



P3 CITY

DDMA SRINAGAR FIXES RATES FOR REFILLING OF MEDICAL OXYGEN

The district administration Srinagar on Saturday ordered the fixation of rates for refilling of medical oxygen cylinders including delivery charges. According to the new rates, Bulk Cylinder (7000cc) ...

P6 THINK

HIGHER EDUCATION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Gone are the days when our educated youth were viewed as a potential human resource waiting to be tapped. In the days of yore, they were role models for guiding the nature ...



P5 STATE

BREATHLESS, BUT NOT HOPELESS: ASTHMA PATIENT DEFEATS CORONAVIRUS WITH HIS WILLPOWER

Devraj Sharma, a chronic Asthma patient in his early seventies, who survived severe covid conditions...



Kashmir Experts Rubbish Vaccine Death Claim



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Terming the reports attributed to a French Virologist Luc Montagnier that Covid-19 vaccine will lead to deaths in next two years as fake, senior medical practitioners on Saturday

said that the vaccine is the only biggest protection for all humans against the dreaded coronavirus disease. Principal, Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar, Dr Samia Rashid termed the statement attributed to French ... [More On P10](#)

J&K Logs 46 Deaths, 2252 New Cases

Firdaus Ali

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 46 more coronavirus related deaths while 2252 fresh cases of infection were also detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Officials said that among the victims, 30 were residents of different parts of Jammu division and 16 others were from Kashmir, taking the total number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 3841. Among the victims ... [More On P10](#)

LG Opens Covid Hospital In Jammu

Observer News Service

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday inaugurated the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) 500-bedded Covid Hospital and dedicated the facility to Jammu. Of the total 500 beds here at Bhagwati Nagar Centre, 125 would be Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds, while others would be a set of covid- beds with 24 hours oxygen facility. The Hospital would be equipped with Ventilators, Monitors, in-house Pharmacy, Diagnostic Facility, X Ray and CT Scan facility. "I am grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for extending all possible assistance to J&K", said the LG, as per an official spokesperson. ... [More On P10](#)

AC Okays Saksham Scheme For Corona Hit Families



Monthly Pension, Student Scholarship For Victims Families

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday approved financial assistance to the families who

lost their only earning members to coronavirus pandemic. The decision of granting financial relief to the affected families was taken by the Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, an official ... [More On P10](#)

Two Youth Shot Dead By Gunmen In Bijbehara

Firdaus Ali

SRINAGAR: Unidentified gunmen on Saturday shot dead two youth in Bijbehara town of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Around 8:00 pm on Saturday, 20-year-old Sanjeet Ahmed Parry and Shahnawaz Ahmed Bhat were chit chatting near a provisional store in their native village of Jablipora in Bijbehara when unknown gunmen appeared there and fired upon them randomly, officials said Saturday. Both the youth were removed to the Bijbehara hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared Parry brought dead. ... [More On P10](#)

2 Hizb 'OGWs' Charged For Planning Attack

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The NIA chargesheeted two Hizbul Mujahideen overground workers (OGWs) on Saturday in a case related to a criminal conspiracy to carry out attacks at different places in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country.

The charge sheet against Nisar Ahmad Sheikh (52) and Nishad Ahmad Butt (42), residents of Kishtwar, ... [More On P10](#)

Govt Notifies Five Districts In Kashmir As Red Zone

The Jammu and Kashmir State Executive Committee (SEC) on Saturday put five districts in the red zone category as it issued revised guidelines for effective containment of COVID-19 in the J&K. Srinagar and Jammu besides other remaining districts in J&K have been in the orange zone, Chief Secretary and Chairperson SEC B V R Subrahmanyam said in an order. Jammu and Kashmir, which is presently under lockdown, recorded 2252 fresh Covid-19 cases on weekend, taking the tally to 286684, while 46 more people succumbed to the virus which raised the toll to 3841. Srinagar was earlier placed under Red Zone being the worst affected district of J&K by the COVID-19 pandemic. Of late, the summer capital has been recording fewer cases as well as deaths compared to previously. Issuing ... [More On P10](#)



THE SAID CELL WILL CONSIST of Director General, Women & Child Development, Director, Social Welfare Kashmir/ Jammu, Mission Director, ICPS, and representative of the Finance Department."



Special Covid-19 vaccination drive for priority groups (18-44 Years)

KASHMIR
30.05.2021

Details of Vaccination sites for priority groups (18-44 years)

ANANTNAG			High Risk Group	BARAMULLA		
Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category		Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category
1	PHC Achabal	High Risk Group		9	NTPHC LALPORA	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers
2	NTPHC Tailwani			10	HWC CHARANGAM	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
3	PHC Brakpora			11	HWC SAIL	Widows/Orphan/Labours
4	UPHC Donipawa			12	HWC	Widows/Orphan/Labours
5	NTPHC Dailgam			13	HWC MERIPORA	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
6	UPHC Nathpora			14	HWC ICHAMA	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers
7	PHC Anchidora			15	PHC SOIBUGH	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
8	UPHC Pehroo			16	PHC WADWAN	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
9	JBM Hospital Sarnal Anantnag			17	NTPHC WAHABPORA	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
10	GDC Boys Anantnag			18	HWC KHUSHIPORA	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
11	Town Hall Anantnag			19	HWC HAJIBAJH	Transporters
12	Marriage Hall Ashajipora			20	SC PYMUS	Widows/Orphan/Labours
13	SDH Bijbehara			21	SC AARTH	Widows/Orphan/Labours
14	PHC Marhama			22	HWC RUSSU	Widows/Orphan/Labours
15	PHC Sirhama			23	PHC KHAG	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers
16	PHC K.Kalan			24	PHC LASSIPORA	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers
17	PHC Veeri			25	PHC POSHKAR	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
18	PHC Khiram			26	HWC SHNGLIPORA	Widows/Orphan/Labours
19	PHC Akingam			27	NTPHC LOKIPORA	Widows/Orphan/Labours
20	PHC Sagam			28	SC SUGEN	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
21	PHC Wandewalgam			29	HWC DRANG	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers
22	PHC Larnoo			30	HWC SORESH	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
23	SDH Kokernag			31	HWC SUTHARAN	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
24	SDH Seer			32	HWC HAMCHIPORA	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
25	PHC Aishmuqam			33	HWC TRAPHY	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
26	NTPHC Siligam			34	SC NASSERPORA	Transporters
27	PHC Mattan			35	PAKHARPORA CHC	Widows/Orphan/Labours
28	PHC Hapatnand			36	COLONY WELNESS	Widows/Orphan/Labours
29	PHC Salia			37	CHARIPORA WELNESS	Widows/Orphan/Labours
30	PHC Sallar			38	CHARWANI NTPHC	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers
31	PHC Awora			39	TILSURA NTPHC	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers
32	PHC Pahalgam			40	NAGBAL NTPHC	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
33	PHC Sirgufwara			41	BRADIPATHER NTPHC	Widows/Orphan/Labours
34	SDH Shangus			42	CHARISHAREEF SDH	Widows/Orphan/Labours
35	PHC Nowgam			43	SC MAHAWARA	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
36	PHC Chittergull			44	PHC OMPORA	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers
37	PHC Ranipora			45	PHC ICHGAM	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
38	PHC Hakura			46	PHC NUPORA	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
39	NTPHC Larkipora			47	PHC SHOLIPORA	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan
40	SDH Dooru		48	NTPHC JAWALPORA	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
BUDGAM			49	SC GARIEND	Transporters	
Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category	50	SC GUDSATHOO	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
1	SDH BEERWAH	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	51	NTPHC CHOON	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
2	PHC GONDIPORA	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	52	SC BATHAR	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
3	PHC ARIANTHAN	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	53	SDH MAGAM	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
4	PHC PETHKOOT	Transporters	54	PHC NARBAL	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
5	PHC CHURMURO	Widows/Orphan/Labours	55	PHC MAKHAMA	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
6	PHC UTTERPORA	Widows/Orphan/Labours	56	NTPHC BADRAN	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
7	NTPHC CHEWADARA	Widows/Orphan/Labours	57	NTPHC MAZHAMA	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
8	NTPHC RATHSON	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	58	SC KANIHAMA	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			59	SC SHIPORA	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			60	SC HANJIBUGH	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			61	SC WASSAN	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			62	SC AHMADPORA	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			63	SC GOIGAM	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			64	SC BATAPORA	Transporters	
			65	SC KAIWOOSA	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			66	SC KARHAMA	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			67	NOORIPORA WP	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			68	PHC RANGAR	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			69	PHC DADOMPORA	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			70	CHADQORA SDH	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			71	PHC SURASYAR	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			72	PHC HANJURA	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			73	PHC SOIGAM	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			74	PHC PANZAN	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			75	PHC HAYATPORA	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			76	PHC KANIR	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			77	PHC HUSHROO	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			78	SC BUCHROO	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			79	SC GOPALISAIF	Transporters	
			80	PHC ZOOHAMA	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			81	PHC BRANWAR	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			82	PHC BUGAL	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			83	PHC KRALPORA	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			84	CHC CHATTERGAM	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			85	PHC PAHROO	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			86	HWC SUMMERBUGH	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			87	HWC KENIHAMA	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			88	SC SHANKERPORA	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			89	HWC WAGOORA	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			90	HWC MEGANVAJI	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			91	HWC RAKSHILINA	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			92	CHC KREMSHORE	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			93	SDH KHANSAHIB	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			94	PHC HARDPANZOO	Transporters	
			95	PHC WATERHAIL	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			96	SC FALCHIL	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			97	PHC KACHWARI	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			98	PHC DABIPORA	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			99	SC ARIGAM	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			100	SC MUJHPATHRI	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			101	PHC KRALNEWA	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			102	PHC RAYAR	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			103	PHC NUNNER	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			104	PHC SHAMASABAD	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			105	PHC GURWAITH	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			106	NTPHC RINGZABAL	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			107	SDH NAGAM	Journalist/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			108	PHC HAFROO	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			109	PHC NOWPORA	Transporters	
			110	PHC NILNAG	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			111	PHC WATKULOO	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			112	NTPHC LOOLIPORA	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			113	PHC KHERGUND	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			114	HWC KUTBAL	Street Vendors/Shopkeepers	
			115	HWC TANGNAR	Transporters/Shopkeepers/Widow/Orphan	
			116	SC BADIPORA	Widows/Orphan/Labours	
			1	Officer Club Uri	Education and Others	
			2	Bandi Lagama Market	Shopkeepers/ Vendors	
			3	Sub Centre Salamabad	All Categories	
			4	Mobile Team Gingle	Shopkeepers/ Vendors/ Transporters	
			5	PWD Office	PWD Employees	
			6	PHE Office Uri	PHE Employees	
			7	Mohra Subdivision Office PDD	PDD Employees	
			8	Market Boniyar	Shopkeepers/ Vendors/ Transporters	
			9	Trikanjan Market	Shopkeepers/ Vendors/ Transporters	
			10	Bijhama Market	Shopkeepers/ Vendors/ Transporters	
			11	Nowshera Market	Shopkeepers/ Vendors/ Transporters	
			12	UPHC Baghelslam	All Categories	
			13	NTPHC CMO Office Old Hospital	All Categories	
			14	Tehsil Office	Shopkeepers/ Vendors/ Transporters	
			15	Sherwani Hall	Shopkeepers/ Vendors/ Transporters	
			16	Sumo Stand Baramulla	Transporters	
			17	PHC Sheeri	All Categories	
			18	PHC Delina	All Categories	
			19	PWD Office	PWD Employees	
			20	Engineering Division Baramulla PDD Kantbagh	PDD Employees	
			21	PHE Office Khwajabagh	PHE Employees	
			22	PHC Rohama	All Categories	
			23	Sub Centre Tregpora	All Categories	
			24	Sub Centre Hadipora	All Categories	
			25	NTPHC Behrampora	All Categories	
			26	PHC Dangiwaicha	All Categories	
			27	Trauma Hospital Watergam	All Categories	
			28	Sumo Stand Sopore	All Categories	
			29	Subcentre Chankipora	All Categories	
			30	Subcentre Arampora	All Categories	
			31	MCH Sopore	All Categories	
			32	UPHC Sopore	All Categories	
			33	Sub Centre Chankipora	All Categories	
			34	PWD Office	PWD Employees	
			35	Circle Office PHE Iqbal Nagar Sopore	PHE Employees	
			36	Circle Office Sopore Meeting Hall	Shopkeepers/ Vendors/ Transporters	
			37	CHC Kreeri	All Categories	
			38	NTPHC Dudbugh	All Categories	
			39	PHC Kalaintra	All Categories	
			40	CHC Pattan	All Categories	
			41	Old Hospital Pattan	All Categories	
			42	Trauma Hospital Pattan	All Categories	
			43	Town Hall Kunzer	Shopkeepers/ Vendors/ Transporters	
			44	PHC Kunzer	All Categories	
			45	PHC Mulgam	All Categories	
			46	PHC Serwarpura	All Categories	
			47	PHC Hardaboor	All Categories	
			48	Court Complex Tangmarg	Judiciary	
			49	Sumo Stand Tangmarg	Transporters	
			50	CHC Tangmarg	All Categories	
			51	NTPHC Babarashi	All Categories	
			52	EO Office Gulmarg	Tourism / MCs	
			53	PWD Office	PWD Employees	
			54	Tangmarg SSD Office	PDD Employees	



Shri Manoj Sinha
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

SRINAGAR		
Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category
1	UPHC Nishat	High Risk Group
2	PHC Narwara	
3	NTPHC Habba Kadal	
4	Sokharpura Community Center	
5	NTPHC Miskeenbagh, Khanyar	
6	Imam Bara Zadiab	
7	Lal Bazaar, Sub Office Ward No.11	
8	Meerakshah Colony Community Center	
9	Alfa Public School, Batapora	
10	Primary Health Center, Zakura	
11	Hr. Sec School Nawwa Kadal (Dhar School)	
12	Nowshera Community Center	
13	UPHC Pathar Masjid	
14	Karan Nagar SMC Sub Office Ward No. 22	
15	Nalbandopora Community Center	
16	Bemina Sub Office Ward No. 24	
17	Hababkhaton Complex HMT	
18	HR. Sec. School Malora	
19	Khumani Chowk Community Center	
20	Kashi Mohalla Community Center Batmakoo	
21	Girls Hr. Sec. Rajbagh	
22	Chandpora Community Center	
23	Haiderpora SMC Sub Office Ward No. 32	
24	PHC Pantha Chowk	
25	TRC Srinagar	
26	UPHC Harwan	
27	PHC Khonmoh	
28	UPHC Lal Bazaar	
29	Boys Hr. Sec. School Zadiab	
30	PHC Burzhama	
31	UPHC Shalimar	
32	CHC Gousia Hospital	
33	PHC Brein	
34	NTPHC Aabi-Dal	
35	Imam Bara Near Ashai Bagh Bridge	
36	Govt. Middle School Soiteng	
37	Panzinara	
38	PHC Lasjan	
39	Khimber	

• High Risk Group includes Shopkeepers, Hotel Staff, Service Delivery Persons, Drivers, Construction Workers, Lawyers, Journalist, Govt. employee on Covid/Active field duty, College/University going Students.
• Only eligible beneficiaries may come to the venue after vetting by concerned departmental officer

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Department, J&K

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**KASHMIR
OBSERVER**

2

Sunday| 30-05-2021



Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: IISER Tirupati DST-SERB Junior Research Fellowship 2021

Description: The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Tirupati invites applications for IISER Tirupati DST-SERB Junior Research Fellowship 2021 from postgraduate degree holders. The fellowship is a temporary post for a project titled, "Metallophoredox Catalyzed Remote (&) C(sp³)-H Trifluoromethylation & Acylation of Carbox-amides".

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates up to 28 years of age who hold an M.Sc in Chemistry or equivalent degree with a minimum of 55% marks or equivalent grade. They must have a valid CSIR/UGC-NET or GATE score card and experience in Synthetic Chemistry/Catalysis, etc.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 31,000 per month plus 8% HRA

Last Date to Apply: 10-06-2021

Application mode: Via email only

Short Ur: www.b4s.in/observer/TBR5

Scholarship Name 2: DRDO Research and Innovation Centre (RIC) Junior Research Fellowship 2021

Description: The Research and Innovation Centre (RIC) at Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) invites applications for DRDO Research and Innovation Centre (RIC) Junior Research Fellowship 2021 from postgraduate degree holders.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates below 28 years of age who hold a first-class postgraduate degree in Materials Science/Physics/Applied Sciences with a valid GATE/NET score, or ME/MTech degree in Materials Science with first-class in both graduate and postgraduate degree with a valid GATE/NET score. They must also have work experience in thin film deposition and techniques, MEMS design tools, and fabrication process techniques.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 31,000 plus HRA

Last Date to Apply: 12-06-2021

Application mode: Via post and email

Short Ur: www.b4s.in/observer/RCF8

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR

SUBJECT: SELECTION/WAITING LIST OF THE CANDIDATES FOR ENGAGEMENT AS MEDICAL OFFICERS/CASUALTY MEDICAL OFFICERS/RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICERS ON ACADEMIC ARRANGEMENT BASIS UNDER S.O. 364, DATED: 27.11.2020.

Ref:- This office Notification issued under No. No.GS/MC/21/Result/MO/AAB, Dated:25.05.2021.

NOTIFICATION

Consequent upon declaration of result of the written test held on 25.05.2021 vide above quoted notification and on the basis of merit obtained in the said test, the selection/wait list of the candidates for engagement as Medical Officers/ Casualty Medical Officers/ Resident Medical Officers on Academic Arrangement basis under S.O 364 Dated. 27.11.2020, is hereby notified in annexure (A) to the notification (available on official website of Govt. Medical College, Sgr i.e. www. gmcs.edu.in.

