KASHMR OBSERVER

Friday 11 June | 30 Shawwal | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 136 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net ● twitter.com / kashmirobserver ● facebook.com/kashmirobserver ● Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



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



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.



C 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 Sweeners 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

CRPF Man Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

legal formalities.

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

Police Probing Slain

BJP Leader's Tral Visits

Corona Curfew

In 5 Districts

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: BIP leader Rakesh

Pandita, who was killed by Jaish-

e-Mohammed militants last

week, had told his personal se-

curity 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

He said investigators are try-

ing to find out the reason be-

hind Pandita's regular visits to

police official said on Thursday.

Today

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

Tral over the past one and a half

years. The official said investi-

gators 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

PSOs over the phone that he was

still in Jammu," the official added.

shot dead and a woman, ac-

Pandita, a BJP councillor, was

Kashmir, let alone Tral".

"He (Pandita) had to

companying • More On P10

remained unvaccinated he is also covered.

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

n 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

Assembly Polls To Be Held Next Year: Report



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Narendra Modi led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is keen to hold assembly polls early next year in the Union Territory and has conveyed it's plans to the political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, reports said Thursday.

delimitation The Commission would

complete its mandate of redrawing constituencies much earlier before their term ends in March next vear, a local news agency reported Thursday while quoting unnamed sources.

The Centre has given a one-year extension to the Delimitation Commission, set up in March last year to redraw the electoral constituencies of • More On P10

akistan-controlled Kashmir's top election official announced on Thursday to hold the general election for the legislative assembly on July 25, despite appeals to postpone the polls for two months due to the threat of resurgence of the coronavirus. Last year, Pakistan conducted the legislative assembly election in Gilgit-Baltistan. India had slammed Pakistan for its decision to hold ● More On P10

Assembly Polls In Pak Kashmir On July 25

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 temperat 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



Third wave is inevitable, unless vaccination is done for > 40-50% people

Which new variant will cause havoc remains unknown Physical barriers will always

Vaccinations r key Early decisive steps r key in

Ensure enuf oxygen, medicines, beds, info & well cared for HCWs



Dr. Kafeel Khan Paediatrician

As per the DGHS guidelines, mask is not recommended for children aged 5 or below; children aged 6-11 may wear a mask under supervision of parents and doctor.



Chaiman. Endocrinology and Diabetes, Max Healthcare It is the #DeltaVariant that caused havoc in India in the #coronavirus 2nd wave We know that prior infections were often not able to protect us A single shot of vaccine is not

good enough for this #VOC The virus can mutate again DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN

AS WE #Unlock

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 Huzaif 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, Matoo 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. "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 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

'No Construction Zone' Apart from taxes, the locals said they've been banned for carrying out any construction in

we don't de-

serve to give".

the area since 2019. Notably, the J&K administration has banned constructions and repair works in the

vicinity 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



Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir



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.

This rapid-response step of your immune system tends to wane with age. one reason younger people report side effects more often than older adults. Also, some vaccines simply

elicit more reactions than others. That said, everyone reacts differentlv. If you didn't feel anything a day or two after either dose, that doesn't mean the vaccine isn't working.

Behind the scenes, the shots also set in motion the second part of your immune system, which will provide the real protection from the virus by producing antibodies.

Another nuisance side effect: 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.

Not all side effects are routine. But after hundreds of millions of vaccine doses administered around the world — and intense safety monitor-



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 & Dohnson 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.

People also occasionally have serious allergic reactions. That's why you're asked to stick around for about 15 minutes after getting any type of COVID-19 vaccine — to ensure any reaction can be promptly

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.

US health officials can't yet tell if there's a link but say they're monitoring a small number of reports, mostly male teens or young adults. — AP

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR **JAMMU & KASMIR FOREST PROTECTION FORCE**

GAMMA UNIT, K-07, BARAMULLA

E-mail ID:-ddk07bla@gmail.com TELE-FAX:-0195-4223588

e- NIT NO: - 01 of 2021-22 DATED: - 09 -06 -2021

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:

S. NO	Name of Work	Adv.Cost	Class of	Cost of	Time of Comple-	Receiving/Open-	
		(Rs in lacs)	Contractor	Tender Docu-	tion	ing Committee	
				ment.			
				(in Rs)			
1,	Macadamization of Inner Link Road within Campus at Gamma	14.79	"B, C & D"		45	Tender Opening	
	Unit K-07 Forest Protection Force Baramulla.			600/=	calendar days.	Committee	
2,	Construction of Damaged Boundary Wall around Campus of	4.07	"D"		30	Tender Opening	
	Gamma Unit K-07. Forest Protection Force Baramulla.			200/=	calendar days.	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

Position of AA: Accorded Position of TS: Accorded

Position of Funds: Budgeted		
Publishing Date:	-	09-06-2021
Download Start Date:	-	09-06-2021 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	-	09-06-2021 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	-	25-06 -2021 upto 04.00 PM
Date & Venue of Opening of Technical Bid Online:	-	26-06-2021 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Joint Director, Forest Protection
		Force, Kashmir (Near JVC Hospital Bye-Pass, Bemina, Srinagar).
Date & Venue of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	-	28 -06-2021 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Joint Director, Forest Protection
		Force. Kashmir (Near JVC Hospital Bye-Pass, Bemina, Srinagar).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - https://iktenders.gov.in

The date & venue for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per schedule mentioned above and can be changed under unavoidable 02. circumstances.

