



P3 CITY

## DC SRINAGAR URGES STRICT ADHERENCE TO COVID SOPs

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Thursday said that strict adherence to the Covid-19 SOPs and Vaccination of vulnerable and targeted population is imperative to...

P6 THINK

## ISRAEL'S NEW TOOL: NORMALISING OCCUPATION THROUGH DIGITAL MEANS

The 'Israel-Palestine violence' led to the death of 256 Palestinians including 66 children, wounding more than 1900. It also led to the death of 13 Israelis, out of which 02 were...



P5 STATE

## RS 85 CR WORTH FREE RATION DISTRIBUTED IN KASHMIR DURING PANDEMIC: GOVT

Amidst Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has distributed 3730 quintals worth Rs. 84.9 crore of free ration among 37, 30,239 beneficiaries under Priority...



# Collective Action Must To Combat Corona: LG

## Says Govt Building Resilient Health Infrastructure To Combat Ongoing Crisis, Future Emergencies

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Calling for a collaborative action to effectively combat coronavirus pandemic, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that his government continues to make a sustainable investment in healthcare and clinical workforce to build a resilient health infrastructure to combat the ongoing crisis and future health emergencies.

Sinha made these remarks during his visit to the twin districts of Ganderbal and Budgam to review the Covid situation and to assess the containment efforts being undertaken by the district administrations and health department to effectively tackle the pandemic.

"We can protect and strengthen J&K by collaborative action against Covid-19 pandemic. My sincere thanks and gratitude to all those abiding by Covid protocol. I urge everyone not to be careless, and maintain the discipline to effectively combat the



deadly virus," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

During his visits, the LG, he said, took first-hand appraisal of the healthcare facilities for patients at District Hospital Ganderbal, DCHC Chanapora and Covid Care

Facility Nagam, Budgam.

The official spokesperson said that the LG took a detailed assessment of the availability of the medicare equipments in the hospitals across the districts and directed the ● [More On P10](#)

## J&K Logs 1801 Fresh Cases, 29 Deaths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 1,801 fresh COVID-19 cases, raising the tally to 2,95,879, while 29 more deaths pushed the fatality count to 3,992 in the union territory, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 554 were from the Jammu division and 1,247 from the Kashmir division, they said.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 329 cases, followed by 194 in Budgam district and 153 in Jammu district.

The number of active cases has dropped to 30,657 in the union territory, while 2,61,230 patients have recovered so far, they said.

The death toll in the union territory rose to 3,992 as 24 patients died of the virus in the past 24 hours, the officials said.

They said there were 13 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory, adding one fresh case was reported since Wednesday evening. (PTI)

## Ex-Militant Killed In Overnight Tral Encounter: Police

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A surrendered militant who injured a policeman after snatching his rifle at a camp in south Kashmir's Tral town was killed in overnight gunfight with state forces, police said Thursday.

In a statement issued to media here, a police spokesperson said that Mohammad Amin Malik of Nagbal Machhma area was "neutralized" in an overnight operation jointly conducted by police, army's 42RR and the personnel of CRPF 180 battalion at Police Component complex Tral.



Malik, a militant operative, as per police was arrested on May 30 and arms, ammunitions and explosives including unlicensed 12 bore gun, live rounds, explosives, iron/steel balls, 9 feature phones and other warlike ● [More On P10](#)

## Police Issues Advisory After BJP Leader's Killing

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** A day after suspected militants shot dead a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader in south Kashmir's Tral town, the Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday issued an advisory warning protected persons not to venture out of their secure accommodations without personal security guards.

"No #protectee should go anywhere without PSOs. Visits are allowed only after ground assessment of local #threat is done. Request is to all protectees not to #violate SOPs and risk their lives unnecessarily" ● [More On P10](#)

## Army Ready For Yatra, Admin Has To Take Call: Naravane

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The army said on Thursday it was ready for the annual Amarnath Yatra and all necessary steps have been taken for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage to the cave shrine located at 3,880 metres in South Kashmir Himalayas.

"... We are from our side prepared and we have taken



all the necessary steps for the smooth ● [More On P10](#)

## Asks Troops At LoC To Remain Prepared

The Chief of Army Staff, General MM Naravane on Thursday asked troops deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) to not let their guard down and to remain prepared to meet any emerging security ● [More On P10](#)

## Bajwa Witnesses Military Exercise In Pak Kashmir

Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa visited a field training area near Kotli in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PCK) where he was briefed about conduct modalities of a Corps level exercise, the army said. The exercise Taskheer-e-Jabal' is aimed at enhancing operational preparedness of formations, encompassing defensive and offensive tasks during various contingencies within ● [More On P10](#)



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

**KASHMIR**  
**04.06.2021**

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



Shri Manoj Sinha  
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

ANANTNAG		
Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category
1	PHC Achabal	High Risk Group
2	NTPHC Tailwani	
3	PHC Brakpora	
4	UPHC Donipawa	
5	NTPHC Dallgam	
6	UPHC Nathpora	
7	PHC Anchidora	
8	UPHC Pehroo	
9	JBM Hospital Sarnal Anantnag	
10	Ranibag HSS	
11	Town Hall Anantnag	
12	Marriage Hall Ashajipora	
13	SDH Bijbehara	
14	PHC Marhama	
15	PHC Sirhama	
16	PHC K. Kalan	
17	PHC Veeri	
18	PHC Khiram	
19	PHC Akingam	
20	PHC Sagam	
21	PHC Wandewalgam	
22	PHC Larnoo	
23	SDH Kokernag	
24	SDH Seer	
25	PHC Aishmuqam	
26	NTPHC Sillgam	
27	PHC Mattan	
28	PHC Hapatnagar	
29	PHC Salia	
30	PHC Sallar	
31	PHC Awora	
32	PHC Pahalgam	
33	PHC Sirgufwara	
34	SDH Shangus	
35	PHC Nowgam	
36	PHC Chittergull	
37	PHC Ranipora	
38	PHC Hakura	
39	NTPHC Larkipora	
40	SDH Dooru	

BUDGAM		
Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category
1	SDH BEERWAH	High Risk Group
2	PHC GONDIPORA	
3	PHC ARIPANTHAN	
4	PHC PETHKOOT	
5	PHC CHURMUJRO	
6	PHC UTTERPORA	
7	NTPHC CHEWADARA	
8	NTPHC RATHSON	
9	NTPHC LALPORA	
10	HWC CHARANGAM	
11	HWC SAIL	
12	HWC ISKENDERAPORA	
13	HWC MERIPORA	

Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category
14	HWC HARD MALPORA	High Risk Group
15	HWC ICHAMA	
16	PHC SOIBUGH	
17	PHC WIADWAN	
18	NTPHC WAHABPORA	
19	HWC KHUSHIPORA	
20	HWC HAJIBAJH	
21	SC PYMUS	
22	SC AARTH	
23	HWC RUSSU	
24	PHC KHAG	
25	PHC LASSIPORA	
26	PHC POSHKAR	
27	HWC SHNGLIPORA	
28	NTPHC LOKIPORA	
29	SC SUGEN	
30	HWC DRANG	
31	HWC SORESH	
32	HWC SUTHARAN	
33	HWC HAMCHIPORA	
34	SC ZOGIYARA	
35	HWC TRAPHY	
36	SC NASSERPORA	
37	CHARISHAREEF SDH	
38	COLONY WELNESS	
39	CHARIPORA WELNESS	
40	CHARWANI NTPHC	
41	TILSURA NTPHC	
42	NAGBAL NTPHC	
43	BRADIPATHER NTPHC	
44	PAKHARPORA CHC	
45	SC MAHAWARA	
46	PHC OMPORA	
47	PHC ICHGAM	
48	PHC NUPORA	
49	PHC SHOLIPORA	
50	NTPHC JAWALPORA	
51	SC GARIEND	
52	SC GUDSATHOO	
53	NTPHC CHOON	
54	SC DADINA	
55	SC BATHAR	
56	SDH MAGAM	
57	PHC NARBAL	
58	PHC MAKHAMA	
59	NTPHC BADRAN	
60	NTPHC MAZHAMA	
61	SC KANIHAMA	
62	SC SHIPORA	
63	SC HANJIBUGH	

Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category
64	SC WASSAN	High Risk Group
65	SC AHMADPORA	
66	SC GOIGAM	
67	SC BATAPORA	
68	SC KAWOOSA	
69	SC KARHAMA	
70	NOORIPORA WP	
71	CHADOORA SDH	
72	PHC DADOMPORA	
73	SC BONEN	
74	PHC SURASYAR	
75	PHC HANJURA	
76	PHC SOGAM	
77	PHC PANZAN	
78	PHC HAYATPORA	
79	PHC KANIR	
80	PHC HUSHROO	
81	SC BUCHROO	
82	PHC WADIPORA	
83	PHC ZOCHAMA	
84	SC NAMTHAL	
85	SC RAPORA	
86	PHC BRANWAR	
87	PHC BUGAM	
88	PHC KRALPORA	
89	CHC CHATTERGAM	
90	PHC PAHROO	
91	HWC SUMMERBUGH	
92	HWC KENIHAMA	
93	SC SHANKERPORA	
94	HWC WAGOORA	
95	HWC MEGANWALI	
96	HWC RAKGSHILINA	
97	CHC KREMSHORE	
98	SDH KHANSAHIB	
99	PHC HARDPANZOO	
100	PHC WATERHAIL	
101	SC FALCHIL	
102	PHC KACHWARI	
103	PHC DABIPORA	
104	SC ARIGAM	
105	SC MUJHPATHRI	
106	PHC KRALNEWA	
107	PHC RAYAR	
108	PHC NUNNER	
109	PHC SHAMASABAD	
110	PHC GURWATH	
111	NTPHC RINGZABAL	
112	SDH NAGAM	
113	PHC HAFROO	

BARAMULLA		
Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category
1	CHC Kreeri	High Risk Group
2	PHC Shrakwara	
3	PHC Kalantra	
4	NTPHC Kachwa Muqam	
5	NTPHC Nowpora	

GANDERBAL		
Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category
1	SDH Kangan	High Risk Group
2	PHC Lar	
3	PHC Wakura	
4	Govt Boys HSS Duderhama	
5	PHC Kullian	
6	Phc Ganiwan	
7	PHC Manigam	
8	PHC Safapora	
9	SC Youngora	
10	PHC Gullibagh	
11	PHC Kachan	
12	PHC Tulamulla	
13	SC Dab	
14	PHC Batwina	
15	PHC Shuhama	
16	DH Ganderbal	
17	PHC Sonamarg	
18	PHC Kondbal	
19	MMC Watar	
20	PHC Nunner	
21	PHC Chundina	
22	PHC Babanagri	
23	PHC Gund	
24	PHC Chattergull	
25	SC Wssan	
26	Subcentre Kurag	
27	NTPHC Narayanbagh Bagh	
28	SC Kurhama	

SRINAGAR		
Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category
1	GMC Srinagar & Associated Hospital	High Risk Group
2	SKIMS Soura	
3	JLNM Rainawari	
4	JVC Bemina	
5	UPHC Zakura	
6	UHC Shalimar	
7	PHC Burzhama	
8	UPHC Lal Bazar	
9	HWC Buchpora	
10	HWC Zoonimar	
11	HWC Sangeen Darwaza	
12	HWC Hawal	
13	UPHC S.R Gunj	
14	UPHC Narwara	
15	NTPHC Habba Kadal	
16	MMC Noorbagh	
17	NTPHC Bakshipora	
18	SDH Hazratbal	
19	UPHC Nishat	
20	UPHC Harwan	
21	Sub-Centre Darbagh	
22	UPHC Talbal	
23	Kashmir University	
24	CHC Gousia	
25	NTPHC Rainawari	
26	PHC Brein	
27	Sub Centre Aabi Dal	
28	Sub Centre Braripora	
29	PHC Chanapora	
30	NTPHC Chatterhama	
31	UPHC Batamalo	
32	UPHC Khonmoh	
33	UPHC Pantha Chowk	
34	UPHC Humhama	
35	PHC Laloo	
36	NTPHC Jawahar Nagar	
37	Sub Centre Natipora	
38	UPHC Lasjan	
39	UPHC Maisuma	
40	UPHC Mehjoor Nagar	
41	Sub Centre Trauma Lawaypora	
42	UPHC Qamarwari	
43	Sub Centre Bemina	
44	UPHC Mujkund	
45	Sokahipora Community Centre Zaina Kadal	
46	PHC Bemina (Khumani Chowk)	
47	Girls Hr. Sec. School Rajbagh	
48	Community Centre Chanapora	
49	SMC Sub-Office Hyderpora	
50	New Secretariat	
51	Al Noor Marriage Hall Dana Mazar Safa Kadal	
52	Girls Hr. Sec. School Sonwar	
53	Petrol Pump Sonwar	
54	Batwara Market	
55	Masjid Umar (RA) Dalgate	
56	Masjid Abu Bakar Magarmal Bagh	
57	Masjid Gull Haji Firdous Abad Batamalo	
58	Nayabat Office Check Mujkund	

- 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.

For Free Ambulance Service  
Please Call Toll Free No. 108



Health and Medical Education  
Department, J&K

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To place an advertisement

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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

**KASHMIR  
OBSERVER**

Friday| 04-06-2021

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UT  
Indian Systems of Medicine &  
Homeopathic. Department of  
(AYUSH) District Anantnag.**

AYUSH Immune Booster Medicine Distributed at Village Pahalgam from Govt. ISM Dispensary Pahalgam Anantnag UT.



On 03/06/2021 Following the Protocol of AYUSH Department Ministry of AYUSH Govt. of India and the Orders 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 Javid Hussain sahib an awareness programme and distribution of immune booster medicines was organized at at Village Pahalgam Anantnag from Govt. ISM Dispensary Pahalgam Anantnag 325 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

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL  
TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG**

No. 101/6735/MVD/ANAG

Date:-28/04/2021

**NOTICE**



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Wagay S/O Gull Mohd Wagay R/O Vessu Damjan Anantnag (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Truck Bearing



Regd. No. JK03B-8526 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.1964/GC/RTA/ANG. and Mr. Ishfaq Ahmad Reather S/O Mohammad Yousuf Reather R/O Chandhara Pampore (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Shriram Transport Finance Company Ltd. and Endorsement with Abrol Trading Corp. Narwal Jammu. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional  
Transport Officer Anantnag

mja

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL  
TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG**

No. 101/6801/MVD/ANAG

Date:-31/05/2021

**NOTICE**



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Shabir Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/O Veeri Bijehara Anantnag (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner



of the Vehicle Swift Bearing Regd. No. JK03E-6678 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No. N/A. and Mr. Tasaduq Shakil Pandit S/O Shakil Ahmad Pandit R/O Bijehara Anantnag (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Janglatmandi Anantnag. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional  
Transport Officer Anantnag

mja

**Public Notice**

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Rgd No: JK13A- 6269 . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Pulwama within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Riyaz Ahmad Itoo**  
**S/O Mhd Maqbool Itoo**  
**R/O Aloora Shopian**

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**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL  
TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR**

**NOTICE**



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Tariq Ahmad Masoodi S/o: Ghulam Ahmad Masoodi R/o: Mohalla Gousia Umer Colony Lal bazar Hazratbal Sgr. (Transferor) of M-800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04A - 2954. Chasis number 2511856 Engine no. 2986937 Model 2005.



in favour of Shri. Shahid Ahmad Ganie S/o. Late Mohammad Sidiq Ganie R/o Sumbal Bandipora (Transferee) Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer. No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.624 Dated 03/06/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

**Office of the Assistant Regional  
Transport officer, Shopian**

whereas an application has been received from one Shri Mohd Ayoub Sheikh S/O Gh Rasool Sheikh R/o Kanigam Shopian Owner of the vehicle No JK22-5706 for cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/o Imamsahab Shopian Now it is therefore. Notified for general information that objections if any, to the proposed cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer Shopian within a period of seven (7) days from the publication of this notice in the daily Kashmir Observer

No : ARTO/Spn/2021  
Dated 01-06-2021

S/D Asst Regional  
Transport Officer Shopian

ast

**اثر نیابت ہندو**

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب جنید یوسف ولد محمد یوسف ڈار ساکنہ موضع دودی پورہ برآمد عطا یگی بیکوار ڈار ایراسر ٹفکیٹ تحت

SRO 294

**اشہار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام**

محامہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر میں زیر کارڈونی ہے اس سلسلے میں پڈاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول کارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع دودی پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کہہ بذیل فرد پر مشتمل ہے سرفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی اندر دفتر میں پیش کرے مبادا کرتے بعد کوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

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**اثر نیابت قلم آباد**

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب منبش احمد دوانی ولد عبدالرشید دوانی ساکنہ موضع مہین ناترے گند برآمد عطا یگی بیکوار ڈار ایراسر ٹفکیٹ تحت

SRO 294

**اشہار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام**

محامہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر میں زیر کارڈونی ہے اس سلسلے میں پڈاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول کارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع مہین ناترے گند میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کہہ بذیل فرد پر مشتمل ہے سرفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی اندر دفتر میں پیش کرے مبادا کرتے بعد کوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

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**یہ مکان اور دوکان کوئی نہ خریدے**

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اخبار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ محفلہ ڈوئی پاوہ قصبہ باغات زیر نمبر ۳۸۸۶/۱۹۳۶ واقع بر سب سبک یا لنگھال فارست چک پوسٹ ڈوئی پاوہ۔ مسمی مسعود احمد شاعر عرف بدشاہ کا ایک منزلہ مکان موجود ہے۔ جیسا کہ مسمی مسعود احمد شاہ کا جو کتا حساسات علیہ دفتر عبداللہ ملک ساکنہ چک پورہ کے ساتھ ہوا تھا جسکی پرواہ کئے بغیر ہی حساسات علیہ نے غیر شرعی اور غیر قانونی طور پر اراضی اختیار کر لیا ہے۔ جیسا کہ سندھ میں آیا ہے۔ اب وہ مسعود احمد شاہ کی غیر حاضری میں اس کے جائیداد یعنی مکان و دوکان کو غیر قانونی طور پر چوری چھپے فروخت کرنا چاہتی ہے۔ لہذا اس سلسلے میں ہر خاص و عام بذریعہ اخبار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مذکورہ جائیداد کو خریدنے کی کوشش نہ کی جائے ساتھ ہی محفلہ مال کے ذمہ داران سے بھی معاملہ کی نوعیت کے بارے میں مطلع رہنے کی استدعا کی جاتے ہے۔

اشفیر :-

برادران مسعود احمد شاہ۔

۱۔ شہیر احمد شاہ ۲۔ نذیر احمد شاہ ۳۔ شفیق احمد شاہ

res

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

**J&K Pollution Control Committee Jammu**

Winter office - Nov-April Parivesh Bhawan, Gladni Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu (j&k) 1870006. ph/fax 0191-2476925  
Summer Office- May To October Sheikh-ul-Alam Campus, Behind Govt. Silk Factory, Rajbagh Srinagar (J&K) 190008  
Ph/Fax 0194-2311165

Email: membersecretaryjkpcb@gmail.com

**Public Notice**

Sub: Public Hearing for Minor Mineral (River Bed Mineral) Blocks scheduled on 29.06.2021 for i) Block- 19, ii) Block- 22, iii) Block- 23, iv) Block - 24 and v) Block-32 of District Shopian (J&K).

As per EIA Notification Rule 7(1) Section (III) issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India vide S.O.1533 dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 (as amended till date), Public Hearing of the below mentioned mining blocks for minor mineral extraction is to be carried out.