No.GS/MC/21/Sel/MO/AAB/966
Dated: 27.05.2021

DIPK-2164/21

Principal/Dean,
Govt. Medical College, Srinagar

ANNEXURE -A										
SELECTION/ WAITING LIST OF THE CANDIDATES FOR ENGAGEMENT AS MEDICAL OFFICERS/CASUALTY MEDICAL OFFICERS/RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICERS ON ACADEMIC ARRANGEMENT BASIS UNDER S.O. 364, DATED: 27.11.2020.										
S.NO.	ROLL NO.	NAME OF THE APPLICANT	FATHER'S/ HUSBAND'S NAME	PERMANENT ADDRESS	QUALIFICATION	MARKS OBTD.	MAX. MARKS	%age	CATEGORY	Marks obtained in the written test out of 50
1	33023	Azmina Batool	Ali Mohtashim	Saghat colony Buthama Budwara	MBBS	1514	2450	61.80	Gen	43
2	33035	Anna Batool	Mohammad Ashraf Wani	Maidan chogul Handwara	MBBS	3110	4300	72.33	Gen	42
3	33034	Asad ul Shah	Farooq ahmed shah	h.no.148,garden lane,chanapora	MBBS	3070	3700	82.97	Gen	40
4	33013	MIR NAJIBU SAQIB	SHOWKAT AHMAD MIR	151, WARD NO. 04, BANDIPORA	MBBS	1482	2450	60.49	Gen	40
5	33003	Raja cwas	Farooq ahmad bhat	Niccolai varipora kalgam	MBBS	1450	2450	59.18	Gen	40

6	33012	ISHFAQ AHMAD RESHI	AB SALAH RESHI	HAKURA ANANTNAG	MBBS	1470	2450	60.00	Gen	39
7	33041	Syed Shah Faisal	Syed Mohammad Farooq Shah	House No 120, Lane 3, Gulberg Colony, Hyderabad, Sector 3	MBBS	2913	4300	67.74	Gen	38
8	33064	Jahangeer Ahmad	Abdul Rashid Khan	Chak solbugh Budgam	MBBS	1470	2450	60.00	EWS	37
9	33015	Nadeem Ahmad Tantray	Ghulam Mohammad Tantray	Panchpora Marhama Bithera	MBBS	1438	2450	58.69	Gen	37
10	33054	Parveez ahmed khani	Shabeer ahmed khani	Wakura Ganderbal	MBBS	522	900	58.00	RBA	36
11	33087	JAHANGER AKBAR KHAN	AKBAR ALI KHAN	HALNATPORA KULWARA	MBBS	3005	3700	81.22	Gen	35
12	33029	Mubashir Hassan	Ghulam Hassan Bhat	Dehama	MBBS	1433	2450	58.49	RBA	35
13	33047	Suhail Ahmad Dar	Mund Abdullah Dar	Bali Akar Handwara Kulwara	MBBS	73	90	81.11	RBA	34
14	33072	Shoaib Ali Khan	Ali Mohammad Khan	Bawal, M K Chowk	MBBS	3016	4300	70.14	Gen	34

15	33086	Uzma shabir	Shabir ahmad bhat	House no 8, Ganaypora Birmilah colony Srinagar	MBBS	2903	4300	67.51	Gen	34
16	33052	MUZAMEL HAMID	ABDUL HAMID SHAH	SOKALI PORA RAJOURKADAL	MBBS	1373	2450	56.04	Gen	34
17	33053	Nayer Rashid	Abdul Rashid	H.No.56, Near PCR, Baramulla Baramulla	MBBS	162	300	54.00	Gen	34
18	33045	Dr Madhi amin	Mr Mohammed amin	House no 354, Lane 21, Indira Nagar, Sonwar	MBBS	3217	5050	63.70	Gen	33
19	33073	UMMER FAROQ	FAROOQ AHMAD BHAT	BUGAM KULGAM	MBBS	1375	2450	56.29	Gen	33
20	33010	Nisha Naik	Taruseef Ahmad Ganie	Dangum P/O Singuware Anantnag	MBBS	3998	4300	67.40	Gen	32
21	33011	Saima Nobi	Ghulam Razi Baba	Check Mijundi perimpora Srinagar	MBBS	1430	2450	58.37	Gen	32
22	33049	HUMA MANZOOR	MANZOOR KHAN	h no 49 chogul handwara	MBBS	3465	5050	68.61	Gen	31
23	33071	Tufail Nazir	Nazir Ahmad Dar	Dar Mohalla, Soura, Srinagar, 190011	MBBS	NA	NA	###	Gen	31

24	33043	Mariya Inbal	Inbal Ahmad Bhat	Muharraq Mansaf, Hachinar, Srinagar, JBL, India, 190001	MBBS	3117	4300	72.49	Gen	30
25	33082	yaseer sajad	sajad hussain	Baba pora,habbe kadal, srinagar, kashmir	MBBS	3908	4300	69.95	Gen	30
26	33004	DR TARIQ AHMAD BHAT	HABIB ULLAH BHAT	428 1/D GWASABAD HOUSING COLONY BEMINA	MBBS	NA	NA	###	Gen	30
27	33005	Chowdhri Shalita Amin	Chowdhri Mohd Amin	HOUSE NO-4 SARAI FAYEEN AMIRA KADAL DASTAGEER SH	MBBS	1580	2000	79.00	Gen	29
28	33059	AREZALAN AMIN HALIK	MCHANNAG AMIN HALIK	47/5b camponah colony, natipora srinagar	MBBS	3737	4900	76.27	Gen	29
29	33026	Berish Nissar	Nisar Ahmed Wahab	Urmer Colony B, Lane 3, House No. 35 Lak Bazar	MBBS	2976	4300	69.21	Gen	29
30	33022	Shandana Farooq Bhat	Farooq Ahmad Bhat	New college road, tral	MBBS	NA	NA	###	Gen	29

31	33031	Fayeezsh Jahan	Ghulam Mohd ul Din Zargar	old Gah Bithera	MBBS	3045	4300	70.81	Gen	28
32	33014	Saba garyas	Farveez Ahmad	297,Housing colony Chanapora	MBBS	2985	4300	69.44	Gen	28
33	33025	MUDASIR AHMAD QURPAL	FAYAZ AHMAD QURPAL	185, Indus colony, buchpora, srinagar	MBBS	2841	4300	66.07	Gen	28
34	33043	Owais Ahmad Zargar	Habibullah Zargar	Lane No.7 Mumtazabad, Baramulla Srinagar JBL.	MBBS	800	1000	80.00	Gen	27
35	33079	SYEDA SAIMA RASHID BUKHARI	SYED ABUL RASHID BUKHARI	Khemohabad Kreen	MBBS	3121	4300	72.58	Gen	27
36	33017	ASIF ALI BHAT	ALI MOHD BHAT	MAGAM TEHSIL MAGAM	MBBS	1881	2800	67.18	Gen	27
37	33016	SHAZIA AMIN	MCHAMHAD AMIN WANI	BROADWAY STREET NASEEM BAGH HABAK	MBBS	2080	3450	60.29	Gen	27
38	33078	Khalid Ahmad Mir	Nazir Ahmad Mir	Shahin Colony Noorbagh	MBBS	649	1200	54.08	Gen	27

39	33021	Raja Owais Sadiq Zargar	Mohammad Sadiq Zargar	New college road, tral	MBBS	NA	NA	###	Gen	27
40	33007	Neelofar Naqash	Khurshid Ahmad Naqash	Bolgarden 287 nursing path	MBBS	7669	11503	66.67	Gen	26
41	33036	MUBASHIR NAZIR	NAZIR AHMAD PARIMOO	H.NO.36, LANE NO. 1, SHEDDI HANZAH COLONY, BOTASHAH MOHALLA, LAHAZAR SRINAGAR	MBBS	3071	5050	60.81	Gen	26
42	33062	SHAZIYA AFZAL	GULZAR AHMAD HATE	BODDER HAYATPORA, KOKERNAG ANANTNAG 192282	MBBS	1370	2450	55.92	Gen	26
43	33088	Dr Inwan N Hafiz	Nisar ahmad hafiz	c-4 chorakya place ,40 feet Road Janakpuri C	MBBS	NA	NA	###	Gen	26
44	33085	Kyzer Sajad	Mohammad Akbar	House No:35, New Colony, Badu Bugh, Khamar	MBBS	3600	4200	85.71	Gen	25
45	33083	DR TARIQ MEHMAD	MEHMAD UL DIN BHAT	guckar road, asmar srinagar	MBBS	444	555	80.60	Gen	25

46	33042	Hassan Fayaz	Fayaz ahmad mir	Regipora	MBBS	3916	5200	75.31	Gen	25
47	33007	Shahid Rafiq	Mohamed Rafiq	Somwar Rajpora Srinagar	MBBS	3478	4700	74.00	Gen	25
48	33048	MUSBAH YOUSUF	MUHAMMAD YOUSUF BHAT	Dochegam National Park Road Near Harwan Bus Stop	MBBS	1165	1500	77.67	Gen	25
49	33039	Kaloon ud din	Mohammad meebol masood	Botishah mohalla tal bazir srinagar	MBBS	3045	4300	70.81	Gen	24
50	33081	Dr Fozia Rasheed	Abdul Rasheed Wani	Tengpora Buthama, house no 100	MBBS	2780	4500	61.78	Gen	24
51	33060	Dr HUMER AHMED TANTRI	Mr GHULAM MOHAMMAD TANTRI	LAL DED COLONY, GOURIPORA, SANATNAGAR, SRINAGAR	MBBS	2325	4100	56.71	Gen	24
52	33050	Tahira Jockari	Ghulam jeelani bhat	Syed colony quab bagh	MBBS	253	310	81.61	Gen	23
53	33032	Ajaz Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Bhat	Hanjan bela, pulwama	MBBS	1406	2450	57.39	Gen	23
54	33033	Mohammad Yetya Khan	Late Ghulam Mohammad Khan	Tengpora By-pass Baramulla	MBBS	1610	2700	59.63	Gen	22

WAITING LIST										
1	33057	Anousha Hufi	Mufti Surhan Shah	House No.3, Sector -E, Jhelumabad Peerbagh Srinagar	MBBS	1394	2450	56.90	Gen	19
2	33020	Arslan Farooq Bhat	Farooq Ahmad Bhat	Vikar Colony, House NO 122	MBBS	NA	NA	###	Gen	18

Deptt.of (AYUSH) District Anantnag. AYUSH Immune Booster Medicine Distributed at village Nanil Anantnag from ISM Dispy. Nanil Anantnag



On the directions of Director Indian Systems of Medicine (AYUSH) J & K & ADMO ISM Anantnag, FREE AYUSH Immune Booster Medicines were distributed at Village Nanil Anantnag & Door to Door and also importance of COVID SoPs and vaccination was explained in detail From Govt.ISM Dispensary Nanil Anantnag.

mja

Sad Demise

With Profound grief and Sorrow over the Sad demise of Hajira Begum W/o Late Ali Mohammed Khan R/O Qazi Masjid Karfali Mohalla at Present Devi Angan Hawal on 29/May/2021.The Family of Deceased has urged relatives and Friends,well wishers to pray for departed soul and not to visit over home for any condolence in view of Covid-19 Pendenic.It is also informed that in view of prevailing circumstances no congregational Majlis e Fateh Khawani will be held at Ancestral graveyard.



Bereaved Family

9906611155,7042039788

SAD DEMISE



We inform you the sad demise of Mohammed Afzal Wani Father of Hilal Ahmad Wani & Uncle of Bilal Ahmad Wani R/o Nundresh Colony Bemina who passed away on 29-05-2021.

BEREAVED FAMILY
7006209407

DDMA Srinagar Fixes Rates For Refilling Of Medical Oxygen



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The district administration Srinagar on Saturday ordered the fixation of rates for refilling of medical oxygen cylinders including delivery charges.According to the new rates, Bulk Cylinder (7000cc) will cost Rs. 290/Cylinder while as the refilling cost at Plant will be Rs 165/ cylinder, and for Medium Cylinder (1430cc) will be Rs. 100/Cylinder and refilling cost at Plant

will be Rs 50/ cylinder.

In an order, DDMA states that the availability of uninterrupted supply of medical Oxygen is an important prerequisite for managing moderate and severe cases of COVID-19 and it is an essential public health commodity and ensuring uninterrupted supply to the patients at a reasonable rate is of utmost importance.

In this regard, a meeting was conducted by DDMA, Srinagar with officials from Department

of Industries & Commerce, Department of Health & Medical Education, FCS&CA, Revenue, Legal Metrology, Office of Drugs & Food Control Organization, representatives from Oxygen Generating Plants, and Suppliers/Vendor.

After threadbare discussion and accounting for all parameters, it was decided that the rates for refilling of Oxygen Cylinders supplied to the individual patients (inclusive of delivery charges) in the retail market by Vendors/Suppliers shall be fixed.

“Furthermore, concentration of such cylinders shall be maintained above 99.5 per cent. Any violation of the above directions will lead to prosecution under section 51 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

This order shall not apply to the supplies being made to hospitals,” the order states.

SMC Corporators Call Off Strike After Div Com Assures Enquiry

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporators on Saturday called off their strike after Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P K Pole assured that an enquiry will be conducted within seven days.SMC corporators led by Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu were on hunger strike since Thursday inside the corporation premises, seeking an action against the Joint Commissioner (Planning). The Divisional Commissioner visited the protesting corpora-



tors at SMC and assured them that an enquiry will be conducted within seven days.Sources informed that after assuring the protesting corporators of enquiry, Pole later met SMC Commissioner Athar Aamir at his office.

Lockdown Has Added To Our Miseries: Transporters

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid the ongoing lockdown, the transporters Saturday demanded authorities to lift the lockdown as the prevalent situation has added to their miseries.The transporters at Parimpora bus stand said that they have been damaging their vehicles to sell the items in the market to meet their daily needs.

“Our families have been pushed to the starvation by the government. We have been promised of compensation and support many times so far, but nothing has been done in this regard. We were even promised that the amount of insurance will be returned to us, but the government has failed to come up to the expectations of transporters,” Abdul Rashid, a bus driver said.

He said they are not able to meet the daily needs due to the prevalent situation.

Nissar Ahmad, another driver

said that the public vehicles are being allowed to ply normally elsewhere in the country while the transporters are being harassed in J&K for one reason or the other

“The lockdown must not continue. If the government is serious in containing the virus, it should ensure SOPs are followed in TRC busses as well,” he said.Muhammad Sultan General Manager Bus Stand said that the transport industry is on the verge of extinction

“The transporters here have been facing tremendous hardships since the government shifted the bus stand from Batamaloo to Parimpora. The transporters have always been left at God's mercy as the government despite claiming high and tall has failed to extend any support to the transporters,” he said.

They later appealed to the government to take adequate measures so that they can earn their livelihood again—(KNO)

JK Finance Employees Association Condoles Demise Of AAO, LAWDA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A condolence meeting was held under the chairmanship of President Jammu and Kashmir Finance Employees Association to condole the demise of AAO, LAWDA Srinagar,

Firdous Khan who expired today.

While expressing grief and shock over the demise of the official, the participants prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and forbearance to the bereaved family at this hour of grief.

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1959 - Iraq terminates milt assistance pact with US due to neutrality
- 1959 - World's 1st hovercraft (SR-N1) tested at Cowes, England
- 1966 - US launches Surveyor 1 to Moon
- 1967 - Biafra declares independence from Nigeria
- 1967 - King Hussein of Jordan visits Cairo
- 1971 - US Mariner 9 1st satellite to orbit Mars launched
- 1982 - Spain becomes 16th member of NATO
- 1990 - 135 die in a (6.4) earthquake in Peru
- 1990 - Earthquake hit Peru, killing 135
- 1992 - UN votes for sanctions against Serb-led Yugoslavia to halt fighting
- 1998 - A magnitude 6.6 earthquake hits northern Afghanistan, killing up to 5,000.
- 2012 - A number of nations including Germany, Turkey and Canada, expel Syrian diplomats following the Houla massacre
- 2012 -VishwanathanAnand wins his fifth World Chess Championship
- 2014 - Former military chief al-Sisi wins 93 percent of the vote in Egypt's presidential election
- 2015 - Alistair Cook becomes

From KO Archives

Musharraf For Int’l Guarantees On JK

Kashmir Solution In 12 Months, Hurriyat True Representative Of Kashmiri People , Pak To Facilitate APHC-New Delhi talks

ISLAMABAD - Adding a new dimension to the peace process on Kashmir, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has said he would prefer some kind of "international guarantees" for implementation of any pact reached with India on the issue, which he wants to he settled in a year's time.

HI don't know. I haven't •thought of this point: but maybe the peace process should be guaranteed by the international community. I think if we reach an agreement there should be something other than just bilateral guarantees.

"I think the international community should play a role in the guarantees. And this is a new tiling that I am saying," he said in an interview to a Pakistani daily.

The President-had last week said a solution to the Kashmir issue cannot be on "any religious basis" and has to be found within India's stand of no redrawing of borders, Pakistan's stand on LoC cannot be a permanent border and boundaries becoming irrelevant.

Elaborating the new element, Musharraf said in the interview "we are talking of 'guarantees which go beyond us. If we reach an agreement and we are reasonably sure that it will be followed, there is no harm why we should be so stuck up.. I think we will have better permanence if the international community is involved, finally in the guarantee." 'Daily Times' newspaper quoted him as saying.

Musharraf believes 12 months is good enough to reach an agreement as the new timeline ensures that it could be reached within the tenures of his and that of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Answering a question about where he sees the peace process heading in the next one year Musharraf said: "If we move forward, which we can. if we have the courage I am very sure this (Kashmir) whole issue can be put behind in 12 months."

Musharraf said the process may take better shape within a year's time.

"I see them looking much better. My-only hope is Prime Minister Manmohan Singh stays and is allowed to move forward. I am very glad to say that my interaction with BJP leaders Advani and Vajpayee, has been very good. The only, thing that I said was please don't oppose it because you are in the opposition.

(Kashmir Observer, 30 May, 2005)

MERC Hosts DataLEADS 'VaxCheck-Kashmir' Webinar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Media Education Research Center (MERC), University of Kashmir on Saturday hosted a webinar titled "VaxCheck Kashmir" during which experts helped the participants to learn how to combat the vaccine-related misinformation and false claims.

The training is a Google News Initiative, in partnership with DataLEADS, which is organizing this special fact-checking "Town Hall series" in different states/UTs of the country.

At the beginning of the webinar, Surbhi Pandit Nangia, Director-Outreach and Engagement at DataLEADS, Health Analytics Asia outlined the huge impact COVID-19 has had and is continuing to have on the daily lives of people from past two years and stressed the need to reach out to people to tackle "the infodemic" taking place which, she said has resulted in vaccine hesitancy and further spread of misinformation.

In her welcome address Dr. Aaliya Ahmed, HoD MERC, highlighted the need for having health literacy programs in times of misinformation which, she said, "would help to mitigate the serious effects of infodemic."

Highlighting the importance of tackling the issue of misinformation and fake news in the times of pandemic, Dr Aaliya stressed the need of imparting proper information backed by scientific evidence which would in turn help in acting as a measure to build the confidence in vaccines and overcome the vaccine hesitancy.

Resource person of the first session, Ghazala Yasmin, Assistant Professor Alih University, Kolkata and GNI Trainer talked about why we need awareness and sensitization about vaccine misinformation, how much it has previously impacted the society and how it leads to vaccine hesitancy.

She talked about the techniques through which misinformation is being spread across media platforms and trained the participants in picking up such instances.

Yasmeen also deliberated upon using the internet in a correct way in order to not to fall prey to both the data deficiency regarding COVID and at the same the overabundance of the information.

انتقال پر ملال

سبحانہ سبحانہ! دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ ہی جانی ہے کہ ہماری چھبیر و بقیہیں بھٹی اور ویلیٹیئر بھٹی کے سیکریٹری بشیر احمد ڈھوٹی ولد مرحوم محمد صدیق ڈھوٹی سہانہ عملہ ڈھوٹی لکھات آغا شریف درگاہ حضرت بل آج تک بھل از نماز فجر بوقت تین بجے بروز ہفتہ المبارک اس دار فانی سے دار البقا کی طرف کوچ کر گئے۔

صاحب موصوف ایک نیک سیرت، شریف انشس، پابند صوم و صلوات، ممتاز شخصیت کے مالک تھے۔ ہم گہراں بھٹی تہ دل سے ان کے کم یوں منت ہیں اور دعا گو ہیں کہ مرحوم کو اللہ تعالیٰ جنت الفردوس میں جگہ دے۔ آمین۔

ہم ان کے لواحقین کے ساتھ اس ناقابل غلامی صدمہ میں رابر کے شریک ہیں اور ہماری دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کے لواحقین کو یہ ناقابل غلامی صدمہ برداشت کرنے کی توفیق عطا فرمائے۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خواہ **31 مئی 2021** بروز سوموار صبح دس بجے آجائی مقبرہ واقع ڈھوٹی لکھات آغا شریف درگاہ حضرت بل۔ اے، میں انجام دے جانے کی اور دعا ہے کہ اس پر ہی انتقام پڑے ہوگی۔

غلام علی الدین ملک چرین، جمہوریت نیک ناصب صدر، مجتبیٰ و بھٹین بھٹی اور ویلیٹیئر بھٹی آغا شریف درگاہ حضرت بل سرنیکر

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat S/O Sanaullah Bhat R/O Khandha Bhaawan Nawa Kadal Srinagar on 28 May 2021 (16th Shawaal 1442 Hijri) after brief illness

Due to ongoing pandemic (covid -19) there will be no public congregation .We request to send Fatiha and Prayers to the departed soul from their respective residence as there will be no gathering at our home

May Allah grant Jannat ul Firdous to the departed soul

BEREAVED
Bhat Family
9697901565 / 7006498840

از خلیات نائب تحصیلدار ماگام

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب اختر حسین داروفاشل حسین ڈارو افسانہ بانو اولادان غلام احمد ڈار ساکنہ موضع ماگام برادعطا کی بیکوار ڈار اسر تفکیکیت تحت SRO 294

استشہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص وعام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سال دفتر ہذا میں زیر کارڈی ہے اس سلسلے میں چواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ منظور کیا گیا ہے جس سے میاں سے کرساں موضع ماگام میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کہہ پڑیل افراد یہ منتقل ہے

غلام احمد ڈار ولد بی محمد ڈار	مزدوری	58 سال	سربرہ کہہ
بھٹی بیکمڑہ غلام احمد ڈار	گھریلو کام	35 سال	
اختر حسین ڈار پسر	ذریعہ تعلیم	28 سال	
شاہ بدین ڈار پسر	مازاد	25 سال	
فاضل احمد ڈار پسر	ذریعہ تعلیم	23 سال	
اقسانہ بانو دختر	ذریعہ تعلیم	22 سال	
عبدالحمید ولد غلام احمد ڈار	مزدوری	40	
تمبہ دکنڈہ زید محمد عبدل الجید	گھریلو کام	28	
واصف حمید	ذریعہ تعلیم	13	
بندہ حمید	ذریعہ تعلیم	15	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہہ نہیں ہے سال کے سیکریٹری کا ہوا رڈ ایڈریس 12800 ہے سر تفکیکیت اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کسی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر صاف معروض کیا ہیام امر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے معیار کرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

sult

Iran General Tells Israelis To Leave For Europe, US

TEHRAN: A top Iranian commander on Saturday said it is time for the Israelis to think about leaving Palestine and redeem their homes in Europe and the US.

