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P3 CITY

NO RELAXATION IN COVID LOCKDOWN IN SRINAGAR FOR NOW: ADMIN

Ruling out any immediate relaxation in the prevailing COVID-19 restrictions in the district, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz on Tuesday said a decision over any phased...

P6

HUNDREDS OF GREEN TREES FELLED FOR A NONEXISTENT HOSPITAL ?

There is a famous Urdu couplet na khuda hi milaa na vis I-e-sanam na idhar ke hue na udhar ke hue. The literal meaning of this couplet is....



P5 STATE

MED INCREASES OXYGEN PRODUCTION THREE-FOLD TO 36000 LPM: CHIEF ENGINEER

Chief Engineer, Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir, Rashid Ahmad Dar on Tuesday stated that the Mechanical Department has played a proactive role to make the quantity...



Viral Woes: Separation From Infants Is New Motherhood Stress In Kashmir

Swati Joshi

On the first night of separation, Shameema couldn't sleep a wink. Her sudden 'positive' report sent her to isolation and created a distance between mother and baby. After affecting this "be-loved bond" during its first year in 2020, Covid's second wave has returned to haunt it even more now. "When they took my baby

from me, it felt as if they had taken my life," Shameema, now tested negative of Covid, says.

"It might look easy to live without your child for some days, but each moment of separation kills you in isolation."

In her shoes, many Kashmiri mothers are conveying a nightmarish feeling after passing through the viral ordeal.

"I was literally crying my heart out for my baby during a fortnight long isolation," says Insha Baqaal, a young mother from Srinagar.

"I wanted to defeat that bug in my body as soon as possible, so that I could lap my baby again."

Amid these harrowing experiences, many wonder about the time when shaking hands was a way to greet someone and hugging each other meant affection. But Covid has changed the definition of physical intimacy. Now greetings are given virtually, hugs are almost forgotten, people connect through video calls instead of physically meeting, a minimum of six feet distance is maintained

while talking to someone and there is a fear of being infected by the virus.

Besieged by the contagion, parents are finding it difficult to show affection to their children especially mothers with a newborn. Touch is the first language that an infant understands and amidst the pandemic, it is difficult for the

family to be in physical contact with their infants.

● More On P10



PAGE 1 ANCHOR

Quote!

Everything you want is on the other side of fear.
—George Addair

NEWS DIGEST

Grenade Hurler At CRPF Party

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Tuesday hurled a grenade at Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in Tral town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. According to reports, unidentified militants lobbed a hand grenade towards a 'naka' party of CRPF 180 battalion in Tral town on Tuesday evening. The grenade, however, missed the intended target and exploded on the roadside with a bang. No reports of injury were received in the attack. Soon after, additional ● More On P10

Electric Shock Injures PDD Worker

SRINAGAR: A Power Development Department (PDD) daily worker on Tuesday injuries after receiving electric shock in Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Ashiq Hussain Khan of Waghama was repairing a high tension (HT) line in Tulkhan village of Bijbehara on Tuesday afternoon when he received an electric shock and collapsed on the ground with injuries, reports said. The injured daily worker was immediately removed to the ● More On P10

Wall Collapse Kills Minor

SRINAGAR: A minor boy was killed and another critically injured on Tuesday when a boundary wall collapsed in Kanimarg area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. 10-year-olds Shafat Ahmad and Younis Ahmad were critically injured when a wall collapsed and buried the duo in the Kanimarg area of the district on Tuesday, reports said. Both the minors trapped under the debris were rescued by the villagers and shifted to the district hospital Budgam for treatment. ● More On P10

Youth Found Dead In South Kashmir

SRINAGAR: A youth was found dead on Tuesday under mysterious circumstances in Zainpora area of south Kashmir's Shopian district. 26-year-old Manzoor Ahmad Dar, son of Mohammad Shaban Dar was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside his home in Wacchi Darbagh village of Zainpora, officials said. The exact cause of death will be known after the post mortem ● More On P10

Body Fished Out From Jhelum

SRINAGAR: The body of a woman on Tuesday was fished out from river Jhelum in Maloora area of the city outskirts. The body of a woman hailing from Saffa Kadal was recovered by river police from Jhelum river near Maloora area on Tuesday morning, an official said. He said that the body was handed over to the family for last rites after medico-legal formalities were completed by the cops of police station Parimpora. "A case stands registered in this regard and further investigations have been set into motion," the official said.

66% People Above 45 Years Vaccinated In J&K: Govt



A paramedic administering Covid-19 vaccine shot to a man at a healthcare facility in Srinagar on Tuesday, KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Territory administration said on Tuesday that around 66 per cent people above 45 years have been administered coronavirus vaccines in Jammu

and Kashmir so far.

In a high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, J&K Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam informed that UT administration has enhanced both testing and

vaccination capacities.

"The early detection of infection has allowed for timely medical intervention, whereas vaccination was found to reduce the severity of disease in patients - both strategies have been successful ● More On P10

J&K Logs Nearly 3000 New Cases, 53 Deaths

AJAZ ALI

SRINAGAR: As many as 53 more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday while 2964 fresh cases of infection were detected across the Union Territory during the ● More On P10

J&K Gets 3 Incubation Facility Centres

JAMMU: The central government has sanctioned establishment of three common incubation facility centres worth Rs 7.81 crore in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior government officer said on Tuesday. The centres would be set up at Anantnag ● More On P10

Lessons Through Radio For Class 5-8 Students

SRINAGAR: The Department of School Education in Kashmir is starting lessons through radio for Classes 5-8 from Wednesday in the wake of the absence of physical classwork in ● More On P10

IN J&K MORE CASES ARE NOW BEING reported from rural than urban areas and such cases are as high as 55% and 60% in Jammu and Kashmir divisions respectively"

3 Kids Die After Falling In Pit In Central Kashmir

Agenceis

BUDGAM: In a tragic incident three kids died after falling into a pit in Narwara area of Beerwah in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday evening.

An official said that three minor children identified as Sabzar Ahmed Dar (4) son of Reyaz Ahmed Dar, Dua Jan (3) daughter of Ashiq Ahmed Dar and

Arsheman Bashir (2) son of Bashir Ahmed Mir all residents of Narwara fell in an open pit while playing.

He said the trio were immediately removed from the pit by locals and shifted to SDH Beerwah where doctors declared them dead on arrival. SDPO Magam Dr Saleem confirmed that all the kids including a girl were brought dead to a local hospital.

He said ● More On P10

Scale Up Testing, Vaccination Of Vulnerable Groups: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Asserting that it is a collective responsibility to ensure the availability of necessary medicare facilities to contain coronavirus and save precious lives through prompt response, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday directed scale up testing and vaccination with dedicated focus on vulnerable groups.

"It is our collective



responsibility to ensure the availability of necessary

medicare facilities, besides putting in best efforts ● More On P10

Hospitals To Allow Only One Attendant In Covid Wards

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday asked hospital administrators to allow only one attendant per patient to enter the Covid ward after wearing proper PPE kit and strictly adhering to Covid appropriate behaviour.

The directions in this regard were issued by Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir Pandurang K. Pole during his visit to different hospitals in this capital city, including SKIMS Medical College



Hospital, Bemina and SMHS Hospital, GMC Srinagar, an official spokesperson said. Pole, he said, also took on spot stock of health facilities being provided to the Covid patients in

these tertiary care hospitals.

During the visit, he said, the Div Com inspected various Covid designated wards and enquired from the patients about the services being provided to them in these hospitals.

"He also noticed several shortcomings which were directed to be looked upon at the earliest by the concerned Medical Superintendents," the official spokesperson said, adding that the Div Com also instructed the Medical Superintendents to ensure quality care to the patients and also emphasized ● More On P10

Advisor Directs To Speed Up Work On Covid Hospitals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Tuesday directed the officials to speed up work on the establishment of two 500 bedded DRDO hospitals at Jammu and Srinagar respectively.

Chairing a high-level meet here on Tuesday, Bhatnagar directed officials to expedite the pace of work and ensure that the Hospitals are completed within the given timelines and dedicated to public use at the earliest, an official spokesperson said. The Advisor, he said, also asked the

officers to give adequate training to doctors and other paramedical staff who will be deployed at these Hospitals.

"He further directed them to give specialised training to those doctors and paramedics who will be dealing with the ICU wards of these Hospitals," he added. The meeting was attended by Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu/Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu/Srinagar, Principals of GMC Jammu/Kashmir, Director Health Services of Jammu/Kashmir. ● More On P10

Another Black Fungus Case Detected In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A 56-year-old man admitted to the Government Medical College (GMC) here is suspected to be suffering from black fungus or mucormycosis, officials said on Tuesday.

He was admitted to the hospital last week and has undergone all necessary tests, the officials said.

"The patient is under clinical suspicion and his test report is expected tomorrow (Wednesday)," said Shahi Sudan Sharma, principal, GMC.

She, however, said there is no need to panic as black fungus is not contagious like COVID-19.

"Black fungus has always been there. Black fungus usually targets Covid-recovered persons with uncontrolled diabetes or those who have been administered prolonged or unsupervised dosage of steroids besides patients with weak immunity," she said.

Sharma appealed to the public to keep following Covid appropriate behaviour in order to avoid Covid-related and post-Covid issues.

On Friday, a 40-year-old man ● More On P10



Dr. Yasir Wani
Consultant Paediatrician

Scientific fact:

If most of us wear a facemask, maintain physical distancing & hand hygiene and avoid gatherings once the lockdown is relaxed, then there will be NO THIRD WAVE!

BUT who will comply :))



Dr. Shakeeb Lone
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Please don't give into the fear mongering about #Mucormycosis.

It is not a contagious disease and does not affect normal healthy individuals.



Dr. Shah Nawaz B Kaloo
Consultant Interventional Radiology, Liver Cancer Interventions, Max Hospital

Kindly provide more vaccines. People & economy are suffering. Everyone should get a vaccine before a third wave. There should not be a need for another lockdown. #VaccinePlease

HC Quashes PSA Detention Of ML Leader

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday quashed detention order under Public Safety Act against Muslim League leader Farooq Ahmad Bhat alias Tawheedi, a resident of Tawheed Bagh-Batpora in Sopore in north Kashmir.

His son Irfan Farooq had filed the petition before the high court, seeking quashment of detention order (No. 102/DMB/PSA/2020) of 11 July 2020 passed by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla by virtue of which Tawheedi was booked under Section 13 of the J&K Public Safety Act, 1978.

"The law enjoins upon the detaining authority to be alive to all the facts and circumstances of the case and on application of mind to all those facts and circumstances, the detaining authority has to draw subjective satisfaction that the detention of the (detainee) becomes imperative," a bench of Justice Javed Iqbal Wani said, adding, "In case all the facts are not brought to ● More On P10

‘Women With Low Bone Density At Increased Risk Of Hearing Loss’

Agencies

Researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital analyzed data from nearly 144,000 women who were followed for up to 34 years to find that risk of subsequent moderate or worse hearing loss was up to 40 per cent higher in study participants with osteoporosis or Low Bone Density (LBD).

The study, published in the Journal of the American Geriatric Society, also found that bisphosphonates did not alter the risk of hearing loss.

Hearing loss is the third most common chronic health condition in the United States. Previous studies of people with hearing loss have uncovered a higher prevalence of osteoporosis -- a disease in which the bones become weak and brittle -- and low bone density (LBD).

But research on whether these conditions may influence the risk of hearing loss over time is scarce. It is also unknown whether hearing loss can be avoided by taking bisphosphonates, the primary medication used to prevent fractures in people with reduced bone density.

The new research uncovers how women with osteoporosis and low bone density are at increased risk of hearing loss

"Adult-onset hearing loss is typically irreversible; therefore, CHEARS focuses on identifying potentially modifiable risk factors that may contribute to hearing loss," said study leader Sharon Curhan, MD, ScM, of the Channing Division of Network Medicine at the Brigham.

"We were inspired by a recent study that found that bisphosphonates may help prevent noise-induced hearing damage in mice. We wanted to investigate whether bisphosphonates alter risk of hearing loss in adults, in addition to whether there is a longitudinal association between osteoporosis or LBD and risk of subsequent hearing loss," Sharon said. For their analysis, the researchers used data from the decades-long Nurses' Health Study (NHS) and NHS II, two large ongoing prospective cohorts of female registered nurses, established in 1976 and 1989, respectively. The researchers examined hearing loss that was moderate or worse in severity, as self-reported by participants on questionnaires completed every two years. Additionally, they used



the CHEARS Audiometry Assessment Arm to incorporate data on participants' audiometric thresholds (a measure of hearing sensitivity based on the loudness of sound).

In both the NHS and NHS II cohorts, the researchers found that the risk of hearing loss was higher in women with osteoporosis or LBD and that taking bisphosphonates did not moderate the elevated risk. More research is required to understand whether the type, dose or timing of bisphosphonate use might influence its impact.

The researchers found that a history of vertebral fracture was associated with up to a 40 per cent higher risk of hearing loss, but the same did not hold true for hip fractures, the two most common osteoporosis-related fractures.

"The differing findings between these skeletal sites may reflect differences in the composition and metabolism of the bones in the spine and in the hip," Curhan said. "These findings could provide new insight into the changes in the bone that surrounds the middle and inner ear that may contribute to hearing loss."

While the underlying mechanisms by which osteoporosis and LBD may contribute to ageing-related hearing loss remain unclear, the researchers suggest that abnormal bone remodelling and changes in the pathways involved in maintaining bone homeostasis may influence the integrity of the bone that protects the nerves and structures involved in hearing or alter ion and fluid metabolism in the cochlea, the main structure involved in hearing.

Advantages of using data from these well-characterized cohorts include the large study population, extensive array of detailed infor-

mation, impressive follow-up rates and reliable information on health-related outcomes, as the participants are trained health care providers.

However, the researchers note that their study is limited in its generalizability, as participants are predominantly white, with similar educational achievements and socioeconomic statuses. Curhan points out that additional studies that examine these associations in men and non-white women would be informative.

Additionally, the investigators plan to examine in the future whether calcium and vitamin D intake are associated with hearing loss, as they have been shown to help prevent osteoporosis. Previously, the researchers found that eating a healthy diet, staying physically active, not smoking, and maintaining a healthy weight all help reduce the risk of hearing loss.

"Osteoporosis and low bone density may be important contributors to ageing-related hearing loss," Curhan said. "Building lifelong healthy diet and lifestyle habits could provide important benefits for protecting bone and hearing health in the future."

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AWANTIPORA

email : phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com E-NIT S. NO: 10/PHA of 2021-22

E- TENDER FOR

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on Item Rate Basis including the maintenance cost for a period of Three Years which includes 12 months of DLP are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> for the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Superintending Engineer Hyd Circle Puylwama H/Q Shopian and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No:- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Awantipora.

S. No	Name of Work
01	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Electrical/Mechanical Works of WSS Chersoo, WSS Lelhar, WSS Padgampora Dangerpora, WSS Sail Nazbal, WSS Zadipora, WSS Mohanviji, WSS Udaipora Kanilbagh WSS Larmoo Wupalwan (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.

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

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	24	05	2021	09:00 AM
2	Download start date	24	05	2021	09:00 AM
3	Bid submission start date	24	05	2021	09:00 AM
4	Bid submission end date	02	06	2021	4:00 PM
5	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	03	06	2021	11:00 AM

Clubbing Mode:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of TD (in)	Time of completion	Class of Contract
01	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Chersoo (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.	315.207	5500	6 months	Special Class
02	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Lelhar (under JJM). including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.				
03	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Providing/Laying of filter media, Construction of pump shed stage 1st, Surface Drain and Electrical/Mechanical works of Water Supply Scheme Padgampora Dangerpora (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.				
04	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Sail Nazbal (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.				
05	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Face Lifting of Structures & Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Zadipora (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.				
06	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Face Lifting of Structures & Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Mohanviji (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.				
07	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Face Lifting of Structures & Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Udaipora Kanilbagh (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.				
08	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Face Lifting of Structures of Water Supply Scheme Larmoo Wupalwan (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.				

Scheme wise Description:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)
01	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Chersoo (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.	63.33
02	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Lelhar (under JJM). including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.	55.481
03	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Providing/Laying of filter media, Construction of pump shed stage 1st, Surface Drain and Electrical/Mechanical works of Water Supply Scheme Padgampora Dangerpora (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.	45.088
04	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Sail Nazbal (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.	36.26
05	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Face Lifting of Structures & Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Zadipora (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.	34.43
06	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Face Lifting of Structures & Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Mohanviji (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.	32.13
07	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Face Lifting of Structures & Electrical/Mechanical Works of Water Supply Scheme Udaipora Kanilbagh (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.	31.25
08	Providing water supply facilities for the coverage of FHCT including Face Lifting of Structures of Water Supply Scheme Larmoo Wupalwan (under JJM) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes 12 months DLP.	17.238
	Total	315.207

Position of Funds:- Available;

Major Head of Account: Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Position of AAA :- Accorded

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

No :-PHE/AWP/672-88

Dated:- 22.05.2021

DIPK-2010/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
(JSD) PHE Division Awantipora,

DEPTT. OF ISM AYUSH DISTRICT. ANANTNAG ORGANISED A FREE IMMUNO BOOSTING MEDICINES DISTRIBUTED AT POLICE STATION MATTANIN COLLABORATION NGO HUMAN RACE

On the directions of Director Indian Systems of Medicine (AYUSH) J & K & ADMO ISM Anantnag . Free IMMUNO BOOSTING MEDICINES DISTRIBUTED AT POLICE STATION MATTANIN IN COLLABORATION NGO HUMAN RACE, importance of COVID SoPs and vaccination was explained in detail.



DEPARTMENT OF I.S.M AYUSH DISTRICT ANANTNAG ORGANISED A FREE IMMUNO BOOSTING MEDICINES DISTRIBUTED AT GOVT. I.S.M DISPY. SADOORA ANANTNAG

On the Directions of Director Indian Systems of Medicine (AYUSH) J & K & ADMO ISM Anantnag . Free IMMUNO BOOSTING MEDICINES DISTRIBUTED AT GOVT. I.S.M DISPY. SADOORA ANANTNAG, importance of COVID SoPs and vaccination was explained in detail.



