to worry and second jabs anytime before six months can still be effective boosters.

The government last week extended the gap between two doses of the Covishield COVID-19 vaccine to 12-16 weeks, up from the previous maximum of eight weeks, on the recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

A day later, UK cut the gap from 12 weeks to eight weeks in view of the spread of the B.1.617 variant that originated in India.

Responding to concerns that



India increased the gap primarily because vaccines were in short supply and many states had complained of acute shortage in supplies, immunologist Satyajit Rath said vaccine dosing is quite flexible and forgiving.

Once four weeks have passed, the next dose can be taken whenever practicable, until six months.

According to the scientist, vaccine doses will be safe no matter when they are taken but will not

provide any great "boosting" if given within less than a month or so of the previous dose.

So vaccine doses can be taken any time after at least four weeks have passed from either the first dose or after an actual episode of COVID-19, Rath, from New Delhi's National Institute of Immunology (NII), told PTI.

Secondly, vaccine doses will give perfectly good boosting if given any time up to as much as six months or so after a previous dose. So a second dose, or the first dose after a COVID-19 episode, does not have to be taken after four weeks, he explained.

The NTAGI, Rath added, is making these new recommendations based on evidence, and trying to provide support for practical steps. -PTI

## 270 Doctors Died Of Covid In Second Wave Of Pandemic: IMA

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Tuesday said 270 doctors across the country have succumbed to the coronavirus infection in the second wave of the pandemic so far.

The list of the deceased doctors includes former IMA president Dr K K Aggarwal, who succumbed to the deadly virus on Monday.

Bihar saw the maximum number of 78 deaths of medical practitioners, followed by Uttar Pradesh (37), Delhi (29) and Andhra Pradesh (22).

According to the IMA COVID-19 registry, 748 doctors succumbed to the disease in the first wave of the pandemic.

"Last year, 748 doctors across In-



dia succumbed to COVID-19, while in the current wave, in a short period, we have lost 270 doctors.

"The second wave of the pandemic is turning out to be extremely fatal for all and especially for the healthcare workers who are at the forefront," IMA president Dr JA Jayalal said. **PTI**

## Covid-19: CBSE Extends Deadline Till June 30 For Schools To Tabulate Marks For Class 10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday extended the deadline up to June 30 for schools to tabulate class 10 marks and submit it to the board, according to officials.

The board had earlier announced that the entire exercise of tabulation of marks will be completed by June 11 and the result will be declared by June 20.

The decision has been taken in view of the lockdown in several states due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and to ensure safety of teachers and staff members.

"CBSE accords the highest priority to safety and health of teachers. Keeping in view the situation of pandemic, lockdown in states and safety of teachers and other staff members of affiliated schools, the board has decided to extend the dates," said Sanyam Bhardwaj, Controller of Examinations, CBSE.

"The marks will have to be submitted to the board by June 30. For rest of the activities, the result committees can make their own schedule based on the scheme provided by CBSE," he added.

The CBSE had earlier this month announced a policy for tabulation of marks for class 10 board exams which have been cancelled in view of the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country.

According to the policy, while 20 marks for each subject will be for internal assessment as every year, 80 marks will be calculated on basis of the students' performance in various tests or exams throughout the year.

The board had asked schools to form a result committee consisting of principal and seven teachers for finalising results. Five teachers from the school should be from Mathematics, Social Science, Science and two languages, and two teachers from neighbouring schools should be co-opted by the

**CBSE ACCORDS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY** to safety and health of teachers. Keeping in view the situation of pandemic, lockdown in states and safety of teachers and other staff members of affiliated schools, the board has decided to extend the dates," said Sanyam Bhardwaj, Controller of Examinations, CBSE.



school as the external members of the committee.

"The schools will form eight-member result committees by May 5. The provision for school-wise distribution of marks as well as finalisation of rationale document will happen by May 10. For candidates who have not appeared in enough tests through the year, the schools will conduct online or telephonic assessment for them by May 15 and will have to finalise the result by May 25," Bhardwaj had then said.

The CBSE had on April 14 cancelled class 10 exams and postponed class 12 exams in view of surge in COVID-19 cases.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The board exams are usually conducted in February-March. However, the board had decided to conduct them in May-June this year due to the pandemic situation.

Schools across the country were closed in March last year to contain the spread of COVID-19 ahead of a nationwide lockdown.

Several states started reopening the schools partially from October last year, but physical classes are again being suspended because of the rise in coronavirus cases.

Last year, the board exams had to be postponed mid-way in March. They were later cancelled, and the results were announced based on an alternative assessment scheme.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Petrol, Diesel Price Hiked Again; 10th Hike In May

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Petrol price on Tuesday crossed Rs 99 a litre mark in Mumbai after oil companies raised petrol and diesel rates on surge in international oil prices.

Petrol price was increased by 27 paise per litre and diesel by 29 paise, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The hike – the tenth this month – pushed petrol and diesel prices to an all-time high across the country.

In Delhi, petrol rates climbed to Rs 92.85 a litre and diesel rose to Rs 83.51. Rates had already crossed the Rs 100-mark in several cities in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and with the latest increase, the price in Mumbai too was inching towards that level.

A litre of petrol in Mumbai now comes for Rs 99.14 and diesel is priced at Rs 90.71 per litre.



