



P3 CITY

3700 ACTIVE COVID POSITIVE CASES IN SRINAGAR: ADMIN

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Friday said that strict adherence to Covid-19 related measures including SOPs, Corona curfew, containment measures, testing...

P6 REMOTE LEARNING, UNEQUAL REACH

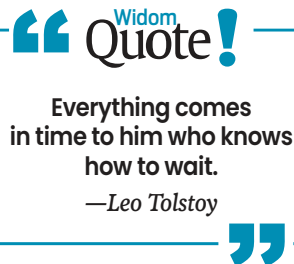
We are soon going to enter the 16 month of the pandemic and it is showing no signs of receding. The virus seems to be growing more virulent with all the new variants that have emerged. The pandemic has disrupted our...



P5 STATE

COVID VACCINE SAFE FOR KIDNEY PATIENTS: NEPHROLOGIST

Consultant Nephrologist, Super Specialty Hospital Jammu, Dr Raju K Bhandari, has assured that all kinds of Covid vaccine are safe for kidney patients, including...



Quote!
Everything comes in time to him who knows how to wait.
—Leo Tolstoy

NEWS DIGEST

Militants 'Attack' CRPF In Budgam

SRINAGAR: Militants on Friday attacked a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, an official spokesperson said. "A vehicle of 29Bn was fired upon near Kralpora village. There's not been any damage or injury to anyone," CRPF spokesperson Abhiram told Kashmir Observer. ● [More On P10](#)

Army Driver Dies In Accident

SRINAGAR: An army driver on Friday was killed after being trapped between two armoured vehicles in Zangli area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 26-year-old Sepoy Bhooapati S (driver) of army's 41 RR was behind a Cassiper vehicle when its handbrake of the vehicle got disengaged due to ● [More On P10](#)

2 Mortar Shells Defused In Kathua,

JAMMU: Border Security Force (BSF) troops on Thursday averted a major tragedy by defusing two mortar shells found in a border hamlet in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. A resident of Karol Biddu village along the International Border (IB) found the shells and immediately informed the police and BSF, they added. Troops of the border guarding force along with police reached the site and defused the shells safely, the officials added.

Soldier Slips To Death In Shopian

SRINAGAR: An army man died after he fell from a bridge and drowned in a water body in Shopian district of south Kashmir on Friday, officials said. They said the soldier identified as Arun Kumar of army's 62 RR slipped from the bridge during patrolling near Sedow area. A resident of Pathankot, they said that the soldier's body will be sent home.

Arms Cache Recovered In Rajouri

JAMMU: Police and central forces recovered an Ak-47 rifle with two magazines, four pistols along with eight magazines besides 158 bullets in Rajouri district, officials said on Friday. "Information was received from reliable sources that there is some suspicious movement in upper reaches of Azmatabad area of Thanamandi. A joint search operation was launched by army's 48RR and of Jammu and Kashmir ● [More On P10](#)

CS TELLS DCs

'Bring Positivity Rate Below 2% By June 15'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Expressing concern over the high mortality rate in certain districts of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday asked district administrations to remain focussed on bringing the positivity rate below 2% by June 15.

Chairing a meeting to review district-wise Covid containment measures, Mehta observed that certain districts have high mortality rate and it is a matter of major concern, an official spokesperson

said. The CS, he said, asked the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that any reason be it late reporting, delayed admission to a hospital or treatment needs to be identified and addressed immediately.

Regarding the restrictive measures in the districts, the CS, as per the official spokesperson, asked the Deputy Commissioners to draw a strategy within the broad framework of the UT level guidelines keeping in view the respective district parameters.

"The Chief Secretary reiterated that the districts ● [More On P10](#)

J&K Sees 34 Deaths, 1723 More Cases

Jammu and Kashmir on Friday witnessed 34 more coronavirus related deaths, while 1723 more fresh cases of infection were reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Officials said Friday that the deadly infection claimed 21 more lives in Kashmir Valley and 13 in Jammu division, taking the overall fatality count since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K last year to 4026. Regarding the fresh cases, officials said, 1124 were reported from the Valley and 599 from Jammu, taking the total case tally to 297602. Giving district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 303 cases, ● [More On P10](#)

IT WAS INFORMED THAT DAILY average trends including COVID 19 cases, positivity rate, active cases, and deaths due to COVID are on a decline in the UT."

Pak Ready For Talks With India If Given Kashmir Roadmap: Imran

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Friday that Pakistan is ready to restart talks with India if Delhi provides a roadmap toward restoring the previous status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The two nuclear-armed neighbors both control parts of Kashmir but claim it in full. In 2019, India withdrew Indian-ruled Kashmir's autonomy in order to tighten its grip over the territory, sparking outrage in Pakistan, the downgrading of diplomatic ties and a

suspension of bilateral trade.

"If there is a roadmap, then, yes, we will talk," Khan told Reuters at his official residence in Islamabad.

Previously, Khan and his government have held that India would have to first reverse its 2019 steps for any normalization process to begin.

"Even if they give us a roadmap, these are the steps that we will take to basically undo what they did, which is illegal, against international law and United Nations resolutions... then that is acceptable," Khan said. ● [More On P10](#)

J&K To Install 7 Lakh Smart Meters

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is installing seven lakh smart metres across the Union Territory to bring about transparency in metering, billing and collection to reduce power losses and ensure quality and reliable power supply to consumers.

Speaking in a high-level meeting chaired by the Union Home Secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla to review the progress of smart metering roll out and power sector reforms in the Union Territories, the Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta said on Friday that the J&K government would take up smart metering in mission mode, an official spokesperson.

Secretary, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, Alok Kumar and Chief Secretaries of all Union Territories, participated in the meeting.

Mehta, he said, ● [More On P10](#)

'Please Bring Back My Ada': Man-Eaters Plunge Kashmir Into Mourning

ADIEU ADA! The mauled girl's grandfather breaks down in tears during her funeral at her home in Ompora on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Zaid Bin Shabir

OMPORA, BUDGAM; When dusk descended on a downtown family living in the shade of the 'wild' nursery here on June 3, the only trace of their disappeared daughter were the blood trails left by three

man-eaters.

The trailers, moved by the innocent girl's sudden vanishing, scanned the woods till midnight. But except the doll dumped in her lawns, there was no clue, before the dark night started throwing some startling surprises.

By the new daybreak, however, the harrowing night ended when the angelic-faced daughter of the Mir family was retrieved dead from the den of leopards.

Unlike her silent departure, the arrival came with a sentimental storm when the caravan ● [More On P10](#)

IT WAS QUITE DARK AND NOTHING much was visible, so the leading scouts pulled their torches and illuminated the lying item, and then, something terrible and grueling pinged us all."

Range Officer Faces Heat, Leopard To Be Eliminated

Observer News Service

The district authorities in Budgam on Friday ordered suspension of a senior wildlife department officer following massive public outrage and anger triggered by the killing of a minor girl by leopards. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza ordered immediate suspension of Suhail Qazi, Range officer, Wildlife Department Ompora for dereliction of duties. Mirza also ordered a detailed enquiry to be conducted by additional deputy commissioner (ADC) Budgam into the matter. Earlier DC Budgam and SSP Budgam Tahir Saleem convened a meeting with Wildlife and Forest authorities in which several decisions were taken, an official spokesperson said. The meeting decided that wildlife Warden Budgam will deploy staff well equipped with machinery for elimination of the wild animal which has turned man-eater after obtaining sanctions from the competent authority. Also, the wildlife staff will be deputed in the periphery of Ompora forests for ● [More On P10](#)



This
**World Blood
Donor Day - 2021**

Let's
**DONATE
BLOOD**

Dated: 14th June 2021 (Monday)
Timing: 11 AM to 02 PM

Venue: Indian Red Cross Society,
Exchange Road, Srinagar - 190001

All are requested to donate to save human life. Those interested to donate may register their name at Indian Red Cross Society office at Exchange Road, Srinagar or register on our official website www.ircsjk.org/donateblood.aspx

Indian Red Cross Society

Jammu & Kashmir

"Give Blood & Keep the World Beating"

VIRTUAL CLASSES

Schools In Kashmir Asked To Strictly Follow New Guidelines

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The department of school education on Friday ordered all Chief the Education Officers (CEOs) of Kashmir to strictly adhere to caps on the duration of daily virtual classes by schools in the Valley.

"The Administrative Department vide letter No: Edu-NC-SE/20/2021-05 dated: 01-06-2021 has issued guidelines regarding conduct of virtual classes in JK during lock down period of COVID-19 pandemic for session viz 2020-21," reads an order issued by the Director School Education Kashmir.

Subsequently all Chief Education Officers have been asked to strictly adhere to

guidelines by concerned authorities.

"In view of the above, the concerned Chief Education Officers are once again instructed to ensure implementation/strict adherence of the orders issued from time to time in letter and spirit and also get the complaints lodged against the Private schools, redressed in the Special Cells constituted for redressal of grievances of the complainant in the time bound manner," the order said.

Compliance has been sought regarding orders passed by the Administrative Department as well as Fee Fixation Committee and also regarding constitution of Special Cells in the Districts.

"The action ● [More On P10](#)



ADMISSION NOTIFICATION NO. 02 OF 2021

On-line Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to below mentioned programmes for the Academic Session 2021-22. The candidates are advised to peruse Admission Guidelines / Prospectus 2021 (available on the University website) & go through the Admission Procedure thoroughly to check the eligibility criteria/ other details before filling and submitting their Online Application Forms:

Post-Graduate Programmes	Eligibility
M.Sc. Statistics	Bachelor’s Degree with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Mathematics/ Statistics/ Applied Mathematics as one of the subjects throughout the graduation period OR B.Sc. Actuarial and Financial Mathematics.
Master of Computer Applications - MCA (2-Year)	Having passed BCA OR Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science & Engineering OR B.Sc. / B.Com. / B.A. with Mathematics as compulsory subject at 10+2 Level or at Graduation Level with a minimum of 50% marks from a recognized University/ Institution.
Master of Science in Information Technology (M.Sc. IT)	Degree with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution in any of the following: i. Bachelor’s Degree in Relevant subject. ii. B.Sc. having Mathematics as one of the subjects at 10+2 level. iii. B.Sc. having Mathematics/ Physics/ Computer Science/ I.T. / or any relevant Computer related recognized subject as one of the subjects throughout the graduation period. iv. Four-year Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering & Technology.
M.Tech. Food Technology	B. Tech. Food Technology with a minimum of 55% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with a valid GATE score. Candidates, who do not possess GATE score, can also apply. The admission of such candidates shall be made as per the criteria shown in “Procedure for Selection”.
M.Sc. Chemistry	Bachelor’s Degree in Science with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Chemistry as one of the subjects throughout the graduation period.
M.Sc. Physics	Bachelor’s Degree in Science with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Physics and Mathematics as core subjects throughout the graduation period OR B.E/B. Tech (with Physics and Mathematics as subjects for at least two semesters/ one year) OR B.Sc. Hons Physics.
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	Bachelor’s Degree in any discipline with a minimum of 50% marks from a recognized University/ Institution and a valid CMAT/ MAT score of 2021. Candidates, who do not possess CMAT/ MAT score, can also apply. The admission of such candidates shall be made as per the criteria shown in “Procedure for Selection”.
M.A. International Relations (Peace & Conflict Studies)	Bachelor’s Degree in any discipline with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/Institution.
M.A. Journalism & Mass Communication	
M.A. Islamic Studies	
M. A Political Science (International Relations)	Bachelor’s Degree with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Political Science as one of the subjects throughout the graduation period.
M.A. Arabic Language & Literature	Bachelor’s Degree or equivalent with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Arabic as one of the subjects throughout the graduation period OR having Aalimayat/ Fazilah degree with 10+2 of the approved Madrasas.
M.A. English Language & Literature	Bachelor’s Degree or equivalent with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with English as one of the subjects throughout the graduation period.
M.A. Economics	Bachelor’s Degree with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Economics/ Mathematics/ Statistics as one of the subjects throughout the graduation period OR Four years Engineering Degree OR Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural/ Horticultural OR Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration OR Bachelor’s Degree in Commerce OR B.Sc. Actuarial and Financial Mathematics.
Under-Graduate Programmes	Eligibility
B.Tech. in Engineering (Civil/ Electronics & Communication/ Computer Science/ Electrical/ Mechanical	➤ Having passed 10+2 from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics as compulsory subjects. AND ➤ Having appeared in JEE Main (Paper-I) 2021 and obtained a positive score.
B. Arch.	➤ Having passed 10+2 from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics as compulsory subjects OR Having passed 10+3 Diploma Examination with Mathematics as compulsory subject. AND ➤ Having appeared in NATA/ JEE Main (Paper-2A) 2021 and obtained a positive score.
B.Tech. Food Technology	Having passed 10+2 from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics or Biology as compulsory subjects.
B. Voc. (Medical Lab & Molecular Diagnostic Technology)	Having passed 10+2 with a minimum of 45% marks from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with Physics, Chemistry & Biology as compulsory subjects.
B.Sc. Actuarial & Financial Mathematics	Having passed 10+2 with a minimum of 45% marks from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with Mathematics as compulsory subject.
B.A (Hons) in English	Having passed 10+2 with a minimum of 45% marks from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board.
Integrated Programmes	Eligibility
MBA (5-Year Integrated)	Having passed 10+2 with a minimum of 50% marks from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board.
Three Year Diploma Engineering Programmes	Eligibility
Civil / Electrical / Mechanical	Having passed 10 th class or equivalent examination with a minimum of 35% marks with Science and Mathematics as compulsory subjects.

Note: There shall be 5% relaxation in minimum percentage of marks required for eligibility in case of reserved categories for all the programmes except three-year Diploma Engineering, the list of which is reflected in the University Prospectus.

I) IMPORTANT DATES:

Availability of Online Application Forms	05-06-2021 (Saturday)
Last Date for submission of Online Application Forms / Deposition of Application Fee	21-06-2021 (Monday)

II) SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATION FORMS

The candidates are advised to follow the below mentioned steps for filling the details in their On-line Application Form:

- Login to University Website www.iust.ac.in and follow the link **Admissions 2021**.
- Read the instructions carefully and click on “**Proceed**” tab.
- Click the Programmes tab and select the desired **Programme(s)&Preferences** (wherever applicable). **Enter** the required detailsvery carefully.
- Upload latest passport size photograph/ Signature, Qualifying Marks Card, Valid Reserved Category Certificate (wherever applicable), JEE/NATA/CMAT/MAT/GATE score card (if applicable).
- ✓ Candidates applying under the Tuition Fee Waiver (TFW) Scheme shall upload the latest income certificate (format available on university website) & other documents mentioned under the title Tuition Fee Waiver Scheme (TFW) in the University Prospectus.

NOTE: The photograph/certificates to be uploaded must be in image file format (.jpg, .jpeg, .png) with size of (10-50 kb photograph/signature and 100-200 kb other documents). Candidates applying under Sports category can upload the multiple sports participation certificates merged in a single file in PDF format.

- Check all the details and status of uploaded documents once again and then click the “**Submit**” tab. On the successful submission of form, an **Acknowledgement Message** will be generated.
- Once the form is submitted choose the payment option for deposition of application form fee of **Rs. 500** as:
Online: Proceed as per the fee instructions on the screen
Offline: Take a printout of the fee receipt and deposit the amount in any branch of J&K Bank Ltd.

Candidates are not required to submit hard copy of the application form at this point of time. However, they should download the hard copy for records/ future reference.

III) PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION

- a. **B.Tech. Engineering:** Based on candidate’s performance in the JEE Main (Paper-I) 2021 with positive score only.
- b. **B. Architecture:** Based on candidate’s performance in the NATA 2021 and percentage in the qualifying examination with a ratio of 50:50. In case of vacant seats (if any) after admitting candidates with NATA score, admission shall be based on JEE Main (Paper-2A) 2021 only.
- c. **MBA:** Based on the candidate’s performance in the CMAT/ MAT 2021. However, first preference shall be given to CMAT candidates.
- d. **M. Tech. Food Technology:** Based on the candidate’s performance in GATE/ University Entrance Test and percentage in the qualifying examination with a ratio of 60:40. However, first preference shall be given to GATE candidates.
- e. **MBA (5-Year Integrated):** Based on the candidate’s performance in the University Entrance Test.
- f. **All other programmes:** Based on candidate’s performance in the University Entrance Test and percentage of marks in aggregate obtained by a candidate in the qualifying examination with a ratio of 60:40 respectively.

NOTE: In case the University is not able to conduct Entrance Test (s) in any programme/s due to any reason, the admission / selection to such programmes shall be made on the basis of the percentage of marks obtained by candidates in the qualifying examination. Further, in case number of applicants who have qualified CMAT/MAT in Management is less, the selection for the vacant/ remaining seats shall be made on the basis of percentage of marks in the qualifying examination.

IV) IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The soft copy of Admission Guidelines / Prospectus 2021 can be downloaded from the University website: www.iust.ac.in
- The eligible meritorious candidates with weak economic background can apply for admission under the Tuition Fee Waiver (TFW) scheme wherein their Tuition Fee will be waived off completely. The details are reflected in the prospectus 2021.
- The candidates are advised to check the Application Form Status online using the **Applicant Number** after three working days of the submission of online Application Form.
- The candidature of applicants who fail to submit all the required documents/ fee etc. with the online Application Form shall be rejected.
- Change of preferences shall not be entertained after last date for submission of online application form.
- Procedure for making corrections/ Change of preferences/ uploading of accurate documents in the already submitted application forms is as follows:
 - Send an e-mail to admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in and mention the details to be modified.
 - Attach the document with the e-mail incase the already document needs to be changed.
 - Take a re-print of the updated application form after three working days of sending e-mail for checking the changes and for future references.
- Note:** Only e-mails from the registered email ID mentioned in the application form will be entertained.
- Candidates are advised to remain in touch with the University website to download the Admit Cards / Roll Number slips (wherever applicable) and other updates.
- **Notification for admission under Self-Financing category/ NRI sponsored quota and Lateral Entry shall be issued separately.**
- For any further query/information, the candidates may contact,EPABX: 01933-247954/247955 Phone: 9858306455 / 9906400789 Ext.: 1109 / Email ID: admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in



VEHICLES OF ARMED FORCES INCLUDING Central Reserve Police Force and Jammu and Kashmir Police parked outside the main gate of Jamia Masjid in Srinagar as the coronavirus lockdown continues across Kashmir valley. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

3700 Active Covid Positive Cases In Srinagar: Admin

DC Sgr For Strict Adherence To SOP's To Contain Spread Of Virus

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Friday said that strict adherence to Covid-19 related measures including SOPs, Corona curfew, containment measures, testing, vaccination are key parameters to contain spread of Covid-19 infection in the district.