The Public Hearing is being conducted by J&K Pollution Control Committee as per requirement of EIA notification. The Terms of Reference (Terms of Reference) have been forwarded by JKEIAA vide nos. i) JKEIAA/2021/512/1620-24 dated 19.04.2021, ii) JKEIAA/2021/509/1010-14 dated 19.04.2021, iii) JKEIAA/2020/357/1750-53 dated 23.12.2020, iv) JKEIAA/2021/527/1290-94 dated 14.05.2021 and v) JKEIAA/2020/250/1763-68 dated 23.12.2020 for the said Public Hearing along with draft EIAs/EMPs, which is scheduled to be conducted as per below mentioned details in staggered manner:

Name of Agency	Area	Location of minor mineral area / Coordinates	Name of Village/ Tehsil / District	Location of public hearing Venue (Date and time)
Shri Nazir Ahmad Lone, S/o Sh. Abdul Rahim Lone, R/o Lethar, Distt. Pulwama (J&K)	9.68 Hect.	Block 19, having an area 9.68 ha. Distt. M/S downstream downstream. Sumbal Vallah District Shopian Coordinates: A: 33°45'48.67" -N 74°51'23.36" -E B: 33°45'42.37" -N 74°51'29.32" -E	Vill.: Duttwasi Tehsil: Keegam, Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date:- 29-06-2021. Time:- 10.00 AM to 11.00 AM Near Aglar Fruit Mandi, Shopian Distt.: Shopian (J&K)
Shri Zahoor Ahmed Peerzada, S/o Sh. Gh. Mohd. Peerzada, R/o Arpora, Distt. Shopian (J&K)	9.69 Hect.	Block 22, having an area 9.69 ha. Distt. M/S downstream downstream. Sumbal Vallah District Shopian Coordinates: A: 33°45'48.67" -N 74°51'23.36" -E B: 33°45'42.37" -N 74°51'29.32" -E	Tehsil: Keegam, Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date:- 29-06-2021. Time:- 11 AM to 12 noon Near Aglar Fruit Mandi, Shopian Distt.: Shopian (J&K)
Shri Mohammad Irfan-Ullah, S/o Sh. Mohammad Shabir Ahmad Shah, R/o Nambalab Pampore, Pulwama (J&K)	9.75 Hect.	Block 23, having an area 9.75 ha. Distt. M/S downstream downstream. Sumbal Vallah District Shopian Coordinates: A: 33°45'48.67" -N 74°51'23.36" -E B: 33°45'42.37" -N 74°51'29.32" -E	Vill.: Duttwasi Tehsil: Keegam, Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date:- 29-06-2021. Time:- 12 noon to 1.00 PM Near Aglar Fruit Mandi, Shopian Distt.: Shopian (J&K)
Mohd. Abbas Raina, S/o Sh. Mohd. Abdullatif Raina, R/o Arpora, Distt. Shopian (J&K)	9.28 Hect.	Block 24, having an area 9.28 ha. Distt. M/S downstream downstream. Sumbal Vallah District Shopian Coordinates: A: 33°45'48.67" -N 74°51'23.36" -E B: 33°45'42.37" -N 74°51'29.32" -E	Vill.: Duttwasi Tehsil: Keegam, Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date:- 29-06-2021. Time:- 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM Near Aglar Fruit Mandi, Shopian Distt.: Shopian (J&K)
Shri Zahoor Ahmed Peerzada, S/o Sh. Gh. Mohd. Peerzada, R/o Arpora, Distt. Shopian (J&K)	8.64 Hect.	Block 32, having an area 8.64 ha. Distt. M/S downstream downstream. Sumbal Vallah District Shopian Coordinates: A: 33°45'48.67" -N 74°51'23.36" -E B: 33°45'42.37" -N 74°51'29.32" -E	Vill.: Arpora Tehsil: Chitragam, Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date:- 29-06-2021. Time:- 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM Near Aglar Fruit Mandi, Shopian Distt.: Shopian (J&K)

The Executive Summary of EIAs and draft EMPs in English and Urdu of the above proposed mining blocks are available in the website of JKPCCC i.e., [www.jkpcch.nic.in](http://www.jkpcch.nic.in) as well as in the following offices:-

- The Commissioner / Secretary to Govt. Forests, Ecology & Environment Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
- Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India Northern, Regional Office, Chandigarh.
- Director, Ecology Environment & Remote Sensing / Member Secretary, JKEIAA Parvathan Bhawan, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.
- Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.
- Deputy Commissioner, District Shopian.
- Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Sheikh-ul-Alam Campus, Behind Govt. Silk Factory, Rajbagh Srinagar, Kashmir.
- Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Shopian.
- Divisional Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining Department, Shopian.

All concerned are hereby informed through this notice to send their suggestions / written objections or comments on or before 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 2021 addressed to Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Parivesh Bhawan, Gladni, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu (69.30 AM to 05.30 PM) on any working day or by email [membersecretaryjkpcb@gmail.com](mailto:membersecretaryjkpcb@gmail.com)

The panel for conducting Public Hearing shall be as under:-

- District Magistrate, Shopian, J&K or his representatives not below the rank of Addl. District Magistrate.
- Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Rajbagh Srinagar, or his authorized representative.
- District Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining Department, Shopian.
- Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Shopian.

All interested persons/organizations/groups/stake-holders are invited to participate in the above mentioned Public Hearing on the information date strictly observing all SOPs and guidelines of COVID-19 issued in this behalf, at the venue and time and give their suggestions, view/comments and objections, if any, to the authorities conducting the Public Hearing.

Any person having interest in this public hearing can also have access to the Executive Summary of EIA from Office of District Pollution Control Committee, Shopian.

(B.M. Sharma) J.S.  
Member Secretary  
JKPCCC, Jammu

DIPK-NB-1046/21

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
(R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL**

Address: Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal Ph.01942951904

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.28 of 2021-22 Dated:02.06.2021 under endorsement No. 3005-15 dated: 02-06-2021.

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

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Technical Sanction No. & Date	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Restoration of road surface from Wail Bridge to DIET Building Nunner incl. damaged portion of Arampora Bund road b.w.o P/L GSB, WBM G-II, G-III & OGPC in Patches/Stretches. (Machine mix laid manually).	02.50 Lacs	200/=	06 Days	EE/R&B/Divn/CS/04 of 02.06.2021	3054- (M&R)	DEE

Position of AAA: Approved Programme

Position of funds: Committed

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-06-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02.06.2021 from 10.00 AM.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	02.06.2021 from 10.00 AM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	08.06.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	08.06.2021 at 4:05 AM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).
- All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov](http://www.jktenders.gov) into acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

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

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Division Ganderbal (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division Ganderbal must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and Taxes:- The %age quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

- Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
- All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-

- All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.
- All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan
- All bidders shall upload Bid Security Declaration Form
- All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.
- All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B for the Month of December-2020-21.
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
- Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25

No. 3005-15

Dated: 02.06.2021

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Ganderbal



**SHOPPERS THROGED MARKETS** in capital city Srinagar on Thursday as shops opened partially. KO Photo Abid Bhat

# DC Srinagar Urges Strict Adherence To Covid SOPs

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Thursday said that strict adherence to the Covid-19 SOPs and Vaccination of vulnerable and targeted population is imperative to minimise the infection of Corona virus.

The DC said this during a media brief here on Wednesday.

He added the district Administration is working very hard in fighting Covid-19 pandemic and people of the district have extended their cooperation due to which visible decline has been witnessed during the past few days.

"We have seen a visible decline in Covid positive cases but we have to follow Covid Appropriate Behaviour with more responsibility to make entry into Green Zone" he mentioned.

The DC Said any laxity on Covid SOPs can prove harmful. He urged the left out population of Srinagar to get vaccinated as



**WE HAVE SEEN a visible decline in Covid positive cases but we have to follow Covid Appropriate Behaviour with more responsibility to make entry into Green Zone" he mentioned.**

soon as possible to break the chain of corona virus.

With regard to opening of markets, the DC said that with decline in covid positivity rate

guidelines have been issued as per the directions of the State Executive Council and people particularly all business establishments/operators must follow the same to contain the spread of Covid-19 infection.

Talking about the ongoing vaccination process, the DC said as many as 2.60 lakh targeted population has been vaccinated so far and concerted efforts are being made to speed up the inoculation drive across the district.

He urged the people to come forward and get vaccinated, which is safest way to get protection and help break the chain of coronavirus spread.

The DC further said that the Srinagar administration has issued a roster for opening of shops on a rational basis to avoid large crowds in the market.

He also urged the general public to adopt social distance, wearing proper masks, and maintaining hand hygiene to keep them, their family and the whole Srinagar City safe from Covid-19 infection.

## Darul Khair Starts Distribution Of Food Kits To Needy Families

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As part of its 'Feed a Family' initiative started last year, owing to the current Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, Darul Khair Mirwaiz Manzil Srinagar Thursday enhanced the distribution of Family Food kits to at least 500 families, hit by the lockdown.

Darul Khair, in a statement, said as is the practice, the Family Food Kits will be handed over to the representatives of local masjid committees. They, after identifying the needy people in their respective areas, will deliver the kits to them.

The organisation, under the



patronage of incarcerated Mirwaiz Mohammed Umar Farooq, active in carrying out humanitarian and relief & aid work across Kashmir, reiterated its appeal to affluent and well-off persons to continue supporting Darul Khair Mirwaiz Manzil so that the Organization can continue its humanitarian work with zeal and vigour, especially during the raging pandemic.

## CRC Srinagar Organises Webinar On Covid-19

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Srinagar Thursday organised a webinar on 'Covid appropriate behaviour and addressing vaccination misconceptions, a special focus on Persons with Disabilities'.

On the occasion, the presidential address was given by Smita Jayavant, Director Pt DDUNIPH New Delhi.

In her address, Jayavant said that there are misconceptions about the vaccination against Covid-19 and advised the participants that everybody should go for vaccination which is aimed at fighting Covid-19 and prevent its further spread.

She appreciated the Director Composite Regional Centre and his team for organising this type of webinar saying that it is the need of the hour.

Dr Mir Zafar Iqbal, Director Composite Regional Centre, Srinagar presented the inaugural address. He said that the webinar was organised to raise awareness about the importance of the vaccination process across the division, so that each and every individual gets himself inoculated against the

deadly pandemic. He also said that people should follow the guidelines of World health organisations from time to time.

At the outset, the inaugural session was started with the welcome address by Shameem Ahmed Rehabilitation Officer of Composite Regional Centre, Srinagar followed by Introduction about webinar and its objective by Arifa Amin Nodal Officer Covid-19 for Composite Regional Centre, Srinagar J&K.

Later, a technical session was started by Guest Speaker Dr Ashiq Rashid Mir MBBS, MD Community Medicine HRF, National Institute of Epidemiology, Surveillance Medical Officer Kashmir and Ladakh UT.

Dr Ashiq stressed on the importance of covid appropriate behavior including Wearing appropriate Masks, Hand Wash and use of Hand Sanitizers, maintaining social distance and avoiding crowded areas.

He stressed how important it is to get vaccinated for the general public of all age groups especially Persons with Disabilities. Persons with disabilities are vulnerable to get infected with Novel coronavirus and complicate their health issues.

## Notorious Drug Peddler Arrested In Soura

Observer News Service



**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir police in Srinagar Thursday arrested a notorious drug peddler and recovered contraband from his possession.

A police spokesperson said that a police party during naka checking in Soura apprehended a drug peddler identified as Umer Iqbal Gadoo son of Farooq Ahmad Gadoo, a resident of Kokerbagh Zoonimer along with 100 tablets of tramadol and one gram of brown sugar.

"In this connection case FIR No. 58/2021 u/s 8/22 NDPS has been lodged in Police Station Soura. The accused has been arrested and contraband seized on spot."

Last week Police party led by SDPO Soura Shafaat Ahmad arrested a drug peddler Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Housing Colony Elahibagh Soura and recovered 400 tablets of banned drug tapendatol from his possession.

"The accused is presently on police Remand in FIR No. 52/2021 u/s 8/22 NDPS."

## KU Organises Training Session On AMS

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir University's Directorate of Information Technology and Support Systems on Thursday organised a training session on the newly-launched Administration Management System (AMS) in the varsity.

The AMS, inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad on January 21, includes an Account Management Module comprising online budget management, WDC billing and other modules like HR Management, Leave, Salary, Attendance and e-Notes.

It aims to consolidate data pertaining to employees, departments and positions while facilitating online submission of proposals and approvals thereof.

In his inaugural address at the two-hour training session, KU Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad highlighted how the AMS would boost governance in the university system and help deliver better



**THE NEW SYSTEM IS TARGETED to deal with all accounts and budget-related activities through this e-governance application, which is user-friendly,"** Dr Mir said, urging all concerned academics and officials to switch over to the new mode for all transactions from the current financial year.

and speedy results.

"The new system is targeted to deal with all accounts and budget-related activities through this e-governance application, which is user-friendly," Dr Mir said, urging all concerned academics and

officials to switch over to the new mode for all transactions from the current financial year. In-charge Director IT and SS Dr Maroof Naiem Qadri and his team of IT professionals gave a detailed power-point presentation about the

AMS as well as the Account Management Module.

"This e-service has been developed and designed by the Directorate of IT and SS to further boost the efficiency of the university system," Dr Qadri said, highlighting the features and functioning of the new application.

The training session, organised via Google Meet, was attended by heads of various departments, directorates, centers and campuses apart from top officers including Joint Registrar Budget Dr Ashfaq A Zarri and Chief Accounts Officer Dr Zafariah Bashir.

Pertinently, the Directorate of IT and SS has previously launched several applications successfully including File Tracking System, Hostel Management System, KU e-Recruitment System, KU Department Inventory Management System, Dean Research Budget Management System, Android App and KU Content Management System for Departments/Centres/Offices.

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- 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- (Closed)

## This Day in History

- 1920- Peace of Trianon between Allies & Hungary
- 1928- President of the Republic of China Zhang Zuolin is assassinated by Japanese agents.
- 1940- British complete the "miracle of Dunkirk" by evacuating 300,000 allied troops from France
- 1944- 5th Army enters & liberates Rome from Mussolini's Fascist armies
- 1945- US, Russia, Britain & France agree to split occupied Germany
- 1946- Largest solar prominence (300,000 mi/500,000 km) observed
- 1954- France grants Vietnam independence inside French Union
- 1957- 1st commercial coal pipeline placed in operation
- 1970- Tonga (formerly Friendly Islands) declares independence from UK
- 1973- A patent for the ATM is granted to Don Wetzel, Tom Barnes and George Chastain.
- 1974- Saudi Arabia announces that it will increase its participation in Aramco to 60 percent
- 1975- Oldest animal fossils in US discovered in NC
- 1982- Israel attacks targets in south Lebanon
- 1984- DNA is successfully cloned from an extinct animal
- 1985- STS 51-G vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1989- Beijing policeman shoots & wounds Chinese premier Li Ping
- 1989- Tiananmen Square Massacre: Chinese troops clear the square of student protesters, unofficial figures place death toll near 1,000.

## From KO Archives

# Valley Leaders Vent Feelings In M'abad

**MUZAFFARABAD** - Visiting Kashmiri separatist leaders began their political mission to Pakistan today with some forceful speeches and in one case sharply critical words for the leadership here for "romanticising" militancy.

Address to a joint session of the two Houses of the 'Azad Kashmir' legislature was the high point of the first full day here for Hurriyat Conference leaders as well as for JKLF chairman Yasin Malik, who all crossed the LoC to come to Muzaffarabad from Srinagar Thursday.

Support for the peace process, demand for participation of Kashmiri representatives in the Indo-Pak dialogue and an end to violence was the central theme of their speeches, a day ahead of their visit to Islamabad where they will meet President. Pervez Musharraf and other Pakistani leaders.

In an emotional charged speech, Malik said that a "romantic aura" created by the Azad Kashmir leadership about militancy had attracted very talented Kashmiri youth who later lost their lives. He cited 'examples of a cement factory owner and a pilot who were killed in the course of the militancy

"Responsibility lies on Azad Kashmir for the one lac people who have been killed in Kashmir" Malik said

As an embarrassed Azad Kashmir Minister Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan watched, one his ministers sought permission to respond to Malik's comments but did not have his way.

The speeches were broadcast live from Muzaffarabad on Pakistan state and private television channels.

Malik warned against India, Pakistan or any power trying to promote their own preferred; Kashmiris as leaders of the people.

"Kashmiris have never accepted those who were imposed, foreign sponsored." Malik said in Urdu, before switching to English to underline his message.

"So I hope 'this favouritism will be adopted"

"We had welcomed every peace initialises between India and Pakistan but have the two countries ever taken am Kashmiri leader into confidence. What are Kashmiri leaders so excited about," an aggressive Malik said in an oblique reference to his companion travellers from the moderate faction of Hurriyat.

Prof Abdul Ghani Bhat, Hurriyat's spokesman, gave the most emphatic call for an end to a conflict that has cost over tens of thousands of lives since (be uprising began in 1989

"We want an end, end to violence, We want an end. end to insecurity, we want an end.

end to indignity, we want an end to humiliation, we want an end to submission." Bhat said in a speech delivered in English

"Let us give peace a chance" he said, echoing the John Lennon anthem.

He however said, Kashmir issue cannot be resolved by merely repeating the "Kashmir is a dispute" mantra. Acknowledging that India was a major power, the philosophical Abdul Ghani said that Kashmiris need to use their wisdom in these circumstances.

Former Chairman of the conglomerate Moulvi Abbas Ansari said in his speech the greatest Jihad was persuasion by words and that was exactly what he and his colleagues were doing

He said when Hurriyat entered into talks with New Delhi there was lot of hue and cry and now suddenly everyone has found virtue in the talks process.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who heads the delegation told the legislators. Kashmiris will have to decide whether they want a lasting peace or the peace of the graveyard

Umar said the peace process was "not irreversible" if the basic issue was ignored.

"We have a few solid proposals, we would want to share them here with the Azad Kashmir leadership and with the leadership of Pakistan."

He said though "Kashmiris have a just cause, mere justness of it is not enough and time has come to evolve consensus among themselves

(Kashmir Observer, 04 June, 2005)

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR,  
OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER, J&K, JAMMU.

Sub:- Jammu & Kashmir Transport Subsidy Scheme" for replacement of old buses.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

The Govt, in the Transport Department has introduced scheme for phasing out of old buses over 15 years of age vide Govt, order No. 73-TR of 2019 issued endorsement No. TR-19/MVD/2017-II dated 20/11/2019 followed by notices dated 02/11/2020, dated 05-12-2020 and dated 27-01-2021. Accordingly, applications are invited from the owners of the buses (expect, Mini Buses / Matadors ) of J&K UT for purchase of new buses in Private sector under the "Jammu & Kashmir Transport Subsidy Scheme" for replacement of old buses. Moreover, the applications received by the concerned RTOs in between 27/03/2021 to 31/05/2021 shall also be included in the said scheme.

Terms and conditions:-

1. The bus aged above 15 years shall be eligible for availing the subsidy.

2. The existing vehicle should have cleared all Govt, dues including token tax, passenger tax, fitness fee, permit fee, bank liability etc.

3. The vehicle should have valid permit renewed up to date along with insurance certificate.

4. For availing of subsidy the concerned owner would be required to condemn the vehicle and get it scrapped and after cancellation of Registration Mark, he shall be allowed the subsidy.

5. The subsidy shall be provided to only those applicants who shall avail loans to raise capital for purchase of these buses. The applications along with all requisite supporting documents should reach in the Regional Transport Officer, Jammu / Kashmir / Kathua within a period of (six months) positively.

Sd/-  
(Pardeep Kumar), KAS Transport Commissioner, J&K, Jammu

No. TC/JK/MV/37-40      Dated 01/06/2021

DIPK-2400/21

## Gaza's Bereaved Civilians Fear Justice Will Never Come



Karin Laub and Fares Akram

**GAZA CITY:** The al-Kawlaks, a family of four generations living next door to each other in downtown Gaza City, were utterly unprepared for the inferno.

Like others, they were terrified by the heavy bombing in Israel's fourth war with Gaza's Hamas rulers that began May 10. The explosions felt more powerful than in previous fighting. At night, parents and children slept in one room so they would live or die together.

Yet the relatively well-to-do Rimal neighborhood where the family lived in a cluster of apartment buildings seemed somewhat safer than areas along Gaza's border with Israel, which had been devastated in this and past fighting.

Then one night disaster struck. Azzam al-Kawlak's four children had gone to bed, and he and his wife were preparing to join them.

At around 1 a.m. on May 16, a thunderous boom shook his top-floor apartment, followed quickly by a second and third. "The floor cracked below our feet and the furniture was thrown to the wall," the 42-year-old engineer said.

The four-story building collapsed, with Azzam's apartment dropping to the ground. The family escaped through the kitchen balcony, now almost ground level. Bizarrely, the laundry hanging on a clothesline seemed untouched.

It took a day for the full horror to emerge, as bodies and survivors were pulled from the rubble. The family and neighbors used ropes to clear chunks of concrete, working alongside ill-equipped rescue teams.

By nightfall, the family's death toll stood at 22. Eight bodies were

dug out of Azzam's building and 14 from the one next door. The dead included 89-year-old family patriarch Amin, his son Fawaz, 62, his grandson Sameh, 28, and his great-grandson, 6-month-old Qusai.

Just a day earlier, Qusai's parents had celebrated a small milestone, his first tooth. Azzam's two younger brothers were killed. Three nieces - 5-year-old Rula, 10-year-old Yara and 12-year-old Hala - were found in a tight embrace, their bodies the last to be pulled out, said Azzam's surviving older brother, Awni.