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 and Bid Security Deposit in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A". The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.

As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads option" as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders gov.in

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act and can get the same from ap-

proved vendor. The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in

physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time & venue schedule mentioned above. However can be changed under unavoidable circumstances or as deemed fit by the

competent Authority.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned clearly visible copies of all necessary documents i.e CDR, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current year 2020-21, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan (cost of Tender Document) and Bid Security Declaration in shape of proformation of the current year. enclosed at Annexure"A".

The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract 11. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise). The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the

Bidders must ensure to upload their working Telephone/Mobile No's, and e-Mail ID address.

The intending bidders are requested to visit the site of work personally before uploading their bids in order to avoid any sort of differences afterwards during the course of the executive of work.

The rates quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to be inclusive of all prevailing GST, taxes etc. and any increase there-on. 15. In case of any bidder is desirous to quote REBATE, the rate to be quoted by him should be inclusive of Rebate. No separate REBATE shall be entertained. 16.

17. If the work gets suspended partly or abandoned in full, the contractors have no right to claim for compensation.

The contractor while execution of the work shall have to protect and safeguard all private/public property. Cost of the damage if caused during course of execu-

tion to any adjacent structure, water pipes, cables, electricity, telephone poll, wires, trees etc. shall have to borne exclusively by the contractor THE SUCESSFUL BIDDER SHALL HAVE TO COMPLETE THE WORK WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT SPECIFIED ABOVE AFTER THE ALLOTMENT ORDER IS ISSUED IN THIS FAVOUR. IN CASE OF HIS FAILURE TO DO SO, THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY HAVE GOT EVERY RIGHT TO IMPOSE PANALTY OR EVEN TERMINATE THE CONTRACT AND THE WORK SHALL BE GOT DONE THROUGH OTHER MEANS AT THE RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY/COST OF THE DEFAULTING AGENCY.

The contractor shall have to provide necessary equipment and machinery required for the execution of the work under contract at his cost.

The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.22.

23. The cost of the work shall in no case be above the advertised cost.

24. The Department will not be responsible for the delay in online submission of the Bid due to any reason (Technical or otherwise) and no request in this regard will be entertained. The Department is not in any way responsible/concerned for the selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding the

Contract may be terminated/halted at any point of time if not satisfied with the quality of execution. 27. The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPK-2682/21

28. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and also as per the detailed Tender document.

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

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 (Tranferee)

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 Trans-

mcb

officer Budgam Kashmir

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 obection shall be entetaiend.

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 immeddate 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

Date of Issue of tender Notice.

Bid Submission Start Date.

Bid Submission End Date.

Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents.

BMG

از نیابت وندیولگام بااجلاس منظوراحمه خان نائب تحصلیدار

ضمون درخواست منجاب:مظفراحمه، وعمراحمه پسران مجمدا مین خان افغان خبری ساکنه دیودگام تخصیل کو

بمرادحصول RBA سرفيفكك

عاملہ مندرجیعنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اریا سرفظیٹ دفتر مذا یں پیش کیا ہے اس ہارے میں عملہ فیلڈ ہےر بورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ ۔ ھھذا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور سمسی بھی فرد نے سکونت پذیر نہاں کی سائلان

حدمقررہ ہے کم زمینداری محمدامين ولدمحمة عبدالله ر بینه زوجه محمدامین برتعليم مظفراحمه ولدمحمه امين 03 صوبی جان دختر محمدامین 21سال عمراحمه ولدمحمرامين

س کےعلاوہ اورکوئی افراد کنبہ موجو دنہیں ہے۔ کنبہ کی سالا نہامدنی حدمقررہ سے کم ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث ر لفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوکوئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن کے اندرا ندرا پنااعتراض معہ وجوہات پیش کرے۔میعاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصليدار ونديولگام

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 Father's Name **Bashir Ahamd Shah** Mother's Name: Tasleema Akhtar

Date of Birth: 18-10-1993 Residenc:- Damhal

According 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.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification Certificate/s" bearing NO 08ARKAM-5002735 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/17

Dated 15-01-2018

Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

NIT No. 10/SSDU/792-801/2021-22/R&B/Uri. 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: -