Briefing the media regarding the current Covid-19 situation in Srinagar district, the DC said that the positivity rate has shown a steep decline from peak 33 percent to 6.5 percent as of today.

He said the decline in the positivity rate is a result of the active cooperation of the general public including Business /Transport Community with the District Administration as they have followed all the necessary guidelines related to Covid-19 issued by the Government from time to time.

Asad informed that about 7 lakh RAT and RTPCR Covid related tests have been done so far in the district and at present 3700 active Covid-19 positive cases are in Srinagar.

He said though visible decline in Covid positive cases has been seen, we have to be extra cautious, by following



ASAD INFORMED that about 7 lakh RAT and RTPCR Covid related tests have been done so far in the district and at present 3700 active Covid-19 positive cases are in Srinagar.

Covid Appropriate Behaviour with added responsibility and commitment to make entry into Green Zone.

Regarding recent Unlock directions, the DC said this is a minimal Unlock and ease in the restrictions does not mean to violate Covid-19 SOPs. He reiterated his appeal to the public to strictly adhere to Covid-19 protocols and ensure proper wearing of masks, maintaining social distance and hand hygiene to save their lives, lives of family and of

whole Srinagar from the deadly disease of Covid-19.

He also urged people to avoid unnecessary movements and said that priority is to safeguard precious human lives for which all necessary measures are being taken by the district administration. He said any laxity with regard to Covid SOPs can prove disastrous.

With regard to the ongoing Covid-19 Vaccination process, the DC informed that a population of about 3 lakh of target/ vulnerable groups have been administered Covid vaccine doses in the district and vaccination centers have been established across the City to cover the rest of the targeted population.

He said the vaccine is a magic bullet to fight Covid-19 pandemic and urged the people of Srinagar to get vaccinated at an earliest to curb the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said similarly, on the directions of Lieutenant Governor, the district administration

Srinagar has setup Covid Care Centres in all 21 Panchayats of the district equipped with Oxygen Concentrators, Oximeters and other necessary medical equipment, besides Medical and Paramedical staff to manage and contain the Covid-19 effectively in rural areas.

‘Vaccination Done By Security Guard’: BMO Hazratbal Rebuts Allegation

SRINAGAR: The Block Medical Officer (BMO) Hazratbal, Srinagar Friday contested the news item circulated on a section of social media regarding vaccination done by Security Guard at Sub District Hospital, Hazratbal.

In a clarification, “it has been made clear that fake news circulated on the Social media regarding vaccination done by Security Guard at Sub District Hospital, Hazratbal has no base and is therefore denied in toto.”

As per the statement, he said that the Block Hazratbal (Block Medical Officer, Hazratbal) conducts daily Covid-19 vaccination in the whole Block which includes Hazratbal, Nishat, Teilbal and Harwan besides rural areas of Harwan including Faqir Gujri for both COVAXIN and COVISHIELD among age groups of 18 to 44 years and above 45 years.

For each session site teams are constituted and comprise

of “Verifier, Observer (Doctors) and Vaccinator (FMPHW and BHW) and Technical staff (Government Teachers) for uploading the manual data and online data, said the BMO, Hazratbal.

She said that since every day they have Six to Eight session sites at Health Centers and other places, similarly on 3rd June 2021 vaccination session was going on at Sub District Hospital, Hazratbal smoothly and the Vaccinator was female (FMPHW) who is well trained and experienced in her field was inoculating the beneficiaries while the Security Guard was there maintaining the queue and discipline of the beneficiaries.

The BMO said that they have also conducted the outreach COVISHIELD vaccination at Kashmir university and work has been appreciated by the authorities of Kashmir University as published in the daily newspaper “Greater Kashmir” of 3rd June 2021.

Covid Care Centre Khimber Starts Functioning

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of the efforts of the Government to identify Covid positive suspects in rural areas and to provide them timely treatment so that the spread of virus is contained in villages, the district administration, Srinagar, has established a five-bed Covid Care Centre (CCC) at the Panchayat Halqa Khimber of Harwan Block.

“The CCC at Khimber started to function from June 2 in the Panchayat Building”, said Mohammad Ayoub Sofi, ISM, Doctor who is presently stationed at the Covid treatment centre.

Dr Sofi said that the centre has been conducting Covid tests to identify infected individuals visiting the centre. He added that seven covid tests were held today during which two persons were found infected by virus.

He maintained that both were asymptomatic with no visible signs of fever, cough or cold besides their oxygen saturation reading is above the normal mark.

Dr Sofi further said that those two patients have been admitted for observation and treatment and isolated to contain spread of virus in other inhabitants of the area.

Regarding facilities available at the CCC, he said all the basic facilities including water, electricity besides washroom facility are available.



He said the staff is providing necessary treatment to covid patients and administering medicine to them which has been made available at the centre by the Government.

He stated that the Zonal Medical Officer visited the centre a day before and provided all the required medicine, Covid kits and other logistics.

“In addition to the treatment for infected persons, we also educate people regarding Covid Appropriate Behavior”, he said.

Moreover, Dr Sofi said that Panchayat representatives and the Sarpanch as well as locals are fully cooperating with the medical team stationed at the Khimber Panchayat Covid Care Centre.

Also, he said the Covid Care Centre shall prove very effective for the treatment of infected besides help in its containment. This will reduce the burden on tertiary hospitals where severe patients are admitted and treated.

Data More Valuable, Plays Vital Role In Our Lives: Director NIT

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Department of Humanities Social Science and Management (HSS &M), National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Friday organized virtual lecture on ‘Role of data analytics in marketing’ and it was hosted by Khalid Wani, Director, Western Digital (WD) leading global data storage brand in India.

The session was attended by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Dr. Rakesh Sehgal, Registrar NIT Prof. Kaiser Bukhari, HoD HSS&M Prof Abdul Liman, faculty members, students of various departments of NIT Srinagar, University of Kashmir and Central University of Kashmir.

On the occasion, Director NIT, Prof. Rakesh Sehgal appreciated the department for organizing lectures on current market trends and emerging techniques.

“The prevailing pandemic in the world led to its significant growth in digital marketing techniques, digitisation and more data

resources were developed among the global companies,” he said.

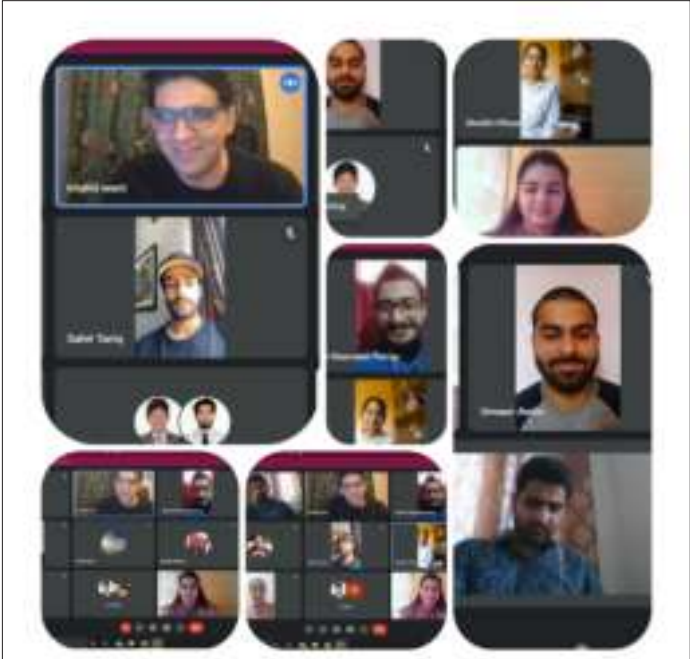
Prof. Sehgal said following global trends, there is a shift in consumer preferences to big markets to local businesses that are yet to be explored by the students.

“Data is becoming more valuable for people and playing a vital role in our lives. Our students have to work and explore more opportunities in this sector,”he said.

Registrar NIT Srinagar Prof. Kaiser Bukhari said data is the power and one of the factors to lead the marketing world. If we have good data then we can accelerate. Future of data lies in innovation, technology and information.

While appreciating organizers, Prof. Bukhari said the primary aim of this lecture was that students would be updated with current market trends and NIT Srinagar will be hosting such lectures in future also.

Visiting faculty at department of HSS &M, Khalid Wani



shared his experience with Industry, deliberated upon in enhancing significance of data in

the present global context. He highlighted the importance of data in modern economic struc-

ture and how data is becoming the new oil to fuel the next industrial revolution.

“Being a visiting faculty, I will be hosting more interactive sessions in future for students to explore the opportunities in the global market. It will be helpful for students passionate about analytical finance, analytical marketing and creative technology,”he said.

Wani has gained vast experience of working with renowned global brands General Electric, IBM, and Lenovo. Finally, he settled at Western Digital, where he has been working for the last 14 years.

HoD Department of HSS&M Abdul Liman hailed the efforts of Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Sehgal for supporting them in organizing such events in the department. The session was moderated by Coordinator MBA, Dr. Tahir Ahmad Wani and a highly engaging and interactive lecture was concluded with a question-answer session by the students.

NC Leader Urges Admin For Renovation Of Roads In Harwan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference Youth leader and DDC member Harwan-3, Kaiser Ganie Friday appealed LG Manoj Sinha to renovate the roads of rural areas as the condition of the roads is dilapidated.

In a statement, he said, that earlier, multiple times the issue of roads has been raised

with district administration and the concerned department but so far nothing has been done.

He said that two tubes of Shalimar road leading towards foreshore are in dilapidated condition resulting in the difficulties to the commuters.

He urged the LG administration for timely repairing of the damaged roads to create ease for locals.

rahijaz786@gmail.com

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NAME CHANGE

I have passed Secondary School examination (Class 10th) under Roll No. 18195257, session annual, year 2020 through Jammu & Kashmir State Board of School Education. Due to error, my father's name has been registered with the Board as Dr. G N Itoo while his actual name is Ghulam Nabi Itoo. Now I have applied for correction/rectification of the error in the Jammu & Kashmir State Board of School Education, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of Deputy/ Assistant Secretary Certificates (Correction), KD within seven days from the publication of this notice. After the expiry of said period no objection shall be entertained.

Umer Gull
S/o Ghulam Nabi Itoo
R/o Nowgam, Srinagar

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 754 -Friezen murders bishop Boniface & over 50 companions
- 1257 - Kraków, Poland, receives city rights.
- 1284 - Charles of Salerno is captured by Roger of Lauria during a naval battle in the Gulf of Naples, part of the Sicilian Vespers uprising
- 1288 - Battle of Woeringen: Reinald I vs Jan I
- 1305 - Archbishop Bertrand the Got of Bordeaux elected Pope Clement V
- 1507 - England and Netherlands sign trade agreement
- 1625 - Spanish troops under Spinola conquer Breda
- 1716 - England and Emperor Karel VI signs military treaty
- 1752 - Prince William of Orange becomes Knight of Garter
- 1794 - US Congress passes the Neutrality Act, banning Americans from serving in foreign armed forces
- 1798 - The Battle of New Ross: The attempt to spread United Irish Rebellion into Munster is defeated.
- 1827 - Turks capture the Acropolis and take Athens during Greek War of Independence
- 1832 - Anti-monarchist forces launch an uprising in Paris, starting the unsuccessful June Rebellion
- 1882 - Storm & floods hits Bombay; about 100,000 die
- 1902 - Emperor Wilhelm II responds to growing demands from Polish and other Slavic peoples living within German territory by calling for more 'Germanization' of the slavs
- 1916 - The Sherif Hussein proclaims a revolt of the Arabs in the province of Hejaz, an action that undermines the Turkish Empire
- 1917 - 10 million US men begin registering for draft in WW I
- 1940 - Battle of France begins in WW II
- 1942 - USA declares war on Bulgaria, Hungary & Romania
- 1945 - USA, UK, USSR, France declare supreme authority over Germany
- 1959 - The first independent government of the State of Singapore is sworn in with Lee Kuan Yew as Prime Minister
- 1963 - State of siege proclaimed in Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini arrested
- 1967 - Six-day war begins between Israel and the neighboring Arab states of Egypt, Jordan and Syria
- 1975 - Egyptian president Anwar Sadat reopens Suez Canal (closed since 1967)
- 1980 - Soyuz T-2 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 6 space station
- 2017 - Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt sever ties with Qatar, citing its support of terrorist groups, Yemen, the Maldives and Libya follow suit

From KO Archives

No Power On Earth Can Change F Kashmir Status: Farooq

‘I Never Go To Pakistan, Never Ever Play Golf With Hurriyat Leaders’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - National Conference (NC) Patron Farooq Abdullah today asserted that no power on Earth can change the present status of Jammu and Kashmir, saying it will continue to remain a part of India.

I consider this part of Kashmir as part of India and that part of Kashmir as part of Pakistan. I cannot see any other solution ever working than this whether Prime Minister Manmohan Singh says anything or Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, "Dr Abdullah said before the start of the one-day TAG Heuer Golf tournament here.

"We must accept one thing for final and that is Jammu and Kashmir belongs to India and no power on Earth can change it...Nothing is going to change and let us be honest about it," the former Chief Minister added.

About the Hurriyat leaders visit to Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir (PaK), he said they are welcome to go anywhere, but nothing is going to come out of this visit either. The separatists have also said that they do not expect much from their visit, he added.

The Hurriyat leaders are themselves divided. They blame each other for many things. They will just go. Kha pi ke aa jay-entge... Kuch bag bi layenge aur kuch hawala se aa jayega (They will bring some with them and the other will come through hawala)," Dr Abdullah claimed.

Dr Abdullah then NC leader said he did not expect anything substantial coming out of the peace process. "Where is the peace process? Innocent people get killed everyday. India is not going to give up Kashmir and Pakistan will not settle without Kashmir. So where is the settlement?" he asked.

However, Dr Abdullah advocated that borders should be made immaterial so that people can go and come and trade between the two sides promoted.

He also expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of the Mohammad Sayeed government in the state.

(Kashmir Observer, 05 June, 2005)

Supreme Leader Says, Iran Stronger Than Ever



TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei said on Friday that Tehran wanted to see action, not promises, to revive Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with six world powers.

"I have told our negotiators that actions, not promises, are needed for the restoration of the nuclear deal," Mr Khamenei said in a televised speech to mark the 32nd anniversary of the death of his predecessor, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Iran and global powers have been in talks since early April to bring the United States back into the pact and return Tehran to full compliance with the deal.

The Leader emphasised that the key to the Islamic Republic's permanency is in the two words: "Islamic" & "Republic."

"From the first day of the

revolution, the ill-wishers and those who could not digest and tolerate this great phenomenon, both inside and outside the country, said that the Islamic Republic would not last for another two months, six months or a year. I do not remember so many predictions of decay and collapse to have been made about any other system," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader said despite many successive political, security, economic obstacles created for Iran, "the Islamic Republic today is more developed than 40 years ago and is ahead in all respects by the grace of God."

Ayatollah Khamenei said Imam Khomeini's outstanding initiative was that he created and introduced the idea of the Islamic Republic and then realised it.

'Unacceptable': Iran Slams Suspension Of UN Voting Rights



Iran on Thursday slammed the United Nations' decision to suspend its voting rights at the General Assembly for failing to pay its dues as "fundamentally flawed, entirely unacceptable and completely unjustified."

Tehran argues that the \$16.2m it owes to the UN is the result of Washington's crippling sanctions, imposed after former US President Donald Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdrew the US from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

Iran's voting rights at the UN General Assembly were suspended in January under rules for countries whose arrears are equal to or exceed their contributions due for the past two years.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif expressed his "strong dismay" at the loss of voting rights, in a letter sent on Thursday to UN chief Antonio Guterres.

"Iran's inability to fulfil its financial obligation toward the United Nations is directly caused by 'unlawful unilateral sanctions' imposed by the United States," Zarif wrote, according to the letter posted on his Twitter account.

The UN charter

Zarif said Iran rejected the suspension of its voting privileges because Tehran's "incapacity to transfer its financial contribution has been entirely beyond its control".

Guterres, in a May 28 letter to the UN General Assembly, said five nations were barred from voting due to their failure to pay arrears, but added the UN could permit them to vote if it were deemed to be "due to conditions beyond the control" of the member state.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for Guterres, said there had been "very intense discussion" with Iran to find a solution.

"It is not from lack of trying, either on our side or their side... but the country falls under a number of bilateral sanctions which makes it a bit challenging," Dujarric told reporters.

"These discussions are continuing in good faith."

Zarif urged the UN leadership to "remain true to the purposes and principles" of the UN charter, and to "refrain from any decision that betrays the spirit of sovereign equality of member states, and weakens multilateralism".

The US withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposition of sanctions led to Iran stepping up its nuclear activities.

US President Joe Biden has signalled his readiness to revive the accord, and global powers have been meeting in Vienna since early April in a bid to do so, with a fresh round of talks slated to begin next week. **-AFP**



A CHILD RECEIVES A VACCINE AS PART of a seasonal flu vaccination campaign for children and elderly people, during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in Santiago, Chile on April 13 [Ivan Alvarado/Reuters]

Vaccinating Children 'Not A High Priority' Amid Shortage: WHO

The World Health Organization's top vaccines expert has said that immunising children against COVID-19 is not a high priority from a WHO perspective, given the extremely limited global supply of doses.

During a social media session on Thursday, Dr Kate O'Brien said children should not be a focus of COVID-19 immunisation programmes, even as increasing numbers of rich countries authorise their coronavirus shots for teenagers and children.

"Children are at (a) very, very low risk of actually getting COVID disease," said O'Brien, a paediatrician and director of the WHO's vaccines department.

She said that the rationale for immunising children was to stop transmission rather than to protect them from getting

sick or dying.

"When we're in this really difficult place, as we are right now, where the supply of vaccine is insufficient for everybody around the world, immunising kids is not a high priority right now."

O'Brien said it was critical to ensure health workers and the elderly, or those with underlying conditions, were inoculated ahead of teenagers and children.

Canada, the United States and the European Union have all recently given the green light to some COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 12 to 15 as they approach their vaccination targets for adults.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has urged rich countries to donate shots to poor countries rather than immunise their

adolescents and children.

Fewer than one percent of COVID-19 vaccines administered globally have been used in poor countries.

O'Brien said it might be appropriate to immunise children against the coronavirus "in due course, when the supply increases much more substantially".