The bombing along several hundred meters (yards) of al-Wahda Street took just minutes. In all, it brought down three houses - two in the al-Kawlak compound and one nearby - and killed a total of 43 people, making it the single deadliest air raid of the 11-day war.

Israel said the target was a Hamas tunnel underneath the street, part of what it called a roughly 350-kilometer-long (220-mile) underground network. The tunnels served offensive and defensive purposes, military officials said, accusing Hamas of using civilians as human shields.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, acknowledged the many civilian casualties that night. "It's not a totally mathematical exercise in choosing the ordinance," he said, suggesting the military had miscalculated. He said Israel carried out dozens of airstrikes in areas just as densely populated, with far fewer casualties.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz told foreign journalists this week that Israel does everything it can to avoid civilian casualties, but Gaza's crowded urban landscape makes it virtually impossible to avoid them altogether. "Hamas is aiming to hit civilians by purpose and we are trying our best for that not to happen," he said.

The fighting began May 10 after Hamas fired rockets toward Jerusalem in support of Palestinian protests against Israel's heavy-handed policing of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a site sacred to Jews and Muslims, and the threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families by Jewish settlers. PTI



CHILDREN ATTEND HOME-BASED learning lessons after all schools were shut, due to the surge in Covid-19 in Singapore on May 20, 2021 Reuters

## Children Risk 'Generational Catastrophe' From Covid

### Agencies

The coronavirus pandemic has severely affected children's rights worldwide, with young people risking a "generational catastrophe" if governments do not act, a rights group said in an annual survey on Thursday.

Millions of children have missed out on education because of Covid-19 restrictions while there will be a long term impact in terms of their physical and mental health, Dutch NGO KidsRights said as it launched its annual ranking.

The survey ranks Iceland, Switzerland and Finland as best for children's rights and Chad, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone as the worst, out of a total of 182 countries.

Marc Dulleart, founder and chairman of KidsRights, said that the effects of the pandemic on children had "unfortunately exceeded our predictions at the outset last year."

"Apart from patients of the coronavirus, children have

been hardest hit, not directly by the virus itself, but fundamentally failed through the deferred actions of governments around the world," he said.

"Educational recovery is the key to avoiding generational catastrophe," Dulleart added.

The group said schools for more than 168 million children have been closed for almost a full year, with one in three children worldwide unable to access remote learning while their schools were shut.

An additional 142 million kids fell into material poverty as the global economy was hit by the pandemic, while 370 million kids missed out on school meals.

KidsRights paid tribute to Manchester United and England footballer Marcus Rashford for his campaign to extend free school meals.

It also hailed Bangladesh for taking over a national TV channel for home schooling and praised Belgium and Sweden for trying to keep schools open.

Meanwhile 80 million chil-

dren under the age of one could miss out on routine vaccination for other diseases because of disruption to healthcare systems, it said.

The report said there was also an "astonishing increase" in domestic violence during lockdowns, with children often the victims.

KidsRights included Palestine on its list for the first time, placing it in 104th position due to a focus on healthcare despite difficult circumstances.

However, as in previous years it gave low scores to Britain, Australia and New Zealand, due to a lack of legal protection for children relative to their wealth.

Britain and New Zealand were ranked at 169 and 168 respectively, below North Korea, Syria, Iraq, and Sudan, and just ahead of Eritrea.

Austria and Hungary also fell heavily due to discrimination.

The survey uses UN data to measure how countries measure up to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## Researchers Reveal Global 'Hot Spots' Where New Coronaviruses May Emerge

**WASHINGTON:** Global land-use changes including forest fragmentation, agricultural expansion and concentrated livestock production are creating 'hot spots' favourable for bats that carry coronaviruses and where conditions are ripe for the diseases to jump from bats to humans, finds a new study.

The findings were published by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, the Politecnico di Milano (Polytechnic University of Milan) and the Massey University of New Zealand.

While the exact origins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus remain unclear, scientists believe that the disease likely emerged when a virus that infects horseshoe bats was able to jump to humans, either directly through wildlife-to-human contact, or indirectly by first infecting an intermediate animal host, such as the pangolin, sometimes known as the scaly ant eater.

Horseshoe bats are known to carry a variety of coronaviruses, including strains that are genetically similar to ones that cause COVID-19 and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

The new study used remote sensing to analyze land-



use patterns throughout the horseshoe bat's range, which extends from Western Europe through Southeast Asia.

By identifying areas of forest fragmentation, human settlement and agricultural and livestock production, and comparing these to known horseshoe bat habitats, they identified potential hot spots where habitat is favourable for these bat species, and where these so-called zoonotic viruses could potentially jump from bats to humans.

The analysis also identified locations that could become easily become hot spots with changes in land use.

"Land use changes can have an important impact on human health, both because we are modifying the environment, but also because they can increase our exposure to zoonotic disease," said study co-author Paolo

D'Odorico, a professor of environmental science, policy and management at UC Berkeley.

"Every formal land-use change should be evaluated not only for the environmental and social impacts on resources such as carbon stocks, microclimate and water availability but also for the potential chain reactions that could impact human health," Paolo added.

Most of the current hot spots are clustered in China, where a growing demand for meat products has driven the expansion of large-scale, industrial livestock farming. Concentrated livestock production is particularly concerning because the practice brings together large populations of genetically similar, often immunosuppressed animals that are highly vulnerable to disease outbreaks, the researchers said.

The analysis also found that parts of Japan, the north Philippines and China south of Shanghai are at risk of becoming hot spots with further forest fragmentation, while parts of Indonesia and Thailand may transition into hot spots with increases in livestock production. -IANS

## US 'Committed To Helping Saudi Arabia Defend Its Territory, People'

**WASHINGTON:** US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman on Wednesday and emphasised US commitment to helping Saudi Arabia defend its territory and people, the Pentagon said.

Austin and Prince Mohammad discussed regional security, particularly efforts to end the war in Yemen, and "ongoing bilateral efforts to improve Saudi Arabias defences," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said in a statement.

Iran-aligned Houthi militia has kept up cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia and are pressing an offensive to seize Yemen's gas-rich Ma'arib region.

Austin "noted Saudi Arabias recent successes in defeating Houthi attacks on the Kingdom" and thanked the crown prince



for working with US special envoy for Yemen Tim Lenderking to end the Yemen war, Kirby said.

Last month, Lenderking criticised the Houthis for not engaging seriously in stalled efforts to secure a ceasefire. He also urged the coalition to remove restrictions on all Yemeni ports and airports. -REUTERS

## Israelis, Emiratis Meet In Dubai To Discuss Investments



At the luxurious Armani hotel inside the world's tallest skyscraper in Dubai, Israelis in kippas and Emiratis in long white robes and kanduras gathered on Wednesday to discuss investment opportunities. They aimed to make the most of deepening ties nine months after the two countries agreed to formalise relations.

There was extremely little mention of the Palestinians or the fact that barely two weeks ago, Israel was involved in the bombardment of the Gaza strip.

Rather, the conversations were laser-focused on business. Several Israeli and Emirati speakers opened their remarks with both the Hebrew greeting of "Shalom" and the Arabic greeting of "Salam". They spoke about boosting tourism, creating jobs, technology sharing, diversifying economies and tackling issues of water scarcity.

Since the UAE and Israel formalised ties in September, tens of thousands of Israeli tourists have come to the UAE - mostly to Dubai or in targeted visits to the capital of Abu Dhabi.

Trade between the two countries has already exceeded \$354 million. The two countries have signed around 25 agreements in more than 15 sectors, said Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zayoudi, the highest-level Emirati official at the event.

There has been no indication the 11-day violence in Gaza, which ended with an inconclusive ceasefire on May 21, has slowed down budding Emirati-Israeli ties.

The war killed 254 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, including 67 children and 22 people from the same family, aged six months to 89 years. Hamas, which rules Gaza, says 80 of its fighters were killed. Thirteen died in Israel, including two children and one soldier.

The investment forum was worlds away from the devasta-

tion. In the lavish and tightly secured Armani ballroom at the Burj Khalifa tower, there was no visible worry or concern on the faces of eager and excited Israeli delegates and speakers, many of whom expressed their astonishment at how rapidly ties have flourished with the United Arab Emirates.

"It's happening and it didn't happen before. If you would have spoken to me a year ago, I wouldn't have guessed that [we] will speak here today in Dubai about all of these things that are happening," said Israeli Ambassador Eitan Na'eh, who is based in Abu Dhabi.

Na'eh spoke to The Associated Press on the sidelines of the summit, which was billed as the first face-to-face investment conference in the UAE between Israelis and Emiratis since the US-brokered diplomatic pact was signed in September.

The director general of the Abu Dhabi Investment Office, Tariq Bin Hendi, told the audience his country has "helped Israeli companies set up in the UAE". The office is responsible for attracting foreign investment into Abu Dhabi and diversifying the private sector.

"We want the people of Israel, the people of the world to come and join us, help us on that journey, work with us, learn from us, allow us to learn from you, and ultimately build a strong relationship," he said.

There were no high-level speakers from Israel at the event, though that may be a result of Israel's political uncertainty. The list of speakers had also changed quite significantly to exclude several of the original speakers listed on the agenda before the recent violence.

Last month, the UAE issued a rare public rebuke of Israel for heavy-handed police measures in Jerusalem and violent scenes captured by Palestinians of Israeli security forces storming the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a site sacred to both Muslims and Jews.

The violence, which erupted in the final days of Ramadan, angered citizens across Gulf Arab states, some of whom expressed support for Palestinians and opposition to Israel on social media or in limited street protests. -AP

### NEWS MAKERS

## This US State Is Giving Pick-Up Trucks, Hunting Rifles To The Vaccinated

### Agence France-Presse

**WASHINGTON:** A pick-up truck, a hunting license or a rifle: the US state of West Virginia is launching a lottery for vaccinated people to boost its flagging Covid-19 immunization campaign.

After a strong start, Covid-19 vaccination rates stagnated in the rural state in the heart of the Appalachian mountains in the eastern United States, where only 41 percent of the population is fully vaccinated.

To get a jab into still hesitant residents, the state will run a lottery every week between June 20 and August 4, with prizes for residents who have received at least one vaccine dose, the state's Republican governor Jim Justice announced Tuesday.



Among the prizes to be won on June 20, then every following Wednesday, are two pick-up trucks, five lifetime fishing and hunting licenses, ten hunting rifles, and 25 weekend stays in the state's natural parks.

There will also be a \$1 million money pot, and for people between the ages of 12 and 25, two full four-year scholarships at a state university.

"We still have a substantial part of

our state that has not chosen to be vaccinated," said Clay Marsh, chief health officer at West Virginia University.

In recent months the state has already offered people between the ages of 16 and 35 -- the age group most reluctant to vaccination -- \$100 savings certificates or gift certificates, if they got vaccinated.

Started by the state of Ohio, lotteries with million of dollars at stake for people who get vaccinated are being used to revive vaccination campaigns in the United States.

Other states also trying to attract vaccine holdouts by offering beer, pizza, or tickets to sporting events.

President Joe Biden wants 70 percent of US adults to have received at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose by US independence day on July 4. The 50 percent milestone was crossed on May 25.

## This Tycoon Has Lost \$14 Billion In Just 5 Months

### Agencies

Larry Chen, the former school teacher from a poor Chinese village who became one of the world's richest people, is closing in on losing his billionaire status as shares in his online-education business slump.

GSX Techedu Inc. fell 4% in New York trading Wednesday after Goldman Sachs Group Inc. downgraded the stock and slashed its price target. The shares have plunged 88% since late January, wiping almost \$14 billion from Chen's fortune and leaving him a net worth of about \$1.9 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

The Chinese firm has been buffeted by a range of issues, including the country's crackdown on the online-education sector, a weaker-than-expected results

outlook and the implosion of an investor, Bill Hwang's Archegos Capital Management.

"Policy risk is the No. 1 concern right now," said Tommy Wong, an analyst at China Merchants Securities International Co. based in Hong Kong, who rates the stock a buy.

A spokesperson for GSX declined to comment on the share plunge or Chen's wealth.

The Chinese education industry is under increased scrutiny after President Xi Jinping suggested in March that a surge in after-school tutoring was putting immense pressure on China's kids. The country's education ministry plans to create a dedicated division to oversee all private education platforms for the first time, people familiar with the matter told Bloomberg.

GSX is shutting its pre-school education business for children ages 3 to



8 in response to regulations banning kindergarten and private-tutoring schools from teaching the elementary school curriculum, spokeswoman Sandy Qin said this week.

The company is laying off employees as a result, Qin said, while declining to say how many people are losing their jobs. Chinese media reported earlier that the company was cutting almost a third of its staff.

In April, GSX was among four private education providers fined the

maximum penalty of 500,000 yuan (\$78,356) for using false or misleading prices to lure customers.

It's a major headache for Chen, who owns about 44% of GSX, at a time when his company's shares were already being hit by a weaker-than-expected outlook. In late May, GSX gave a second-quarter revenue forecast that missed the average analyst estimate. Its shares tumbled.

And in March, one of the outside investors with the largest exposure to the firm, Hwang's Archegos, imploded when it failed to meet margin calls.

Hwang's family office had built highly leveraged positions in GSX and other firms using swaps. When some of those stocks fell, banks demanded collateral that Hwang was unable to provide, so they offloaded large blocks of GSX and other shares. GSX plunged as much as 56% in one day.

## Govt Makes CID Verification Mandatory For SKUAST-K Employees

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration has made Criminal Investigation Department verification mandatory for the employees of SKUAST-Kashmir to put a cap on "dubious characters" of newly recruited employees.

A circular issued by the SKUAST-K said that the employees whose CID verification has not been submitted so far shall resolve the matter immediately with concerned authorities under intimation of the administration.

"The salary of the incumbent employee will be stopped forthwith till verification by the CID," the circular said.

It said that the appointees shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that in case adverse report about their character and antecedents is received from the Additional Director General of Police, CID, and Jammu and Kashmir to whom a reference shall be made by the concerned office.

"Their appointment shall by itself stand cancelled Ab-initio

and they shall have no claim of their appointment," it reads.

The circular reads, "Although there has been no adverse reporting against any new appointee, entrant on this account so far from any Constituent Unit of the University where such employees have been posted, however, it is felt to have the follow-up action report in this regard from all the concerned Directorates, Faculties, Stations, Colleges, KVKs to make a database for ready reference."

The registrar requested the concerned to intimate SKUAST-K within a week's time whether the requisite CID verification of the new entrants or appointees posted in their respective offices during the last five years have been sought by them or not.

"If the CID verification, in any case, has not been taken up till date; the same may kindly be taken up with the concerned office immediately under intimation to this office and the salary of the incumbent employee will be stopped forthwith till verification by the CID," it reads.

## DC Gbl Seeks Data On Vaccination Of Priority Groups

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna Thursday reviewed the progress of the vaccination drive for 18-44 years of age group, launched last week in the district.

The DC sought data from the concerned officers of priority groups including Yatra service providers, shopkeepers, drivers, people with co-morbidity and other priority groups.

The DC directed the CMO that vaccination vials shall be available in abundance at these sites besides BMOs should ensure maximum mobilisation of tar-

get groups in their concerned areas so that the targets are achieved on a daily basis.

Regarding vaccination of Yatra service providers, the Naib Tehsildar Kangan and CEO SDA were directed to ensure vaccination of all service providers at an earliest.

The meeting also discussed the status of 5 bedded Isolation Facility in each panchayat and second dose vaccination for Health Care Workers and other frontline workers.

The DC sought cooperation among all departments and better liaison with the local PRIs so that vaccination of targeted groups is achieved on time.

## FMD Outbreak... Disease Not Manifested In Virulent Form In Small Ruminants: Dir SH

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Following reports of the cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Kashmir, the Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Kashmir has informed all the Sheep farmers of the division not to panic and take necessary preventive measures as the disease is not usually manifested in a virulent form in small ruminants.

The department as per an official communiqué has informed that an outbreak of Foot & Mouth like disease was reported in sheep during early May in district Budgam and the department immediately took remedial measures and started vaccination of the animals in periphery of the affected areas (ring vaccination) and offered treatment of clinical cases.

The disease was mainly reported from rural areas like Rathsun, Shalkani, Gundipora of Beerwah Sub division of



District Budgam where about 1700 sheep were affected out of which about 1600 have recovered fully. Besides district Budgam, disease was sporadically reported from isolated pockets of District Anantnag, Baramulla and Bandipora.

All symptomatic treatment of affected cases is being undertaken and there is no paucity of either drugs or vaccines required to address the outbreak. Moreover 05 teams of experts from Disease Investiga-

tion Laboratory Nowshera have been deputed for 10 districts of Kashmir division, to keep a tight surveillance on any form of disease outbreak throughout the division especially of the migrating flocks from different areas of the valley.

It was also informed that the department has established various first aid camps at sub alpine and shall be keeping all the resources available at Highland pastures where the flocks migrate during summer to keep an eye on the disease and provide necessary treatment as and when required.

## Rs 85 Cr Worth Free Ration Distributed In Kashmir During Pandemic: Govt

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Amidst Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has distributed 3730 quintals worth Rs. 84.9 crore of free ration among 37, 30,239 beneficiaries under Priority house hold (PHH), Antyodaya Ana Yojna (AAY) categories in Kashmir for May and June-2021.

Sharing details, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole said that the department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs (FCS&CA),

besides smooth supply of monthly ration to consumers, department has distributed additional free ration of over 1865 quintals of rice and wheat among PHH and AAY category beneficiaries during the month of May- 2021.

He said that the free ration was distributed after instructed by the Government as relief to the poor population after people's livelihood suffered due to covid pandemic.

The Div Com said that while as distribution of free additional ration for the month of May

has been already completed, the distribution for the month of June shall pick up soon across all the districts of Kashmir.

He said that keeping pandemic and lockdown into consideration, Government announced free ration for two months among poor consumers under which free ration of 5 kg per soul which includes 1772 quintals of rice and 932 quintals of wheat during the month of May.

He said that FCS&CA has geared up for the distribution of additional ration for the month of June also.

## Adhere To Covid SOPs Strictly: DC Shopian

**SHOPIAN:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Thursday stressed for strict adherence to Covid-19 SOPs, guidelines and undertaking vaccination to save the precious lives and further contain the spread of the corona virus in the district.

The DC said that during his visit to the town market yesterday, some people were seen without masks and were later fined also.

Vaishya said that lockdown was imposed with an aim to tackle the situation arising due

to the spread of virus, but unlocking does not mean that people will take it lightly and move without wearing masks. He appealed to the people to firmly act upon the guidelines and make the usage of masks, maintain social distancing and clean hands using soap / sanitiser properly to minimise the infection of Covid-19 pandemic.

The DC said that even if the positive cases are decreasing each passing day, there is still need to follow Covid appropriate behavior with more responsibility to avoid further spread of the disease.

## Covid Positivity Rate Enormously Down In Budgam: DC

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Deputy commissioner (DC) Budgam, Shabbaz Ahmed Mirza Thursday informed that the positivity rate has come down enormously in the district, and called for strict adherence to Covid-19 SOPs, guidelines to come out of red zone and prevent further spread of virus in the district.

Briefing the Media persons, the DC said that till yesterday there were 12465 cases reported, however from 1st April 10587 patients have since recovered and presently there are 1878 active cases in the district.

He said that the recovery rate has reached to 85 percent and above, and is showing increasing trend day by day.

Regarding active rate ratio, the DC said it was 2 percent and above however since last 2 days, it has come down that shows the graph of positivity is coming down gradually.

Mira said there is message for the general public that they shall follow all guidelines, SOPs strictly as already notified.

There shall be no laxity from any one in adhering to the instructions as the danger has not

diminished yet, as it still looms around so taking precautions is the best prevention, he added.

Giving details about the vaccination status in the district, the DC said that vaccination to the age group of 18 to 44 years is going on smoothly across district, in addition vaccination to the age group of 45 and above in the whole district has taken place and the target has reached to 77 percent. He said there is hope that in coming period the district administration shall be able to achieve 100 percent target.

The DC during the briefing appealed to the all concerned age category groups to kindly visit nearby vaccination centers as early as possible, get vaccinated, keep yourself safe, leave aside all apprehensions, be sure that vaccine as are safe having no side effects.

Regarding restrictions, the DC said that the District Budgam is still under Red Zone category, so already issued guidelines/restrictions are very much there. General public is requested to adhere these all, however violations shall not be tolerated and the concerned violator will be booked and punished as per law, he added.

## CJ Mithal Inaugurates Legal Service Center

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Justice Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Pankaj Mithal Thursday inaugurated Vidhik Seva Kendra/Legal Service Center at Srinagar/ Jammu wings of J&K High Court.