9	Sr. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	Cost of Tender	Earnest Money	Time of	Date and Time of Open-	M.H: of	Class of	١
ı			(Rs. In	Document	(In Rupees)	Completion	ing of Bid	Account	Contract	١
L			lacs)	(In Rupees)		(In Days)				1
þ	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	. 1
ľ	1.	Restoration of Bimyar Piadan Road by way of Nallah Muck	3.50	200/=	10,500/=	15 days	21-06-2021 at 11.00 AM	3054-M&R	"DEE"	١
ı		Filling, Providing & laying of WBM Grade-II (Crushed) and								١
L		laying of RCC Pipes in Km 1st & 2nd at required spots.								1
ŀ	2.	Restoration of Manzgam Link Road by way of Construction	2.48	200/=	7,440/=	10 days	21-06-2021 at 11.00 AM	3054-M&R	"DEE"	١
L		of Crate Wall at RD 350 Mtrs.								١
ŀ	3.	Upgradation of Bugna Chachipora Road by way of Con-	1.42	200/=	4,260/=	05 days	21-06-2021 at 11.00 AM	3054-M&R	"DEE"	١
l		struction of R/ wall at RD 1100 Mtrs.								١
4	4.	Upgradation of Banjran Road Beigh Mohalla by way of	1.10	200/=	3,300/=	05 days	21-06-2021 at 11.00 AM	3054-M&R	"DEE"	١
L		Construction of Crate/ Protection Wall at spot.								١
ŀ	5.	Upgradation of Upper Gingle Link Road by way of Con-	1.00	200/=	3,000/=	05 days	21-06-2021 at 11.00 AM	3054-M&R	"DEE"	١
L		struction of R/ wall, RD 390 Mtrs.								. 1

21-06-2021 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Special Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online). Sub-Division Uri. 2. 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 L1 (3% of quoted cost) within the period as

1. 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: -

12-06-2021 From 10.00 A.M. 19-06-2021 up to 4.00 P.M.

From 12-06-2021, 10.00 A.M.to 19-06-2021, 4.00 P.M

10-06-2021.

specified in SBD. Performance Security shall be used in shape of CDR/FDR for tendering process. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.iktenders.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. (Tender Receiving Authority)

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if: -

r withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the 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. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of treasury challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub-Division Uri and Bid Security Declara tion 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 Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOO (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOO manually.

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. 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. Instructions to Bidder (ITB).

All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification information with their bids: 13.1. 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.

The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid. Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualifying of the bidder. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest money and

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. Dated: 10-06-2021. Executive Engineer, DIPK-2748/21 R&B Special Sub-Division, Uri

Masks Mandatory In Srinagar City, Violators To Be Fined

People Found Without Masks To Undergo Mandatory Covid Test



Observer News Service

SOPs to combat the fresh wave ness establishments. of Covid-19 in the district.

Deputy Commissioner in- destrians and asked them to positing fine as prescribed unspected various markets of exhibit strict compliance to der Rules.

Srinagar City.

The inspection was carried **SRINAGAR:** The Deputy Com- out to take stock of implemenmissioner (DC) Srinagar Mo- tation of various COVID-19 rehammad Aijaz Asad Thursday lated advisories and guidelines visited various markets of including use of Face Masks, Srinagar City to inspect the maintaining Social Distancing implementation of Covid-19 and rotational opening of busi-

During the visit, the teracted with the traders, pe- Covid testing apart from de-

THE INSPECTION WAS CARRIED OUT TO TAKE STOCK of implementation of various COVID-19 related advisories and guidelines

including use of Face Masks, maintaining Social Distancing and rotational

the government directions for larger public safety and health. He appealed to traders and transporters to cooperate with district administration and strictly follow Covid-19 SOPs, guidelines and precautions to control the Covid-19 infection.

He urged people to visit nearest vaccination centres and get vaccinated at an earliest to defeat the 2nd wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

The DC directed the concerned officers to monitor adherence to SOPs by service providers and called for strict legal action against the violators of Covid SOPs.

During the visit, the DC provided face masks to some Shopkeepers and Pedestrians who were without masks. He also counselled them and cautioned to remain careful in future regarding wearing of Masks besides adopting Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) to avoid contacting infection of virus.

Meanwhile District Administration Srinagar has warned that anybody found without mask in public places shall On the occasion, the DC in- have to undergo mandatory

water logging, they added.

45 Days Deadline Set For **Completion Of Peerbagh-**Humhama CRP



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Executive Officer, Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (JKERA), Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, on Thursday inspected the pace of progress on all weather Concrete Rigid Pavement being raised at the vital Indira Gandhi road from Peerbagh to Humhama Chowk.

He visited the site and took stock of ongoing construction works on this vital project and directed the officials to submit daily progress report of the work to ensure that it is completed strictly within the set deadline.

He asked the executing agencies to work in double shift for completion of the work on the sub-project, being executed un- nagar International Airport more der the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP), within next 45 days.