She added that it was not necessary to vaccinate children before sending them back to school, as long as the adults in contact with them were immunised.

"Immunisation of children in order to send them back to school is not the predominant requirement for them to go back to school safely," she said.

"They can go back to school safely if what we're doing is immunising those who are around them who are at risk." **-AP**

“WHEN WE'RE IN THIS REALLY DIFFICULT PLACE, AS WE ARE right now, where the supply of vaccine is insufficient for everybody around the world, immunising kids is not a high priority right now.”

Pfizer Vaccine Produces Less Antibodies Against Delta Variant: Lancet

LONDON: People fully vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine are likely to have more than five times lower levels of neutralising antibodies against the Delta variant first identified in India compared to the original strain, according to research published in The Lancet journal.

The study also shows that levels of antibodies that are able to recognise and fight the virus are lower with increasing age, and that levels decline over time, providing additional evidence in support of plans to deliver a booster dose to vulnerable people.

It supports current plans in the UK to reduce the dose gap between vaccines since they found that after just one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, people are less likely to develop antibody levels against the B.1.617.2 variant as high as those seen against the previously dominant B.1.1.7 (Alpha) variant, first found in Kent.

The team, led by researchers from the Francis Crick Institute in the UK, noted that levels of antibodies alone do not predict vaccine effectiveness and prospective population studies are also needed. Lower neutralising antibody levels may still be associated with protection against Covid-19, they said.

The study analysed antibodies



in the blood of 250 healthy people who received either one or two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine, up to three months after their first dose.

The researchers tested the ability of antibodies to block entry of the virus into cells, so called 'neutralising antibodies', against five different variants of SARS-CoV-2.

They then compared concentrations of these neutralising antibodies between all variants.

Data from previous clinical studies suggests that higher antibody titres or concentration is a good predictor of vaccine efficacy and greater protection against COVID-19.

The researchers found that in people who had been vaccinated with two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, levels of neutralising antibodies were more than five times lower against the B.1.617.2 variant when compared to the original strain, upon which current vaccines are based.

This antibody response was

even lower in people who had only received one dose, they said.

After a single dose of Pfizer-BioNTech, 79 per cent of people had a quantifiable neutralising antibody response against the original strain, but this fell to 50 per cent for B.1.1.7, 32 per cent for B.1.617.2 and 25 per cent for B.1.351 or Beta variant first discovered in South Africa.

While antibody levels decreased with age against all variants, no correlation was observed for sex or body mass index (BMI).

"This virus will likely be around for some time to come, so we need to remain agile and vigilant," said Emma Wall, an Infectious Diseases consultant at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH).

"Our study is designed to be responsive to shifts in the pandemic so that we can quickly provide evidence on changing risk and protection," Wall said.

The researchers noted that the most important thing is to ensure that vaccine protection remains high enough to keep as many people out of hospital as possible.

The study suggests that the best way to do this is to quickly deliver second doses and provide boosters to those whose immunity may not be high enough against these new variants, they said. **PTI**

In First For Israel, Arab Party On Road To Joining Coalition Government

JERUSALEM: A party representing Arab citizens of Israel has for the first time joined an Israeli coalition to form a government, but many doubt the move can end decades of political marginalisation.

Arab Israeli Mansour Abbas, the head of the conservative Islamic Raam party, on Wednesday signed onto an eleventh-hour deal hoping to oust the country's longest-serving premier, Benjamin Netanyahu.

An image of the lawmaker of Palestinian descent at a table with centrist Yair Lapid and right-wing nationalist Naftali Bennett, all three grinning, captured a historic moment and circulated widely on social media.

Abbas, a member of the Knesset legislature since 2019, was jubilant on Israel's army radio on Thursday morning.

"We obtained the legitimacy to influence the Israeli political system and not just to be present there in the Knesset," he said.

"It opens a wide door for us to influence policies and decisions for the benefit of all citizens of the state and especially Arab citizens." In 1992, when a peace process was underway with the Palestinians, Arab Israeli lawmakers backed a Labour coalition from the outside but did not take part in the negotiations.

Arab Israelis — descendants of Palestinians who remained on their land when the state of Israel was created in 1948 — make



up around 20 percent of the Israeli population.

They regularly complain of discrimination and being treated as second-class citizens.

During a recent uptick in the conflict with Israel, they staged unprecedented protests in solidarity with Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank.

In the run-up to the country's elections in March, the fourth in less than two years, Abbas surprised many when he said that in order to help his community, he would be prepared to work with the hawkish Netanyahu.

His Raam party split from the Joint List, a grouping of Arab Israeli politicians, to run separately in the polls.

But not all are happy with that decision, or with Abbas's choice to join the emerging coalition government alone.

"We would have had influence if all the (Arab) parties had stayed together. **-AFP**

Myanmar's Shadow Govt Urges Rohingya To Join Fight Against Junta



YANGON: A shadow government in Myanmar on Thursday called on the Rohingya minority to help it overthrow the junta, promising citizenship and repatriation for the persecuted Muslim community in a future democratic Myanmar.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military overthrew democracy champion Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) government in a February 1 coup.

A brutal crackdown on dissent by the junta has since killed more than 800 people, according to a local monitoring group.

A group of ousted lawmakers — mostly from the NLD — later set up a shadow "National Unity Government" which has sought to bring anti-coup dissidents together.

The junta has classified the NUG as "terrorists", meaning anyone speaking to them — including journalists — can be subjected to charges under counter-terrorism laws.

"We invite Rohingyas to join hands with us and with others to participate in this Spring Revolution against the military dictatorship," the group said in a statement.

Suu Kyi's NLD government had earlier avoided the term "Rohingya" because of sensitiv-

ity among ethnic groups in the Buddhist-majority country, referring to the minority as "Muslims living in Rakhine".

In Myanmar, the Rohingya are widely seen as interlopers from Bangladesh and have been denied citizenship, rights and access to services for decades under what Amnesty International calls apartheid-like conditions.

The NUG also promised to end a 1982 citizenship law which discriminates against the Rohingya, promising all those born in Myanmar or to a Myanmar citizen would be granted citizenship.

The group also said it was committed to repatriating all Rohingya languishing in camps in Bangladesh "as soon as repatriation can be accomplished voluntarily, safely and with dignity".

More than 740,000 Rohingya fled over the border into Bangladesh after a bloody military campaign in 2017 that the UN condemned as ethnic cleansing.

The military claimed its operations were justified to root out Rohingya insurgents following a series of deadly attacks on police posts and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

Suu Kyi defended the army's conduct and even travelled to The Hague to rebut charges of genocide at the UN's top court. **-AFP**

NEWS MAKERS

New York To London In Just 3.5 hours? It's In The Works

Agence France-Presse

NEW YORK: United Airlines announced plans Thursday to buy 15 planes from airline startup Boom Supersonic in a move that could revive the high-speed form of air travel after the Concorde was wound down in 2003.

Under the commercial agreement, United would purchase Boom's "Overture" aircraft once the planes meet "United's demanding safety, operating and sustainability requirements" with an aim to start passenger travel in 2029, the companies said in a joint press release.

The announcement represents a potential comeback to a once heavily-touted method of travel, although some analysts expressed skepticism, particularly over the relatively speedy timeframe.

The agreement covers 15 planes and includes an option for United



to obtain another 35 aircraft. The companies did not disclose financial terms.

"It's an interesting idea, but there are a lot of questions," said Michel Merluzeau, an expert at consultancy AIR, who estimates that developing a new commercial jet that passes muster with regulators could cost \$10 to \$15 billion.

"We need to be realistic about this," added Merluzeau, who sees 2035 or 2040 as a more likely target date for commercial service.

Merluzeau said it also was not clear

whether United had agreed to any payments or if the announcement represented an intention to purchase.

Boom's plane is capable of flying at twice the speed of leading aircraft now on the market, with the potential to fly from Newark to London in three and a half hours and San Francisco to Tokyo in six hours, the companies said.

The jets will also be "net-zero" in carbon use because they will employ renewable fuel.

- Comeback? -

Commercial supersonic jet travel

was introduced in the 1970s with the Concorde, but the jets were retired in 2003 due in part to the high cost of meeting environmental restrictions on sonic booms.

The Concorde's demise also followed a 2000 Air France accident that killed 113 people.

The aircraft could fly at over twice the speed of sound, creating its famous "sonic boom" when it burst through the sound barrier.

Only the wealthiest passengers were able to afford the exorbitant ticket prices for the 100-144 seats on the aircraft, which was only ever used by Air France and British Airways.

However, the technology is getting another look today as companies in the United States and abroad develop planes with lighter and more efficient composite materials and new engine designs, according to a fact sheet from the Federal Aviation Administration.

No Evidence Mystery UFOs Are Alien Spacecraft: Report

Agence France-Presse

UNITED STATES: There is no evidence that unexplained aerial phenomena spotted in recent years by US military personnel are aliens, an upcoming government report quoted by The New York Times Thursday said, but officials still can't explain the mysterious aircraft.

The newspaper, which cited senior administration officials briefed on the findings of the highly anticipated report, said they were able to confirm the unusual vessels were not the product of secret Pentagon technology.

But the review of more than 120 incidents over the past two decades was unable to explain the mysterious movements of the



craft, which include unusual acceleration, direction changes and the ability to rapidly submerge.

And while senior officials told the Times the lack of clear findings means that while there's no evidence of alien technology behind the phenomena, it's also impossible to rule out.

One senior official briefed on the report said intelligence and military officials increasingly worry the phenomena could be China or Russia experimenting

with hypersonic technology.

The upcoming report -- expected to be released to Congress by June 25 -- will have a classified annex, officials told the Times, which will likely fuel speculation that aliens are actually behind the encounters.

The Pentagon last year released videos taken by US Navy pilots showing in-flight encounters with the unusual aircraft.

And the mystery was further drummed up by former officials with access to classified intelligence.

"What is true -- and I'm actually being serious here -- is that there's footage and records of objects in the skies that we don't know exactly what they are," former president Barack Obama told "The Late Late Show" last month.

High Court Quashes PSA Detention Of Two Persons



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court Friday quashed Public Safety Act detention order of two detainees and ordered their release forthwith "provided they are not required in any other case."

A bench of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul quashed the detention orders of Mohammad Maqbool Dar son of Ghulam Ahmad Dar of Hariparigam Awantipora and Nazir Ahmad Khan son of Late Mohammad Sultan Khan of Ka-woosa Khalisa Narbal, Budgam.

"It is imperative upon the detaining authority to inform the (detainee) that he has a right to make a representation to the detaining authority as well as to the Government and not only that he is to be informed about the time within which such representation is to be made. This right of the (detainee) is guaranteed under Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India," the court

said.

While dealing with plea by Khan, the court said that it was incumbent upon detaining authority to have informed the detainee that he could also make a representation to him, if he so desired

"Since detaining authority did not communicate to (detainee) that such a representation could be made to detaining authority, this in itself amounted to infringement of provisions of Section 13 of the Act," the court observed.

While dealing with Dar's petition, the court said that preventive detention cannot be resorted to when sufficient remedies are available under general laws of the land for any omission or commission under such laws.

Subsequently, the court quashed the detention orders and ordered authorities to release them from preventive custody forthwith provided they are not required in any other case. (Agencies)

IT IS IMPERATIVE UPON THE DETAINING authority to inform the (detainee) that he has a right to make a representation to the detaining authority as well as to the Government and not only that he is to be informed about the time within which such representation is to be made. This right of the (detainee) is guaranteed under Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India."

Three Arrested For Illegal Mining In Budgam



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Jammu and Kashmir Police in Budgam Friday arrested three persons allegedly involved in "illegal excavation & transportation" of clay and seized three tippers used in transportation of extracted clay.

A police spokesperson said that a police party during night patrolling seized three tippers

loaded with illegally extracted clay and arrested three drivers for transportation of illegally extracted clay.

The drivers have been identified as Sahil Ahmad Sofi son of Mohd Ramzan Sofi, a resident of Hajibagh Soibugh, Sameer Ahmad Chopan son of Abdul Gani Chopan, a resident of Hajibagh Soibugh and Muhammad Yusuf Shah son of Muhammad Akbar Shah, a resident of Hajibagh Soibugh.

"They have been arrested and shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody. All vehicles used in the commission of the crime have also been seized," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, the statement said, a case under FIR No. 113/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Magam and investigation has been initiated.

Two Hotels Sealed In Baramulla For Violating Covid Guidelines

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: District Administration Baramulla Friday sealed two hotels for violating Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines of the District authorities in Main Town.

Reports said that BDO Baramulla

Zeshan Khan along with senior officials of Police department and Municipal Council raided many places in Baramulla town where two hotels 'Mezbaan' and Hotel 'Dawat' were found violating guidelines and SOPs for Covid Pandemic.

The two hotels were sealed on the spot.



A GIRL BREAKS DOWN during the funeral (not in the picture) of five-year-old Adda, who was mauled by a leopard in Ompora area of Budgam. KO Photo Abid Bhat

...DOCTOR SPEAKS

Covid Vaccine Safe For Kidney Patients: Nephrologist Shares Safety, Medication Tips For Kidney Patients

JAMMU: Consultant Nephrologist, Super Specialty Hospital Jammu, Dr Raju K Bhandari, has assured that all kinds of Covid vaccine are safe for kidney patients, including those having undergone recent renal transplant.

Dr Bhandari said, "Patients on steroids can take vaccines only once their dosage is below 20 mg levels. Those having been administered with Rituximab must wait for 6 months before getting vaccinated. Renal transplant patients can be administered the vaccine after 6 months post the operation."

Highlighting the risks involving kidney patients, Dr Bhandari disclosed, "At least 30 percent of Covid patients, with no prior kidney issues, develop varying degrees of urinary abnormalities, including Stage-III Acute Kidney Injury. Around 10 to 20 percent of such patients may require dialysis. Such patients have five times high morbidity than general Covid patients."

Other priority groups for the health professionals are patients with prior kidney issues. Dr Bhandari says, "We



pay special attention towards such patients as their recovery rate is little lesser than normal patients, at 70 to 80 percent, and have high mortality ranging between 20 to 30 percent."

"Another priority group includes renal transplant patients. Such patients are susceptible to develop severe Covid complications multiplied by their multiple comorbidities and the immune-suppressing drugs being taken by them. While globally such patients have a mortality rate of 25 to 35 percent, thankfully the rate is a little less in India," he informed.

Dr Bhandari advises healthy diet and exercise for kidney

patients and reminds them to avoid Potassium rich foods like dry fruits, green leafy vegetables, coconut water and citrus fruits etc. Patients are advised to seek clarifications from their doctor for more advice.

Detailing facilities being provided at government hospitals, Dr Bhandari informed, "Severe Covid patients are given dialysis in the High Dependency Unit at the GMC. Covid positive patients, with stable condition, requiring dialysis are given the facility at Government Gandhi Nagar Hospital. Non Covid patients can get the dialysis facility at the Super Specialty Hospital Jammu."

ANOTHER PRIORITY GROUP INCLUDES RENAL TRANSPLANT patients. Such patients are susceptible to develop severe Covid complications multiplied by their multiple comorbidities and the immune-suppressing drugs being taken by them. While globally such patients have a mortality rate of 25 to 35 percent, thankfully the rate is a little less in India,"

Covid Patients Do Not Transmit Virus After Recovery: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday said that some Covid-19 patients testing positive weeks after recovering from the infection cannot transmit the virus.

In a statement, DAK said in most Covid-19 positive cases, the virus dies after the 7th or the 8th day of the illness. At that time virus cannot be transmitted to another person.

"But the dead virus can still be picked up by RT PCR test and the report may still

BUT THE DEAD virus can still be picked up by RT PCR test and the report may still come positive, even when a person has become free from Covid,"

come positive, even when a person has become free from Covid," he said.

Quoting a Korean study, DAK said people who had recovered from Covid and tested positive again were not found contagious. "That means they didn't transmit the virus to others,

based on virus culture that failed to find live viruses in recovered patients."

DAK said to avoid unnecessary prolonged isolation and unnecessary use of laboratory testing resources, retesting is not recommended now. "There is a shift from test-based strategy to time-based and symptom-based strategy to end the isolation of Covid patients."

"Under the new guidelines, Covid patients have to remain in isolation for 10 days after the symptom onset plus at least 3 additional days without symptoms," DAK said.

Rs 1107 Cr District Plan Approved For Baramulla

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: District Planning Committee (DPC) Baramulla Friday approved the district plan of Rs 1106.96 Crore for the year 2021-22 which comprised Rs 12.63 Cr under regular component, Rs 38.13 Cr under the loan component and Rs 945.98 Cr under CSS. Moreover, the breakup of the area development is Rs 10 Cr as DDC Grant, Rs 6.5 Cr as BDC Grant and Rs 93.66 Cr as the grant of PRIs at Panchayat level.

The meeting was convened and jointly chaired by Member parliament Mohammad Akbar Lone and District Development Council Chairperson Safeena Beigh.

During the meeting, DC Baramulla highlighted various aspects associated with the plan and underlined the importance

of such a plan for the holistic development of the district. He lauded the role of DDCs, BDCs and PRIs while formulating the plan and said that active participation of these stakeholders made it so.

Highlighting the role of PRIs, Member Parliament said that they have an instrumental role in the overall socio-economic development of the society. He urged upon all the concerned stakeholders to show their active participation for realizing the vision of democratic decentralization. He also directed to identify loopholes and bottlenecks, if any so that they are sorted out in a time bound manner.

DDCs, Presidents of Municipal Councils/Committees, ACD, district and sectoral officers among other concerned functionaries participated in the meeting.

SKUAST-K Among Three Best Performing Agri Universities Under NAHEP VC Lauds IDP-SKUAST-K Team For Outstanding Performance



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir has been placed among the top three best performing State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) of the country for the progress achieved under the World Bank-funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) for institutional development in 2020-21.

A university statement said that the performance of 58 Agricultural Universities, including that of SKUAST-KASHMIR, was assessed during the annual review meeting of the World Bank-funded NAHEP of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi on June 2-3, 2021.

The most important evaluation parameter was the outcome and output impacts created through the interventions and activities carried out under the project. It is heartening to learn that SKUAST-K found a place in the top three performing and the elite group of SAUs with strong performance indicators. SKUAST-K report on its Institutional Developmental Plan (IDP) under NAHEP was presented by Prof Nazir A Ganai, SKUAST-K's Director Planning and PI of the project.