"Before your homes you sold



in Europe, America and elsewhere become more expensive, go back and re-buy and rebuild them," said General Ismail Qa'ani, head of Iran's revolutionary guard's elite Quds force.

"From now on, the message of the resistance to the Palestinian children is that 'your plans must be for the administration of the whole of Palestine', and without a doubt, the Zionist regime must think of a time when this land will no longer be under their control," General Qa'ani said.

Iran, Israel's arch-enemy, is a sponsor of Palestinian resistance groups, including Hamas

and Islamic Jihad.

Both groups have publicly praised Iran for its assistance, which experts say now primarily takes the form of blueprints, engineering know-how, motor tests and other technical expertise.

The U.S. State Department reports that Iran provides \$100 million a year to Palestinian armed groups.

Qa'ani said: "In the first three days of the Palestinian war with the Zionist regime, we fired as many missiles at the occupied territories as the entire 22-day war. This is the power of the Resistance Front," General Qa'ani said, referring to the war that began on December 27, 2008.

According to the general, "more than 3,000 missiles fired by the resistance into the occupied territories were produced in the same geographic area" which was pulverized in 2008 under a ferocious Israeli aerial campaign and came to be known as the Gaza massacre.

Qa'ani's comments come in the wake of an 11-day war between Israel and the Islamic militant group Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip.

During the fighting, Gaza militants fired more than 4,000 rockets at Israel, while Israel bombed hundreds of targets linked to militants in Gaza.

More than 250 people, the majority Palestinians, were killed in the war which ended a week ago.

Coronavirus Storm Engulfs Everest



Agencies

Mount Everest guide Buddhi Bahadur Lama has spent days isolated in a tent after testing positive for coronavirus, as an outbreak that climbers say is putting lives at risk sweeps base camp.

He is one of four in his expedition team thought to have contracted Covid-19 at the foot of the world's highest mountain, along with a growing number of others.

"This is not just our problem, it is happening in most of the teams at the base camp right now," the 35-year-old told AFP.

Dozens of suspected Covid cases have been flown out of the area and at least two companies have cancelled expeditions after team members tested positive.

However authorities in Nepal have yet to acknowledge a single case at the mountain, with the stakes high for the country's tourism industry after a Covid shutdown last year cost millions in lost revenue.

Lama's symptoms are mild but he said some climbers were suffering more severely.

The warmer weather that ushers in safer conditions for scaling Everest and other Himalayan peaks has coincided with a new wave of Covid-19 infections in Nepal.

The country is reporting an average of 8,000 cases a day and the health system has been

overwhelmed.

Over the last two months since the climbing season began, more than 1,000 mountaineers and their mainly Nepali guides have been camped in the tent city.

More than 350 have reached the summit so far this season, but some are still at base camp waiting for the next weather window.

Breathing is already difficult at high altitudes so the coronavirus becomes a major threat if symptoms appear during a climb.

Officials at a camp clinic say more than 30 people have been flown out for health issues in recent weeks. Some have posted their Covid-19 diagnosis on social media.

But the government says it is unaware of any cases.

"We have asked companies and officials to report to us if they have any Covid cases but none has submitted anything yet. We need an official report," said Nepal's tourism department chief Rudra Singh Tamang.

"If people have tested positive in Kathmandu, it is hard to say where they got infected."

There is also a lack of transparency among some expedition organizers about positive cases.

'Lives at risk'

Austrian expedition organizer Lukas Furtenbach, who was the first to cancel an expedition, said he had submitted a report to the government.



"DON'T THINK THE COVID-19 pandemic is over," WHO's regional director for Europe said (File)

Pandemic Won't Be Over Until 70 Per Cent Are Vaccinated: WHO

Agence France-Presse

COPENHAGEN: The WHO's European director warned Friday that the Covid-19 pandemic won't end until at least 70 per cent of people are vaccinated, and criticized Europe's vaccine rollout as "too slow".

The World Health Organization's regional director for Europe Hans Kluge said countries and their populations must not become complacent about the pandemic.

"Don't think the COVID-19 pandemic is over," Kluge told AFP in an interview, while adding that vaccination rates needed to increase.

"The pandemic will be over once we reach 70 percent minimum coverage in vaccination," the regional director said.

In the 53 countries and territories that make up the WHO's European region -- including several in Central Asia -- 26 percent of the population has received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

In the European Union, 36.6 percent of the population has

received at least one dose and 16.9 percent have been fully vaccinated, according to a count by AFP.

Kluge said one of his main concerns was the increased contagiousness of new variants.

"We know for example that the B.1617 (India-dominant variant) is more transmissible than the B.117 (British variant), which already was more transmissible than the previous strain," Kluge noted.

Cases of the India-dominant variant have been recorded in 27 of the region's 53 countries, while the number of new cases, and deaths, has fallen for five consecutive weeks, reaching their lowest levels since mid-October.

Speed essential

Worldwide, new cases have dropped for four weeks in a row, according to an AFP tally.

But while vaccines have proven effective against coronavirus mutations, people must still be vigilant, Kluge emphasised.

The Belgian doctor said a major concern was that "people

drop their guards that they become complacent," especially going into the summer months.

In addition, large gatherings are on the horizon in conjunction with the European football championship.

"Let's finally give COVID-19 the red card, don't allow extra time for Covid-19," Kluge quipped, repeating advice to maintain social distances and wear face masks.

He also underscored that speed is "of essence" during the pandemic.

"Our best friend is speed, time is working against us, (and) the vaccination roll-out still goes too slow," Kluge said.

"We need to accelerate, we need to enlarge the number of vaccines," and European countries needed to show more solidarity.

"It is not acceptable that some countries start to vaccinate the younger, healthy part of the population, while other countries in our region still did not cover all the health care workers and the most vulnerable people," Kluge said.

European Union Approves Pfizer-BioNTech Jab For 12 To 15-Year-Olds

Agence France-Presse

THE HAGUE: The European Union's drug watchdog on Friday approved the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus jab for 12 to 15-year-olds, the first vaccine to get the green light for children in the bloc.

The vaccine was "well tolerated" in adolescents and there were no "major concerns" in terms of side effects, the Amsterdam-based European Medicines Agency said.

The move will be a further boost for Europe's vaccination programme, with Germany saying it will start giving the jab to children over the age of 12 from next month.

The United States and Canada have already authorised Pfizer for adolescents.

"As anticipated, the EMA's Committee for Human Medicines has today approved the use of the vaccine from Pfizer/BioNTech in adolescents from 12 to 15 years," Marco Cavaleri, the EMA's head of vaccine strategy, told a news conference.

Until now the shot made by US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and



German research firm BioNTech had only been authorised by the EU for people aged 16 and older.

'Parents' decision'

EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides hailed it as "one step closer to ending the pandemic", but said people would still have the choice about whether their children should get the jab.

"Beyond the decisions of governments, this is ultimately a decision to be made by parents for their children," she said on Twitter.

With EU countries trying to expand their vaccination coverage, EMA chief Emer Cooke has said the regulator fast-tracked the approval, which was originally expected in June.

The watchdog insisted that it had taken the necessary steps to ensure it was safe.

Trials showed the Pfizer vaccine was "highly preventative" for Covid-19 in children, the EMA's Cavaleri said.

None of the 1,005 children who received the vaccine in a trial developed Covid-19, compared to 16 children out of the 978 who received a placebo injection.

"From a safety perspective, the vaccine was well tolerated and the side effects in this age group were very much similar to what we have seen in young adults and not raising major concerns at this point in time," Cavaleri said.

The EMA confirmed it was looking into "very rare" cases of heart inflammation in people aged under 30 who had been given the Pfizer vaccine.

"Currently there is no indication that these cases are due to the vaccine and EMA is closely monitoring this issue," it said in a statement.

'Critical milestone'

US authorities have also reported a small number of reports of heart inflammation among some younger people who Pfizer and Moderna, which uses the same Messenger RNA technology,

US Taking "Very Close Look" At Vaccine Passports For Travel

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON: The United States said Friday it is seriously considering creating a vaccine passport for Americans traveling abroad.

"We're taking a very close look at that," Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said of the idea of special documentation for vaccinated Americans who want to travel overseas, as inoculation drives allow Europe and other regions of the world to start opening up from pandemic restrictions.

The administration of President Joe Biden, Mayorkas told ABC television, wants to ensure that "any passport that we provide for vaccinations is accessible to all and that no one is disenfranchised."

Mayorkas's agency oversees the Transportation Security Administration.

The European Union is working to introduce a vaccine travel document for this summer so it can welcome back badly needed tourists, and some EU countries plan to introduce certificates at

the national level.

But the idea is controversial in the US. Some conservative states like Florida and Texas reject the idea of vaccine travel documents on grounds this would violate peoples' basic rights.

This week a lawmaker who supports former president Donald Trump caused an uproar by



saying a vaccine passport would be like the yellow star that the Nazis forced Jews to wear.

In April White House press secretary Jen Psaki said there was no federal law requiring people to get vaccination certificate in order to travel.

Remains Of 215 Children Found At Former Indigenous School Site In Canada



KAMLOOPS: The remains of 215 children, some as young as 3 years old, have been found buried on the site of what was once Canada's largest Indigenous residential school—one of the institutions that held children taken from families across the nation.

Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation said in a news release that the remains were confirmed last weekend with the help of ground-penetrating radar.

More bodies may be found because there are more areas to search on the school grounds, Casimir said Friday.

In an earlier release, she called the discovery an "unthinkable loss that was spoken about but never documented at the Kamloops Indian Residential School".

A report more than five years ago by a Truth and Reconciliation Commission detailed harsh mistreatment inflicted on Indigenous children at the institutions.

It said at least 3,200 children had died amid abuse and neglect, and it said it had reports of at least 51 deaths at the Kamloops school alone between 1915 and 1963.

"This really resurfaces the issue of residential schools and the wounds from this legacy of genocide towards Indigenous people," Terry Teegee, Assembly of First Nations regional chief for British Columbia, said Friday.

British Columbia Premier John Horgan said he was "horrified and heartbroken" to learn of the discovery, calling it a tragedy of "unimaginable proportions" that highlights the violence and consequences of the residential

school system.

The Kamloops school operated between 1890 and 1969, when the federal government took over operations from the Catholic Church and operated it as a day school until it closed in 1978.

Casimir said it's believed the deaths are undocumented, although a local museum archivist is working with the Royal British Columbia Museum to see if any records of the deaths can be found.

"Given the size of the school, with up to 500 students registered and attending at any one time, we understand that this confirmed loss affects First Nations communities across British Columbia and beyond," Casimir said in the initial release issued late Thursday.

The leadership of the Tk'emlups community "acknowledges their responsibility to caretake for these lost children," Casimir said.

Access to the latest technology allows for a true accounting of the missing children and will hopefully bring some peace and closure to those lives lost, she said in the release.

Casimir said band officials are informing community members and surrounding communities that had children who attended the school.

The First Nations Health Authority called the discovery of the children's remains "extremely painful" and said in a website posting that it "will have a significant impact on the Tk'emlups community and in the communities served by this residential school". — AP

NEWS MAKERS

Saudi Arabia: Loudspeakers In Mosques Used Only For Azan And Iqamat

Agencies

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Islamic Affairs has imposed restrictions on the use of loudspeakers in mosques, allowing the use of loudspeakers only for calls for prayers (Azan) and Iqamat.

A circular has been issued by Abdul Latif Al Sheikh, Saudi Minister of Islamic Affairs, to all mosques across the Kingdom, to limit the use of loudspeakers only for Azaan and Iqama and lower the volume of loudspeakers to one-third level.

Azan is the first call for prayer, while Iqamat is the second call for prayer, indicating the Imam has taken his place facing towards the Kaaba and the Prayer is about to commence.



The circular is based on Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) Hadith in which he said: "Lo! every one of you is calling his Lord quietly. One should not trouble the other and one should not raise the voice in recitation or in prayer

over the voice of the other."

The rule is also based on fatwas by most senior Islamic scholars like Sheikh Mohammed bin Saleh Al Othaimeen and Saleh Al Fawzan, that loudspeakers in mosques should only be used for Azan and Iqamat.

Police To Probe Finland Prime Minister's Breakfast Bill

Agence France-Presse

HELSINKI: Finland's police announced on Friday that they will investigate whether the prime minister's breakfasts have been illegally subsidised using taxpayers' money.

Prime Minister Sanna Marin found herself in hot water on Tuesday when the tabloid Ilta-lehti reported that she has been claiming back about 300 euros (\$365) per month for her family's breakfasts while living at her official residence, Kesaranta.

While opposition figures accused the PM of being left with egg on her face, the 35-year-old head of government insisted that the perk was also given to her predecessors.

"As prime minister I have not asked for this benefit nor been involved in deciding on it,"



Marin said on Twitter.

Legal experts consulted by the media subsequently suggested that using taxpayers' money to pay for the prime minister's morning meal may in fact contravene Finnish legislation.

On Friday, police announced a pre-trial investigation into a possible public-office offence, after receiving a request to

probe the issue.

"The prime minister has been reimbursed for some meals, even though the wording of the law on ministerial remuneration does not appear to permit this," police said in a statement.

In the statement, detective superintendent Teemu Jokinen said the investigation will fo-

cus on the decisions of officials inside the prime minister's office, and "in no way relates to the prime minister or her official activities."

Marin said Friday on Twitter that she welcomes the investigation and will cease claiming the benefit while it is looked into.

The Social Democrat politician has enjoyed relatively high levels of public support since coming to office in December 2019, and her centre-left coalition has been credited with helping Finland maintain some of Europe's lowest coronavirus infection rates.

However, as the Nordic nation gears up for local elections on 13 June, her party lags in the polls behind the opposition, while the far-right Finns Party has been predicted to make record gains.

Two Teachers Quizzed Over Obscene Viral Video

Three persons Who Circulated Clip Identified: Police
Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday said to have detained two teachers from north-Kashmir's Baramulla district after 'some prurient videos, showcasing the two, went viral on social media.'

In a statement, Baramulla district police said that on intimidation about 'some prurient videos going viral on social media', it swung into action and registered an FIR under sections 66E, 67 IT act, 384 and 418 IPC into the matter.

Identifying two involved persons as Naseer Ahmad Berwall and Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, both residents of Nambra Uri, teachers by profession, it said that both have been detained adding that 'strict action as warranted under law is being taken against offenders.'

The police has in the statement disclosed that the 'act was done through the medium of Facebook and the chat was with the same person from outside of the UT.'

The lady involved, as per the

statement, had video chatted with both the teachers with the purpose of extorting money. "The lady had demanded money from both of them in lieu of keeping the video secret and had threatened them to upload it on social media sites in case they failed to, however she eventually made the video of the obscene acts social which later went viral on social media", the statement reads.

"Since the matter involves Section 66 (E) and 67 of the IT Act, which prohibit transmission of private images and obscene material over any medium, action shall be taken against anyone found involved in sending, transmitting, displaying or making public in any way such content", it maintained.

Three persons have already been identified in this regard, it reads and a hunt has been launched to arrest the accused fraud from outside and those found involved in transmitting the material, the statement said.

Public is warned to be aware of such fraud tactics, the statement further read. (GNS)

BGSBU Announces Admission For 2021, Announces Reduction In Fee

Observer News Service

RAJOURI: Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Rajouri Saturday launched the online admission process for various Postgraduate, Undergraduate, B.Tech and diploma programs from the academic session 2021. The online submission of application forms for admission to different academic programs offered by the University will start from June 01, 2021.

Details regarding eligibility criteria, selection criteria and fee etc. shall be available in admission brochure 2021 which can be downloaded from university website www.bgsbu.ac.in, a university statement said.

The admission process was launched by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Akbar Masood. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Akbar said that we are seeking students who want to experience the joy of learning, discover themselves and are committed to contribute to nation building.

Prof. Akbar said, "BGSBU strives to cater the needs of those who aspire to be the leaders. We allow our students to think beyond imaginations and curate credentials that fit their aspirations. I encourage eligible students to apply in large numbers and be a part of a unique academic environment here at BGSBU." On the occasion, Prof. Akbar said, "We believe that education is truly transformative for our students and we are committed to keeping it affordable."

On the occasion Prof. Akbar announced a major reduction in the fee structure of various



programs including Postgraduate, Undergraduate, B.Tech and Diploma programs offered by the University. Prof. Akbar Masood said that this decision has been taken in the interest of students' community to effectively support them on the path of success. On the occasion, The Vice Chancellor announced that upto 50% fee has been slashed in most of the academic programs offered by the University. Further, Prof. Akbar also announced that the application fee of admission form has also been reduced from Rs1000 to Rs 650 per form. Terming it as a historic moment for the BGSBU, Prof. Akbar said that we are committed to providing affordable access to high quality education and reduction in the fee structure is another step forward. This decision comes as the university is focused on greater access to education and increased student success initiatives in line with NEP 2020, Prof. Akbar said.

Dean Academic Affairs, Registrar of the University, Deans of various Schools, Heads of Departments and officers of the University hailed the significant reduction in the fee structure of various academic Programmes offered by the University.

Breathless, But Not Hopeless: Asthma Patient Defeats Coronavirus With His Willpower

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: Devraj Sharma, a chronic Asthma patient in his early seventies, who survived severe covid conditions, gives credit of his recovery to timely treatment by the medical team monitoring him and his will power.

While narrating his story he said, "I had been a chronic asthmatic patient and my condition generally gets worse in winters. Unfortunately in the mid of the May month, I started feeling unwell, the intensity of my cough increased and I was unable to walk alone."

For being fortunate, a team of the health department reached his village Panditgam and Dev Raj volunteered for a test and tested positive.

"I immediately went for home isolation. I called the health authorities and they checked my oxygen saturation level. It was 80-83, they also provided me with an Oxymeter, COVID-19 kit and suggested medicines and educated



me about all the SOPs. That day my oxygen saturation was dropping, but fortunately the next day it touched borderline" he added.

Narrating his condition during the tough time of isolation, he said, "I have no words for the level of concern and treatment which was being given by the medical team and

constant support of COVID-19 Control cell and my family. All boosted my confidence. They counselled and kept me highly motivated. Having read and heard about many elderly COVID patients having survived covid complications, I felt it is necessary to build my will power to defeat the virus," he said with full confidence.

He strongly urged people to get vaccinated as he himself had taken both doses of vaccination which boosted his immunity. "If you find slightest symptoms, please get yourself tested and in case you test positive there is no need to be terrified, don't lose hope, keep yourself motivated, take prescribed medicines, drink lukewarm water, take steam, Do exercise, follow SOPs, take proper diet and stay strong" he said in one breath.

"My father has a very strong will power which finally helped him to recovery in just 10 days despite being asthmatic patient" said Devraj Sharma son.

I IMMEDIATELY WENT FOR HOME ISOLATION. I CALLED THE health authorities and they checked my oxygen saturation level. It was 80-83, they also provided me with an Oxymeter, COVID-19 kit and suggested medicines and educated me about all the SOPs. That day my oxygen saturation was dropping, but fortunately the next day it touched borderline"

Hiding Covid Infection May Cause Severe Complications: SKIMS Medico 'Verify Medicine Suggested On Internet From A Physician'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Corona positive cases are coming down and the curve has started to flatten which implies that Kashmir has been successful to a great extent in controlling the Covid-19 disease, said Dr Syed Mudassir Qadri, Associate Professor, Internal and Pulmonary Medicine, SKIMS, Soura.

However, he said that the present phase is very critical and any complacency at this juncture may deflate out success, which according to him may become the cause for third wave of pandemic.

He appreciated Government for all the measures which were taken to prevent spread of virus including lockdown and implementation of Covid appropriate behavior to protect human lives.

Dr Mudassir Qadri said people need to adopt covid appropriate life style and take timely action against Covid infection to remain safe and to avoid later complications.