The officials informed that this 1.491 km long road stretch is being upgraded with the objective of making the flood-vulnerable portions of Indira Gandhi road resilient to floods by using the rigid concrete pavement technology. The conventional flexible

has been strengthened with laying of three layers comprising GSB works are fully complied with.

(Granular sub-Base), DLC (Dry Lean Concrete) and the final layer of PQC (Pavement Quality Concrete).

Dr. Abid, who inspected the progress of work on the pavement of this road portion, directed the officials to work in double shifts and complete the work on the vital road as soon as possible.

Notably, this is for the first time that rigid concrete pavement technology is being used at a large-scale for up gradation of roads in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesman said. The technology is being used as long-term protection against the recurrent damages caused due to frequent water-logging during torrential rains. This latest technological innovation will make the vital road stretch leading up to the Sridurable and flood resilient.

Similarly, another significant road in the Srinagar city, which is also vulnerable to recurrent damages due to water logging 'eastern foreshore road around the Brari-Nambal water body in downtown Srinagar' is also being upgraded using the rigid concrete pavement technology under JTFRP.

Dr. Abid also directed engineers pavement is more susceptible to to monitor the progress of works damages during winters due to under execution to ensure that the timeline for the completion The officials said the road portion of these works are met and all the quality-control parameters of the

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 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 · PATTAN: 01954-293507 · QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

Sgrr-Jammu highway - (Open)

Mughal Road - (Open) · Srinagar-Leh- (Open)

This Day in History

- 1774 Jews of Algiers escape attacking Spanish Army 1837 - The Broad Street Riot occurs in Boston, fueled by ethnic tensions between English-Americans and Irish-Americans
- 1864 The Battle of Trevilian Station, the bloodiest and largest all-cavalry battle of the American Civil War, begins in Louisa County, Virginia 1864 - Battle at Cynthiana Kentucky: General Hobsons unit caught
- 1864 Battle of Laurel Hill, West Virginia 1898 - 1st US Marines (600) land at Guantanamo Cuba during Spanish-American War
- 1901 Cook Islands annexed and proclaimed part of New Zealand
- 1913 Grand Vizir Mahmud Shevket Pasha is assassinated, resulting in continuing Young Turk terrorism until WWI 1917 - King Alexander assumes the throne of Greece
- after his father Constantine I abdicates under pressure by allied armies occupying Athens 1920 - Republicans nominate Warren G. Harding
- for US president 1934 - Disarmament conference in Geneva fails 1935 - Inventor Edwin Armstrong gives the first
- Jnited States, at Alpine, New Jersey 1940 - World War II: British forces bomb Genoa
- 1940 World War II: First attack of the Italian Air
- 1942 German army defeated at El-Alamein, North Africa 1942 - US and USSR sign Lend-Lease agreement
- 1943 British invades Pantelleria (a tiny island
- 1944 15 US aircraft carriers attack Japanese
- province of Portugal
- 1971 US & Japan sign accord to return Okinawa to Japan
- 1973 Libya nationalizes Bunker Hunt concession; Nigeria
- 1975 One-day international cricket debut of
- Javed Miandad aged 17 yrs 364 days
- 1981 Richter Scale 6.9 magnitude Golbaf
- 1982 Israel and Syria stop fighting in Lebanon
- evidence may be admitted at trial if it could be proved that it would have been discovered legally. 1985 - Russian space probe Vega 1 lands on Venus
- 1996 Exxon states that it will begin work on its \$15-billion Sakhalin I oil and natural gas
- Equipment Corporation in the largest high-tech acquisition.
- 2009 The World Health Organization declares H1N1 swine flu to be a global pandemic, the first such incident in over forty years
- 2012 The Nobel Prize is reduced by 20% to
- prevent any future undermining of capital 2012 - Two earthquakes in Afghanistan trigger
- landslides that kill more than 80 people
- government offices and other important buildings in the northern city of Mosul.

From KO Archives

Hurriyat For Erasing 'Artificial Lines'

ISLAMABAD - After favouring fresh options other than the UN resolution for resolving the Kashmir issue, the moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference has said efforts should he made to dismantle the "artificial lines" dividing Kashmir.

"When we talked about Kashmir it means the entire territory of Kashmir and the artificial lines drawn between Kashmir must be dismantled." visiting Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Omar Farooq told reporters here. Farooq's statement assumes significance as it comes on i he heels of Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's assertion on similar lines that borders should be made "irrelevant". He had mooted a concept of "soft borders" to resolve the issue. The Hurriyat leader, who was in Karachi yesterday on a two-

day visit, said they would work for removing the "artificial lines" separating the two sides of Kashmir. About his comments earlier those UN resolutions have

failed, he said they were not deviating from their long-held stand, but were in favour of finding other options as the world body has failed to find any solution.