J&K TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIO LIMITED

TOURIST RECEPTION CENTRE SRINAGAR

For and on behalf of Managing Director , J&K TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED /e-tenders are invited in two cover system on discount Wise Rate basison unit price for Supply of Commercial LPG(19kg Refilled Gas cylinders)from interested Oil Companies/authorized distributors/dealers FOR at General Store of JKTDC, Tourist Reception Centre Srinagar for Kashmir Division.

E-Tender Notice No: JKTDC/GMO/586-91

Dated:-24/05/2021

S.No	Items of supply	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender documents	Contract period/ Validity of rate	Tender Inviting Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Supply of LPG (19kg.Commercial cylinder.)	Rs.40000/-	Rs. 1000/-	12 months	General Manager (Operations) Kashmir J&K Tourism Development Corporation Limited Srinagar

2. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Criteria, specification, bill of quantities(B.O.Q) Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ download from the departmental Website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	24.05.2021	4.00 Pm
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	25.05.2021	4.00 Pm
3	Bid Submission Start Date	27.05.2021	10.00 Am
4	Bid Submission End Date	08.06.2021	4.00 Pm
5	Deadline for receiving the Hard Copy (Original DD & EMD) with all relevant documents	10.06.2021 up to	4.00 Pm
6.	Opening of Technical Bid. (In case of any untoward situation/Govt. Holiday) The Technical bid will be opened in next working day	12/06/2021 at 11 : Am	In the Office of General Manager (Operations) Kashmir J&K Tourism Development Corporation Limited Srinagar

DIPK-NB-905/21

Sd/-
General Manager (Ops)
Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

Address: Mini Secretariat Ganderbal Tel No. 0194-2416058

Subject:-Inviting of tenders for the works:-

01.Improvement/upgradation of Ranga Baltal road b.w.o Macadamization (Machine Mix Laid with paver) under C&T.
02. Restoration of road from Ranga Junction upto Dumail b.w.o Protection Works (Km 4th to 7th) RD 4000-RD 6200M incl. Construction of Kacha Drain and General Maintenance on road surface from Ranga to Dumail RD 0-6200 for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2021.

Reference : This Office NIT No. 11/2021-22 issued under endorsement No.1798-1807 dated 05-05-2021 & NIT NO,15/2021-22 S.No.2 issued under endorsement No.2123-32 Dated: 18-05-20201.

CANCELLATION NOTICE

The above mentioned works floated for tenders vide this Office NIT No. 's referred to above shall and shall be deemed to have been cancelled abi-nitio till further orders.

No: 2310-19
Dated:24-05-2021

Sd/-
(Er.Zaffar Qureshi)
Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Division Ganderbal

DIPK-2015/21



A SIKH FAMILY MOURNS THE DEMISE of their family member, who died of Covid-19, in Srinagar on Tuesday. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

No Relaxation In Covid Lockdown In Srinagar For Now: Admin

Decision To Be Taken After Consulting All Stakeholders

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ruling out any immediate relaxation in the prevailing COVID-19 restrictions in the district, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz on Tuesday said a decision over any phased lifting of restrictions will be taken in consultation with all stakeholders.

The DC Srinagar said this over the district administration having received a memorandum by the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) over the opening of marketplaces and business establishments in a phased manner.

The same was being examined

and whatever decision is taken, will be taken by the State Executive Committee J&K in consultation with all the stakeholders, DC Srinagar said at Press Enclave Srinagar on the sidelines of a special COVID-19 vaccination drive for journalists.

Although the daily cases in Srinagar have witnessed a relative drop for the past few days, DC Srinagar warned against lowering of guard.

"There are still more than 6000 active cases, so there is no chance of any sort of relaxation in the curfew. We have to follow the SOPs strictly including social distancing, wearing face masks and particularly vaccination," Aijaz said.

He urged the eligible citizens to get the jabs during the ongoing drive.

"Like the first wave, we will also come out of the second COVID-19 wave successfully provided everyone contributes his bit," he said.

The DC Srinagar said that a COVID-19 vaccination drive has been started and priority will be given to the most vulnerable groups including journalists, shopkeepers, vendors, milkmen, vegetable vendors and orphans registered with Social Welfare Department, construction workers and maximum mobility groups, who fall in the age group of 18-45 years.

DC Srinagar Inspects Various Covid-19 Vaccination Sites

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad on Tuesday visited various Covid-19 Vaccination Centers established in Srinagar to inspect the pace of ongoing Covid-19 Vaccination process.

On the occasion, the DC visited District Court Complex Momina-bad Batamalo, Regional Transport Office, Srinagar, Mader-e-Meharban Trust, Miskeen Bagh, Indoor Stadium and took stock of the vaccination process undertaken for beneficiaries within the age group of 18-45 across the district.

While interacting with the Vaccination staff, the DC asked them to ensure smooth conduct of the process. He enjoined upon the Medical and other supporting staff to work with added zeal and dedication for the protection of fellow citizens.He also stressed on strict adherence to the all SOPs related to Covid-19 at these centres.

The DC expressed satisfaction on the overall arrangements for vaccination and the pace of vaccination of the target groups.

He exhorted upon the beneficiaries taking the Covid-19 vaccine shots to follow the Covid Appropriate Behaviours (CABs) even after vaccination so as to keep themselves, their family and the district safe from the infection of



deadly Coronavirus.

Meanwhile, during today's vaccination drive beneficiaries from identified vulnerable groups were inoculated Covid-19 vaccine shots at different vaccination centers.

The beneficiaries who were inoculated Covid-19 vaccine shots today include shopkeepers, Shikara wallas, hotel staff, street vendors, services sector, Barbers, Bakers Meat/Poultry/ Vegetable sellers, Drivers/ Conductors, Lawyers, Journalists; faculty /staff/workers of the Universities/Colleges; Government employees on COVID duty/or in active field, Construction workers registered with Construction Workers Board; Tourism sector workers; people with disabilities, widows/ single mothers, orphans, and persons with comorbid conditions.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Syed Hanief Balkhi, Chief Medical Officer, Srinagar Dr Jameel, and others concerned during the visit.

Div Com Visits SKIMS Bemina, SMHS To Take Stock Of Covid Patient Care

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir Pandurang K. Pole Tuesday visited SKIMS Medical College Hospital, Bemina and SMHS Hospital, GMC Srinagar to take on spot stock of health facilities being provided to the Covid patients in these tertiary care hospitals.

During the visit, the Div Com inspected various Covid designated wards and enquired from the patients about the services being provided to them in these hospitals. He also noticed several shortcomings which were directed to be looked upon at the earliest by the concerned Medical Superintendents.

He instructed the Medical Superintendents to ensure quality care to the patients and also emphasized on rational use of drugs and optimal Oxygen supply to the critically ill patients.

On spot instructions were given for managing the oxygen outlets as per guidelines and as per guidance given in the capacity building trainings. Distribution of Oxygen cylinders should be facilitated in wards with the help of hospital Security Personnel or other law enforcing agencies.

He also stressed upon only one attendant per patient should be allowed to enter the Covid ward after wearing proper PPE kit and strictly adhering to Covid appropriate behaviour and follow infection control measures.

It was pointed out that maintenance of inpatient records along with notes/entries of senior consultants must be checked upon by the concerned nodal officers of these hospitals on a daily basis.

Later, the Div Com chaired a review meeting regarding the Covid-19 mitigation activities in the Kashmir division at Divisional Covid-19 Control Room Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Medical Superintendents and Nodal

officers of Tertiary care hospitals of Kashmir along with Director Health Services Kashmir. The meeting was also attended by Incharge and various senior level officers of Divisional Covid Control Room Kashmir.

The Div Com reviewed the progress achieved in controlling the second wave of Covid-19. During the meeting he stressed upon the optimal usage of RT PCR tests at all these tertiary care hospital laboratories and ensure timely reporting of these tests to the general public.

He also directed the nodal officers that people who wish to travel outside state/ country may be advised to go for RT PCR testing at government designated private labs in order to ease the burden on these over stretched laboratories.

The Div Com stressed upon further augmentation of oxygen supported bed capacity in these hospitals in order to deliver the quality health care to the patients at these tertiary care hospitals. He also directed the concerned officers to ensure oxygen audit in their hospitals. A clear direction was given to Nodal Officers of these hospitals to conduct a mock drill of installed firefighting equipment at their hospitals so that they shall be ready for any untoward mishap.

Regarding BLACK FUNGUS (Mucormycosis) Divisional Commissioner Kashmir directed all Nodal Officers of tertiary care hospitals as well as Director Health Services Kashmir to notify all the suspected and confirmed cases of this disease to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) on daily basis and provide hassle free treatment to these patients at all levels.

During the meeting the Div Com expressed his satisfaction over the streamlining of the patient referral system and also re-emphasized the need of correct, robust and efficient referral system in place.

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 451 - The Battle of Avarayr between Armenian rebels and the Sassanid Empire takes place. The Armenians are defeated militarily but are guaranteed freedom to openly practice Christianity.
- 961 German King Otto II crowned
- 1596 - England, France & Netherlands sign Drievoudig Covenant against Spain
- 1736 - Battle of Ackia (Louisiana), British & Chickasaw Indians defeat French
- 1770 - The Orlov Revolt, a first attempt to revolt against the Turks before the Greek War of Independence ends in disaster for the Greeks.
- 1798 - British kill about 500 Irish insurgents at the Battle of Tara
- 1860 - Giuseppe Garibaldi occupies Palermo, Italy
- 1864 - Battle of Dallas, begins near Paulding County, Georgia (Atlanta Campaign), Union victory (US Civil War)
- 1896 - Last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II, crowned
- 1900 - British troops under Ian Hamilton attack the Vaal in South Africa
- 1942 - Anglo-Soviet Treaty signed in London
- 1945 - US drop fire bombs on Tokyo
- 1946 - Patent filed in US for H-Bomb
- 1961- USAF bomber flies Atlantic in a record of just over 3 hours
- 1966- Guyana (formerly British Guiana) declares independence from UK
- 1969- Apollo 10 astronauts returned to Earth
- 1970- The Soviet Tupolev Tu-144 becomes the first commercial transport to exceed Mach 2.
- 1972- US President Richard Nixon & Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sign SALT accord
- 1980- Soyuz 36 carries 2 cosmonauts (1 Hungarian) to Salyut 6
- 1983- Space Shuttle Challenger moves to launch pad for STS-7
- 1983- NASA launches Exosat
- 1984-US President President Ronald Reagan rules out US military intervention in Iran-Iraq war
- 1987 - Great offensive against Tamil-rebellion in Jaffra Sri Lanka
- 1989 - Danish parliament allows same-sex marriage
- 2004 - The New York Times publishes admission of journalistic failings, claims its flawed reporting and lack of skepticism during buildup to 2003 Iraq War helped promote belief that Iraq possessed large stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction.

Offices Of DDC Chairman, Vice Chairman Inaugurated At Srinagar

SRINAGAR: In order to further strengthen the democracy at grass roots level, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad in presence of Chairman District Development Council(DDC), Srinagar,

Malik Aftab and Vice Chairman of the Council, Bilal Wani today inaugurated the offices of DDC Chairman and Vice Chairman at Harwan here.

Among others, members of District Development Council, Block Development Officer, Srinagar and other concerned were present on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, the DC congratulated the office bearers and members of the Council and assured full cooperation from the district administration. He also expressed full commitment for strengthening the Panchayat Raj Institutions and empowering the people at grass roots level.

He hoped that with smooth coordination between the District Development Council and the administration, the district will witness new heights of socio-economic development and prosperity.

The DC stressed on constituting Panchayat Adalati Committees for timely redressal of local disputes, besides strengthening moral authority of Panchayats.

The DDC Chairman, Malik Aftab thanked the District Administration for providing office accommodation to the Council and lauded its efforts in this regard.

Aftab said that people have a lot of expectations from the Council and sought cooperation from the district Administration to fulfil the same. He also pledged to act as liaison between the public and the government for smooth implementation of developmental schemes.

Meanwhile, the Council members also brought some developmental issues into the notice of the Deputy Commissioner.

The DC gave patient hearing to all the issues projected by them and assured all possible support from the Administration in this regard.

The DC also asked Tehsil-dar concerned to identify land for permanent office building and for a playground for the local youth.

Justice Magrey Visits District Court Complex Srinagar

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Judge for District Srinagar, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey Tuesday visited the District Court Complex Srinagar in connection with a vaccination drive launched for vaccinating lawyers fraternity who are exposed to risk owing to their discharge of professional duties.

Among others, Principal District & Sessions Judge Srinagar Mohammad Akram Chowdhary, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Assad, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Srinagar Athar Aamir Khan, Chief Medical Officer Srinagar were present on the occasion.

At the outset, Justice Magrey kick-started the drive at the District Court Complex. He highlighted the importance of vaccination and impressed upon the lawyers to take maximum benefit of the drive launched for their benefit.

Large number of lawyers got vaccinated on the occasion. Justice Magrey directed ZMO UPHC, who was heading the vaccination team to ensure that all the lawyers are covered in the target of vaccination.

The lawyers applauded the move launched by the High Court in collaboration with District Administration and Municipal Corporation and expressed their gratitude to Justice Magrey, District Administration and all the concerned for taking care and pains for the welfare and wellbeing of the lawyers' fraternity.

Justice Magrey directed the Administration to carry more drives of such nature to cover all the lawyers, staff and all others concerned with the administration of justice. It was further emphasized by the Judge that regular sanitation shall be maintained in and around the Court Complex to prevent further proliferation of COVID-19 virus. The Administrative Judge was accompanied by Joint Registrar (Judicial) Abdul Bari on the occasion.

The Administrative Judge also held interaction with the members of the Bar and discussed various issues raised by the Bar concerning dispensation of justice.

HC Quashes PSA Detention Of Muslim League Leader

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday quashed detention order under Public Safety Act against Muslim League leader Farooq Ahmad Bhat alias Tawheedi, a resident of Tawheed Bagh-Batpora in Sopore in north Kashmir.

His son Irfan Farooq had filed the petition before the high court, seeking quashment of detention order (No. 102/DMB/PSA/2020) of 11 July 2020 passed by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla by virtue of which Tawheedi was booked under Section 13 of the J&K Public Safety Act, 1978.

"The law enjoins upon the detaining authority to be alive to all the facts and circumstances of the case and on application of mind to all those facts and circumstances, the detaining authority has to draw subjective satisfaction that the

detention of the (detainee) becomes imperative," a bench of Justice Javed Iqbal Wani said, adding, "In case all the facts are not brought to the notice of the detaining authority or that the detaining authority is not aware of all the facts and circumstances and without considering the same it derives subjective satisfaction to detain a person, the same would amounts to non-application of mind on its part."

The court observed that there was no denial to the fact by the officials in the reply affidavit that Tawheedi stands released in all the FIRs registered against him.

"Even the order of detention, grounds of detention, so much so the record does not anywhere reveal or suggest that the detaining authority was aware about the fact," the court said after hearing lawyers on both sides.(GNS)

Jammu & Kashmir

Small Scale

Industries Development

Corporation Limited (SICOP)

(A J&K Government Undertaking)

2nd floor, Sanat Ghar building Bemina Srinagar

e-Mail: gmmksicop@gmail.com

Dated: 24-05-2021

CORRIGENDUM

e-NIT No.: 17-SICOP (GMM) of 2021

Dated 02.04.2021 Work Name: - Rate Contract for Green House Hi Mist Chambers.

Due to change in BoQ, the above mentioned e-NIT is retendered.

Sd/-
General
Manager (M&A)
SICOP Kashmir

DIPK-NB-904/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zahoor Ahmed Bhat, S/o late Ghulam Mohammad Bhat now residing at Lane No 2 ,House No 19 Professors Colony Naseem Bagh have lost my driving license bearing No JK01I9760003561, while travelling from Habak to Khan- yar. Now I am applying for the duplicate copy of the same. Anybody having any objection may report to the competent authority within 7 days from the date of publishing of this notice.

Zahoor Ahmad Bhat

Lane No 2, House No 19 Professors Colony Naseem Bagh, Srinagar

Over 500 Democratic Figures Press Biden To 'Hold Israel Accountable'



ARAB NEWS

LONDON: More than 500 Democratic Party staffers and veterans of US President Joe Biden's 2020 campaign have signed an open letter calling for his administration to commit to further action to hold Israel accountable for its actions in the Gaza Strip.

More than 230 Palestinians were killed and dozens of buildings leveled in Gaza during the recent conflict, while 12 Israelis died from rockets fired by Hamas.

The call to Biden, which was signed by both Jewish and Arab Americans, has come amid a deepening split in his party between progressives and centrists, like the president, who have consistently backed Israel in major disputes and conflicts. US public opinion has also steadily become more critical of Israel.

The signatories said they "commend (Biden's) efforts to broker a ceasefire. Yet, we also cannot unsee the horrific violence that unfolded in recent weeks in Israel/Palestine, and we implore you to continue using the power of your office to hold Israel accountable for its actions and lay the groundwork

for justice and lasting peace."

The letter added: "The very same values that motivated us to work countless hours to elect you demand that we speak out ... We remain horrified by the images of Palestinian civilians in Gaza killed or made homeless by Israeli airstrikes."

The signatories said violence from both sides was unacceptable, but Israel should receive more blame due to its greater military power, its ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories and its blockade of Gaza.

"While Israelis had to spend nights hiding in bomb shelters, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip had nowhere to hide," the letter said.

"It is critical to acknowledge this power imbalance — that Israel's highly-advanced military occupies the West Bank and East Jerusalem and blockades the Gaza Strip, creating an uninhabitable open-air prison."

The letter said the Biden administration must "investigate whether Israel's most recent assault on Gaza violates the Leahy Law, prohibiting US military aid from funding foreign military units implicated in the commission of gross violations of human rights."

We Are Aware Of What's Happening In Lakshadweep: Kerala HC



KOCHI: With the Congress-led UDF and the ruling CPI-M led Left in Kerala up in arms over the happenings in Lakshadweep on the actions of the new Administrator of the Union Territory, Praful Patel, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday also came down heavily on the way things are going on there.

