

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P3 CITY

## MASKS MANDATORY IN SRINAGAR CITY, VIOLATORS TO BE FINED

In a significant development, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has authorised the Food Testing Laboratory (FTL) Dalgate, Srinagar to perform the testing/analysis

THINK

## OVERCOMING THE PANDEMIC CRISIS

Even as much as we may wear masks, wash our hands repeatedly, maintain social distancing, boost our immunity and may even get vaccinated, as human beings we need the oxygen of hope to



P5 STATE

## WILL TO SURVIVE: NONAGENARIAN BEATS CORONAVIRUS

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused innumerable deaths across the world and it could easily be considered one of the worst events in modern history. Despite all, the...



## Widom Quote!

You do not find the happy life. You make it.

— Camilla Eyring Kimball

## NEWS DIGEST

### Gas Leak Sparks Massive Fire

**SRINAGAR:** Several houses on Thursday were damaged in Noorbagh area of Baramulla town after a gas leak triggered a massive fire in a residential colony. Officials said that the fire reportedly started due to leakage of LPG gas from a residential house in Sweepers Colony in Noorbagh locality on Thursday night and engulfed several others in no time. When this report was filed, the men from the fire and emergency department besides police and locals were on the job to douse the blaze. A senior police officer said 5 tenders. **More On P10**

### Ex-Cop Held With Ammunition

**SRINAGAR:** A former policeman on Thursday was arrested after ammunition was recovered from him at a checkpoint in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Jahangir Ahmad Khan of Dildar village of Karnah was apprehended during a checking at 'NC Pass' post in the district, officials said. The forces recovered seven rounds of 7.62 cartridges, one round each of pistol, AK-47 and 5.56 from his possession, they said. Pertinently, the policeman was dismissed from service in 2017, they said. A case FIR number. **More On P10**

### Teen's Body Retrieved From Stream

**SRINAGAR:** The body of a teenager on Thursday was retrieved from a stream in Arigam area of central Kashmir's Budgam district, a day after he slipped into the water body. The body of Irfan Ahmad Bhat was recovered after strenuous efforts by joint team of police, SDRF and River Police from Shaali Ganga nallah in Arigam area of the district, a police spokesperson said. Later the body was handed over to his legal heirs after completion of legal formalities.

### CRPF Man Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

**SRINAGAR:** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man died after suffering a massive cardiac arrest in Sopore town of Baramulla district. Muhammad Hashim Khan of CRPF 177 battalion suffered a massive heart attack on Wednesday night at his camp in Amargarh area of Sopore, reports said Thursday. He died before his colleagues could shift him to the hospital for treatment. The deceased was a resident of north India's Uttar Pradesh state. Meanwhile, officials said that after the completion of all medico-legal formalities, the body will be sent to his native village.

# J&K Logs 25 Corona Deaths, 1117 New Cases



Firdaus Ali

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 1117 new cases of coronavirus while 25 more people lost their lives to the deadly infection across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, among the victims 13 were residents of Jammu division and 12 from Kashmir Valley. With these fatalities, the overall death toll in J&K since the outbreak of pandemic last year reached 4113. **More On P10**

## Prepare In Advance Against Third Wave, HC To Govt

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court has expressed hope that the government would advance itself to face the covid-19 third wave, if any.

For this purpose, a division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul said that care should be taken to vaccinate each and every citizen at the earliest, by carrying out fresh drive "institution wise" so that if anyone has

remained unvaccinated he is also covered.

"The Government may also ensure establishment of oxygen generation plants in every Government and allied hospitals or at any other place deem fit and proper," the court said while hearing a Public Interest Litigation. The court underlined that there may not be any shortage of oxygen presently but for future to combat the anticipated third wave of Covid-19, it would. **More On P10**

## Corona Curfew In 5 Districts Today

In an attempt to contain the spread of coronavirus infection, the administration in five districts of the Valley on Thursday ordered imposition of corona curfew on Friday. According to officials, corona curfew will remain in force on Friday in three north Kashmir districts of Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara in an effort to combat coronavirus spread. **More On P10**

## Police Probing Slain BJP Leader's Tral Visits

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** BJP leader Rakesh Pandita, who was killed by Jaish-e-Mohammed militants last week, had told his personal security guards (PSOs) that he was still in Jammu on the day he was shot dead in Tral town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, a police official said on Thursday.

He said investigators are trying to find out the reason behind Pandita's regular visits to

Tral over the past one and a half years. The official said investigators did not suspect any foul play by the personal security guards of the deceased leader as "they were not even aware about Pandita's presence in Kashmir, let alone Tral".

"He (Pandita) had told the PSOs over the phone that he was still in Jammu," the official added.

Pandita, a BJP councillor, was shot dead and a woman, accompanying. **More On P10**

## Kashmir Reels Under Hot Weather Conditions, Jammu Sizzles At 41.6°C

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Heat wave continued across Kashmir on Thursday as many areas of the valley, including the summer capital Srinagar, recorded the season's highest maximum temperature, officials said.

The maximum temperature in Srinagar was 34.7 degrees Celsius, the highest of the season so far, the officials said.

The maximum on Thursday was 6.8 degrees Celsius above the



normal for this time of the season. Kupwara, in north Kashmir, was the hottest recorded place

in the valley as the maximum settled at 35.1 degrees Celsius, 6.9 degrees. **More On P10**

## Haj 2021 Will Abide By Saudi Decision: India

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Union Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Thursday that India has made all preparations for the annual Haj pilgrimage to Mecca but his government will go by the decision taken by the Saudi authorities.

"While some countries are not able to send their citizens to Haj 2021, India has decided that we will stand shoulder to shoulder with the Govt. of Saudi Arabia, we will go ahead in line with the decision taken. **More On P10**

## Tourism Players Hope To Recover Losses As Kashmir Unlocks

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** Government's decision to unlock Kashmir in a phased manner after a significant decline in daily coronavirus cases has given a ray of hope to the tourism players in the Valley who are reeling under acute financial losses from the last three years.

"Kashmir is ready to welcome tourists," Secretary Tourism Sarmad Hafeez told Kashmir Observer on Thursday.

On June 6, over a month after the J&K government imposed a



lockdown in the Valley and the restrictions caused the tourism industry to fall silent, the

administration announced a phased withdrawal of Covid lockdown amid. **More On P10**

## Youth Critically Injured In Stabbing Incident

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** A youth was critically injured on Thursday after being stabbed by unknown persons in Noor Bagh area of this capital city.