He advised people to acknowledge infection immediately as symptoms start appearing and not to shy away in reporting infection. Hiding infection may cause serious complications and prove life threatening at times, he warned.

Besides, he suggested to consult a doctor immediately if symptoms are noticed by a person so that timely medication can help in treatment and recovery. Other measures he said that will help to keep a watch on the infection is to measure oxygen level on routine basis, adding that if saturation percentage falls below 94, than the infection may well have affected pulmonary system of the individual.

In such a situation patient needs hospitalization for further treatment, he advised.

Dr Qadri also cautioned people regarding the medicine prescribed on Internet and Social Media by unknown persons. He asked public to verify any medicine, suggested on social media by some unqualified individuals and quacks, and instead approach a competent and qualified physician in this regard.



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Work On 40 KM Zojila, Z-Morh Tunnel In Full Swing: DC Ganderbal

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The work on forty kilometre long Zojila—Z-Morh tunnel in Sonamarg is in full swing.

This was revealed during a review meeting held by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna who visited the construction site at Sonamarg to have first-hand appraisal of the work progress made on the tunnel.

The DC during the visit was accompanied by Gurjeet Singh Kambo, Executive Director, NHIDCL, besides officials of MEIL and ASATPL.

During the visit, the DC inspected the ongoing work on the 40 Km project with 2 major tunnels of 6.5 KM and 14 KM for all weather connectivity to Sonamarg and Ladakh and was briefed about the pace and progress made on the project.

On the occasion it was informed that work progress on the project is in full swing and work on Z-morh escape tunnel is nearing completion.

Jyotsna directed the officials of the executing agency to expedite the pace of work on the ambitious project so that targets are achieved within the stipulated time frame. She also directed the concerned to closely monitor all the construction/planning activities.

Meanwhile, the DC also chaired a meeting with the officials of the executing agency

during which certain administrative issues were discussed. She assured of all possible support besides handling of bottlenecks if any expeditiously by District administration.

The DC also enquired about the recruitment of local unemployed youth in the prestigious project and urged upon the concerned

DURING THE visit, the DC inspected the ongoing work on the 40 Km project with 2 major tunnels of 6.5 KM and 14 KM for all weather connectivity to Sonamarg and Ladakh and was briefed about the pace and progress made on the project.

to provide maximum job opportunities to the locals as per the norms in Zojila tunnel works.

Earlier, a blasting ceremony was also carried out by the Deputy Commissioner at Z-Morh tunnel.

The 14 km long Zojila tunnel once completed will facilitate all weather road connectivity between Srinagar and Kargil which mainly remains closed during winter due to heavy snowfall in the area and will reduce travel time also.

The tunnel will also benefit social and economic development of the region apart from boosting the tourism in Sonamarg region as well as Ladakh region.

Adhere To Covid SOPs Strictly: DC Shopian

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Saturday during the media briefing said that the need of the hour is that the recommended guidelines issued from time to time be followed in letter and spirit to save the precious lives.

The DC stated that whether restrictions are continued after 31st of May, 2021 or not and even if there is lockdown or unlock, the people should strictly adhere to Covid-19 SOPs and guidelines to contain the spread of Covid pandemic.

He said that in Shopian district in spite of a significant decline in Covid-19 positive cases, people need not to venture from their homes unnecessarily. He appealed to the people to take an immunity boosting diet to keep themselves healthy and strong to fight against the virus and defeat it completely.

The DC said that the vaccination process in the district remained successful and the people are themselves coming forward to getting vaccinated and are cooperating with the District Administration in each and every respect.

He said that due to relentless testing and vaccination drives across the district there was



an overall reduction in Covid cases, however, there is need to be extra cautious by strictly adhering to Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour at all levels. He said vaccination centers have been established across the City to cover the rest of the targeted population.

The DC said that all the health functionaries are working round the clock and are always on their toes to meet any eventuality and facilitate the people with great care and provide them all the medical facilities they need. He urged the people to get vaccinated at an earliest to curb the Covid-19.

The District Administration Shopian has set up Covid care centres at all the Panchayats of the district with all medical equipment, besides medical and paramedical staff to manage and contain the Covid-19 effectively in the rural areas, DC added.

Training For Healthcare Workers Begins In Budgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather along with officer on special duty (OSD) to Financial Commissioner H&ME department, Dr Shaafaqat Khan Saturday visited Budgam and inaugurated training program for health workers for Covid management.

A spokesperson of Directorate Health Services Kashmir said the training, which is aimed at containment of Covid, has been started in the district.

While chairing the meeting convened after inauguration of the workshop, the Director Health Services Kashmir Dr

Mushtaq Ahmad Rather said the aim of the program is to adopt a multi-pronged approach designed by J&K UT administration as a single projected initiative to combat possible third Covid wave.

"We shall seek cooperation and support from all Panchayati Raj Institutions who shall involve committees on panchayat, block and village level, besides services of revenue officials including numberdars and chowkidars shall also be garnered for effective mobilization," the director said.

The director reiterated that they are prepared and well equipped with logistics in facing any kind of challenge amid the third Covid wave apprehensions.

sions.

On the occasion, CMO Budgam, Dr Tajamul Hussain, doctors and paramedical staff engaged with Covid-19 were present on the occasion at Conference hall Budgam.

The CMO gave a detailed presentation to the Director about the facilities and management in the district in combating the virus spread.

The workshop was also addressed by ACD Budgam, Nuzhat Quereshi on behalf of the district administration.

The spokesperson said similar training has been held in Anantnag district where it was inaugurated by Chief medical Officer Anantnag.

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سانچہ ارتحال

یہ خبر انتہائی رنج و الم کیساتھ شائع کی جاتی ہے کہ عبدالرشید بیٹت ولد محمد سلطان بیٹت ساکن ولی صاحب کالونی راول پیورہ مریٹر 28 مئی 2021 بروز جمعہ المبارک کو اس دارفانی سے انتقال کر گئے۔ (واللہ وانا الیہ راجعون)

مرحوم نیک سیرت اور شریف انفس، ملنا رانسان تھے۔ مرحوم کی وفات کے سلسلے میں فاتحہ خوانی کی تقریریں 31 مئی 2021 بروز سوموار بوقت صبح 10 بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع شہید گنج میں انجام دی جائیں گی۔

سوگواران
7006319038

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER WORKS DIVISION SRINAGAR
GIST OF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E-N.I.T No:- 11 / WWD of 2021-22 dt:- 28.05.2021
Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (U.T.), invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved & eligible 'DEE' Class registered Contractors of Union Territory of J&K.
Position of A.A.A. 'Accorded'
Position of Funds: 'Available'

M.H. 4215 'Imppt. Ext. to Sgr. City'

S. No.	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (in lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	Improvements of water supply by way of laying and fitting of 65 / 25mm dia G.I pipeline at Al Farooq Colony Rawalpora (Imppt. Ext.).	1.78	100	07 days	'DEE'

Note:- For further details, bidders are requested to refer to Fresh E-NIT No:- WWD / 11 of 2021-22 Dt: 28-05-2021. Instructions published on website: <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> The dates showing 'bid submission date/closing date' etc. are given below:

1	Date of publishing	28-05-2021
2	Document downloading date	28-05-2021 / 1100 hrs
3	Bid submission start date	28-05-2021 / 1130 hrs
4	Bid submission closing date	04-06-2021 / 1600 hrs
5	Date and time for opening bids	05-06-2021 / 1400 hrs
6	Place of opening of bids	Office of The Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar.

Note: Bid security declaration Self Attested be uploaded with the bid as per Appendix II as per Finance Deptt. Govt. of U.T. of J&K letter No. A/Misc. (2018)-III-895/J dt. 22-12-2020.
The bid uploaded without challan of Tender Document Fee shall be rejected straightaway.

No: WWD/ 1269-8049
Dated: 28-05-2021

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Water Works Division Srinagar.

DIPK-2169/21

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



The time consumption of many years and irregularity in the recruitment process of Assistant Professors through J&K Public Service Commission has created voids in the higher education system. These were supposed to be filled by the contractual faculty but meager wages as well as irregular nature of the contract has rendered the services of these contractual teachers ineffective and generated disinterest amongst these highly qualified but underemployed youth

Higher Education in Jammu and Kashmir

Abuses and Malpractices

Dr. Aadil M. Nanda |
Dr. Rafi Ramzan Dar

Many of our colleagues regret the decision of wasting precious years in doing research in reputed institutes of the country when their friends joined the department with mediocre capabilities and later hijacked the system through a

One are the days when our educated youth were viewed as a potential human resource waiting to be tapped. In the days of yore, they were role models for guiding the nature of social change in terms of their capability to socialize society in its moral, cultural and intellectual dimensions. Nowadays, educational administrators at the helm of affairs continue to produce morally and ethically degraded generations of students, who lack efficiency, skill and also the interest to cope up with the ever increasing demands of society. Never before has higher education sector in Jammu and Kashmir been pushed into abysmal negligence as it has been since recent years.

Students in government-run degree colleges across the UT pay hefty fees every year but their education and academic growth hardly shows any progression. Students' core competencies in their academic disciplines are coming down rapidly. The add-on skills and peripheral competencies are concomitantly becoming negligible. The teacher-student ratio in government degree colleges is tragically high. Giving individual attention to students in general, and addressing the needs of exceptional (differently-abled) students, is a rare possibility when teachers in higher education are overcrowded with attending to core subjects, skill based courses and generic electives, apart from their administrative over-occupations. What comes out is a lacklustre response to education, syllabus hardly gets completed – of course, except in the fabricated reports of the college principals – and students get a substandard degree of graduation. Our colleges are acutely short of faculty, more than 1000 teaching vacancies exist, if the UGC norms are given any attention. Despite, depressing financial situation of most of the families and non-existence of offline classes and examinations, colleges and Kashmir University authorities continue to fleece full admission fee and examination fee from students. Isn't it sheer injustice with these students? Do they get what they pay for? Since colleges officially opened for class work on 15th Feb 2021, when will authorities hire teachers for them? Employing 1/5th of the required faculty isn't an example of great governance and display of concern for students.

Instead of sorting out the situation and acting as navigators to steer the course of students already sailing in a sinking ship, the concerned authorities are unable and unwilling to understand or feel the gravity of the situation. The permanent teachers are putting up excuses of extra workload because of the shortage of adequate faculty and the contractual ones come up with their reasons for irregular engagements and disengagements. As a result poor students who are at the receiving end suffer. Do they deserve to suffer?

The situation has been rendered more vulnerable and dilapidated by the office bearers right from the levels of respective college principals to Nodal Principal as well as Director Colleges and the Secretary of Higher Education. All these men and women at the helm of affairs have developed a complex amalgam of egos and self-centered motives, known to them only, where in every single individual from the departmental administration as well as from the teaching faculty (both permanent as well as



contractual) is instigated to create the mess and add further fuel to the fire.

Who is Responsible?

The time consumption of many years and irregularity in the recruitment process of Assistant Professors through J&K Public Service Commission has created voids in the higher education system. These were supposed to be filled by the contractual faculty but meager wages as well as irregular nature of the contract has rendered the services of these contractual teachers ineffective and generated disinterest amongst these highly qualified but underemployed youth.

In order to overcome the menace of their temporary nature of job and assure some reliable support to their families, the concerned contractual teachers knocked the door of law for continuation of their services, despite the fact that they produce an affidavit every year not to claim any regularization. The honorable court gave these contractual teachers some respite to maintain the status quo. A never ending chaos started right from here.

Had the honorable court gone through their case while considering the significance of upholding merit and fairness in distributing rewards, it would have straightway dismissed their pleas. What the honorable court did actually added to the existing confusion. It emboldened the less meritorious candidates to explore the backdoor window of litigations, besides it greatly disincentivized the urge for higher qualification and merit. Why would a Person A undertake the arduous journey of doing PhD or Post Doc in a challenging and competitive environment, when the Person B – less competent and unwilling to enhance merit by coming out of his comfort zone – can join a contractual job after agreeing its temporary character at the outset, and later claim permanency of the job. Does their written affidavits pledged before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate mean anything to our judicial authorities? Many of our colleagues regret the decision of wasting precious years in doing research in reputed institutes of the country when their friends joined the

department with mediocre capabilities and later hijacked the system through a legal route. Is it justice and fairness? Is it how the authorities in judiciary and executive intend to overhaul the higher education system and bring it at par with the global standards? Is it why the idea of status quo interim relief was conceived in the first place?

As time passed, the status quo case seemed to spread further and establish its roots deeper. It became a Frankenstein monster. It will kill its very architects, apart from the society. Had this grave problem been approached honestly and dealt with efficiently by the authorities at a proper time, some fruitful results would have been witnessed and examples would have been set. But the irony is that nobody took it seriously until it landed our whole system in a deep crisis. As a result of the inability of higher authorities, selfishness of low merit candidates, and inefficiency of judiciary the careers of thousands of highly qualified and meritorious candidates are at stake. This has not only led to their individual depressions and frustrations but also uncountable suffering of their families as well.

The days are not far when the higher education system is going to collapse in Kashmir and the worthless degrees so distributed won't be enough to fulfill the students' requirements especially in rapidly changing technological world.

Need of the hour is to leave aside all the grudges and egos and take the matter seriously and develop some substantial and feasible mechanism as per standard norms of UGC, so that careers of thousands of students who pay for their education and those of the teachers as well won't be at stake any more. Let's hope that better sense prevails for the sake of raising the standards of our higher educational system.

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

Dr Adil is a Postdoctoral Researcher and Dr Rafi teaches geography at GDC Kulgam

More than a year after the Covid-19 pandemic struck, the virus has not only affected 190 countries, leading to a 4.3 per cent contraction of the world economy, but has also perpetuated inequalities on three interconnected fronts: Inequalities in access to and availability of vaccines; loss of livelihood and standards of living, with millions pushed back into poverty in low and middle-income countries (LMICs); and gender inequality across sectors.

While vaccines have been produced at record speed, disparities in access to and distribution of vaccines have meant that vaccinations are potentially years away for many low-income countries. The Duke Global Health Institute's assessment shows that wealthy countries had taken an early lead in striking purchase deals, in effect, cornering a lion's share of available vaccine doses. As early as July 2020, the US and UK secured deals to inoculate 93 per cent and 135 per cent of their populations. By August 2020, Japan and the EU had

tied up to vaccinate 95 per cent and 60 per cent of their populations respectively. The Covax global initiative to support vaccinations in 92 LMICs simply did not have enough funds at the time to secure doses. A waiver of Trade and Intellectual Property Rules (TRIPS) for Covid-19 vaccines was initially blocked at the WTO by high-income countries, followed by considerations of support. So long as the virus lurks, economic recovery will be threatened by intermittent infection surges in LMICs.

The World Bank estimates suggest that up to 150 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty by 2021, with a significant number of the new poor in countries with already high poverty rates. The per capita income levels in low-income countries fell by 3.6 per cent in 2020, with output falling by 0.9

per cent – the largest contraction in 30 years. Such losses in per capita incomes will lead to a reversal of the hard-fought gains in the living standards of the poor and widening the north-south divide. Meanwhile, an equivalent of 255 million full-time jobs were lost in 2020, relative to Q4 of 2019, with South Asia among the worst-affected regions.

The pandemic and lockdowns led to a large reduction in revenues from critical sectors affecting output and causing massive job losses. Many of these jobs are lower on the skills hierarchy, whereas simultaneously positive job growth is already visible in high-skill service sectors such as ICT and finance, further manifesting existing job market inequalities. Research indicates less than 10 per cent of urban jobs in developing countries can be performed remotely, with

low-wage earners and the self-employed (comprising a large majority of employment in India) having limited opportunities to work from home.

According to the IMF, commodity-dependent countries, tourism-based economies and physical contact-intensive sectors will face difficult prospects going forward due to the slow normalisation of cross-border travel and subdued prices' outlook. MSMEs, which tend to have small inventories and operate on thin margins, were already badly affected during the first wave. Nearly 90 per cent of all enterprises in Asia and Africa are MSMEs, and many rely on small supplier networks. Most businesses are also informal. But constraints on fiscal space and capacity to implement income support measures are a challenge in LMICs.

The economic impacts of the pandemic have been widely felt but impacted certain groups more than others – low-income countries, contact-intensive sectors, manual jobs, and women. According to a survey, female-owned businesses were 5.9 percentage points more likely to have faced closure than male-owned ones during/post-Covid-19. Notably, women are more likely to be employed in low-paying, insecure and informal jobs, even as the global gender pay gap remains persistently high at nearly 20 per cent.

Global recovery will require a collaborative international effort. The Covax initiative needs an estimated minimum of \$2 billion in additional funding to lock in some doses till early 2022. According to IMF research, \$50 billion worth of investments towards vaccinating the world by early 2022 can yield economic returns worth \$9 trillion by 2025. But as of now, the world is far away from achieving this level of funding.

Indian Express

The Virus isn't a Leveller

Abhirup Bhunia, Pravakar Sahoo

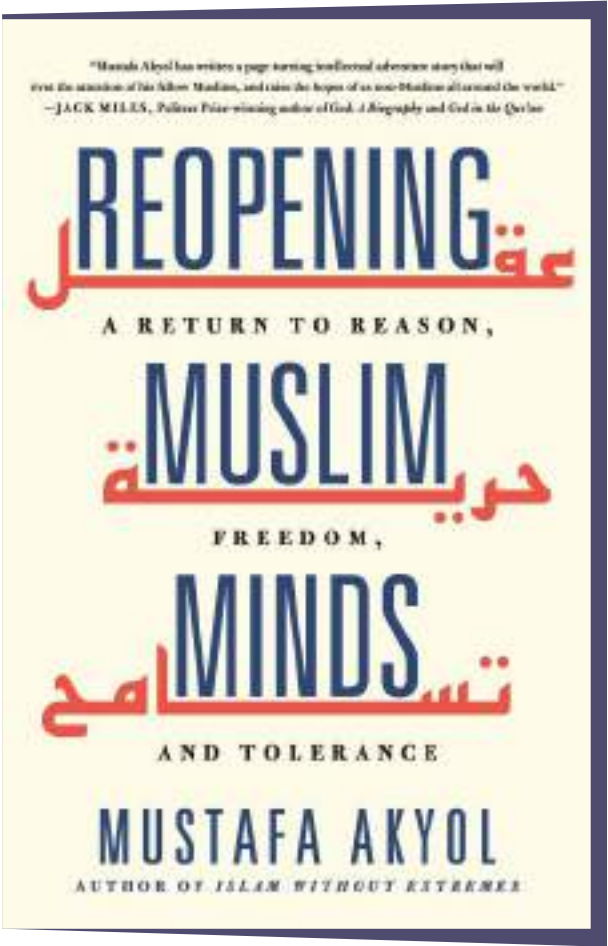
IN CONVERSATION

Mustafa Akyol on His New Book "Reopening Muslim Minds"

‘Gap between the Muslim world and the rest of the world is becoming larger and larger’

David Lepeska

Early Muslims studied Aristotle and other civilisations, let's say because they believed in universalism. I show that it's not an accident that the golden age of Islamic civilization was marked by openness, cosmopolitanism, universalism, learning from other civilizations as well and synthesizing them and creating new visions enriched by Islam. We lost that.



Mustafa Akyol, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute and a contributing opinion writer for The New York Times, is all about Reopening Muslim Minds, which is the title of his new book. The Turkey-born Akyol recently spoke with Kashmir Observer contributor David Lepeska about the value of questioning Islamic theology, the problematic thinking of Muslim leaders like Maulana Mawdudi, how to start fixing this crisis and much more

DL: Ramadan recently ended and Muslims celebrated Eid al-Fitr, the festival of breaking the fast. Next month comes the other big Muslim holiday, Eid al-Azha, or the feast of the sacrifice, during which Muslims sacrifice and often consume a lamb. This tradition is a nod to the story of Abraham, who was asked by God to kill his son Ismael, but then is stopped at the last minute. In your book you share an interesting Islamic variation on this story, which for me put a very interesting twist on this biblical tale that I learned in my Catholic school days.