While hearing a public interest litigation about the way the actions there have caused issues, Justice Vinod Chandran said that they are aware of what's happening there and they do not have to rely for this on the social media or media reports, instead they have their own way to know things.

The court after hearing the petition stayed the transfer of two assistant public prosecutors from two islands to Kavaratti and asked the administrator to explain why the two were transferred and asked them to return to government service.

The high court sought the details of it from the sub-judge in

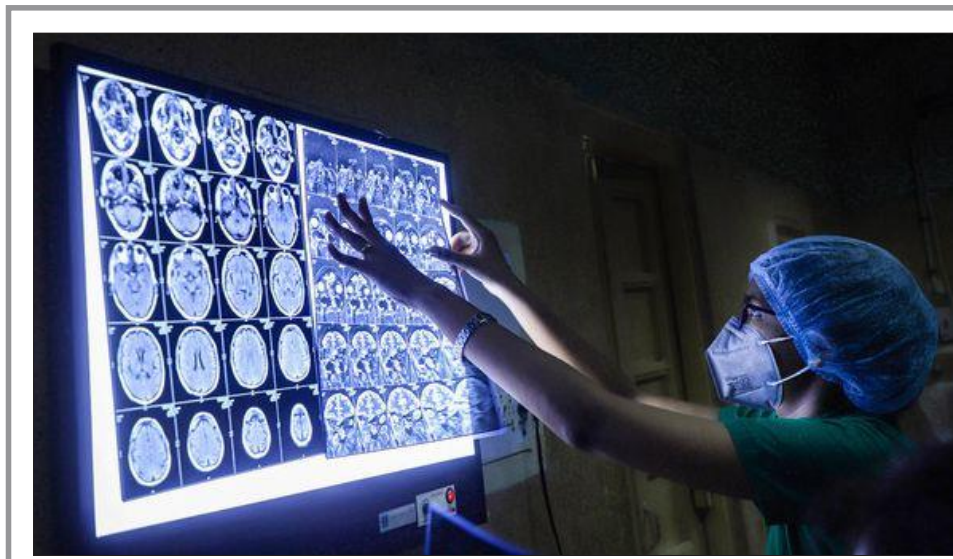
the island and it was after going through this report, the court stayed the transfer.

For the past few days all the top political parties barring the BJP in Kerala are up in arms to the way things are happening under the regime of Patel, a former Gujarat Home Minister.

On Tuesday two time former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy said the peace and tranquillity that has always prevailed in the island has gone for a toss with the arrival of Patel.

"All along the administration was done by an IAS officer and things changed for the worse with the arrival of Patel. The introduction of the Goonda Act at a place like the island, where the crime rate is relatively low and harassing people by using it to take action against those people who protested during the CAA and NRC. Also the way the quarantine rules was imposed there also led to spread of Covid. Also the act of deleting beef from the menu and the revoking of prohibition rules have all caused unrest and these things should not happen," said Chandy.

Meanwhile the new Leader of Opposition in Kerala Assembly VD Satheshaan on Tuesday wrote a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanding that Patel be called back as he has acts have badly affected the islanders.—**IANSA**



BESIDE BLACK FUNGUS CASES, White and Yellow fungus infections too were reported from different parts of the country recently, which scientists say are also mucormycosis. — File Photo

Don't Panic By Colour Of Fungus, Look For Causes, Risks: Experts Advise As Mucormycosis Cases Rise

NEW DELHI: Amid rising mucormycosis cases among Covid patients and those who have recovered from it, epidemiologists Tuesday advised people to not get panicked by the colour of the fungus causing it, and underlined the importance of analysing the kind of infection, its causes and associated risk-factors.

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had said on Monday that 18 states have reported 5,424 cases of mucormycosis, a life-threatening infection, prevalent among Covid-19 patients and those who recovered from the viral disease.

Beside Black Fungus cases, White and Yellow fungus infections too were reported from different parts of the country recently, which scientists say are also mucormycosis.

Dr Samiran Panda, the Head of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said the use of "terms like black, green or yellow fungus" is making people scared and apprehensive.

Also, black fungus getting synonymous with existing mucormycosis is complicating things, he said. "For common people," he told PTI, "I will say not to be driven by panic by colour—black, yellow, white. Let us find what kind of fungal infection is the person infected with as most fungal infections

that cause fatal or severe disease are invasive fungal infection so that can occur when there is reduction or compromise in immunity.

"So basic underlying phenomenon is immunity or the ability to fight the fungal infection," he said.

In Ghaziabad, a person was detected with three variants of the fungus—Black, White and Yellow—on May 24, claimed a doctor of a private hospital who is treating the 59-year-old patient in the NCR city in Uttar Pradesh.

Yellow Fungus has been observed in reptiles, such as lizards, but not in human beings, claimed Dr B P Tyagi, an ENT (Ear, Nose, Throat) specialist at Harsh Hospital in city's Raj Nagar area.

"The patient had come to me with conditions of extreme weakness, giddiness, fever and nasal discharge. The Yellow Fungus was detected during the endoscopy," the doctor told PTI. "This is the first case of a person having three variants of the fungus—Black, White and Yellow," he claimed.

He said the patient, a lawyer by profession, had Covid-19 but was in home isolation and approached the hospital after enduring these problems for eight to 10 days.

"He is under treatment now. There is nothing to worry and the fungus would be removed. Had he come to me after one or two days' only, his problem

would have been resolved by now," Tyagi said.

He said fungi attack people with compromised immunity and in this particular case, his patient is a diabetic.

Asked about the Yellow Fungus case, ICMR's Dr Panda said the specimen has to be studied to ensure it indeed was yellow fungus which is seen in reptiles.

Professor Dr. Giridhara R Babu, the head of Life-course Epidemiology, Indian Institute of Public Health, said it is important to identify the cause and risk-factors associated with fungal infections.

"When a disease such as mucormycosis exists in a community, what kind of investigations are we doing? As an epidemiologist, I am interested in identifying the particular cause of it, then what is the set of causes that will result in a condition like this, the reason it was not seen in the first wave, and it has been seen in the second wave only," he said. Babu also said it needs to be understood why some people are more prone to the fungal infection and what is the reason behind rising cases.

"In the second wave, there are some unusual things happening which were not there in the first wave such as the use of industrial oxygen. There are also variants of coronavirus in the second wave," he said.

Moderna Says Covid Vaccine "Highly Effective" In Adolescents

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON: US biotech firm Moderna said Tuesday that trials had shown its Covid-19 vaccine is "highly effective" in adolescents aged 12-17 and the company would seek regulators' approval in June.

"We are encouraged that mRNA-1273 was highly effective at preventing Covid-19 in adolescents," CEO Stephane Bancel said in a statement.

"We will submit these results to the US FDA and regulators globally in early June and request authorization."

If greenlit, as expected, it would be the second Covid vaccine authorized for use in US adolescents after Pfizer's, which began rolling out this month for 12-to-15-year-olds.

The Moderna study enrolled 3,732 adolescents aged 12 to 17 and randomized, with two-thirds re-



ceiving the two doses of the vaccine and the rest receiving a placebo.

After two doses, no cases of symptomatic Covid-19 were observed in the vaccine group compared to four cases in the placebo group, meaning the shots were 100 percent effective.

Adolescents are less likely than adults to contract the illness.

Therefore the study also examined efficacy according to a more stringent definition of Covid, which requires just one symptom in addition to a positive test.

Under this definition, the vaccine was 93 percent effective after the first dose.

Aid For Rebuilding Gaza Should Not "Benefit" Hamas, Warns Top US Diplomat



Agence France-Presse

TEL AVIV: US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken warned Tuesday that international aid to rebuild Gaza should not benefit its Hamas rulers as he held talks in Israel on firming up a days-old truce.

"We'll work with our partners closely, with all, to ensure that Hamas does not benefit from the reconstruction assistance," Blinken said following talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

Netanyahu warned Israel's response would be "very powerful" if Hamas violated the truce that ended 11 days of conflict with the Gaza militants.

"If Hamas breaks the calm and attacks Israel, our response will be very powerful," the Israeli premier said, following his talks with the US top diplomat.

Blinken, who said earlier his trip would aim to support "efforts to solidify a ceasefire", was scheduled to meet Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas later, though not Hamas, which is blacklisted by Washington as a terror group.

He will then travel on to neighbouring Egypt and Jordan.

US President Joe Biden said Blinken would meet "with Israeli leaders about our ironclad commitment to Israel's security," as well as seeking to rebuild ties with the Palestinians.

Blinken on Sunday reaffirmed US support for a two-state solu-

tion as the only way to provide hope to Israelis and Palestinians that they can live "with equal measures of security, of peace and dignity."

His remarks about "equal measures" for Israelis and Palestinians seemed to shift the tone from Donald Trump's administration, which cut aid to the Palestinian Authority and unveiled a Middle East peace plan with strong Israeli backing but no support from Palestinians.

In Jerusalem Tuesday, he said Israelis and Palestinians faced an uphill struggle to restore trust, after conflict in Gaza and unrest in the West Bank.

"There's lots of hard work ahead to restore hope, respect and some trust across the communities," the US top diplomat said.

"But we've seen the alternative and I think that should cause all of us to redouble our efforts to preserve the peace and improve the lives of Israelis and Palestinians alike."

Israeli air strikes and artillery fire on Gaza killed 253 Palestinians, including 66 children, and wounded over 1,900 people in 11 days of conflict from May 10, the health ministry in Gaza says.

Rocket and other fire from Gaza claimed 12 lives in Israel, including one child and an Arab-Israeli teenager, an Israeli soldier, one Indian and two Thais, medics say. Some 357 people in Israel have been wounded.

US Security Assistance To Pakistan Remains Suspended, Says Pentagon

WASHINGTON: The status of US security assistance to Pakistan that was suspended by the previous Trump administration hasn't changed, the Pentagon said on Monday as US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke to Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and US National Security Advisor Jek Sullivan met his Pakistani counterpart in Geneva.

"At this time, the US security assistance to Pakistan is still suspended. I will not get into speculating one way or another about if or whether that will change going forward," Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby told reporters at a news conference.

He was responding to a question on if the new Biden administration has reviewed the policy in this regard of the previous Trump administration and if there are any changes in it or was this issue on the table during talks with the Pakistani leadership.

Former US president Donald Trump, in January 2018, had suspended all security assistance to Pakistan, arguing that he was not satisfied with the latter's cooperation and role in the fight against terrorism.

Earlier in the day, Austin spoke



with Pakistan's General Bajwa to discuss shared regional interests and objectives, Kirby said.

"During the call, the secretary reiterated his appreciation for Pakistan's support to the Afghanistan peace negotiations and expressed his desire to continue to build on the United States-Pakistan bilateral relationship," he said.

"I reiterated my appreciation for the US-Pakistan relationship and my desire to continue to work together to further regional security and stability," Austin said in a tweet.

A day earlier, Sullivan met his Pakistani counterpart Moed Yusuf in Geneva.

"Both sides discussed a range of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest, and ways to advance practical cooperation. They agreed to continue with the conversation," spokesperson of the National Security Council Emily Horne said.—**PTI**

NEWS MAKERS

Iran's Guardian Council Approves Seven Candidates For Presidential Election

Agencies

Iran's Guardian Council announced the list of approved candidates for the June 18 presidential elections. The seven in the list, leaked earlier this week by Fars News, are almost all conservative or hardline followers.

Although the Guardian Council can disqualify any candidate, Ayatollah Khamenei can ultimately amend the list. While the list has surprised many, the exclusion of former Parliament speaker Ali Larijani, who was seen as a frontrunner and main challenger to Chief Justice Ebrahim Raisi, was expected.

These are the candidates: **Ebrahim Raisi**

Mr Raisi is a hardline conservative and Iran's Chief justice as



well as a potential successor to Ayatollah Khamenei. Mr Raisi ran against current Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in 2017, getting only 38 per cent of the votes.

Mr Raisi has said he will be running as an independent, focusing his campaign on fighting poverty and corruption.

Without the presence of Mr Larijani, Mr Raisi is expected to easily win the election.

Amirhossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi

Mr Hashemi is a hardline candidate and the first deputy speaker of the Iranian Parliament. He has been a vocal critic

of the broader region's efforts to normalise relations with Israel, as well as diplomatic relations with the west.

Mohsen Rezaei
Mr Rezaei is a former commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and is currently Secretary of the Expediency Council. The council is in charge of resolving disputes between parliament and the Guardian Council.

Mr Rezaei has run for president a number of times, starting in 2005, but has been unsuccessful each time.

Mohsen Mehralizadeh
Mr Mehralizadeh has also run for president in the past. In 2005, he ran as a reformist candidate. Mr Mehralizadeh was earlier the Governor of Isfahan province, a part of the Khatami



government as a vice president, and also the head of the National Sports Organisation of Iran.

Saeed Jalili

Saeed Jalili, Iran's former nuclear negotiator during the presidency of Ahmadinejad is a hardliner and extremely close to Ayatollah Khamenei. He,

along with Mr Raisi, is deemed a front-runner. Mr. Jalili is one of the more outspoken hardliner candidates. He is unlikely to foster diplomatic relations with the West, having promised no compromise over Iran's nuclear programme and its involvement in Syria. Mr Jalili would

probably further escalate Iran's stand-off with the US.

Alireza Zakani
Mr Zakani is a senior politician from the more conservative faction of the Principlist camp. He is also the owner of two news websites. Mr Zakani had previously registered to run for president, but had been disqualified by the Guardian Council.

Abolnasser Hemmati
Mr Hemmati is currently part of the Rouhani administration. He is the central bank governor and considered a reform-minded technocrat. He has overseen Iran's central bank during a time when the economy has been under immense pressure from sanctions. He has been a supporter of the ongoing nuclear negotiations.

This Summer, FTII Pune Offering 21 Online Courses For Students

Romaan Arora

SRINAGAR: The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) is starting as many as 21 short summer courses (online) for imparting professional and technical education to the students from June 5 this year.

The Pune-based prestigious institute offers courses in Screenplay Writing, Digital Cinematography, Sound in Cinema, Art Direction & Production Design in Cinema, among others.

"All the popular courses mentioned have a different duration," the FTII said in a statement to Kashmir Observer.

"The longest-running courses such as Screenplay Writing will extend till the 31st of October while the majority of courses will last till mid-July," it added.

While classes for some courses will take place on weekend only, other will be taking place five days a week.

Each of the 21 courses has a different fee structure accord-



ing to the popularity and technicality of the programme.

Another thing to be noted while mentioning the fee is that the total fee for each programme varies for Indians and students applying from outside India, whereas the former will be entitled to a special discounted price for each of the 21 courses.

"The allocation of seats in each of the programmes is subjected to a first come first serve basis," the FTII said. "Hence, interested students are requested to apply to their course of interest as fast as they can, to ensure hassle-free admission into the prestigious and reputed FTII."

White Fungus Could Prove Fatal In Covid-19 Patients: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday said Aspergillus, commonly known as white fungus could be deadly in Covid-19 patients.

"White fungus could be just as fatal as black fungus in Covid-19 patients," said DAK in a statement.

Quoting a study of 186 Covid-19 patients who had Aspergillus, the statement said more than 50 percent of them died and one-third of these deaths were linked to the Aspergillus fungus. Aspergillus is ubiquitous and is found in soil, air and rotting food.

"Despite being common in the environment, it usually does not cause infection in healthy individuals. When the body's defences get weakened, the fungus gets a chance to infect with devastating results," it added.

The statement said Covid depletes immune cells leaving patients vulnerable to opportunistic fungal infection.

"The virus damages the cells lining the lung that impairs the organ's ability to clear out the respiratory pathogens like Aspergillus. Drugs that are used to treat Covid-19 heighten the risk of Aspergillus infection. Use of steroids leaves door open for the fungal infection in Covid-19 patients," it said.



The statement said that after inhaling fungus from the air, the fungal infection goes to the lungs and causes pneumonia.

"The symptoms of Aspergillus include fever, cough and shortness of breath that are similar to Covid-19 which means healthcare professionals don't think of the diagnosis and many patients may be dying undiagnosed," he said.

"A high degree of suspicion should be there for the doctors treating Covid-19 patients because early detection and treatment with antifungal drugs holds the key," it said.

"Recently, in The Lancet, an international group of physicians and medical mycology societies laid down recommendations for diagnosing Aspergillus infections in COVID-19 patients, including doing lung imaging scans and taking samples from the lungs at regular interval for testing. The guidelines will help doctors treating Covid-19 patients know whether they're battling one deadly pathogen, or two," the statement added.



PEOPLE QUEUE UP IN A HEALTHCARE facility to get a jab of Covid-19 vaccine in Srinagar on Tuesday.

MED Increases Oxygen Production Three-Fold To 36000 LPM: Chief Engineer

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir, Rashid Ahmad Dar on Tuesday stated that the Mechanical Department has played a proactive role to make the quantity of oxygen sufficiently available to the hospitals associated with Government Medical College, Srinagar and Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir.

While giving insight about the oxygen supplied to various hospitals during the first phase of Covid Pandemic, he said that during the first phase of pandemic, Oxygen demand in hospitals was less and the department was providing 8000 LPM to the hospitals associated with Director Health Services Kashmir, while Oxygen provided to SKIMS Soura and SKIMS Bemina was 4000 LPM during the same phase.

During the second wave of covid, Oxygen demand has increased due to the surge in positive cases, Chief Engineer, said and added that to increase oxygen production Mechanical Engineering Department has added 21000 LPM of oxygen besides increased its oxygen capacity at SKIMS Soura and JVC Hospital by 3250 LPM.

As of now our capacity of oxygen production stands at 36000 LPM, said CE Rashid Ahmad Dar, which means that the department has increased oxygen supply by three times to the production in first phase.

He further added that the Industries department has revived another filling Plant to



its line which now stands at 05 plants and is now supplying near 3000 oxygen cylinders in last few days.

He stated that it is due to these efforts that medical oxygen is sufficiently available in the hospitals across Kashmir Division and added that due to the abundance of oxygen our hospitals have been able to save lives of patients which has resulted in the decrease in mortality rate.