Fuel prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT and freight charges. Rajasthan levies the highest value-added tax (VAT) on petrol in the country, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The hike comes as Brent Crude oil price rose above USD 70 per barrel for the first time since March 15. This is the tenth increase in prices

since May 4, when the state-owned oil firms ended an 18-day hiatus in rate revision they observed during assembly elections in states like West Bengal.

Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan had the costliest petrol and diesel in the country at Rs 103.80 per litre and Rs 96.30 a litre, respectively.

In 10 increases, petrol price has risen by Rs 2.46 per litre and diesel by Rs 2.78.

## Vijay Mallya Loses Bankruptcy Petition Amendment High Court Battle In UK

Press Trust Of India

**LONDON-** A consortium of Indian banks led by the State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday moved a step closer in their attempt to recover debt from loans paid out to Vijay Mallya's now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines after the High Court in London upheld an application to amend their bankruptcy petition, in favour of waiving their security over the embattled businessman's assets in India.

Chief Insolvency and Companies Court (ICC) Judge Michael Briggs handed down his judgment in favour of the banks to declare there is no public policy that prevents a waiver of security rights, as

argued by Mallya's lawyers.

At a virtual hearing, July 26 was set as the date for final arguments for and against granting a bankruptcy order against the 65-year-old Mallya after the banks accused him of trying to kick matters into the long grass and called on the bankruptcy petition to be brought to its inevitable end.

I order that permission be given to amend the petition to read as follows: The Petitioners (banks) having the right to enforce any security held are willing, in the event of a bankruptcy order being made, to give up any such security for the benefit of all the bankrupt's creditors', Justice Briggs' judgment reads.



There is nothing in the statutory provisions that prevent the Petitioners from giving up security, he notes.

Mallya's barrister, Philip Marshall, had referenced witness statements of retired Indian judges in previous hearings to reiterate that there is public interest under Indian law by virtue of the banks being nationalised.

However, Justice Briggs found no impediment to the

creditors relinquishing their security under Indian law because of the engagement of a principle concerning public interest and favoured the submissions made by retired Indian Supreme Court judge Gopala Gowda at a hearing in December 2020 on the matter.

In my judgment the simple stance taken by Justice Gowda that Section 47 PIA 1920 is evidence of the ability of a secured creditor to relinquish the creditor's security is to be preferred, the ruling notes.

The Indian banks, represented by the law firm TLT LLP and barrister Marcia Shekherdian, were also granted costs in totality for the petition hearings, as the overall successful party in the case.



## Heart Patients Face Higher Covid-19 Risk: Expert

Ajaz Ali

**JAMMU:** A senior heart specialist on Tuesday cautioned that the deadly coronavirus affects the function of the heart and was a major cause of Covid related deaths.

'People with heart issues need to take the vaccine at the earliest, if not already vaccinated. Those with kidney-liver problems and asthma patients also need to take the vaccine immediately in addition to their treatment'" Associate Professor of Cardiology, Super Speciality Hospital, Government Medical College, Jammu, Dr. Dharminder Kumar said Tuesday.

He also cautioned heart patients to adopt Covid super behavior amid the pandemic saying that the virus affects the function of the heart and was a major cause of deaths.

Explaining further, Dr. Kumar said that the virus usually attacks the lungs and the heart and can become a cause of heart attack, heart block or heart failure.

"While in a heart attack, nutrition to the pulmonary artery is hindered

due to blockage, in case of heart block, the electrical conduction system becomes abnormal and dysfunctional. In case of heart failure, the pumping action of the heart is affected because of weakness in heart muscles," he said.

'High inflammatory markers are detected in patients with potential heart issues. Such patients are given steroids, anticoagulants and other recommended drugs," he added.

The prominent cardiologist also discouraged unsupervised administration of steroids to Covid patients. "It has been observed that normally, patients show progress after supervision of steroids and their lungs and heart start working with increased capacity in 3-4 days," he said.

Making a fervent appeal to people to adopt Covid appropriate behaviour to avoid post-Covid complications, Dr. Kumar also advised the heart patients to take care of their heart and not to go out in public unless necessary.

"The patients are also advised to keep taking their medicines after consultation with their doctor," he added.

## Mosque Demolished In UP's Barabanki: AIMPLB, Sunni Waqf Board

**LUCKNOW:** The All-India Muslim Law Board and the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board on Tuesday alleged that the administration in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki pulled down a mosque and demanded a judicial probe into it.

Meanwhile, the authorities said they demolished an illegal structure on court orders.

"The century-old Garib Nawaz mosque in Ram Sanahi Ghat tehsil was demolished by the administration without any legal justification on Monday night in the presence of police," claimed All-India Muslim Law Board (AIMPLB) working general secretary Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rehmani in a statement.

There was no dispute relating to the mosque. It is also listed with the Sunni Waqf Board. The

SDM of Ram Sanahi Ghat had asked for papers of the mosque from the mosque committee in March against which the mosque management committee had approached the Allahabad High Court," he said, adding that the mosque was pulled down by the administration without any notice.

He demanded a judicial inquiry into the case by a sitting High Court judge and suspension of officials responsible for the action.

He also asked for stopping the process of removing the debris from the spot and ensuring that no other structure is allowed to come up on the land.

"It is the duty of the government to construct the mosque at the place and hand it over to the Muslims," he said.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate

Adarsh Singh described the construction, said to be a mosque and its residential area, as illegal.