MA: In Islam, when we Muslims hear commandments from the divine, God, the Prophet, such as do this or don't do that, from the Quran or Hadith, are we supposed to obey blindly? Or do we legitimately have our own internal conscience to check things and say, "Wait a minute, this doesn't sound right. Let me look into this more carefully." I advocate this latter view because I believe there are commandments from God in every religion, but also there are god-given values to humanity that are universal. And these two values in every religion should be used together...When there is a commandment from revelation that doesn't sound right, as a believer you should have the right to say I'm not sure whether this is the right thing to do. Which is called wrestling with the text. This approach is called ethical objectivism. The other one is divine command theory - so whatever you hear as a divine command is the end of the story, you just have to do it. In my book I criticise divine command and that sort of thinking. In doing that you have to unpack some stories, Abraham is probably the biggest of those and seems to support divine command theory. Well, no sane conscientious human being would consider harming your own child, let alone killing your own child. That is deeply unconscientious. But we have the story, in the Bible and the Quran, that (Prophet) Abraham, receiving revelation from God as he understands it, to sacrifice his son for the sake of God. He obeys and he gets close to doing it. Luckily God is merciful and the lamb replaces the son, and then he sacrifices this lamb. And this is the very reason, as you pointed out, that we have an Eid in Islam, Eid al-Azha, where you sacrifice an animal just to follow in the footsteps of Abraham. This story has been among religious believers as a strong basis for divine command theory, for those who say that we should do whatever God tells us without asking, as Abraham did. But I dug into this issue and highlighted a different take on this story in Islamic tradition, which was offered by the Mu'tazila scholar Abd al-Jabbar and later the Sufi master Ibn al-Arabi. They said, wait, actually, God never sent a revelation to Abraham in the Quran to sacrifice his son. Abraham just saw a dream and interpreted the dream. It was not a revelation so there was no divine command. And what happened was God saved him from doing this terrible thing by sending a lamb. Why is this important? This is important because it shows there's a way to look at this Abraham sacrifice story, which is very fundamental, in a way that vindicates not divine command theory but ethical objectivism.

DL: Early in the book you write about the prominent mid-20th century Pakistani thinker Sayyid Mawdudi. At its essence, your book is about encouraging Muslims to embrace reason when it comes to their religion, to allow Islamic scripture and theology to be seen as more adaptable to the modern age, and you go quite deeply into why it has not been. Mawdudi perfectly encapsulates this problem, as he argues both that Islam is scientific and rational, and that there's no room for rationalism and reason in Islam because if a person is a Muslim then he has surrendered himself to Allah and cannot be seen to doubt that authority. He compares this to a soldier in an army, arguing that the entire system would collapse if soldiers were encouraged to question their orders.

MA: Mawdudi, on the one hand praises reason - that's very common, Islam is a rational religion. If you think rationally you will see the truth of Islam. So on the one hand reason helps religion by bringing people to the religion itself. But once you become Muslim the role of religion becomes less important, and actually it becomes a problem. Because once you become Muslim you have to obey divine commandments without asking why and how. And actually if you ask why and how that becomes vesvese - that is the call of the devil, a kind of seduction. Mawdudi says we should obey without asking why and how. The obvious problem with this is if you follow a certain interpretation of Islam that says



Mustafa Akyol

it's a good thing to go and kill the infidels or the heretics, you will do it without asking why and how, which is exactly what gives us the problem of extremism. This is the very mindset of terrorist groups. They think they are following divine commandments and nothing could be higher than that. They don't use reason and conscience as a brake to a possible misinterpretation.

This is an extreme case, but if you understand divine commandments without bringing in any natural law without any universal philosophy to check that, you can turn into a bigot, you can turn into an oppressive person. There are texts in our religious scriptures that are violent, calling for combat. If you don't have that interpretive lens religion can become very toxic, which I see in certain parts of the Muslim world today. Which is why I'm calling for reviving the theological views in early Islam that gave human reason and conscience an ethical authority. We have to harmonize these rather than blindly obey the religious law.

DL: One running argument and irony in the book is that even though many Muslims today find it easy to dismiss the rules of the secular state, to embrace illiberalism or dismiss Enlightenment ideas, Islam flourished in the centuries after its founding largely because it was so open, so thoughtful, cosmopolitan and willing to accept and absorb outside ideas and practices. You open with the story of Ibn Tufayl and his forward-thinking and highly influential 12th century novel. But these ideas were marginalized and crushed because reason and rationality were unhelpful to Muslim despots, who aspired for absolute power, often in the name of God. You write: "the theology of a God whose wisdom is beyond question was well fit for the politics of a ruler whose wisdom, likewise, was beyond question." We might say that the Sunni Islam that became mainstream, or nearly mainstream, is pro-authoritarian, illiberal.

MA: I would not say Sunni Islam per se but

It's not that Muslims are always wrong. They are being wronged as well. But this boils down to, why are we not the leaders of science, philosophy, and social sciences? Why can't we establish democracies? Why can't we have more religious freedom, more freedom of speech? I see these things as connected. Every Muslim I think agrees that there's something wrong.

a certain strain in Sunni Islam. According to Ashar'ism, things are right or wrong because God said so. That view became dominant in Sunni Islam, and I clearly say that this was a wrong theological turn that is at the root of some of the problems we have today. Because if you abandon the notion that human nature, the human mind can discern ethical value, you deny the basis of being universalistic, the chance to learn anything from other religions and civilisations. Why study the ethics of Aristotle if infidels cannot have moral wisdom? Early Muslims studied Aristotle and other civilisations, let's say, because they believed in universalism. I show that it's not an accident that the golden age of Islamic civilization was marked by openness, cosmopolitanism, universalism, learning from other civilizations as well and synthesizing them and creating new visions enriched by Islam. We lost that. So all our values come from scripture and over time you run into the problem of dry literalism. You stop thinking about the context because your job is to obey the commandment.

Hardcore conservatives who say there's nothing wrong with marrying a 12-year-old girl because there's nothing against it in the Sharia, they are thinking in these lines. They are denying any ethical value that humanity has brought in by looking at how marriage at that age affects a little girl. They deny that human society has evolved, that we now have education and people mature at age 18 at least. They ignore all this input coming from the progress of humanity. All they're saying is, is it haram or halal based on Islamic jurisprudence fiqh? Well there's no age

limit in fiqh, so that's the end of the discussion. So what I do in the book is I show some wrong theological or jurisprudential turns and I display how they are creating a lot of problems in the Islamic world today.

DL: I want to quote at length from the Epilogue of your book: "Why do we need to reopen such long-closed doors, which may only disrupt our peaceful minds? Because, as a fourteen-century-old Ummah, we have come to a dead end. We are no more powerful, creative, sophisticated, beautiful civilization than we once were. Quite the contrary; today our lands are among the most underdeveloped places in the world...We are suppressed by authoritarian regimes, whose triumphant rivals often turn out to be new disappointments. We are also torn by hateful divisions and violent conflicts, not to mention the extremists who do unspeakable evils in our name. Certainly outside powers—colonialists and imperialists—have a share in the making of this modern Muslim crisis. But that is often all we want to hear and see. We don't want to focus on the only thing we can change: our own behavior, our own mindset, our own worldview." Pretty stinging stuff. Do you not fear reprisals from those who might see this as anti-Islam or anti-Muslim?

MA: I would be surprised as anyone sees it as anti-Islam or anti-Muslim. What this is is a call for self-criticism and self-improvement. It's a fact that we don't have the glory, that Islamic civilization doesn't have the glory it had 1000 years ago. We don't have...

DL: Well, I agree, but I don't know if hardline fundamentalists will agree with that.

MA: They agree too. They just think that this happened because of a Zionist conspiracy. They think that this happened because of forces outside or because of treachery, traitors among us who brought in godlessness. Some say this is happening because God is punishing us. I can't say every

Muslim, but I see it all across the board. Everybody agrees that something is wrong, that we are not in a good state. We are oppressed. From Palestine to Kashmir, Muslims are oppressed, and that is a big part of the trauma. It's not that Muslims are always wrong. They are being wronged as well. But this boils down to, why are we not the leaders of science, philosophy, and social sciences? Why can't we establish democracies? Why can't we have more religious freedom, more freedom of speech? I see these things as connected. Every Muslim I think agrees that there's something wrong. I'm saying there is something wrong and it has to do with the way we understand our religious tradition and we have to rethink this. This is not against Islam - this comes from care for Islam. I worry that if it goes on like this, we will have tougher decades ahead. We will have maybe a terrible century ahead, because I see that the gap between the Muslim world and the rest of the world is becoming larger and larger. Asian countries like South Korea have moved on, China is rising. What do we have, as Muslims? We have oil money, but that's going to be irrelevant. I see deeper tensions in Muslim societies because of religion. I see a lot of people becoming bitter ones, because of the terrible things they see in the name of Islam. I do see a crisis and as a Muslim who feels responsibility about this, I want to say something to take my Ummah out of this.

Views expressed in the interview, published purely for academic purposes, do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

Sleep warning for older men: Disruption or change can mean cognitive dysfunction

Agencies

Flinders University experts have warned against disrupted sleep that can be linked to cognitive dysfunction. The researchers discovered that it is advisable that men aged 65 and over should monitor their slumber patterns and seek medical advice.

In a new article published in the Journal of Sleep Research, the Adelaide Institute for Sleep Health research group studied a group of 477 middle-aged and older men's attention and processing speed in relation to their sleep.

The participants from the Florey Ad-

elaide Male Ageing Study undertook cognitive testing and a successful sleep study.

"Less deep sleep and more light sleep is related to slower responses on cognitive function tests," said lead author Jesse Parker.

"While obstructive sleep apnoea itself is not directly related to cognitive function in all men studied, we did note that in men aged 65 and older, more light sleep was related to worse attention and processing speed."

Senior author of the study, Flinders Associate Professor Andrew Vakulin, said the results suggest that day-to-day activities that rely on optimal attention and cognitive

speed such as driving, physical activities and walking might be affected by the encroachment of poor sleep.

The Medical Director of the research group, Professor Robert Adams, noted that decreasing deep sleep as people age is associated with cognition. This emphasises the importance of ongoing research looking at ways to stimulate deep sleep as a means of slowing cognitive decline with age.

Further longitudinal investigation is needed to connect poor sleep and sleep apnoea with future changes in sleep patterns and cognitive decline as well as general microarchitectural changes in older people's sleep patterns. (ANI)



Can coffee help you get through the day after a night of irregular sleep?

Agencies

Scientists from the Michigan State University assessed how effective caffeine was in counteracting the negative effects of sleep deprivation on cognition.

Researchers from MSU's Sleep and Learning Lab, led by psychology associate professor Kimberly Fenn, assessed how effective caffeine

assessed the impact of caffeine after a night of sleep deprivation. More than 275 participants were asked to complete a simple attention task as well as a more challenging "place keeping" task that required the completion of tasks in a specific order without skipping or repeating steps.

Fenn's study is the first to investigate the effect of caffeine on

the place keeping task for most participants," Fenn said.

She added: "Caffeine may improve the ability to stay awake and attend to a task, but it doesn't do much to prevent the sort of procedural errors that can cause things like medical mistakes and car accidents."

Insufficient sleep is pervasive in the United States, a problem that has intensified during the pandemic, Fenn said. Consistently lacking adequate sleep not only affects cognition and alters mood, but can eventually take a toll on immunity.

"Caffeine increases energy, reduces sleepiness and can even improve mood, but it absolutely does not replace a full night of sleep, Fenn said. "Although people may feel as if they can combat sleep deprivation with caffeine, their performance on higher-level tasks will likely still be impaired. This is one of the reasons why sleep deprivation can be so dangerous."

Fenn said that the study has the potential to inform both theory and practice.

"If we had found that caffeine significantly reduced procedural errors under conditions of sleep deprivation, this would have broad implications for individuals who must perform high stakes procedures with insufficient sleep, like surgeons, pilots and police officers," Fenn said. "Instead, our findings underscore the importance of prioritizing sleep."



feine was in counteracting the negative effects of sleep deprivation on cognition. As it turns out, caffeine can only get you so far.

The study- published in the most recent edition of the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition-

place keeping after a period of sleep deprivation.

"We found that sleep deprivation impaired performance on both types of tasks and that having caffeine helped people successfully achieve the easier task. However, it had little effect on performance

Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathic (AYUSH) District Anantnag. AYUSH Immune Booster Medicine Distributed AT Gurudwara Chatti-Singh Pora Keribal Anantnag UT.



On 29/05/2021 Following the protocol of Ayush department Ministry of Ayush GOI and the order of Director ISM J&K Dr Mohan Singh just and by the guidelines of ADMO MADAM Dr. Nuzhat Bashir & District Nodal officer Ayush Dr. Mir Javaid Hussain sahib an awareness programme and distribution of immune booster medicines was organized at Gurudwara Chatti-Singh Pora Keribal about 970 beneficiaries received immunity boosting drugs also were briefed about importance of Ayush immunity boosters in enhancement of human immunity to combat Covid 19 panoramic along other importance preventive measures.

mja



SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE-HOSPITAL

Bemina, Srinagar Kashmir – 190018
Department of Materials Management
0914-2493226, Email: nmo@skimsmc.edu.in

Sub: Amendment, Corrigendum & Extension in eNIT No. SKIMS-MCH-MMD- 02 of 2021 dated 30/04/2021 regarding S.I.T.C of one (01) unit of 1000mA Digital Radiography System with Dual Detectors (Two Detectors) for whole body Digital Radiography in the Department of Radiology, SKIMS MCH, Bemina.

The e-NIT No. SKIMS-MCH-MMD- 02 of 2021 dated 30/04/2021 regarding S.I.T.C of one (01) unit of 1000mA Digital Radiography System with Dual Detectors (Two Detectors) for whole body Digital Radiography in the Department of Radiology, SKIMS MCH, Bemina is hereby amended in respect of technical specifications, to the following extent.

S.No. in Tech. Specs. of e-NIT	Existing tendered specifications	Now to be read as
01 (b)	The system should have two detectors, one wireless in the patient table and one fixed in bulky wall stand, with one integrated control console capable of controlling Generator, X-ray tube, imaging system and table from the central console.	The system should have two detectors, one wireless in the patient table and one fixed in bulky wall stand, with one integrated control console capable of controlling Generator, X-ray tube, imaging system and table from the central console. Detector size should equal or more than 40 x 35 cm in table and equal or more than 40 x 40 cm in wall stand.

The said eNIT is also modified in respect of terms & conditions, as per following description:

S.No. in terms & conditions of eNIT	Existing tendered terms & conditions	Now to be read as
(06)	Payment clause: 90% payment shall be released by SKIMS MCH, Bemina after receipt/ satisfactory inspection/ installation and handing-over of the equipment to the user department in perfect working order to be certified by the concerned HOD. The balance 10% payment shall be released after faultless functioning of the equipment for a period of 90 days after installation of the equipment, to be certified by the concerned HOD. No Advance / ILC shall be established for such cases.	90% payment shall be released by SKIMS MCH, Bemina after receipt/ satisfactory inspection/ installation and handing-over of the equipment to the user department in perfect working order to be certified by the concerned HOD. The balance 10% payment shall be released after satisfactory performance to be certified by the concerned HOD. No Advance / ILC shall be established for such cases. OR 90% payment of the ordered value shall be released by SKIMS MCH, Bemina against receipt of Advance Bank Guarantee of equivalent amount, which shall be released after receipt of satisfactory inspection/ installation report and handing-over of the equipment to the user department in perfect working order, to be certified by the concerned HOD. Balance 10% payment shall be released after receipt of satisfactory performance to be certified by the concerned HOD.
(20), para 03	Guaranty/ Warranty: In case of the break down requiring any odd/rare component which needs to be imported, the successful tenderer(s) shall have to replace/repair the equipment within a period of (15) fifteen days from the date the defect is intimated to them or ten (10) days from the date of the clearance of the component/spare by the authorities of the Institute, whichever is earlier.	In case of the break down requiring any odd/rare component which needs to be imported, the successful tenderer(s) shall have to replace/ repair the defective component/ part within a period of (15) fifteen days from the date the defect is intimated to them or ten (10) days from the date of the clearance of the component/spare by the authorities of the Institute, whichever is earlier.
36 (e)	Penalties: Debar the participating firm/ principal manufacturer (For submission of fake/ forged documents or Non-Execution of the supply order only).	Debar the participating firm/ principal manufacturer (For submission of fake/ forged documents).

ADDITION:

TURNKEY: - Turnkey shall be the exclusive responsibility of SKIMS MCH, Bemina.

Further, as per instructions regarding EMD (Bid Security), issued by Financial Commissioner, Finance Department Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir vide Circular No. A/Misc (2018)-III-895/J dated 22-12-2020, the same shall be adhered to. However, the bidders are required to sign and upload a **bid security declaration** (as warranted under GFR 2017 Rule 170 (III) stating as under :-

"If a bidder withdraws or modifies his bid during the period of validity or if they are awarded the contract and they fail to sign the contract or submit a Performance Security before the deadline defined in the bid document, they can be suspended for the period of two years from being eligible to submit bids with SKIMS MCH, Bemina".

The said eNIT is also extended for a further period of two (02) weeks, as per following revised schedule.

Last date for submission of online bids	10/06/2021
Opening of Technical bids on	12/06/2021 at 02:30 PM

Other terms & conditions of the eNIT shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-NB-957/21

No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/eNIT/S-394/19-20/1851-58
Dated: 27/05/2021

Sd/-
Materials Management Officer
SKIMS MCH Bemina

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION QAZIGUND

E-mail : qazigundphedivision@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 01931-295040

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NIT No: 09/EE/JSD/Qazigund/785-99 of 2021-22 Dated 28/05/2021.

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, 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 for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Advt. Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Class of Contract	Time for Compl.	Cost of tender Document
1	Construction of Pump House cum Operator Quarter for Water Supply Scheme Shagadwani Zamagam (under JKIDFC)	14.35	D,C;B	60 days	600/=
2	Laying and fitting of Pipe for restoration of water supply to Army Camp, Khan Mohalla, Takyabal, and peer Mohalla at Village Kanchloo WSS Kraloo Kanchloo (under JKIDFC)	3.20	DEE	30 days	200/=
3	Providing of 80/65 mm dia GI shunt lines to Gamander, Gadipora and Malikpora of Village Hakura under WSS Hakura due to the widening of Dialgam Hiller Road by PMGSY (under Deposit Contribution)	1.23	DEE	15 days	200/=
4	Laying and fitting for upgradation and augmentation of supply main and distribution network for village Dalwatch and Gagisgund WSS Rural Qazigund (Under UT Capex)	5.00	Disabled Person	30 days	300/=
5	Laying and fitting of pipes for providing of water supply facilities to Khan Mohalla Cherbagh and Lonepora YK Pora WSS Baghpura Khushipora (under UT Capex)	1.20	DEE	15 days	200/=

NOTE: The items No.(04) is reserved for Disabled Persons having valid Regd. Card with disability certificate.

Position of funds : Available Position of AA : Accorded

1. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), terms & condition of contract can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the dates shown below:-

i	Download start date	28/05/2021 from 04.00 PM
ii	Download end date	07/06/2021 from 04.00 PM
iii	Bid submission start date	28/06/2021 from 04.00 PM
iv	Bid submission end date	07/06/2021 up to 04.00 PM
v	Bid opening date	08/06/2021 at 10.00 AM

2. Bids must be accompanied by bid security Declaration Form on affidavit duly attested and cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan as shown against the each item advertised which should be credited to MH:0215-PHE Government Account as per the format devised / attached with this NIT. Besides, the NIT No. & item No. of the work/ name of work should be clearly written on the Treasury Challan.

3. It is mandatory upon the bidder to upload "Bidders Address Format" duly filled in under his seal and signature for future correspondence, which is attached with this NIT.

4. The bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Qazigund on above mentioned date in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present.

5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents like Notarized Bid Security Declaration/Cost of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan/PAN/GST Registration with latest return/Bidders Address Format /Registration card duly renewed/Affidavit for correctness of bid. The technical hard copies of bidding documents are not necessary to deposit in the Divisional office as per standing Govt. instructions.

10. Insurance cover as admissible under rules shall be provided to all the workers skilled/unskilled deployed at site and the necessary premiums shall be borne by the executing agency/contractor itself.

11. Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form-25 double/Tender document.

No:PHQ/785-99

Dtd: 28/05/2021

DIPK-2177/21

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Qazigund

Late Fee Relief To Non-Filers Of GST Returns To Help Small Biz, Add To Revenue: Experts



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The rationalisation of late fees for delayed filing of monthly GST returns will give relief to small businesses and add to the government revenue, according to tax experts. The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state ministers, on Friday decided to come out with an amnesty scheme to provide relief to taxpayers in late fee for pending returns.