While expressing satisfaction over the decrease in covid positive cases in Kashmir Division, he said that with the collaboration of Doctors, Medical Staff and by the efforts of Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir would be able to flatten the curve and it is expected that worse phase would be over soon.

He added that due to the proactive measures taken by the department, we have been able to overcome the crisis and

stand in our fight against covid.

Regarding the preparation for the containment of prophesied third wave of covid virus, Chief Engineer said that in coming days more oxygen plants will be installed at different hospitals to increase the capacity of oxygen production to 45000 LPM.

The total potential of oxygen plants installed at Government Medical College And its Associated hospitals stood at 6000 LPM earlier which now stands at around more than 18000 LPM besides 1000 to 2000 LPM oxygen plants have been installed in District Hospitals so that the covid patients don't have to suffer for want of oxygen and reduce the shifting of patients to Srinagar hospitals.

Moreover, he said that oxygen oxygen plants with capacity of 1000 LPM each have been installed in SMHS Hospital Srinagar during last four days. The overall oxygen capacity built by Mechanical Engineering Department at SMHS Hospital has been raised to 5600 LPM.

At Chest Disease hospital 1500 LPM plant was setup in last two days besides 1000LPM oxygen plant at JLNH Hospital.

While explaining the status of oxygen in Kashmir compared with rest of the country, he said Kashmir is the green spot on the map of India, taking the abundance of oxygen in consideration.

As the oxygen demand has reduced comparatively, the Industries department is also providing oxygen cylinders to social organizations who are supplying oxygen to covid patients in home isolation.

RTO Kashmir Seeks Applications For Vanity Numbers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The office of Regional Transport Officer Kashmir as per an official communique has informed the general public that the new Series JK01AP for Registration of Vehicles shall be started from 26 May, 2021.

In this regard, all the desirous applicants are required to submit their applications for Vanity numbers, listed below (Notified by Government Vide Order No:- 19- TR of 1999 dated 26-03-1999 & Transport Commissioners order No. 13 of 2008 dated

07-05-2008) along with the registration files of their vehicles (only approved by the Empowered Standing Committee, (ESC) of UT Transport Authority, J&K to the Regional Transport Officer, Srinagar immediately.

If only a single application is received for any particular Vanity Number, the Number, will be issued or 'first come first serve basis. In case more than one file is received, the vanity/special registration number will be put to ore, auction and the highest bidder will have the claim on that particular registration Number.

Two Arrested Over Accusations Of Rape In Kulgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police Tuesday arrested two persons accused of allegedly raping a girl in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Police in a statement said that a girl (name withheld) approached Police Post Mirbazar with a written complaint stating that she was wrongfully restrained and forcibly raped in a vehicle (Truck) bearing registration No. JK18-9100 on NHW at Nipora near Petrol pump by Mudasir Ahmad Ganie son of Abdul Rashid Ganie, a resident of Banimulla with the help of another person Manzoor Ahmad Naik son of Ghulam Mohd Naik, a resident of Gadool.

It said that on receipt of the

complaint, a case with FIR No. 111/2021 U/S 376, 109 IPC was registered in police station Qazigund and investigation was taken up in an instant manner.

"On tip off, Police party from Police Post Mirbazar led by incharge Police post Mirbazar Sub Inspector Imtiyaz Ahmad under the supervision of SDPO Qazigund Govind Rattan-JKPS was constituted to nab the accused persons," the statement said.

Police added that with all available means and with strenuous efforts, the investigating team arrested both the accused within half an hour after a complaint was received in Police Post Mirbazar and the vehicle used in commission of crime was seized.

Further investigation of the case is in progress, reads the statement.

Four Arrested For Man's Death During Scuffle In Baramulla

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four persons were arrested for allegedly being involved in the death of a man during a scuffle over a land dispute in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Tuesday.

A police spokesman said a complaint was received on Monday that a person identified as Ghulam Din Gazi, a resident of Chakloo in Baramulla, was seriously injured during the fight that broke out between two parties over a land dispute.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of the law was registered and the injured person was shifted to GMC, Baramulla from where he was referred to SKIMS, Soura in Srinagar for further treatment, he said.

The spokesman, however, said Gazi succumbed to his injuries.



Acting swiftly, police arrested four accused persons involved in the crime. They have been identified as -- Ali Mohammad Changa, Jan Mohammad Changa, Ayaz Ahmad Changa and Ulfat -- all residents of Chakloo.

Another accused person involved in the crime is absconding and efforts are underway to arrest him, the spokesman further said.

Police have also seized a tractor from the scene of the crime and further investigation is going on, the spokesman added.

Milestone Stem Cell Transplant Helps Man Beat Rare Disease

Ten Years Of Selfless Service, SKIMS Has Performed Over 70 Such Procedures

Farooq Shah

On a chilly morning of November 16, 2019, Mir Zakir Hussain, 38, from Shelwath, a village to the north of Bandipore district of the Kashmir valley, observed a painless underarm lump. Hussain called his elder brother who, in turn, sought help from one of his acquaintances who knew a technologist in the radiology department of the SKIMS hospital at Soura. The matter was referred to the oncology department. It didn't take too long for the doctors to establish that the growth was an indicator of multiple myeloma, a form of cancer, and the patient required chemotherapy and then a stem cell transplant.

Misguidance complicated the issue

The doctors devised a treatment plan and the patient was immediately put on a standard induction protocol. Meanwhile, desperate and without proper guidance, the family decided to take the patient to the Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai. At the TMH, the waiting for the transplant was nine months which the family could ill afford. The TMH offered another option— Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi. The hospital authorities agreed for the transplant but after a month. The tentative cost of the procedure was put at fifteen lakhs rupees.



SKIMS Cancer Centre

Before the family could think of arranging the money, the pandemic caused by the Corona virus dashed all their plans.

This reporter got in touch with the Director SKIMS, Dr A.G. Ahangar, who advised against taking the patient outside the valley for a treatment that could easily be performed at his hospital.

"Our oncology department is fully equipped to undertake the stem cell transplant and it is a regular exercise at the SKIMS," Dr Ahangar informed. "Under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN), patients are also entitled for a free treatment."

The family, despite these assurances, insisted on having the transplant performed outside the valley and instead of going to Delhi landed at some hospital in Chandigarh. The worsening Covid situa-

tion, however, left the family in lurch and they had to beat a hasty retreat to the valley. SKIMS was the only option left.

Back to the square one

"It is only after being pushed from pillar to post that we finally come to appreciate our own institutions," Prof Gull Mohammad Bhat, who heads the oncology department at SKIMS, said. "Our hospital is among the best in India for such emergencies."

Prof Bhat is a trained Oncology expert from AIIMS New Delhi.

The SKIMS not only welcomed the patient but decided to bear the expenses also. On December 18, 2020, an amount of rupees six lakh was sanctioned in favour of the patient and the transplant date was fixed on December 26.

A team of doctors and paramedics including faculty members namely Dr Syed Nisar Ah-

mad, Dr Mir Mohamad Hussain, Dr Faisal Guru, Dr Saquib Zaffar Bandy, senior residents and nurses under the supervision of Prof. Gull Mohammad Bhat laid out the plan and transplant was performed in January 2021. The patient was retained in the hospital for a month and finally discharged in a healthy condition. He is currently on a follow up and is doing good.

A decade of selfless service

Hussain's successful transplant is a result of the hard work and perseverance of the SKIMS' oncology department that has tirelessly been working for well over a decade now.

Stem cell and bone marrow transplants are transforming medicine and with it the lives of increasing numbers of patients with life threatening illnesses are saved daily.

"It is now nearly 10 years since the first successful stem cell transplant was performed at SKIMS," Prof Bhat informed. "A 52 year old male patient from south Kashmir's Anantnag District required a transplant for a type of relapsed cancer called multiple myeloma."

A retired bank employee, the patient is hale and hearty cherishing his life to the fullest after his superannuation.

The department has successfully performed similar transplants in more than seventy patients involving different cancers like multiple myeloma, non Hodgkins lymphomas, Hodgkins



Medical Oncology and Stem Cell/Bone Marrow Transplant Team

“IT IS ONLY AFTER BEING PUSHED FROM PILLAR TO POST THAT we finally come to appreciate our own institutions. Our hospital is among the best in India for such emergencies,” Prof Gull Mohammad Bhat.

lymphoma, Acute leukemia, neuroblastoma etc. Both autologous and allogenic transplants are performed at SKIMS with highly satisfied success rates.

The department has the distinction of performing the first haploidentical transplant in a case of relapsed acute myeloid leukemia which is performed at few designated centers in India.

The department is, however, grappling with many issues that impede its smooth functioning in more than one way.

"The incumbent director, Prof Ahangar, has been keen to see the department run as per

the required standards," Prof Bhat said. "The department is still struggling with arranging finances and has many logistical issues to tackle."

One of the most pressing issues, Prof Bhat said, was providing a separate and fully equipped unit for the stem cell and bone marrow transplant under the medical oncology in the state cancer institute.

"We're in a dire need of doctors, nurses, technicians and laboratory technicians besides providing the facility for HLA matching, cryopreservation, liquid nitrogen and other require-

ments," Prof Bhat added.

A centrally funded project by the GOI for SKIMS, the state cancer institute has a separate BMT Unit under the Oncology department with fixed budgetary allocations.

"We request the administration to designate a separate unit of stem cell and bone marrow transplant under the department of medical oncology as per the GOI guidelines for the cancer institute," Prof Bhat said.

Note: The name of the patient in the story has been changed to preserve his identity.

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K O V I E W

Cherry, strawberry season

In a statement during the lockdown in May last year, fruit growers of Kashmir made a fervent appeal to people of the Valley to consume the local cherries and strawberries in the absence of the transport to ferry these to markets outside the union territory. A similar situation confronts the cherry and strawberry farmers this year too. It is May again, the cherry and strawberry season, and the Valley again is under the Covid-19 lockdown. The farmers are again looking vainly for consumers. Incidentally, this year there has been a bumper strawberry crop.

In recent years, strawberry has emerged as a cash crop in the Valley with many vegetable farmers having switched to strawberry cultivation. But the successive lockdowns during the last two years have hit the consumption of the crop leading to loss to the farmers.

The fruit industry is one of the sectors that has been impacted the most. Horticulture which is spread across 1.87 lakh acres of land earns about Rs 6500 crore for the region. But the lack of labour to pick the crop and absence of transportation led to a significant amount of produce rot on the trees. According to an estimate, 80,000 metric tons of apple had to be stored under Controlled Atmosphere storage last year.

Though cherry and strawberries are a small component of the horticulture produce, it is a highly perishable fruit. Kashmir produces 13000 to 15000 metric tons of cherry and it is worth Rs 150 crore in the market. With mandis and markets closed due to lockdown, the farmers fear that the fruit could go waste causing a huge loss. Cherry is the first crop of Kashmir's horticulture sector and its harvesting begins from mid-May. Strawberry is another delicate fruit that has been hit. Grown over a limited land, most of it at the village Ghoso on the outskirts of Srinagar, Kashmir produces 400 metric tons of the fruit. With a shelf life of just two to three days, the farmers are struggling to sell it. But the cherry and strawberries are currently being harvested and the farmers, as a result, are a worried lot.

However, the administration's decision to allow the movement of the produce in fruit mandis has raised the hopes of farmers. They are hopeful that this would provide them access to the market, just what they need this time to find consumers. The administration, on its part, needs to move quickly to facilitate the transportation of the crop. Last year, the farmers had suffered a huge loss. Here is hoping they make the profit this year.

OTHER OPINION

On Gol's directive to Twitter

The Government of India's directive to microblogging platform Twitter that it remove the label 'manipulated media' from certain posts shared by functionaries of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including Union Ministers, has no legal leg to stand on.

Twitter has not complied with the Centre's directive, and at least six handles of BJP functionaries now have posts with the tag 'manipulated media'. The reasoning behind the directive, in the absence of any legal provision to cite, by the Government of India is baffling. It has argued that the labelling was a "prejudged, prejudiced and a deliberate attempt to colour the investigation by local law enforcement agency". By this metric, a private company must allow what it has determined as problematic content, until a state agency concurs. Twitter has a publicised policy that it may label tweets that include media that have been deceptively altered or fabricated. It could use its own mechanism or use third party services to make that determination. Twitter is a private entity whose relationship with users is guided by its terms of services. The IT Act that empowers the government to regulate content does not give it the power to order the removal of a label. Additionally, the government move raises serious concerns regarding arbitrary censorship and transparency. The Centre's desperation to control any discussion on its failures, and shift the focus on to the Opposition is leading to such situations that embarrass a democracy. Rather than intimidate a private company, the BJP and the Centre should discipline its functionaries into more civility and truthfulness in their engagement with critics.

The Hindu



Axed in Vain

Hundreds of Green Trees Axed for a Non-existent Hospital

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

There is a famous Urdu couplet na khuda hi milaa na visle-sanam na idhar ke hue na udhar ke hue. The literal meaning of this couplet is:

I could attain neither God nor union with my beloved. I am neither here nor there, I am left high and dry.

I relate this couplet with the residents of Reshipora village in Budgam as they were promised a makeshift COVID 19 hospital in the village for which they sacrificed hundreds of green trees in the village in the hopes that they would get an alternate benefit. But that didn't happen at all. The villagers got nothing in return except an environmental catastrophe and ecological devastation.

People of Reshipora had been promised that a 500 bed makeshift COVID 19 hospital would come up in their village. In fact, the work was also started but within a week or so the work was suddenly stopped and the project was shifted to some other location in Srinagar outskirts. The reason cited by district administration for shifting the project to Srinagar district is ridiculous. They claim that land in Reshipora was not feasible for hospital construction. Then why did they axe thousands of trees before conducting the necessary soil tests in the area?

Background

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had sponsored the construction of the 500 bedded COVID 19 makeshift hospital in Reshipora for which district administration Budgam had identified 75 kanals (8.5 acres) of village common land. When the residents came to know that land was required for a hospital, they didn't create any hindrance for the local administration in spite of the fact that their sheep and cattle were directly dependent on this land for fodder. The land was also used as a playground by local youth. The ground clearance work began around May 1st with construction of an approach road over an irrigation canal. This was followed by axing of more than 2500 green trees which included willows, poplar and kicker trees.

The project is a joint initiative between the J & K Government and DRDO. Around May 15th, the Government suddenly decided to construct this hospital in Khonmoh area south-east of Srinagar. The Budgam district administration told locals that soil test done in Reshipora was not favourable and thus Govt had decided not to go ahead with this project in the village. This infuriated the local residents. After some days the district administration issued a written communication requesting the Government to set up a new district hospital building at Reshipora as the existing district hospital building was too small.



Before

Trees axed before conducting soil tests

The Soil testing is primarily done to test the bearing capacity. The chemical and physical composition of the soil is checked during this process. The soil must have the ability to withstand the weight of the building. Quality of soil not only determines the bearing capacity but it ensures the structure stabilization. Quality of Soil depends upon various factors such as weather, climate change and for the past years the land was deployed for what purpose and what was there previously. The length and depth of the pillar determined during the foundation depending upon the quality of soil. The water level of the soil only can be determined from soil testing. Based on the soil testing reports quality of material can be decided. For example if due to moisture the area is prone to corrosion then it is important to choose only corrosion resistant TMT bars for the construction. Soil test is a very important step of construction before it begins.

In the case of proposed hospital construction at Reshipora Budgam, the DRDO had been planning to construct prefab buildings. Even if they had plans to construct a multi storey concrete building in the area, the soil testing could have been done even without axing a single tree. An estimated 2500 plus trees have been axed in the area, locals told this author. Some local youth counted the number of stumps for several hours and found around 3500 trees have been felled in the area. I was told that around 500 or more trees were axed in the recent past during laying of a high voltage transmission line and around 2500 trees were axed recently to pave a way for construction of the DRDO hospital in the area. I believe the issue related to negative soil tests is not correct at all. Had that been so, the Government could have made the report public. Secondly, the District administration would not have written a letter to the Govt requesting to construct a new district hospital building on the same land.

The construction of the proposed COVID 19 makeshift hospital in Khonmoh area was the government's afterthought. The local residents were made scapegoats. The district administration in order to calm down the angry residents of Budgam dispatched an official letter addressed to the Financial Commissioner Health and Medical education. The letter No: DDCB/ Dist Hospital / 1725-29 Dated: 20.05.2021 signed by Deputy Commissioner Budgam has requested Government to give its green signal for construction of a 300 bedded hospital at Reshipora for which PWD (R&B) had submitted a detailed proposal for Rs 109.57 crores before Directorate of Health Kashmir.

Monetary value of a tree

A Supreme Court-appointed technical committee has estimated the value of a matured tree at Rs. 74,500 multiplied by its age. This has generated hope among affected people whose fruit or non-fruit trees are axed during the land acquisition process by the Government. The technical committee's report will help frame the guidelines on the valuation of trees that will be axed during the construction of any developmental project. The panel of experts told the Supreme Court bench in February this year headed by ex Chief Justice SA Bobde that a heritage tree—a large tree that takes decades or centuries to mature—serves society as well. Cost of trees used to be valued on fruits and timber in the past but now it is also valued on the basis of the oxygen, micro-nutrients, compost, and bio-fertilizer it releases into the earth and air. This report will help the affected people, especially the farmers and orchardists,



After

whose priceless trees are axed for construction of Govt buildings, roads and other projects.

The residents of Reshipora are also planning to approach authorities or even the judiciary and demand fair compensation for the huge number of trees that were felled by the Government in their village.

"We will approach forums like the higher judiciary or National Green Tribunal (NGT) to get justice. The way 2500 trees were axed in our village in return of disaster and devastation, we can't remain mute spectators. We will fight the authorities legally," said Munawar Hussain, a local social activist who is a climate change fellow as well.

In the past also the Government has paid very meager compensation to orchardists of Budgam and Srinagar during construction of the Srinagar Semi Ring Road project. The assessment for fruit trees is made as per rates applicable 26 years back which haven't been revised till date.