Farooq said new ideas and options should be explored and treated on merit for finding a solution to the Kashmir problem as the United Nations had miserably failed over the past 57 years. "We don't know what will be the final solution but relations

with Pakistan would have a significant bearing on the out-, come." he said. Answering a question about hardline leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani's criticism of their visit, he said the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) represented a joint struggle and one individual could not dictate terms: He said it was lime for reinforcing unity of the Kashmiri people.

Later visiting Mohammad Ali Jinnah's mausoleum at Karachi along with eight other Kashmiri separatist leaders. Farooq hailed the father of Pakistan. "I on behalf of Kashmiri people salute Quad-e-Azam his leadership and dignity and freedom struggle initiated by him." he wrote in the visitors book.

(Kashmir Observer, 11 June, 2005)

Four Days Workshop On Standard Treatment Guidelines Concludes

opening of business establishments.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 4 day virtual work-Treatment Guidelines (STG) with certificate. the Empanelled Healthcare Providers in Jammu and Kashmir, conducted by State Health Agency (SHA), Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna SE-

HAT J&K, concluded here today. The workshop was conducted to ensure that Standard Treatment Guidelines are being pitals were asked to raise a reimplemented by all concerned stakeholders on ground so that beneficiaries are able to avail the

scheme benefits with ease. nificant aspects regarding the PPDs and CPDs by SHA and ISA. STGs were deliberated upon. The SHA stressed upon that elaborately and the stakeholders such workshops shall be held were exhorted upon to strictly and conducted from time to time adhere to the same. The hospitals to ensure that least problems were strictly asked to follow the are faced by the beneficiaries in guidelines of Turn Around Time availing this scheme and all the (TAT) and the date of discharge guidelines are being followed and

shall be considered as actual discharge and hospitals have to select the same date of discharge in shop cum training on 'Standard TMS as mentioned in discharge

Further, clarity regarding uploading of documents on TMS was also provided by the representatives of SHA. The Insurance Teams were strictly advised not to raise unnecessary queries to the hospitals as the same causes hindrance in their work. The hosquest if they found any case that needed to be reconsidered.

It was also planned that time to time orientation training shall be During the event, several sig- conducted for PMAMs, Medico,

mentioned in TAT guidelines implemented in letter and spirit.

Special Vaccination Drive Conducted At JKAACL



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages (JKAACL) Thursday held a special vaccination drive within the premises of JKAACL.

Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Sajeev Rana said that the special drive was organised to inoculate frontline workers, artists and employees of the academy.

He said the drive continued full day so that maximum people could get vaccinated.

Similarly a vaccination drive was also conducted at the Jammu office of JKAACL.

Around 200 young artists and other front line workers falling in the age group of 18 to 44 years were vaccinated at the K L Sehgal hall of the Academy, Jammu. The that all the artists get vaccinated. Artists working in Jammu district and Dansal are also being vaccinated during the drive.

other culture activities of the safety of their families as well.

Academy got the first dose of the vaccine during the drive. Those inoculated with the anti-covid-19 vaccine included writers, editors and many others working directly or indirectly with the Academy. Additional Secretary JKAACL,

Dr Arvinder Singh Amn, while speaking on the importance of holding vaccination camp for its artists, said that artists have been categorized as a priority group for vaccination by the government in view of their nature of work during which they come in public contact.

He said that the Culture department in coordination with the department of Family Welfare, MCH and Immunization and Health department shall ensure

The Culture department has urged upon all the artists working with the Academy to come The artists and other persons forward for vaccination as it is working in awareness camps and important for their safety and



BEAT THE HEAT: Teenagers beat scorching summer heat by taking a bath in a stream in the outskirts of Srinagar city. KO Photo Abid Bhat

SHA Conducts 4 Days Virtual Workshop On STGs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The State Health Agency (SHA) (Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna-SEHAT) J&K held 4day workshop cum training from 7th to 10th June on Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) with the empanelled health

care providers in UT of J&K. The virtual workshop cum training started with a brief discussion on the importance of following the STGs.

It was given out that the workshop cum training was conducted to ensure that STGs are being implemented by all concerned stakeholders on ground so that beneficiaries do not face any problem and are able to avail the scheme hassle

During this training cum workshop, Hospitals were strictly advised to follow the guidelines of Turn Around Time (TAT) so that beneficiaries are able to avail the benefits of the scheme without any hassle. It was informed that the date of

discharge mentioned in TAT guidelines shall be considered as actual discharge and hospitals were instructed to select the same date of discharge in TMS as mentioned in discharge certificate.

Further clarity regarding the upalso provided by the representa-

advised not to raise unnecessary

queries to the hospitals as the same causes hindrance in their work and were advised to follow guidelines in letter and spirit.

Hospitals were asked to raise a request if they found any case that needed to be reconsidered. It was also planned that time to

time orientation training shall be conducted for PMAMs/ Medico/ PPDs/CPDs by SHA and ISA.