"A notice was served on people concerned on March 15, giving them an opportunity to put forth their views over the ownership but those residing there fled after receiving the notice," the DM said in a statement. The tehsil administration got its possession on March 18, the DM said.

He said the The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court had disposed of a petition filed in this connection on April 2, which proved that the construction was illegal.

The DM said later a case was filed in the court of the SDM, Ram Sanahi Ghat, and its orders were complied with on May 17.

Joint magistrate Divyanshu Patel also termed the construction

## Rs 30 crore Earmarked For Establishment Of Model Residential Schools For Tribals In J-K

**JAMMU:** An amount of Rs 30 crore has been earmarked for the establishment of model residential schools in tribal areas of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

Tribal Affairs Department secretary Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said modernisation of hostels managed by the department is another key focus area for which a budget of Rs 10 crore has been earmarked. Choudhary held a meeting here to finalise various development plans.

In a major initiative the department is focusing on establishment of model residential schools for which an amount of Rs 30 crore has been earmarked in the budget, he said. He said six model schools are being made operational with hired or temporary accommodation while executing agencies have been directed to complete the construction work in the next two years.

"Each hostel will be provided with a library, gymnasium, smart class room and sports clubs among other facilities. The department also approved Rs 50 lakh for providing multipurpose vehicles to 10 hostels in Phase-I for catering and management needs, he said.

Choudhary asked the department to notify schemes for tribal youth for their constructive engagement in various livelihood initiatives.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Kashmir Records

to contain the spread of the virus, Pole said demand for oxygen beds has also eased out as the number of beds has been increased at all dedicated COVID-19 hospitals, including SKIMS, Soura and SMHS hospitals.

He said patients in home isolation are also taken due care by the officials concerned as they provide COVID-19 care kits to each patient testing positive for the virus to enable better treatment.

Pole said Kashmir, at present, is in a comfortable position with medical oxygen capacity as there are five oxygen manufacturing plants while 20 more such plants have been installed at different hospitals in Kashmir.

The senior officer said COVID-19 vaccination process is also going on at a good pace as the Union Territory has even touched the 50,000 daily doses during the ongoing drive.

He said the J-K government has placed an order of 1.2 crore doses. However, there can be difficulty in delivery as other states have also placed orders amid a raging spread of the virus in many parts of the country.

Despite all of this, vaccination for the above 45 age group category is going on in full swing and the rate in J-K is 61 per cent against the 33 per cent national coverage, which is almost double that of the national level percentage. (PTI)

#### Corona Claims

since the outbreak of pandemic last year, to 3293 in the Union Territory.

Among the victims from the Valley included a 68-year-old woman from Baghat Srinagar, who died 13 days after remaining admitted at the Chest Diseases hospital here, to one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients. Besides her, a 75-year-old woman from Rawalpura also succumbed to Covid at the SMHS hospital, six days after she was admitted with bilateral Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP).

Also, officials said that an 89-year-old woman from Bemina here died at SMHS hospital, two days after she was admitted there.

An 80-year-old man from Khidam Nowshera diagnosed with bilateral CAP died a day after he was admitted to GMC Anantnag while a 55-year-old woman from Khanabal also died at midnight at the healthcare facility.

A 65-year-old woman from Azadgunj Baramulla died at Covid Center Indoor stadium Baramulla, two days after she was admitted to GMC Baramulla and subsequently shifted to the make-shift facility, they said.

An 80-year-old woman from Pattan died at home due to Covid-19 complications. She had been declared Covid positive on May 14, officials said, adding that a 55-year-old woman from Kralpora died at Sub District Hospital Kupwara, 11 days after she was admitted there.

Another victim was a 50-year-old from Shopian, who died at a healthcare facility, they added.

During the last 24 hours, the officials said that J&K reported 3967 new cases of infection—1704 from Jammu division and 2263 from Kashmir thus taking the total number of people infected by the virus to 251919.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 666, Baramulla 196, Budgam 454, Pulwama 127, Kupwara 120, Anantnag 156, Bandipora 134, Ganderbal 116, Kulgam 190, Shopian 104, Jammu 522, Udhampur 272, Rajouri 141, Doda 59, Kathua 183, Samba 107, Kishtwar 49, Poonch 123, Ramban 188 and Reasi 60 fresh cases of coronavirus.

Moreover, they said, 3823 more patients have recovered—1360 from Jammu Division and 2463 from Kashmir. There are 50925 active cases—21021 in Jammu and 29904 in Kashmir, they added.

#### Fresh Vaccine

vaccine doses to meet requirements," the department of Health & Medical Education posted Tuesday on its official Twitter handle.

The health department in the Valley came under sharp criticism after the vaccination drive was reportedly put off due to the shortage of vaccines.

On Sunday, not a single person above 45 years in Kashmir Valley was administered vaccine jabs while in Jammu division, 8750 people above 45 years received vaccine jabs that day sparking widespread outrage among the people in the Valley.

According to the official data, in Jammu district 3093 people, in Udhampur 1157, in Rajouri 986, in Kathua 40, in Poonch 661, in Ramban

887, in Doda 731, in Kishtwar 360, in Reasi 524 and in Samba district 311 people above 45 years received vaccine jabs on Sunday.