24-year-old Huzafa Ahmad Mattoo was outside his home in Palpora Pamposh Colony locality of Noorbagh on Thursday evening when some unidentified men caught hold of him and stabbed him in his lower abdomen with some sharp edged weapon, reports

said. The youth's cries, reports said, caught the attention of passerby who rushed to the spot and rescued him. However, the attackers, reports said, managed to flee from the spot.

According to the reports, Mattoo was critically injured in the stabbing attack and was rushed to the SMHS hospital Srinagar for treatment. His condition reportedly is life threatening.

A local news agency GNS quoted an. **More On P10**

# In Kashmir, Cantonment Tax Notices Have Created New Anxiety

Auqib Javeed

**SRINAGAR:** When a property tax bill worth Rs. 20,142 was delivered to his Indira Nagar residence recently, Manzoor Wani became anxious and started enquiring from his neighbours — if they received it too. A call here and there confirmed that he wasn't the only one getting the bill.

Those living under the Badami Bagh Cantonment Board (BBCB) have received the property tax notices from the BB Cant board.

The bills have been charged as per the value of the property and range from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 20,000.

"Nobody is paying property taxes in any place in Kashmir, so why're we paying it," Wani told Kashmir Observer.

"We've been receiving these notices since the years and have approached the court to sort out the issue. But after the abrogation of Article 370, the matter was pending in the court. Now, again, they've asked us to pay the property bills despite the assurance given by the Lieutenant Governor."

On October 20, 2020, LG Manoj Sinha said the government will not impose any property tax in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Let me clarify that there's no proposal to impose the property tax in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory," Sinha had said.

But the residents of Sonawar, Indira Nagar, Batwara and Shivopora expressed dismay over issuing of these notices and have castigated the cantonment board for "pressurizing" them to



pay the taxes "we don't deserve to give".

### 'No Construction Zone'

Apart from taxes, the locals said they've been banned for carrying out any construction in the area since 2019.

Notably, the J&K administration has banned constructions and repair works in the

vicinity of army's field ordnance depots in

Kashmir.

The notifications banning the works, unless approved by the army and the government, have been issued by the district commissioners under the provisions

of Works of Defence Act (WODA), 1903.

Following the notification, the people of Indira Nagar locality were asked that no construction shall be made or altered in the area lying 500 yards from the outer crest of 2-Field Ordnance Depot (FOD), without prior approval of the deputy commissioner and General Officer Commanding.

"We're living in an open air prison," Tariq Ahmad, a resident of Sonwar, told Kashmir Observer. "We can't buy or sell anything. We can't even repair our washrooms. The board has made our lives hell."

Tariq said he had kept a piece of land for his daughter's

wedding but right now he's unable to sell it due to board laws.

"We can't even raise our voice against the decision," he said. "You never know what will happen tomorrow."

### 'Stop It Now'

Amid this anguish, the BJP's Kashmir unit on Thursday said the prevailing situation is not conducive for collecting property taxes.

"From the past two years, the financial condition of people is not good and such steps will further create panic in the middle of Covid crisis," the party said in a statement.

"We appeal to the Defense Ministry to stop issuing such notices to people in the middle of a pandemic situation."

When contacted over the issue, Lieutenant Colonel Emron Musavi, PRO (Defence) Srinagar told this reporter that he would soon produce the army version.

As and when he comes-up with the statement, this story will be updated.

### In Anguish

At Indira Nagar, Manzoor Wani and others are conveying a sense of anguish due to these notices in the middle of the unsettling rumours in Kashmir.

Before August 5, 2019, he said, a number of local delegations met the concerned army officials and apprised them about the situation.

"We told them that we don't have any basic facilities and aren't in a. **More On P10**

Why do some people get side effects after Covid-19 vaccines?

Temporary side effects are normal and a sign your immune system is revving up

Washington: Temporary side effects, including headache, fatigue and fever, are signs the immune system is revving up—a normal response to vaccines. And they're common.



"The day after getting these vaccines, I wouldn't plan anything that was strenuous physical activity," said Dr Peter Marks, the US Food and Drug Administration's vaccine chief, who experienced fatigue after his first dose.

Here's what's happening: The immune system has two main arms, and the first kicks in as soon as the body detects a foreign intruder. White blood cells swarm to the site, prompting inflammation that's responsible for chills, soreness, fatigue and other side effects.

As the immune system activates, it also sometimes causes temporary swelling in lymph nodes, such as those under the arm. Women are encouraged to schedule routine mammograms ahead of COVID-19 vaccination to avoid a swollen node being mistaken for cancer.

ing — few serious risks have been identified. A tiny percentage of people who got vaccines made by AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson reported an unusual type of blood clot. Some countries reserved those shots for older adults but regulatory authorities say the benefits of offering them still outweigh the risks.

type of COVID-19 vaccine — to ensure any reaction can be promptly treated. Finally, authorities are trying to determine whether temporary heart inflammation that can occur with many types of infections also might be a rare side effect after the mRNA vaccines, the kind made by Pfizer and Moderna.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR JAMMU & KASHMIR FOREST PROTECTION FORCE

GAMMA UNIT, K-07, BARAMULLA TELE-FAK:-0195-4223588 E-mail ID:-ddk07bla@gmail.com

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir /Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

Table with 6 columns: S. No, Name of Work, Adv. Cost (Rs in lacs), Class of Contractor, Time of Completion, Receiving/Opening Committee

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details is available and can be downloaded from the Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in.

Table with 2 columns: Publishing Date, Download Start Date, Bid submission Start Date, Bid submission End Date, Date & Venue of Opening of Technical Bid Online, Date & Venue of Opening of Financial Bid Online

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- 01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website:- https://jktenders.gov.in
02. The date & venue for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per schedule mentioned above and can be changed under unavoidable circumstances.
03. Bids uploaded must accompany clearly visible Government Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Deposit in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A".

No:-DD/FPF/K-07/2021-22/145-51 Dated:- 09/06/2021

DIPK-2682/21

Sd/= Deputy Director, Gamma Unit K-07, Forest Protection Force, Baramulla.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Zubair Ahmad Mir S/o: Abdul Rashid Mir R/o: Batamaloo Srinagar (Transferor) of LMV Eco Sports (Ford).



Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C - 4140. Chasis number 07661 Engine no. 07661 Model 2013. in favour of Shri.. Mushtaq Ahmad Wani S/o. Abdul Gaffar Wani R/o Tregapora Baramullah (Transferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.424

Dated 24/04/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for the Death Certificate of my mother Gilli Dunoo W/o Gulam Mohammad Dunoo who passed away due to covid-19 on 30-05-2021. If anybody having in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in SMHS Hospital within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.