"Why is the government giving us compensation as per the 1995 rate? Will Secretary Horticulture or Agriculture, J&K government, or the Agriculture Minister of India agree to take a salary which used to be given to officers or ministers in 1995? They won't agree I am sure, how can they expect us to accept this paltry compensation of Rs. 16 per kg for apples when the same is sold at Rs. 60 to 70 per kg in the wholesale market?" said Bashir Ahmad an orchardist from Wathoora Budgam whose fruit trees are coming under alignment of Srinagar Semi Ring Road

Locals aghest

The local residents are aghest against the Government's hasty decision to axe more than 2500 green trees in Reshipora. Google earth images of the affected site before axing of trees and after have become viral on social media. The local youth especially are uploading photos and videos of the vandalized site and criticizing the Government especially the district administration Budgam. Former Minister in Omar Abdullah's cabinet who has been a legislator from Budgam assembly segment Aga Syed Ruhullah also criticized the Govt for shifting makeshift hospital to Khonmoh. Syed Gazanffar Ali Rizvi a resident of Budgam in his tweet said "If this is not an environmental disaster, what is it? These lush green trees were the lungs of our area. We are really disheartened"

Kifayat Hussain another young man from Budgam in his tweet said "World is stressing on plantation drive to keep environment healthy while as Budgam administration has mercifully destroyed green cover at Reshipora"

Conclusion

Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Shahbaz Mirza while talking to a Jammu based newspaper daily excelsior on May 15th said that Reshipora site was not feasible for the construction of COVID 19 hospital. He added that due to poor soil condition and marshy land, it was difficult to construct the makeshift hospital in the timelines as it required major time-consuming efforts for the construction of foundation etc. This is a well understood point. The question is if the site was not feasible or the land was marshy why didn't the DC get the soil testing done before May 2nd? Why did he allow axing of such a huge number of green trees in Reshipora. If the land in Reshipora is not feasible for construction of a makeshift hospital, then why did the Deputy Commissioner recommend for construction of a 300 bedded district hospital? It seems the district administration is completely confused over this issue. These are the major administrative lapses which only depicts administrative incompetence and ineptitude of district administration Budgam. Government has to be answerable for this environmental disaster.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder and Chairman of J&K RTI Movement and Anant Fellow for Climate Action

An Open Letter to my Mom

Ever since you left this unbloomed flower too soon, I have been in desperate need of my father's and siblings' love — the warmth of my home. This neediness had me weep my heart out in washrooms. There were moments here when I felt totally torn. I was only alive in name and yet there never seems to be anyone I could pour my heart out to



Faizaan Bashir

Dearest Mom,

I wish I could go back in time and leave this world with you. Ever since you shuffled off this mortal coil, I have been subjected to so many painful occurrences. All of what I have been going through stems from the day that my aunt adopted me. Not that I didn't get love and care from her, but the soul-shattering feelings of being separated from my father and siblings never let me live happily; not even a day. My aunt told me that my father was my uncle. But how could I have accepted it as truth when the blood that runs in my veins clamoured otherwise? Mom, I remember the amount of happiness that I felt when my

father and siblings paid me a brief visit and can't shrug off the memory of the sadness that met me when they used to say a goodbye. I had my own ways of keeping them near. I kept the clipped nails of my brother to hug them when I was back at my aunt's.

Mom, people have never been kind to me. Unless I put on a face full of gloom, I was an infirm insect to be stepped on and I never dared to stand up for myself. Doing things in my favor felt too dreadful an experience. Thus, I let them swallow my passive little soul.

Ever since you left this unbloomed flower too soon, I have been in desperate need of my father's and siblings' love — the warmth of my home. This neediness had me weep my heart out in washrooms. There were moments

here when I felt totally torn. I was only alive in name and yet there never seems to be anyone I could pour my heart out to.

Mom, one day I was traveling to see my siblings but the car broke down en route and I cried like a baby. I am afraid to recall my experiences because they bring back the horrors I'd been subjected to and I am not strong enough to stand them.

As years wore on, my mental health took a turn for the worse. Brimming with zillions of nasty emotions threatening my life, I started drawing on cigarettes. This has made me weak beyond words. But I am afraid nothing seems to be helping me.

I have never been to college in three years. Everything scares me and it feels as if I am losing everyone. I even went to doctors to wipe out this pitiless beast that resides deep within me but it knocks on my door even after I knock it off.

I have grown too weak on the inside — at times I become dangerously suicidal. Then I gaze at my hands and my conscience curses me right away. But I am in pain. In terrible pain!

Mom, I have never seen you, not even in my dream but I am in terrible need of your blessings.

Your son,
Faizaan

*The content of the article is the author's own responsibility alone.
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Avoid Self Medication

Dr. RAIES AHMAD

What Is Self Medication ?

It is a human behavior in which an individual uses a substance for any ailment without a doctor's consultation or prescription. Self medication has many forms such as self-medication using caffeine, self-medication using alcohol, and self medicating with food. Self-medication does not necessarily mean purchasing non prescribed medicines, but it also refers to self medicating oneself over food or any other substance.

According to W.H.O, Self-medication is utilization of drugs to treat self-diagnosed symptoms or disease, irregular or continuous use of prescribed drugs for repeated or chronic disorders or symptoms.

Self Medication involves acquiring medicines without a prescription, resubmitting old prescriptions to purchase medicines, sharing medicines with relatives and friends, using leftover medicine, failing to comply with the professional prescription either by prolonging in or stopping it. There can be various reasons which may compel a person to opt for self medication like saves time, saves money, no trust on prescriber, past experience, avoids hassles, minor illness etc.

Most common drugs used for self medication are pain killers, antipyretics, antibiotics, gastrointestinal drugs, respiratory drugs, anti hypertensives, thyroxine, tonics, anti diabetics, anti allergics etc. Such drugs are used for various common ailments like headache, fever, backache, trauma pain, nausea, vomiting, sore throat, stomach pain, constipation, cough, breathlessness, common cold, sore throat etc.

Factors Influencing Self Medication :

- Patient satisfaction with health care providers
- Socioeconomic factors
- Cost of the drugs
- Education level
- Gender
- Age

Common sources of advice on Self Medication :

- Pharmacist
- Friends
- Family members
- Internet
- Self guessing
- Social Media
- Television, Radio, Newspaper advertisements

Dangers of Self Medication :

- Adverse drug reactions
- Antibiotic resistance
- Inaccurate dosage that may lead to accidental overdose
- Under dosage
- Misdiagnosis
- Habituation
- Masking the side effects of serious conditions
- Delaying medical advice
- Risk of abuse
- Drug interactions

Self Medication can be minimized or stopped by :

- Awareness and Education
- Proper statutory drug control to ensure that drugs are supplied by a chemist on valid prescription only
- Strategies to make receiving health care easier
- Strict rules regarding pharmaceutical advertisements

The author is the HOD at KTC Hospital & Research Centre, Kashmir



The 7 lamps of living

In that spirit, if someone were to put a gun to my head and say, "Give me the seven keys to the life well-led or else!", this is what I'd say.

The life well-led includes working diligently and ethically. Anathema would be people who make the least effort they can get away with and who cut ethical corners, both in professional and personal life. The good news is that responsibility doesn't require people to choose a career they find difficult



be worth considering.

Responsibility is key

The life well-led includes working diligently and ethically. Anathema would be people who make the least effort they can get away with and who cut ethical corners, both in professional and personal life. The good news is that responsibility doesn't require people to choose a career they find difficult. Rather, a responsible, contributory career builds on natural strengths and acquired knowledge, thus making the career not too difficult.

Treasure time

It's cliché but true that time is our most valuable and ever evaporating possession. And while nearly everyone agrees with that statement, some people waste so much time, for example, hours each day on puerile TV or video games or shopping until they're dropping. The life well-led includes spending much time making a difference, however you define it. To that end, until it's habitual, when deciding whether and how to do spend a chunk of time, you might ask yourself, "Is this a good use of time?"

Communicate effectively

Communication is more difficult than many people think.

Listening requires attention to what's said, what's underneath, deciding whether to stay focused on what the person is saying or if you can think ahead to what you'll say in response, when to be blunt and when to be tactful (usually), and whether to interrupt (usually not.)

Speaking requires concision, weighing what your listener(s) wants and needs to know, and as appropriate, using ethical tools of persuasion, for example, valid logic, statistics, anecdotes, ex-

amples, and analogies.

Act

Many people ruminate excessively, letting fear of failure blind them to the wisdom of taking at least low-risk actions, which usually yield more success or at least lessons that can be applied later.

Balance gratitude with striving

Too much gratitude causes inertia while too much striving can sacrifice ethics. Balance is required. For example, the fundraiser who is living the life well-led works hard to raise money for a worthy organisation but doesn't push unduly: exaggerate the likely benefits of a donation nor push potential donors beyond what they can comfortably afford—even it that means s/he doesn't win "fundraiser of the month."

Grow

No, it's not necessary to ever plod on the educational treadmill, but part of the life well-led is to spend a reasonable amount of time continuing to learn what's important, ideally in pleasant ways. For example, the aforementioned psychotherapist might want to start or join a patient review group. All of us can distract ourselves from maddening traffic by listening to a career-related or personal-growth audiobook. Or would you enjoy taking a course, in-person as Covid lifts, or online? Tens of thousands of courses on every imaginable topic, most with syllabi and student reviews, are searchable on websites such as udemy.com, coursera.org, and linkedinlearning.com.

Khaleej Times

Marty Nemko

Something as complex and individualised as the life well-led cannot be reduced to seven keys or even 50 keys.

That said, amid our information overload, such lists may have value, if only as a starting place for our contemplating how to live our lives.

One minute around the Atlantis - The Palm - Dubai

In that spirit, if someone were to put a gun to my head and say, "Give me the seven keys to the life well-led or else!", this is what I'd say.

Decide cosmically

It's not enough to follow the rules or even decide whether to keep or break a rule to take care of family. The life well-led involves striving to make cosmically wise decisions, that is, decisions that will do the most good for the most people without violating an individual's fundamental right, for example, the right to not be killed. (I'll leave the death penalty issue for another day.)

For example, let's say you're a psychotherapist and your client is considering divorce. You've asked all manner of questions to help the client decide. But after that, the client insisted: "No! Tell me what you think." The therapist who decides to answer should consider not just what's best for the client but for the spouse, kids, and perhaps surprising, society. Let's say the spouse is a medical researcher with the potential to save many lives but is an emotionally fragile person who, in a divorce, would be devastated, likely requiring a long time to recover, and therefore do a worse job at work. That could

Weight gain or loss not impacted by built environments: Study

Agencies

The findings of a new study led by the University of Washington suggest that people don't gain or lose weight because they live near a fast-food restaurant or supermarket. It found living in a more "walkable", dense neighbourhood likely only has a small impact on weight.

The study was published earlier this month in the International Journal of Obesity. These "built-environment" amenities have been seen in past research as essential contributors to losing weight or tending toward obesity.

The idea appears obvious: If you live next to a fast-food restaurant, you'll eat there more and thus gain weight. Or, if you have a supermarket nearby, you'll shop there, eat healthier and thus lose weight. Live in a neighborhood that makes walking and biking easier and you'll get out, exercise more and burn more calories.

The new study based on anonymized medical records from more than 100,000 Kaiser Permanente Washington patients did not find that living near supermarkets or fast-food restaurants had any impact on weight. However, urban density, such as the number of houses in a given neighborhood, which is closely linked to neighborhood "walkability" appears to be the strongest element of the built environment linked to change in body weight over time.



"There's a lot of prior work that has suggested that living close to a supermarket might lead to lower weight gain or more weight loss, while living close to lots of fast-food restaurants might lead to weight gain," said James Buszkiewicz, lead author of the study and a research scientist in the UW School of Public Health.

He added, "Our analyses of the food environment and density together suggests that the more people there are in an area -- higher density -- the more supermarkets and fast-food restaurants are located there. And we found that density matters to weight gain, but not proximity to fast food or supermarkets. So, that seems to suggest that those other studies were likely observing a false signal."

The UW-led study found that people living in neighborhoods with higher residential and pop-

ulation density weigh less and have less obesity than people living in less-populated areas. And that didn't change over a five-year period of study.

"On the whole, when thinking about ways to curb the obesity epidemic, our study suggests there's likely no simple fix from the built environment, like putting in a playground or supermarket," said Buszkiewicz, who did his research for the study while a graduate student in the UW Department of Epidemiology.

Rather than "something magical about the built environment itself" influencing the weight of those individuals, Buszkiewicz said, community-level differences in obesity are more likely driven by systematic factors other than the built environment -- such as income inequality, which is often the determining factor of where people can afford to live and

whether they can afford to move.

"Whether you can afford to eat a healthy diet or to have the time to exercise, those factors probably outweigh the things we're seeing in terms of the built environment effect," he said.

The researchers used the Kaiser Permanente Washington records to gather body weight measurements several times over a five-year period. They also used geocodable addresses to establish neighborhood details, including property values to help establish socioeconomic status, residential unit density, population density, road intersection density, and counts of supermarkets and fast-food restaurants accessible within a short walk or drive.

"This study really leverages the power of big data," said Dr. David Arterburn, co-author and senior investigator at Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute. "Our use of anonymized health care records allows us to answer important questions about environmental contributions to obesity that would have been impossible in the past."

This study is part of a 12-year, joint UW and Kaiser Permanente Washington research project called Moving to Health. The goal of the study, according to the UW's project website, is to provide population-based, comprehensive, rigorous evidence for policymakers, developers and consumers regarding the features of the built environment that are most strongly associated with risk of obesity and diabetes.

Study suggests stair climbing offers cardiovascular, muscular benefits for heart patients

Agencies

A new study has found that stair climbing provides significant cardiovascular and muscular benefits for heart patients.

The findings of the study were published in the journal Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise.

A team of McMaster University researchers who studied heart patients found that stair-climbing routines, whether vigorous or moderate, provide significant cardiovascular and muscular benefits.

The findings addressed the most frequently cited barriers to exercise: time, equipment and access to gym facilities.

"Brief, vigorous stair-climbing and traditional moderate intensity exercise both changed fitness, which is a key predictor of mortality after a cardiac event," said Maureen MacDonald, one of the lead researchers on both studies and a professor in McMaster's Department of Kinesiology.

"We've shown stair-climbing is a safe, efficient and feasible option for cardiac rehabilitation, which is particularly relevant during the pandemic when many people don't have the option to exercise in a gym," added MacDonald.

While it is widely known that exercise and lifestyle changes reduce the risk of secondary cardiovascular disease, statistics suggest less than a quarter of all cardiac patients adhere to fitness programs.

Researchers worked closely with the Cardiac Health and Rehabilitation Centre at the Hamilton General Hospital to develop an exercise protocol that did not require specialized equipment or monitoring and could be easily performed outside a laboratory.

Participants with coronary artery disease who had undergone a cardiac

procedure were randomly assigned either to traditional moderate-intensity exercise or vigorous stair climbing: three rounds of six flights of 12 stairs, separated by recovery periods of walking, with participants selecting their own stepping pace.

Researchers compared the results and found that individuals who had done traditional exercise and those who



had done stair-climbing both increased their cardiorespiratory fitness after four weeks of supervised training and maintained those levels for an additional eight weeks of unsupervised training.

They also reported substantial muscular improvement.

"These patients who had undergone a coronary bypass or stent procedure had muscle that was compromised, compared to age-matched healthy controls," explained Stuart Phillips, a co-author of the studies and a professor in the Department of Kinesiology at McMaster who oversaw the analysis of muscle tissue taken during the study.

Previously, there had been very few studies of the impact of exercise on cardiac patients' muscle specifically. This analysis shows heart patients can still repair and build lost muscle.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (JSD) PHE. DIVISION, PULWAMA

email : xenphepulwama@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT S.No. 15/PHEP of 2021-22 (SHORT)

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) (Short) e-tenders in single cover system are invited on Item Rate Basis from Registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Estd Cost (in lacs)	Cost of TD (in)	Time	Class of Contract	Programme
1	Shifting of PHE utilities along Kakapora to Padagampora Road from main market upto Lehhar Bridge Under widening of road by PMGSY	18.07	800	30 days	B & C	Deposit contribution

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below:-

S. No.	Description	DD	MM	YYYY	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	25	05	2021	1000 Hrs
2	Download start date	25	05	2021	1000 Hrs
3	Bid submission start date	25	05	2021	1000 Hrs
4	Bid submission end date	31	05	2021	1400 Hrs
5	Bid opening date	01	06	2021	1000 Hrs

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".
- To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (as mentioned in above table Column (4) in shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama (Tender inviting authority) under MH 0215 PHE (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) and Bid Security Declaration: Bidder to sign "Bid Security Declaration" (on Affidavit duly attested) (As per Appendix-I)
- Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in SINGLE COVER containing documents as under:
 - i) Scanned copies of Treasury Challan/Receipt and Bid Security Declaration
 - ii) Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.
 - iii) Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration.
 - iv) Rates submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- The original instrument in respect of Treasury Receipt and relevant attested copies of Technical Bid Documents as specified above must be submitted by Lowest Bidder (L1) to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama by hand or by speed/registered post before the allotting of work or as and when demanded. If the bidder fails to produce the same within the prescribed time period, he will be debarred from taking part in tendering process in this division for at least two years.
- No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The bid shall be deposited in electronic format only on the web site of (jktenders.gov.in) till the end date mentioned in bid submission.
- The bid(s) shall be opened online on above mentioned date or any other subsequent date in presence of the tender opening committee to be constituted by the competent authority.
- No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours.
- Videography record through the professional person before, during & after construction and progress reports in soft copies and hard copies for works register & office record. Taking levels by Auto Level / ETS before and after execution. Preparation of work abstract of executed work, preparation of Bills. The information and data stated and incorporated in tender document elsewhere is for the General guidance only and may vary as a result of more detailed construction drawings and as per site requirements.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason whatsoever claimed by the bidder

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days only.
- The successful tenderer shall have to arrange, construct and maintain at his own cost necessary walkways, platform, ladders, stairways, water and other facilities of usual and suitable character for all operations of construction and inspection.
- As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder it is mandatory for him to enter into an agreement with the department. No departmental material shall be issued from stores in absence of agreement being drawn. However, non-draw of agreement will not prevent the contract from being enforced upon him.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited and debarring the contractor for next two years in respect of further competing the contractor in PHE Department without assigning any notice to the contractor, if
 - a) Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
 - b) The Successful contractor fails to execute an agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
 - c) The successful bidder fails to start the work within one week from date of fixation of contract.
- The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- Any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to incessant/ torrential rains /heavy snowfall/ cyclone/ flood etc. shall be the responsibility of the bidder until the work is finally handed over to the PHE Department.
- The taxes etc. shall be deducted from the bidders claim as admissible under rules.
- The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities). In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same nomenclature as it contains.
- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to the complete execution of work unless otherwise specified.
- In case the bidder does not quote rate for any item/items, the same shall be taken as free of cost for all purposes and nothing extra shall be considered for working out total contract value on this account.
- The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of letter of intent/contract allotment as the case may be.
- Performance guarantee 3% of allotted cost in form of CDR/FDR/DD/BG shall be submitted before the allotment is issued which will be released after successful completion of the work, certificate of which shall be issued by the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer.
- Beside the Performance Security, Security Deposit 10% from each payment shall be deducted from all the running bills of contractors. Performance Security and Security Deposit shall not bear any interest.
- The final payment of the work will be made only after successful completion. If any defect is found, the contractor will be bound to repair the same at his own risk & cost.
- Penalty of delay on account of contract: In case of delay not justified and caused due to the fault of the contractor, the penalty at a reasonable rate not exceeding 10% of the contract of work shall be enforced.
- The contractor shall be deemed to have satisfied himself before tendering as to the correctness and sufficiency of his tender for the works and of the rate quoted, which shall cover all his obligations under the contract and all matters and things necessary for the proper completion and maintenance of the works including defective liability period.
- Before submitting the tender, the tenderer will be deemed to have satisfied himself by his actual inspection of the site, climatic condition records from government and/or Indian Meteorological Department and the locality of the works that all conditions liable to be encountered during execution of the works are taken into account and that the rates quoted by the tenderer in the tender schedule are adequate and all-inclusive for the completion of works to the entire satisfaction of the Engineer in charge.
- Bidder should note that terms and conditions of the contract circulated by the authorities from time to time applicable on the contract even if not incorporated in this tender notice.
- In case of any dispute regarding the work Chief Engineer Kashmir PHE Department, Srinagar shall be the sole ARBITRATOR.
- In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates, quantities or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2020.
- Any other information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours.
- All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD form No.25-double.