A day earlier, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had set a 10-day deadline for 100% vaccination of people above 45 years in Jammu and Kashmir

#### 10-Member Panel

formulating an action plan for tackling a possible third wave of Covid-19 in the Union Territory.

Dr Shakti Gupta, Executive Director and CEO AIIMS, Jammu will be the Co-Chairman of the panel. Other members include Director SKIMS Dr A G Ahangar, Principal GMC Srinagar Dr Samia Rashid, Director (Coordination) New Medical Colleges J&K and Managing Director JKMSCL Dr Yashpal Sharma, Mission Director NHM J&K Yasin Choudhary, Head of the department PSM, GMC Srinagar Dr Saleem, Head of the department Paediatrics, GMC Srinagar Dr Muzaffer Jan, Head of the department Chest Diseases, GMC Jammu Dr Rahul Gupta and Sr resident Administrator, Department of hospital administration, AIIMS Delhi Dr Khalid.

According to the terms of reference, the panel has been asked to prepare an action plan for tackling a "possible third wave of COVID-19 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with special focus on preparedness in terms of creation of health infrastructure, enhancement in testing capacities, treatment protocols, arrangement of essential drugs/logistics, machinery and equipments, oxygen supply, manpower, etc.

The committee has also been tasked to ramp up COVID hospital beds and Critical Care Units especially for Paediatrics/Neo-natal age group, which is likely to be affected more.

"Strengthening of Healthcare/COVID Care facilities in the rural areas of the Union Territory and devising additional COVID appropriate behaviour and SOPs/ guidelines that are required," reads the order issued by the Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner/ Secretary to the government.

#### Govt Orders 50%

attendance of employees in these offices shall be regulated.

"All officers of the level of Under Secretary and above shall attend office on all working days. For regulating the attendance of officers and the staff below the level of Under Secretary, all heads of departments/ offices shall prepare a roster so as to ensure that 50 % of staff attends office on every alternate day," reads the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner/ Secretary to the government.

The order further states that the staff which is not required to attend office on a particular day, shall work from home and shall be available on telephone and electronic means of communication all the times.

"This shall not apply to offices in Civil Secretariat and move offices where staff has already been split by half," the order reads, adding "Bio-metric attendance shall continue to be suspended till further order,"

#### 90 Days Interim

of the Committee to know about the category of convicts and under trials, who can also be released, pursuant to the directions of the Apex Court.

After the completion of this exercise, a report will be placed before the Committee, the spokesman said.

Magrey also directed Director General of Police (DGP), Prisons, to coordinate with the Health department and ensure vaccination of inmates and the jail staff on priority.

Besides this, the committee directed the jail authorities to take appropriate steps by keeping the frequently-visited areas like kitchen, bathrooms etc. hygienic and by ensuring that inmates and the staffers wear masks and maintain social distancing.

He also directed the Legal Service Institutions across the UT to provide services of Panel Lawyers to the inmates, who are eligible to be released from the custody by moving applications on their behalf.

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

It suggested the creation of additional or temporary accommodation within or outside jail complexes to ensure strict adherence to COVID Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs).'

#### Journalist Gulzar

village Shoolipora in central district of Budgam. His death has been widely mourned.

Kashmir Editors Guild (KEG) condoled the demise, stating that Kashmir media fraternity has lost a dear friend who would always bring cheer to his colleagues by his wit and humor.

Veteran journalist Altaf Hussain remembered Gulzar Ahmad as a jolly person who would always wear a smile on his face.

"Gulzar was highly sociable and always wore a smile on his face. Everybody cherished his company, We called him gul-e-gulzar. May Allah grant him jannah and courage to his family to bear the loss. We are among the bereaved. We'll always miss you dear Gulzar !," Hussain tweeted.

#### J&K Seeks

department has proposed to construct 102 guard rooms for watch and ward of 34 AWLR stations, 13 ARG stations and nine ADCP stations.

The documents also read that the project is currently under the tendering stage and is awaiting world bank approval—(KNO)

#### HC Upholds

said applies to beneficiaries of rebates, discounts and concessions under the specific scheme envisaged by the Roshni Act/Rules.

"It does not apply to the 1973 Government Order or the 1976 Government Order. It also does not apply to those successful lessees/petitioners in whose favour earlier judgements had been delivered by this Court enforcing their rights under any pre-existing Scheme/ Government Order that existed before the enactment of the Roshni Act/Roshni Rules, more so, if such judgements had attained finality and had even been implemented."

The court said that the government cannot take "shelter" under the decision of the Division Bench's 9th October 2020 verdict to argue that lessees/petitioners under a pre-existing Scheme/Government Order, who had been granted freehold rights would now stand deprived of their proprietary or freehold rights, notwithstanding the fact that such lessees/petitioners were not beneficiaries of any rebates, discounts and concessions under the Roshni Act/Rules at all. "We find that argument completely unacceptable, more so, when the subject matter of the controversy before the Division Bench in PIL No.19/2011 had nothing to do with any such pre-existing Scheme/ Government Order," the court said and held such cases cannot be clubbed with the cases of beneficiaries under the Roshni Act and Rules.

In conclusion, the court issued slew of directions and among others ordered that in cases where the application for grant of proprietary/freehold rights has been made during the subsistence of any Scheme or Government Order, prior to Roshni Act/Rules, and such application having duly been recommended by the recommending authorities, the government cannot deny the grant of proprietary/freehold rights to the applicants under the scheme or Government Order on any arbitrary, unreasonable and illegal basis.