Prof Ganai outlined the achievements of the university under NAHEP in terms of building the capacity of faculty and students, pushing institutional reforms and fostering the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the university and the efforts of the university to develop appropriate infrastructure and human capacity in these areas.

Dr RC Agarwal National Director NAHEP and the World Bank experts lauded the efforts of SKUAST-K at different fronts for

creating the envisioned Model of the Higher Agricultural Education for transforming SAUs under NAHEP based on academic, research, capacity building and institutional reforms for promoting an enabling ecosystem for leadership, life and higher-order skills, innovations, entrepreneurship and employability among the students. The review committee projected SKUAST-K as a model for other SAUs to emulate to bring the vibrancy in performance in line with the envisioned model of NAHEP that seeks to bring in excellence and promote outcome-based education.

Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof JP Sharma congratulated the team NAHEP of the university and praised Dr Ganai for his leadership in creating an innovative execution model of the NAHEP project that has brought visible changes in the outlook of the university at the national and international level.

Prof Sharma said SKUAST-K envisioned model aims at building next-generation human capital capable of steering knowledge-based and technology-driven agri-economy of the state, transforming the subsistence labour intensive and low remunerative farming into profitable, income-generating and business-oriented agriculture production system. Through NAHEP, he said, SKUAST-K endeavours becoming the most preferred destination of agriculture for creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and a strong research base. In an earlier in-house review meeting on May 21, 2021, Prof JP Sharma said that the project has focused on building the skills of the students to make them innovators, entrepreneurs and industry-ready graduates.

Vaccination Imperative To Control Coronavirus: DC Bandipora

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Thursday Bandipora market and interacted with the traders besides reviewing rotational opening of the shops. He expressed satisfaction over the implementation of guidelines and expressed gratitude to the traders community for cooperating with the administration in tackling the pandemic.

He called for strict adherence to the Covid-19 SOPs and Vaccination of vulnerable and the targeted population saying it is imperative to minimise the infection of Coronavirus.

While interacting with the traders, he said the district Administration is working very hard in fighting Covid-19 pandemic and people of the district have extended their coopera-



tion due to which visible decline has been witnessed during the past few days.

Later the Deputy Commissioner also inspected the ongoing macadamization process in the district. He inspected the ongoing macadamization of Patushai- Degree College road and directed the concerned officers to ensure quality of work is maintained to the highest standards and also directed them

to expedite the pace of work to complete all the macadamization works well in time while ensuring implementation of all the Covid-19 guidelines.

While briefing media about the Covid-19 situation in the district, Dr Owais said the district witnessed a visible decline in Covid positive cases but need to follow Covid Appropriate Behaviour with more responsibility amid ease in restrictions.

Covid Positivity Rate On Decline In Kulgam: DC

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The district Kulgam is recording continuous decline in positivity rate and situation is also gradually improving, however people need to follow all SOPs religiously to keep Covid at bay, said the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din-Bhat during a press brief.

The DC said that intensified testing across the district is being conducted on a daily basis and the positivity rate is on decline, adding that the district has also recorded a recovery rate of 86 percent.

He said the maternity covid care facilities are being provided at emergency hospital Qazigund and in this week 3 maternity cases were operated successfully at this hospital.

He stated that collectively we will overcome this situation and for it we need to be extra careful.



With regard to vaccination, the DC said that 70 percent of the population above the age of 45 years stands vaccinated, and to achieve the target of 100 percent vaccination of this age group slew of measures have been taken by district Administration.

He said door to door vaccination has been started in the district, and people should not pay heed to rumours, fake news and should get themselves vaccinated at an earliest.

192 Persons Arrested For Covid SOP Violations

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police Friday said that during the last 24 hours, it arrested 192 persons, lodged 91 FIRs and also realised a fine of Rs 4,35,050/- from 3814 people throughout the Kashmir valley for violating the various guidelines / rules / SOPs of Covid-19.

A police spokesperson said that the drive against the violators continued throughout all the districts of Kashmir Valley to ensure that people adhere to SOPs/guidelines envisaged by the government to curb COVID-19 pandemic.

He said community members are once again requested to cooperate with the Police in containing the spread of Coronavirus by following the SOPs/ guidelines/protocols for their own safety and for the safety of others. "The special drive shall continue throughout the districts of Kashmir Valley to strengthen the safety measures."



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NO HOLDS BARRED



In the case of children belonging to the marginalized sections, they have also faced nutritional inadequacies because of the non-availability of mid-day meals. This section of our society has suffered disproportionately. Lack of adequate resources and internet facilities has inhibited them from continuing their education

Remote Learning, Unequal Reach

Virtual learning during pandemic which is responsible for keeping kids out of school has affected the poor disproportionately

Dania Sheikh

The ramifications of the setback of the education sector are not transient, even after the pandemic gets over and schools reopen, there'll be many who won't return to schools, especially girls. This is because of the sexist parochial notion which prevails predominantly in rural areas. Many surveys reveal that there has been an upsurge in child marriages

We are soon going to enter the 16 month of the pandemic and it is showing no signs of receding. The virus seems to be growing more virulent with all the new variants that have emerged. The pandemic has disrupted our lives in several ways. One sector which has been one of the hardest hit is the education sector. With the anticipation that the third wave is going to target children as most of the adult population has already been infected, the possibility of reopening of schools seems to be out of the question.

The impact of the closure of schools for such a prolonged period has been tremendous. There has been an uptick in mental health issues among children because of the uncertainty induced by the pandemic. The suspension of physical classes has not only taken a blow at student's education but also their physical, emotional, and mental well being.

In the case of children belonging to the marginalized sections, they have also faced nutritional inadequacies because of the non-availability of mid-day meals. This section of our society has suffered disproportionately. Lack of adequate resources and internet facilities has inhibited them from continuing their education. According to an India sped report, only 15% of rural households have access to internet facilities and this figure drops down further in the case of Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims, and women. Their education has taken a nosedive but this isn't their only concern, they have more pressing issues to deal with.

The pandemic has not only brought their education to a standstill but has also posed a threat to their lives. A UNESCO report states that children belonging to marginalized families are at an increased risk of infection due to the lack of access to water and soap and the impossibility of physical distancing. The economic hit back suffered by the marginalized section has brought a change in their priorities, their primary concern during these desperate times is to sustain themselves, and they're doing everything in their capacity to make ends meet. A Brut India report showed that many children, children as young as 4 are being pushed into child labor and child trafficking by their parents to bring food to the table. The report reveals that children are being pushed into sexual labor for something as basic as 2kg of atta/flour. This tells us a lot about the plight of the impoverished in our country.

The government has several policies in place to address the needs of the marginalized sections but the stories that are emerging on social media show that there has been a failure of the execution of these well-intended policies.



Thomson Reuters Foundation/Roli Srivastav

The ramifications of the setback of the education sector are not transient, even after the pandemic gets over and schools reopen, there'll be many who won't return to schools, especially girls. This is because of the sexist parochial notion which prevails predominantly in rural areas. Many surveys reveal that there has been an upsurge in child marriages. As the old saying goes, a stitch in time saves 9; it is high time that the government gets alert and takes the necessary steps to ensure that education is not disrupted because if this continues unabated, it is going to create other problems which will be difficult to resolve.

Education is the antidote for most of the problems that we are encountering, neglecting it will take us in a downhill spiral. It is well established that a lower literacy rate heightens the crime rate and other social evils in the society. Moreover, turning a blind eye to the catastrophe suffered by the marginalized sections is not only inhumane but against the utilitarian principle(maximum happiness of the maximum number) that the world operates by, it will reverse the progress that our country has made over the past 70 years. It is appalling that at a time when there should have been an increase in the budget allotted to the educational sector, we have witnessed that it has been reduced. There is an urgent need to ameliorate the education sector by spending adequately, bridging the digital divide is crucial to deliver justice to millions of children who are excluded because of being situated in the lower socioeconomic strata, the welfare system has to be bolstered to develop human capital. A country that has been founded on socialist principles must assume its duty, carry out the constitutional mandate and make the necessary intervention to ensure social justice.

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

The author is a student at University of Delhi

CAMBRIDGE – A century ago, an influenza pandemic killed more people than died in World War I. Today, the COVID-19 pandemic has killed more Americans than died in all US wars since 1945. A big difference, however, is that science did not have a vaccine for the influenza virus back then, but now several companies and countries have created vaccines for COVID-19.

A number of wealthy democracies, including the United States and the United Kingdom, have vaccinated over half their adult populations and seen a dramatic reduction in the number of new cases and deaths. Other places, such as India, Brazil, and parts of Africa, have low vaccination rates and high rates of new cases and deaths. The Economist estimates that the pandemic's true global death toll may be something like ten million people, or more than three times the official number reported by national authorities.

Given these grim statistics, should leaders of wealthy countries export vaccines and help vaccinate foreigners before they finish the job at home? When former President Donald Trump proclaimed "America First," he was being consistent with democratic theory, according to which leaders are entrusted with defending and advancing the interests of the people who elected them. But as I argue in my book *Do Morals Matter?* the key question is how leaders define the national interest. There is a major moral difference between a myopic transactional definition, like that of Trump, and a broader, far-sighted definition.

Consider President Harry Truman's espousal of the Marshall Plan after World War II. Rather than narrowly insisting that America's European allies repay their war loans, as the US had demanded after World War I, Truman dedicated more than 2% of America's GDP to aiding Europe's economic recovery. The process allowed Europeans to share in planning the continent's reconstruction and produced a result that was good for them, but that also served

America's national interest in preventing Communist control of Western Europe.

There are four major reasons why a Marshall Plan-like effort to vaccinate people in poor countries is in the US national interest. First, it is in Americans' medical interest. Viruses do not care about the nationality of the humans they kill. They simply seek a host to allow them to reproduce, and large populations of unvaccinated humans allow them to mutate and evolve new variants which can evade the protections that our vaccines produce. Given modern travel, it is only a matter of time before variants cross national borders. If a new variant arose that was capable of by-passing our best vaccines, we would have to develop a booster targeted at the new variant and vaccinate again, which could lead to more fatalities and more strain on the US medical system, as well as lockdowns and economic damage.

Our values provide the second reason that a vaccine Marshall Plan is in America's national interest. Some foreign policy experts contrast values with interests, but that is a false dichotomy. Our values are among our most important interests, because they tell us who we are as a people. Like most people, Americans care more about their co-nationals than foreigners, but that does not mean they are indifferent to the suffering of others. Few would ignore a cry for help from a drowning person because she calls out in a foreign language. And while leaders are constrained by public opinion in a democracy, they often have considerable leeway to shape policy – and considerable

COVID-19 Vaccines and the US National Interest

JOSEPH S. NYE, JR.



Our values are among our most important interests, because they tell us who we are as a people. Like most people, Americans care more about their co-nationals than foreigners, but that does not mean they are indifferent to the suffering of others

resources to influence public sentiment.

A third national interest, related to the second, is soft power – the ability to influence others through attraction rather than coercion or payment. American values can be a source of soft power when others

see our policies as benign and legitimate.

Most foreign policies combine hard and soft power. The Marshall Plan, for example, relied on hard economic resources and payments, but it also created a reputation for benignity and far-sightedness that attracted Europeans. As the Norwegian political scientist Geir Lundestad has argued, the American role in postwar Europe may have resembled an empire, but it was "an empire by invitation." A policy of helping poor countries by providing vaccines, as well as aiding the development of their own health-care systems' capacities, would increase US soft power.

Finally, there is geopolitical competition. China quickly recognized that its soft power suffered from the origin story of COVID-19 in Wuhan. Not only was there lack of clarity about how the virus originated, but in the early stages of the crisis, Chinese censorship and denial made the crisis worse than necessary before its authoritarian lockdown proved successful. Since then, China has assiduously pursued COVID-19 diplomacy in many parts of the world.

By donating medical equipment and vaccines to other countries, China has been working to change the international narrative from one of fault to one of attraction. The Biden administration has been playing catch-up, announcing that it will release 60 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine, as well as 20 million additional doses of Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. In addition, the administration has pledged \$4 billion in funding for the World Health Organization's COVAX facility to help poor countries purchase vaccines and supports a temporary waiver of intellectual property to help poor countries develop capacity.

In short, for four good reasons consistent with America's history, values, and self-interest, the US should lead a group of rich countries in a plan to vaccinate the rest of the world now, even before the job is finished at home.

Project Syndicate

SAYYID MIRAK SHAH KASHANI

Kashmir's Spiritual Glory Prophesied In Lahore

- Part 1

Khalid Bashir Ahmad

24 Shawwal, the 10th month of Islamic [Hijri] calendar, is the death anniversary of Sayyid Mirak Shah Kashani of Shalimar, the 20th century's most revered spiritual personality of Kashmir. It was on this day in 1391 Hijri (13 December 1971) - three days before the Indo-Pak War ended - that he breathed his last at the age of 76 following a brief illness. His demise was widely mourned in Kashmir and outside. Grieving people attended his funeral amidst cold weather, ongoing Indo-Pak war and dogfights in Srinagar's skies. He was buried beside the graves of his predecessors, Hadrat Abdul Qudoos and Hadrat Laal Shah Sahib. Those blessed few who had the honour of lowering his body in the grave included a 21-year old college student, Mohammad Ismail Bhat. On the day of Sayyid Mirak Shah's fateha or the congregational prayer meeting, a large number of mourners had assembled at his grave. They were addressed, among others, by politician Molvi Mohammad Sayeed Masoodi and Mirwaiz Molvi Mohammad Farooq.

Strangely, a day before Sayyid Mirak Shah Kashani's demise, a majzoob (absorbed ascetic), Kamal Kuchhay (also Kamal Sahib), had predicted his departure from the mortal world. Poet Mirza Arif Beg, as he had told my maternal uncle, was with Kuchhay at Maisuma when he informed the ascetic, "Haekim hez draav" [The ruler has left], referring to the death of Chief Minister G. M Sadiq who had died at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Chandigarh that day (12 December). Kamal Sahib shot back, "Yi kusu haekim gov. Haekim ha neri pagah" [He was no ruler. The real ruler will leave tomorrow]. Mirak Saeb or Sahib, as he was fondly called, had ascended the gaddi (seat) following the demise of his murshid (spiritual anchor), Hadrat Abdul Qudoos, on 9 Zilqadah 1342 (1922 AD). He graced the Darbar-i-Kashania, as his Seat is now known, for 49 years. This year, on 9 Zilqadah, a fortnight from now, will be marked the 100th anniversary of his ascent to the Spiritual Throne at Shalimar. A very historic moment, indeed! Although he himself was from the Qadri silsila (order), he imparted teaching and spiritual practices in five orders of mysticism including Naqshbandi, Kubravi, Suharwardi, Qadri, and Chisti. Hundreds of them have profited from his guidance.

Fakir-i-Millat or the Nation's Ascetic as he was reverentially addressed, Sayyid Mirak Shah Kashani's ancestor, Sayyid Habibullah Kashani, had migrated from Kashan, a city in Isfahan province of Iran. Mirak Sahib was born to Sayyid Ahmad Shah Naqash of Saraf Kadal, a quarter of old Srinagar city, on 6 September 1895. According to his genealogy published by the Darbar-i-Kashania, Mirak Sahib was a descendent of Hadrat Ali (May Allah be pleased with him), the 4th Caliph of Islam and son-in-law of the Glorious Prophet (peace be upon him). Between the two, there was a chain of 36 generations. As Mirak Sahib told Ved Mehta in 1966, his spiritual lineage, passing through Mir Sayyid Ali Hamdani, also connected him to Hadrat Ali (May Allah be pleased with him) and, eventually, to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). He was orphaned in infancy. His mother died when he was only two years old. Three years later, his father also passed away. Brought up by his brothers, he did not have any formal education beyond initiation in Qur'an, Hadith (sayings of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him) and some Persian literature like Sheikh Sadi's Gulistan Bostan at the Ame Kaluin Madrassa (Ama Kaloo's Seminary) in the city. When his brothers insisted on his having further education he refused and began spending his time in the company of fakirs, majzoobs and qalandars. He also started calligraphy of Qur'anic verses for raising some money to feed his companions. Mirak Sahib's childhood mate and a neighbor at Saraf Kadal, Late Abdul Ahad Wani, once recalled that as children they would regularly go to the Jhelum to take a bath. While the rest of the children would not take much time young Mirak Shah remained in water for long, meditating. One day, as the children had a dip in the river others came out soon but not Mirak Shah. The children were shocked, waited for some time for him to reappear but as he did not, they returned to their homes without telling anybody about the incident. Next day, pleasantly amazed, they found him with them and ready for a bath.

From a very young age, he was a seeker of truth and enlightenment and, ultimately, attained a high spiritual place, arguably the highest among his contemporaries. In an interview with poet and broadcaster Ghulam Rasool Nazki recorded for the Radio Kashmir on 7 June 1967, Mirak Sahib narrated his initiation into the world of spirituality [translation]:

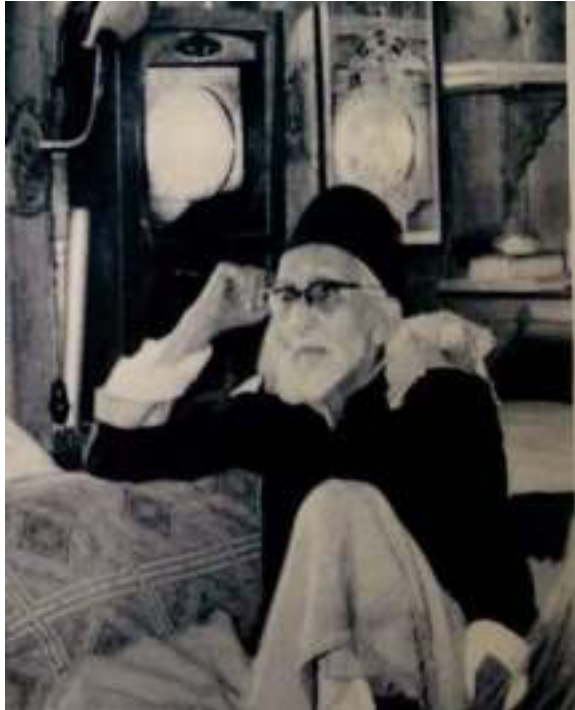
"At the age of 10, I was drawn to the path of Allah. Molvi Mohiuddin Khan of Nihalpora was my first pir in the Naqshbandi silsila (order). Around that time, my brother had a dream in which he saw me dead. It was announced there that Ghausul Azam (title of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani meaning great help or relief) will himself bathe the body. In a moment, accompanied by four persons and riding a horse, he arrived and took his position in the room as his four companions bathed my body, wrapped it in a shroud and took it away. This was the day when Ama Sahib [Molvi Ahmadullah Shah] had succeeded [as the Mirwaiz

of Kashmir] Molvi Rasool Shah. My brother went to him for interpretation of the dream. He told him that you were from the Nashbandi silsila and he was now taken by Mehboob-e-Subhani [another title of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani meaning loved by Allah, the founder of the Qadri silsila]"

Mirak Sahib's ascendancy to spiritual heights was prophesied by Hadrat Fazlullah Shah Gardezi of Lahore before his birth. Gardezi was the spiritual guide of Hadrat Laal Shah Sahib. When he enthroned him and granted him permission to return to Kashmir, he told him, "The vilayat (spiritual charge) is transferred to you by a Sayyid [Gardezi] and this amanat (trust) has to reach another Sayyid whose name will be Sayyid Mirak Shah. He will be a progeny of Sayyid Habibullah Kashani. He will be born during your time but your successor will find him out." On his return, Laal Shah Sahib kept on changing his abodes till he arrived at Shalimar where he founded Takia Laal Shah Sahib which is now known as Darbar-e-Kashania after Sayyid Mirak Shah Kashani. Laal Shah Sahib passed away on 12 Rabiut Thani 1306 Hijri and was succeeded by Hadrat Abdul Qudoos Mir or Qud Sahib who was from Shalimar. On divine hint, Qud Sahib located Mirak Sahib, who had been born 12 years ago and brought him into his circle of spirituality. Meanwhile, Mirak Sahib continued his tryst with the Truth, detaching himself from worldly affairs, sharing love and serving the needy. His brothers were worried for him and put him on the family vocation of naqashi (printing of shawls). Soon, he got rid of this avocation. Now, the family thought of getting him married to bring him back to normal life. He was married and soon was blessed with a daughter.