NO: PHP/ 945-55
Dated:- 24-05-2021

DIPK-2004/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
(JSD) PHE, Div, Pulwama.

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 collateral security required for availing the 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 documents viz: 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/2021/65-69
Dated: 24.05.2021.

DIPK-2038/21

SRINAGAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Bernina, Bye Pass near SKIMS Medical College, Srinagar, Kashmir-190018

Tel: 0194-493191, FAX: 0194-2493180,

EMAIL: srinagardevelopmentauthority@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE NO: 10/DLM of 2021-22

On behalf of Vice Chairman, SDA, Srinagar Development Authority invites tenders by e- tendering system for operation, maintenance and collection of parking charges/fee at SDA's Mechanized Car Parking lot old KMDA Adda at Lalchowk Srinagar from eligible persons/

S. No	Name of Parking site	Parking fee for CAR/JEEP	Parking fee for 2 Wheelers	Minimum reserved bid.	Security Deposit @10% of the Minimum Reserved bid	Cost of Tender Document including 12% GST (Non- refundable)	Period of contract
1	Mechanized Car Parking at Lalchowk Srinagar	Rs. 20/Car per hour	Rs. 10/Entry per hour	Rs. 12.00 lacs	Rs. 1.20 lacs	Rs. 1000/-	One year

1. Date of Publishing 19-05-2021.

2. The Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 20-05-2021 (10.00 AM) to 09-06-2021 upto (4.30 PM).

3. The Bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.aov.in> from 25-05-2021 (10.00AM) to 09-06-2021 (4.30PM).

4. A. The bids received will be opened on 11-06-2021 (12.00 Noon).

B. The complete bidding process will be on line.

No:- SDA/DLM/ /187-91

Dated: 24/05/2021

Director,
Land Management, Srinagar Dev,
Authority

DIPK-NB-895/21

Petrol And Diesel Get Dearer, Retail Prices Rise By 25 Per Litre

NEW DELHI: A day after holding back a hike, the oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Tuesday increased the pump price of petrol and diesel across the country with global oil showing signs of firming amidst reports that Iranian oil may not hit the markets soon.

Accordingly, petrol prices increased by 23 paise per litre to Rs 93.44 per litre and diesel by 25 paise per litre to Rs 84.32 per litre in Delhi.

Across the country as well the fuel prices increased between 20-27 paise per litre but their retail prices varied depending on the level of local taxes.

In Mumbai, petrol is now being sold at Rs 99.71 a litre just one increase short of crossing another milestone of Rs 100. This mark has already been breached in few other cities in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Premium petrol prices have been hovering over Rs 100 a litre for past few couple of months now.

With Tuesday's fuel price increase, petrol and diesel prices have now increased on 13 days so far in the month of



May. This has taken up petrol prices by Rs 3.04 per litre in Delhi. Similarly, diesel have increased by Rs 3.59 per litre in the national capital.

Under daily price revision, OMCs revise petrol and diesel prices every morning benchmarking retail fuel prices to a 15-day rolling average of global refined products' prices and dollar exchange rate. However, in a market where fuel prices need to be increased successively, oil companies this month have been holding back price rise on few days before starting the process all over again.

IANS had written earlier that OMCs may begin increasing the retail price of petrol and diesel post state elections as they were incurring losses to the tune of Rs 2-3 per litre by holding the price line despite higher global crude and product prices.

With global crude prices rising again to around \$69 a barrel mark, OMCs may have to keep revising prices upwards for some more time. — IANS

Kashmir Inc Seeks Separate DGFT Code For Kashmir Carpets, Shawls



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) met Director Handicrafts & Handloom and urged him to use his resources to get the separate DGFT code for Kashmir Carpets and Shawls.

The meeting was held to discuss the impetus that the Government is trying to provide to the artisan fraternity in the present COVID atmosphere which has severely hit the Handicrafts Industry of Kashmir.

The Director Mehmood Shah informed the KCCI delegation led by its President, Sheikh Ashiq Ahmad about the proposals that have been already forwarded to the Government to provide much needed succour to the artisan fraternity in the present depressing times.

The visiting delegation flagged some urgent issues with regard to the dwindling wages and the downward trend in the export of the

Handicrafts items particularly carpets from Kashmir.

The Director informed the delegation about the measures that have been taken for revival of the carpet industry where some mega clusters have been proposed for the craft concentrated areas practicing the carpet weaving art.

The visiting delegation urged the Director to make all efforts for incorporating the artisans in the COVID relief package besides helping the concerned groups in Design Innovation, issues relating to freight subsidy, establishing of common facility centres and formation of Self-help groups.

The delegation also highlighted the issues and problems faced by the weaker sections connected with handicrafts and Handlooms that require urgent assistance and attention.

The delegation urged the Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir to use his resources to get the separate DGFT code for Kashmir Carpets and Shawls.

Distribute Edible Oils At Subsidised Prices Through PDS To Give Relief To Poor: Trade Body



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Trade body SEA has suggested the government to distribute edible oils at subsidised prices through the Public Distribution System (PDS), in a bid to give relief to the poor from rising edible oil prices.

Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) has also suggested the government to curb speculation in trading of oilseeds and edible oils on the commodity bourses and insisted on compulsory delivery contracts.

That apart, the Mumbai-based trade body said the government should freeze tariffs at lower levels, reduce agri-cess on imports and revisit customs duty reduction measures.

In a letter written to the Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey, SEA President Atul Chaturvedi said: "Last few months we have witnessed unprecedented price increase not only in edible oils but in practically all commodities across the world. Reasons for the unprecedented increase have been discussed umpteen times."

Chinese buying, stimulus money, la Nina weather problems in palm and soya producing areas, labour problems in Malaysia due to COVID-19, aggressive bio-diesel thrust in Indonesia and renewable fuel

from soybean oil in the USA and Brazil, etc, are some of the major reasons, he said.

He, however, said that though there are signs of bulls retreating, time will only tell whether it is "short-lived" or going to be a permanent one.

However, to tackle the price rise in the short term, the SEA President said the government should "subsidise" edible oils by Rs 30-40 per kg through PDS. The port-based refineries have adequate spare capacity across the coastline of India for this purpose.

Currently, the central government distributes only foodgrains at subsidised rate of Rs 1-3 per kg via PDS to over 80 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act.

Asserting that there is a need to curb speculation in trading of oilseeds/edible oils on commodity bourses, Chaturvedi said, "When oil prices were low around Rs 80-90 per kg, the volatility permitted by commodity exchange was 4 per cent... Now when prices have practically doubled, we should permit volatility only to the extent of 2 per cent during the day. This will curb excessive speculation."

The exchange should allow trading in compulsory delivery con-

tracts as this results in only serious players remaining active. "Once markets become normal, we can revisit this as speculators are also an integral part of the commodity exchanges," he added.

SEA also recommended a freeze of tariff value on edible oils at lower levels. "Our back of envelope calculation says USD 200 per tonne reduction in tariff value would give relief of around Rs 5,000 per tonne."

On import duty of edible oils, SEA said with international prices coming down recently, it may not be a bad idea to revisit duty reduction measures only after the Kharif oilseed planting is over to ensure no negative signals go to our oilseed farmers.

The trade body also requested the government desist from introducing the Essential Commodities Act as it can harm the supply chain terribly.

For the long term, SEA said the government should not only increase oilseeds cultivation on a mission mode but also create a buffer of edible oils to stabilize the price situation.

These suggestions were also placed before the meeting called by the Union Food Secretary on May 24 to discuss the "abnormal" increase in edible oil prices in India.

Sonmarg Being Upscaled As Winter Tourist Destination

Dir Tourism Reviews Issues Confronting Tourism Sector With Stakeholders

Vaccination For Tourism Stakeholders Starts At TRC, Sgr, Gulmarg, Pahalgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Ittoo took a detailed review of the issues confronting tourism stakeholders in the current COVID situation in a consultative meeting with representatives of various tourism trade bodies here today.

The Director, Tourism informed the tourism stakeholders that the J & K Government has classified tourism stakeholders as frontline workers alongwith workers of other critical sectors.

Dr. Ittoo informed the meeting that the vaccination process for the members of the tourism sector aged between 18 to 44 years has started from today at TRC, Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam. Today 871 jabs(Gulmarg-421, TRC, Srinagar-203 and Pahalgam-247) were administered among the staff of hotels, guest houses, travel agencies, Restaurants, Houseboats and shikarawallas.

The vaccination drive would continue for four days to cover

all the eligible tourism stakeholders.

To oversee the vaccination process a special cell has been set up in the Tourism Department and Nodal Officers have been deployed for smoothly administering the vaccination doses.

The Director Tourism further informed the tourism stakeholders that the Department has planned a capacity building programme for the members of tourism trade to cope up with the post COVID situation. The programme, he informed, would commence from the coming days.

On a specific query of the tourism stakeholders, the Director Tourism, Kashmir informed the meeting that the Department is planning to upscale Sonmarg as a winter tourist destination for which necessary steps are being taken by the Department at various levels.

Dr. Ittoo also assured the tourism stakeholders of sympathetic consideration on all other issues raised by them.

Representatives of various trade bodies from segments like hotels, restaurants, guest houses, travel agencies, Houseboats, bathing boats, motor boats and shikarawallas attended the meeting.

Liquid Medical Oxygen From Singapore Sourced By Indianoil Unloaded In Vizag Port

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: IndianOil unloaded a consignment of 11 ISO tanks filled with Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO), carried from Singapore by INS Jalashwa, an Indian Navy vessel at Vishakhapatnam Port today. The same vessel also carried two more ISO tanks of LMO, sourced by GAIL and handled by IndianOil. The entire consignment has been sourced by IndianOil from M/s BNF Singapore and filled at M/s Linde at Singapore. The ISO tanks have been taken on lease by IndianOil to handle the supply and logistics of LMO in the fight against the COVID pandemic. This consignment has been earmarked to meet the pressing demand for Medical Oxygen in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

In the face of a massive surge in demand for Liquid Medical Oxygen and related logistic issues, IndianOil, under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has been importing ISO tanks suitable for transporting Medical Oxygen, the precious lifesaver, from across the globe. While over 75% of the filled ISO tanks are brought in by the Indian Navy vessels, the empty containers are airlifted back by Indian Air Force to the sources of Oxygen supply. IndianOil sources LMO supplies from the countries including Singapore, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the global suppliers including M/s Linde, M/s Air Life and M/s Air Liquide. IndianOil has brought

in several consignments of LMO into other Southern cities including Mangalore and Bengaluru. The various imports of LMO, Oxygen Cylinders and Oxygen concentrators being done by ICRS (Indian Red Cross Society) are also being handled by IndianOil, in terms of unloading and transportation.

As a responsible corporate citizen, IndianOil continues to leverage its expertise and resources to contribute to the national efforts to combat the second wave of the COVID 19 pandemic sweeping the nation. Other initiatives of IndianOil in the management and logistics support of LMO in India include the Sanjeevani Express, a single window application which is equipped to enable real-time monitoring of LMO supply logistics to help all stakeholders including the central and state government agencies to monitor allocation, dispatch and receipt of medical Oxygen.

About Indian Oil Corporation Limited:

With a 33,000-plus workforce, extensive refining, distribution & marketing infrastructure and advanced R&D facilities, IndianOil has been providing energy access to millions of people across the length and breadth of the country through its ever-expanding network of customer touch points, currently numbering over 50,000. With a turnover of Rs. 5,14,890 crores for FY 2020 - 21, IndianOil is one of the largest and most trusted corporate in the Country, touching the lives of over a billion Indians.

Twitter, Facebook May Not Be Able To Operate In India From Tomorrow

The deadline to comply with the new legal rules meant for big social media platforms, which were issued by the government three months ago, is ending on Tuesday, threatening the operations of the likes of Twitter in India.

According to top official sources, social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and others, which were required to abide by the rules notified in the gazette of India on February 25 under Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules, 2021, have failed to comply on many accounts till date.

The government's rules will come into effect from May 26. "If social media companies do not obey the rules, they may lose their status and protections as intermediaries and may become liable for criminal action as per the existing laws of India," top official sources said.

Except one Indian social media company, Koo, sources said that none of the top social media intermediaries have appointed a



resident grievance officer, a chief compliance officer and a nodal contact person yet.

Sources said the failure of social media companies to make these appointments in three months has not gone down well with the government.

With arbitrary suspensions of accounts and inaction over abuses and bigotry on social media platforms, users in India have been persistently complaining against tech giants like Twitter, Facebook and others.

In the latest alleged Congress toolkit controversy, Delhi Police visited Twitter India's local offices in the National Capital Region on Monday after Twitter had marked one of the tweets of BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra as "manipulated media".

Twitter's presumptive judgement has triggered widespread outrage among Indian users across the country.

Sources said the social media platforms which were required to furnish monthly reports as to how many grievances were filed and settled, have failed to do so. Some of the platforms, sources said, have sought more time of up to six months for furnishing compliance.

For some platforms, sources said, the standard reply has been that they will await instructions from their company headquarters in the US, who in turn on their own will have an "expert assessment" to take a view.

The US-based social media platforms have grown huge, thanks to their massive user base and profitable revenues in democracies like India. However, none of the platforms have shown any inclination to comply with India's domestic laws. Instead, social media platforms have refused to be transparent about their fact-checking mechanism and their criteria to label tweets. IANS

SHORT TAKES

Gold becomes cheaper by Rs 102, silver also tumbles Rs 269

Agencies

Gold dipped Rs 102 to Rs 48,025 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday amid rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 48,127 per 10 gram.

Silver also declined Rs 269 to Rs 70,810 per kilogram from Rs 71,079 per kilogram in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi were down by Rs 102 pressured by rupee appreciation," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel.

The Indian rupee strengthened by 13 paise to 72.83 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,882.50 per ounce, while silver was flat at USD 27.67 per ounce.

Samoon Reviews Status Skill Development Dept

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon today chaired a meeting to review the status of different components of SDD vis-à-vis fast track recruitment, languishing projects, upgradation of institutes etc.

Director Skill Development Department, DG Codes Finance Department, Secretary Board of Technical Education, representative of School Education Department, Joint Director (P)/Additional Secretary SDD, Joint Director SDD, Principals of Government Polytechnic Colleges, Superintendents of ITIs and other concerned attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

At the outset, Principal Secretary enquired about the status of the fast track recruitment process with respect to Gazetted and Non-Gazetted recruitments and action taken reports.

He was informed that various Gazetted and Non-Gazetted posts have been referred to recruiting agencies for fast track recruitment.

Flipkart Hires 23,000 People To Bolster Its Supply Chain Amid Pandemic

Flipkart on Tuesday said it has hired 23,000 people across its supply chain, including delivery executives, in the last three months as the e-commerce marketplace strengthens the supply chain to fast deliver products while creating additional employment.

The hiring was done keeping the growing demand for e-commerce services across the country, as people continue to remain indoors to fight the pandemic, which has necessitated a ramp-up of supply chain, the company said in a statement.

"All new hires will be covered with our healthcare and wellness initiatives to ensure their safety during these testing times," said Hemant Badri, Senior Vice-President,



less doorstep delivery.

As part of the plan, Flipkart will add over 8 lakh square feet of space through five new fulfillment centres over the next three months.

With this additional infrastructure, the marketplace will bring the ease of online grocery shopping to more users across Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Coimbatore, and Hyderabad. This will also help Flipkart cater to over 73,000 grocery orders per day.

Last month, the e-commerce company ramped up grocery fulfilment centre capacity across Lucknow, Pune, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Patna. It currently serves close to 64,000 orders a day.-IANS

Tourism Stakeholders Of Jammu Division Welcome Additional Relief Package

JAMMU: The Tourism Stakeholders have extended gratitude to Lieutenant Governor J&K for extending an additional package of Rs 2.63 crore in favour of Ponywalas, Palkiwalas, Shikarwalas, Boatwalas, Camelwalas of Jammu region to ease their difficulties amid the covid pandemic.