The late fee for non-furnishing of GSTR-3B for July 2017 to April 2021 has been capped at Rs 500 per return for those taxpayers who did not have any tax liability. For those with tax liability, a maximum of Rs 1,000 per return late fees will be charged, provided such returns are filed by August 31, 2021.

Besides, the council has made it optional for taxpayers with turnover up to Rs 2 crore to file annual returns for 2020-21. Also, the reconciliation statement in Form GSTR-9C for fiscal 2020-21 will have to be filed by taxpayers with an annual aggregate turnover of above Rs 5 crore.

EY Tax Partner Abhishek Jain said, "Overall, it can be said that the Council has duly considered the interest of the small industry players and provided them with requisite reliefs, especially since these businesses were most impacted due to the pandemic".

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said this is a substantial relief in payment of late fees for non-filers of GSTR-3B.

"This one time Amnesty scheme will push up overall compliance, contributing extra funds in the exchequer," he added.

Shardul Amarchand Man-

galdas & Co Partner Rajat Bose said the relaxation in compliance-related measures should provide temporary relief to small and medium taxpayers.

"However, on an overall basis, the council has failed to address major pain points of the industry and the common man resulting from the pandemic," Bose added.

Deloitte India Senior Director M S Mani said while the amnesty scheme would significantly benefit small businesses, there is a need to extend the same to other businesses who may not have fulfilled their obligations due to the pandemic.

Athena Law Associates Partner Pawan Arora said, although the council has allowed self-certification of Annual Reconciliation instead of GST Audit from CA, taxpayers should review their annual compliances to ensure proper compliance.

Nexdigim Executive Director - Indirect Tax, Saket Patrawari said the compliance relief is likely to benefit around 89 per cent of the taxpayers.

"While all the Council recommendations may provide temporary reliefs to the taxpayers, some important aspects like the correction of duty inversion, entitlement to ITC vis-a-vis vaccination for employees, and extension in due dates for GST returns remain eluded," he added.

Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP Partner Vivek Jalan said that filing GSTR 9 (annual return) is the last opportunity a taxpayer gets to rectify any mistakes done during the financial year and should be prepared with great care. The GST department may issue notices in case any inconsistency is detected by its Data Analytics Wing in the GSTR 9.

RBI Imposes Rs 10 Crore Fine On HDFC Bank Over Irregularities In Auto Loan Portfolio



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 crore on HDFC Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliances with regard to its auto loan portfolio.

The penalty has been slapped after examining a complaint by a whistleblower regarding irregularities in the auto loan portfolio of the lender. The order imposing the fine was issued on May 27.

In a statement on Friday, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 10 crore on HDFC Bank for contraventions of certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The apex bank said an examination of documents in the matter of marketing and sale of third-party non-financial products to the bank's customers, arising from a whistleblower complaint to it regarding irregularities in

the auto loan portfolio of the bank, revealed contravention of the provisions of the Act and the regulatory directions.

In furtherance to the same, RBI said a notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why the penalty should not be imposed for the contraventions.

After considering the bank's reply to the show-cause notice, oral submissions made during the personal hearing and examination of further clarifications/ documents furnished by the bank, RBI came to the conclusion that the contraventions were "substantiated and warranted imposition of monetary penalty", the statement said.

RBI also made it clear that the action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by HDFC Bank with its customers.

Tourism Deptt. Planning Capacity Building Workshop For Stakeholders: Director

SRINAGAR: Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr G N Itoo Saturday distributed food kits among the 200 needy Shikarwallas hailing from Dal Lake and nearby areas.

The event was organised by a tourist trade group-Nigegen Tourist Trade Association (NTTA) in collaboration with an NGO here at Zabarwan Park, Boulevard, Srinagar.

The Director Tourism appreciated the philanthropic sentiment of the travel trade association for reaching out to their fraternity members whose livelihood was severely affected by the current pandemic. He hoped that more such organisations and NGOs would come forward and reach out to the needy people



for relief distribution during the current crisis.

Dr. G N Itoo said the Department in collaboration with the health department also launched a vigorous vaccination campaign among the people associated

with the travel and hospitality sector so that they are protected from the deadly virus and hoped that the COVID situation improves so that economic activities also resume.

The Director Tourism Kashmir also said the Department recently also disbursed around Rs 12 crore relief as announced by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha among the eligible beneficiaries including shikarwallas, tourist guides, ponywallas, Houseboat workers etc.

He said in the coming days the Department is planning to host a capacity building workshop for the members of tourist trade to familiarize them about doing business in the post COVID scenario.

Industry Welcomes GST Council's Decisions; Says Zero Rating Of Covid-Relief Items Should Be Explored



India Inc. has largely welcomed the decisions taken by the GST Council on Friday to exempt COVID relief items from duty and easing compliance burden for taxpayers but said the measures stopped short of giving complete exemption to taxpayers from late fee payment and also missed out on providing zero rating of COVID supplies.

Industry body FICCI said that the Council's decision providing relief on import of COVID-related items and Black Fungus drug were a welcome move, and now GoM recommendations would be awaited to see what action is proposed on GST rate for other medical supplies for COVID including that for vaccines and ventilators, IANS said.

"We welcome the decisions announced by the GST Council. We appreciate the government's efforts in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and enabling better access to medical products and solutions to the country and are happy that some of the key asks from FICCI have been considered," Uday Shankar, President, FICCI, said.

"We eagerly look forward to the report of the Group of Ministers formed for consideration of further reductions in GST rates on COVID-related essentials. A quick decision on this front will help us attain self-sufficiency in this need of hour. At this juncture we cannot afford to lose further time," he added.

The GST Council on Friday extended relief on import of COVID-related relief items, if

purchased or meant for donating to government or any other relief agency, by exempting it from the Integrated Goods and Services Tax till Aug. 31, 2021. Also, the drug required for treating Mucormycosis fungal infection, has been included in list of items exempted from IGST.

Furthermore, the Council also recommended amnesty scheme to reduce the late fee and provide some relief to the small taxpayers. However, FICCI recommended a waiver from the late fees and interest to provide maximum benefit to taxpayers hit hard by pandemic disruptions.

The decision regarding extension of due dates of various compliances under GST laws for the month of May and June, 2021 will also provide a big relief to the taxpayers during this difficult time. Also, the announcement regarding optional return filing for 2020-21 for taxpayers with a turnover less than Rs 2 crore will provide a further respite to the smaller companies.

"FICCI was also hoping to see a decision regarding our long pending demand for zero rating of healthcare services for a period of 24 months during this pandemic period for the healthcare sector. We believe this would further empower the healthcare undertakings to prepare and tackle the ongoing second wave and impending third wave," Shankar said.

Also, though it was pointed out that amid the current situation it is not the right time to undertake

correction of inversion duties, FICCI feels that the matter warrants a quick decision as it continues to impact our competitiveness.

Niraj Hutheesing, Founder & Managing Director, Cygnet Infotech, said the industry supports the government's announcement on the Amnesty scheme, that aims to ease the compliance burden. "To ease compliance during this pandemic, the law committee of the Council will look into issues involving Quarterly Returns Monthly Payment (QRMP) scheme for GST returns. Additionally, the GST Council has also taken various decisions from exempting the import of COVID-related relief materials meant for donation to bringing in an amnesty scheme for SMEs to provide relief in late fees. All of these decisions are collectively going to benefit common people and small and medium businesses."

Abhishek Jain, Tax Partner, EY, said as expected, on the issue of compensation to States, the GST Council adopted the last year formula of borrowing and passing it as back to back loan to the states. However, it would be interesting to see the outcome of the special session that the Finance Minister said would be held to deliberate whether the compensation should be given to the States beyond the original period promised of 5 years, he said.

"The 43rd GST council meeting was much-awaited by the Industry players seeking reliefs from the government in these tough times of pandemic. Considering this, the GST Council headed by the finance minister has extended the current exemptions for COVID relief goods up to August 2021, and proposed to set-up a GoM committee to look into further exemptions that can be provided on account of COVID relief measure. The businesses might be slightly disappointed having to further wait up to June 8 to get a final decision on the additional GST exemptions for COVI relief activities, when the GoM will submit its report," he added.

(With IANS inputs)

Petrol Price Crosses Rs 100 A Litre In Mumbai After 15Th Hike In A Month



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Petrol price on Saturday crossed the Rs 100-a-litre mark in Mumbai after the 15th increase in fuel prices this month. Petrol price was increased by 26 paise per litre and diesel by 28 paise a litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The increase—15th this month—took petrol and diesel prices to a fresh all-time high across the country.

The price of petrol, which had already crossed the Rs 100-mark in several cities in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, breached the psychological barrier in Mumbai on Saturday.

Petrol now costs Rs 100.19 a litre in Mumbai and diesel comes for Rs 92.17 per litre.

Fuel prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT and freight charges. Rajas-

than levies the highest value-added tax (VAT) on petrol in the country, followed by Maharashtra Pradesh and Maharashtra. In Delhi, the petrol price rose to Rs 93.94 a litre and diesel to Rs 84.89.

This is the 15th increase in prices since May 4, when state-owned oil firms ended an 18-day hiatus in rate revision they observed during assembly elections in states like West Bengal.

Oil companies revise rates of petrol and diesel daily based on the average price of benchmark fuel in the international market in the preceding 15-days, and foreign exchange rates.

Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan had the costliest petrol and diesel in the country at Rs 104.94 per litre and Rs 97.79 a litre, respectively.

In 15 increases, petrol price has risen by Rs 3.54 per litre and diesel by Rs 4.16.

Second Wave To Stunt Rural Demand, Impact Overall Growth

Covid's second wave is expected to stunt rural demand, consequently, marginally dampening India's 2021 growth prospects.

According to economy observers, heavy impact of pandemic in rural areas as well as rise in healthcare and other associated costs will slow down rural demand.

Significantly, this will impact sectors ranging from two-wheelers, tractors, cement and consumer durables amongst others.

"Agricultural production will remain robust but rural consumption may get impacted due to spread of Covid," India Ratings' Principal Economist Sunil Kumar Sinha told IANS.

As of now, India suffers from a massive spike in Covid-19 infections. The latest spike has brought in record number of patients, thereby, impeding healthcare infrastructure's ability to deal with the surge.

Consequently, the situation has forced state governments to implement local lockdowns and travel restrictions which have started to slowdown economic activity.

"Rural demand may be dented given the high health expenses related to Covid-19," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA.

"However, a normal monsoon will be a palliative over the remainder of the year."

In terms of growth impact



from a slower rural demand, Emkay's Lead Economist Madhavi Arora said factors such as better adapted firms and policy response, stable financial conditions, vaccine drive, pent-up demand release and robust global growth spillovers create growth buffers.

"Assuming Covid-II peaks in May'21 and restrictions ease by Q2FY22, we mark down our FY22 GDP forecast to 9.9 per cent from 11 per cent earlier, with a further downward bias."

Besides, any impact on agricultural production will flare-up inflation dashing hopes of any policy easing as well as credit growth of the sector.

However, healthy monsoon season as well as the declining trend of second wave especially before the sowing season will arrest the fall in rural demand.

"India is likely to receive normal south west monsoon seasonal rainfall as predicted by IMD which raises the prospects of good harvests. However, the spread of the Covid-19 to the rural areas is a cause of greater concern," said Arun Singh, Global Chief Economist, Dun & Bradstreet. IANS

SHORT TAKES

PMAY Creates Over 1.2 Cr Employment Opportunities So Far

The Centre's flagship housing programme - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - has created over 1.2 crore employment opportunities, said Grant Thornton Bharat's 'Affordable Housing in India' report. The report cited that these employment opportunities so far were created through forward and backward linkages across 21 sectors.

Besides, the report said that these sectors include 250 auxiliary industries like steel, brick kilns, cement, paint, hardware and sanitary amongst others.

In terms of stakeholder impact, the report pointed out that PMAY has benefited nearly 5.8 lakh senior citizens, 2 lakh construction



workers, 1.5 lakh domestic workers and 1.5 lakh artisans.

"The extent of investment in the housing sector has both direct and indirect effects on other sectors of the economy," said T. Ravinder Reddy, Partner, Public Sector, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP.

"Due to the strong inter-

linkage between various sectors of the economy, any investment made in one sector has multiplied effects on other sectors, inducing economy-wide growth and employment opportunities."

According to Reddy: "This is more so in the construction sector, which has strong

backward and forward linkages with other sectors of the economy."

"In this context, investments made towards addressing the housing shortage offers an opportunity to stimulate growth in the economy as the sector is recognised for its potential for generating employment opportunities."

As per the report, the scheme has had an overall positive impact on the Indian economy.

"Steel and cement industry got a big boost with demand of over 13 million MT of steel and 17.7 million MT of cement for building of sanctioned houses," the report said.

"In terms of usage of re-

newable sources of energy, more than 31 Lakh sq. m. roof top would be available for solar grid installation under the Affordable Housing Partnership vertical."

The demand across ancillary sectors such as frame and furniture, transport, iron & steel, electrical, paints and plumbing equipment has also seen a rapid surge.

Under PMAY, more than 11 million houses have been sanctioned, 8 million grounded and 4.8 million completed, across the nation.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has committed over \$24 billion for the scheme's successful implementation, with total investment amounting close to \$ 100 billion. - IANS

Govt Directs Depts To Mark All Files To New CS

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday directed administrative departments to mark all papers and files to new Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta with effect from Monday, an order termed "very unusual" by former chief minister Omar Abdullah.

On Friday, the government issued orders appointing Mehta, a 1988-batch IAS officer, as the new chief secretary after incumbent B V R Subrahmanyam was appointed as an Officer on Special Duty in the Union Ministry of Commerce.

In an order, Commissioner General Administration Department (GAD) Manoj Kumar Dwivedi said it is hereby ordered that all the functions of the Jammu and Kashmir chief secretary would now be disposed of by Mehta.



"Accordingly, all the administrative departments are directed to address/mark all the papers and files to Shri Arun Kumar Mehta, IAS, with effect from 31.05.2021," the order read.

Abdullah, the National Conference vice president, said he had not seen such an order before.

"Very unusual order issued by the J&K government. If I didn't know better I'd read this order to mean the outgoing CS wasn't too keen to hand over charge

to his successor. Either way I haven't seen an order like this before," Omar said in a tweet.

In another tweet, apparently referring to the outgoing chief secretary, he said, "A man who famously said no Kashmiris shed tears when mainstream politicians were detained in 2019. In 2021, it looks like no one can wait to show him the door. Be careful who you step on on the way up, you will meet them on the way down."

PM Modi Announces Benefits For Children Orphaned By Covid

New Delhi: On the eve of his government's second anniversary in its second term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced a number of welfare measures for children who lost their parents to COVID-19, including ensuring a corpus of Rs 10 lakh when they turn 23 years of age and providing for their education.

Chairing a meeting to deliberate on steps which can be taken to support such children, he said they will be supported under the "PM-CARES for Children" scheme.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement that fixed deposits will be opened in the names of such children, and the PM-CARES fund will contribute through a specially designed scheme to create a corpus of Rs 10 lakh for each of them.

This corpus will be used to give a monthly financial support or stipend from 18 years

of age for the next five years to take care of his or her personal requirements during the period of higher education. On reaching the age of 23 years, they will get the corpus amount as one lump-sum for personal and professional use.

While announcing these measures, Modi emphasised that children represent the country's future and the government will do everything possible to support and protect them so that they develop as strong citizens and have a bright future.

"The PM said that in such trying times it is our duty, as a society, to care for our children and instil hope for a bright future. All children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian/adoptive parents due to Covid-19 will be supported under PM-CARES for Children' scheme," he said, according to the statement.

Highlighting measures for their education, the PMO said children under 10 years will be given admission in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.

Those between 11-18 years of age will be given admission in any central government residential school such as Sainik School and Navodaya Vidyalaya. In case the child remains under the care of a guardian or extended family, then he or she will be given admission in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.

If the child is admitted in a private school, fees as prescribed under the Right to Education Act norms will be given from the PM-CARES fund, and it will also pay for expenditure on uniform, text books and notebooks, the PMO added.

For higher education, children will be assisted in

obtaining education loan for professional courses or higher education in India according to existing norms. The interest on this loan will be paid from the PM-CARES fund.

As an alternative, scholarship equivalent to the tuition fees or course fees for undergraduate and vocational courses will be provided to them under the central or state government schemes.

For children who are not eligible under the existing scholarship schemes, PM CARES will provide an equivalent scholarship.

All children will also be enrolled as a beneficiary under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), with a health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh. The premium amount for these children till the age of 18 years will be paid by PM-CARES, it said.

India-Pak Truce Added To Feeling Of Peace: Army Chief

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The holding of the ceasefire between Indian and Pakistani armies along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir for the last three months has contributed to a feeling of peace and security and it is the first step towards a long road of normalisation of ties between the two countries, Chief of Army Staff Gen M M Naravane has said.

In an exclusive interview, Gen Naravane, at the same time, said the ceasefire does not mean that India's fight against terrorism has come to a halt and noted that there was no reason to believe that the terror infrastructure along the LoC has been dismantled by the Pakistan Army.

The Army Chief also said that consistency in the reduction in infiltration attempts and terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir will go a long way in assuring India of Pakistani intent to foster good neighbourly relations.

Gen Naravane said adherence to the ceasefire pact has "definitely" contributed to the overall feeling of peace and security in the region and boosted prospects of peace

after a long spell of flare-ups.

In a sudden and significant move aimed at reducing tensions, the Indian and Pakistani armies on February 25 announced that they would cease firing across the LoC while recommitting themselves to a 2003 ceasefire agreement.

"Ceasefire along the LoC does not mean that our fight against terrorism has come to a halt. We do not have any reasons to believe that the terror infrastructure along the LoC has been dismantled by the Pakistan Army."

"Whether it is their inability or unwillingness, both are equally dangerous and concerning, especially seen in the light of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan," the Army chief said, referring to the Biden administration's decision to pull out American troops from Afghanistan by September 11.

Referring to the ceasefire, Gen Naravane said there was not a single incident of cross-border firing by the two armies after the pact came into effect though there was an incident involving the Pakistani Rangers in the Jammu sector.

"This year, we have seen a drastic reduction in the violence levels in

Jammu and Kashmir.

Security forces and other government agencies are working in sync to maintain pressure on terror groups and squeeze out the logistics support," he said.

"Consistency in a reduction in infiltration attempts and terrorist incidents in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir will go a long way in assuring us of Pakistani intent to foster good neighbourly relations with us," Gen Naravane said.

He said there was a renewed emphasis on observing the ceasefire agreement of 2003 due to the heavy losses of civilian and military lives across the LoC.

"Cessation of firing is in the interest of building trust between the two armies, for giving chance to peace and for the benefit of the population residing along the LoC," he said.

The Army Chief said India would like to continue with the ceasefire so that it contributes to stability and improvement in the relationship.

"It is the first step towards the long road of normalisation of relations with Pakistan. From our side,

we would like to continue with the ceasefire so that it contributes to stability and improvement in the relationship," he said.

Gen Naravane also said that recruitment of local youths into militant outfits has also witnessed reduction, adding it is an indicator that the common people desired peace.

"We remain committed to providing a conducive environment for peace to prevail. Economic activity had commenced well this year but has been slowed down due to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic," he said.

"I am sure that this is a temporary pause and commercial activities will resume soon as, during the winter months, we had seen a record number of tourists visiting the Valley," he noted.

At the same time, he said smuggling of weapons and narcotics remained a concern and there have been attempts to use unmanned systems after individuals have been caught.

"We continue to monitor these developments and maintain a robust counter-infiltration grid. We do not want the youth of Jammu

and Kashmir to indulge in drugs, crime or violence," he said.

"The youth are bright and many have demonstrated their capability by doing well in sports and academics, bringing laurels to their families, their village, town, district and the union territory," he said.

Gen Naravane said the Indian Army actively encourages such aspirations by organising various sports and educational events.

"We remain hopeful that the menace will end with concerted efforts of the government and 'Awaam'," he noted.

Pakistan has been making concerted efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue.

The neighbouring country stepped up its anti-India campaign after New Delhi announced in August 2019 its decision to withdraw the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the state into two union territories.

India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

It has said the onus is on Pakistan to create an environment free of terror and hostility.