Ali Mohd Dunoo S/o Gilli Dunoo Cell: 9906826929

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Daughter's Date of Birth has been wrongly written in school records as 22-04-2013 while her correct DOB is 22-04-2011 which need immediate correction if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Madina Public School Noripora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Showkat Hussain Ganie F/O Aiman Zehra

BMG

از ریاست وند یوگام با اجلاس منظور احمد خان نائب تحصیلدار مشغول درخواست نمائند. مظفر احمد و عمرا احمد پسران محمد امین خان افغان تجری ساکن دیوگام تحصیل کو کرناک شعل است ناگ

Table with 5 columns: سلسلہ شمار, نام افراد کنبہ, عمر, پیشہ, آمدنی

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنبہ موجود نہیں ہے۔ کیونکہ سالانہ آمدنی صد مقررہ سے کم ہے۔ لہذا از برکت سر تقی ایڑا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض محدود جو بات پیش کرے۔ معاذ کڈرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار دیوگام

RNA

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 143259 Class : 10th Year and Session 2008 Annual Regular Regd No: 07NKM-103158 Name : Khalid Bashir Shah



According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B SPECIAL SUB-DIVISION URI

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER DATED: 10/06/2021 For and on behalf of the 'Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K' e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Item Rate Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:-

Table with 9 columns: Sr. No, Name of Work, Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs), Cost of Tender Document (In Rupees), Earnest Money (In Rupees), Time of Completion (In Days), Date and Time of Opening of Bid, M.H. of Account, Class of Contract

The Bidding Documents Consisting of Qualifying Information, Eligibility Criteria, Specifications, Drawings, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q), Set of Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Table with 2 columns: No, Date of Issue of tender Notice, Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents, Bid Submission Start Date, Bid Submission End Date, Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online)

- 1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub-Division Uri (Tender Inviting Authority) and Bid Security Declaration as per format given in SBD. The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder LI (3% of quoted cost) within the period as specified in SBD. Performance Security shall be used in shape of CDR/FDR for tendering process.
2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Bids of Responsive Bidders shall be opened online on same website in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub-Division Uri.
3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
4. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
6.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of treasury challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub-Division Uri and Bid Security Declaration must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original treasury challan (cost of tender document), CDR/FDR (earnest money/ bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
10. Price Escalation and Taxes: Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
12. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding document shall be followed.
13. Instructions to Bidder (ITB).
13.1. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification information with their bids:-
a. Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.
b. Treasury Challan & CDR/FDR.
c. Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.
d. Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the preceding month to the issued of NIT.
13.2. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
13.3. Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualifying of the bidder.
13.4. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
13.5. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest money and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

No. SSUD/ 2021/ 792-801. Dated: 10-06-2021.

DIPK-2748/21

Sd/= Executive Engineer, R&B Special Sub-Division, Uri. /M. Yousof/







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Switchboard: (0194) 2106304  
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K O V I E W

PAGD meet

After a gap of several months, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration held its meeting at the PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's residence. There was no specific agenda for the meeting, not did the alliance make any statement that could be called out of ordinary. The leaders, however, made it clear that they were committed to the demand for a reversal of the withdrawal of Article 370, saying they will fight for the restoration of the former state's autonomy through democratic means. They also expressed their readiness for negotiations with the centre. But primarily the grouping's leaders wanted to be seen as discussing Covid-19. But this hardly detracts from the significance of the PAGD meeting.

Last year, less than six months after the amalgam was formed, it suffered its first jolt when the leader of the People's Conference, (PC) one of its key constituents quit it. It may still be a group of five parties, two of them National Conference (NC) and the PDP, but the PC's exit seems to have taken the sting out of the alliance. It has suddenly appeared vulnerable and shorn of its promise. And all this over an apparent conflict that could have easily been resolved had the leaders deemed it worth their while to sit together and talk. But this apparently was not done, nor sought by the parties. There is no easy answer to the question why it wasn't done. It looks intriguing why exiting the alliance should have been the first option for the PC unless the party had despaired of chances of the redressal within the alliance.

As for the future, it will be interesting to see how the remaining parties in the PAGD will conduct themselves. With the NC and the PDP still together, the alliance can be a force to reckon with and certain to be a major player in the government formation in future. As for pressing the demand for restoration of Article 370, all that the parties seem capable of doing as of now is to stick together. They have so far shied away from taking their struggle to the streets. There has been no attempt to even symbolically register displeasure about what was done to J&K. And for obvious reasons. Centre has disproportionately raised costs for any show of even a symbolic defiance and this includes forming an alliance too. It remains to be seen how the remaining parties in the PAGD will respond to the costs of staying together.

OTHER OPINION

Wider view

The CJI has reportedly expressed the need to include members of marginalized groups in the judiciary so that courts reflect the vast diversity of the country. Since there is no Constitutional or legislative mandate in courts equivalent to reservations, such a reform would be voluntary. It would be in line with the CJI's ideas about modernization and the need to improve judicial infrastructure in the pursuit of access to justice and speedy justice that he had mentioned before his present appointment. His vision of sustainable and inclusive modernization includes courtrooms with disabled-friendly arrangements, waiting areas, washrooms and crèches. The most disadvantaged citizen should be able to approach the courts in a 'barrier free-citizen friendly environment'. An inclusive judiciary would be necessary for this. No doubt the wisdom of the high court collegiums, which will recommend the names for appointment, and of the Supreme Court collegium that will select from them will put merit above all else. Merit was emphasized in the women lawyers' application, and the Bar associations have been asking that advocates 'of standing' who have been practising for 10 years be considered as judges. Inclusiveness with merit, therefore, would be ideal for future appointments. The widening of the ambit for appointments may also speed up the process of filling the vacancies in judges' posts and help in the faster delivery of justice.

Telegraph India

# Overcoming the Pandemic Crisis

B L Razdan

Even as much as we may wear masks, wash our hands repeatedly, maintain social distancing, boost our immunity and may even get vaccinated, as human beings we need the oxygen of hope to survive. At no cost should we give up because we have a reason to keep on living.

The Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), a global leader in this area, recently released its estimates that put the global toll of Covid-19 deaths by May 3, 2021 at 6.93 million, a figure that is more than two times higher than the reported number of deaths of 3.24 million. India accounted for about 10% of them at 6,54,395 (only second to the United States with an estimated death toll of 0.9 million) which is about three times higher than the reported official figure.

As well as being a profound crisis of public health, the pandemic has also caused devastating impact on economies, and is said to have increased the global population of those living in extreme poverty by an estimated 500 million people. It has been 30 years since poverty rose so sharply on such a vast scale. Our heart goes out to the numerous families who were doing well but have suddenly been plunged into financial distress due to the coronavirus crisis.