The marriage, however, did not withdraw him from his path. He remained mostly away from home, wandering from place to place. His elder brother admonished him for neglecting his wife and child. The reprimand saddened him and caused tears in his eyes. He prayed to Allah to bring him out of the dilemma. During the night, his brother informed him about the sudden death of his daughter. As tears rolled down his cheeks, he prostrated and accepted the incident as the will of Allah. Meanwhile, his absence from home forced his brothers to consider divorce of the couple so that the noble lady, who suffered but never complained, could start a new life. After divorce, Mirak Sahib continued with his wanderings and once spent about 10 months in the woods of Chra-i-Sharief with an ascetic named Ahad Sahib who eventually asked him to return to the city because Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani (May Allah's blessings be with him), in a vision, had ordered him to set him free, for he was not meant to stay in a forest but serve the people.

Mirak Sahib returned to Srinagar where he presented himself before Hadrat Qud Sahib at Shalimar who, eventually, made him his spiritual successor. Thus the amanat that Hadrat Fazlullah Shah Gardezi had transferred as a trust to Hadrat Laal Shah Sahib was finally delivered to Sayyid Mirak Shah Kashani. He ascended the gaddi at the age of 27 on the death of Hadrat Qud Sahib. Soon thereafter, his Seat attracted in hordes people in search of truth and ultimate reality or who sought healing to their spiritual or physical ailments. The visitors came from all faiths and from different places, the largest number being from the local Muslim community. There were Kashmiri Pandits, Sikhs and people from other states, and even countries, who sought his au-



dience and blessings. His teachings were strictly in accordance with the Shariah and laid much emphasis on the first of the five fundamentals of Islam, namaz. When a Muslim visitor would inform him about what troubled him or her he invariably asked if he or she was punctual with namaz. "Namaz gatchi parein. Tche ti mang Khodayas bati mangas" [You must offer namaz. You pray to Allah and I will also pray for you], he would advise him or her. Several people came with varying issues like promotion or transfer, infertility and domestic discords. He told an interviewer that most of the people come to him with mundane issues and there were only a few who sought spiritual enlightenment. However, he would keenly listen to all. Once, a person complained that his cow was not giving enough milk. A person laughed at him which Mirak Sahib did not like. He told that person, "Piras wani ni tell kemis wani. Pir gov su yas yiti aasi pata zi muridas keatch tchheyi tuil chi pashas" [Who else will a murid tell his problem if not to his pir (spiritual guide)? A pir is one who knows how many hay-straws his murid's cottage roof is made of.]

Among the visitors were rich and poor - common people, businessmen, shopkeepers, government employees and housewives. Prominent political leader and former Prime Minister, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, was one among them. When Abdullah, as the President Muslim Aqaf Trust, decided to reconstruct the Hazratbal Shrine in late sixties he first visited Shalimar to seek Mirak Sahib's approval who, later, laid the foundation stone of the new building on 12 November 1969. Besides the Hazratbal Shrine and his own mosque at Shalimar, he laid foundation of several mosques including the Zindshah Masjid at Rainawari on 14 July 1961 and another at Sekidafar, Safa Kadal where Sayyid Qasim Shah Bukhari, religious scholar and founder of the Anjuman-e-Tableegul Islam, led Friday prayers. The Anjuman journal, Al-Tableeg, was published under his patronage. He would also organize annual Milad function at the famous Shalimar Garden to commemorate the birth of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) where prominent religious scholars were invited. On this occasion, special dishes were cooked in the langar (kitchen). He also founded a darasgah (school) at Shalimar where children were imparted education in Qur'an and Hadith. Deen Mohammad, his spiritual successor, was one of the students. It is said that when he had his first lesson in Qur'an, Mirak Sahib was so happy that he himself served qahwa to the guests. Later, the school was upgraded to a high school during the time of Fakir Deen Mohammad.

Kashmir was under an autocratic and oppressive rule when Sayyid Mirak Shah Kashani ascended the Spiritual Seat. Economically crushed, the people were deprived of all civil, political and human rights. Mirak Sahib could not remain unaffected by the situation and actively supported their movement against autocracy. He took part in processions and public meetings. In 1931, when about 60,000 people armed with axes, spears, lances and match-lock rifles gathered at Khanyar in a show-down with the oppressive regime, he came out of his Abode, mounted his horse with a naked sword in his hand and marched ahead of a large procession. On 31 December 1963, he arrived at the Jama Masjid Srinagar along with thousands of his supporters to attend a massive demonstration to protest the mysterious disappearance of the Holy Relic from the Hazratbal Shrine. In later years also, he was in touch with developments in Kashmir. Once he asked his disciple, Abdus Samad Khan, about what was going on in the Valley. He informed him that people were confused and concerned about their future because of the often changing political stand of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who had been released from jail and was now speaking in different languages. This disappointed Mirak Sahib and the disappointment showed on his face. At that time, Abdullah arrived there and, reading Mirak Sahib's face, asked him what the reason was. He told him to ask from Khan who found himself in a difficult situation of confronting a mass leader. However, in the presence of his murshid he summoned courage and told Abdullah that his changing stand was bothering and letting people down. Abdullah tried to explain that a leader had to plan according to the prevailing situation and might even temporarily order retreat of his troops to win a larger battle. Mirak Sahib asked Khan if he was convinced. He was not but kept quiet.

Khalid Bashir Ahmad is a former civil servant and the author of several books like "Kashmir: Exposing the Myth Behind the Narrative" and "Kashmir: A Walk Through History". His recently released his new book "Kashmir: Looking Back in Time"

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Newer methods may boost gene therapy's use for more diseases

Agencies

Jordan Janz knew his gamble on an experimental gene therapy for his rare disease might be paying off when he returned to work and a friend sniffed him. “He said, ‘you have a normal smell, you smell good,’” Janz recalled. “And I’m like, ‘that’s probably the nicest thing you’ve ever said.’”

The 22-year-old Canadian man’s previous treatment required 40 to 60 pills a day and left him smelling like rotten eggs or stinky cheese. He was born with a flawed gene that left him unable to make a protein needed by virtually every organ in the body. Kids with this disease can throw up a dozen times a day, need eye drops every hour to prevent blindness and often kidney transplants before they’re adults.

Now, Janz and a growing number of others with rare diseases have hope of not just better treatments, but perhaps a cure. Gene therapy increasingly is being used to attack the root cause of their problems by supplying the DNA they lack.

Janz was the first person in one such study at the University of California, San Diego. He and two other participants no longer need the eye drops and pills that only delayed progression of their disease and left them smelling bad. The company that developed their therapy is testing it for several other diseases by simply adjusting what gene is supplied.

Other companies are doing the same, and U.S. health officials are working on guidance to encourage the trend.

“I am very excited for the field because I feel like we’re beginning to get to a critical mass,” where a single method or product can be deemed safe and then adapted for many uses, said Dr. Peter Marks, head of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration center that oversees gene therapies. “You’re essentially using the same

rocket ship to put stuff into space dozens of times.”

NOT SO RARE DISEASES

In the United States, a disease is considered rare if it affects fewer than 200,000 people, said Ron Bartek, a board member of the National Organization for Rare Disorders and whose son, Keith, died of one -- Friedreich ataxia, a progressive neurological condition.

There are more than 7,000 rare diseases and collectively, they’re not so rare -- about 30 million Americans have one.

Seven gene therapies are approved in the United States and a few more are sold in Europe or elsewhere. In 2017, when the first ones were OK’d in the U.S., 854 companies were developing them. That grew to 1,085 by the end of last year, according to the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine, an advocacy group for the field. More than 400 gene therapy trials are underway now.

“It’s really been an exciting couple of years,” Bartek said. “We’re finally looking at the possibility of profoundly beneficial therapies” for many diseases.

There’s interest from not only small biotech firms but also universities and big companies such as Pfizer and Novartis, he said.

DOCTORING DNA

Gene therapies often aim to supply a gene people lack. The trick is getting the new one where it needs to be without triggering other problems.

Some therapies, such as ones for inherited forms of blindness, inject the treatment into the eye. A common method for others is to remove some of a patient’s blood cells, alter them in the lab to carry the desired gene, and return them through an IV.

What has scientists excited is better vectors -- disabled viruses that ferry the gene into cells -- that seem safer and more effective.

One, surprisingly, may be HIV,

the virus that causes AIDS. Doctors recently reported that a gene therapy using modified HIV from London-based Orchard Therapeutics gave a working immune system to 48 babies and toddlers who were born without one. Avrobio, a Massachusetts company, also is using HIV in gene therapies it is testing for cystinosis, Janz’s disease, and several other diseases.

BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc. in California is taking a similar approach with a different virus called AAV for hemophilia, a blood clotting disorder, and several other diseases.

“The only thing that’s changing is the payload, the gene,” said Avrobio’s chief scientific officer, Dr. Chris Mason.

THE SNIFF TEST

Janz lives in Consort, a Canadian village of 700 in Alberta. His mother called the first day of enrollment for Avrobio’s study under Stephanie Cherqui, a pediatrics expert at UCSD.

People with cystinosis are unable to clear cystine, a chemical that builds up in their cells and forms crystals that damage kidneys, eyes and other organs, and leads to muscle weakness, trouble swallowing and even breathing. The vomiting is so bad that many kids need a feeding tube placed in their stomach, and wind up being home-schooled because they’re teased by classmates and their medical needs are so complex, Cherqui said.

“When you meet these families, these children are suffering every day from the disease,” she said. “I can’t even imagine. It’s terrible.”

Gene therapy offers hope of a one-time fix. The therapy doesn’t have to get into all cells to work, just enough of them to make sufficient amounts of the protein that removes cystine so it doesn’t build up.

Janz was treated in 2019 and said he feels “essentially cured,” though it will take longer to know if he really is, and he may need a kidney transplant someday because of dam-

age done by his disease. Tests show that crystals in his eyes, skin and muscle have greatly decreased. Instead of 54 pills a day, he just takes vitamins and specific nutrients his body needs.

“I have more of a life now,” Janz said. “I’m going to school. I’m hoping to open up my own business one day” -- a deli featuring charcuterie, prepared meats such as hams and sausages. It’s an interest he developed during years of frequent trips to Chicago as a young boy to try other treatments. He stayed so often at the Omni Hotel that the chef let him cook in the hotel’s fancy restaurant when he was 13. The staff even bought Janz a knife kit and his own chef’s hat, apron and shoes.

CHALLENGES REMAIN

Gene therapy doesn’t work for everyone, it’s unknown how long any benefits will last, and safety remains a concern. In the past, a couple gene therapies that used different vectors triggered cancer in a few patients who received them.

“Every time we think we have overcome the safety issues, we continue to butt up against them,” the FDA’s Marks said. “I have confidence that we will work through them ... but we can’t get too sure of ourselves.”

Marks and many other scientists think gene editing eventually may offer a long-lasting way to do gene therapy. Instead of just supplying a missing gene to cells, editing permanently alters a patient’s native DNA to insert a gene or knock out one that’s causing trouble.

Brian Madeux, a Phoenix-area man who is now 48, became the first person in the world to have gene editing tried inside his body in 2017 for a metabolic disorder called Hunter syndrome. Through an IV, he received billions of copies of a corrective gene and a genetic tool to put it in a precise spot.

Do I need to get tested for Covid-19 if I’m vaccinated?



Do I need to get tested for Covid-19 if I’m vaccinated? No, you can skip routine testing, with some exceptions.

The latest guidance from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention says you don’t need to be tested or to quarantine if you’re fully vaccinated, even if you’ve been exposed to someone who was sick. An exception is if you develop Covid-19 symptoms such as fever, cough and fatigue.

The updated guidance reflects recent studies showing vaccinated people face very little risk of serious disease. Even if you get an infection, you’ll be less likely to spread it to others and any symptoms will likely be milder.

As a result, the CDC says vaccinated people can also be excluded from routine workplace screening, though many companies aren’t tracking employees’ vaccination status. Screening is still recommended for people working or living in homeless shelters or prisons, due to the higher risk of outbreaks.

The relaxed guidelines also don’t apply to doctors, nurses

and other healthcare workers, whose employers might still require testing. Guidance may vary by country.

US citizens returning from abroad also still have to present a negative Covid-19 test before boarding their flights home, regardless of their vaccination status. Anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 should still isolate for 10 days, the CDC says.

As vaccinations increase, many experts expect the CDC to further relax testing guidelines, even for vaccinated people with symptoms. Many common colds and viruses can cause symptoms resembling Covid-19, experts say, which could lead to a wave of unnecessary testing in the fall.

“As we race to open back up, a whole variety of infections that we don’t routinely test for are going to cause those same symptoms,” said Dr Rebecca Wurtz of the University of Minnesota.

“You should wash your hands and stay home from work, but there’s no need to run out to be tested.”

Agencies

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Driving License bearing DL No JK04 2019 0003632. 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 Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mir Mohammad fayaz
Ghulam Mohi ud din Mir
Tawheedabad vicharnag Nowshera Srinagar

mfs

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Masrat Jan D/W/o Manzoor Ahamd R/O H. NO 209 Garden Lane Lalnagar (Transferor) of Alto -K-10 bearing registration No. JK01R 1357 chasis No: 234116 Engine No: 294969 Model 2011 in favour of Uzair Showkat S/o Showkat Ahamd R/o Doabgah Arabal Bla (Transferee).



Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.

No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the afore-said period.

NOJK-RTOK 1852

Dated: 04/06/2021

fko

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

Department of (AYUSH) District Anantnag. AYUSH Immune Booster Medicine Distributed at Village LUCEER from Govt. Homeopathic Dispensary Sakdas Anantnag UT.



On 04/06/2021 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 Village LUCEER Anantnag from Govt. Homeopathic Dispensary Sakdas 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

Government Medical College Srinagar

10 Karan Nagar, Srinagar, Kashmir, (190010), Phone No 0194-2504114, fax 0194-2503115

Govt. Order NO. 398-JK(HME) of 2021 Dated. 18-05-2021.

Advertisement Notice NO 21 -GS Of 2021 dated 02-06-2021

a). Date of Commencement for submission of online applications	=	02.06.2021 from 06.00 PM.
b). Last date for submission of online applications	=	06.06.2021 upto 11:59 PM only.

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for engagement on contract basis against the following Divisional Cadre positions initially for a minimum period of one year extendable upto three years for establishment of 500 bedded temporary COVID Hospital, at Khonmoh, Srinagar:-

S. No.	Name of the post	Pay scale/ Level	Eligibility criteria	Selection Criteria
01.	Nursing Supervisor	Level 7 44900-142400	10+2 or above qualification with B.Sc Nursing from recognized Institution.	i. Weightage to aggregate marks obtained in 10+2 examination. 20 points on Pro-rata basis
				ii. Weightage to aggregate marks obtained in B.Sc Nursing examination. 75 points on Pro-rata basis
02.	X-ray Technician	Level 4 25500-81100	10+2 with science or above qualification with minimum two years Diploma in X-ray Assistant course or having degree in X-ray Technology/ Radiography course from any recognized Institution.	i. Weightage to aggregate marks obtained in 10+2 examination. 20 points on Pro-rata basis
				ii. Weightage to aggregate marks obtained in Diploma in X-ray Technology/ Radiography Course. 75 points on Pro-rata basis

In the emerging situation arising out of COVID-19 pandemic, it will not be possible to hold written test/ interview of the candidates and the selection will be made purely on the basis on aggregate marks obtained by the candidates in the Diploma/Degree Courses. **Therefore, the applicants are advised to reflect aggregate marks (Total marks of all semesters/examination : total CGA points of all semesters/examination or aggregate marks of Diploma course plus marks of Post Diploma Course in case of lateral entry candidates) in their online application forms.**

Terms and Conditions of the engagement:-

- The candidates must be domiciles of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and belonging to Kashmir Division. The eligible Scheduled Caste domiciles of Jammu Division can also participate in the selection process.
- These contractual appointments are not being made against any substantive post and won't confer any right upon the hired persons for regular/permanent appointment. The contractual engagees shall have to furnish an affidavit duly attested by the 1st Class Magistrate to the effect that they will not claim for regular appointment at any future date on the strength of this contractual engagement.