BSF Hands Over 'Intruder's' Body To Pak

Agenceis

JAMMU: The body of a Pakistani national, who succumbed to bullet injuries at a hospital here, was handed over to Pakistani Rangers by the Border Security Force at a flag meeting along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Saturday, officials said.

Syed Raja Aasim (27), a resident of Danga in Lahore, suffered multiple bullet injuries when the Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire after he ignored repeated warnings. He was trying to sneak into the Indian side from the Border Outpost area of Ban Glad in the Samba sector on May 18, they said.

"The Pakistani national succumbed to injuries on Friday while undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital in Jammu," an official said.

He said after postmortem, Aasim's body was handed over to police and taken to Samba for completion of formalities. The BSF established contact with Pakistani Rangers and a flag meeting was scheduled at an area under the Border Outpost Ban Glad, where the body was handed over to them so that his relatives could perform his last rites, the officials said. They said nothing objectionable was found about Aasim.

After being administered first aid by the BSF, he was immediately taken to the civil hospital and later, referred to the GMC hospital in Jammu for specialised treatment, the officials said.

He was the second Pakistani intruder to be killed by the BSF along the International Border in the Samba sector this month as an infiltrator was shot dead on May 5.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir Experts

Virologist and Noble Peace Prize Laureate as a "wrong information" spread against vaccination. She said that the vaccine is the only biggest protection for all humans against the Covid-19 disease.

"A vaccinated person has less chance to get infected and even if a vaccinated person gets infected with the Covid-19, the severity of the disease is less and a person has high chances to recover and fight the virus better in comparison to the person who has not got vaccinated.

Urging people not to pay heed to any such information spread against the vaccine, Dr Saima said that people should come forward and must get vaccinated to stay safe against this virus.

A Facebook post claims Nobel laureate Luc Montagnier said everyone who received a COVID-19 vaccination would develop a disorder called antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) and die within two years.

This has caused a lot of anxiety among those who have taken the vaccines. It is also promoting vaccine hesitancy among those yet to be vaccinated.

A fact check done by Reuters news agency said in a report on Saturday that there is no evidence to back up this claim, nor was there any instance found where Montagnier made this comment.

Echoing Dr Saima, Dr. Muhammad Salim Khan Professor and HOD, Community Medicine, GMC, Srinagar said that the vaccine does not cause Antibody- dependent Enhancement (ADE).

Rebutting the news item spread in the name of Montagnier as hypothetical presumptions, Dr. Khan said that people should not pay heed to such fake news.

He said that over 180 crore doses of Covid vaccines have been given till date worldwide and there is no evidence of ADE reported anywhere in the world.

He said that ADE is an acute condition and its association with COVID vaccines would have definitely caused global concern till date.

"During various phases of vaccine trials, no such phenomenon has been reported with any COVID vaccine anywhere and any such apprehension of having ADE causing deaths in near future among COVID vaccine recipients needs a reassurance that COVID Vaccination is safe and there's no threat of future deaths due to Antibody- dependant Enhancement after receiving COVID vaccines," he said.

He termed the vaccine safe and said instead millions of lives have been saved due to COVID vaccination globally.

Dr. Khan urged people not to listen to any person about unforeseen circumstances when there is scientific evidence that COVID vaccines are safe and highly protective against COVID infection and severity.

"We need to reach out and get every eligible person vaccinated alongside following COVID appropriate behaviour so that there's no emergence of next COVID wave" he added.

J&K Logs 46

from Valley, officials said included a 65-year-old man from Puchal, Pulwama who died 25 days after he was admitted to district hospital Pulwama. Also, a man from Karimabad died at district hospital Pulwama, a day after he was admitted there, they said.

Besides them, officials said an 80-year-old from Sangerwani Pulwama died six days after he was admitted to the same hospital, they said. A man from Kokernag died at GMC Anantnag last evening, they said. Also, a 52-year-old man from Tangmarg Baramulla died, a fortnight after he was admitted to SKIMS Bemina.

Officials said that a 35-year-old woman from Charar-e-Sharif died two days after she was admitted the covid-19 management facility. Two deaths were also reported at SHMS hospital, they said.

Among others the victims from Puchal included a 60-year-old man from Phallian Mandal, a 55-year-old woman from Lower Gadigarh, a 35-year-old woman from Domana Jammu, an 82-year-old woman from Digiana Jammu, a 67-year-old woman from Palli Bari Brahmana, a 62-year-old man from Poonch presently Trikuta Nagar, an 85-year-old woman from Bantalab Jammu, a 94-year-old man from Sidhra Jammu, a 69-year-old from Resham Ghar Colony Bakshi Nagarand, a 55-year-old woman R.S Pura, a 71-year-old woman from Roop Nagar and a 66-year-old woman from Paloura Jammu.

Regarding the fresh cases detected Saturday, officials said that 1459 were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 794 from Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected by the virus in J&K to 286684.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 353 cases, Baramulla 162, Budgam 169, Pulwama 142, Kupwara 203, Anantnag 184, Bandipora 69, Ganderbal 52, Kulgam 91, Shopian 34, Jammu 343, Udhampur 60, Rajouri 60, Doda 54, Kathua 47, Samba 23, Kishtwar 32, Poonch 70, Ramban 66 and Reasi 39.

Also, 4334 patients have recovered—1898 from Jammu and 2436 from Kashmir, taking the number of those who recovered to 243588, officials added.

LG Opens

Speaking on the management of ongoing pandemic and future challenges, the LG, he said, observed that the DRDO hospital, with efficient mechanisms will play an important role in adding to the government's efforts in the fight against Covid pandemic.

"I must congratulate and appreciate

Chairman, DRDO Dr. G Satheesh Reddy and his entire team working round-the-clock to build this well-equipped medical facility in record time", the official spokesperson quoted Sinha as saying.

"Our health infrastructure in Jammu and other areas of the division continues to be the backbone of healthcare services. This hospital too is expected to become fully operational in 3-4 days, after trial run of all the facilities," he added.

Underlining the importance of providing best healthcare services to the people, especially those living in remote areas, the official spokesperson said that the LG remarked that the robust health infrastructure in Jammu division with decentralized community health system in the form of Panchayat Covid Care Centres has an extensive outreach even in several far-flung locales. We have also devised an effective and rapid response system to quickly mobilize the physical and human resources within healthcare delivery apparatus, he added.

"We all as a society must fight the pandemic together & recalibrate our priorities, giving utmost importance to Covid protocol and vaccination. So, I urge every citizen of J&K to follow Covid Appropriate Behaviour for weeks & months to effectively tackle this health crisis," said the LG as per official spokesperson.

Meanwhile, the Lt Governor went around the various sections of the newly established Hospital including Patient's block, ICU ward, General wards, Pharmacy, wherein, he inspected and enquired about the facilities available for the patients, the official spokesperson said.

He said that the LG directed the health functionaries to ensure strict compliance of the hospital referral policy for effective patient care management.

"It was informed that all the Information and Record would be maintained through Hospital Management Software for effective management of the Hospital's functioning. Wi-Fi facility, water Supply with RO facility, camera surveillance with all safety norms and other essential facilities would be extended to the patients," he added.

AC Okays

spokesperson said. Under the new scheme Saksham, he said, the surviving spouse, and one eldest surviving member of affected families will receive a special monthly pension of Rs. 1000 through direct bank transfer (DBT), provided that they are not otherwise receiving any pension under other schemes.

Additionally, the scheme will also provide special scholarships to children who lost their earning parent(s)/ sibling(s)/ guardian(s) to COVID.

Divulging more details of the scheme that makes J&K the first union territory to provide relief to Covid affected families; the official

spokesperson said that the special scholarship will be paid annually at the rate of Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 40,000 through DBT to children studying up to 12th standard, and higher education, respectively.

He further said that the AC also approved the creation of a special cell in the Social Welfare Department for handholding the families of COVID victims and facilitating the extension of benefits under different Government schemes including financial assistance for self-employment.

"The said cell will consist of Director General, Women & Child Development, Director, Social Welfare Kashmir/ Jammu, Mission Director, ICPS, and representative of the Finance Department," he added.

AC Approves

create 19 posts for the computer section of the High Court.

According to an official spokesperson, the decision about the creation of IT posts in the High Court was taken by the Administrative Council (AC) which met under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here on Saturday.

The AC, he said, gave nod to creation of 3 posts of Assistant Registrar-I, 2 posts of Assistant Registrar-II, 4 posts of Section Officer, 4 posts of DEO, and 6 posts of Computer Operator.

"The decision to strengthen technical human resources at the High Court is expected to boost technological interventions in the justice administration," he added.

Govt Notifies

the fresh categorisation of districts after a detailed review of the Covid-19 situation, the SEC order said five districts—Pulwama, Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam and Kupwara— have been put in the red category along with Lakhapur—the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir bordering Punjab with a buffer of 500 metre radius –and the areas on either side of the Jawahar Tunnel—along the Jammu-Srinagar highway.

While rest of the districts have been placed in the orange zone, the order said that the classification was meant for the purpose of implementation of permitted activities with the red category district facing more restrictions.

"This classification of the districts will be reviewed periodically and any further modification will be made by the government," the order added.

The classification of districts by the SEC comes a day after Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; P K Pole told Kashmir Observer that the decision to ease lockdown will be taken shortly.

"The government is working to unlock Kashmir and the decision regarding the same will be taken shortly," he had said.

He had further said that the competent authority will assess the situation and take a call on phased unlocking, including days of

relaxation and the activities to be allowed.

The Valley is under a strict lockdown for a month following the second wave of deadly virus that has claimed over 3800 lives.

Partial restrictions to contain the Covid were imposed on 27 April and a complete curfew was imposed in Kashmir on 29 April.

Last Saturday, the Jammu and Kashmir administration extended the curfew, which was supposed to end on May 23, by another week till May 31 in all 20 districts of the Union Territory amid no letup in the number of fresh coronavirus cases and deaths.

Two Youth Shot

Another youth, officials said, succumbed to his injuries at the Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag where he was referred for specialised treatment.

According to the officials, Parray was a Dental Technician and Bhat an auto driver by profession.

Meanwhile, police on a statement issued on Saturday evening said that a cordon and search operation had been launched in the area to nab the militants responsible for the attack

"Police have registered a case under relevant sections in the instant matter. Police are vigorously investigating all the circumstances of this crime," a police spokesperson said.

2 Hizb 'OGWs'

Jammu and Kashmir, was filed before the National Investigation Agency special court in Lucknow under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Indian Penal Code, a spokesperson of the probe agency said.

A case was first registered in Lucknow on September 12, 2018, against Kamruj Zaman and others relating to a criminal conspiracy by Hizb-ul-Mujahideen cadres to carry out militant activities at different places in the state and other parts of the country, the official said.

The NIA had re-registered the case on September 24, 2018, and taken over the investigation, according to the spokesperson.

He said the NIA had earlier filed a charge sheet against arrested Zaman and absconding accused Osama Bin Javed on March 11, 2019. Javed was later killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on September 28 that year.

Investigation has established that Javed was harboured and assisted by chargesheeted accused Sheikh and Butt, he said.

Sheikh used to arrange safe transport for Javed and other militants of Hizbul Mujahideen, the official said. Butt had aided Javed and other Hizbul militants by providing shelter and other logistics support. He had also constructed a hideout in his own house in Kishtwar in order to provide safe shelter to the militants, the spokesperson said. He added that further investigation in the case was on

Indian Team To Stay In Managed Isolation Before WTC: ICC

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The Indian team will stay in "managed isolation" before the World Test Championship final against New Zealand, the ICC announced on Saturday but did not mention the exact period of hard quarantine upon reaching UK.

World's top two Test teams will fight it out at the Hampshire Bowl in Southampton from June 18-22.

While New Zealand are already in England for a bilateral series against the hosts, the Virat Kohli-led Indian team will arrive in the UK on June 3 after competing a 14-day quarantine period in India.

"The event has now been granted an exemption by the UK government as outlined in The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel and Operator Liability) (England) Regulations 2021, released on 17 May 2021," the ICC said in a release.

"...Upon landing, they will proceed directly to the on-site hotel at the Hampshire Bowl where they will be tested again before commencing a period of managed isolation," said the ICC release.

However the ICC release doesn't specify the duration of hard (room) quarantine in Southampton. For New Zealand team, ECB made it a three-day manda-

tory room quarantine before allowing the players to train.

Regular tests will be conducted during the period of isolation.

The Indian team will enter UK after completing 14-days in a bio-bubble in Mumbai with six RT-PCR negative tests.

Some of the players like R Ashwin, Mayank Agarwal, Washington Sundar are now allowed to use the hotel gymnasium from May 25 after a week-long room quarantine and three negative tests.

However a few like skipper Virat Kohli, his white ball deputy Rohit Sharma, all of whom joined late will have a complete room quarantine before boarding the UK flight. They have been provided with gym equipments inside their rooms.

In the UK, players' activity will be allowed in a gradually increasing manner after each round of negative testing, moving from exercise in isolation to small group and then larger squad activity, whilst always remaining within the bio-secure venue.

The New Zealand team will move from the ECB bio-secure environment into the World Test Championship Final bubble on June 15 and will be subject to regular testing prior to and post arrival in Southampton.

Start Winning Rather Than Complaining: Aravinda de Silva Tells Sri Lanka Players

Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: Former Sri Lanka captain and legendary batsman Aravinda de Silva has asked the national team cricketers to "start winning games rather than complaining" as he defended the proposed annual players' contracts prepared by the committee under him.

De Silva said the players' rejection of the central contracts was "unfair", because the Board is offering more for winning series against top-ranked opposition.

"It is very unfair that our players say that they are not agreeable to this scheme. The most important fact is they should get into the middle and play positive cricket and start winning games for the country rather than complaining.

"This positive approach will encourage us to consider offering them more benefits, like some of the other countries in our region," de Silva was quoted as saying by 'Daily News'.

Last week, the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said that 24 of the leading players had been offered contracts under four categories and they had been given a deadline until June 3 to sign on dotted lines.

Only six players are in the category A and their annual pay ranges between USD 70,000 to 100,000. Batsman Dhananjaya de Silva draws highest — USD 100,000 with the rest of them were to receive USD 70,000 to 80,000 US dollars.

Sri Lanka's leading cricketers led by Test captain Dimuth Karunaratne along with host of senior players, including Dinesh Chandimal and Angelo Mathews have refused to sign the central contracts which they believe is far less compared to other countries.

De Silva said the Cricket Committee, which he heads, has been very fair to the players as the new system will infuse additional benefits than before as it is a performance-based scheme.



IPL Set For September Restart In UAE, Final Call On T20 WC In 1 Month: BCCI

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The general body of the BCCI on Saturday approved the IPL's resumption in September in the UAE and also decided to seek one month's time from the ICC to assess the COVID-19 situation in India before taking a final call on the ICC T20 World Cup.

The Special General Meeting (SGM), held virtually, lasted for about 50 minutes as the members were unanimous in their approval of the two agendas on the day.

"The SGM approved the decision to hold the remaining matches of IPL between September and October. The dates will be intimated later," a senior state association member, who was present in the meeting, told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"In September, it's the time for retreating monsoon in India. Also the fact that three grounds in the UAE makes it easier as we had seen in 2020."

The likely dates will be between September 18 and October 10.

He said all the members want the T20 World Cup to be held in India in last week of October but no decision can be taken right now.

"The BCCI representatives — president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah — will be seeking time till July 1 after which another SGM will be held to decide on whether we would go ahead with hosting of World T20.

"Right now, the health situation in the country doesn't allow us to take any final decision."

In a short statement, the

BCCI said all the members unanimously agreed to resume IPL in the UAE.

"The BCCI on Saturday announced to complete the remaining matches of VIVO Indian Premier League 2021 season in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) considering the monsoon season in India in the months of September-October this year.

"The BCCI SGM further authorised the Office Bearers to seek an extension of time from the ICC to take an appropriate call on the hosting of ICC T20 World Cup 2021," secretary Jay Shah said in the statement.

The senior state association member said there is also a tax rebate issue which is still an on-going process.

"ICC wants tax waivers but we have to abide by government guidelines. But a World T20 in India means that all the stakeholders happen to gain. But sitting in May, you can't predict the health emergency in October. So we need some time," he said.

While IPL's UAE shift was a foregone conclusion, the office bearers intimated the general body about the issue of availability of players.

"The BCCI is pretty clear that even if there is a case of unavailability of English players due to their series against Pakistan, we are not going to plead to any of the boards about releasing their players.

"The first and foremost thing is to complete the 31 remaining games of IPL. We believe other aspects will be taken care of," he

added.

Domestic players' compensation

One member from a state association had informally raised the issue but he was told in no uncertain terms that this is not the appropriate forum as SGM needs to be held as per agenda.

"The compensation thing has already been passed at the AGM last January. Yes, they haven't worked out a formula and trust me it's not the easiest thing. Dada (Sourav Ganguly) has got approval for compensation but what's the formula?"

"Today, if a state gives contract to 20 players, which is a standard upper limit, there will be five who may just move court and say that this year they were supposed to be selected? These are things that the Board needs to sort out," an official of a heavy-weight state said.

Ganguly, Shah going to Dubai on Monday

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah will join vice president Rajiv Shukla in Dubai for the ICC Board Meeting on June 1 where there will be discussions on the fate of the T20 World Cup in India in October.

"As they will ask for one month's time, the best option for BCCI is to hold it in Maharashtra — three grounds in Mumbai and one in Pune. However, the issue of Pakistan travelling to Mumbai could be more of a political decision where the security will also need to be factored in," the official said.

Australia Lacks A Finisher Like MS Dhoni For T20 WC, Says Ricky Ponting

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Former captain Ricky Ponting feels Australia lacks a 'finisher' in the mould of former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni or all-rounder Hardik Pandya despite the abundance of experienced players ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Ponting also feels that unearthing a reliable middle or lower-order batsman who can keep wickets could kill two birds with one stone.

"The spot they (Australia) have always been worried about is that finishing role. It's a very specialist position to be able to go in with three of four overs to go, with 50 runs needed and be able to do it," Ponting was quoted as saying in cricket.com.au.

"Dhoni has been in that one spot his whole career and no wonder he's so good at it. Hardik Pandya and Kieron Pollard are similar — these guys continually win games of cricket for their country and in the IPL, they're used to go-

ing in batting at those spots," he added.

Ponting, who coached Delhi Capitals in the currently-suspended Indian Premier League, said one of the reasons for Australia not having a good 'finisher' was that all of the best batsmen of the country bat in top four in Big Bash League.

"So you've actually got no one that's consistently batting in that area. That's what we've got to find," said the 46-year-old legendary batsman.

"Is it going to be (Glenn) Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh that are going to finish the games, is it going to be (Marcus) Stoinis? I think that's the area that they're more worried about."

Stoinis has had success batting lower down the order under Ponting's guidance at the Delhi Capitals.

"I saw Stoinis at Delhi last year, he's opened the last few years of BBL and done a great job for the Melbourne Stars, but I needed someone that could finish games for us and he won two or three games off his own bat.

BAN Vs SL Tamim Fined For Using Obscene Language During 3rd ODI

Press Trust of India

DHAKA: Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for using obscene language during the third ODI of the World Cup Super League series against Sri Lanka in Dhaka.

According to a release issued by the ICC, Tamim was found to have breached Article 2.3 of the ICC Code of Conduct for players and player support personnel, which relates to "use of an audible obscenity during an International Match."

In addition to the fine, one demerit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Tamim, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period.

The incident occurred in the 10th over of Bangladesh's innings on Friday, when Tamim used inappropriate language after an unsuccessful review of his caught-behind dismissal.

Tamim admitted to the



offence and accepted the sanction proposed by ICC match referee Neeyamur Rashid, and there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Sharfudoula Ibne Shahid and Tanvir Ahmed, third umpire Gazi Sohail and fourth official Masudur Rahman levelled the charge against Tamim.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

Asian Boxing Championships

Mary Kom Seeks Sixth Gold As India Eye Perfect Finish

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Six-time world champion MC Mary Kom (51kg) will seek her sixth gold when she squares off against Kazakhstan's Nazym Kyzaiybay in the women's 51kg final of the Asian Boxing Championships here on Sunday. (More Sports News)

The 38-year-old Olympic-bound Mary Kom had prevailed 4-1 over Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altantsetseg in the semifinals on Thursday. She will face a stiff challenge from the two-time world champion Kyzaiybay in the summit clash.