The relief package has covered the remaining 951 Ponywalas, Palkiwalas, Pithuwalas etc registered with the Office of Shivkhori Shrine Board.

A considerable number of 12202 Ponywalas, Palkiwalas, Pithuwalas registered with the office of Katra Municipal Committee will also get their due share.

The relief amount also includes 18 Shikarwalas/Paddle Boat Owners and 11 Ponywalas/Camelwalas registered with the Department of Tourism.

In wake of Covid-19 Pandemic, Tourism Sector, which is one of the largest revenue generating industry of J&K, has suffered huge losses.

Yaas Intensifies Into Very Severe Cyclonic Storm: IMD; Eastern States Evacuate More Than 12 Lakh People

Kolkata/New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar/ Ranchi/Patna, : Cyclone Yaas intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm on Tuesday evening, India Meteorological Department Director General M Mohapatra said, even as the states of West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand aggressively evacuated over 12 lakh people to storm

shelters by late evening.

The IMD also issued a red-coded warning alert to the Odisha and West Bengal coasts.

"The severe cyclonic storm 'Yaas' (pronounced as 'Yass') over northwest and Bay of Bengal intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm," Mohapatra said.

'Yaas', which was positioned

160 km south-southeast of Paradip in Odisha and 240 km south-southeast of Digha in West Bengal over north-west and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal on Tuesday evening, is likely to gain a maximum speed of 155 kmph to 165 kmph gusting to 185 kmph during landfall, the Met department said.

"It is very likely to cross north Odisha-West Bengal coasts between Paradip and Sagar Islands close to north of Dhamra and south of Balasore, in the morning hours of Wednesday, the 26th May as a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm," the Cyclone Warning Division of the IMD added. Flight operations at the Kolkata's NSCB airport here will

be suspended from 8.30 am to 7.45 pm owing to the weather warning on Wednesday, the Airports Authority of India said. Bhubaneswar's Biju Patnaik International airport too will remain shut from 11 pm Tuesday till 5 am on Thursday. The South Eastern Railways too has cancelled several trains,

China Could Be Behind Second Wave Of COVID-19 In India, Says BJP Leader Vijayvargiya

Agenceis

INDORE: BJP General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya has said it is a "matter of discussion" if the second wave of COVID-19 in India was an outbreak or China had a hand in it. A video of Vijayvargiya's speech at a function here went viral on Tuesday.

"There is a second wave of COVID-19. It was an outbreak, or was it sent? It is a matter of discussion, because if any country in the world has challenged China, it is India...Prime Minister Narendra Modi has challenged (China)," the BJP leader is heard saying in the video.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Viral Woes: Separation

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) guidelines state that there can be a possibility of transmission of coronavirus from mother to baby before birth while it is in the mother's womb or during delivery from a Covid infected mother. The guidelines mention, "Facilities should consider temporarily separating (e.g. separate rooms) the mother who has confirmed COVID-19 from the baby until the mother's transmission-based precautions are discontinued."

The separation between a newborn and a mother has many psychological effects on the family. The family experience negative emotions, depressions, fear, and helplessness. Though coronavirus has forced mothers to limit contact with the newborns, many studies claim that the contact between mother-newborn pair is very crucial.

A study by neonatologist Raylene Phillips shows that newborns who are placed in "skin to skin" contact with their mothers after birth "make the transition from fetal to newborn life with greater respiratory, temperature, and glucose stability and significantly less crying indicating decreased stress." Not just the newborns, the intimacy between the mother-infant pair increases maternal instincts in the mother and the mother can breastfeed for a longer duration. "Being skin to skin with the mother protects the newborn from the well-documented negative effects of separation, supports optimal brain development and facilitates attachment, which promotes the infant's self-regulation over time," adds the neonatologist.

Having a baby is an event that is celebrated in the family with mirth and delight but the current time seems to have put a stop to all the merriment. It is an unfortunate time for newborns and mothers who are separated because of the contagion.

During the first one-two months, mothers and infants develop a signal mechanism to communicate with each other. When there is no active response from the mother's side the baby tends to avoid eye contact, does not engage in vocal dialogue, and is easily upset when offered social contact.

A Chinese study of COVID-19 and maternal mental health notes, "The potential (ill-informed) practices of separating mothers from their infants post-birth in the name of protection from COVID-19 infection, such as witnessed in China, and a lack of certainty leading to early cessation of breastfeeding, have harmful impacts on maternal mental health via 'toxic stress' and perceptions of self-blame and shame."

Another similar study on the psychological needs of hospitalized newborns' parents during COVID-19 outbreak identifies "five themes regarding the parents' primary psychological needs" which includes urgent demand for timely up-to-date information about the children's condition, demand for psychological and emotional support, reducing the inconvenience caused by the epidemic outbreak, claims for protective information after discharge and demand for financial support.

World Health Organization (WHO) encourages mothers to breastfeed their newborns safely with good "respiratory hygiene". It also recommends mothers to hold the newborns skin to skin and share a room with the infant. Unlike the guidelines of WHO, Chinese expert consensus states that COVID-19 positive mothers should not breastfeed their babies because the virus may enter the milk during the incubation period.

According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund's (UNICEF) press release an estimated 116 million babies will be born "under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic".

"Millions of mothers all over the world embarked on a journey of parenthood in the world as it was. They now must prepare to bring a life into the world as it has become – a world where expecting mothers are afraid to go to health centers for fear of getting infected, or missing out on emergency care due to strained health services and lockdowns," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director in the press release, adding, "It is hard to imagine how much the coronavirus pandemic has recast motherhood."

For Shameema, the long night has passed, but as Kashmir is witnessing more and more cases, experts suggest that for emotional support, counseling should be provided to mothers who are separated from their newborns so that they are relieved from psychological stress.

"Those haunting hours with Covid still give me shudders," Shameema says. "But then I see my baby in my lap and think that it was a bad dream which has passed now."

66% People

in restricting COVID-related fatalities in the UT," Subrahmanyam said, as per an official spokesperson in the meeting which was also attended by Chief Secretaries of other UTs.

"Currently, Jammu and Kashmir is among the leading regions in the country in vaccination of above 45 years age group having vaccinated 66% of its eligible population which is well above the national average of 32%," he added.

He further said that in J&K, 4 districts-Ganderbal, Jammu, Samba, and Shopian, have achieved 100% coverage in this category, while the remaining continue with promising progress.

"To pace up vaccination in 18-45 age category, it was requested that Jammu and Kashmir be provided with a sustained supply of vaccines in the coming months," he said.

According to the official spokesperson, the CS further informed that through the government's timely response, the daily number of COVID cases has reduced from an all-time high of 5500 to 2200 in two weeks.

"The same period also witnessed a reduction in the case positivity rate from 13% to 6.2%. It was highlighted that the districts having higher vaccination rates reported lower positivity rates, thus establishing a correlation between vaccination and success of containment measures," Subrahmanyam said in the meeting, as per an official spokesperson.

Underscoring the shift of disease's catchment area the CS pointed out that in Jammu and Kashmir more cases are now being reported from rural than urban areas, adding that such cases are as high as 55% and 60% in Jammu and Kashmir divisions, respectively.

"Regarding augmentation of medical infrastructure and facilities in the Union territory, it was informed that the Government has recently adopted a strategy to establish 5-bedded COVID care facilities with at least 1 oxygen supported bed at approximately 4000 Panchayats to provide immediate medical care to the COVID patients who can then be referred to higher-level facilities in case of emergency. Additionally, 33000 COVID care medical kits have been distributed for usage by patients in home isolation," the official spokesperson said.

In the meeting, he said, it was also announced that the twin 500-bedded temporary hospitals being established by the Defence Research and Development Organization will commence operations at Jammu from tomorrow and at Srinagar from 1st July, thereby greatly reinforcing COVID dedicated medical infrastructure in the Union territory.

"The Chief Secretary requested that to establish continuous oxygen supply to these facilities, two dedicated oxygen tankers for these hospitals be provided to Jammu and Kashmir," the official spokesperson said, adding "It was further requested that considering the rural spread of the disease, two 250-bedded DRDO designed hospitals be additionally approved for peripheral districts."

Earlier, the Union Home Secretary cautioned the UTs on the successive surges and asked them to remain vigilant to the situation.

According to the official spokesperson, Bhalla advised the UTs to learn from their experiences, the Home Secretary asked them to keep pace with testing and vaccination rates, besides enforcing COVID appropriate behaviour and strengthening the medical infrastructure.

"At the outset, Union Secretary, Health and Family Welfare gave a presentation on prevailing situation in the UTs. It was mentioned that J&K is performing reasonably well in mitigating the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic with 3,946 cases per million population being reported over the last two weeks and 62 deaths per million during the same period," he said.

He further said that the Union Home Secretary lauded the efforts of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir in mitigating the spread of COVID infections especially the roll-out of targeted vaccination drives. He assured full support and coordination with regard to vaccines and assistance with medical facilities, and asserted greater indulgence with well-performing States and Union territories.

J&K Logs Nearly

last 24 hours.

According to the officials, Jammu division witnessed 33 more coronavirus related deaths while 20 people lost the battle with the deadly infection at various healthcare facilities in Kashmir Valley thus taking the overall fatality count in J&K to 3662.

Among the victims from the Valley, officials said, included a 70-year-old man from Batamalo here, who died at SKIMS Bemina, 12 days after he was admitted there. Also, a 75-year-old man from Khansahib Budgam died at a Covid hospital in Chanapora.

A 63-year-old woman from Tral Pulwama died at CD hospital, a day after she was admitted to the Valley's exclusive covid-19 management facility; officials said, adding that a 90-year-old man from Natipora Srinagar died five days after he was admitted there.

Besides, they said, a 75-year-old man from Larkipora and a 70-year-old man from Sangam died along with two other patients at GMC Anantnag 75-year-old man from Behbagh died at District hospital at Pulwama, they said, and added that a 75-year-old man also succumbed to virus at GMC Baramulla, they said.

About the new cases of infection, the officials said that 1145 were confirmed by the officials from Jammu division and 1891 from Kashmir Valley, raising the total number of people infected by the virus since the outbreak of pandemic last year to 275822.

Giving district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 487, Baramulla 220, Budgam 266, Pulwama 169, Kupwara 91, Anantnag 223, Bandipora 85, Ganderbal 97, Kulgam 109, Shopian 72, Jammu 438, Udhampur 102, Rajouri 99, Doda 62, Kathua 117, Samba 84, Kishtwar 27, Poonch 58, Ramban 110 and Reasi 48 new cases of Covid-19.

Moreover, officials said, 3623 more patients have recovered, 1426 from Jammu Division and 2197 from Kashmir Valley. There are 44918

active cases in J&K—18424 in Jammu and 26494 in Kashmir.

J&K Gets 3 Incubation

and Baramulla in the Kashmir Valley and in Jammu, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary said.

He termed these units as milestones towards processing and marketing of agri business in the union territory.

Choudhary said the first incubation facility centre would be established in Anantnag with an estimated cost of Rs 2.70 crore which will have focus on processing fish and fishery-based products.

"The Centre will aim for a manifold increase in production of fish, processing, packaging and export to different parts of the country as well as abroad," he said.

Choudhary said the second centre would be established at Narwal in Jammu with an estimated cost of Rs 2.68 crore for processing of dairy products.

"The government is accordingly focused on increasing milk production and Jammu and Kashmir is likely to be transformed into milk surplus territory," he said.

The official said the focus of this facility would be to promote value addition by way of producing milk-based products like butter, cheese, ghee, chocolate and packaging and marketing of the products on scientific lines.

"J&K will soon turn into one of the important destinations of milk-based products," he said.

Choudhary said the third incubation facility centre would be established in Baramulla for processing of apples and other fruits and vegetables.

"This will give a new dimension to processing, packaging of fruits and vegetables of international standard and consequently better marketing and income to the growers," he said

The officer said the horticulture department is already implementing an ambitious scheme of high density plantation and establishment of large scale CA stores.

Choudhary said one more proposal of establishment of the incubation centre at Ramban in Jammu is likely to be considered by the central government shortly.

"This proposed Centre will focus on olive, lavender and other important products like Rajmash of erstwhile Doda region," he said.

He said the three sanctioned incubation facility centres in Anantnag, Baramulla and Jammu would be completed in one year.

He hoped that these centres would prove to be a milestone in the history of processing and marketing of agricultural, horticulture, dairy and fish products in J-K.

"It will certainly help in achieving the goal of doubling the income of farmers," he said.

Choudhary said Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (J-K HPMC) Limited has been designated as the nodal agency for execution of all these three sanctioned projects.

Lessons Through

schools due to the coronavirus pandemic, an official spokesman said on Tuesday.

As per a statement issued by the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir, the radio classes will begin from May 26.

The schedule for Class 8 shall be from 10 am to 10.30 am, for Class 7 from 11.30 am to 12 pm, for Class 6 from 12 pm to 12.30 pm and for Class 5 from 03.30 pm to 4 pm, the spokesman said.

The Director School Education, Kashmir has sought cooperation of all stakeholders for successful implementation of the programme in the better interests of the students, he said.

The spokesman said there is a proposal to start tele-classes for Classes 9-12 from June 1 through DD Kashir and DD Gyan.

Another Black

succumbed to mucormycosis at the GMC here, marking the union territory's first death due to the fungal infection.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday declared mucormycosis an epidemic, making it mandatory for all government and private health facilities and medical colleges to report suspected and confirmed cases to the health department through district-level officers and Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP).

3 Kids Die

we are ascertaining the actual cause of death with parents and other aspects and accordingly a case will be registered. Agencies

Scale Up Testing

to contain the spread of Coronavirus and save precious lives through prompt response," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson during his tour to twin districts of Samba and Kathua.

During his visits, the LG also took a comprehensive review of the Covid containment measures in the respective districts and also visited GMC Kathua, District Hospital & Covid Care Centre at Samba.

Sinha, as per the official spokesperson asked the health officials to ensure best healthcare facilities for the patients and directed the senior doctors to increase rounds in Covid-19 wards.

"Ensure effective Covid Clinical Management and strict compliance of referral policy for hospitals," he said, as per official spokesperson.

While enquiring about the availability of ventilators, oxygen supported beds, human resources, functionality of oxygen generation plants, besides testing and vaccination drives in the respective districts, the LG, he said, directed the hospital authorities to increase the existing covid dedicated beds, besides augmenting oxygen availability in the hospitals within fixed timelines.

"Scale up testing & vaccination with dedicated focus on vulnerable groups. Reach out to people with all Covid-19 related important information," Sinha said.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson also interacted with doctors and other medical staff and reviewed ongoing steps taken by hospitals.

"He also directed them to prepare for future challenges and emphasized on continuous training of nursing and paramedical staff working in the rural areas," he said.

"He also enquired about the status of medical staff, availability of telemedicine services, distribution of covid management kits, mobile vaccination, and other initiatives taken by District Administrations for Covid mitigation," he added.

Meanwhile, the Lt Governor reviewed the progress being made for developing new Medical infrastructure in the District Hospital to augment the medical facilities, besides reviewing the establishment of Panchayat level Covid Care facilities. He also inspected the under-construction New OPD Block at District Hospital Samba and directed for its timely completion.

According to the official spokesperson, Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Anuradha Gupta informed the LG that 101 Panchayats of the district have established Covid Care Centres with 5 bed capacity, besides 100% achievement in HCW, and 98% of above 45 years age group has been achieved.

"24x7 telemedicine services and covid control room have been established in DC office alongwith e-passes facility," she said, as per official spokesperson.

On being informed about the dedicated oxygen pipelines connecting Covid dedicated beds at District Hospital, Samba, the LG, as per the official spokesperson directed for providing all the 100 beds in the hospital with dedicated oxygen pipes and set the timelines for the same.

At Kathua, Dr. Anjali Nadir Bhat, Principal GMC Kathua, gave the present status of Covid care infrastructure and availability of healthcare facilities at GMC Kathua.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rahul Yadav also apprised the Lt Governor about the covid control measures taken by the administration to contain the spread of corona virus in the district.

He informed that a total of 213 Covid Care Centres have been established at Panchayats; around 1137 patients have been facilitated with tele-medicine facilities, besides 1849 covid kits were distributed.

It was further informed that 70% vaccination of above 45 years age group has been achieved, besides 98% healthcare and frontline workers have been covered.

Earlier, the Lt Governor visited Covid Care facility at Bhargava College in Samba, took assessment of the additional healthcare facilities being augmented in the district and arrangements being made there for treatment of Covid patients.

Hospitals To Allow

on rational use of drugs and optimal Oxygen supply to the critically ill patients.

"On spot instructions were given for managing the oxygen outlets as per guidelines and as per guidance given in the capacity building trainings. Distribution of Oxygen cylinders should be facilitated in wards with the help of hospital Security Personal or other law enforcing agencies," he said.

According to official spokesperson, Pole also stressed upon only one attendant per patient should be allowed to enter the Covid ward after wearing proper PPE kit and strictly adhering to Covid appropriate behaviour and follow infection control measures.

"It was pointed out that maintenance of inpatient records along with notes/entries of senior consultants must be checked upon by the concerned nodal officers of these hospitals on a daily basis," he said.

Later, the official spokesperson said that the Div Com chaired a review meeting regarding the Covid-19 mitigation activities in the Kashmir division at Divisional Covid-19 Control Room Kashmir. He said that the meeting was attended by Medical Superintendents and Nodal officers of Tertiary care hospitals of Kashmir along with Director Health Services Kashmir.

The meeting was also attended by Incharge and various senior level officers of Divisional Covid Control Room Kashmir.

"The Div Com reviewed the progress achieved in controlling the second wave of Covid-19. During the meeting he stressed upon the optimal usage of RT PCR tests at all these tertiary care hospital laboratories and ensure timely reporting of these tests to the general public," the official spokesperson said.

He further said that the Div Com also directed the nodal officers that people who wish to travel outside state/ country may be advised to go for RT PCR testing at government designated private labs in order to ease the burden on these over stretched laboratories.