On this occasion Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Executive Chairman of J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Executive Chairman of Ladakh Legal Services Authority and Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chairman, High Court Legal Services Committee also joined the Hon'ble Chief Justice.

Besides the other Judges of the High Court were present by virtual mode.

Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K declared the service open for litigant public/Advocates and other stake holders to ensure the filing of



the cases in the High Court of J&K and other District and Subordinate Courts at doorstep by use of this service.

Justice Pankaj Mithal, who is also Patron in Chief of J&K and Ladakh Legal Services Authorities, while appreciating the initiative of the J&K Legal Services Authorities, observed that the services introduced will give timely relief to the litigant public/ lawyers and other people for filing of

their cases by e-mode while at their respective places without approaching the courts physically.

Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority also described the services as an additional and effective benefit made available to the public at large in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh in strengthening the object of access to justice and timely dispensation of justice.

## Adv Khan Reviews Covid Virus Mitigation Measures

Observer News Service



**BARAMULLA:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Ahmad Khan, Thursday conducted an extensive tour of district Baramulla and took stock of COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Advisor, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Bhupinder Kumar and other senior officers, inspected the COVID Care Centre established in SDH Sopore and had a detailed assessment of facilities being made available to the patients there.

Advisor interacted with the patients who expressed satisfaction over the available facilities in the hospital. He asked all the concerned to follow SOPs and related advisories regarding Covid in letter and spirit besides adopting COVID appropriate behavior for total elimination of the pandemic.

After inspection of the centre, Advisor visited Chijhama Rafiab where he met with the PRIs delegation headed by DDC Chairperson, Baramulla Safeena Beigh and other stakeholders.

DDC Chairperson highlighted various issues pertaining to fight against the pandemic. She demanded installation of oxygen plants in Rafiab area for effectively tackling the disease besides demanding posting of Chief Accounts Officer in GMC Baramulla so that the funds, meant to tackle the pandemic, are utilised in a smooth and effective manner. She also highlighted several other issues which included rationalisation of staff in health institutions among other grievances of vital public significance.

Other delegations comprising civil society members highlighted their issues and demands. Advisor assured all the participants that all their genuine grievances would be looked into for redressal in a time bound manner.

## CUK Holds Webinar On 'Stress Management And Online Education'

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** School of Education (SoE), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) organised a webinar on 'Stress Management and Online Education: A Pedagogical Perspective.'

Around 290 individuals participated in the programme aimed at addressing the issues related to challenges faced by the students' due to Covid-19 crisis.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, said "this programme is in continuation with the webinar series, SoE has been conducting since the outbreak of Covid." He said, "the lockdown has forced educational institutions to switch over from traditional face-to-face mode of education to the virtual one wherein both of them have their own sets of unique strengths and limitations." Prof. Mir emphasized that, "let there be a meaningful and result-oriented interaction between the participants—especially the students—and the invited expert."

In his address, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, observed, "all walks of life have been hit by Covid crisis and we have to enrich our understanding about the strategies we are required to employ in order to deal with the stress effectively." He said, "stress management is the buzzword these days and the participants should utilize this opportunity in terms of having a meaningful discourse. Prof. Zargar revealed, "online classes need to be graced with elements of interest, entertainment, fun and interaction between the teacher and the taught.

**Office of the Chief Executive Officer**  
**Srinagar Smart City Limited**  
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Email: - [srinagarscl@gmail.com](mailto:srinagarscl@gmail.com)  
(CIN: U70200JK201756C010107)

**INTERVIEW NOTICE**

It is notified for the information of all concerned that in response to the advertisement issued by this office vide Advertisement no: 02 of SSCL of 2021; dated: 20/04/2021 for the post of Personnel Officer (on regular/full-time basis) and for the post of Computer Operator/Record Keeper (on regular/full-time basis); the below mentioned candidates have been shortlisted for the interview and are hereby advised to appear before the selection/interview committee constituted by Srinagar Smart City Limited for the purpose at **Tourist Reception Centre, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K at 10:00 am as per the scheduled date notified below:**

Personnel Officer - Interview Scheduled on 09 <sup>th</sup> June, 2021 (Wednesday)			
S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Address
1	Mr. Jahangir Ahmad Magray	Mr. Gulzar Ahmad Magray	Chekhel, Renzipora, Awantipora, Pulwama
2	Mr. Saqib Rehman	Mr. Ab. Rehman Shagoo	Al Safa Colony, Sopore, Baramulla
3	Ms. Tasia Riyaz	Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Changroo	Karan Nagar, Opposite GMC, Srinagar
4	Mr. Idris Afzal Shah	Mr. Mohammad Afzal Shah	H.No. 6, Ilahi Bagh - A, Srinagar, 190020
5	Mr. Ovais Altaf	Mr. Altaf Ahmad Shah	Rajpora, Pulwama - 192306
Corresponding Address: Basharat Colony, Nowgam, Srinagar 190015			
6	Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Malik	Mr. Mohd Maqbool Malik	Chandkoor, Kneri, Baramulla
7	Mr. Tauseef Joolani	Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Mir	Professors Colony, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar, J&K - 190006
Computer Operator/Record Keeper - Interview Scheduled on 10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2021 (Thursday)			
S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Address
1	Mr. Jahangir Ahmad Magray	Mr. Gulzar Ahmad Magray	Chekhel, Renzipora, Awantipora, Pulwama
2	Mr. Athar Bashir Khan	Mr. Bashir Ahmad Khan	Edgah, Lalgaridori, Srinagar
3	Mr. Tayyeb Ahmad Khanday	Mr. Ghulam Nabi Khanday	Meel, Pampore
4	Mr. Nisar Ali Bhat	Mr. Ghulam Rasool Bhat	Yarisatroo, Budgam
Corresponding Address: Khan Sahib, Budgam			
5	Mr. Waseem Ahmad Mir	Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mir	Dalgate, Srinagar - 190001
6	Mr. Yawar Gulzar Sheikh	Mr. Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh	Kulgam
Corresponding Address: Baghat, Srinagar			
7	Ms. Nadiya Yousuf Mir	Dr. Mohd Yousuf Mir	Disoo Colony, H.No. 7, Natipora, Srinagar
8	Mr. Suhail Hussain	Mr. Naq Hussain	Friends Lane, Near Post Office, Botshah Mohallah, Lal Bazar, Srinagar
9	Ms. Blismah Nazir	Mr. Nazir Ahmad Shagoo	Rampora, Chattabal, Qamarwari, Srinagar
10	Mr. Faizan Farooq	Mr. Farooq Ahmad Sheikh	Lachmanpora, Batamailo, Srinagar
11	Mr. Danish Ahmad Bhat	Late Mr. Abdul Ahad Bhat	Namlabal, Pampore
12	Mr. Shahid Hussain	Late Mr. Shariff Ud Din Shah	Gowharpora, Chadoora, Budgam
13	Mr. Asif Munir	Mr. Munir Ahmad Shah	Sambora, Pampora, J&K - 192121
14	Mr. Tufail Ahmad Sheikh	Mr. Shabir Ahmad Sheikh	Barbarshah, Srinagar
15	Mr. Rofiq Ahmad Tantray	Mr. Gh. Hassan Tantray	Ruhoo, Anantnag, J&K - 192101
16	Ms. Insha Shaif	Mr. Mohd Shaif Bhat	Gowkadal, Masina Chowk, Srinagar
17	Mr. Omar Bashir Sodagar	Mr. Bashir Ahmad Sodagar	Saif U Din Pora, Rajouri Kadal, Srinagar
18	Ms. Sahish Shabir	Mr. Shabir Ahmad	Akili Mir, Khanyar, Srinagar
19	Mr. Saizgar Ahmad Bhat	Late Mr. Gh. Qadir Bhat	Badgam, Ashmuqum, Tehsil Pahalgam, Dist: Anantnag

Note:

- All the candidates shall bring along their academic/professional qualification certificates along with their experience certificates stating their experience in the desired field in original.
- The candidates are also required to produce a self-attested photocopy of each document /Certificate along with two passport size photographs at the time of document verification. In the event of failure of a candidate for taking part in document verification; she/he shall forfeit his candidature for the respective post.
- All candidates are advised to treat this notification as call letter and appear for interview on the said date before the selection/ interview committee at the venue mentioned above.
- No T.A./D.A shall be paid for attending the interview.
- In case of any change is done in the date, time or venue of the interview or in the notice above; it would be updated on the website. Therefore, the candidates are advised to visit our website regularly i.e., [www.srinagarsmartcity.in](http://www.srinagarsmartcity.in) for further updates.

No: SSCL/CEO/4343  
Dated: 02/06/2021

Sd/

Chief Executive Officer  
Srinagar Smart City Limited

DIPK-NB-1049/21

## KASHMIR OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider  
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### K O V I E W

## Waning second wave

In a sign that the coronavirus cases are drastically declining in the country, around 1.32 lakh fresh cases have been recorded on Wednesday, which is a two-third from the peak of infections at 4.14 lakh. Deaths similarly have declined to 3207 from around 4500. This has taken the official count of fatalities to 3.35 lakh. This figure, however, is strongly contested. Many media reports have put the number of deaths several times higher and blamed the government for deliberately underestimating the scale of the tragedy. But the undercounting of the deaths doesn't take away from the fact that the fresh cases are now declining fast. Now 344 districts — nearly half of India's 718 districts — are reporting seven-day positivity of less than 5 per cent. That's an improvement from the week ending May 7, when only 92 districts reported a positivity rate of under 5 per cent.

It is true that some states like Tamil Nadu are still struggling to reign in the contagion. On Wednesday, the southern state logged the highest number of 26,513 infections. But it is hoped that the state will also peak soon like the other parts of the country. The cases in New Delhi which had witnessed mayhem during April and first half of May have witnessed a steep decline.

The reason for the drop in cases can be attributed to a blend of lockdown and vaccination. So far, 70 per cent of the vulnerable population and 32 per cent of those in the 45+ age group have either been vaccinated or have received their first dose. The centre has now set for itself the ambitious goal of vaccinating the entire country by the end of this year. So, the effort is to pace up the vaccination drive. However, it won't be easy to accomplish the massive task. More so, with vaccines still in short supply.

Going forward, the government has to make a sparing use of lockdown, enforce Covid-appropriate behaviour and speed up the vaccination to ensure that the third Covid-19 wave doesn't rear its head. Vaccination, however, will hold the key. The decreasing trend of the infections is a good news. The government should now build upon it by scaling up the production of vaccines. Much is at stake in India. The economy that was battered last year can't afford one more year of disruption. Already lakhs of people are jobless or have had their incomes truncated. So, an extended lockdown is ruled out. There's no other option but to vaccinate a critical mass of people to get a handle on the pandemic.

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

## Ending Encryption

Barely a day before the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 came into force, WhatsApp moved the Delhi High Court against the rules — specifically the one that mandates that a “significant social media intermediary providing services primarily in the nature of messaging shall enable the identification of the first originator of the information on its computer resource as may be required by a judicial order”. Given the specification that a “significant social media intermediary” is one with more than 50 lakh registered users, WhatsApp's messenger service would clearly be affected. WhatsApp's contention is that for compliance and traceability, it would have to break its end-to-end encryption service that allows messages to be read only by the sender and the receiver. Its argument is that the encryption feature allows for privacy protections and breaking it would mean a violation of privacy. The question to be asked is whether the traceability guidelines (by breaking encryption) are vital to law enforcement in cases of harmful content. A release by the Ministry of Electronics and IT has said that the traceability measure will be used by law enforcement as the “last resort” and will come by only in specific situations, such as “for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to the sovereignty and integrity of India... or child sexual abuse material, punishable with imprisonment...” The assertion suggests that this requirement is in line with the Puttaswamy judgment that clarified that any restriction to the right of privacy must be necessary, proportionate and include safeguards against abuse.

But the Government, as the law stands now, can already seek access to encrypted data under Section 69(3) of the IT Act, and Rules 17 and 13 of the 2009 Surveillance Rules that require intermediaries to assist with decryption when they have the technical ability to do so and when law enforcement has no other alternative. Besides, it can still seek unencrypted data, metadata and digital trails from intermediaries such as WhatsApp. The trouble with enforcing traceability is that without safeguards such as having any independent or judicial oversight, government agencies could seek any user's identity on vague grounds and this could compromise the anonymity of whistle-blowers and journalistic sources, who can claim to be acting in the public interest.

*The Hindu*



# Israel's New Tool: Normalising Occupation through Digital Means

Daaliyah Majeed Khan

While commenting on the ongoing censorship from social media giants, Human Rights activists stated that it could amount to the destruction of evidence in war crimes documentation, which could mislead the International Criminal Court in monitoring war crimes

The 'Israel-Palestine violence' led to the death of 256 Palestinians including 66 children, wounding more than 1900. It also led to the death of 13 Israelis, out of which 02 were children, injuring 200 people.

War contains two completely different perceptions: perception of oppression and perception of victimization. Each side can be understood by knowing the truth of both sides but when the truth is stopped and tempered in between, it is not possible to form a fair opinion and today's perception comes mostly from what the Media propagates. The media has a crucial role in shaping a nation's attitude towards other countries. Biased reportage could foster stereotypes of the outside world that may encourage the public opinion of one country to political hostility against others.

Media Bias can take different routes and one of them is using mislead terminologies. Spreading disinformation regarding the Israel-Palestine violence is a novel method of oppression and a lot of credit goes to Western Media, where disinformation is flourishing. There is a difference in the language used by the news channels and journalists for the Palestinians and Israelis. Words such as “killed”, “murdered” are used to describe the death of Israelis but not the death of Palestinians. The word like “terrorists” is often used to describe Palestinians and the word like “Zionists” is put under the shield of community guidelines. The words like “targets”, and “strategies” are used instead of “lethal violence”. The word “Arab” used only instead of “Palestine” indirectly denies the existence of Palestine. This usage of words by the media channels clearly displays that all acts of violence should be considered with equal political meaning or even with equal moral weight.

For example, Fox News, titled one of its news bulletins as “US cannot waver while Israel is being attacked”, which means according to Fox News, Israel is being attacked and it is not the one who attacks. Another News title reads, “Israel preparing retaliation against rocket attacks” which connotes that Israel is defending or retaliating and not attacking.

During a news bulletin BBC anchor said that “212 people including 61 children have died in Gaza”, “12 people, including 2 children have been killed in Israel”, which clearly portrays that there is difference between the rights of an innocent in Israel and an innocent in Gaza.

This so-called ‘liberal media’ tends to show that any violence by the occupier is legitimate and any violence by the occupied isn't. Media appears more sympathetic to Israel, focusing on coverage of rockets fired from Gaza and completely ignoring the torrent of the Israeli rockets which destroyed hundreds of lives. The problem with this kind of reportage is that it leads the way to dehumanization of a people.

However, Social Media can be a crucial element in the success or failure of social movements in the way they frame the movement's cause, status and ultimately their ideologies.

Palestinians are besieged on social media, too. Sudden disappearance of hash tags, blockage of live streaming, the removal of content supporting Palestinian rights, the deletion or suspension of Palestinian social media accounts are just some of the ways Palestinian voices are being suppressed online. On Instagram and Facebook, many social media users have reported that their posts are being censored, their reach has been curtailed and their accounts have been shadow banned.

On twitter, the account of a writer Mariam Barghouti was suspended after she criticised Israel's heavy-handed crackdown on Palestinian protests, which Twitter said was removed by mistake. Many others like Khaled A. Beydoun, an author who enjoys a considerable following online, also tweeted that their tweets were removed or their reach curtailed. On Instagram, the hash-tag “Al-Aqsa”, “Sheikh Jarrah” were temporarily hidden and users were told that their content went against community guidelines.

In a report which was issued by the 7amleh (Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media), recorded 500 Digital Rights violation of Palestinians, out of which 50% (250) were recorded on Instagram, 35% (179) on Facebook, 11% (55) on Twitter, 1% of the re-

ported cases were on Tik Tok and rest 3% were cases without sufficient information.

In an Interview, Mona Shtaya, a local advocacy advisor at 7amleh, alleged that such censorship is part of a systematic effort of big tech companies to suppress the Palestinian narrative from the online space. A recent report of New York Times revealed that more than 100 new whatsapp groups were created to incite violence against Palestinians and abet the members to engage in planned attacks.

While commenting on the ongoing censorship from social media giants, Human Rights activists stated that it could amount to the destruction of evidence in war crimes documentation, which could mislead the International Criminal Court in monitoring war crimes.

Therefore, it is as clear as day that censorship of Palestinians on social media is deteriorating the digital rights of Palestinians at a concerning rate. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 under Article 17 provides that “No One shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy”. Furthermore Article 19 of ICCPR states that “everyone shall have the Right to Freedom of Expression”. Specifically, Article 26 states, “All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of law”. The rights to online privacy and freedom of expression which are guaranteed under “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” seem to be of no use for Palestinians. The biased media policies and censorship of social media in Palestine are motivated with the aim of suppressing and silencing the Palestinian voices, which is a clear and transparent violation of Palestinian's ‘Digital Rights’.

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

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## Boost to Young Authors

The launch of the YUVA Scheme for mentoring young authors by the Union Education Ministry is a laudable step. This is an author mentorship programme that aims to bring the perspectives of a new generation of writers to the

forefront on topics such as unsung heroes, freedom fighters, unknown and forgotten places and their role in the national movement, and other related topics in an innovative and creative way. The programme trains authors to write on a wide range of topics in order to pro-

mote Indian heritage, culture, and knowledge system. The seventy-five authors will be chosen through an all-India competition to be held from June 1 to July 31, 2021, with each receiving a cumulative scholarship of rupees fifty thousand per month for a period of six months

under the mentorship scheme. The scheme would bolster young minds and set the groundwork for the world's future creative leaders.

....  
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# And The Man Rose From The Land Of Salman

Zafar Bangash

**“Muslims must also keep in mind the ayah of the noble Qur’an in which Allah (swt) warns Muslims during the time of the Prophet (pbuh), “... And if you turn away [from Allah], He will cause other people to take your place and they will not be the likes of you” (47:38). In his explanation, Ibn Kathir narrates that the companions of the Messenger (pbuh) were surprised to hear this ayah and asked him who these people would be that would replace them (the Arabs)? The noble Messenger (pbuh) put his hand on the shoulder of Salman al-Farsi standing beside him and said, they will belong to his people.**

June 4 marks the 32nd anniversary of Imam Roohullah Khomeini’s leaving this earthly abode and joining heavenly company. It is an anniversary that is marked globally by committed Muslims to pay homage to and reflect on the great contribution of Imam Khomeini in the 20th century.

It would be no exaggeration to say that the Islamic Revolution in Iran led by the Imam in 1978–1979 has had a profound impact on global affairs. All subsequent events can be traced to the change the Imam ushered in a country that was considered to be one of the strongest bastions of Western imperial domination. Only a few months prior to the start of the Islamic Revolution, then US President Jimmy Carter had described Iran under the Shah as an “island of stability” in a sea of turbulence. The Islamic revolutionary tide swept the so-called island of stability into the dustbin of history. It did more: the Islamic Revolution irrevocably changed the global political landscape.

For those willing to remove their blinkers, they would be able to see that despite decades of illegal sanctions, the Islamic Republic is the only country in the region that has gained strength and influence. In much of the Muslim East (aka the Middle East), there is chaos and confusion. Islamic Iran has weathered all the challenges — internal sabotage, external invasion, and sanctions — and come out stronger.

We need to consider the Imam’s great wisdom in understanding the imposed global order and his ability to mobilize the Muslim masses of Iran to rise up against it so that at least one part of the Ummah — in Iran — would gain true independence, live according to Islamic principles and be a model for other Muslims as well as non-Muslims. Since 1979, Islamic Iran has tried to present such a model in the most difficult circumstances.

There have been many political changes in the 20th century: the Marxist revolution in Russia in 1917; the coup d’etats in places like Egypt (1952), Indonesia (1966), Libya (1969), etc. All they did was replacing one set of oppressors with another. We can also consider the creation of Pakistan in 1947 as a remarkable phenomenon but regrettably, far from fulfilling the aspirations of the people, the new rulers simply continued the policies of the British raj. Only the Islamic Revolution led by the Imam, who was still in forced exile, was a totally transformative change.

Since the abolition of the khilafah, albeit merely a shell at the time Mustafa Kemal replaced it with a secular system in Turkey (1924), Muslims have been struggling to re-establish it. The first to make a move was Imam Hasan al-Banna in Egypt. He established al-Ikhwan al-Muslimoon (Muslim Brotherhood) in 1928 but it got sucked into the vortex of Egyptian politics.