- The engagement will initially be made for one year and will be extended upto three years subject to the satisfactory performance of the candidates/approval of the competent authority and:-
a) Availability of Budget/Funds.
b) Continuation of this Scheme.
- The contractual engagees shall be paid full salary corresponding to the minimum of the pay scale including all allowances as long as they remain in the service and actually perform their duties.
- The contractual engagees shall be entitled to a casual leave of (15) days for the whole period of their contractual engagement of one year. Any leave beyond that period, on whatever ground it may be, shall be at the discretion of the appointing authority on justified grounds.
- The contractual engagement shall be terminable on one month's notice from either side or on payment of one month's salary in lieu of notice by the appointing authority; provided that the appointment of the contracting party shall be terminable without notice by the appointing authority whenever the post is filled up on regular basis by it and in that case the contracting party shall have no claim against the Government/appointing authority.
- The selection committee reserves the right not to fill up the posts in case Administrative exigency so demands
- If a contractual engagee at any point of time willfully neglect or refuses to perform his duties, the appointing authority shall immediately terminate his contractual appointment without any notice and he shall not be entitled to any salary for such period.
- The candidates must be in possession of all required documents and no document/certificate issued beyond the cutoff date shall be accepted/entertained.

Instructions for applying online:-

- The necessary instructions for filling-up of online form and submission of fee details shall be available on Government Medical College, Srinagar. Website (www.gmcs.edu.in).
- Separate Links for filling up of online application forms for these posts shall be available on the Official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar w.e.f **02.06.2021 (6.00PM) to 06-06-2021 upto 11:59 PM** only.
- Candidates are required to apply online through the official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar only.
- The requisite original documents including domicile certificate issued by the competent authority on the format prescribed for the purpose is to be produced at the time of document verification or as and when sought by Government Medical College, Srinagar,.
- The candidates are required to upload the images of their recent photograph and specimen signature which should be uploaded in (jpeg) format only.
- Candidates have to deposit fee of **Rs.200/-** through online mode only i.e. through Net Banking/Debit Card/Credit Card.
- Applications of those candidates will not be considered who do not pay the fee in online mode.
- Candidates must take a print out of the application form and fee receipt after successful filling up of the application form.
- Candidates cannot edit their application form after submission.
- Candidates shall ensure that their E-mail ID and Phone Nos as specified in the online application form are active during the currency of selection process.

DIPK-2424/21

No: GS-MC/Adv/DRDO/1002 - 06

Kashid
Principal/Dean,
Govt. Medical College, Sgr.

Dated: 02-06-2021

Director Agriculture Kashmir Inspects Mushroom Cluster Under TSP At Khimber

Says Khimber Village Shall Be Adopted As Mushroom Village

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today inspected a mushroom cluster unit having 1700 bags and established under Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) at Khimber here.

The Director on the occasion said that establishing such clusters will provide a dignified livelihood to the interested mushroom growers, for which the Department is committed in devising a composite strategy for the development and promotion of mushroom sector to ensure long term sustainable livelihood.

He said the Department is committed to devise a future strategy which could be inclusive, composite and multi-dimensional and shall meet all the requirements in terms of jobs and entrepreneurship.

Iqbal directed the Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar to provide all technical as well as logistic support to the growers and entrepreneurs for establishing mushroom units.

While interacting with the farmers of the area he said mushroom production has a huge potential to improve the socio economic status of small and marginal farmers and thus asked them to be in touch with officers of the scheme so that they can develop their mushroom units on scientific lines to get a healthy crop.

On spot directions were passed to the officers to adopt Khimber area as mushroom village so that more and more farmers are roped in to adopt mushroom cultivation as a full or part time activity.

On the occasion, Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar Mohammad Younis Chowdhary apprised the Director that there has been substantially better production of mushrooms in this cluster.

Later, the Director also inspected Borewell under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Seenchayee Yojana (PMKSY) at Khimber.

The Director during the visit was accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar Mohammad Younis Chowdhary, Mushroom Development Officer Srinagar, Assistant Soil Conservation Officer Srinagar, Chief Technical Officer and other concerned Officers and Officials.

Adv Khan Discusses Demands Of Tourism Stakeholders With Officers



KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, on Friday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to discuss the issues raised by various stakeholders of tourism sector during various meetings held by the Advisor with them.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Tourism and Culture, Sarmad Hafeez; Director Information and Public Relations, Rahul Pandey; Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itoo; Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Athar Amir ul Shafi Khan; Vice Chairman LAWDA, Chief Engineer KPDC Kashmir, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Kashmir and officers of other departments.

The meeting deliberated upon the issues and demands raised by the stakeholders connected with tourism and to evolve a mechanism to mitigate and accommo-

date their concerns as far as possible so that further succor could be provided to them in addition to what has already been considered in their favor in view of this pandemic.

The stakeholders had urged the government's intervention to provide immediate succor to them due to the prevailing circumstances. They had asked the government to provide support to them as they have been badly hit by the pandemic claiming that the prime season has been lost due to the lockdown and this sector is the worst hit.

The Advisor while discussing the issues with the officers from the various departments directed the concerned to work out comprehensive report which would indicate the scope and nature of relief to be provided so that the same is taken up for consideration. The Advisor said that the Tourism sector started from scratch at the end of first wave

and everyone is witness to the fact that this sector flourished in the days prior to the onset of second wave. He appreciated efforts of the tourism department, which comes under his domain of charges, on their unrelenting work towards betterment of tourist infrastructure even during these hard times.

The meeting also discussed the issues related to the promotion of tourism and preservation of heritage buildings. The Advisor directed the Secretary Tourism to explore the possibility of revival of water transport over Jehlum in convergence with Srinagar Municipal Committee and Handicrafts and Handloom department. He directed them to constitute a committee of officer to identify the spots along the banks of River Jehlum for establishment of handicrafts display kiosks and explore options for Heritage tourism in consultation with Department of Culture.

Jablipora Mandi To Be Made Functional Soon:director Horticulture



KO NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG: The Director Horticulture (P&M), Vishesh Mahajan on Friday visited Anantnag to get feedback from the growers, farmers, traders and other related persons, so that the department can further enhance its outreach to become more beneficial to the community for their success.

At F&V Market Jablipora, Director had detailed interaction with growers and traders about the ways and means of further improvements in the fruit packing, grading and trading so that more benefits are achieved for the community.

A number of issues raised by the association members and others were part of discussion also which included the allotment of shop sites and functioning of Terminal Market Jablipora. They also asked for construction of a brick wall, Drainage and Auction Phar 3 in Batingoo Mandi.

The Director after giving a patient hearing to the issues raised, assured the traders that all these demands would be met within the shortest possible time.

The Director also met Dy. Commissioner Anantnag for the resolution of a long pending issue of the Demarcation of the land at F&V Market Jablipora. The Dy. Commissioner

assured him of taking up the matter on priority so that a proper demarcation of the land is conducted at the earliest.

As the cleanliness in and around the Mandis should be a priority for all the stakeholders, the Director also raised the issue of cleanliness with Dy. Commissioner Anantnag of Fruit & vegetable Mandi Batingoo and the Dy. Commissioner assured to look into the issue.

Among the major apprehensions of the growers/traders was regarding the reduction of land allotted to Mandi and the adaptation of transparent means for allotment of shop sites in the mandi so that nobody is aggrieved, the Director proposed that a re-verification of the already received application may be carried out.

Director during his interaction spoke about the importance of e-NAM platform which provides a direct access to a grower with the buyer, resulting in the eradication of the unnecessary role of middlemen.

The Director assured all those present that the department will undertake all efforts to make the Fruit and Vegetable Market, Jablipora functional within the shortest possible time..

The Director during the visit was accompanied by officers of the department and the executive engineer of the engineering wing.

RBI Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged At Record Low Of 4% As Virus Lashes Economy



Agencies

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept repo rate unchanged at a record low of 4 per cent and will continue its accommodative policy stance as long as required as the Indian economy reels under the second wave of COVID-19. The monetary policy committee voted unanimously to leave the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent.

Policy support from all sides is required to nurture growth, said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das as he announced a Rs 15,000-crore liquidity window for contact-intensive sectors like hotels, travel firms, restaurants hit hard by COVID-19 pandemic. Under it, banks can provide loans of three-year tenures to these sectors such as hospitality, bus operators, tourism, salons and aviation ancillary services. Banks can park an equivalent amount with RBI at 25 bps above the reverse repo rate, Das added.

The central bank, meanwhile, cut the economic growth forecast for the current fiscal from 10.5 per cent announced in the last policy

meeting to 9.5 per cent taking into account the devastation of the second wave.

The RBI also projected retail inflation at 5.1 per cent in 2021-22, with 5.2 per cent in Q1, 5.4 per cent in Q2, 4.7 per cent in Q3 and 5.3 per cent in Q4. "The recent fall in inflation provides elbow room; policy support from all sides is required to regain growth momentum. A normal monsoon to provide tailwind for economic revival," Das expressed hope.

The governor also announced that another round of Government Securities Acquisition Program (G-SAP 1.0) worth Rs 40,000 crore will be conducted on June 17. Additionally, G-SAP 2.0 of Rs 1.2 lakh crore will be conducted in Q2 FY22.

Further, the National Automated Clearing House (NACH) payment system will be available on all days of the week from August 1. "In order to further enhance customer convenience, and to leverage the 24x7 availability of RTGS, NACH which is currently available on bank working days, is proposed to be made available on all days of the week effective from August 1, 2021," Das said on Friday.

Yasha Seeks Revitalization Of Super Bazaars On The Line Of Private Retailers

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: Secretary Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal today said that all the societies that have scope and potential to generate employment should be supported and helped to revive their activities afresh.

She urged upon the officers not to show numbers on papers only but to be proactive in doing best for those functional on ground and weed out those that are past any scope of revival after providing them ample opportunity and support to start their respective activities.

Yasha further impressed upon the officers to up their functioning of audit and inspections so that no society remains out of the supervision of the department. She directed the officers to show their presence on ground and encourage activities that are fruitful and provides gainful employment.

The Secretary further exhorted upon the officers to ensure working of Super Bazaars during business hours. She said that these Bazaars need to be open for business from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm in order to boost their sales. She asked them to have stock of the essentials in demand so that people prefer these stores.

Yasha asked the officers to increase their level of supervision and inspections to ensure these stores are working as per the



SHE EMPHASISED that all budgetary provision made should be performance based and result oriented. She asked the officers to make expenditure outcome based and enhance accountability down to ground level to upgrade performance and working of the department.

fixed schedule. She prescribed them to often make surprise inspections of these stores.

She emphasised that all budgetary provision made should be performance based and result oriented. She asked the officers to make expenditure outcome based and enhance accountability down to ground level to upgrade performance and working of the department.

The Secretary Cooperatives also asked the officers to complete all the infrastructure buildings on time. She asked them to fix deadlines against each of the project in progress and ensure that it is completed and put to good use.

In a powerpoint presentation made by Registrar Cooperatives it was given that there are 1491 societies registered with the department including 1381 primary, 106 secondary and 4 Apex level societies.

It was further given that the Department has a staff strength of 1346 and more than 400 posts are to be filled soon by different recruitment agencies including 91 gazetted, 261 non-gazetted and 60 class IV vacancies.

The Registrar also informed that the department had a capex outlay of Rs 1500 lakh and revenue expenditure of Rs 7743 lakh for 2020-21. This includes the funds for creation of assets and infrastructure like Kisan Ghar, Tangmarg, Baramulla and 1000 MT godown at Thanamandi, Rajouri. The department has 9 cooperative banks working under it with about 272 branches all over J&K.

The meeting was also attended by Registrar Cooperatives Societies, Additional Secretary Cooperatives, Joint Registrars, Deputy Registrars and other officers of the department. The Jammu based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

No Change In RBI's View On Cryptocurrencies, We Have Major Concerns: Shaktikanta Das

MUMBAI: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday made it clear that the central bank's view on cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin remains unchanged and it continues to have "major concerns" on the volatile instruments.

"There is no change in RBI's position (on cryptocurrencies). Our circular clarifies the position very well," Das told reporters in the customary post-policy press conference, when asked if there has been a change in its view.

The RBI had first come out with a circular on the issue in 2018, cautioning people about investing in cryptocurrencies, which do not have any sovereign character. It had barred entities regulated by it from dealing in such instruments.

However, the Supreme Court in early 2020 struck down the circular.

Das said a revised notification to financial institutions on Monday was necessitated because some banks were still referring to the old circular set aside by the apex court and

this was an attempt to set the record straight.

The RBI had on Monday asked banks, NBFCs and payment system providers not to refer to its earlier 2018 circular in their communications to customers.

"With regard to RBI's position (on cryptocurrencies), I had said earlier, we have major concerns around cryptocurrency which we have conveyed to the government," Das said.

Following Monday's circular, some stakeholders in the cryptocurrencies trade had welcomed it more as a vindication. Some of the cryptocurrencies have seen massive dip in their per unit trading prices lately, leading to erosion of investor wealth.

Some investors have been looking at cryptocurrencies as an attractive investment class.

Das on Friday said the central bank is not into investment advice, but added that one should make his own appraisal and do his own due diligence before taking such a call. **-PTI**

SHORT TAKES

RBI Assures Liquidity For Economy, Keeps Growth Revival Top Priority

Agencies

The monetary policy committee of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintained status quo on interest rates for the sixth consecutive review meeting on Friday, indicating that reviving economic growth was top on its agenda as it decided to look through inflation pressure which are resurfacing in the economy due to a variety of factors including hardening of crude oil prices.

"The MPC also decided unanimously to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward," said RBI governor Shaktikanta Das



in Mumbai while announcing the policy review decision.

Policy measures on the liquidity front were broadly in line with expectation, with the central bank announcing the third tranche of bond buying worth Rs 40,000 crore under G-SAP 1.0. It also announced G-SAP 2.0, under which it will buy bonds worth Rs 1.2 trillion. The central bank will also buy bonds issued by state governments, unlike G-SAP 1.0 that was only for central

government securities.

The central bank, in the April policy review meeting, had announced a bond-buying programme from the secondary market: namely Government Securities Acquisition Programme of Rs 1 trillion. The move was aimed at enabling a stable and orderly evolution of the yield curve amidst comfortable liquidity conditions.

"The monetary policy decision is in line with our expectation including the announcement of GSAP 2.0. The forward looking guidance on staying accommodative to support sustainable growth recovery and the balanced tone with a dovish bias was also expected," said Anubhuti Sahay, head of economic research, South Asia, Standard Chartered Bank.

The central bank revised the

growth projection downward to 9.5% from 10.5% for the current financial year. The projection was expected but the upward revision in inflation forecast, albeit marginal, has surprised the markets.

RBI's inflation projection for the current financial year is at 5.1%.

"The increase in inflation projection is noteworthy though we believe any policy normalization is unlikely to start before the third quarter, that is, Oct-Dec quarter of 2021. This also will be contingent on COVID curve and pace of vaccination," Sahay said.

Aurodeep Nandi, India Economist & Vice President at Nomura, said the monetary policy hand-eye coordination is becoming complicated as a second wave of Covid-19 cases is impacting growth comes at a time of rising inflationary pressures.

HC Dismisses Juhi Chawla's Suit Against 5G Tech, Imposes Fine Of Rs 20 Lakh

Agencies

The Delhi High Court, on Friday, dismissed actress-environmentalist Juhi Chawla's suit which had talked about the harmful environmental effects of the 5G technology for wireless mobile broadband.

In its order, the court said that the plaintiffs had abused the process of law and imposed a fine of Rs 20 lakh. Earlier this week, during the virtual court hearing on the lawsuit, the Delhi HC had questioned Chawla for directly approaching the court and not the government.

"This seems to be a publicity stunt. Why have you not approached Govt before coming to us? Has Govt refused to act on the issue? How has the Govt denied you any right?" the court had observed during the hearing.



In her petition, Chawla had claimed that the 5G rollout in India will harm public health, as the radiation that it emits will be "extremely harmful and injurious to the health and safety of the people".

In a statement, the actor had said she was not "against implementing technological advancements", but added that while using wireless devices one is "in a constant dilemma" about "RF (radio-frequency) radiation from wire-free gadgets and network cell towers".

Earlier on Friday, Chawla, to clear the air, explained that her petition wasn't against 5G technology, but had sought clarity from the government over whether the technology is safe for humankind, flora and fauna.

While dismissing the petition, the court said, "Juhi Chawla's lawsuit defective, abuse and misuse of process of law, wasted court's time and filed it to gain publicity."

The court explained that the suit had been filed for publicity as Chawla had shared the web link of the hearing on social media, which led to an interruption of the proceedings by unknown people.

During the hearing on Wednesday, an attendee had disturbed the proceedings by singing songs from Chawla's movies, leading the court to direct 'contempt of court' action against the troublemaker.

DSEK Rebuts News Item Titled ‘30-Minute Online Class Big Joke, Will Affect Academics’

Says In View Of Present Situation It Was Imperative To Handhold Children

SRINAGAR: The office of Directorate of School Education (DSEK) today issued a rebuttal in reference to a news item published by Daily Excelsior with headline, ‘30-minute online class big joke, will affect academics: IKEC’ on 03 June, 2021.

As per the statement issued by DSEK, it has been informed that in view of present situation of pandemic and closure of Schools across JK-UT, it was imperative to explore possibility to

handhold children in collaboration with community/stakeholders by reaching out to all enrolled students through online/offline mode and also explore possibility for those children who have no access to online teaching learning either due to lack of mobile connectivity in their area or non-availability of mobile devices.

It was given out that the School education department has taken various initiatives to

promote digital education under programme namely “e-Vidalaya/ e-Gash” in addition to digital education programmes (e-resources) of Ministry of Education GoI, at National level

“anytime anywhere learning”.

As the visual classes are different from physical classes, it has to be made more enjoyable and more experiential so that the students can develop more interest in academics instead of getting unnecessarily tired

and stressed out and in view of that Government has issued the very comprehensive policy decision and issued guidelines for stream slots time and way of communication for online classes, read the statement.

It was further informed that this will suffice both interest of students, parents and management.

As per the details it was given out there shall be 30-minute sessions for Pre-Primary Classes

and for class 1st to 8th “online synchronous learning may be undertaken not more than two sessions of 30 to 45 minutes (Approx. 1+1/2 hrs) on each day.

Besides, in the case of 9th to 12th “online synchronous learning may be undertaken not more than four sessions of 30 to 45 minutes (Approx. 3 Hrs) on each day.

Meanwhile, it has been informed that the decisions regarding timing are to be taken by Management/ Head of the Institutions.

Multi-agency team returns from Dominica after court adjourns Choksi case

Agencess

NEW DELHI: A multi-agency team which had gone to Dominica for deportation of fugitive diamondaire Mehul Choksi returned to India in a Qatar Airways private jet on Friday after Dominica High Court adjourned the hearing, sources said.

The jet carrying the team led by CBI DIG Sharda Raut departed the Melville Hall Airport in Dominica at 8.09 PM (local time) on June 3 and arrived at the Indira Gandhi International

Airport here at 11.02 PM (IST).