When things go as planned, we feel comfortable. But when life throws a curveball, it creates anxiety and stress. The current Covid-19 pandemic has pulled the carpet underneath our feet. It has increased uncertainty over the economy, employment, finances, relationships, and, of course, physical and mental health. Yet as human beings, we crave security. Fear and diffidence make us powerless and drain us emotionally. The failure to plan and prepare for multiple waves of Covid-19 pandemic has resulted globally in the despair and helplessness we are seeing today. In India's case these have been all the more accentuated because of the problems peculiar to it including the huge population. Since more waves are expected, it is imperative that we draw appropriate lessons in order to plan for the long term.

Many people can tolerate some levels of uncertainty in life. Some enjoy taking risks. Others get overwhelmed by the unpredictability of life. No matter how bad the situation may be, there are steps we can take to better equip ourselves to face the unknown with courage.

While we have no control over the world, we have absolute control over our thoughts, feelings and actions. We can face the situation with resilience, optimism and confidence or we can meekly surrender to negativity, pessimism and fear. Humanity possesses the ability to transform this crisis into a catalyst for creating positive value for all. The renowned historian Arnold J Toynbee held truly deep feelings towards India, great land of the spirit. He famously asserted that both civilizations and individuals can create tremendous value when they respond to and overcome the challenges that confront them. As grave as this crisis is, there is no doubt we can overcome it if we summon up and share our inherent boundless wisdom, creativity and power. When we do so, the dignity of our lives will shine even more brilliantly.

The one freedom that can never be taken away from us is 'attitude'. If we deploy it properly, we gain strength from within and can easily sail through the challenges



As well as being a profound crisis of public health, the pandemic has also caused devastating impact on economies, and is said to have increased the global population of those living in extreme poverty by an estimated 500 million people. It has been 30 years since poverty rose so sharply on such a vast scale

and uncertainties of life. We have the choice and we have to use it judiciously to not just survive, but to thrive in the challenge! Pain is an essential part of life. But we can choose not to suffer. Suffering happens when we identify with the incident and dwell on it. Then we suffer in anticipation, when calamity strikes and we grieve over it even after it is over. Let us bring our intellect, the rational aspect of us into the picture; assess the situation; focus on what can be done and do it without allowing irrational fears to traumatize us.

The mind imagines the worst, torments us and robs us of peace and tranquility. The intellect has the capacity to control the mind and keep one on an even keel. Using the existing intellect to control the wavering mind and fortifying it with our resilience will enable us to overcome the crisis. Resilience is one's ability to recoil, rebound, and readily recovering from stretching or compression or even depression, which most Indians have in abundant measure. On its own it represents the overall adaptability and coping, but it can be classified in four types like: Psychological, Emotional, Physical, and Community resilience.

Psychological resilience refers to the ability to mentally withstand or adapt to uncertainty, challenges, and adversity. It is sometimes referred to as "mental fortitude." People who exhibit psychological resilience develop coping strategies and capabilities that enable them to remain calm and focused during a crisis and move on without long-term negative consequences.

In Emotional Resilience there are varying degrees of how well a person copes emotionally with stress and adversity. Some people are, by nature, more or less sensitive to change. How a person responds to a situation can trigger a flood of emotions. Emotionally resilient people understand what they are feeling and why. They tap into realistic optimism, even when dealing with a crisis, and are proactive in using both internal and external resources. As a result, they are able to manage stressors as well as their emotions in a healthy, positive way.

Physical resilience refers to the body's ability to adapt to chal-

lenges, maintain stamina and strength, and recover quickly and efficiently. It is a person's ability to function and recover when faced with illness, accidents, or other physical demands. Research published in April 2016 in The Journal of Gerontology showed that physical resilience plays an important role in healthy aging, as people encounter medical issues and physical stressors. Healthy lifestyle choices, building connections, making time to rest and recover, deep breathing, and engaging in enjoyable activities all play a role in building physical resilience.

And lastly, the Community resilience is the ability of groups of people to respond to and recover from adverse situations, such as natural disasters, acts of violence, economic hardship, and other challenges to their community.

Research into what promotes resilience supports the idea that certain protective resources, rather than the absence of risk factors, play a significant role in a person's capacity to confront and work through stressors. Things like social support, adaptive coping skills, and the ability to tap into one's inner strengths can help develop and strengthen resilience in an individual. When it comes to the idea of "natural resilience" or a person's innate ability to recover from adversity, the research is somewhat mixed.

On the basis of this theory of resilience, The American Academy of Pediatrics has evolved a model known as the 7 Cs model, which is primarily meant for children but is equally applicable to the adults, who are eventually required to apply it to them. The 7 Cs model is centered on two key assumptions: first, that young people live up or down to the expectations that are set for them and need adults who love them unconditionally and hold them to high expectations; and next how we model resilience for young people is far more important than what we say about it. The Key points of the 7 Cs Model is as under:

- **Competence** This is the ability to know how to handle situations effectively. To build competence, individuals develop a set of skills to help them trust their judgments and make re-

- **Confidence** Dr. Ginsburg says that true self-confidence is rooted in competence. Individuals gain confidence by demonstrating competence in real-life situations.
- **Connection** Close ties to family, friends, and community provide a sense of security and belonging.
- **Character** Individuals need a fundamental sense of right and wrong to make responsible choices, contribute to society, and experience self-worth.
- **Contribution** Ginsburg says that having a sense of purpose is a powerful motivator. Contributing to one's community reinforces positive reciprocal relationships.
- **Coping** When people learn to cope with stress effectively, they are better prepared to handle adversity and setbacks.
- **Control** Developing an understanding of internal control helps individuals act as problem-solvers instead of victims of circumstance. When individuals learn that they can control the outcomes of their decisions, they are more likely to view themselves as capable and confident.

India is a great nation of young people, a rising superpower of the 21st century with profound spiritual roots. There is no doubt that, through each of us, India will play a pivotal role in the emergence of a new renaissance of life as we persevere in our brave efforts to triumph in this challenging time.

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

Bhushan Lal Razdan, formerly of the Indian Revenue Service, retired as Director General of Income Tax (Investigation), Chandigarh. Post-retirement, he is actively associated with medical, educational, cultural and heritage issues and joined various societies and trusts to promote these objectives. Occasionally he contributes articles of contemporary relevance in Newspapers and Magazines. He



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## Be sensitive towards those who died by suicide

Kashmir has witnessed many suicides in the past week. While our heart aches for the departed souls, many are indulging in unnecessary and insensitive shaming of the suicide victims. It is true that suicide has to be discouraged and as Muslims it is to be avoided at all costs. However, in talk-

ing about suicides our focus should be on helping people rather than shaming them. What good does it bring to you or the dead if you shame them in their departure as well?