Another Olympic-bound boxer Pooja Rani, who received a walk-over in the semi-finals, will fight against an in-form Mavluda Movlonova of Uzbekistan, who ended the challenge of London Olympics medalist Marina Volnova in the last-4 stage.

Office of the Sr. Aquaculture Engineer (XEN) Fisheries Deptt Srinagar

Notice Inviting Tenders
E-NIT No 02 OF 2021-22

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, e-tenders are invited by Sr.Aquaculture Engineer(XEN), Fisheries Department J&K Srinagar by e-tendering mode on item rate basis from approved and the eligible registered Contractors registered with J&K State Government of the classes mentioned here under in strict accordance with conditions noted below.

S. No	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs.in lacs)	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document	Time of opening of bid	Time of completion
01	Construction of Walling,Development of Yard Area Includ. outer hut & allied works around Trout Hut at Tangmarg	Rs 17.00 lacs	B&C	Rs 1000/-	11-06-2021 at 10:00 AM	One Month

Position of AA= Accorded Position of Funds = Available (Languishing)

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria,specifications,bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in under ASH/Director Fisheries /Engineering Wing as per the schedule of dates given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29-05-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	31-05-2021 from 10:00 am to 09-06-2021 upto 4:00 pm
3	Bid submission Start Date	31-05-2021 from 10:00 am
4	Bid submission End Date	09-06-2021 upto 4:00 pm
5	Date & Time of opening Bids (Online)	11-06-2021 at 10:00 am

In the Office of the Sr. Aquaculture Engineer (XEN) Fisheries Deptt Suleiman Complex Dalgate -Srinagar

The Detailed NIT/Terms & Conditions can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours

DIPK-2257/21

S/d
Sr. Aquaculture Engineer (XEN)
Fisheries Department
Srinagar

No:SAE/D/2021-22/218-22
Dated:- 29-05-2021

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

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

Subject: Removal of deficiencies by such candidates who have applied for admission to (12th Based) Paramedical Diploma (PM/GNM/ANM/MRT) Courses-2021
References: (i) Notification No. 052-BOPEE of 2021 Dated 10-04-2021
(ii) Notice No. 045-BOPEE of 2021 Dated 05-05-2021
(iii) Notice No. 051-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 28-05-2021

The Board vide Notification No. 052-BOPEE of 2021 Dated 10-04-2021 read with Notice No. 045-BOPEE of 2021 Dated 05-05-2021 invited Online Application Forms from the eligible candidates belonging to UT of J&K/Ladakh for admission to (12th Based) Paramedical (PM/GNM/ANM/MRT) Diploma Courses-2021 in various Govt./Private institutions of UT of J&K/Ladakh. The Board, after the expiry of the last date for filing up of Online Application Forms, observed that some of the Online Application Forms are deficient for want of some prerequisite document(s) which are either not uploaded or wrongly uploaded by the applicants.

In view of the prevalent COVID-19 situation and in order to prepare and notify the Provisional Merit List without any further delay, the Board has decided to give an opportunity to all such applicants listed in Annexure "A" & "B" to this Notice to upload their deficient documents by or before 11-06-2021 positively failing which such applicants shall not be considered for inclusion of their names in the Provisional Merit List and further counseling rounds for allotment of seats, and no claim of such applicants, whatsoever reason(s), shall be entertained later on by the Board under any circumstances.

Note:

- Applicants who have applied for their Domicile Certificates, but have not been able to obtain the same from the Issuing Authority till date due to various reasons, & whose forms are deficient, can upload an undertaking (on plain paper) certifying that they will produce the Domicile Certificates at the time of their Counselling/Admission, otherwise they shall not be allowed to participate in the counseling or take admission in any college.
- The Annexure "B" is for applicants who have opted for GNM Lateral Entry. These applicants are advised to upload their (both) First and Second Year Marks Cards of the course they have qualified (eligibility for Lateral entry in GNM) i.e. PM/PMW/MAP/PMW/ANM whichever is applicable to them, besides other deficient documents i.e. Domicile Certificate/Date of Birth Certificate from the respective Board/Category Certificate (if applicable). Further, such applicants, who have applied to other Courses such as Paramedical/Medical Record Technicians/ANM in addition to GNM Lateral Entry Course, shall have to upload their 12th Class Marks Card also, in addition to above mentioned deficient documents, if any.
- The candidates as indicated in Annexure "A" & "B" to this Notice are advised to upload their deficient documents only at the respective relevant places in their Online Application Forms.
- No documents shall be accepted through any email or WhatsApp.
- The Annexure "A" & Annexure "B" to this Notice shall be available only on the BOPEE website (www.jkbopee.gov.in).
- All the applicants are advised to remain in touch with the J&K BOPEE website regularly for all updates.

S & O E

DIPK-NB-971/21

No. BOPEE/Exam-10/2021

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE
Dated: 28-05-2021

از نیابت قلم آباد

مضمون کاغذات درخواستی منجانب ازاد حسین ڈار ولد عبد الغفار ڈار ساکنہ پرونگروماور بمبراد عطا یگی بیکوار ڈار ایراسرٹفیکیت تحت 294 SRO

اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ منجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر ہذا میں زیر کار روٹی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن موضع پرونگروماور میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ سرٹفیکیت اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

sult

از نیابت قلم آباد

مضمون کاغذات درخواستی منجانب فرقان عاشق ڈار ولد عاشق احمد دار ساکنہ پرونگروماور بمبراد عطا یگی بیکوار ڈار ایراسرٹفیکیت تحت 294 SRO

اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ منجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر ہذا میں زیر کار روٹی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن موضع پرونگروماور میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ سرٹفیکیت اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

sult

With 1.73 Lakh New Covid Cases, India Records Lowest Spike Since April 13



NEW DELHI: The single-day rise in coronavirus cases was recorded at 1,73,790, the lowest in last 45 days, taking India's total tally of Covid-19 cases to 2,77,29,247, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Saturday.

The daily positivity further declined to 8.36 per cent, remaining below 10 per cent for five consecutive days, while the weekly positivity rate dropped to 9.84 per cent, it said.

The death toll climbed to 3,22,512 with 3,617 daily deaths, the data updated by the ministry at 8 am showed.

Also, 20,80,048 tests were conducted on Friday taking the total cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid-19 in the country to 34,11,19,909.

The active cases have further reduced to 22,28,724 with a decline of 1,14,428 cases being recorded in the active caseload. It now comprises 8.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has improved to

90.80 per cent.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 2,51,78,011 while the case fatality rate stands at 1.16 per cent, the data stated. The daily recoveries outnumbered the daily new cases for the 16th consecutive day.

The cumulative number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country exceeded 20.89 crore on Saturday under the nationwide vaccination drive, the ministry said. India is the second country after the US to achieve the vaccination landmark of 20 crore, it added.

A total of 20,89,02,445 vaccine doses have been administered through 29,72,971 sessions, according to the provisional report till 7 am on Saturday.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of 2 crore on May 4.

The 3,617 new fatalities include 973 from Maharashtra, 486 from Tamil Nadu, 401 from Karnataka, 194 from Kerala, 176 from Punjab, 154 from Uttar Pradesh, 145 from West Bengal, 139 from Delhi and 103 from Andhra Pradesh. **-PTI**

Farmers To Observe June 5 As 'Sampoorna Kranti Divas' By Burning Copies Of Farm Laws

NEW DELHI: Farmers will observe June 5 as 'Sampoorna Kranti Divas' by burning copies of the Central farm laws in front of the offices of BJP MPs and MLAs to mark the day when these legislations were initially promulgated as ordinances last year, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha said on Saturday.



After being promulgated as ordinances, Parliament in September last year passed the proposed legislations and were later made law following presidential assent.

Scores of farmers have been camping at Delhi's borders since November last year demanding the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 be rolled back and a new law made to guarantee minimum support price for their crops.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of protesting farmers unions spearheading the agitation, said, "On June 5, 1974, Jayaprakash Narayan had declared 'Sampoorna Kranti' and launched a mass movement against the then central government. Last year

on June 5 the government had presented these anti-farmer laws as ordinances."

Jayprakash Narayan had at a public meeting in Patna's Gandhi Maidan on June 5, 1974, asked the people of Bihar to observe the day as 'Sampoorna Kranti Divas' (Total Revolution) and then form a 'janata sarkar' in every village to usher in a new social order.

"The SKM has decided that on June 5, 'Sampoorna Kranti Divas' will be observed all over the country. We appeal to citizens to burn the copies of three agricultural laws in front of offices of BJP MPs, MLAs and representatives... make it a mass movement and force the government to repeal the farm laws," the umbrella body of protesting farmers unions added.

The protesting farmers on Saturday also paid tribute to former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh on his death anniversary and remembered his contribution for the development of agriculture, farmers and villages. **-PTI**



TOURISM DEPARTMENT officials distribute relief among the families of needy Shikarwallahs on Saturday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

India Invites Applications For Indian Citizenship From Non-Muslim Refugees

NEW DELHI: The Union Home Ministry has issued a notification under the 2009 rules of the Citizenship Act, 1955 asking non-Muslims belonging to Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan and residing in 13 districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Punjab to apply for Indian citizenship.

The fresh order is in no way connected to the Citizenship Amendment Act passed in 2019 as the rules under it are yet to be framed by the government, officials said.

The Union home ministry on Friday night issued the notification for immediate implementation of the order under the Citizenship Act 1955 and Rules framed under the law in 2009.

This benefit is extended to minorities from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who fulfil all conditions applicable to any foreign citizen seeking citizenship by naturalisation after a minimum of 11 years of residency in India.

Under the CAA, the period for this category was cut to five years.

"In exercise of powers conferred under Section 16 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 (57 of 1955), the central government hereby directs that powers exercisable by it for registration as citizen of India under Section 5, or for grant of certificate of naturalisation under section 6 of the Citizenship Act 1955 in respect of any person belonging to a minority community in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Chris-

tians, residing in the districts mentioned and the states mentioned below," the fresh notification said.

People who are eligible to apply for Indian citizenship are those currently living in the districts of Morbi, Rajkot, Patan and Vadodara of Gujarat, Durg and Balodabazar in Chhattisgarh, Jalore, Udaipur, Pali, Barmer and Sirohi in Rajasthan, Faridabad in Haryana and Jalandhar in Punjab.

"The application for registration as citizen of India or grant of certificate of naturalisation as citizen of India under the said rules (Citizenship Rules, 2009) shall be made by the applicant online," the notification said.

In 2016, the central government had in a similar step sought applications from members of these minority communities from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh living in 16 districts in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

The district magistrates of the districts and home secretaries of the seven states were allowed to receive and process the applications of these refugees for two years by the home ministry.

In 2018, the said notification was extended for an indefinite period or till further order.

With Friday night's order, the total number of districts where such facility is available has gone up to 29 districts in nine states.

The home ministry said the verification of the application is to be done simultaneously by the collector or Secretary (Home) at the district-level

and the state-level and the application and the reports thereon shall be made accessible simultaneously to the Centre on an online portal.

The collector or the secretary will make enquiries as considered necessary for ascertaining the suitability of the applicant and for that purpose forward the application online to such agencies for verification and comments.

The instructions issued by the Centre from time to time in this regard shall be strictly complied with by state or union territory and district concerned, it said.

"The comments of the agencies referred to in clause (C) are uploaded online by such agencies and accessible to the collector or the secretary, as the case may be, and the central government," it said.

The collector or the secretary on being satisfied with the suitability of the applicant, will grant him the citizenship of India by registration or naturalisation and issue a certificate of registration or naturalisation, as the case may be, duly printed from an online portal and signed by the collector or the secretary in the form as prescribed in the said rules, the notification said.

The collector or the secretary shall maintain an online as well as physical register, in accordance with the said rules, containing the details of the person registered or naturalised as a citizen of India and furnish a copy thereof to the central government within seven days of such registration or naturalisation, it said. **- PTI**

Centre's Latest Citizenship Move Back Door Entry Of CAA, Exposes Govt's Fascist Nature: Left

NEW DELHI: The Centre's move to verify and approve citizenship applications from members of minority communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh living in five Indian states reveals the government's "fascist character" and is a way to give a "back door entry" to the CAA-2019, the Left parties alleged Saturday.

The Centre on Friday issued a gazette notification granting powers under existing rules to authorities in 13 districts of Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab to accept, verify and approve citizenship applications from members of minority communities hailing from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

With the Centre yet to frame rules under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019, which was fiercely protested against by various sections, the order has been issued un-



der the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship Rules, 2009.

The Friday notification lists Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians as the communities that will be allowed. The applications will have to be submitted online.

"Subterfuge. Rules under CAA 2019 not framed, yet the Central govt issues gazette notification to implement it. Petitions challenging Constitutional validity of CAA continue to remain unheard. Hope SC takes this

up promptly & stops back door implementation," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said in a Tweet.

CPI general secretary D Raja alleged the move "completely exposes the fascist character" of the present government.

He said there were huge protests against the CAA 2019 before the agitators relented because of the coronavirus pandemic, while some protests earlier were "ruthlessly crushed".

"It (the latest citizenship move) shows the insensitivity of a government if it pursues its political agenda at a time when thousands are dying every day due to a pandemic. This exposes the government as insensitive, anti-people and anti-democracy," he said.

Dipankar Bhattacharya, CPI-ML general secretary, questioned as to how such an order can be passed when the CAA rules are still not in place. **- PTI**

Covid Crisis Biggest Failure Of Modi 2.0: Survey

NEW DELHI: For the first time in seven years, red lines have been breached on the approval ratings of the Narendra Modi government.

As per ABP-C Voter Modi 2.0 Report Card, voters say that abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir is the biggest achievement of the Modi government, while not handling the Corona crisis effectively is its biggest failure.

The sample size of the survey was 1.39 lakh with the samples spread across 543 Lok Sabha seats. The fieldwork was done between January 1 and May 28.

The survey shows that on many issues, voters are disappointed with the Modi government and the high popularity ratings enjoyed by the Modi government in the last seven years are now dissipating.

As many as 47.4 per cent respondents in the survey said that abrogation of Article 370 has been the biggest achievement of Modi 2.0.

Some 41.1 per cent respondents said Modi government's handling of the Covid-19 crisis was its biggest failure.

Also, 23.1 per cent said dissatisfaction and anger in the farming community over the new farm laws is the second biggest failure of the Modi government.

In a castigation of the Centre, more than half or 52.3 per cent said that government help did not reach them during the lockdown.



Voters are also unhappy with the poll campaign during the second wave of the pandemic.

To a question on "Do you think it was appropriate for Prime Minister to participate in the poll campaign and address election rallies during second wave of the pandemic in the country?", a massive 59.7 per cent said as Prime Minister of the country, Modi's participation in election campaigns was wrong.

While there may be anger against the government, voters still do not want Congress scion Rahul Gandhi, who has been very critical of the government's handling of the pandemic.

On a question, "Do you think Rahul Gandhi would have handled the Corona crisis in a better manner, if he was Prime Minister of the country? Or you believe that PM Narendra Modi is handling it in the best possible manner", 63.1 per cent said Modi is handling the situation in the best possible manner.

Most voters—60.8 per cent—think that the Assembly polls in five states/UT and panchayat polls in Uttar Pradesh should have been postponed. **- IANS**

PM Modi Announces Benefits For Children Orphaned By Covid



NEW DELHI: On the eve of his government's second anniversary in its second term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced a number of welfare measures for children who lost their parents to Covid-19, including ensuring a corpus of Rs 10 lakh when they turn 18 and providing for their education.

Chairing a meeting to deliberate on steps that could be taken to support such children, he said they will be supported under the "PM-CARES for Children" scheme.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement that fixed deposits will be opened in the names of such children, and the PM-CARES fund will contribute through a specially designed scheme to create a corpus of Rs 10 lakh for each of them when he or she reaches 18 years of age.

This corpus will be used to give monthly financial support or stipend from 18 years of age for the next five years to take care of his or her personal requirements during the period of higher education. On reaching the age of 23 years, they will get the corpus amount as one

lump-sum for personal and professional use.

While announcing these measures, Modi emphasised that children represent the country's future and the government will do everything possible to support and protect them so that they develop as strong citizens and have a bright future.

"The PM said that in such trying times it is our duty, as a society, to care for our children and instil hope for a bright future. All children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian/adoptive parents due to Covid-19 will be supported under 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme," he said, according to the statement.

Highlighting measures for their education, the PMO said children under 10 years will be given admission to the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.

Those between 11-18 years of age will be given admission to any central government residential school such as Sainik School and Navodaya Vidyalaya. In case the child remains under the care of a guardian or extended family, then he or she will be given admission to the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.

If the child is admitted to a private school, fees as prescribed under the Right to Education Act norms will be given from the PM-CARES fund, and it will also pay for expenditure on uniform, textbooks and notebooks, the PMO added. **-PTI**

NEWS MAKER

Oscars To Again Allow Films On Streaming Platforms To Compete

Agencies

The organizers of the Oscars on Thursday, May 27 moved the date of the 2022 ceremony to late March, a month later than originally planned, and said that films released on streaming services would again qualify for Academy Awards consideration.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said in a statement that the Oscars ceremony would take place on March 27, 2022 at the show's traditional home in Hollywood. The ceremony was originally scheduled for February 27.

No reason was given for the date change.

The Academy added that due to the coronavirus pandemic, it will for the second time allow movies made primarily for release in theaters that



were shifted to a streaming platform to be eligible for Oscar consideration.

Dozens of movies have been released on streaming services such as Disney+, HBO Max, Netflix, and Amazon in the past 15 months while movie theaters around the world have been shuttered because of the pandemic.

The 2021 Oscars were delayed from February to late April because of the pandemic and took place for the first time at Union Station in Downtown Los Angeles.

IMA Challenges Yoga Guru Ramdev, Ask Him To Participate In Open Debate

DEHRADUN: After yoga guru Ramdev made defamatory statements against allopathy and "defaming" scientific medicine, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) in Uttarakhand on Friday challenged him for an open debate on a public platform in the presence of media.

IMA Uttarakhand President Dr Ajay Khanna in a letter to yoga guru Ramdev called his statement rash, irresponsible and selfish.

"This is to inform you that IMA UA State through its state office request you to constitute a team of qualified and duly registered Ayurvedacharyas from Patanjali Yogpeeth to have a one-to-one discussion with a team of doctors of IMA UA State which has already been constituted by the state office. This one-to-

one panel discussion shall be closely supervised and recorded by the electronic and print media which shall also be invited in this panel discussion," IMA letter reads.

The letter further stated that Ramdev and his aide Balkrishna can also join the team of Ayurvedacharyas but only as spectators because they have not sent the qualification to the state office of the IMA.

"The responsibility is on you to decide the date and time of the above proposed healthy discussion, however, the venue shall be decided by us," it said.

"The above proposal is for your kind consideration and implementation at the earliest to ensure that the deadlock and the confusion created by you shall meet its end. From this day onwards the



onus lies on you regarding the above issue," the letter said.

The letter further said that this activity shall ensure the harmony between Allopathy and Ayurved to be restored again as it was in the past but was disturbed for these couple of days by your rash, irresponsible and selfish statement.

In another letter, IMA also demanded details of hospitals where he has claimed that Patanjali medicines have been used.

Earlier on Wednesday, IMA appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take appropri-

ate action under sedition and other charges against Ramdev for allegedly "spearheading a misinformation campaign on COVID vaccination".

"At this juncture, we are pained to bring to your kind notice, two videos where Ramdev, owner of Patanjali Ayurved, is seen inter alia to be claiming that 10,000 doctors have died in spite of taking both the dose of vaccine and that lakhs of people have died due to allopathic medicine. He has also claimed that 'Allopathy Ek stupid Aur Diwaliya Science Hai' and that thousands of people have died from taking allopathic medicines for the treatment of COVID-19 related symptoms. These videos are circulating virally on social media," IMA claimed in a letter to PM Modi.

The IMA on last Saturday sent a legal notice to Ramdev over his alleged statements against allopathy and "defaming" scientific medicine. However, the Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust has denied allegations by the IMA that Ramdev has misled people by making "unlearned" statements against allopathy and defamed scientific medicine.

On Sunday, Ramdev withdrew his statements on allopathic medicine after receiving a strong-worded letter from Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan who called his remarks "inappropriate".

According to a Haridwar-based Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust statement, Ramdev was reading out a WhatsApp forwarded message in the video that has gone viral on social media. **- ANI**