"The Div Com stressed upon further augmentation of oxygen supported bed capacity in these hospitals in order to deliver the quality health care to the patients at these tertiary care hospitals. He also directed the concerned officers to ensure oxygen audit in their hospitals. A clear direction was given to Nodal Officers of these hospitals to conduct a mock drill of installed firefighting equipment at their hospitals so that they shall be ready for any untoward mishap," he added.

Regarding Black fungus, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, as per the official spokesperson directed all Nodal Officers of tertiary care hospitals as well as Director Health Services Kashmir to notify all the suspected and confirmed cases of this disease to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) on daily basis and provide hassle free treatment to these patients at all levels.

Advisor Directs

Chief Engineer R&B Jammu/Kashmir, Chief Engineer DRDO, incharge Medical Superintendents of both Hospitals, senior officials of health as well as other allied departments both in person as well as through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the official spokesperson said that Bhatnagar took a detailed review of all the major works needed for early operationalisation of the hospital like status of civil work, water power supply, sewerage system, public utilities, hiring of man power as well as other aspects of the hospitals.

"Advisor Bhatnagar stressed upon the concerned officers that details of medicines required, medical consumables, diagnostic tools and other logistics should be thoroughly worked out well in advance so that treatments as per protocols can be provided to the patients," he said.

The official spokesperson further added that LG's Advisor also took stock of other allied works and impressed upon the officers that laying of medical oxygen gas pipelines, sewerage network system and other allied works should be completed within the fixed timelines besides availability of medical oxygen has to be ensured with emergency backup systems in place.

"Advisor Bhatnagar further asked the concerned officers to devise a mechanism for deployment of Engineers of PWD, PDD, Mechanical Engineering Department, Jal Shakti, plumbers and other required technical staff to the Hospitals till their own staff is arranged. He impressed upon them to work in close coordination and synergy, so that the required works are completed at the earliest and the Hospitals are commissioned for public use in these critical times," he said.

During the meeting, the official spokesperson said that the Divisional Commissioners apprised the Advisor about the status of Hospitals in their respective divisions.

"The Engineers from DRDO informed the Advisor that the works on both the Hospitals are going in full swing and the Hospitals will be completed within the given timelines," he said.

He further said that about the deployment of the manpower, the Advisor was informed that some health care professionals, para medical staff have been provided by Directorates of Health Services while as advertisements have also been issued by Principals of GMC Jammu/ Srinagar for engagement of doctors, lab technicians, para medical staff etc in these Hospitals.

HC Quashes PSA

the notice of the detaining authority or that the detaining authority is not aware of all the facts and circumstances and without considering the same it derives subjective satisfaction to detain a person, the same would amount to non-application of mind on its part."

The court observed that there was no denial to the fact by the officials in the reply affidavit that Tawheedi stands released in all the FIRs registered against him.

"Even the order of detention, grounds of detention, so much so the record does not anywhere reveal or suggest that the detaining authority was aware about the fact," the court said after hearing lawyers on both sides.

Subsequently, the court allowed the petition and quashed the detention order with the direction to the officials to release him forthwith from the preventive custody "unless the (detainee) is required in any other case." (GNS)

Grenade Hurled

reinforcements were rushed to the area and a manhunt was launched to nab the attackers.

Electric Shock

Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag by the villagers for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to Srinagar's SMHS hospital for advanced treatment, reports said.

Wall Collapse

However, one of the minors Shafat Ahmad of Balhama here was declared dead on arrival, reports said, adding that the other injured minor was referred to Srinagar's SKIMS for specialised treatment.

Youth Found

is done, they said.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started further investigations in this regard.

KKR's Tim Seifert Praises IPL's Bio-Bubble Despite Contracting COVID



Press Trust of India

AUCKLAND: New Zealand cricketer Tim Seifert's world stopped for a moment and heart sank when he tested positive for COVID-19 during the now suspended IPL but the wicket-keeper said he never felt vulnerable inside the tournament's bio-bubble.

Seifert, however, insisted that his COVID-19 ordeal will not deter him from travelling to India again for future assignments, including the T20 World Cup to be held later this year.

"I got pulled aside and told I'd tested positive and my heart sank straight away when everyone left. I was the only overseas player basically still left in India out of the whole tournament. That's when things got a little bit real," an emotional Seifert told the 'New Zealand Herald'.

"The world stops a little bit, I just couldn't really think what was next and that's the scary part of it you hear about things, and I thought that was going to happen to me."

Seifert was all praise for the IPL bubble though.

"Talking to some of the English boys that were over there before the IPL everything that they were saying was doing well. You only kind of heard good things, the structures, all the plans that have been put in place," Seifert was quoted as saying by New Zealand Herald.

"That was a good point of view for a player to go over there, and to be honest the whole time while I was over there (in India), the bubble felt good... felt safe."

Seifert, who was part of the Kolkata Knight Riders team in the IPL, is presently undergoing his 14-day mandatory quarantine here following his return to New Zealand after

recovering from the deadly virus.

He had to stay back in India even after the suspension of the league as he contracted the virus just 24 hours before he was to fly back home with fellow New Zealand players.

His statement was in contrast to some other IPL players, including Australian Adam Zampa, who said he felt vulnerable inside the bio-bubble. He thanked former Kiwi stars Brendon McCullum and Stephen Fleming as well as KKR and Chennai Super Kings franchises for making life easier for him during his recovery period in Chennai.

"It definitely was hard and I couldn't thank Brendan (McCullum) and (Stephen) Fleming enough, they made everything a lot easier."

"Making sure things would be put in place and KKR, CSK support staff, management - they made life easy for me to know that everything would be alright and when that time was to come home, they would do everything to get me home safely and on time," he said. Seifert, who has so far played 3 ODIs and 35 T20Is, said having a positive frame of mind was key to recovery from COVID-19.

"Once a few days had gone by, everything had kind of died down a little bit I knew it was a time of getting through it, looking at the positives. I'm getting married in two months so that's exciting. My fiancée Morges she's quite happy that I'm back a bit earlier so I can help plan for that."

"I'm lucky that having Covid has very minimal-mild symptoms. From having the virus and how I'm feeling...it's more about the process of quarantining, being stuck in a room knowing that if I get it I could get it worse, other people could get it worse."

Punjab Kings To Provide Oxygen Concentrators To COVID-19 Patients

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian Premier League side Punjab Kings have joined forces with private entity Round Table India (RTI) and crowdfunding platform ketto.org to help provide oxygen concentrators to COVID-19-affected patients.

Punjab Kings will fund the procurement of oxygen concentrators which will then be provided to patients for their use, a release from the IPL franchise said.

"RTI will verify the need upon which an oxygen concentrator will be given for use at the patient's house or via a charitable medical institution. Post its return, the concentrator will be sanitised and disinfected and provided to the next person in need," it said.

"These machines are portable and can be shifted to meet areas of maximum need. The machines also reduce the need for oxygen cylinders and hospital beds for mild to moderate cases."

"Post the crisis the machines will be donated to hospitals where they are needed to treat patients with asthma and other breathing difficulties."

Punjab Kings co-owner Ness Wadia said, "There is much to be done to save the lives and livelihoods of millions of people who have endured this tragic suffering. Punjab Kings joining forces with Round Table India is yet another small step towards battling this unprecedented crisis."

IPL 2021 To Tentatively Restart On September 19 In UAE

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The postponed Indian Premier League 2021 will resume tentatively on September 18 or 19 in the UAE with as many as 10 double-headers expected to be played during a three-week window, a senior BCCI official told PTI on Tuesday.

The final might be held on October 9 or 10. The three-week window will be enough for the league to complete its remaining 31 games for the season, a win-win scenario for all the primary stakeholders including the BCCI, franchises and broadcasters.

The IPL 2021 was postponed on May 4 after multiple COVID-19 cases inside its bio-bubble came to light.

"The BCCI has spoken to all the stakeholders and the likely start could be between September 18th to 20th. Since September 18 is a Saturday and 19 a Sunday, it is more likely that you would want to re-start it on a weekend date," the official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Similarly, October 9th or 10th will be the final as it's a weekend. We are finalising the itinerary and there will be 10 double headers and seven evening matches along with four main games (two qualifiers, one eliminator and the final), which completes the list of 31 matches," the official added.

The Indian team's last Test match against England is set to finish on September 14 at Manchester and on the next day, the whole team (save Hanuma Vihari and Abhimanyu Easwaran) will be flown to UAE in a chartered flight for a "bubble" transfer.



"The Indian team and the English players who will be available will fly in the same charter flight from Manchester to Dubai. Similarly, the West Indies players will also fly in after completing the Caribbean Premier League engagements. There will be three-day quarantine for players arriving from UK and the Caribbean," the source said.

A franchise official confirmed that a communication from BCCI has come on the matter.

"We have been told by the BCCI to be ready for the tournament. We have been given a September 15 to 20 window," a team official said.

India's white ball series against South Africa cancelled

The BCCI has decided to cancel India's T20 series against South Africa scheduled in September, which was a build-up to the side's World T20 preparations.

"The series can't be held and in any case there can't be any bet-

ter preparation for the T20 World Cup than playing a high intensity tournament like IPL. Since the T20 World Cup will start within a week or 10 days after completion of the IPL, the SA series can only be held at a later date.

"There is a chance that India might play extra games when they tour South Africa early next year," the source said.

The two-Test home series against NZ could also be shifted

The India home season also had a two Test series against New Zealand in November and the dates of which could be shifted depending upon when the T20 World Cup ends.

While BCCI, as of now, will not give up its hosting rights and wait how the COVID-19 situation in India pans out, there is very little chance that countries will want to travel to India which is facing its worst health emergency since independence.

143 Khelo India Centres To Open Across 7 States: Sports Ministry

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Sports Ministry has decided to set up 143 Khelo India centres across seven states with a total budget of Rs 14.30 crore in its bid to nurture talent at the grassroots level.

These centres will be set up in Maharashtra, Mizoram, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

Each centre will be entrusted with one sports discipline.

The Khelo India centres have been launched by the Sports Ministry in partnership with state governments to ensure the availability of grassroots-level infrastructure across the country.

"It is our endeavour to make India one among the top 10 countries in the 2028 Olympics. To fulfil this goal we need to identify and nurture a large number of talented sportspersons from an early age,"

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said in a statement.

"With the availability of good coaches and equipments at the district level Khelo India centers, I am confident that we will be able to find the right children for the right sport and at the right time." In June 2020, the ministry had planned to open up as many as 1,000 new

coaches for these centres lies with the respective state governments, the ministry said.

State-wise Khelo India centres:

- Maharashtra:** 36 Khelo India centres in 30 districts with a budget estimate of Rs 3.60 crore.
- Mizoram:** 2 Khelo India centres in Kolasib district with a budget estimate of Rs 20 lakh.
- Arunachal Pradesh:** 52 Khelo India centres in 26 districts with a budget estimate of Rs 4.12 crore.
- Madhya Pradesh:** 4 Khelo India centres with a budget estimate of Rs 40 lakh.
- Karnataka:** 31 Khelo India centres in 26 districts with a budget estimate of Rs 3.10 crore.
- Manipur:** 16 Khelo India centres with a budget estimate of Rs 1.60 crore.
- Goa:** 2 Khelo India centres with a budget estimate of Rs 20 lakhs.

Khelo India centres over a period of four years, with at least one centre in each district of the country.

While 217 such centres are already in place across several states, the ministry had decided to open two centres each in every district of the North-East, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Ladakh.

The responsibility of hiring



India National Football Team Coach Igor Stimac Likely To Get Extension Till September

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation's technical committee could recommend an extension of national team coach Igor Stimac's contract till the playoffs of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers in September.

The Croatian World Cupper's contract is up for renewal, having served his two-year tenure after being appointed to the top job in May 2019.

The AIFF has summoned its technical committee for a meeting on Friday, when they will discuss a raft of issues, besides Stimac's future.

"The technical committee has been called on Friday and among other issues, it is likely to discuss Stimac's extension till September," a top AIFF source told PTI on Tuesday.

One of the high-profile coaches to manage the Indian men's national football team, Stimac was appointed to the top post in May 2019 for a two-year term, and has had mixed results since.

While the team may have won just a solitary game in 12 outings under the former West Ham United defender, Stimac has given opportunities to many promising youngsters in the team with the freedom to express themselves on the field.

"The technical committee will discuss and decide on the contract extension of national team head coach Igor Stimac till the September FIFA win-



dow," another federation source said.

The current contract of Stimac, who had coached Croatia to the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, was valid till May 15. Stimac fielded as many as 10 fresh faces in an international friendly against hosts UAE in March, resulting in a 6-0 mauling for the Blue Tigers, just days after an impressive stalemate with Oman in Dubai.

It was a very bold move, one that surprised and shocked quite a few in the Indian football fraternity.

Former India captain Bhagunch Bhutia, however, recently backed Stimac to get an extended stint at the helm of affairs. The Indian football icon is of the view that Stimac has done reasonably well since taking over from Stephen Constantine.

The technical committee will also

be discussing at length the Indian women's team roadmap for the AFC Women's Asian Cup, which is slated to be held from January 20 to February 6, 2022. The 2022 is a significant year for women's football in India with the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup also scheduled in the country from October 11 to 30.

The U-17 World Cup was supposed to be held in 2020 but was postponed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic

The AIFF has charted a detailed plan with support from the Sports Ministry and Sports Authority of India in its quest to help the women's team qualify for the 2027 World Cup.

The committee will also look at the status of technical staff for age-group national teams.

England Announce Provisional 33-Man Squad For Euro 2021



Agencies

LONDON: Gareth Southgate gave himself another week to determine England's European Championship squad by naming a 33-man list featuring three players who have been called up for the first time.

Center backs Ben White of Brighton and Ben Godfrey of Everton have been given a late chance to make the tournament alongside fellow newcomer Aaron Ramsdale, the Sheffield United goalkeeper. Trent Alexander-Arnold was recalled to feature among a quartet of right backs in the provisional squad.

Southgate has until June 1 to decide who makes the cut for the final 26-man squad with injury doubts over defender Harry Maguire and midfielders Jordan Henderson and Kalvin Phillips.

West Bromwich's Sam John-

stone, who has never played for England, is also in the squad as Burnley's Nick Pope misses out through injury.

Manchester United teenager Mason Greenwood has been recalled for the first time since being sent home after his debut in Iceland.

Jude Bellingham, the 17-year-old Borussia Dortmund midfielder who made his England debut in November, has a chance of playing at the tournament which will largely be played at Wembley Stadium for Southgate's side.

England opens its Group D campaign on June 13 against Croatia at Wembley before also playing Scotland and the Czech Republic at the north London stadium. There's also a potential round of 16 match at Wembley for England, while the semifinals and final will all be played there.

Indian Men And Women Teams Begin Hard Quarantine Before England Tour



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: India captain Virat Kohli, his white-ball deputy Rohit Sharma and head coach Ravi Shastri joined the England-bound squad's bio-bubble on Tuesday as it began its eight-day hard quarantine along with the women's team here.

The Indian women's team members also entered their eight-day hard quarantine at the Grand Hyatt in Mumbai located near the international airport.

The teams are expected to fly out on June 2 after all the playing and non-playing members return three negative RT-PCR results.

The men's team will first take on New Zealand in the World Test Championship final against New Zealand from June 18 before a full series against England. The women are scheduled to take on the hosts in one Test, three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals starting June 16.

"Wriddhiman and Prasidh Krishna joined the bubble two days back after recovering fully from COVID-19. Mumbaiers like Virat, Rohit and coach Shastri have all now joined the bubble," a BCCI source confirmed.

It is learnt that approval for allowing the players' families is still awaited but the BCCI is hopeful that it would be done soon.

"We can't have our players being away from their families for three months and that too in a bubble. That's never great for mental health," the source said.

The negotiation on quarantine duration once the side reaches England is still on and the hard quarantine (confined to hotel rooms) could be shortened.

PTI has already reported that no change in the five-Test itinerary can happen after the England Cricket Board, during informal discussions, intimated to BCCI that shift of dates is not possible.

Specially-Abled Jammu Athlete Gets Passport On The Same Day Of Application



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Passport Registration Office in Jammu issued passport to a specially-abled athlete on the same day, "within one-hour", allowing the youth to fulfil his dream of competing internationally.

Paramjeet, who didn't have a passport to travel abroad, has been selected to represent J&K in the discipline of Snow Shoeing at the World Winter Games 2022, the Special Olympic International set to be held at Kazan, Russia.

Paramjeet had qualified at the State and National level tournaments in order to be eligible for the top-notch selection.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the resultant 'Corona Curfew' had left the young sportsman

dismayed as public operation at the passport office in Jammu were not operational. But to his surprise, the Passport Office took his case immediately.

With help of local NGOs, the sportsman applied on Monday and the passport office was specially opened for him and his case immediately processed. Later on, the passport was delivered to him on the same day within one hour so that he will be able to travel to Russia with the Indian contingent and participate at the prestigious International event and bring laurels for the UT.

The Regional Passport Officer, on behalf of his esteemed office, praised the young athlete's painstaking efforts, courage and indomitable spirit and wished him all the best for the upcoming world competition.

Germany Appoint Hansi Flick As Coach After Euro 2020



Agencies

BERLIN: Hansi Flick will take over as Germany coach after the European Championship, replacing Joachim Löw.

Flick signed a three-year contract effective from July 1 to succeed his former boss, who is ending his 15-year tenure after the tournament, the German soccer federation said Tuesday.

Flick's last game in charge of Bayern Munich was on Saturday.

"It's a wonderful thing that Hansi Flick is returning to the federation as national team coach," federation vice president Peter Peters said.

"He has developed as a person and as a coach since his already successful time here — not only shown by his fantastic success with FC Bayern."

Flick was Löw's assistant from 2006-14, when they helped Germany win the World Cup in Brazil. He left to become the federation's sporting director through 2017, and then took over at Hoffenheim.

The 56-year-old Flick most recently led Bayern to two Bundesliga titles, a Champions League victory and German Cup success. He informed the Bavarian club in April that he wished to leave.

"It all went surprisingly quickly for me with the signature, but I'm very happy to be able to work as the national team coach from autumn onward," said Flick, who wished Löw success at Euro 2020.

"Jogi Löw more than deserves a great end to his career as national coach."

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