Yes, it is unfortunate. However, if you're truly so abhorred by the act, why not actually constructively create a dialogue around mental health

issues. Instead of shaming people for lack of imaan, why not find a way to bring Islamic lens of mental health teachings to our society?

We need to realise that more the circumstances driving one to suicide, it is mostly mental health issues that encourage people to take to such extremes. The need of the hour is to

educate people about mental health issues, use religious knowledge to bring awareness around psychology, health, well being and try to raise issues of systemic discrimination that might be pushing people to the edge.

Tania Saeed  
Tanias@rediffmail

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

# The Pandemic of Pornography

Wasim Kakroo

**W**e all pass through different stages of development throughout life from childhood to adulthood and so on. Every developmental stage is characterized by different physical or psychological changes and every stage of development has its own challenges.

Here we are exclusively focusing on the adolescent population. Adolescence is the age of change and a transitional phase from childhood to adulthood. It is a vulnerable time when children might develop unhealthy habits that grow into problems in their adult life. Behavioral issues of adolescence, which are quite common, also crop up during this time, making it impossible for parents to reach out to their teenagers.

Common challenges to adolescents include physical, emotional changes, peer pressure, need for independence and autonomy, career challenges, psychological issues and so on. It is rightly called as the, "period of storm and stress".

One of the most important issues that arise at this age is addiction. As per studies, most addictive behaviors start in adolescence when there is a high incidence of experimenting with different things. One of such addictive behaviors is porn addiction.

An addiction is more than just an intense interest in something. It is a medical condition that changes the brain and the body and causes the person to feel compelled to continue acting in a certain way, even when doing so may cause harm.

Porn addiction refers to uncontrolled compulsion to watch porn and concurrent use of pornographic material for pleasure seeking or dealing with distress despite negative consequences to one's physical, mental and social well being.

According to one report, almost half (46%) of young people aged 12 to 16 are addicted to their smart phones and mostly surf porn websites (digital wellbeing 2020 report), 93% of boys and 62% of girls are exposed to internet pornography before the age of 18. There is 79% of accidental exposure to internet porn among children and adolescents.

**There are different stages of porn addiction:**

A) Early exposure: Children aged 12 to 17 largest users of online porn. Most boys have curiosity about the opposite sex and think they can learn more about them on internet porn sites. Unless they can navigate away from this temptation, they are seduced.

B) Addiction: Naïve curiosity turns into physical dependence for this problematic type of sexual arousal. In porn addiction, the habit forming substance is explicit sexual material. To satisfy addiction they rely on the internet, DVDs, and magazines. Porn is needed for arousal and is used on a regular basis. It has been hypothesized that dopamine, a neurochemical, rewards you with pleasurable sensations after watching porn. It makes you feel good and thus these and many other brain chemicals motivate a person who consumes porn to repeat this behavior. Thus, chemical release and pleasurable consequences of behavior leads to addiction and such people become dependent on porn for physical and emotional satisfaction.

C) Desensitization: Just as in any other chemical dependency, the amount of porn the addict previously used is not enough to stimulate these brain chemicals. Dopamine loves novelty. When the reward wears off, dopamine release decreases, therefore pleasure declines, the libido declines, and it may thus cause erectile dysfunction among male consumers. Less gratification leads to desire for greater desire for hardcore porn and thus a vicious cycle reigns.

D) Escalation: Desire for greater pleasure and expanded novelty leads to an urge to explore more pernicious images and urges and fantasies dominate their thoughts and interfere with normal balance of brain chemicals which in turn results in extreme craving.

E) Acting out sexually: Addiction to pornography can lead to an urge to have real world experiences which can lead to risky behaviors like sexual bullying, promiscuous sex, cyber porn, sexual aggression, rape and child molestation. This is especially true as the industry does little to discourage violence against women and their commodification.

**Common symptoms of porn addiction:**

1. Spending large amount of time watching porn
2. Experiencing cravings to watch porn
3. Requiring increasing amounts or more explicit porn to gain same level of satisfaction as before
4. Avoiding social activities to use porn.

**Causes of porn addiction:**

There can be a number of causes of porn addiction. Here we are mentioning only few:

**Biological factors:** The person may have a genetic predisposition to impulsivity, emotion dysregulation, or sensation-seeking behavior. One may have a predisposition to other characteristics that are associated with sexual addiction, like anxiety or depression. As you might expect, higher levels of sex hormones like testosterone or estrogen can also affect libido and hence increase the tendency to consume porn.

If a person is inclined towards impulsive behavior and have high levels of sex-related hormones, he or she may be more likely to engage in excessive or compulsive porn watching. Changes in brain chemistry when a person views porn increases the risk for addiction.

**Psychological factors:** Early-life/childhood environmental factors, including adverse events like abuse or age inappropriate exposure to sexual content, can contribute to some of the underlying traits involved in porn addiction behaviors and other mental health issues such as Anxiety, Depression, Personality disorders, Poor impulse control, Performance anxiety. A person might watch porn to escape



psychological distress, to manage emotional pain, sadness, loneliness and depression. Besides, self-esteem issues, past history of sexual abuse, tendency to experiment new things/curiosity to know more about opposite sex, can all lead to porn addiction.

**Social factors:** Rejection in relationships and social circles can lead to drop in self esteem which might lead to other, less healthy ways of enhancing the self esteem and one of them is porn addiction.

**Social isolation:** Not only does social isolation increase one's likelihood of seeking inappropriate ways of being sexually gratified, it also leads to a host of other problems—like depression and physical maladies—that can contribute to porn addictions or unhealthy sex behaviors.

**Peer influence:** During adolescence peer pressure is a very influential factor. If others around you are doing something, you are more likely to do it, too. Having a friend, or a group of friends, for example, who engage in excessive porn viewing can influence your behavior.

**Porn addiction's Effect on Teenagers Brain:**

Porn addiction can lead to various potential emotional, social and psychological disorders. Negative effect is greater on teens as their brains are more susceptible to chemical overload effects that come with addiction. Teenagers' brain is still in developing stage. It is hard for them to recover from any such addiction than adults. Teenager brain dominated by excitement and activation of pleasure areas and reward and emotional responses can lead to flood of Dopamine which in turn keeps on stimulating and maintaining potentially addictive habits like porn watching.

**Warning Signs of Porn addiction among Adolescents:**

1. Decreased interest in and or declining performance in school and extra circular activities.
2. Poor concentration & Lack of interest in usual day to day activities.
3. Sexual aggression, incest, age inappropriate relations
4. Internet addiction
5. Secrecy, i.e., spending lot of time alone in room with door locked
6. Sexual bullying
7. Secrecy around computers and smartphones usage such as hiding or deleting browsing history.
8. Demonstrating lack of empathy
9. Watching porn at public places like restaurants or school

**Consequences of Porn Addiction**

1. Sexual dysfunction (e.g., impotence, premature ejaculation)
2. Brain fog and concentration problems
3. Increase in high-risk behaviors.
4. Skewed view of the world.
5. Decrease in ability to build healthy relationships.