The team remained stationed for nearly seven days to bring Choksi, wanted in Rs 13500 crore bank fraud in Punjab National Bank, to India as legal battle continued in the courts of Dominica.

On Thursday, the Dominica High Court adjourned the hearing on a habeas corpus petition filed by Choksi’s lawyers.

A habeas corpus petition is filed for producing before a court a person who is under arrest or in unlawful detention.

It is likely that the next hearing may take place after a month and the businessman will remain in Dominica, local media reported.

Judge Bernie Stephenson will decide the next date of hearing after meeting both sides, media outlet Antigua News Room said.

The adjournment is to allow the lawyers of Choksi and the Dominica government to agree on the language to be used with respect to the injunction filed to prevent his removal from Dominica, it said.

Thursday’s hearing was

conducted through videoconferencing with a group of protesters standing outside the High Court building in Roseau carrying placards with messages seeking to know the truth about the controversy.

“Who brought Choksi to Dominica?” read one of the placards, the photo of which was published by many media outlets.

The judge had on Wednesday ordered production of Choksi before the magistrate to face charges of illegal entry into

Dominica.

The 62-year-old wheelchair-bound diamondaire, who has a pending Interpol Red Notice against him, arrived before presiding Roseau Magistrate Court in black shorts and a blue T-shirt from the Dominica-China Friendship Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment. His application for bail was rejected.

Choksi and his nephew Nirav Modi had fled India in the first week of January 2018, weeks before the PNB scam rocked the Indian banking industry.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

‘Bring Positivity

need to remain focused in working towards bringing the positivity rate below 2% by 15th of this month,” he said.

Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education, Principal Secretary, Home, Divisional Commissioners, Kashmir/ Jammu and all Deputy Commissioners and District Superintendents of Police participated in the meeting.

According to the official spokesperson, Mehta complimented the Health & Medical Education Department for a data driven scientific analysis of the Covid situation across the UT and observed that the district administrations need to work on a localized strategy for coronavirus mitigation keeping in view the analysis based on the five parameters.

“He asked the district administrations to concentrate not only at the district level but also to have the situation closely monitored at the sub-district level,” he said.

“Emphasizing on optimal utilization of panchayat-level Covid care centres to provide timely medical care to patients in rural areas, Chief Secretary asked the district administrations to strengthen such Covid care centres as grid of Covid related services by facilitating Covid testing therein and carrying out at least 10 samples per day towards early detection of Covid cases,” he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the CS directed the DCs to train ground level functionaries viz, ASHAs, VWs, lumbardars, chowkidars etc to spread awareness and ascertain whether people in rural areas have proper facilities to isolate at home and ensure that facilities provided by the Government are being put to proper use.

At the outset, he said, the Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education gave a detailed district-wise analysis of COVID-19 situation in the Union territory based on parameters including weekly new cases, test positivity rate, bed occupancy, case fatality and vaccine coverage.

“It was informed that daily average trends including COVID 19 cases, positivity rate, active cases, and deaths due to COVID are on a decline in the UT,” he said.

As per the official spokesperson status of other important measures and parameters contributing towards COVID mitigation including functionalization of CCCs at Panchayat level, distribution of COVID management kits, oxygen inventory, vaccination coverage and availability was also given out.

He further said that both Divisional Commissioners also presented a brief regarding measures being taken in the respective divisions towards COVID mitigation.

J&K Sees 34 Deaths

Baramulla 177, Budgam 128, Pulwama 138, Kupwara 111, Anantnag 72, Bandipora 48, Ganderbal 37, Kulgam 88, Shopian 22, Jammu 165, Udhampur 53, Rajouri 73, Doda 48, Kathua 22, Samba 25, Kishtwar 31, Poonch 95, Ramban 75and Reasi 12.

Also, officials said, 2731 more patients have recovered, 1107 from Jammu Division and 1624 from Kashmir valley. There are now 29615 active positive cases, 10612 in Jammu and 19003 in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, officials said one new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) has been reported today, bringing the cumulative number of confirmed cases to 14 in the J&K.

Please Bring

of mourners walked towards her house carrying a mauled corpse, gut-wrenching memories and a sweet child that was meant never to be heard again.

Ada was five and was playing in her kitchen garden with her brother and grandfather when three leopards barged into the partially walled side of her house on Thursday evening. She was the only one that the man-eaters targeted and wrenched her neck to its den.

Less than 12 hours later, her mauled body was found deep inside the jungle.

An hour after her funeral, the rush of

mourners keeps on wailing, shrieking and calling: “Ada!”

Her father is sitting in a hellhole of grief, unaware about the surrounding mourners. He has let his mind drift in the jovial memories of his daughter while her mother has tucked herself into the fairy dresses of her baby doll.

With her parents numb with grief, the only person able to talk is one of her uncles, trying his best to avoid Ada’s sweet memories, but he’s soon cornered as a tinge of panic shot through him and with his misty eyes he responded, “Today onwards, I won’t be able hear the sweet words of ourdoli!”

As soon as Ada was attacked and snatched from her family, a swift tracing operation was launched by her family members, neighbours and SDRF team, cops and Wildlife officials. In the midst of dark, the joint-team of rescuers were walking through the dense forest of Ompora and calling for Ada but there were no takers of the shrieks.

“We kept on shouting, waiting for there to be any call from Ada,” said Javaid Ahmed, a neighbour who was a part of the rescue team. “But there were no replies in that darkness. Almost every one of us was dying for her glimpse.”

Their disparity was such that with each unheard call, their hopes started running low and it was during this strange lightness of emotions that Ada’s father stopped and cried, waiting to hear his daughter.

As they kept on trekking, someone in the group stumbled upon an unrecognizable item. “It was quite dark and nothing much was visible, so the leading scouts pulled their torches and illuminated the lying item, and then, something terrible and grueling pinged us all,” said Javaid, as he recalls the wrenching incident.

“It was a body-part,” he paused before an overwhelming emotion stormed him and then he continued, “We all knew who it belonged to, and how it came there.”

The lettered body part and the blood trails all belonged to Ada. It was this littered part that led the rescuers to a nursery which belongs to the Wildlife Department and then it was there when another grueling incident happened.

Other blood soaked body parts of Ada were found.

“I stopped and saw her father,” said Javaid. “He apologised to her by slapping himself, tearing his clothes and shouting her name, but by then, we all knew that Ada had been hazed to death.”

The anger and frustration was such that the hunters began burning down that nursery before other members called them out and said they had found more blood trails.

And then, when each step was troubling the rescuers, Ada’s mauled body was found deep inside the forest. “I wasn’t able to look at her mauled body,” said Javaid, as tears trickled down his eyes.

Ada’s death has also driven his family and other neighbours to take on an influential system that has held sway upon the jungles of Ompora.

Despite a history of these man-eaters roaming freely in the vicinity and attacking people out of nowhere, the wildlife department, as per the residents was far too “lenient” in neutralising the five beasts that had unleashed a “reign of terror” among hundreds of families living in the densely Ompora housing Colony.

“For the last few months we had relentlessly requested the wildlife officials to take action against these leopards as they were attacking people,” Farooq Bhat, a resident of the Housing Colony said.

“But, except issuing advisories for not travelling alone in the evening, the department has done nothing. Ada was killed because of their negligence.”

However, refuting allegations of inaction, wildlife warden, Ifshan Diwan said, “These are wild animals, they don’t ask for permission to attack from the department. They can barge at any time. One month back, we had already issued advisories and even camped in the deep forests to find its traces but unfortunately these beasts were not found.”

Ada’s death has also saddened us, Ifshan

continued. “We’ve already assigned five sharpshooters to neutralise these beasts as soon as possible.”

Back in Mir House, life couldn’t have been more brutal towards Ada and her grandfather. He’s trying in his hardest ways, and always in vain, to imagine other family members who’ve died and whose death might’ve struck with him, but no grief is bigger than Ada’s death.

“Please bring back my Jigar (Ada),” he loudly requested the mourners. By the time he cried these words, grief—amazingly unknown to many till then—had taken over them.

Outside this room of mourners, a septuagenarian said, “Many think that Ada’s death is a small time of grief. It’s a poor way of thinking. We’re never finished with grief. It’s part of the fabric of living. It’s always waiting to happen. Innocent children like Ada help us to make memories and life precious; her grief will always remain an inescapable portion in our lives.”

Amid all this, the leopard attack has set off blame-game between residents and the officials of the wildlife department over sharing responsibility of addressing the growing Leopard attack in Ompora. But for Ada’s family no department can bring back their gazelle-eyed daughter anymore.

Range Officer

patrolling and awareness among general public regarding roaming of the leopard in the area.

“They will take immediate steps for capturing of the roaming animal in the forests. Any laxity on this score shall be dealt with strictly,” the official spokesperson said.

The meeting, he said, also decided that wildlife Warden will immediately prepare compensation case and obtain a sanction from competent authority within three days positively, so that necessary compensation being paid to family of deceased.

“DFO, PP Division Budgam will ensure immediate removal of fallen material and other cultural operations at Ompora Forests and other risky areas forthwith in order to avoid to any untoward incident in the area. Commissioner Secretary to Govt Forest Ecology and Environment J&K has assured sanction within two days,” the official spokesperson said.

He further added that DFO will immediately take steps for erection and strengthening of existing chain-link fencing at Ompora forests and will also submit DPR to the higher authorities for sanction of funds.

“He will also process the proposal/case for sanction of thinning of the forest immediately,” the official spokesperson said.

He said that DC Budgam and SSP Budgam also visited the bereaved family and conveyed their heartfelt condolences to them and assured that all possible measures shall be taken to prevent such incidents in future.

Pak Ready For

India’s external affairs ministry did not immediately respond to Reuters’ request for comment.

Kashmir has been a flashpoint since India and Pakistan gained independence from British rule in 1947, and they have fought two wars over the region. Pakistan accuses India of rights violations in Kashmir, and India says Pakistan supports militants in its part of the region. Both deny the charges.

In 2019, a suicide bombing of an Indian military convoy in Kashmir led to India sending warplanes to Pakistan.

Khan said he has always wanted a “civilized” and “open” relationship with India.

“It is common sense that if you want to reduce poverty in the sub-continent, the best way is to trade with each other,” he said, referring to the example of the European Union.

Pakistan in March deferred a

Dusty Winds, Rains Hit Delhi-NCR, Trees Uprooted At 80 Locations

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The national capital witnessed a sudden weather change on Friday evening as dusty winds and rains hit several parts of the Delhi-NCR, uprooting trees at nearly 80 places and causing inconvenience to farmers protesting at the city’s borders.

The rains brought a much-needed relief to Delhiites reeling under hot and humid conditions. Netizens took to Twitter to share pictures of a rainbow that formed after the showers.

Strong winds of up to 60 km/hr swept through the national capital, the meteorological office said.

The winds uprooted trees at 67 places in north Delhi, including Civil Lines, Shalimar Bagh and Paschim Vihar, and at 11 locations in south Delhi, including in Kalkaji and Nizamuddin West among others, officials said.

Similar incidents were reported in east Delhi as well.

It is likely to be the first time since 2014 that the city may not witness a heatwave in the summer season.

No heatwave has been recorded at the Safdarjung observatory, considered the official marker for the city, till now.

Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 39.5 degrees

Celsius during the day, a notch below the season’s average. The minimum temperature was recorded at 26.1 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal.

Till 5.30 pm, the Safdarjung observatory had recorded 3.2 mm rainfall.

Palam recorded a maximum temperature of 38.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 26.2 degrees Celsius along with 9.4 mm rainfall. A hailstorm was also reported at Palam at 5 pm.

The Lodhi Road observatory received 1.6 mm rainfall and recorded a maximum temperature of 39 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 25.3 degrees Celsius.

The strong winds added to the woes of farmers protesting at the Delhi borders against the Centre’s three new farm laws.

“Around 100 tents have been affected and damaged due to the strong winds and rains. The protesters will spend the night inside troleys, and the tents will be erected tomorrow (Saturday) morning,” farmer leader Gurmeet Mehra said.

Another farmer leader, Sarwar Singh Pandher, said food items have also been affected.

“It happens every time when this kind of a situation comes in front of us,” he added.

country,” he said.

At the outset, the official spokesperson said, Ministry of Power, gave a presentation on progress achieved on Smart Metering in the UTs.

In the meeting, he said, it was informed that the places where Smart Meters have been installed in the country have experienced a considerable reduction in losses due to improvement in billing efficiency and collection efficiency.

“It was proposed that the smart metering project in J&K shall be funded under Centrally Sponsored Schemes; DDUGJY, IPDS, and PMDP and remaining funds shall be arranged by the Implementing Agency RECPDCL under Hybrid Capex and Opex Model,” the official spokesperson added.

Militants ‘Attack’

The paramilitary men, he said, also retaliated to the fire.

He further said that the area was placed under cordon by his men and Jammu and Kashmir police personnel to nab the attackers.

However, a local news agency reported that the CRPF men fired shots in air after some youth pelted stones at their convoy.

Army Driver

some mechanical fault as a result of which it moved backwards and pushed the soldier with another armoured vehicle which was parked behind it, leaving him trapped, news agency GNS reported while quoting officials.

He was immediately evacuated to hospital in an unconscious state but succumbed to the injuries, the report said.

The deceased was a resident of Tamil Nadu. He is survived by his parents besides a brother and a sister.

Arms Cache

Police in the areas of Manyal, Danna and Kopra,” a police officer said.

“During the search operation, the joint party unearthed a hide in Manyal, where from a dumped stock of arms and ammunition comprising of four (04) pistols with eight (08) magazines and one hundred and five (105) rounds, one (01) AK with two (02) magazines and fifty-four (54) rounds along with packaging material and tying ropes was recovered,” the officer said.

In this regard, FIR No. 114/2021 u/s 18/20 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 121/120B IPC, 7/27 Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Thanamandi and investigation has been initiated, the officer said.

“From initial investigations, it appears that this cache of arms and ammunition may have recently been dropped in the area from across and was meant for onward transmission to the Kashmir Valley. Further investigation is underway,” the officer added.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FAMILY WELFARE MCH & IMMUNIZATION, J&K

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PRESS RELEASE

It is for the information of all that the appointment on Cowin Portal for Covid-19 Vaccination of 18-44 years age group (Covaxin) will be available from 09:00 am onwards every day till the designated slots are booked.

Issued By: Directorate of Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization J&K.

DIPK-2473/21

England Could Review Social Media History Of Future Players After Ollie Robinson Fiasco



Press Trust of India

LONDON: Batting coach Graham Thorpe said England could start reviewing the social media history of players before their selection in the national team after pacer Ollie Robinson's old sexist and racist posts surfaced this week.

The 27-year-old Robinson, who made his Test debut against New Zealand on Wednesday, was embroiled in controversy, as a string of sexist and racist messages that he posted on Twitter from 2012-13 emerged over social media.

Commenting on the issue, Thorpe said more effort would be made at inspecting a player's social media history in future to avoid such controversy.

"It's clearly something that might need to be looked at so that a day like yesterday doesn't happen," Thorpe was quoted as saying by 'BBC'.

Robinson has since apologised for the posts he wrote while he was a teenager.

"I am embarrassed by the racist and sexist tweets that I post-

ed over eight years ago which have today become public.

"I want to make it clear that I'm not racist and I'm not sexist. I deeply regret my actions and I am ashamed of making such remarks," Robinson said.

Thorpe added that speedster is aware of his mistake and has also apologised to the dressing room.

"In our dressing room we had to support him. It was a tough day for him yesterday. He had to say sorry to the dressing room and sorry to the world. From that perspective it was very hard for him, but he knows he's made a mistake," Thorpe said.

Robinson picked up four wickets in the first innings against New Zealand, giving 75 runs in 28 overs.

"For whatever he has done, it's still not easy to go back out and perform. He showed good character and he had to be resilient. We were really pleased. His level of performance was exceptional," said Thorpe.

The England and Wales Cricket Board is investigating Robinson's actions.

Narendra Modi Speaks To Sprint Legend Milkha Singh, Enquires About His Health

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke to legendary sprinter Milkha Singh, who has been ailing, to enquire about his health.

Modi expressed hope that Singh, who was on Thursday admitted to in ICU in Covid hospital of PGIMER, will be back soon to bless and inspire athletes, who will be participating in the Tokyo Olympics, government sources said.

Fondly called "flying Sikh", Singh, who recently contracted COVID-19 infection, was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the PGI, Chandigarh, due to dipping levels of oxygen. The 91-year-

old is in a stable condition.

Earlier on Sunday, Milkha Singh was discharged from a private hospital in Mohali where he received treatment for COVID-19 infection.

He, however, continued to be on oxygen support at home also.

The legendary athlete is a four-time Asian Games gold medallist and 1958 Commonwealth Games champion but his greatest performance was the fourth-place finish in the 400m final at the 1960 Rome Olympics. His timing at the Italian capital remained the national record for 38 years till Paramjeet Singh broke it in 1998.

He also represented India in the 1956 and 1964 Olympics and was best man at the wedding of Indira Priya Shri in 1959.

Team India In Hard Quarantine, Not Allowed To Meet Each Other For 3 Days

Press Trust of India

LONDON: India spinner Axar Patel has revealed that the team will serve a three-day hard quarantine before it is allowed to train at the Aegaeas Bowl here ahead of the World Test Championship final against New Zealand.

The final begins on June 18 and India have limited time to prepare having arrived here on Wednesday.

On the other hand, New Zealand are already involved in a two-match series against England.

The India squad was in quarantine for 14 days in Mumbai prior to its departure and is in the middle of another yet shorter quarantine.

"I had a good sleep...the plan is to quarantine. We have been told that we can't meet each other for three days so we will be quarantining for that much time," said Axar in a video posted by BCCI capturing the team's journey to England via a



charter flight.

The men's and women's squads were in the same flight.

After landing in London, the contingent took a two-hour bus journey to Southampton.

India play five Tests against England following the WTC final while women play a one off Test, three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals against the home team starting June 16.

Brett Lee Thinks New Zealand Hold An Edge Over India At WTC Final

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Former Australian pacer Brett Lee believes New Zealand might have an advantage over India in the eagerly-awaited World Test Championship final in Southampton as the Black Caps are more accustomed to conditions favourable for swing bowling.

India and New Zealand will fight it out from June 18 in the marquee clash for which the Indians landed in England on Thursday. New Zealand, on the other hand, are competing in a two-Test series against hosts England right now.