"In such cases, the applicant cannot be made to suffer because of the delay, default or omission on the part of the Respondents (officials)," the court said.

In such cases where the process has further culminated in a decision by the government to grant proprietary/freehold rights to the applicants, but the decision was not implemented by government functionaries on some inexplicable, illegal, arbitrary and legally unsustainable basis, such applicants case would be on a much higher footing.

"The Roshni Act/Rules or the decision of the Division Bench of this Court, dated 9 th October, 2020, in PIL No. 19/2011 do not extinguish or destroy the rights of any (such) applicant if such rights had accrued under any such pre-existing Scheme/Government Order."

In any event, the court said, its earlier judgements, upholding the rights of any lessees/petitioners accrued under any such pre-existing Scheme/Government Order regarding grant of proprietary/freehold rights which have attained finality and have been duly implemented, remain binding and their implementation cannot be undone based on the decision of the Division Bench of the Court on 9th October, 2020.

"The procedural formalities followed for the implementation of such judgements by the Respondents (officials) do not impact the binding and conclusive nature of such judgements in favour of such lessees/petitioners," the court said, adding, "Such concluded cases cannot be reopened." (GNS)

#### Truck Driver

curfew and stopped a Kashmir-bound truck in Gangyal area.

"During checking, a sum of Rs 30 lakh was recovered from the possession of the truck driver who failed to give a satisfactory answer with regard to the source and purpose of the money," the spokesperson said.

He said Income Tax authorities were informed and the suspect along with the recovered money was handed over to them.

#### Genuine Vaccine

us to improve and get a better understanding of the issue.

**There are people who believe that the major side-effects of vaccines usually occur within weeks or months after vaccination. What is your take on this?**

See, we've two options - Covid disease or Covid vaccine. We must choose vaccines among these two.

By far, let me tell you, vaccination has been the most remarkable discovery of modern medical science. The long-term effects of this particular vaccine are not available, but theoretically and based on experience from the other vaccines in the past, this vaccine appears to be safe.

Also, we can counter argue that we don't know the long-term effects of Covid disease.

**As you said there are many myths around vaccination that are contributing to this hesitancy, what strategies would you suggest to debunk them?**

It's the duty of community leaders, religious figures and social media influencers to spread correct information and help fight the misinformation.

Also, we must address genuine concerns of the public regarding vaccines in a healthy and non-confrontational way.

The experts in the field should be given the charge to lead and interact with the public on mass-media platforms.

**Are there any pure risks associated with these vaccines and if yes, how can we treat and minimize those risks?**

The risks are minute and rarely severe. Compared to the risk associated with Covid disease, the risk looks even more negligible.

Also, we must understand that any medicine or drug however safe can have side effects.

But we take them conferring the risk versus benefit ratio. Same is the case with vaccines. The benefit far outweighs the risks associated.

**How important is it to work on this hesitant group and how can we address this reluctance and skepticism?**

As we provide the correct information the hesitancy will go away. We must lead by example. All those taking vaccines should share their experiences with others.

Doctors and healthcare professionals have a great role to play. They're fighting this pandemic at forefront and also understand the science behind the vaccine. If their expertise is properly utilised, the misinformation can largely be overcome.

Thing is, it's many months since people got the vaccine and this amount of time should be

enough of "wait and see".

#### Ex-Union Minister

he breathed his last around 5.10 am, his elder son Anil Gupta told PTI.

Born in Jammu on April 13, 1934, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader was not in good health for the last couple of years as he was suffering from various ailments and was hardly seen in public life.

The deceased leader had an illustrious political career spanning over five decades after he became a member of the J&K Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1972. He was again a member of J&K Legislative Assembly between 2008 and 2014.

He was elected to the 11th Lok Sabha from Udhampur constituency of Jammu in 1996 and re-elected to 12th and 13th Lok Sabha in 1998 and 1999.

Chaman Lal Gupta was Union Minister of State, Ministry of Civil Aviation between October 13, 1999 and September 1, 2001,

Union Minister of State (independent charge), Ministry of Food Processing Industries (September 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002) and Union Minister of State for Defence (July 1, 2002 to 2004).

An author of three books in Hindi and a two-time J&K BJP president, he had completed his MSc from G M Science college Jammu and Allahabad University (UP).

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Gupta, saying he will be remembered for his numerous community service efforts.

Modi tweeted, "Shri Chaman Lal Gupta Ji will be remembered for numerous community service efforts. He was a dedicated legislator and strengthened the BJP across Jammu and Kashmir. Pained by his demise. My thoughts are with his family and supporters in this hour of grief. Om Shanti."

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha also paid rich tributes to the departed leader and said he would be remembered for his immense contribution towards welfare of the people.

Deeply pained to hear about the passing away of former union minister, Prof Chaman Lal Gupta Ji. A seasoned politician & a widely respected public figure, his demise is a great loss to the political sphere, the office of the Lt Governor J&K said in a tweet.

In another tweet, it said he will always be remembered for his immense contribution towards welfare of the people. My condolences to his family and friends.

The BJP, Congress, National Conference and the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party also condoled the demise of Gupta.