**“Because of our heightened state of worry and anxiety, a new wave of porn "converts" is emerging, who may or may not be able to break free from this extremely addictive coping method once the free subscription period is over. Indians increasingly went online in pursuit of sexual gratification using porn. The average increase in porn-watching from India was 33% during the pandemic, three times that of the average rise worldwide, which stood at 10.5%**

6. Normalization of sexual violence.
7. Increase in aggression towards women.
8. Insomnia/ low motivation
9. Depression /social anxiety
10. Negative self perceptions
11. Porn addiction deform the pleasure centers of brain making it much more difficult to recover
12. Sexual acting out /changes in sexual orientation
13. Rewiring reward pathways and sensitization ( alcohol addict and porn addict have same brain changes as per brain scans)
14. Iterations to reward centers of brain may be responsible for most mental disorders such as PTSD, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, depression.
15. Skewing what is acceptable sexual behavior
16. Preoccupation with sexual thoughts throughout the day.
17. Guilt, shame, confusion.
18. Ambivalence about stopping, or cycles of stopping/restarting porn watching and thus increase in impulsivity.
19. Tendency towards other impulsive behaviors.
20. Depression, anxiety, or other co-occurring psychological disorders.
21. Increasing need for more aggression or dominance.
22. Emotional detachment.

**Covid-19 and Porn Addiction**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause an immense psychosocial strain worldwide. Excessive use of the internet during these psychologically trying times, fueled by physical isolation as a result of lockdowns, has translated into dysfunctional behaviors. A growing body of evidence suggests an unprecedented increase in internet use and consumption of online pornography during the pandemic, and possibly even directly caused by it. Word searches related to pornographic content have increased (among men and women of all ages), owing to the fact that many people are at home with more free time than normal. But this is also a period of extraordinary fear and dread. Porn is a potent and rapid means to self-medicate one's way out of a relentlessly stressful situation.

While the rest of the world was focused on preventing a global health crisis, the world's largest pornography corporation (name deliberately not mentioned by the author of this article) was busy causing another pandemic. Traffic to the site was already higher than usual before the COVID-19 pandemic went worldwide, but on March 24, last year, the company provided its premium subscription service to the entire world for free for 30 days. Subscriptions soared to previously unheard-of levels in the days that followed. On March 25, 2020, traffic to the site surged by 22.6 percent in the United States and 21.5 percent in Canada. Europe saw an increase of 24.5 %, and Mexico (41.5 %), Russia (53.2 %), Spain (61 %), and India (95.3 %) were among the countries with the largest increases in traffic. Because of our heightened state of worry and anxiety, a new wave of porn "converts" is emerging, who may or may not be able to break free from this extremely addictive coping method once the free subscription period is over. Indians increasingly went online in pursuit of sexual gratification using porn. The average increase in porn-watching from India was 33% during the pandemic, three times that of the average rise worldwide, which stood at 10.5%, reported Times of India.

Consequently, the promise made by porn industry to help people cope with the stress brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic will end up being something considerably worse and far more difficult to overcome.

A month of internet porn is more than enough time for someone to become addicted to this super-normal stimulus and establishing a porn addiction will have long-term detrimental consequences for marriages and families.

Administrators of one of the porn websites claimed that the figures "clearly demonstrate that people all throughout Europe were delighted to have distractions while quarantined at home".

However, several members of a Reddit forum for persons suffering from pornography addiction, which has over half a million members, are sharing a different story:

"This corona s\*\*\* is killing me. Not the virus but the quarantine. I went to the gym every day and I was very active in my social life but now I have nowhere to go and nothing to do. I relapsed after 24 days," said one user.

Additionally, there were many relapse stories: "I'm in Spain, so my university classes are suspended and my part time job is now remote because of coronavirus. I can go out of home but it is not recommended. Now that I'm at home all day, relapsing is much more easy. Today I relapsed 3 times, when in the past normal weeks I used to relapse 1 or 2 times. Need help, this can get much worse if I don't stop it now." Another user had a similar experience, "I already relapsed 9 times this month."

It's hardly surprising that not everyone is finding the temptation to view porn a welcome distraction, given that there are scores of research studies associating porn use to poorer mental-health outcomes and another 45 neuro-scientific studies suggesting porn is addictive. Evidently, it appears to be making some people feel even more hopeless than ever.

**Guidance for Reducing Problematic Internet Pornography Use, both general and specific:**

1. Set aside time each day for various distress tolerance activities as it will help you "de-stress" and raise your dopamine levels naturally and hence you will feel less urge to seek pleasure through porn watching.
2. Engage in other vocational activities such as reading, writing, listening to music, and so on.
3. Regularly take part in social events and maintain relationships with family.
4. Use apps that provide information on how much time was spent on online activities per week and intentionally restrict daily screen usage for outside work-related activities.
5. Keep in touch with friends, relatives, and acquaintances when you're separated from them physically due to lockdown or self quarantine.
6. Make an abstinence list that includes specific problematic habits related to porn watching and a plan for avoiding or not engaging in those activities.
7. Use mindfulness exercises to pay attention to behaviors, time spent on various activities, cravings, and other factors.
8. Actively foster trust among family members, particularly the significant other, as well as exercise good communication and transparency.

**“Desire for greater pleasure and expanded novelty leads to an urge to explore more pernicious images and urges and fantasies dominate their thoughts and interfere with normal balance of brain chemicals which in turn results in extreme craving.**

**Advices for parents and caregivers:**

1. Encourage your child to ask you questions by affirming his or her natural curiosity. Answer children's queries as per their age so they don't turn to porn sites for answers.
2. Assist your child in compiling a list of three trusted persons to whom they can speak or ask questions. Encourage children to confide in a trusted adult if they have any concerns.
3. Install software for internet accountability on digital devices such as laptop and mobile. Turn on Safe-Search on your browser. Set up strict privacy settings on online apps and games.
4. Involve your teen or child in the creation of family technology agreements regarding safe gadget usage.
5. Establish device-free zones and times in your home (for eating, playing, schoolwork, and sleeping).
6. Talk to your teen about how to report content over the internet that isn't acceptable/age appropriate.
7. Tell your children that they can report to you if they encounter something online that makes them feel unhappy, uncomfortable, or terrified, and you will not be angry or penalise them for reporting it to you.
8. Play online games with your children. Don't dismiss online gaming as a childish activity. This also allows you to play games with your youngster, but only online. This is an excellent moment to converse with and engage your child about their world and what matters to them. Online apps, programmes, and sites can also provide inspiration and opportunity to play offline games, be creative offline, and exercise together by watching streaming channels and videos indoors, all of which contribute to increased positive bonding time.
9. Positive support and encouragement to children or adolescents helps to build trusting connections and open lines of communication that may nurture their emotional needs and hence prevent them from seeking other means of pleasure such as porn watching.