The SHA stressed upon that such training cum workshops shall be held and conducted from time to time to ensure that least problems loading of documents on TMS was are being faced by beneficiaries in availing this scheme and that all the guidelines are being followed Insurance Team were strictly and implemented on ground in let-

Three Lakh Srinagar Residents **Inoculated With Covid Vaccine**

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad Thursday chaired a meeting to review the achievements made and targets set with regard to ongoing vaccination process in Srinagar,

Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Chief Planning Officer, SDM East, SDM West, Nodal Officer Covid-19, Chief Medical Officer, District Panchayat Officer Senior Health Care functionaries BMO,

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned to intensify their efforts to ensure cent percent target of vaccination is achieved within the stipulated time frame. He directed the concerned officers to fice. He directed them for utilization ensure submission of daily reports to his office about the vaccination.

so far and process is going on with

cination centers in large numbers to get anti Covid-19 vaccine. The DC directed the Tehsildars and

ZMOs to ensure regular inspection of vaccination centres falling in their respective jurisdiction and submit daily reports of the same to his ofof their own staff and ensure close coordination with local influencers including members of Panchayat Raj Institutions and Religious heads to have been inoculated shots of Cov- make people aware about benefits of id-19 vaccination in Srinagar district anti Covid-19 vaccination.

The Deputy Commissioner urged the people of Srinagar to come forward and get vaccinated at their nearest vac-

up of 5 Model Primary Health Centers termed as STAR PHCs at different locations in the district In order to further strengthen the patient care facilities.

structure at an earliest. Pertinent to mention that each Star

public demonstration of FM broadcasting in the 7:45

and Turin in Italy

force on the island of Malta

during WW II

south of Sicily)

bases on Marianas 1951 - Mozambique becomes an oversea

. 1958 - UN Security council sends observers to Lebanon

1971 - US ends ban on China trade

1975 - 1st oil pumped from North Sea oilfield

1975 - Greece adopts constitution

earthquake in Iran, kills at least 2,000

1984 - US Supreme Court declares illegally obtained

development in Russia's Far East 1998 - Compaq Computer pays \$9 billion for Digital

2014 - Islamic State of Iraq forces seize control of

ter and spirit.

Observer News Service

ZMOs and other concerned were present in the meeting.

The DC was informed that about 3 lakh residents of targeted population



He also stressed for launching a door to door vaccination drive for the beneficiaries.

cination Centre to ensure safety for themselves, family and whole society against the Covid pandemic disease. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of works being carried out for setting

The DC directed the CMO Srinagar and other concerned officers to spead up the pace of work to ensure all 5 designated Star PHCs start functioning with upgraded infra-

PHC in Srinagar district will have minimum 25-30 bed capacity with oxygen support system to meet present requirements to fight Covid-19 disease.



FAJR 3: 32 **ZUHR**

5:31 **MAGRIB**

ISHA

9:26



HIJRI

ZIQADAT -UL-





PRAYERS

12: 30 ASR

Israeli Forces Kill **Palestinian Officers In** 'Undercover Mission'



Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

the PIJ," said Fawcett.

"One guy was killed in that op-

eration, and another was injured

and taken away by the Israel

forces. The man who was killed

is understood to be a member of

According to reports, the second

man who was taken away was a

Palestinian man named Wissam

Thousands of mourners turned

out on the streets in Jenin city to

take part in the funeral proces-

sion of Alawi, as preparations for

the burial of the two other men

There have also been calls for

'Dangerous Israeli escalation'

A spokesman for Palestin-

ian President Mahmoud Abbas

condemned what he called a

"dangerous Israeli escalation",

saying the three were killed by

Israeli special forces who dis-

guise themselves as Palestinians

Rudaina, called on the interna-

The spokesman, Nabil Abu

There are conflicting reports

about the details of the incident.

The Israeli military and police

told Reuters news agency that

during arrest raids.

such attacks.

a general strike across Palestin-

ian towns.

rested during the operation.

sraeli forces have shot dead at least three Palestinians, including two Palestinian Authority (PA) military intelligence officers, in a predawn raid in the city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian authorities said on Thursday.

The Palestinian health ministry identified the two officers Abu Zaid. He was reportedly aras Adham Yasser Alawi, 23, and Tayseer Issa, 32, the Palestinian Wafa news agency reported, adding the third victim was Jamil al-Amuri, who had been imprisoned in Israeli jails.

Another Palestinian officer, killed were also underway. Muhammad al-Bazour, 23, was critically injured during the Israeli undercover mission and has been moved to an Israeli hospital, according to Wafa.

An online video The Associated Press had access to appears to show Palestinian officers taking cover behind a vehicle as gunshots are heard in the background. One shouts that they are exchanging fire with Israeli "undercover" forces.

Israeli media reported that al-Amuri was a former prisoner tional community and the Unitand member of the Palestinian ed States to intervene to halt Islamic Jihad, but this has yet to be confirmed from the Palestin-

Reporting from occupied east Jerusalem, Al Jazeera's Harry did not immediately respond to Fawcett said the incident was requests for comment. However, "an undercover operation in a an Israeli official anonymously civilian vehicle.