"...I think it is pretty evenly matched there. I am thinking though with the experience of New Zealand because they have bowled in conditions which are similar back home..." Lee told the ICC's official website.

"...it may be conducive to fast bowling, to swing bowling. So that is where I think that the Kiwis might have an advantage purely from that fact.

"Now from a batting point of view, both sides have got batsmen that can play against swing bowling. But I think it comes down to bowling. I think whichever team



bowls best will win the final."

An interesting sub-plot of the clash will be the different styles of captaincy that Virat Kohli and Kane Williamson will bring to the table. Lee said it would be an interesting battle.

"Kane is a lot more conservative without being boring. He has got a great cricket brain. I admire his level of calmness. He is a conservative captain, but attacks when he needs to. Because he is patient, and it works for him and his team," the pace great said.

"...and you look at Kohli, he is more of an aggressive captain. There is no right or wrong answer to any of these because I have played under

captains who are conservative and captains who are too aggressive.

"But this is going to be a great opportunity to see which one comes out on top because they are different. So yeah, it is going to be exciting to see who comes out on top!" he said.

The players are quite familiar to each other thanks to the IPL. Asked if the friendship forged in the IPL, like the one between Mumbai Indians teammates Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah, might have a bearing on the intensity of the contest, Lee rejected the suggestion.

"When you get out there, it is war. It is a battle, and you are playing for your country. That will not change."

Pakistan Name Moin Khan's Son Azam In T20 Squad For England, West Indies Tour



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan on Thursday named uncapped Azam Khan, son of former captain Moin Khan, in the T20 squad for the tours of England and West Indies.

The selectors also recalled Imad Wasim for the three T20 matches in England and five in the West Indies besides Haris Sohail for the three ODIs in England. Pace bowlers Muhammad Abbas and Naseem Shah have also won back spots in the Test squad that will play two games against the West Indies in Jamaica.

Both Abbas and Naseem were ignored for the recent two Tests played in Zimbabwe.

Azam, 22, was the surprise pick for the coming twin tours as he has played just a single first class match and 36 T20 matches but has gained fame for his six hitting prowess. He has appeared in the Pakistan Super League and Sri Lanka Premier League events.

The selectors have also kept the seasoned leg-spinner Yasir Shah for the two Tests but his final selection is subject to his passing a fitness test as he was also overlooked for the Zimbabwe tour because of a knee injury.

Pakistan have also dropped pacer Tabish Khan after awarding him a Test cap in Zimbabwe. He is the only casualty from the Zimbabwe tour.

Pakistan will play three ODIs and as many T20Is in England from July 8-20, before taking on world champions West Indies in five T20s that will be followed by two Tests.

Chief selector Muhammad Wasim said they tried to remain consistent in their selection.

"This is an extremely important and critical tour for Pakistan as we will be playing the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League ODIs against England as well as the

T20Is against England and the West Indies as part of our preparations for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

"The Jamaica Test will count towards the ICC World Test Championship," he said.

"...In consultation with captain Babar Azam and head Misbah-ul-Haq, we have tried our best to maintain the winning combinations but at the same time recalled four experienced players and rewarded uncapped Azam Khan for his domestic performance, while also giving him the required confidence for the future challenges."

Squads:

Tests: Babar Azam (capt), Mohammad Rizwan (vice-capt, wk), Abdullah Shafique, Abid Ali Azhar Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Imran Butt, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Nauman Ali, Sajid Khan, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Yasir Shah (subject to fitness), Zahid Mahmood.

ODIs: Babar Azam (capt), Shadab Khan (vice-capt), Abdullah Shafique, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Qadir.

T20Is: Babar Azam (capt), Shadab Khan (vice-capt), Arshad Iqbal, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sharjeel Khan, Usman Qadir.



RASHID KHAN

Declines Afghanistan T20 Captaincy, Says Better Off As A Player

Press Trust of India

KABUL: Star Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan has declined captaining the T20 side fearing it might affect his performance as a player which he feels is more crucial to the team.

Afghanistan have been changing captains frequently and earlier this week named Hashmatullah Shahidi as their Test and ODI skipper.

However, the Afghanistan Cricket Board is yet to name the T20 captain.

"I am very much clear in my mind that I am better off as a player. I am good in the role as vice-captain and help the captain wherever I am needed. It's better for me that I stay away from this position," Rashid told 'ESPNCricinfo'.

"I want to do well for the team as a player and my performance is a bit more crucial for the team rather than me thinking about different things being a captain."

With the T20 World Cup

around the corner, Rashid feels he is better off focussing on what he does best.

"Also, it takes time, and right now the most important thing is the World Cup which is quite near and I feel it is too much for me to have.

"I am afraid it might affect my performance for the team which is a key so I am very happy as a player and whatever the decision board and selection committee make I am fully behind it and will appreciate it.

"If you have a year or two, you manage yourself and understand things only then it's easier to deal with the role.

"I was the captain once and they [board] know my mindset and which is why they kept the spot empty looking for someone else while I stay as a vice-captain," said one of the best spinners in limited overs cricket.

Rashid, who plays for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League, is set to turn out for Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League.

10-Man India Lose 0-1 To Qatar, Goalie Gurpreet Saves Team From Big Defeat

Press Trust of India

DOHA: A 10-man India lost 0-1 to Asian champions Qatar with goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's outstanding performance coming in the way of a heavier loss for the tourists in their World Cup qualifying round match here.

Abdel Aziz scored in the 33rd minute in a match completely dominated by the Qataris on Thursday night.

The two sides had played out a goal-less draw in their first leg match here in September 2019, mainly due to Sandhu's impressive show under the bar that time as well.

India played with 10 men from the 18th minute onwards as Rahul Bheke received his marching orders after picking up a second yellow card for handling the ball outside the box. He had earlier received a yellow card in the ninth minute.

India are already out of contention for a World Cup berth but they are still in the reckoning for the 2023 Asian Cup. Igor Stimac's men still have two matches in the joint qualifiers to salvage some pride and notch up at least a win. They play Bangladesh on June 7 and Afghanistan on June 15.

Group toppers Qatar, who are yet to lose a match, came up with waves of attacks and more than half their squad stayed put in the Indian half for most of the time. They had 66 per cent possession as against 34 per cent of India.

But for Sandhu's heroics, India would have lost the match by a big margin. He pulled off as many as nine saves in the Group E match played at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium Thursday night.

In fact, Qatar had 29 shots on opposition goal as against India's none. India did have two good moves from counter-attacks but Manvir Singh failed to make them count.

India captain Sunil Chhetri, who returned to the team after recovering from COVID-19, was replaced by Udanta Singh at the resumption of second half.



A winless India remained in fourth spot in the group with three points from six matches.

They are two points behind Afghanistan (third with five points) who played out a 1-1 draw against Bangladesh earlier in the day.

It was all Qatar from the very beginning as Felix Sanchez's men put India under pressure in the first minute with Abdelkarim Hassan blasting his effort just wide from outside the box.

Hassan then had another chance in the fourth minute but his effort off Karim Boudiaf's corner was saved by Sandhu.

Qatar came close to scoring again in the 15th minute after Yusuf Abdurisag did well on the right to cut back in and relay the ball to Abdel Aziz Hatim, who however hit his volley over the bar.

Despite being a man down, India showed determination and continued to deny Qatar with Sandhu foiling the West Asians' attempts at goal.

Debutant Glan Martins was impressive, pulling the strings in mid-field alongside Bipin Singh Thounaojam and Suresh Singh Wangjam.

India had their first real look at the Qatari goal in the 29th minute when

Ashique Kuruniyan managed to slip past his marker and essayed it behind the defensive line for an onrushing Manvir.

But the striker's touch let him down as the Qatar goalkeeper collected the ball.

However, Qatar scored the opening goal in the 33rd minute after Mohammed Muntari found space down the left before slipping the ball to Abdel Aziz Hatim, who converted off a rebound from his first attempt.

A counter-attack on the 42nd minute gave India a sniff of a chance. Chhetri, with all his experience, shielded Bassam Alarawi as he found Manvir, whose shot was, however, blocked by a Qatari defender.

Sandhu continued to frustrate Qatar when he kept out Abdelkarim Hassan from close-range in the 47th minute and later Muntari's snap-shot from inside the box in the 53rd minute.

Qatar had their best chance of the second half with four minutes of regulation time left on the clock, when substitute Abdullah Alahraqi rifled a long-ranger onto the near post.

However, the ball ricocheted off the post and went out of play.

Delhi Govt, Students Appeal In High Court Against Order Allowing Private Schools To Charge Annual Fees

Agenceis

Several appeals, including one by the AAP government, have been moved in the Delhi High Court against its single judge's decision allowing private unaided recognised schools to collect annual and development charges from students for the period after the lockdown ended in the national capital last year.

The petitions moved on behalf of the students studying in the private unaided schools have contended that the single judge's May 31 decision was based on incorrect facts and law. The single judge, in his May 31 judgement, had quashed two office orders of April and August 2020 issued by the Directorate of Education (DoE) of the Delhi government forbidding and postponing collection of annual charges and development fees, saying they were "illegal" and "ultra vires" the powers of the respondent (DoE) stipulated under the Delhi School Education (DSE) Act and the Rules.

The single judge had said that the Delhi government has no power to indefinitely postpone collection of annual charges and development fees by private unaided schools as it would unreasonably restrict their functioning. The Delhi government, in its appeal, filed through its standing counsel Santosh K Tripathi, has contended that its orders of April and August last year were issued in larger public interest as due to the lockdown people were in financial crisis.

The appeals on behalf of the students have claimed that establishment costs, like repairing of buildings, administrative expenses, rent and hostel expenses, are not applicable when the schools are closed. They have also contended that the charging of annual and development fees was only deferred and not stopped and the

schools could have charged the same once the pandemic situation normalised. The pleas on behalf of the students and that filed by DoE have also contended that the conditions imposed by the Supreme Court on Indian School, Jodhpur vs. State of Rajasthan, could not have been made applicable to Delhi, as the education laws in both states are different.

The single judge had said that schools shall collect annual fees with a deduction of 15 per cent as was allowed by the apex court in the Indian School case. The single judge had also said the amount payable by the students have to be paid in six monthly installments from June 10. The other directions of the apex court, that were incorporated in the May 31 judgement, were -- it would be open to the schools to give further concession to their students or to evolve a different pattern for giving concession, management shall not debar any student from attending online classes or physical classes or withhold exam results on account of non-payment of fees and students name for Board exams shall also not be withheld over non-payment of fees/arrears.

The May 31 decision had come on the plea moved by Action Committee Unaided Recognized Private Schools, which represents 450 private unaided schools, through advocate Kamal Gupta. The organisation had challenged the two office orders of April and August last year of the DoE on grounds that they curtail the rights of the private unaided recognized schools to fix their own fees.

The organisation had also contended that to restrict the collection of fee to certain heads or amounts was illegal and without any authority or jurisdiction. It had also said that the DoE has limited jurisdiction to regulate fees, that too only to prevent commercialisation and profiteering.



Harveer Singh, 65, a villager suffering from COVID-19 rests in a cot as he receives treatment at a makeshift open-air clinic, amidst the spread of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), in Mewla Gopalgarh village, in Jewar district, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

INDIA'S SCAMMERS Profit From Covid Misery

Agenceis

From fake medicines to fire extinguishers disguised as oxygen cylinders and recycled personal protective equipment, India's coronavirus hell has been lucrative for its ever-inventive army of scammers, with sometimes deadly consequences.

Komal Taneja's husband Chandrakant died gasping for breath at his New Delhi home last month after the oxygen canister that they paid \$200 for on the internet never arrived.

"We desperately tried to find a hospital bed for a week... Two private hospitals asked us for a million rupees (\$13,800) in advance," Komal, her voice cracking on the phone, said. "Then we came across a contact online promising an oxygen cylinder delivery within an hour of making the 15,000 rupees payment. When we did, they asked for more money, and then stopped responding," Komal added.

Chandrakant, 36, who worked at the stock market, died on May 1, leaving his homemaker wife looking for a job to help look after his ailing parents.

Scam central

India has a long history of audacious scams ripping off ordinary people, including beyond its borders.

In just one typical case, in December police busted a call centre that allegedly defrauded 4,500 Americans out of \$14 million.

Impersonating US officials, they told victims that their bank accounts were being used by drug cartels and that the only option was

to convert their assets into bitcoin -- which the gang would then cash in.

One elaborate scam involving police and doctors that emerged in 2019 saw hundreds of villagers in Haryana declared dead in road accidents to claim insurance.

Catalogues of crime

Investigators say many scammers have turned their attention to ripping off desperate Covid-19 patients and relatives as India suffers a devastating coronavirus surge.

Narang, a private company executive in Noida, said he was swindled by a sophisticated scam when he was desperately looking for an oxy-

gen concentrator for a sick friend.

"I came across a link for a supplier which looked genuine, and even had a catalogue with different models. The prices too were competitive," Narang told AFP. "I spoke with a person on the phone. He asked for about 45,000 rupees in two instalments. I was sure it was genuine and even recommended this supplier to another acquaintance."

THESE PEOPLE WERE PRODUCING fake vials which cost them about 20 rupees and (they) sold it in the market for anything above 10,000 rupees."

600 cases

His case is one of at least 600 investigations launched by police in New Delhi alone in recent weeks

them as oxygen cylinders, while another posed as doctors offering non-existent hospital beds.

This week, six men were reportedly arrested on suspicion of washing, repackaging and selling several tons of used surgical gloves from hospitals.

"We can only urge the people to be extra cautious while approaching such contacts for online help," Singh said.

Some victims are demanding tough punishments.

"Hang them all," said Narang. "If not that, then the government should ensure life imprisonment. This isn't just mental or financial, they are playing with human life."

Sidhu As Punjab Deputy CM? Speculation Mounts As Amarinder Meets Cong Panel

Agenceis

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday met the three-member panel set up by the Congress high command to resolve infighting in the party's state unit and apprised it of efforts to unite the party, as well as preparedness for the upcoming Assembly polls, according to sources.

Amarinder Singh met the panel headed by leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge at the party headquarters at Akbar Road in Delhi. AICC secretary general in-charge for Punjab Harish Rawat and former MP J.P. Aggarwal are members of the panel.

Amarinder and his former cabinet colleague, Navjot Singh Sidhu, have been engaged in a bitter war of words. Sidhu has publicly attacked the chief minister over an SIT report on the sacrilege issue in Punjab.

The Congress panel has already met Sidhu, party MPs, MLAs and former PCC chiefs besides a host of other leaders in the last four days.

Sources said the panel has also apprised former party chief Rahul Gandhi of the developments and deliberations with various leaders



from Punjab.

The panel, set up by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, is likely to present its report to her by the weekend or early next week. A change in the Punjab cabinet and the party is imminent ahead of next year's Assembly elections, they said.

As part of reconciliation efforts and to unite the party, the sources said Sidhu may be included in the Punjab cabinet once again and elevated as deputy chief minister.

The leadership may also be working to replace Sunil Jakhar as the state Congress chief, a post which Sidhu has been eyeing for long. Jakhar has completed his tenure but has been asked to continue as the state unit chief by the Congress high command.

CBSE Panel To Work Out Criteria For Assessment Of Class XII Students, Submit Report In 10 Days

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Friday constituted a 13-member committee to work out an objective criteria for assessment of Class XII students after their board exams were cancelled. The panel will submit its report within 10 days.

"In view of the uncertain conditions due to Covid and the feedback obtained from various stakeholders, it was decided that Class XII Board exams of CBSE will not be held this year. It was also decided that CBSE will take steps to compile the results as per a well-defined objective criteria in a time-bound manner," said CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj.

A 13-member committee has been constituted for the purpose. The panel will submit its report within 10 days," he added.

The members of the panel include--Ministry of Education Joint Secretary Vipin Kumar; Delhi Education Director Udit Prakash Rai; Kenridya Vidyalaya Sangathan Commissioner Nidhi Pandey; Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti Commissioner Vinayak Garg; Chandigarh School Education Director Rubinderjit Singh Brar; CBSE Director (IT) Antriksh Johri and CBSE Director (Academics) Joseph Emanuel. The panel will also have one representative each from UGC and NCERT and two representatives from schools.

The government on Tuesday cancelled the CBSE Class XII Board exams amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic across the country with Prime Minister Narendra 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 XII students according to a well-defined objective criteria in a time-bound manner. It was also decided in the meeting that in case some students desire to take the exams, such an option would be provided to them by the CBSE as and when the situation becomes conducive.

The exams were scheduled to be conducted in May-June and were postponed in view of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. The CBSE has already cancelled Class X board exams and announced an alternative marking policy.

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

The weightage in terms of maximum marks for schools which have conducted the tests and exams through the year will be -- periodic test/unit test (10 marks), half-yearly exam (30 marks) and pre-board exams (40 marks).

Delhi HC Dismisses Juhi Chawla's Petition Against 5G As Publicity Stunt

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Delhi High Court called actress Juhi Chawla's petition challenging 5G network "defective, abuse and misuse of the process of law" as it dismissed her petition with costs. The Delhi High Court criticised the lawsuit as one that "wasted the court's time" and was filed for publicity. The court also imposed a cost of Rs 20 lakh.

The court was critical of Chawla's action of sharing a web link of the hearing on social media--a move that caused some disruption to the court's proceedings on Wednesday as a man sang songs from the actress's movies while the



court was still hearing the petition.

The high court had previously questioned Chawla's decision to approach the judiciary before making a representation before the central government.

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Delhi Man Held After Threatening To Kill PM Modi; Says He Had 'Wanted' To Go To Jail

Agenceis

A 22-year-old man was arrested from northeast Delhi's Khajuri Khas area after he called the Police Control Room (PCR) and allegedly threatened to kill Prime Minister Narendra Modi, officials said on Friday.

The accused, who has been

identified as Salman alias Arman, told police that he made the call as he "wanted" to go to jail. He is addicted to drugs and was released from a juvenile correction home, where he was sent in a murder case, in 2018, they said.

The accused called the PCR on 112 around Thursday midnight and threatened to kill PM Modi, the police said.

The number from which the call was received was immediately traced and shared with the district police unit, which then located him to Khajuri Khas, a senior police officer said.

According to a preliminary investigation, Salman was under the influence of drugs at the time of making the call. He was scolded by his father around 10 pm.

During interrogation, the senior officer said, the man told police that he made the call as he "wanted" to go to jail. When asked why he wanted to go to jail, he said, "Wahin mann lagta hai mera (I like being there)." Salman also told police that he is addicted to drugs and that he took some smack around 7 pm on Thursday, he said.

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