The author is a RCI Licensed clinical psychologist and can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com





## Global Airline Body Says Covid 'Travel Pass' App To Go Live In Weeks



Agencies

**DUBAI:** The head of global airline body International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on Thursday a digital travel pass for COVID-19 test results and vaccine certifications would go live in the coming weeks following a testing phase.

The mobile application, which has been tested by some airlines, was originally designed to facilitate passenger screening at the airport check-

in and aircraft boarding stages. However, IATA says it has since modified the app for when passengers are also checked by immigration officers on arrival.

"(The) feedback (has) been very positive. We expect to go live out of the testing mode in the next couple of weeks," IATA Director General Willie Walsh told reporters during an online media briefing.

Around 60,000 people have been registered to test the system, he said.

## GST Council To Meet On June 12 To Discuss Tax Cut On Covid Essentials, Black Fungus Medicine



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The all-powerful GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet on June 12 to decide on GST rate cut for COVID essentials and black fungus medicine, according to officials.

In the previous meeting on May 28, the Council, which has state ministers as members, a Group of Ministers (GoM) was set up to recommend tax relief on COVID essentials, including PPE kits, masks and vaccines, to the GST council.

The GoM submitted its report on June 7. Officials said the GST Council would be meeting on June 12, to discuss the GoM report as well as consider tax rate cuts for black fungus medicine.

Some state finance ministers in the GoM are understood to have pitched for a rate cut on COVID essentials. Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, who is also a member of the GoM, on Wednesday said that the state is in favour of cutting taxes on COVID essentials to facilitate patients, but will accept the decision of the GST council on tax rates.

The GoM on GST concessions on COVID relief items was mandated to examine whether a GST rate cut or exemption is required for medical-grade oxygen, pulse oximeters, hand sanitizers, oxygen therapy equipment like concentrators, ventilators, PPE kits, N-95 and surgical masks and temperature checking equipment.

Besides, the panel also looked into COVID vaccines, drugs, and medicines for COVID treatment and testing kits for COVID detection.

The GST Council on May 28, left taxes on COVID-19 vaccines and medical supplies unchanged after the BJP and opposition-ruled states sparred over whether the tax cut benefits will reach the common man.

However, Goods and Services Tax (GST) was exempted on import of Amphotericin B—a medicine used for treatment of black fungus.

Congress and other opposition ruled states have been demanding a reduction in taxes but the central government felt the move may not result in tangible gains for people.

Currently, 5 per cent GST is levied on domestically manufactured vaccines, while it is 12 per cent for COVID drugs and oxygen concentrators.

## "Unable To Feed Our Families": Tipper, Tractor Drivers Protest Enters Third Day In Bandipora



Agencies

**BANDIPORA:** The tipper and truck vehicle owners dealing with sand and gravel in Bandipora district said they were not able to feed their families amid lockdown and cumbersome government procedures.

On Thursday, the protest of the association entered the third day.

According to the News Agency, the drivers staged a silent protest from 7th of this month in this north district by stating that many vehicles were being seized on the pretext of operating ille-

**DRIVERS HAVE ESTABLISHED TEMPORARY SHEDS FOR** night shift and are on continuous protest for pressing their demands; Aijaz Ahmad Khan a contractor said, adding that the vehicle owners were living in a constant fear of being caught by many departments.

## Mudgal Inspects JAKFED Property Ashajipora, Hq Super Bazaar Anantnag

**ANANTNAG:** Secretary, Co-operative Department, Yasha Mudgal, today visited JAKFED property Ashajipora and Headquarter Super Bazaar Anantnag to take on spot assessment of the property besides inspecting functioning of the Super Bazaar.

She was accompanied by Registrar Cooperative Societies, Shafiqat Iqbal and other senior functionaries of the department.

Secretary inspected various sections of the Super Bazaar and directed for fixing the working hour from early morning to late hours in the evening so that customers can avail services as per their convenience.

Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Anantnag, Abdul Salam, informed the Secretary that there are 50 functional Co-operative Societies of different nomenclature registered under the J&K Cooperative Societies Act, 1989 which are operating in diverse economic fields like sale of essential commodities Kerosene oil, Sugar, fertilizers, Poultry, Dairy, Sheep, Timber, Medicines and credit distribution among rural members across the district.

He further informed that the Islamabad Consumer Cooperative Wholesale Store Limited



commonly known as Super Bazaar Anantnag transacts Medical and Consumer Business with two fair price medical shops running round the clock at District Hospital and offering five (05) percent and fifty (50) percent rebate on medicines and surgical items respectively.

Secretary Cooperatives

stressed upon the officers to venture in dairy, poultry and other potential areas besides putting strong efforts for making Cooperative Movement viable and vibrant in the district.

SSP, Imtiaz Hussain, ADC, Gulzar Ahmad and senior officials and field functionaries of cooperative department were present on the occasion.

## Saudi Aramco To Sell \$6B Of Dollar-Denominated Islamic Bonds



BLOOMBERG

Saudi Aramco, the world's biggest energy company, is selling \$6 billion of bonds in its first dollar-denominated Islamic bond sale.

The state-controlled company is offering sukuk due in three, five and 10 years, and the longest portion will yield 120 basis points above Treasuries, according to a person familiar with the matter. That's down from initial discussions of around 160 basis points.

Order books for the sale are in excess of \$60 billion, said people familiar with the transaction, who asked not to be identified as the details are private.

The firm is raising cash to help finance its plans to pay out \$75 billion in dividends, a commitment that the oil company made to garner support for its initial public offering. Aramco had to reduce spending, cut jobs and sell non-core assets as the spread of the

coronavirus and widespread lockdowns curbed demand for oil last year, the main source of revenue for Saudi Arabia.

The price of Brent crude has rebounded, after plummeting to a 21-year low of just below \$16 a barrel at one point in 2020. It's since climbed more than four-fold to over \$70 a barrel.

And while Aramco's first-quarter profits soared—thanks to the recovery in both crude and gas—its free cash flow fell short of the \$18.75 billion needed to pay the dividend for the period.