"The understanding is that the Palestinian officers were they (Israeli forces) were target- killed in the crossfire.

Auckland Named World's Most Liveable City As Covid Shakes Up Rankings



liveable cities, propelling pandemic life," the EIU said in Auckland to first place, replacas a statement. ing Vienna, which crashed out of the top 10 as the island nations of New Zealand, Australia and Japan fared best.

The Austrian capital had led the list since 2018 and for years ran neck and neck with this year. Vienna fell to 12th. Melbourne at the top of the survey of 140 urban centres. New Zealand's elimination of lington also entered the top COVID-19 within its borders through lockdown measures helped by its geographic isolation, however, gave its cities a big boost.

"New Zealand's tough lockdown allowed their society to

up the Economist In- of cities like Auckland and celled. telligence Unit's an- Wellington to enjoy a lifestyle nual ranking of most that looked similar to pre- has taken a heavy toll on glob-

> The EIU generally does not make the full ranking public. they were before the pandem-The last time Auckland was in the top 10 was in 2017, when it came eighth, a position Melbourne shared with Geneva

Illustrating New Zealand's advantage this year, Wel-10. It came fourth behind Osaka, which rose two spots to second place, and Adelaide, which leapfrogged its compatriots Sydney and Melbourne

to third place from 10th. The latest ranking is from infrastructure. (REUTERS)

Child Labour On The Rise For

"The COVID-19 pandemic

"Cities across the world are now much less liveable than ic began, and we've seen that regions such as Europe have been hit particularly hard."

The European Union struggled to get its vaccination campaign off the ground and many member states Austria imposed more lockdowns than they had hoped to, hurting their cities' scores in the measure of 'culture and environment'. The four other categories assessed are stability, healthcare, education and

OVID-19 has shaken reopen and enabled citizens 2019 as last year's was can-

al liveability," the EIU said.

'Somewhat including the report.

According to the report, Indian-Americans exhibit very high rates of marriage within their community.

dents have a spouse or partner of Indian-origin, US-born Indian-Americans are four times more likely to have a spouse or partner who is of Indian-origin but was

plays a central role in the lives of Indian-Americans. Îndian-Americans but religious

religion plays an important role of origin or caste.

1 In 2 Indian-Americans **Faced Discrimination In** Past 1 Year: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON: Indian-Americans, who constitute the second-largest immigrant group in the US, regularly encounter discrimination and polarisation, according to a survey released on Wednesday.

The report, 'Social Realities of Indian Americans: Results from the 2020 Indian American Attitudes Survey" draws on the Indian-American Attitudes Survey (IAAS) -- a collaboration between the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Johns Hopkins-SAIS, and the University of Pennsylvania.

The findings of the report are tative online survey of 1,200 the US -- the 2020 IAAS -- conducted between September 1 and September 20, 2020, in partnership with the research and analytics firm YouGov, it said in a statement.

"Indian-Americans regularly encounter discrimination. One in two Indian Americans reports being discriminated against in the past one year, with discrimination based on skin colour identified as the most common form of bias.

surprisingly, Indian-Americans born in the United States are much more likely to report being victims of discrimination than their foreign-born counterparts," said

While eight out of 10 responborn in the United States.

The survey found that religion practice varies.



in their lives, religious practice is less pronounced.

Forty per cent of respondents pray at least once a day and 27 per cent attend religious services at least once a week.

The report notes that roughly based on a nationally represen- half of all Hindu Indian-Americans identify with a caste group. Indian-American residents in Foreign-born respondents are significantly more likely than US-born respondents to espouse a caste identity. The overwhelming majority of Hindus with a caste identity -- more than eight in 10 -- self-identify as belonging to the category of General or upper caste.

"Indian-American" itself is a contested identity. While Indian-American is a commonly used shorthand to describe people of Indian-origin, it is not universally embraced. Only four in 10 respondents believe that "Indian-American" is the term that best captures their background, the report said.

Civic and political engagement varies considerably by one's citizenship status. Across nearly all metrics of civic and political participation, US-born citizens report the highest levels of engagement, followed by foreign-born US citizens, with non-citizens trailing behind.

Indian-Americans' social communities are heavily populated by other people of Indian-origin. Indian-Americans -- especially members of the first generation -- tend to socialise with other

Internally, the social networks of Indian-Americans are more While nearly three-quarters homogenous in terms of religion of Indian-Americans state that than either Indian region (state)

Hundreds Protest In Bahrain Over Prisoner's Death

Agencies

Tundreds of people have held a rare protest in Bah-rain over the death of a prisoner from the coronavirus despite being vaccinated months earlier by the island kingdom.

demonstration Wednesday night saw prote march in the streets of the village tion between guards and prisof Diah over the death earlier in the day of Husain Barakat.