In British colonial India Maulana Abu al-Ala Maududi established the Jamaat-e Islami in 1941. The stated purpose of the Jamaat was also to establish the khilafah that he called the Islamic state.

In Iran, there were several uprisings against British interference culminating in the Constitutional movement of 1905–1907 as well as the uprising against the Shah in 1951–1953 but the ‘ulama in Iran had not made the ideological leap to establish an Islamic state in the absence of the Twelfth Imam. Thus, their struggle was largely confined to addressing specific issues without addressing the fundamental need to overthrow the Shah’s illegitimate Western-backed monarchy in order to establish the



Islamic state. The Sunni ‘ulama had no such inhibitions because in Sunni political thought, living in an Islamic state or struggling to establish one is part of the natural thought process.

It was not until the Imam’s lectures about the importance of the Islamic government (al-hukumah al-Islamiyah) during his exile in Najaf (Iraq) that the Shi’i ‘ulama were mobilized to ultimately launch the movement to overthrow the tyrannical regime of the Shah. The traditional Shi’i ‘ulama in Najaf did not view with favor the Imam’s ijtihad on political thought and the Islamic state. It was the body of younger ‘ulama as well as Shi’i masses that responded to the Imam’s call. Prior to his exile that started in 1964 — first in Turkey and then in Iraq — the Imam had started to challenge the Shah’s regime in unequivocal terms describing it as illegitimate and a puppet of imperialism and Zionism.

One of the Imam’s remarkable attributes was that he reached out to the ‘ulama of all schools of thought — Sunni and Shi’i — and encouraged them to struggle for truth and justice. In one remarkable episode from his life’s struggle, the Imam had gone for Hajj in 1963. Maulana Maududi was also in Makkah to perform Hajj. The Imam made a special effort to meet Maulana Maududi and informed him about the terrible oppression unleashed by the Shah’s regime against committed Muslims. It is reported that Maulana Maududi, a great scholar in his own right, extended all the courtesy and respect that is due to a great scholar like the Imam. Upon his return from Hajj, Maulana Maududi’s translator, Khalil Ahmed Hamdi published a long article in the Jamaat’s magazine, Tarjuman al-Qur’an, severely criticizing the Shah’s regime for oppressing committed Muslims. The Pakistani regime, then headed by General Ayub Khan promptly arrested Maulana Maududi and the entire leadership of the Jamaat for “undermining relations” with a friendly country and posing a threat to Pakistan’s “national interest.” Ayub’s military regime also banned the Jamaat as a political party.

Perhaps the most fatal mistake the Jamaat and the Ikhwan in Egypt have made is to operate within the existing colonial-imposed order in their respective societies. Both have suffered as a consequence.

The Imam had no such confusion in his mind. He categorically rejected accepting the authority of any institution established by the Shah’s regime. When some people suggested to the Imam to lodge a case against the Shah’s regime in the courts, the Imam dismissed the suggestion saying if the regime is illegitimate, how can we accept the legitimacy of its courts? Nor did he apply to register a political party under the Shah’s system. His position was clear and forthright: this regime is an illegitimate agent of imperialism and Zionism. It has to go.

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the people of Iran have had to pay a huge price in

life and blood but they have withstood all these pressures, both internal and external. While it was expected that imperialists and Zionists would spare no effort to undermine the Islamic Republic because it challenged the colonial-imposed order, what is revealing is that the success of the Islamic Revolution also exposed the puppet regimes in the Muslim world. Their hatred of the Islamic Republic is now visible even if initially they were able to camouflage their hatred in sophistry.

As part of their propaganda, the so-called Muslim regimes that are subservient to imperialism and Zionism have branded the Islamic Revolution as “Shi’i”. This is meant to detach the “Sunni” majority in the Muslim world from the Islamic Revolution but they have failed to offer a “Sunni” stand-in. The “Shi’i” label is meant to play on the sectarianism of ill-informed Muslims. If the Da’ish takfiri model of an “Islamic” state is all that these so-called “Sunni” regimes can offer then the Muslim world faces a very serious problem. True, some Sunni ‘ulama have denounced the takfiris and their brutal tactics but there has been no serious attempt in the rest of the Muslim world to come up with a leadership and government that represents their Muslim constituencies.

The Qur’an is very clear about what determines a Muslim’s status in life: not tribe, birth or ethnicity but taqwa (49:13). Further, the noble Messenger (pbuh) in his last khutbah at Hajjah al-Wida’ clearly stipulated that the Arab has no superiority over the non-Arab (‘ajami) and a white person is not superior to a black person or vice versa. Again, the only determining criterion is taqwa. Among the closest companions of the noble Messenger (pbuh) were Bilal (Abyssinian), Salman (Persian) and Suhayb (Roman). True, the Arabian racists resented these “foreigners” but the Prophet (pbuh) was clear about his relations with and the lofty position of these illustrious companions based on taqwa.

In the context of the Islamic Revolution, Muslims must also keep in mind the ayah of the noble Qur’an in which Allah (swt) warns Muslims during the time of the Prophet (pbuh), “... And if you turn away [from Allah], He will cause other people to take your place and they will not be the likes of you” (47:38). In his explanation, Ibn Kathir narrates that the companions of the Messenger (pbuh) were surprised to hear this ayah and asked him who these people would be that would replace them (the Arabs)? The noble Messenger (pbuh) put his hand on the shoulder of Salman al-Farsi standing beside him and said, they will belong to his people. It must be noted that Ibn Kathir is considered one of the more conservative mufasssirs of the Qur’an.

As the Arabians have abandoned Allah’s (swt) din, the progeny of Salman al-Farsi have grasped the message of the noble Qur’an and are trying to implement it in their lives. The Islamic Revolution brought about by Imam Khomeini is the fulfillment of the Qur’anic ayah and the explanation offered by the noble Messenger (pbuh). No amount of hateful propaganda can detract from this fact.

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Zafar Bangash is Director of the Institute of Contemporary Islamic Thought (ICIT), Canada and on the Editorial Board of Crescent International. He is the author of several books, his latest being: Power Manifestations of the Sirah: Examining the Letters and Treaties of the Messenger of Allah (saws).

## New Comforts, New Reality Employees Are Quitting Instead of Giving Up Working From Home

Anders Melin and Misyrlena Egkolfopoulou

A six-minute meeting drove Portia Twidt to quit her job.

She'd taken the position as a research compliance specialist in February, enticed by promises of remote work. Then came the prodding to go into the office. Meeting invites piled up.

The final straw came a few weeks ago: the request for an in-person gathering, scheduled for all of 360 seconds. Twidt got dressed, dropped her two kids at daycare, drove to the office, had the brief chat and decided she was done.

"I had just had it," said Twidt, 33, who lives in Marietta, Georgia.

With the coronavirus pandemic receding for every vaccine that reaches an arm, the push by some employers to get people back into offices is clashing with workers who've embraced remote work as the new normal.

While companies from Google to Ford Motor Co. and Citigroup Inc. have promised greater flexibility, many chief executives have publicly extolled the importance of being in offices. Some have lamented the perils of remote work, saying it diminishes collaboration and company culture. JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s Jamie Dimon said at a recent conference that it doesn't work "for those who want to hustle."

But legions of employees aren't so sure. If anything, the past year has proved that lots of work can be done from anywhere, sans lengthy commutes

on crowded trains or highways. Some people have moved. Others have lingering worries about the virus and vaccine-hesitant colleagues.

And for Twidt, there's also the notion that some bosses, particularly those of a generation less familiar to remote work, are eager to regain tight control of their minions.

"They feel like we're not working if they can't see us," she said. "It's a boomer power-play."

It's still early to say how the post-pandemic work environment will look. Only about 28% of U.S. office workers are back at their buildings, according to an index of 10 metro areas compiled by security company Kastle Systems. Many employers are still being lenient with policies as the virus lingers, vaccinations continue to roll out and childcare situations remain erratic.

But as office returns accelerate, some employees may want different options. A May survey of 1,000 U.S. adults showed that 39% would consider quitting if their employers weren't flexible about remote work. The generational difference is clear: Among millennials and Gen Z, that figure was 49%, according to the poll by Morning Consult on behalf of Bloomberg News.

"High-five to them," said Sara Sutton, the CEO of FlexJobs, a job-service platform focused on flexible employment. "Remote work and hybrid are here to stay."

The lack of commutes and cost savings are the top benefits of remote work, according to a FlexJobs survey of 2,100

people released in April. More than a third of the respondents said they save at least \$5,000 per year by working remotely.

Jimme Hendrix, a 30-year-old software developer in the Netherlands, quit his job in December as the web-application company he worked for was gearing up to bring employees back to the office in February.

"During Covid I really started to see how much I enjoyed working from home," Hendrix said.

Now he does freelance work and helps his girlfriend grow her art business. He used to spend two hours each day commuting; now the couple is considering selling their car and instead relying on bikes.

One of the main benefits, he says, is more control over his own time: "I can just do whatever I want around the house, like a quick chore didn't have to wait until like 8 p.m. anymore, or I can go for a quick walk."

Of course, not everyone has the flexibility to choose. For the millions of frontline workers who stock the shelves of grocery stores, care for patients in hospitals and nursing homes, or drop off packages at people's doors, there are scant alternative options to showing up in person.

But among those who can, many are weighing their alternatives, said Anthony Klotz, an associate professor of management at Texas A&M University, who's researched why people quit jobs. Bosses

taking a hard stance should beware, particularly given labor shortages in the economy, he said.

"If you're a company that thinks everything's going back to normal, you may be right but it's pretty risky to hope that's the case," he said.

At least some atop the corporate ladder seem to be paying attention. In a Jan. 12 PwC survey of 133 executives, fewer than one in five said they want to go back to pre-pandemic routines. But only 13% were prepared to let go of the office for good.

Alison Green, founder of workplace-advice website Ask a Manager, said she's been contacted by many people with qualms about going back, citing concerns about unvaccinated colleagues and Covid precautions. Some have said they're looking for jobs at companies they feel take the virus seriously, or will let them work from anywhere.

Some things are indeed lost with remote work, Green said, like opportunities for collaboration or learning for junior employees. But, she added: "I think we need to have a more nuanced discussion than: hustlers only do well in the office."

For Sarah-Marie Martin, who lived in Manhattan and worked as a partner at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. when the pandemic struck, the months at home gave her time to redraw the blueprint of her life.

When you have this existential experience, you have time to step back and think," Martin said. "In my previous life, I didn't have time to get super deep and

philosophical."

The mother of five moved her family to the New Jersey shore. And once the push to get back to offices picked up, the idea of commuting hardly seemed alluring. This spring, Martin accepted a fully remote position as chief financial officer of Yumi, a Los Angeles-based maker of baby food.

Gene Garland, 24, unknowingly opened the floodgates to people's frustrations about office returns. After his employer, an IT company, in April told people they needed to start coming in, two of his close colleagues handed in their resignation letters. Garland, who lives in Hampton, Virginia, tapped out a tweet:

Hundreds of people responded, with many outlining plans, or at least hopes, to leave their own jobs. Garland says he himself has no plans to quit, but empathizes with those who do.

"Working inside of a building really does restrict time a lot more than you think," he said. "A lot of people are afraid of the cycle where you work and work and work - and then you die."

Twidt, the compliance specialist in Georgia, had already lined up a new job by the time she handed in her resignation letter: a role at a Washington-based company.

The recruiter that approached her, Twidt said, asked what it would take to get her on board. She replied that she would prefer something 100% remote.

"They said, 'we can do that for you immediately.'"

NDTV

# ‘Combination of early reading programs helps with kindergarten readiness’

Agencies

Parents, take note! A new study found that the combination of two early reading programs had positive effects on preschool students entering kindergarten in Cincinnati Public Schools over a three-year period.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Pediatrics'.

The two early reading programs are: Reach Out and Read, through which children receive a new book and guidance about reading at home during well-visits from newborn through age 5; and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which mails new books to the child's home once a month from birth through age 5. Each of these is well-established at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and across the nation.

"With this early study, we suggest that

when combined and sustained, these two programs have the potential for effectively supporting the development of preliterate skills of large populations of at-risk children, improving kindergarten readiness, and, ultimately, success in school and life," said Greg Szumlas, MD, of the Division of General and Community Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's.

"I can't stress enough to parents the importance of reading with your child, starting at birth. Just a few minutes a day, reading aloud, and interacting with your child over books can make a huge difference in helping them prepare and be ready for kindergarten," added Szumlas.

Cincinnati Children's initiated the unique combination of the two programs in July 2015 with the participation of 23 health clinics throughout the city and funding from Every Child Capital.

Researchers analysed the results of the

kindergarten readiness assessment (KRA), a standardized state test for all children entering kindergarten at a public school, of program participants over the course of three school years - 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019.

Over 3200 children participated in the combined program during the three-year period. For a sample of participants, scores on the kindergarten readiness assessment were analyzed and compared to the school district average.

Results showed an increase of 15.4 percentage points between the 2016-2017 school year and the 2018-2019 school year for students participating in the program, while the school district average increased by only 3.8 percent during this same time period.

"Even though the percentages for the entire district were higher than our program participants, the increase in percentage points over that three-year period represents significant progress and



improvement," said Szumlas.

Szumlas further said, "This early study suggests that pediatric health care providers are positioned to influence the literacy developmental trajectory of children long before they start school and that literacy promotion should be considered a routine

part of primary care."

Lisha Lungelow, a Cincinnati Children's social worker in the Pediatric Primary Care Clinic, enrolled her son, Jordan, in the Reach Out and Read/Imagination Library program when he was 13 months old back in 2016.

"When he came to me, he didn't really have any exposure to books," Lungelow said. "Reading was a way for us to connect and bond. He loved getting the books in the mail and seeing his name on them."

When Jordan entered kindergarten last year, Lungelow believed he was ready and credits his exposure to books through the combination program.

"When he was in kindergarten, I went to grab a book for us to read. Jordan took it from me, and he read the book to me. I can't even explain the joy that brought me. It was really great," concluded Lungelow.

## Overconfidence in news judgement leads to becoming victim of false news: Study

Agencies

The findings of a new study suggest that individuals who falsely believe they are able to identify false news are more likely to fall victim to it.

In the article published in the journal 'Proceedings of National Academies of Sciences', Ben Lyons, assistant professor of communication at the University of Utah, and his colleagues examine the concern about the public's susceptibility to false news due to their inability to recognize their own limitations in identifying such information.

"Though Americans believe confusion caused by false news is extensive, relatively few indicate having seen or shared it," said Lyons. "If people incorrectly see themselves as highly skilled at identifying false news, they may unwittingly be more likely to consume, believe and share it, especially if it conforms to their worldview."

Lyons and his colleagues used two large nationally representative surveys with a total of 8,285 respondents. Individuals were asked to evaluate the accuracy of a series of Facebook headlines and then rate their own abilities to discern false news content. Lyons used these two measures to assess overconfidence among respondents and how it is related to beliefs and behaviors.

"Our results paint a worrying picture. Many people are simply unaware of their own vulnerability to misinformation," said Lyons.

The vast majority of respondents-about 90 percent-reported they are above average in their ability to discern false and legitimate news headlines. Three in four individuals overestimated their ability to distinguish between legitimate and false news headlines and respondents placed themselves 22 percentiles higher than their score warranted, on average. About 20



**Using data measuring respondents' online behavior, we show that those who overrate their ability more frequently visit websites known to spread false or misleading news. These overconfident respondents are also less able to distinguish between true and false claims about current events and report higher willingness to share false content, especially when it aligns with their political leanings**

percent of respondents rated themselves 50 or more percentiles higher than their score warranted.

"Using data measuring respondents' online behavior, we show that those who overrate their ability more frequently visit websites known to spread false or misleading news. These overconfident respondents are also less able to distinguish between true and false claims about current events and report higher willingness to share false content, especially when it aligns with their political leanings," said Lyons.

Prior research suggests it may be individuals' lack of skill itself that drives engagement with false news and finds that people who are worse at discerning between legitimate and false news are worse

at doing so in their browsing habits. However, Lyons' analysis also shows that inflated perceptions of ability are independently associated with engaging with misinformation, suggesting the perceptual gaps are an additional source of vulnerability.

These results provide new evidence of an important potential mechanism by which people may fall victim to misinformation and disseminate it online. Although the design does not identify the causal effect of overconfidence, these findings suggest that the mismatch between one's perceived ability to spot false stories and people's actual abilities may play an important and previously unrecognized role in the spread of false information online.

### Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Pulwama

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

E-NIT NO: 05/EE/PMGSY/PUL OF 2021-22 dated 01-06-2021

Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Pulwama on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir invites item rate bids in electronic tendering system for Renewal coat of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the following works including their maintenance as per PMGSY/MoRTH Guidelines from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S. No	Name of Work with Package No. and Name of Division	Tendered Cost including GST (Rs in lacs.)			Cost of document (Rs in lacs.)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in lacs.)	Time of completion For Construction work	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid)	Class of contractor
		Construction Part	Maintenance Part	Total cost of work						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from Kareewa Zawoora-Devpora, Package no. JK10-64, Length 4.50 Km, Block Keller, District Shopian.	63.79	6.38	70.17	0.06	N/A	06 Months	3 <sup>rd</sup>	14-06-2021 11:00AM	"A" Class/HMPO in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
2	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from Zawoora-Baderhama, Package no. JK10-118, Length 5.50 Km, Block Keller, District Shopian.	81.87	8.19	90.06	0.06	N/A	06 Months	3 <sup>rd</sup>	14-06-2021 11:00AM	"A" Class/HMPO in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
3	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat/ macadamisation on road from A. T02-Keller Sangerwani-Aditrag, Package no. JK10-97, Length 3.00 Km, Block Keller, District Shopian. B. T07 to Wuthing Package no. JK10-132, Length 2.50 Km, Block Aripal, District Pulwama.	73.32	7.33	80.65	0.06	N/A	06 Months	3 <sup>rd</sup>	14-06-2021 11:00AM	"A" Class/HMPO in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
4	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat/ macadamisation on road from A. Chawan to Batfojan, Package no. JK10-115, Length 3.00 Km, Block Keller, District Shopian. B. Veshru B Shalidar Package no. JK10-50, Length 3.00 Km, Block Keller, District Shopian.	85.55	8.55	94.10	0.06	N/A	06 Months	3 <sup>rd</sup>	14-06-2021 11:00AM	"A" Class/HMPO in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
5	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat/ macadamisation on road from A. Km1st RD 600 Chitragam Kashew road- Hafkuri, Package no. JK10-99, Length 3.10 Km, Block Shopian, District Shopian. B. Naserpora-Mukam-i-Dunaroo, Package no. JK10-114, Length 2.50 Km, Block Keller, District Shopian. C. Chitragam-Kashew, Package no. JK10-137, Length 2.48 Km, Block Chitragam, District Shopian.	108.90	10.89	119.79	0.06	N/A	06 Months	3 <sup>rd</sup>	14-06-2021 11:00AM	"A" Class/HMPO in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
6	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from A. Diyar to Adva, Package No.JK10-103, Block Keller, District Shopian Length:- 2.25 Kms B. KM 3rd L062 to Amshipora, Package No.JK10-95, Block Ramnagri, District Shopian Length:- 1.75 Kms	60.92	6.10	67.02	0.06	N/A	06 Months	3 <sup>rd</sup>	14-06-2021 11:00AM	"A" Class/HMPO in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
7	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from A. L028 Durapora To Cherimarg, Package No.JK10-139, Block Shopian, District Zainpora Length:- 1.80 Kms B. Noolie to Mugalopora, Package No.JK10-106, Block Chitragam, District Shopian Length:- 2.0Kms	58.13	5.82	63.95	0.06	N/A	06 Months	3 <sup>rd</sup>	14-06-2021 11:00AM	"A" Class/HMPO in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
8	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on road from Lalpora To Doodimarg, Package no. JK10-98, Length 4.20 Km, Block Tral, District Pulwama.	78.73	7.87	86.60	0.06	N/A	06 Months	3 <sup>rd</sup>	14-06-2021 11:00AM	"A" Class/HMPO in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.

- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 02-06-2021 (10:00 AM) to 12-06-2021 upto (4:30 PM).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 04-06-2021 (10:00 AM) to 12-06-2021 upto 4:30 PM. The bids uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened online on 14-06-2021 at 11:00 AM in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The complete bidding process will be on line.
- Cost of Bid Form:- Rs. 6,000/- (Rupees Six thousand only) per package (non-refundable) only in form of e-challan/treasury challan/receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Pulwama by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0059-PWD (Revenue) and Bid Security Declaration Form should be duly signed by the bidder and attested by Notary/First Class magistrate.
- The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding GST. GST @12% shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issue of allotment.
- A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 03-06-2021 at 11:00 AM in the Office of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Pulwama near R&B Complex Main chowk Pulwama to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents. The intending Bidders, before attending the Pre-bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site of conditions. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website [www.pmgsytenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in). The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). \*Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: [www.pmgsytenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in).
- Bids must be accompanied by cost of document and bid declaration form as mentioned in column 6 of the table in the form as specified in the Bidding Document. The e-challan/treasury challan/receipt on account of cost of bidding document shall be pledged to Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Pulwama. The bid shall be valid for 135 days from the last date of bid submission.
- The Hard Copy of original instruments in respect of cost of bidding document, bid declaration form and original copy of affidavits must be delivered in the office of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Pulwama Near R&B Complex main chowk Pulwama on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid either by Registered Post or by hand failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
- The bidders are advised to upload the required documents/information strictly as per the formats given in Section 3-Qualification Information. The bidder who fails to comply with the said instructions shall be declared as non-responsive.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly on line on same Web Site at the office of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Pulwama Near R&B Complex main Chowk Pulwama.
- The bids of such bidders shall be out rightly rejected whose bids would be lacking behind to comply with the instructions contained under Clause No:-4.7(ii) of Section 2-Instructions to Bidders (ITB) specifically mentioning record of poor performance such as abandoning the works, not properly completing the contract, inordinate delays in completion, litigation history or financial failure etc.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
- Note:- The intending bidders are advised to study the entire bidding document before preparation and submission of their bids. This includes clause 3 (Eligible Bidders), 4 (Qualification of Bidders) of ITB (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to ITB, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.C. & Section 7 of Bidding Document.
- No:- EE/PMGSY/PUL/e-Tendering/  
Dated:

DIPK-2374/21

Executive Engineer  
PMGSY Division Pulwama

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PW(R&B) KASHMIR

### NOTICE INVITING e-Bid

The Executive Engineer, PW(R&B) Project Circle Division 1<sup>st</sup> Srinagar, (Telephone no.0194-2435218; e-mail: [pcd.bypass@gmail.com](mailto:pcd.bypass@gmail.com)) invites on behalf of the President of India online bids on percentage rate from approved and enlisted "A" Class contractors of PWD/CPWD and those of appropriate list of MES, BSNL, other state Government Department dealing with buildings and other experienced/specialized agencies in two cover system for the following work:-

Name of Work:	Construction of New High Court complex at Raki-i-Gund Aksha Bemina Srinagar {Main Court building (2 podium+Ground+6)}
NIT No.	PCD-RnB-12 OF 2021-22
Estimated cost	Rs. 3,10,23,83,448/-
Cost of bidding document	Rs. 14000/- in shape of Demand Draft payable at Srinagar pledged to Executive Engineer Project Circle Division 1st Sgr.
Earnest Money	Bid Security Declaration as per format, given in SBD
Time of Completion	36 Months (03 years)
Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-06-2021 10:00 A.M.
Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	Due to COVID -19 Pandemic there shall be no pre-bid meeting in the office of the Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir. However the clarification be sought through mail Two (2) days before pre-bid meeting date i.e. 07-06-2021 upto 02.00PM. Reply to queries shall be replied online by Office of the Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir through mail. Mail ID of Chief Engineer is <a href="mailto:cepwdnrbkmr@yahoo.in">cepwdnrbkmr@yahoo.in</a>
Bid submission Start Date	09-06-2021 from 10:30 A.M.
Bid Submission End Date	21-06-2021 upto 4.00 P.M.
Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23-06-2021 at 11:00 AM in the Chief Engineer PWD(R&B) Kashmir Srinagar
Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is complete

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

**Not to be printed below this line**

Applicants are advised to keep visiting the above mentioned web-sites from time to time (till the deadline for bid submission) for any updates in respect of the tender documents, if any. Failure to do so shall not absolve the applicant of his liabilities to upload the applications complete in all respect including updates thereof, if any. An incomplete application may be liable for rejection.

No. PCD-Ist/NIT/1337-47  
DATED. 31-05-2021

DIPK-2413/21

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Project Circler Division 1st  
Srinagar

## Centre Moving Towards Deal With Biological E For 30 Crore Covid Vaccine Doses



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Union health ministry has finalised arrangements with Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Biological E. to reserve 30 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses for which it will be making an advance payment of Rs 1,500 crore.

These vaccine doses will be manufactured and stockpiled by Biological E. from August to December this year, a ministry statement said on Thursday.

The COVID-19 vaccine of Biological E. is currently undergoing phase-3 clinical trials after showing promising results in phase 1 and 2 trials.

The vaccine being developed by Biological E. is a RBD protein sub-unit vaccine and is likely to be available in the next few months.

The proposal of Biological E. was examined and recommended for approval after due diligence by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC), the statement said.

The arrangement with Biological E. is part of the wider endeavour of the Centre to encourage indigenous vaccine manufacturers by providing them support in research and development and also financial support, it said.

The Biological E. COVID vac-

cine candidate has been supported by the Centre from preclinical stage to phase-3 studies. The Department of Biotechnology has not only provided financial assistance in terms of grant-in-aid of over Rs 100 crore but has also partnered with Biological E. to conduct all animal challenge and assay studies through its Research Institute Translational Health Science Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad.

This has been undertaken as part of the government's 'Mission COVID Suraksha, the Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission,' which was launched to reinforce and accelerate COVID-19 vaccine development efforts as part of the third stimulus package, Atmanirbhar 3.0, the statement said.

The mission aims to bring to the citizens a safe, efficacious, affordable and accessible COVID-19 vaccine. The mission is supporting development of 5-6 COVID-19 vaccine candidates. Some of these are now closer to licensure and introduction in public health systems.

It has not just accelerated COVID-19 vaccine development efforts, but also fostered a robust end-to-end vaccine development ecosystem in the country that will be available for other ongoing and future research and developmental activities for other vaccines.

## 'Govt Committed To Promote Agro-Entrepreneurship Programmes To Generate Employment Avenues'



KO NEWS DESK

**BARAMULLA:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Ahmad Khan, on Thursday visited Baramulla district where he inaugurated Micro-Irrigation System at Intensive Vegetable Cluster, Sadderbal Palhalan, Pattan besides launching a special programme for revival of local Chilli known as 'Lal Mirchi'.

Advisor was accompanied by Director Agriculture and other senior functionaries.

After the inauguration, Advisor interacted with some local progressive farmers who shared their success stories besides en-

listing agricultural achievements recorded by them in their fields. They also raised some demands for overall welfare of farmers' community.

Advisor appreciated the hard work of these farmers and exhorted them to adopt more scientific and latest farming techniques to further enhance their production and productivity. He also distributed appreciation certificates among some progressive farmers for their excellent performance in agriculture. He also urged the farming community to cultivate cash crops in their fields adding that such crops can maximize their incomes and profits

instantly.

Meanwhile, the Advisor reiterated that the government is committed to promote agro-entrepreneurship programmes which have the potential to generate employment avenues. He added that several farming welfare measures are being taken up despite adverse circumstances emerging due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown.

Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Bhupinder Kumar, SSP Rayees Ahmad Bhat, Chief Agriculture Officers and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

## Navin Chairs SLTC Meet Regarding Finalization Of Scale Of Finance For JK crops

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare and Horticulture department, Navin Kumar Choudhary, today chaired a meeting of State Level Technical Committee (SLTC) regarding finalization of scale of finance.

Principal Secretary had an elaborate discussion on fixation of scale of financing for different crops for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He asked the stake holders to adopt a realistic approach during the entire process of finalizing scale of finance. He said the process should be in consonance with the economic sustainability of different agricultural interventions that are being adopted during the cultivation of different crops.

Navin highlighted the importance of taking into consideration all the pros and cons while



finalizing the scale of finance for all the crops cultivated in the Union Territory.

Earlier, Director Agriculture, Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal, briefed about various parameters that have been taken into consideration while deciding the scale of finance for different crops.

Among others the meeting was attended by Additional Secretary Horticulture, Jahangir Hashmi, Director Horticulture, Kashmir, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat,

Director, Sericulture, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, Registrar Cooperatives J&K, Director Fisheries, Director Sheep Husbandry, Director Animal Husbandry, representatives of SKUAST, conveyor SLBC, General Manager NABARD, representatives of Banks while officers from Jammu division participated online.

Later, Principal Secretary chaired a separate meeting of sub-committee to state level coordination committee on crop insurance.

## Banks Can Now Sell Vijay Mallya's Properties, Shares Worth Rs 5,646 Crore To Recover Dues

**NEW DELHI:** Armed with court order, a consortium of lenders led by SBI can now sell certain real estate properties and securities belonging to fugitive Vijay Mallya to recover loans turned bad with failure of Kingfisher Airlines.

A consortium of 11 banks that gave Mallya loans, led by State Bank of India (SBI), had approached a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court seeking restoration

of his properties seized by the Enforcement Directorate.

The special PMLA court in Mumbai on Tuesday allowed the restoration of properties worth Rs 5,646.54 crore to banks.

According to an official of lead bank SBI, symbolic possession of properties mentioned in the order would be taken by lenders after following due legal process. **PTI**

## Whatsapp Obtaining 'Trick Consent' For Privacy Policy, Centre Tells Delhi HC

Agencies

The Central government has hit back at WhatsApp a week after the social media giant filed a lawsuit in the Delhi High Court.

WhatsApp had filed a lawsuit on May 26 challenging the Centre's new IT rules governing social media. The company stated providing access to encrypted messages would break its privacy protections.

Media reports on Thursday gave details of an additional counter-affidavit filed by the Centre in the Delhi High Court. The affidavit claimed, "WhatsApp is indulging in anti-user practices by obtaining 'trick consent' from users for its updated privacy policy."

The affidavit was filed in response to a PIL lodged by multiple petitioners in February who had demanded a direction to the Centre to order WhatsApp to roll back its new privacy policy or provide users an option to opt out.

ANI reported that the Centre's affidavit claimed, "WhatsApp has unleashed its digital prowess to existing users and would force them to accept updated 2021 privacy policy, to transfer existing user base committed to updated privacy policy before Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill becomes law."

The affidavit alleged the "current notifications being pushed by WhatsApp on its users, exist-



ing and new ones, is against the very grain of prima facie opinion of the Competition Commission of India's order dated March 24, 2021," ANI reported.

Bar and Bench reported the "Central government stated that WhatsApp users, who have not accepted the updated 2021 privacy policy, are now being bombarded with notifications on everyday basis".

The Centre urged the Delhi High Court "to issue interim direction to WhatsApp to desist from any action of 'push notifications' onto users related to updated 2021 privacy policy and to place on the record number of times such notifications are being pushed daily and their conversion rate".

Earlier in May, WhatsApp had claimed users would start losing access to features if they did not accept the privacy policy by May 15.

However, later, the company claimed that following discussions with the government and experts, it would not limit functionality to those who had not accepted the privacy policy. But WhatsApp added that those users who had not accepted the privacy policy would get reminders.

## Realme Plans 5G Phone For Less Than Rs 10K Next Year



Realme launched about 14 products in 22 markets, accounting for about 40 per cent of its portfolio. By 2022, the number of 5G products will reach above 20 accounting for 70 per cent of all Realme product models across markets.

**NEW DELHI:** Smart devices maker Realme on Thursday said it expects to bring a 5G smartphone for less than Rs 10,000 next year, and plans bring down the handset price to around Rs 7,000 apiece thereafter.

Realme Vice-President and CEO (India and Europe) Madhav Sheth at a 5G summit announced that the company will invest over Rs 2,100 crore (USD 300 million) on research and development globally on 5G and set up seven R&D centres at different locations, including in India.

Sheth said that after 3-4 years of development, Realme believes that 5G smartphone development has entered the 2.0 era where the devices have become affordable compared to the 1.0 era when 5G was limited to high-end flagship devices at high price.

When asked when will Realme bring a 5G smartphone for less than Rs 10,000, Sheth replied: "Definitely by next year."

5G smartphone price will go down with more development and will be available in the mid-range and entry-level segments. "In future, Realme will also like to democratise by launching 5G smartphones around USD 100 (around Rs 7,200)," Sheth said.

The company will also expand its 5G portfolio. Sheth said that in 2020,

"By the time networks are going to be commercially available, we will see large part of India already on 5G devices," Vagadia said.

He said India is very much adopting 5G because consumers are aware that it will give better gaming and camera experience.

Sheth said Realme has dedicated 90 per cent of its R&D resources for 5G and will continue to focus on innovation in the next generation technology space.

"In the next two years, we will invest a significant amount of USD 300 million globally in research and product development based on the 5G technology.

"To support the global adoption of 5G products, it will set up seven 5G R&D centres," Sheth.

The R&D centres will be opened in China, western Europe, eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, India, Middle East, and Latin America.

"Realme will be leveraging these seven R&D centres this year and will take lead in carrying out 5G network pilot programmes in 10-15 markets in preparation for 5G product launches," Sheth said. **PTI**

## Iran Lifts Cap On Carrying Foreign Cash

Agencies



The top economic decision and policy making authority in Iran has dismantled restrictions imposed in June last year on carrying foreign cash while it exempts raw gold, silver and platinum from any form of import duties.

A Wednesday report by the IRIB News cited a decision adopted by Iran's Supreme Council of Economic Coordination (SCEC) earlier in the day which said that carrying foreign currencies into Iran would be free of any caps and limits.

"Carrying of foreign currencies in the form of banknotes into the country would be authorized for legal and real entities without maximum limits," the report quoted as saying a section of the decision announced by the Council.

It said, however, that the transfers should comply with laws and regulations adopted by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and consistent with Iran's laws on fighting money laundering.

The CBI announced in June

2020 that individuals would be required to declare holding, carrying or exchanging foreign banknotes above 10,000 euros or their equivalents in other foreign currencies.

The bank said the law was meant to calm down rampant forex prices at the time when Iran was feeling the brunt of American sanctions on its economy.

In its Wednesday decision, the SCEC also waived duties imposed on raw imports of three precious metals, namely gold, silver and platinum.

It said importers of the three metals will be exempt from paying all duties and taxes, including a 9% value-added tax which is charged on finished products.

The SCEC, comprised of heads of three branches of the Iranian government including the Iranian president, convenes monthly meetings to finalize decisions and policies on macroeconomic issues in Iran.

### SHORT TAKES

## Why Mukesh Ambani Drew 'Nil' Salary In Financial Year 2020-21

The richest Indian, Mukesh Ambani, drew no salary from his flagship firm Reliance Industries Ltd in the fiscal year ended March 31 as he voluntarily gave up remuneration in light of the pandemic hitting the business and the economy.

In its latest annual report, Reliance said Ambani's remuneration for financial year 2020-21 was "nil".

In the previous fiscal year, he drew a Rs 15 crore salary from the company—the same as in the previous 11 years.

Ambani has kept salary, perquisites, allowances and commission together at Rs 15 crore since 2008-09, forgoing over Rs 24 crore per annum.

"In light of the COVID-19 outbreak in India, which has exacted a huge toll on the societal, economic and industrial health of the nation, Mukesh D. Ambani, the Chairman and Managing Director, has voluntarily decid-



ed to forego his salary," the company had said in June last year.

Remuneration of his cousins, Nikhil and Hital Meswani, remained unchanged at Rs 24 crore, but this time it included Rs 17.28 crore commission.

Executive Directors P.M.S. Prasad and Pawan Kumar Kapil saw their remuneration go up after they got performance-linked incentives for two years.

While Prasad drew Rs 11.99 crore in 2020-21, up from Rs 11.15 crore in the previous year, Kapil got Rs 4.24 crore as against Rs 4.04 crore in

2019-20.

The payment of Prasad and Kapil included "performance-linked incentives for FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21," the annual report said.

Ambani's wife Nita, a non-executive director on the company's board, earned Rs 8 lakh sitting fee and another Rs 1.65 crore commission for the year.

Apart from Ambani, the RIL board has Meswani brothers, Prasad and Kapil as whole-time directors.

Besides Nita Ambani, other non-executive directors include Yogen P. Trivedi, Dipak C Jain, Raghu A. Mashelkar, Adil Zainulbhai, Raminder Singh Gujral, Shumeet Banerji, former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya and former CVC K.V. Chowdhary.

All independent directors got a Rs 1.65 crore commission for the year besides a sitting fee of up to Rs 36 lakh. **PTI**

## Facebook Partners Asia Foundation For New Tools To Combat Online Hate, Intolerance

**NEW DELHI:** Facebook on Thursday said it has launched 'The Resiliency Initiative' website that aims to provide tools and resources towards combating hate and intolerance online.

Launched in partnership with The Asia Foundation, The Resiliency Initiative "aims to promote tolerance, strengthen interfaith and inter-ethnic understanding, and counter violent extremism in Asia Pacific".

"This community-centred initiative began with online workshops for 60 organisations from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Pakistan and the Philippines.

The website is the next step in strengthening the community of practice," Facebook said in a blogpost.

'The Resiliency Initiative' website provides civil society organisations with a suite of tools and resources



to help them harness social media to build stronger communities particularly in areas affected by violent conflict, it added.

This includes guidance on getting started on social media, creating effective online content, managing presence on social media, measuring impact, and combating misinformation.

It also includes case studies with insights from communities across the region.

The website is currently available in English and is launching in Bengali, Thai and Urdu in the coming

weeks, with more languages to follow in the future, the statement said.

"At Facebook, we aim to identify and remove harmful content from our platforms as quickly as possible and we've made good progress in this area. But this is just one part of the solution.

It's equally important to enable constructive dialogue and encourage counter speech in order to promote social cohesion and counter offline harm," the blog said.

The Resiliency Initiative is one of the flagship programmes to address hate and violent extremism, it added.

In the second half of the year, 'The Resiliency Initiative' will work with civil society organisations in Asia Pacific to build out their social resilience campaigns to combat hate online, and expand the reach of the programme into new communities in the region. **PTI**

## Blast At Garbage Dump Triggers Panic In Natipora

**SRINAGAR:** A mysterious blast at a garbage dump in Srinagar triggered panic among residents on Thursday, officials said.

The blast took place after employees of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation set the garbage in fire in the Natipora area, they said.

There was no loss of life. The glass panel of a nearby shop was damaged in the impact of the explosion.

The site of the explosion is in the vicinity of a Dedicated COVID-19 Health Centre in Chanapore which was visited by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during the day.

## J&K's Devika River Project Matter Of Faith For People Of Region: Jitendra Singh

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday said the Devika river project in Jammu and Kashmir is a matter of faith for the people of the region and hoped that it would be possible to complete it by the beginning of next year.

He reviewed the project at a high-level meeting attended among others by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, Principal Secretary Housing and Urban Development Board Dhiraj Gupta and Udhampur Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chib.

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said the Devika project is not a mere project but a matter of faith for everyone, particularly the people of Udhampur, and therefore any suggestion or input coming from any quarter should be viewed positively, regardless of the political affiliation or political party of the person who puts forth the suggestion.

Recalling his visit to the project site in January this year, Singh said he had expressed disappointment at the slow pace of work but added that the second wave of COVID-19 has also been a challenge, according to a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

He, however, hoped that now that things have been streamlined to get it executed with better co-ordination between executing agencies, it would be possible to complete the project by the beginning of next year, it said. The work on the Rs 190 crore project under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) started in March 2019.

Under the project, bathing ghats (places) on the banks of the Devika river will be developed, encroachments will be removed, natural water bodies will be restored and catchment areas will be developed, the statement said.

# 17 pilots of Air India, IndiGo, Vistara died of Covid in May

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** A total of 17 pilots of Air India, IndiGo and Vistara died due to COVID-19 in May when the country witnessed the peak of the coronavirus pandemic's second wave, sources said on Thursday.

IndiGo lost 10 pilots and Vistara two, aviation industry sources stated.

Air India officials said five senior pilots - captains Harsh Tiwary, G P S Gill, Prasad Karmakar, Sandeep Rana and Amitesh Prasad - of the national carrier died of Covid.

No pilot has died due to COVID-19 at AirAsia India till date, the industry sources mentioned.

Air India and Vistara did not respond to the queries sent by PTI on this matter.

While IndiGo did not comment about the pilots' deaths, the carrier said it has given first dose to around 20,000 of its total 35,000 employees and its ground handling subsidiary Agile.

"We are committed to covering our entire workforce by mid-June," said Raj Raghavan, Senior VP & Head of Human Resources, IndiGo, in a statement to PTI.

Indigo has a "robust" welfare scheme and a "benevolent policy" so that each family of the deceased pilot would be getting Rs 5 crore, the sources mentioned.