Aramco's oil revenue accounts for about 40% of Saudi Arabia's gross domestic product and the recent increase in crude prices may drive this even higher, Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Jaimin Patel and Damian Sassever wrote in a note Tuesday. Saudi Arabia's plans to reduce its dependence on Aramco will be challenged by the nation's fiscal deficit, they said.

## India's Agriculture Exports Jump To \$41 Billion In 2020-21 Despite Pandemic Disruptions, Say Commerce Ministry Officials

India's agriculture exports (including marine and plantation products) have beaten the pandemic registering a growth of 17.34 per cent to \$41.25 billion in 2020-21, a top commerce ministry official said on Thursday.

Speaking to the media, commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan said that excellent growth of Agri exports in FY21 has come after it remained stagnant for the past three years (USD 38.43 billion in 2017-18, USD 38.74 billion in 2018-19 and USD 35.16 billion 2019-20).

In rupee terms, the increase is 22.62 per cent with exports during 2020-21 amounting to Rs 3.05 lakh crore as compared to 2.49 lakh crore during 2019-20. India's agricultural and allied imports during 2019-20 were USD 20.64 billion, and the corresponding figures for 2020-21 are USD 20.67 billion. Despite COVID-19, the balance of trade in agriculture has improved by 42.16% from USD 14.51 billion to USD 20.58 billion.

For agriculture products (excluding marine and plantation products), the growth is 28.36% with exports of USD 29.81 billion in 2020-21 as compared to USD 23.23 billion in 2019-20. India has been able to take advantage of the increased demand for staples during the COVID-19 period.

Huge growth has been seen in export of cereals with export of non-basmati rice growing by 136.04% to USD 4794.54 million; wheat by 77.17% to USD 549.16 million; and other cereals (millets, maize and other coarse grains) by 238.28% to USD 694.14 million. Other agricultural products, which registered a significant increase in exports as compared to 2019-20, were oil meals (USD 1575.34 million—growth of 90.28%), sugar (USD 2789.97 million—growth 41.88%), raw cotton (USD 1897.20 million—growth 79.43%), fresh vegetables (USD 721.47 million—growth 10.71%) and vegetable oils (USD 602.77 million—growth 254.39%) etc.

The largest markets for India's agriculture products are the USA, China, Bangladesh, UAE, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nepal, Iran and Malaysia. Exports to most of these destinations have registered growth, with the highest growth being recorded for Indonesia (102.42%), Bangladesh (95.93%) and Nepal (50.49%).

Export of spices like ginger, pepper, cinnamon, cardamom, turmeric, saffron etc., which have



known therapeutic qualities, has also grown substantially. During 2020-21, export of pepper increased by 28.72% to USD 1269.38 million; cinnamon by 64.47% to USD 112.5 million; nutmeg, mace and cardamom by 132.03% (USD 189.34 million vs USD 81.60 million); and ginger, saffron, turmeric, thyme, bay leaves etc. by 35.44% to USD 570.63 million. Export of spices touched the highest ever level of around USD 4 billion during 2020-21. The organic exports during 2020-21 were USD 1040 million as against USD 689 million in 2019-20, registering a growth of 50.94%. Organic exports include oil cake/meals, oil seeds, cereals and millets, spices and condiments, tea, medicinal plant products, dry fruits, sugar, pulses, coffee etc.

Exports have also taken place from several clusters for the first time. For instance, export of fresh vegetables and mangoes from Varanasi and black rice from Chandauli has taken place for the first time, directly benefiting farmers of the area. Exports have also taken place from other clusters viz. oranges from Nagpur, bananas from Theni and Ananthpur, mangoes from Lucknow etc. Despite the pandemic, export of fresh horticulture produce took place by multimodal mode and consignments were shipped by air and sea to Dubai, London and other destinations from these areas. Handholding by the Department for market linkages, post-harvest value chain development and the institutional structure such as FPOs, enabled North East farmers to send their value-added products beyond the Indian borders.

Cereal exports have done well during 2020-21. The country has been able to export to several countries for the first time. For example rice has been exported to countries like Timor-Leste, Puerto Rico, Brazil, for the first time. Similarly wheat has been exported to countries like Yemen, Indonesia, Bhutan and other cereals have been exported to Sudan, Poland, Bolivia-IANS

## Redmi Note 10 Series Clocks Over Rs 3,000 Cr In Sales In India

Agencies

The company achieved this feat across all platforms ever since the launch of Redmi Note 10 Series.

Launched in March this year, Redmi Note 10 Pro Max, Redmi Note 10 Pro, Redmi Note 10S and Redmi Note 10 offer a premium and enriching experience to the consumers.

"With this quantum leap, the Rs 3,000+ crore sales figure is an achievement that testifies our commitment as well as customer satisfaction with the brand. As we continue to strengthen our footprint, we hope that we continue to deliver a seamless and unique experience to our consumers even during this unprecedented time," said Sneha Tainwala,



Business Head, Redmi India.

Redmi Note 10 series pack high-end features such as 120Hz Super AMOLED Display, 108MP camera, Qualcomm Snapdragon 732G, and a lot more.

The regular Redmi Note 10 price in India starts at Rs 11,999 for the base 4GB + 64GB model and the 6GB + 128GB option costs Rs 13,999. The Redmi Note 10 Pro comes in three storage options and its

price starts at Rs 15,999 for the base 6GB + 64GB model. The 6GB + 128GB and 8GB + 128GB options carry a price tag of Rs 16,999 and 18,999 respectively.

The Redmi Note 10 Pro Max also comes with the same storage option as the Redmi Note 10 Pro. Its price starts at Rs 18,999 for the base 6GB + 64GB model and goes up to Rs 19,999 for the 6GB + 128GB option. The top model of 8GB RAM and 128GB carries a price tag of Rs 21,999.

According to reports last month, the company has sold more than 200 million Redmi Note smartphones globally.

On Wednesday, Xiaomi India announced that its Mi 11X series of devices has witnessed a record sales worth over Rs 300 crore in just 45 days of its launch.

## Amazon Likely To See \$425 Million Eu Privacy Fine, Says Report

Amazon.com Inc could be fined more than \$425 million under the European Union's privacy law, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Luxembourg's data-protection commission, CNPD, has circulated a draft decision and proposed a fine highlighting Amazon's privacy practices among the bloc's 26 national data-protection authorities, the report said.

The case relates to Amazon's collection and use of individuals' personal data and violations under EU's landmark data privacy rules known as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a source told the Journal.

GDPR requires companies to seek people's consent before using their personal data or face steep fines.

An EU court ruling last month annulled an order that required Amazon, which has its EU headquarters in Luxembourg City, to pay back taxes to the country.

Amazon was not immediately available for a comment.