"Sorry to hear about the demise of Professor Chaman Lal Gupta ji. Colleagues in the (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee ministry, we went toe to toe in the J&K assembly between 2009 & 2014. He was a consummate politician who fought for what he believed but did so without being obnoxious or nasty. RIP," National Conference vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah tweeted.

The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit president Ravinder Raina said Gupta's demise is a big loss to the union territory in general and the party in particular.

"He was a BJP stalwart and a nationalist by core. His life will always remain a guiding light for the party workers across the country," Raina said, adding that he had always stood firm in his nationalist belief and remained in the forefront to help the victims of terrorism when it was at its peak in Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior Congress leader and former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad also expressed his grief at the demise of Gupta and said he was a senior leader of the BJP who lived a very simple life and served the people of Jammu and Kashmir as MLA, MP and union minister.

"As a union minister he maintained a very good rapport with the people and other political leaders across party lines," he said.

In his condolence message, Jammu and Kashmir Congress president G A Mir and other senior leaders expressed grief at the passing away of Gupta.

"Gupta played a great role in the political history of the erstwhile state. He represented people in the state legislature several times and played the role of a vibrant opposition besides representing Jammu and Kashmir in the Lok Sabha and in the union council of ministers and rendered valuable services in the democratic set up, the party said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party provincial president and former minister Manjit Singh remembered Gupta as a humble and down to earth leader whom the people trusted as their representative.

"Gupta will be remembered for his people friendly approach. He had played a vital role in the politics of J&K," he said. (PTI)

#### Search Operation

A local news agency KDC that the search operation was launched on the basis of inputs about the presence of militants in the area. The search operation continued for several hours. However, no arrests were made when the last reports came in.

#### 4 Gamblers Held

he said, an amount of Rs 14,670 was recovered from the accused.

"They have been shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 73/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Ganderbal and investigation has been initiated," he added.



## Received Death Threats After SA's 2011 World Cup Exit: Faf du Plessis

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Former South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis has revealed that he and his wife received death threats after a mix-up with AB de Villiers led to the latter's run out during their 2011 World Cup semifinal defeat to New Zealand.

Played at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Dhaka, South Africa lost the match by 49 runs to be knocked out of the tournament, which was won by co-hosts India.

"I received death threats after that (match). My wife received death threats. We turned on social media and we were blown away. It became very personal. There were some very offensive things said that I won't repeat," du Plessis was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"It makes you introverted towards people and you put a shield up. All players go through this and it forces us to keep our circles very small. It's why I've worked so hard on creating a safe space within our camp," he added.

Led by Daniel Vettori, New Zealand had batted first and post-



ed 221 for 8 in 50 overs. In reply, the Proteas were bowled out for 172 with du Plessis, playing in only his 10th ODI, making 36.

Also, du Plessis was slapped with a fine of 50 percent of his match fee for pushing Kyle Mills, who was New Zealand's 12th man in the game.

The right-handed batsman has since played 143 ODIs, 69 Tests and 50 T20Is.

Du Plessis recently returned home after representing Chennai Super Kings in the now-suspended Indian Premier League 2021.

He was in great form with the bat as he scored 320 runs from 7 games before the tournament was indefinitely suspended owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## W Saha Recovers From COVID, To Be Available For England Tour



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha has recovered from COVID-19 and will be available for India's tour of England next month.

Saha has reached his home in Kolkata after completing over a fortnight-long quarantine at a Delhi hotel. He was picked for the England-bound squad subject to fitness. The 36-year-old was among the players who contracted the dreaded virus in the currently-suspended Indian Premier league while playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"Wriddhiman is back home yesterday after two and half

weeks of hotel quarantine in Delhi," a source close to the player told PTI.

Saha will have to return another negative RT-PCR test before joining the pre-departure bio-bubble in Mumbai, where the squad will undergo hard quarantine before boarding the flight to England.

India are scheduled to take on New Zealand in the World Test Championship final from June 18 in Southampton.

The five-Test series against England is to be held in August.

Just four days back, Saha had received conflicting results in two coronavirus tests, which prolonged his isolation.

## BCCI Paying For Quarantine Of Australian IPL Players In Sydney: CA



Press Trust of India

**SYDNEY:** The BCCI is footing the bill for the 14-day quarantine of Australian IPL players, who have arrived here from Maldives, Cricket Australia interim CEO Nick Hockley said on Tuesday.

Most of the 38 members of the Australian contingent, including top players such as Pat Cummins and Steve Smith, officials and commentators, landed at the Sydney airport on Monday after a forced stop-over at Maldives.

The players had to spend 10 days in Maldives due to a ban imposed by the Australian government on travellers from COVID-ravaged India till May 15.

Hockley said the BCCI has kept its promise and funded the whole operation.

"Yes," Hockley told 'Sydney Morning Herald' when asked if BCCI was paying for the mandatory quarantine.

"BCCI at the outset committed to ensuring that they got home safely and as quickly as possible. We've been working closely with them. They've been fantastic. They've delivered on that promise."

The IPL was indefinitely suspended on May 4 after four players and two coaches from four different teams tested positive for COVID-19 inside its bio-bubble.

The Australian players, however, couldn't head home immediately as

their country had imposed a travel ban from India, which is battling a deadly second wave of the coronavirus.

The BCCI had then assured the players that it will do everything possible to ensure their safe return home.

"Obviously our thoughts are with all of our friends in India. Then we've been working with the government, within the existing frameworks to make sure that they get home as quickly as possible," Hockley said.