They added that while there were barely a few pilots of IndiGo who tested positive during the first wave, almost 450 pilots of the carrier tested positive for COVID-19 during the second wave.

Private carriers such as Vistara



and AirAsia India have given at least the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to around 99 per cent and 96 per cent of their eligible employees, respectively, as of now.

People who are being treated for Covid or have recently recovered are not considered eligible for vaccination.

Meanwhile, after a delay due to non-availability of vaccines, Air India has started vaccinating its employees from May 15 onwards, the carrier's officials stated.

Air India had on May 4 said it would vaccinate all its employees against Covid by the month-end as a pilots' body had

demanding inoculation of the flying crew on priority basis citing risk to their lives from the deadly infection.

Six days later, the carrier had to tell its employees that it would not be able to hold vaccination camps for them at the Delhi airport on May 11 and May 13 due to "non-availability" of vaccines.

In a communication to employees on May 10, Air India said: "The proposed COVID vaccination camp at GSD Complex, Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) on May 11 and May 13 stands cancelled because government authorities have expressed inability to hold

these camps due to non-availability of vaccines."

"Fresh dates will be notified once we get re-confirmation from government authorities," it added.

Go First (formerly known as GoAir) and Spicejet did not respond to PTI's queries on how many of their pilots have died due to COVID-19 in May.

The spokesperson of AirAsia India, which has vaccinated around 96 per cent of its eligible employees, stated: "We will soon be covering 100% of our workforce, excluding those ineligible for medical reasons, such as recovering from Covid in the recent past." PTI DSP

## Tourism Deptt to Celebrate Environment Day

**SRINAGAR:** The Tourism Department is celebrating World Environment Day in a big way. Cleanliness drives, awareness camps and interactive sessions to preserve the fragile ecology would be held at all the tourist destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonmarg and other places.

In Srinagar many programmes have been planned at various spots to mark the day and spread the awareness about the need to preserve and conserve the ecology and environment.

## Soldier Succumbs To Gunshot Wounds

**SRINAGAR:** An army man succumbed to gunshot wounds at a hospital on Thursday, a day after he was critically injured due to accidental fire in Sopore town of Baramulla district.

Muneer Ramzan Ganaie, who was deployed with army's 52 RR, was critically injured when his service rifle accidentally went off in Sopore town. A resident of Larkipora in Anantnag district, Ganaie was removed to the hospital for treatment. However, he succumbed to serious gunshot injuries at the hospital on Thursday.

After completing the medico-legal formalities his body has been dispatched to his native village for his burial.

## Welder Falls from GMC Building, Dies

**Srinagar:** A young welder died after falling from an under-construction building of Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla on Tuesday.

21-year-old Sajad Ahmad Dar of Beerwah in Budgam district fell off a building while engaged in his occupational work, resulting in his instant death.

Confirming the incident, a senior police official said that the person has fallen off from the third floor of an under-construction building at GMC. "A case has been set underway into the incident for further investigations," the official added.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## Collective Action

health department to ensure functioning of ventilators and other life-saving equipments, besides compulsory training of human resources for operationalization of these equipments.

"Each hospital in the UT would submit a comprehensive report on Healthcare Assets utilization on a weekly basis," Sinha said, adding "Doctors, nurses, and frontline warriors like Babli Rani, Dr. Tazyeen Younis, and Additional SP Feroz Yehya are the backbone of our health system. They have served the people with utmost dedication to save lives,"

Emphasizing on aggressive vaccination and testing to break the chain of transmission, the LG, as per the official spokesperson underlined the need to act more holistically and protect those who are most vulnerable.

"While we have reformed our health system and decentralized community healthcare, we must accelerate vaccination & testing for vulnerable groups and mobilize all necessary resources for continuous assistance," the LG said.

"Making optimum utilization of Covid Care Centres in Panchayats with community contribution, especially in areas where home isolation is not feasible, needs to be done. Besides, areas with high positivity rate need to be identified and declared as micro containment zones so that preventive measures can be taken to break the spread of the virus," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, directions were also passed to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and DC Budgam for speeding up the development works, setting of a new District Hospital, Urdu University, besides expansion and up-gradation of rural roads in the district.

He said that the Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza, while giving the overview of the Covid containment measures being taken in the district, apprised the LG that 80% of HCWs, 73% FLWs, and 77% above 45 years age-group have been covered with first dose of vaccine.

"500 LPM oxygen capacity at DCHC Chanapora is meeting the requirements of the patients. 08 Isolation facilities (Level-II Hospital) having a bed capacity of 437 with 299 beds with oxygen facilities, while 08 COVID-19 Care Centres with bed capacity of 965. 10587 patients recovered so far, besides 2699 Covid kits have been distributed in the District," Mirza said, as per official spokesperson.

DC Budgam, he said, further informed that Covid Care Centres in all 296 Panchayats of the district are established and a total of 12 Covid Control Rooms (24x7) are functional and around 25820 calls have made to patients in Home Isolation.

"Also, 24 Senior Doctors/Consultants are available for Tele-Medicine services across the District and 3725 people have been served with telemedicine services," Mirza said, as per official spokesperson, adding "Door to Door surveillance by Medical Teams being done and PRIs, NGOs, and religious leaders have been roped in for IEC activities. NGO Mother Foundation Association was also roped in to provide specialized Tele-Consultation services to general populace, Mirza said.

While appreciating the efforts of the District Administration, Ganderbal for achieving the milestone of 100 % coverage of first dose of vaccine among above 45 years age group, the LG, as per the official spokesperson asked the DC Ganderbal Kritika Jyotsna to share the good practices with other District Administrations as well.

He said that the DC Ganderbal gave an overview of the Covid containment measures being taken by the Administration and informed that the Nodal officers have been appointed for monitoring of vaccination centres and micro-containment zones.

"This innovative method of real-time monitoring has made a huge difference to accelerate the vaccination process in the district. Besides, 1200 people are under home isolation in Ganderbal and 24x7 Control rooms are operational to facilitate the patients. 1358 Covid kits have been distributed under Covid management efforts," the official spokesperson quoted Jyotsna as saying.

DC Ganderbal, he said, also informed that Covid Care Centres (CCC) have been established in all the Panchayats of the district with RAT testing facility at every CCC.

"Regarding oxygen supply, it was informed that a 1000 LPM capacity oxygen generation plant is fully functional at DH Ganderbal," he added.

Principal Secretary Nitishwar Kumar, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Mohammad Ajjaz, Director Health Services, Kashmir Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather and other senior officers accompanied the LG.

## Ex-Militant Killed

stores used in fabrication of IEDs was recovered from him, the police spokesperson said adding following the recovery a case FIR No. 48/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Tral.

"The militant operative was on police remand and on June 2 he was brought from Police Station Tral to the Police Component, Tral for further interrogation," he said.

Divulging more details, the police spokesperson said that during the interrogation, Malik got hold of the AK-47 rifle of constable Amjad Khan and fired indiscriminately with intention to kill the cops.

"He critically wounded Constable Amjad Khan. The militant operative then took total control of the interrogation room and engaged the policemen by firing intermittently from the snatched weapon," he said.

"Sensing grave danger to the lives of policemen and that of the militant operative, his mother and Executive Magistrate were brought on the site and repeated sincere efforts were made to persuade him to through away the weapon and surrender," he added.

The police spokesperson said that showing complete defiance to such persuasions and refusing to surrender, Malik also fired upon the police party engaged in persuasion.

"One of the police personnel was hit with a bullet on chest and survived because of the bulletproof jacket he was wearing," he said, adding that after failing all efforts to ensure his surrender, the militant was engaged in a gun fight following the rules and SoP of such engagement and was neutralised.

"The snatched weapon was recovered from the possession of the militant operative. In this regard, case FIR No. 61/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Tral and investigation taken up," said the police spokesperson.

He further said that body of slain militant was sent to Police Hospital Srinagar for medico-legal formalities.

According to the police spokesperson, Malik had remained an active militant of Hizbul Mujahideen in the past and was arrested in

2003. His brother Shabir Malik was also a militant of Ansar Gazwat-ul Hind and was killed in an encounter at Brenpathri in 2019.

## Police Issues Advisory

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said in a tweet.

Kumar's Tweet came in the backdrop of the killing of a BJP councillor Rakesh Pandita in Tral Payeen area on Wednesday night.

Pandita, as per party spokesperson was a councillor from Tral Bala-C and was visiting his friend at Tral Payeen where suspected militants fired upon him. A woman identified as Asifa Mushtaq was also injured in the surprise attack.

In a statement issued after Pandita's assassination, police had said that three unidentified militants had fired upon him when he was visiting his friend in Tral Payeen area.

"It is pertinent to mention that the deceased was a protected person and two PSOs were deployed for his security and secured accommodation was also provided to him at Srinagar. However, at the time of incident he was without any security as he defied the SOPs and went to his native village without PSOs," the police spokesperson had said.

The killing of Pandita comes over two months after militants attacked Sopore Municipal Council on March 29 and killed two BJP councillors- Reyaz Ahmad Peer and Shamas Din, besides a policeman identified as Shaqfat Nazir.

Last year on June 8, another Kashmiri Pandit and a Congress Sarpanch Ajay Pandita was shot dead by suspected militants in Larkipora of Anantnag district.

A month later on July 8, militants carried out an audacious attack in Bandipora killing BJP leader Wasim Bari, his father Bashir Ahmad and brother Umer Bashir at their shop, adjacent to their house which is in close vicinity to a police station.

However, the militants stepped up attacks on BJP leaders and workers in the first week of August. In three attacks a BJP Sarpanch Sajjad Khanday and party worker Hamid Jamil Najar were killed and another Sarpanch Arif Ahmad Shah was injured.

## Army Ready For

conduct of the Amarnath Yatra. Of course, the decision to conduct the yatra or not lies with the civil administration but we are ready from our side," Army Chief General M M Naravane said on Thursday.

He further said that he had been briefed about the situation by the commanders and "I am glad to say that all the parameters we judge normalcy by have seen great improvement".

The army chief was talking to a select group of journalists after his two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

About the situation in the valley, he said the entire nation wanted peace and tranquillity to prevail in this region.

"In this overall gamut, the role of Army is to bring down levels of violence to an extent where the civil administration and the local security forces can then play the role...that is where the role of Army lies, the two works in sync with the local administration and all the other forces who are here, the ultimate aim of course being to bring down the levels of violence so that peace and development can take place," he added.

The army chief also issued a message to the youths of Jammu and Kashmir, asking them to shun the path of violence saying that after a long time a situation has been reached where peace and tranquillity prevail and people are

in a position to pursue their dreams and their aspirations.

"So, my message not only for youth but everyone would be that it is only when we will have peace and tranquillity, there will be development and if there is development, we will be able to prosper together and therefore we should shun this path of violence.

"It does not get you anywhere. You just need to see outside, how the world has moved on, how India has moved on and therefore embrace the future and the world over the future lies in shunning violence. And if you do that, it will only hasten the process of ushering a new era of development and prosperity," he said.

Gen Naravane also made it clear that there was no troop reduction in the near future saying although the ceasefire is in place "we cannot, in any way, reduce our levels of alertness and preparedness".

He pointed out that the Counter Infiltration Grid of the Army along the LoC and Counter Insurgency Grid keep on assessing the situation from time to time.

"All these deployments are dynamic and they depend on the situation and the threat perception... If we feel that the situation permits, then definitely we do take recourse to pulling out some troops from active deployment to the rear areas so that they also get time for rest and relief as also for training but they will not be pulled out altogether," he said.

In reply to a question about the ceasefire, agreed by India and Pakistan in February, he said, "As you know we had entered into an understanding with Pakistan at the end of February to observe a ceasefire along the LoC. The ceasefire as of now is holding and the responsibility or I may say the onus of making sure that the ceasefire holds is squarely on Pakistan. We are willing to observe the ceasefire as long as they do so."

However, the army chief pointed out that while the ceasefire is on, the militant infrastructure and presence of militants on the other side of the LoC continue.

"And therefore, there can be no slackening as far as we are concerned in our levels of preparedness and alertness," he made it clear.

The army chief, who earlier visited the forward posts along the LoC, was asked whether Pakistan could be trusted with the ceasefire. He sought to make it clear saying "trust is a very difficult thing to come by and it takes a very long time to develop and there have been decades of mistrust between Pakistan and India and obviously the situation on that score cannot change overnight."

He said that if they continue to observe ceasefire in letter and spirit, "if they desist from pushing in militants across and foment trouble in India, then all these small steps will definitely go incrementally to build up that

trust between the two countries."

"So, as I said, the onus is entirely on Pakistan to build up on whatever we have achieved so far," he said.

## Asks Troops At

challenges effectively. Naravane, who arrived in Kashmir on Wednesday, reviewed the security situation along the LoC on the last day of his two-day visit to Kashmir Valley, an army spokesperson said. He was accompanied by Lt Gen YK Joshi, the Northern Army Commander and Lt Gen DP Pandey, Chinara Corps Commander.

The Army Chief, he said, visited the formations and units, wherein the local Commanders briefed the COAS on the existing security situation and the measures instituted to foil infiltration by militants from Pakistan controlled-Kashmir. He also interacted with the troops and complimented them for their high morale and the high state of operational preparedness.

"While appreciating the current state of peace prevailing along the Line of Control, he cautioned all commanders and troops to not let their guard down and to remain prepared to meet any emerging security challenges effectively," the army spokesperson said.

Naravane, he said, also complimented all Government agencies for their close coordination in maintaining peace in the region and reaching out to the people wholeheartedly to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Bajwa Witnesses

an operational cycle, said a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the military's media wing on Wednesday.

"Rigorous training and continued practice of operational drills are imperative for effective response to wide ranging threats, Gen Bajwa told the troops.

The troops and units participating in the exercise will rehearse various defensive and offensive manoeuvres in the mountainous terrain, the statement added.

## اظہارِ تعزیت

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ ہمارے بڑے بھائی گلزار احمد بٹ ولد حاجی عبدالقادر بٹ ساکنہ محبوب کالونی نئی پورہ نزدیکی مسجد عثمانیہ مورخہ 3 جون 2021ء کو رحلت کر گئے۔ انا اللہ وانا الیہ راجعون۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں جگہ عطا فرمائیں۔ آمین۔ ان سب رشتہ داروں، دوستوں وغیرہ کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں کہ جنہوں نے ہماری ڈھارس بندھائی اور دکھ کی اس گڑھی میں ہمارے ساتھ رہے۔ اب یہ اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ تعزیت صرف تین دن تک رہے گی۔

## سوگواران

راجہ جہانگیر بٹ، محمد رفیع بٹ، محمد منزل

فون نمبرات: 7780929550, 8899002082

## Veteran BCCI Scorers Request Ganguly To Provide Them With 'Retirement Benefits'

AUSTRALIA				INDIA			
WKS	WKS	WKS	WKS	BATSMEN	OUT	B	RUNS
7	2	1	1	SHAW	B	2	4
4	2	1	1	BUMRAH	CB	2	2
5	4	4	4	PUJARA	CW	2	0
				AGARWAL	CM	3	9
				RAHANE	CW	3	0
				KOHLI	C	5	2
				SAHA	C6	3	4
				ASHWIN	CW	3	0

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** They recorded thousands of runs scored by Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli along with hundreds of wickets taken by Kapil Dev and Anil Kumble only to find that their own "balance sheet" makes for a dismal reading after decades of yeoman service to Indian cricket.

These are BCCI accredited retired scorers.

Around 17 of them have now appealed in unison to BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, seeking some sort of "retirement benefits" after bidding adieu at the age of 55 years.

The initiative was taken by veteran Mumbai Cricket Association scorer Vivek Gupte, who on behalf of 17 scorers across the country, has appealed to Ganguly via e-mail for helping the financially distressed section of Indian cricket's eco-system.

"While we were requesting the BCCI to increase the retirement age of the scorers, which requires much lesser physical exhaustion, the BCCI has now upped the umpires' age limit from 55 to 60 years," Gupte lamented during a chat with PTI.

"In our request mail, we had also mentioned that all these 'Retired' scorers are senior scorers who are into the activity of scoring for about three decades."

The BCCI accredited scorers now get Rs 10,000 per match day but in the post COVID-19 world, their income has significantly gone down with BCCI not being able to arrange any red ball tournaments last season.

However, it's the former scorers, who have now been retired as per BCCI policy, who have fallen on

hard times with most of them not having a plan B for tough times.

"When we started scoring the payments were meagre – as less as Rs 50/- per day. The senior scorers have given their lifetime and everything to this rather neglected activity, without much expectations – be it monetary or name or fame," Gupte said in his mail.

Gupte urged BCCI to at least take a note of the sacrifices made by the scorers' community for pursuing a field which was more of a passion than profession.

"There were lot of sacrifices involved – some have given up their job by taking early retirement, many have not opted for promotion in professional careers for fear of displacement which could have resulted in giving up scoring," the e-mail stated. It also stressed that a proper retirement policy should be given to the scorers.

"Hence, the request was that a proper retirement policy be framed and put in place and that the retired scorers should be given, – retirement benefits by way of a fixed monthly pension and/ or a one time lump sum amount and medical cover benefit," it said.

The retired scorers through the letter expressed confidence that the "BCCI will certainly be working out something fruitful for the benefit of senior retired scorers."

Out of 17 scorers, MS Rahman (Jharkhand) died sometime back and Sunil Landge from the Baroda Cricket Association was added to the list from December last year.

The 17 'retired' scorers include three from the Mumbai Cricket Association.

## With 136 On Lord's Debut, Conway Breaks Ganguly's Long-Held Record

Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** New Zealand batsman Devon Conway has broken former India captain Sourav Ganguly's 25-year-old record of registering the highest Test score on debut at Lord's when he went past the stylish southpaw's 131 during the first Test against England.

Conway, who is also a left-handed batsman, remained unbeaten 136 as New Zealand finished the first day at a solid 246 for three.

With his opening day exploits, the South African-born 29-year-old became the sixth cricketer to hit a hundred on debut at the iconic venue.

Ganguly, who is now the BCCI president, had scored 131 on his Test debut at what is referred to as the Mecca of cricket in 1996.

Interestingly, both Conway and Ganguly share their birthday – July 8 – but are separated by nearly 20 years in age.

Speaking to Sky Sports at the end of the day's play, Conway said, "I'll have some time to let that settle in. The job's not done but I'm very happy."

"I had a conversation with (skipper) Kane (Williamson) a couple of days ago and asked him



what it feels like to go on that honours board; the first thing he said to me was: now you're on it, boy."

With his century, Conway became only the third non-English batsman to score a century on Test debut at Lord's.

Australian batsman Harry Graham had scored 107 against England on his Test debut in 1893.

Debutant Conway reached the three-figure mark in style, smashing fast-medium bowler Ollie Robinson for a six in the 61st over of the innings.

Conway struck 16 fours and faced 240 balls during his stay in the middle.

# PM Modi Reviews India's Preparations For Tokyo Olympics

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Thursday that every need of our sportspersons, from vaccination to training facilities, must be fulfilled as a top priority as he chaired a meeting to review India's preparations for the Tokyo Olympics, which will start in 50 days.

Modi said sports is at the heart of our national character and that our youths are creating a strong and vibrant culture of sports, adding that he would be connecting with India's Olympics contingent through a video conference in July to encourage them and wish them on behalf of all Indians, according to a statement.

He said wishes of 135 crore Indians will be with our youngsters participating in the Olympics, noting that for every sportsman shining on the global stage, a thousand more will be inspired to take up sports.

Modi was briefed that a total of 100 athletes have qualified for Tokyo Olympics across 11 sports disciplines and about 25 more athletes are likely to qualify, the PMO statement said. While a total of 19 Indian athletes had participated at the last paralympics in 2016 at Rio de Janeiro, 26 para athletes have qualified



and 16 more are likely to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics, it said.

Officials said special attention will also be given towards motivating athletes and boosting their morale while they participate in the Olympics.

Therefore, regular video conferences will be organised with their parents and family members back in India through the course of the competition, they said.

Tokyo Olympics is scheduled to begin from July 23.

In the review meeting, a presentation was made by officials

on various aspects of operational readiness for the upcoming games.

Modi was apprised about various steps taken towards ensuring uninterrupted training for athletes amid the pandemic, participation in international competitions to win Olympic quota, vaccination of athletes, and customised support being provided to them.

He directed that every qualified and probable athlete, support staff and officials travelling to the Tokyo for the mega sporting event must be vaccinated as soon as possible.

## India Likely To Send 190-Strong Contingent To Olympics: IOA Chief Batra



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian contingent for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics is expected to be around 190, including over 100 athletes, IOA president Narinder Batra said on Thursday as Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju unveiled the official kits for the country's participants.

So far, 100 athletes have qualified for the Tokyo Games, including 56 men and 44 women.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) expects another 25 to 35 to make the cut for the Games, which open on July 23.

"...we are estimating to touch 125 to 135 (qualified athletes) by the next two to three weeks when the qualification process is over," Batra said during the online ceremony.

"This means the Indian contingent, including officials and support staff, is likely to be around 190," he added.

The number of officials cannot be more than one-third of the athlete group as per the Sports Ministry rules. The ministry can, how-

ever, allow additional officials at no cost to the government.

Batra also reiterated that India's medal haul can touch the double-digit mark in Tokyo, which will be an unprecedented achievement.

The IOA chief said that all the athletes who have qualified for the Olympics have received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine except for a few who have recently contracted the virus.

He requested Rijiju to ensure that all the Indian athletes are fully vaccinated before they head to Tokyo.

"The IOC will issue a Playbook (latest version) this month but there will be only minor changes (from earlier version). We have to follow all the health and safety protocols in view of the pandemic."

Unveiling the official kits of the Indian contingent, Rijiju said the whole country is behind the athletes.

"Olympics is the platform where the best in the world will compete. I hope our athletes will make their best effort and make the country proud by winning medals," he said.

"Today, the prime minister took a

review of the country's preparation for the Olympics and assured the participating athletes that the entire country is behind them," he added.

He said his ministry has provided all kinds of support—financial and logistical—to the athletes amid the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The official kits are sponsored by Li Ning while the official ceremonial kits are sponsored by Raymonds. IOA Secretary General Rajiv Mehta said that four sets of official kits will be given to each athlete and more than 100 kits have been kept aside as contingency.

"We have received the health protocols the athletes have to follow. There will be double testing of athletes before departure. All these things, we will work out with the chief-de-mission and his deputy," Mehta said.

Six Olympic-bound athletes, including Neeraj Chopra, Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya, Sumit Malik and Seema Bisla, were present. Chief-de-mission of the Indian contingent BP Baishya and his deputy Prem Chand Verma were also present.

## Ravi Shastri's Support Motivated Siraj To Stay Back In Australia After Father's Death

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** India pacer Mohammed Siraj has revealed that words of encouragement from head coach Ravi Shastri during the team's tour of Australia made him change his mind about returning home after his father's death.

"Tu Test match khel, dekh tereko 5 wickets milega. Tere Daddy ka dua tera saath hoga' (You play the Test match. You will get 5 wickets as your father's blessings are with you)," was what Shastri told him before the second Test in Melbourne, according to the speedster.

Siraj received the news of his father's death on November 20, less than a month before the blockbuster four-match Test series was set to begin in Adelaide.

He was indecisive until Shastri intervened and motivated him. The 27-year-old Siraj bagged five wickets for 77 runs on his Test debut at the hallowed Melbourne Cricket Ground.

'Match ke baad Ravi sir ne bahut khush hokar bola, tujhe bola tha na 5 wickets milega (Ravi sir said after the match that I told that you will be

getting five wickets). I became very confident after my coaches encouraged me in such a way,' Siraj told ABP news.

Not just Shastri but the entire team management was supportive of Siraj, who plays under skipper Virat Kohli in IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore.

'Virat Bhai is always there. When I couldn't perform well in the IPL two years back, he showed faith in my ability. He retained me in RCB and I am grateful for this,' said Siraj.

'When I lost my father during the Australia tour, both Ravi sir and bowling coach Bharat Arun sir were so supportive.' He grabbed a five-wicket innings haul in Australia's second innings in the fourth and final Test in Brisbane as India won the match for a historic 2-1 series triumph.

Siraj is currently in England with the Indian team for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand and a five-match series against hosts England. The Hyderabad speedster has so far captured 16 wickets in five Tests and three wickets in three T20 Internationals.

## India Men And Women Cricket Teams Arrive In England



Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** The Indian men's cricket team arrived here on Thursday for the upcoming World Test Championship final against New Zealand and the subsequent Test series versus hosts England.

The men's team was accompanied by the women's side which is touring England for three ODIs and as many T20s besides the one-off Test, starting in Bristol on June 16.

"Touchdown," top-order batsman KL Rahul tweeted with a picture of the chartered flight in the background, confirming their safe arrival in London.

Both the teams will now travel to Southampton, where they will complete their mandatory quarantine. Upon completion of the quarantine period and subsequent Covid test, the Virat Kohli-led men's team will take on New Zealand in the maiden WTC final starting here from June 18.

Following the WTC final, the men's team will face England in a five-match Test series starting August 4 in Nottingham. India are travelling with an extended 20-member squad for WTC final and subsequent series against England keeping the Covid pandemic in mind. The women's team's tour ends on July 15.

## Gautam Gambhir's Foundation Guilty Of Illegally Stocking, Distributing COVID Medicines, HC Told

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Gautam Gambhir Foundation has been found guilty of unauthorised stocking, procuring and distributing Fabiflu medicine to Covid patients, the Delhi High Court was informed by the Delhi government's drug controller on Thursday.

The drug controller submitted that action will be taken without delay against the foundation, drug dealers as also in other such cases which would be brought to its notice.

MLA Praveen Kumar has also been found guilty for similar offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, the court was informed.



The court asked the drug controller to file status reports on further progress in these cases within six weeks and listed the matter for hearing on July 29.

## PSL 6: Indian Broadcasting Team Yet To Get Clearance From Abu Dhabi Govt

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** A 16-member Indian broadcasting team which is in Abu Dhabi to cover the remaining PSL 6 matches is yet to get clearance from the concerned authorities of the gulf nation which has led to the delay in finalising the dates of the event, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said.

The remaining 20 matches of Pakistan Super League 6 have become a major challenge for the PCB which is already under fire for the way it shifted the event to Abu Dhabi.

The PSL 6 was suspended in March after the completion of just 14 games due to rising COVID-19 cases among players and officials.

"Till Wednesday the PCB is still awaiting clearance from the Ministry of Health of Abu Dhabi to allow 16 members of the broadcasting crew from India to cover the event which has already led to the delay of Pakistan team's departure to England by

two days," a source in the board said.

He said that the Indian broadcasters were in quarantine in Abu Dhabi but were told to leave their hotel by health officials, who informed them that they had to isolate themselves in some other emirate state before entering Abu Dhabi.

"If we get required permission on Thursday then the PSL 6 will start from June 7 or 8 and if there is further delay then the wait will get longer," the source said.

The PCB has been facing several hurdles in getting clearances from concerned authorities in Abu Dhabi for the last two weeks.

Initially the PCB had announced it would hold the remaining games of PSL 6 June 2 to 20.

"The board has also been forced to rethink its schedule because of the hot weather conditions in Abu Dhabi and once it became obvious it would be difficult to hold double headers in this weather," he said.

## NBA India Graduate L Chhakchhuak Enrols In US College Basketball Programme

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** NBA Academy India graduate Lahnhepuia Chhakchhuak has enrolled at North Park University in Chicago, Illinois, becoming the sixth male student-athlete from the academy to commit to a high school or college basketball programme in the US.

Chhakchhuak first participated in the 2017-18 Reliance Foundation Jr. NBA program before joining NBA Academy India in 2018 as a part of the academy's second class of student-athletes identified through the ACC-NBA Jump program.

The 6-1 guard represented NBA Academy India at the 2018 and 2019 NBA Academy Games in Australia and the US, respectively, as well as the Point Loma Nazarene Team Camp in San Diego in 2019.

"I am looking forward to this opportunity at North Park University that will keep me on the pathway I have set out on," said Chhakchhuak.

"This wouldn't have been possible without the guidance of the coaching



staff at the NBA Academy India and the constant support of my family."

"We are certainly excited to add a player like Lahnhepuia to our squad. In particular we like his size at the guard position and as he continues to get stronger we can envision how he can become an important piece within our program," said North Park head coach Thomas Slyder.

"His ability to play at the speed and pace he prefers to play at is an important characteristic for a guard to have."

In addition to Lahnhepuia, five other NBA Academy India student-athletes have committed to play-

ing basketball in the US – Harshwardhan Tomar (KEBA Preparatory School), Jagshaanbir Singh (Golden State Prep, Point Park University), Pranav Prince (First Love Christian Academy), Amaan Sandhu (First Love Christian Academy), and Riyanishu Negi (DME Sports Academy).

Principal Singh became the first NBA Academy India graduate to sign a professional contract when he signed with the NBA G League Ignite.

NBA Academy India is an elite basketball training centre for the top prospects from across the country.

## App Shows Support For Naomi Osaka With Donation, Fine Offer

Agencies

**PARIS:** An app that bills itself as helping with "sleep, relaxation and meditation" says it is showing support for Naomi Osaka by offering to pay fines for tennis players who don't fulfill 2021 Grand Slam media obligations for mental health reasons.

Calm also tweeted on Wednesday that it would donate USD 15,000 – the amount Osaka was fined for skipping her postmatch news conference at the French Open – to a group in France that it says works "in the mental health space."

Osaka is a four-time major champion and the world's No. 2-ranked tennis player who said she didn't want to speak to the press at Roland Garros.

After she was fined and threatened by leaders of all four



Grand Slam tournaments with disqualification or suspension, Osaka announced she would withdraw from the French Open and take a break from competition.

She revealed she experiences "huge waves of anxiety" before meeting with the media and said she has "suffered long bouts of depression."

## Covaxin Trial On 2-18 Year Olds "Amounts To Homicide": Plea In Delhi High Court



### Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** A plea has been moved in the Delhi High Court seeking stay on the phase II/III clinical trials of Covaxin - Bharat Biotech's Covid Vaccine - on 2-18 year olds.

The application was moved in a petition filed in May for setting aside the permission granted by the country's drug regulator - Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) - to Bharat Biotech for conducting trials of its vaccine on children.

Petitioner Sanjeev Kumar has claimed in his application that while the issue was pending before the High Court with notices issued to the Centre and Bharat Biotech, the trials have already commenced from June.

He has said, in his plea, that since the court did not grant a stay when it heard the matter, the government is going ahead with the trials.

Mr Kumar has contended that on July 15, the next date of hearing of the petition, the government and the company would say that the trials have commenced and hence, the plea challenging the permission granted by DCGI will become infructuous.

The trial will be conducted on

525 healthy volunteers and the vaccine will be given by intramuscular route in two doses - one administered on the first day and the other 28 days later, the Health Ministry said.

Covaxin, which has been indigenously developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is being used on adults in India's ongoing Covid vaccination drive.

Mr Kumar, in his main petition, has raised an apprehension that the children who would be part of the trial could suffer adverse health or mental effects due to the testing of the vaccine on them.

He has claimed that the children, who will be the test subjects, cannot be termed as volunteers as they are not capable of understanding the consequences of the trial to consent to the same.

Conducting the trial on healthy children would amount to "homicide", the petition has claimed and has sought criminal prosecution of the persons involved in such trials or those authorised to conduct the same, in the event of death or "loss of peaceful and pleasant enjoyment of life" of any of the toddlers or minors who are part of the trial.

## 'You Seem Overjoyed': PM Joins CBSE Session With Students



In a surprise interaction with Class 12 students and their parents, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asked them about their issues and concerns and told them to never feel stressed about any examination.

Joining the online interaction with CBSE students organised by the Education Ministry, PM Modi asked them how they are feeling following the cancellation of the board exams in view of the Covid-19 pandemic and what are they planning to do now.

The PM also asked them to utilise their time in a productive and creative manner now that exams had been cancelled.

He asked the students whether they will watch IPL, Champion's League, or wait for the Olympics and told them to remember the mantra that "health is wealth", asking what they do to remain physically fit.

Several students shared their experiences with the PM about how the announcement brought relief, ending the uncertainty.

The PM told students that the decision to cancel exams was taken in their interest. Some parents also shared their thoughts about how students can focus now on their college admissions.

The government on Tuesday decided to cancel the CBSE Class 12 board exams amid the continuing Covid-19 pandemic across the country with Modi asserting that the decision was taken in the interest of students and the anxiety among students, parents and teachers must be put to an end.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Modi in which it was decided that the CBSE will take steps to compile the results of Class 12 students according to a well-defined objective criterion in a time-bound manner.

## Longevity Of LoC Ceasefire Depends On Pakistan's Actions: Army Chief



### Agenceis

**SRINAGAR:** Army Chief General M M Naravane today said the longevity of the ceasefire along the Line of Control with Pakistan depends on the actions of the neighbouring country but asserted that there would be "no slackening" of preparedness as terror infrastructure across the border was intact.

"The ceasefire along the LoC is holding as of now. The onus of making sure that the ceasefire holds is

squarely on Pakistan. We are willing to observe the ceasefire as long as they do so," he told some journalists at the end of his two-day visit to Kashmir. The Army chief said other activities like terror infrastructure, including terrorist camps and presence of terrorists on the other side of the LoC, were continuing in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

"Therefore, there can be no slackening of our level of preparedness," he added.

Asked if Islamabad can be trust-

ed as the ceasefire has been holding for 100 days now, General Naravane said, "There have been decades of mistrust between India and Pakistan. So, the situation on that score cannot change overnight."

He said if Pakistan observes ceasefire in letter and spirit, the small steps can lead to incremental gains.

"If Pakistan continues to desist from fomenting trouble in India, then the small steps can lead to that level of trust that you are talking about," he added.

## Kerala Tops Again, Bihar Last In NITI Aayog Sustainable Development Index

### Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Kerala has retained the top rank in NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals India Index 2020-21, while Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer, according to a report released today.

The Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) evaluates progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters.

Kerala retained its rank as the top state with a score of 75. Both Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu took the second spot with a score of 74.

Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam were the worst performing states in this year's India index.

The third rendition of India's SDG Index was launched by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Thursday. Further, Chandigarh maintained its top spot among the UTs with a score of 79, followed by Delhi (68).

Mizoram, Haryana and Uttarakhand are the top gainers in 2020-21 in terms of improvement in score from 2019, with an increase of 12, 10 and 8 points, respectively.

While in 2019, 10 states/UTs belonged to the category of front-runners (score in the range 65-99, including both), 12 more states/UTs find themselves in this category in 2020-21.

Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Punjab, Haryana, Tripura, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh graduated to the category of front-runners (scores between 65 and 99, including both).

The country's overall SDG score improved by 6 points - from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2020-21. This positive stride towards achieving the tar-



gets is largely driven by exemplary country-wide performance in goal 6 (clean water and sanitation) and goal 7 (affordable and clean energy), where the composite goal scores are 83 and 92, respectively.

Our effort of monitoring SDGs through the SDG India Index and Dashboard continues to be widely noticed and applauded around the world. It remains a rare data-driven initiative to rank our states and union territories by computing a composite index on the SDGs, Mr Kumar said.

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said, The report reflects on the partnerships we have built and strengthened during our SDG efforts. The narrative throws light on how collaborative initiatives can result in better outcomes and greater impacts.

On the theme of partnerships which is central to goal 17, NITI Aayog Member (Health) VK Paul said, It is clear that by working together we can build a more resilient and sustainable future, where no one is left behind.

First launched in December 2018, the index has become the primary tool for monitoring prog-

ress on the SDGs in the country and has simultaneously fostered competition among the states and union territories by ranking them on the global goals.

The index, developed in collaboration with the United Nations in India, measures the progress at the national and sub-national level in the country's journey towards meeting the global goals and targets and has been successful as an advocacy tool to propagate the messages of sustainability, resilience, and partnerships, as well.

From covering 13 goals, 39 targets, and 62 indicators in the first edition in 2018-19 to 17 goals, 54 targets and 100 indicators in the second; this third edition of the index covers 17 goals, 70 targets, and 115 indicators.

The sustainable development goals, constituted through an unprecedented consultative process, have 17 goals and 169 related targets to be achieved by 2030.

The goals are an ambitious commitment by world leaders which set out a universal and an unprecedented agenda which embraces economic, environmental and social aspects of the well-being of societies.

## Supreme Court Quashes FIR Against Vinod Dua For Sedition Over His Youtube Show



The Supreme Court on Thursday quashed an FIR lodged against journalist Vinod Dua for sedition and other offences by a local BJP leader in Himachal Pradesh over his YouTube show.

A bench of Justices U U Lalit and Vineet Saran, however, declined the prayer of Dua that no FIR can be registered against any media personnel with 10 years' experience unless cleared by a committee.

On July 20 last year, the top court had extended till further orders the protection granted to Dua from any coercive action in the case.

The apex court had earlier said that Dua need not answer any other supplementary questions asked by the Himachal Pradesh police in connection with the case. An FIR against Dua under provisions of the Indian Penal Code for alleged offences of sedition, public nuisance, printing defamatory materials and public mischief was lodged by BJP leader Shyam at Kumarsain police station in Shimla district on May 6 last year and the journalist was asked to join the probe.

Shyam has alleged that Dua, in his YouTube show, had made some allegations against the prime minister.

## HC Issues Summons To Ramdev On DMA Plea Over False Info About Coronil Kit



The Delhi High Court on Thursday issued summons to yoga guru Ramdev on a suit by Delhi Medical Association (DMA) seeking to restrain him from disseminating false information about Patanjali's Coronil kit that it is a cure for COVID-19. The high court

orally asked the counsel for Ramdev to tell him not to make any provocative statement till the next date of hearing on July 13 and respond to the suit. DMA, on behalf of its doctor members, said Ramdev's statement affects as that medicine does not cure coronavirus and it is misleading.

## Juhi Chawla's 'Fan' Singing Incident Makes Way In Ramdev's Proceedings In Delhi HC

"Indeed it was a musical hearing," a judge of the Delhi High Court on Thursday remarked about the incident of songs of Juhi Chawla's movies sung by a man during the hearing of her petition against the 5G technology.

Justice C Hari Shankar, who had recused himself from hearing Bollywood actress lawsuit, said "thankfully" he did not have to hear her matter.

The Wednesday's incident came for discussion today during the hearing of a case relating to yoga guru Ramdev's statements against allopathic medicines.

At the fag end of hearing on yoga guru's matter, Justice Shankar made the remarks and said now he wishes to see how today's proceedings will be reported in the press.

"I am just going to see how it is going to be reported. Thankfully I did not have to hear the Juhi Chawla matter yesterday. Indeed it was a musical hearing. It had first come up before me but I had recused from hearing it for some reason," Justice Shankar said with a smile.

Senior advocate Rajiv Nayar, representing Ramdev, joined the discussion saying he has not shared

the court proceedings link with anyone, in an apparent reference to Chawla's act of sharing the web link of virtual hearing on his Twitter account.

On Wednesday, while the hearing on Chawla's plea against the 5G wireless network was on, a man started singing some of the hit songs of the actress' movies and caused repeated interruptions in the virtual proceedings.

On the directions of Justice J R Midha, who was hearing the case, the person was repeatedly removed from the hearing, but he kept on joining and started singing till the time the proceedings were locked.

The man, who kept changing his names every time he logged it, started with Chawla's 'Ghoonghat ki aad mein dilbar ka didaar adhura' song from her blockbuster movie 'Hum hai rahi pyar ke'.

He then sang from her another hit film Naajayaz 'Lal lal hoton pe gori kiska naam hai... Juhi Chawla' and then 'Meri banno ki aayegi baraar ke dhol bajao ji' from the movie Aina after which he was removed, and the proceedings were locked.

## Bengal ex-chief secy Alapan Bandyopadhyay replies to Centre's show-cause notice

### Agenceis

Former chief secretary of West Bengal Alapan Bandyopadhyay on Thursday replied to the Centre's show-cause notice served to him under the Disaster Management Act to explain his absence from the cyclone review meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 28, an official said.

In his reply, Bandyopadhyay said that as per the directive of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, he left the meeting for a review of Cyclone Yaas ravaged Digha, a popular sea resort town in Purba Medinipur district, according to the highly-placed official in the secretariat.

The Union Home Ministry had on May 31 served a show-cause notice to Bandyopadhyay under a stringent provision of the Disaster Management Act that entails imprisonment up to two years, amid a tug-of-war between the Centre and the Mamata Banerjee government over him.

Bandyopadhyay was set to retire as the chief secretary on May 31, but the state recently sought and received



permission for extension of his tenure for three months as he played a crucial role in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

He was, however, handed over a transfer directive by the Centre, shortly after a row broke out over the prime minister's post-cyclone review meeting at Kalaikunda airbase, which the CM and state chief secre-

tary did not attend.

Banerjee, along with the chief secretary, met the prime minister for around 15 minutes and left after handing over a report on the devastation caused by the cyclone in the state.

The bureaucrat, instead of reporting to Delhi, chose to retire and he was subsequently appointed as the CM's chief adviser. PTI

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