"I know the players, having texted a few of them, are extremely appreciative of the BCCI and we're really pleased that they're home safely."

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison had earlier said that the players who competed in the IPL will have to make their "own arrangements".

## Fantastic Challenge To Play Against India: Kane Williamson On WTC Final

Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** New Zealand captain Kane Williamson is excited to face India in the World Test Championships (WTC) final next month as he considers showdowns against Virat Kohli's men to be a "fantastic challenge".

India and New Zealand square-off in the final of the inaugural World Test Championships in Southampton from June 18.

"When we play against India, it has always been a fantastic challenge and so it is really exciting to be playing against them," Williamson said in a video posted by the ICC on its Twitter handle.

"It's really, really exciting to be involved in the final, obviously to win it would be that much better," said the 30-year-old considered one of the best current batsmen in the world.

Talking about championship and how it progressed, Williamson said, "We saw the contests in the WTC has brought real excitement."

"...the games were really tight such as in the India-Australia series and our series against Pakistan as well where you had to really fight hard to get the results, which is really great."

New Zealand pacer Neil Wagner



admitted India possess fast bowlers who can exploit the English conditions but said the wickets can change anytime and become flat also.

"India has a lot of quality fast bowlers who have done well in different conditions, they can swing (the ball) under overcast conditions but when the sun comes out it (wicket) is flat and nothing happens."

"(English) Conditions can change throughout and so I am not getting carried away too much, trying to control the controllables."

India batsman Hanuma Vihari, who is in England for a county stint with Warwickshire, said it would be a great feeling to play for his country

in the WTC final.

"I am excited but I would want to be in that moment and not to get too much carried away by the importance of the situation," he said.

"But as a sportsman, to play for India in the final of inaugural World Test Championships is always a great feeling," said the 27-year-old batsman who is currently playing county cricket in England.

The majority of the Kiwi players have reached the UK as they play a two-match series against England starting June 2 before the WTC final.

The Indians are expected to reach here in the first week of June after a hard quarantine in Mumbai.

## AB De Villiers Will Not Come Out Of International Retirement, Says CSA



Press Trust of India

**JOHANNESBURG:** Cricket South Africa on Tuesday announced that AB de Villiers won't be coming out of international retirement ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup in India, saying that he has decided "once and for all" to not change his mind.

Putting to rest speculations around his comeback, CSA said that "discussions with AB de Villiers have concluded with the batsman deciding once and for all, that his retirement will remain final."

The statement was reportedly made after CSA announced the team for upcoming tour of the West Indies, though it focussed largely on the squads for the two Test matches and five T20Is in the Caribbean islands rather than de Villiers' retirement.

In May 2018, de Villiers had announced his retirement from international cricket. He played 114 Tests, 228 ODIs and 78 T20Is before announcing the surprise decision.

However, last month the 37-year-old versatile cricketer said it would be "fantastic" to make an international comeback ahead of the T20 World Cup.

The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in India in October-November.

"If I can slot in, it will be fantastic," de Villiers had said after he playing match-winning innings for his franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore in the now-suspended IPL in April.

Speaking to the reporters in Chennai, de Villiers had then said

he will have a chat with South Africa head coach Mark Boucher at the end of IPL 2021 while assessing his form and fitness after RCB's campaign in the 14th season of the T20 tournament.

One of South Africa's greatest cricketers, de Villiers looked in great form in the Indian Premier League until it was indefinitely suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Talk of a comeback has constantly surrounded de Villiers since his sudden retirement three years ago, including coming close to a last-minute inclusion in South Africa's squad for the 2019 World Cup before the selectors and the team management thought otherwise.

West Indies will be South Africa's first bilateral tour to the Caribbean since 2010, followed by a tri-series in 2016 that also featured Australia.

This tour, which had to be rescheduled from 2020, will include two Tests and five T20 Internationals from June 10 to July 3, in St. Lucia and Grenada respectively.

"COVID-19 has played havoc with the ICC Future Tours Programme and we are thankful to Cricket West Indies and the governments of St. Lucia and Grenada for ensuring that the tour goes ahead as planned," CSA director of cricket Graeme Smith said in a statement.

"The hosting nations, in particular, came to the party at very short notice and Cricket South Africa would like to extend its immense gratitude to them for their enthusiasm and willingness to host us."

## Tim Seifert Recovers From COVID-19, On Way Back Home: NZ Coach

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** New Zealand wicket-keeper batsman Tim Seifert, who contracted COVID-19 during the currently-suspended IPL 2021 in India, has tested negative for the infection now and is on his way back home, his national coach Gary Stead has revealed.

Seifert represented Kolkata Knight Riders and tested positive for the virus on May 8. "I heard from Tim just a little while ago. I think the really encouraging thing is he's tested negative and my understanding is he's on a flight out of India pretty quickly as well," Stead was quoted as saying by 'stuff.co.nz'.

"I don't know how long it's going to take him to get back to New Zealand or where he's heading via, but it's great news for Tim, that

for a start his health is on the improve anyway, to the point where he's not testing positive anymore," added the head coach.

As per the report, an NZ Cricket spokesperson also confirmed that Seifert had left India to begin his journey home.

Earlier, after testing positive Seifert was awaiting his transfer to Chennai, where he was to be treated in the same private hospital in which former Australia player Michael Hussey.

The 26-year-old Seifert has played 3 ODIs and 35 T20 Internationals for his team.

New Zealand are to play a Test series against England, before the all-important World Test Championship final against the Virat Kohli-led India at Southampton next month.

## Court Denies Anticipatory Bail To Olympic Medallist Sushil Kumar In Murder Case

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi Court on Tuesday refused to grant anticipatory bail to absconding Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar in the murder case of a wrestler, saying that he is prima facie the main conspirator and allegations against him are serious in nature.

Additional Sessions Judge, Jagdish Kumar, denied the relief to Sushil Kumar against whom a case of murder, abduction and criminal conspiracy has been registered.

Wrestler Sagar Rana died, while two of his friends Sonu and Amit Kumar got injured, after they were allegedly assaulted by Sushil Kumar and other wrestlers on May 4 night, at the stadium premises in the national capital. While dismissing Sushil Kumar's pre-arrest bail, the judge noted that the allegations against the accused are serious in nature. From the perusal of record of investigation so far, it reveals that prima facie the accused is the main conspirator.

Further, the judge said, "The investigation is still going on and some of the accused persons have not been arrested so far. The NBWS [non-bailable warrant] has already been issued against the accused."

The Additional Sessions Judge also relied upon the statements of the eye-witnesses while dismissing



the plea and said So at this stage, the Court is not inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the accused.

Fearing arrest, the international wrestler moved the Rohini court in Delhi on May 17 seeking anticipatory bail, asserting that the investigation against him is biased and that no injuries are attributable to him.

In the plea, the sportsman showed his willingness to join the investigation and provide a true and correct picture of the incident to help the investigating agency reach a logical conclusion. It appears that the statement of the victims has already been recorded and alleged recoveries have already been made. No custodial investigation is required as nothing is

to be recovered at the instance of the applicant, Sushil Kumar's plea stated.

He further claimed to have no connection with the alleged firing that took place during the brawl, adding that the firearm and vehicle found at the place of the incident do not belong to him. However, Additional Public Prosecutor Atul Srivastava, representing the police, told the court that there is electronic evidence where he could be seen with a stick and hitting the wrestler.

The Prosecutor also asserted that Sushil's passport has been confiscated to alert the authorities as there is an apprehension that he may flee the country.

According to Investigating Of-

ficer (IO) Inspector Dinesh Kumar, wrestler's custodial interrogation is required to unearth the chain of conspiracy and recover the weapon of offence from him.

"He is the main accused in the whole incident, who has played a key role in the commission of offence. Data retrieved by FSL experts confirms his active role in commission of crime," the Investigating Officer told the court.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing the accused, told the court that Sonu, present during the brawl, is a history-sheeter, member of Kala Jatharia's gang and has various criminal cases against him.

"These people, who I am up against, are criminal-minded people and I will suffer at their hands," Luthra told the court on behalf of Sushil Kumar.

Sushil Kumar is on the run since Rana's death and the police are making efforts to trace him by conducting raids in the Delhi-NCR region and neighbouring states. The Delhi Police has filed an FIR in the case under sections 302 (murder), 308 (culpable homicide), 365 (kidnapping), 325 (causing grievous hurt), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

## 20 River Plate Footballers Test Positive For COVID-19



Agencies

**BUENOS AIRES:** Five more footballers at River Plate have tested positive for COVID-19, lifting the powerful Argentine club's total to 20 cases within the squad.

The impact is so high that River Plate has none of its four eligible goalkeepers fit for Wednesday's Copa Libertadores match against Colombia's Santa Fé.

River Plate issued a statement Monday saying Lucas Beltrán, Flabian Londoño Bedoya, Gonzalo Montiel, Leonardo Ponzio and Alex Vigo were the latest to test positive for the virus.

The other 15 cases were revealed on Saturday ahead of the

superclasico against Boca Juniors in the quarterfinals of the Argentine league cup. Boca won on penalties after a 1-1 draw in regulation time.

CONMEBOL, which governs South American soccer, allows clubs to have squads of up to 50 players. River Plate now has 32 available, including several youth team players.

Argentinian media reported the club will ask CONMEBOL to postpone the match.

River Plate is second in the Copa Libertadores Group D with six points from four matches, two behind leader Fluminense of Brazil. Colombian clubs Junior de Barranquilla are on three points and Santa Fé is on two.

## Tottenham Coach Unaware Of Harry Kane Asking To Leave

Agencies

**LONDON:** If Harry Kane does want to leave Tottenham, he hasn't told his manager.

Sky Sports, one of the Premier League's major rights holders, reported Monday that Kane has asked to be sold after becoming unhappy with the lack of progress at the club.

That's news to interim Tottenham manager Ryan Mason.

Asked whether the England captain has asked to leave, Mason said on Tuesday: "No, not that I'm aware of."

"All of my conversations with Harry have been about the game," added Mason, speaking ahead of Tottenham's league match against Aston Villa. "All these conversations, I am not so sure. I don't know."

Mason said Kane will start against Villa on Wednesday in a game being played in front of 10,000 Tottenham fans. "He starts tomorrow because he is our best striker and he is one of the best strikers in the world," Mason said. "I have been consistent, I am here for the next two games and that is my main focus in preparing a football team and winning a game of football. Hopefully we can do that and Harry can get on the scoresheet."



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