Videos of the protest, which corresponded to Associated Press reporting on the demonstrations, saw those marching shout that they held King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa responsible for Barakat's death over poor care.

An interior ministry statement said Barakat, 48, had been on a per-capita vaccination campaigns, respirator and died at a hospital. The ministry said Barakat had received an unnamed two-shot vaccination for the virus.

including overcrowding, poor sanitation and lack of medical care.

the disease in Bahrain's main a so-called mRNA vaccine, conprison Jau, families have been tain a piece of genetic code that holding small protests demand- trains the immune system to ing the release of political pris- recognise the spiked protein on oners and better conditions. the surface of the virus.



oners in April after prisoners protested against conditions. Vaccination

The Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy said Barakat received the Chinese vaccine Sinopharm.

Bahrain, like the nearby United Arab Emirates, relied heavily on Sinopharm in their world-record but now are offering booster shots of Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine.

There have been reports of low antibody responses in the Bahrain has come under pres- UAE, which saw that country sure from human rights organ- announce in May it would offer isations over prison conditions boosters six months after a Sinopharm two-shot vaccination.

The two shots use different Since the March outbreak of technologies. The Pfizer shots,

The First Time Since 2000: UN **AL JAZEERA** hild labour has increased to 160 million the first rise in two

decades – and that number could swell by millions more because of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, the UN said on Thursday. A report by the United Na-

million children were pushed tween 2000-2016 it fell by 94 into child labour over the last more are at risk of a similar path by the end of 2022 as a result of COVID-19.

ILO simulation model showed could rise to 46 million if they do not have access to critical social protection coverage.

"The new estimates are a wake-up call. We cannot stand by while a new generation of children is put at risk," said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder in a press release.

"We are at a pivotal moment and much depends on how we respond. This is a time for renewed commitment and energy to turn the corner and break the cycle of poverty and child labour.'

Dangerous work



Governments and intertions Children's Fund (UNI- national organisations had ic is threatening progress made CEF) and International Labour made significant strides in in the Asia Pacific as well as Latin Organization (ILO) found 8.4 eradicating child labour. Bemillion children, according to four years and nine million ILO figures. But the last four years have seen a worrying reversal of that trend.

Children aged five to 11 years And the worst-case scenar- performing child labour now io is even more sobering. An account for more than half the total global figure, according to the number of children at risk the report's findings. And the number of children aged five to 17 years who are doing work that is dangerous or harmful to their health, safety or morals rose by 6.5 million to 79 million since 2016.

> counts for 70 percent, or 112 school closures, economic million, of working children. Some regions have fared

worse than others. Sub-Saharan Africa's population growth, extreme poverty and lack of social protection schemes have pushed an additional 16.6 million children into child labour in just four years.

And the coronavirus pandem-America and the Caribbean, the ILO and UNICEF warned.

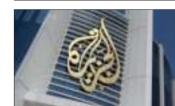
'Heartbreaking choices' The economic crisis and school closures stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic have made millions of children more vulnerable to working longer hours, under worsening conditions and in dangerous jobs.

"We are losing ground in the fight against child labour, and the last year has not made that fight any easier," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore in a statement.

"Now, well into a second The agriculture sector ac- year of global lockdowns, disruptions and shrinking national budgets, families are forced to make heartbreaking choices.'

UNICEF and ILO urged governments and international financial institutions to invest in programmes that get children back into schools.

Al Jazeera Says It Faced **Continous Cyberattacks Over Last Few Days**



DUBAI: Pan-Arab satellite network Al Jazeera said it was subjected to continual hacking attempts over recent days but the ed by Reuters early on Thursday. cyberattack on Qatar's flagship broadcaster had been fended off.

Al Jazeera's websites and platforms experienced "continaccessing, disrupting and con-states to boycott Qatar in 2017. trolling some of the news plat-Tuesday, the network said in a statement.

"Al Jazeera's service provider goal," it said in the late Wednes- rorism, an accusation it denies.

day statement. It said the peak of the at-

tacks came on Sunday ahead of a documentary described on Al Jazeera's Arabic YouTube channel as detailing indirect negotiations between Israel and Palestinian extremist group Hamas, which included a voice recording purportedly of an Israeli held prisoner in Gaza.

Al Jazeera had no immediate further comment when contact-The Qatar-funded channel's

coverage of Middle East politics is regarded as inflammatory by many in the region and was one ued electronic attacks aimed at of the factors that led four Arab

Ahead of the embargo, Al forms" from last Saturday to Jazeera combated a large-scale cyberattack after Qatar's state news agency QNA was hacked.

Saudi Arabia and its allies last all the hacking attacks and pre- row in which the boycotting states vent them from achieving their accused Qatar of supporting ter-

NEWS MAKERS

Tiny Creature Comes Back To Life After 24,000 Years In Siberian Deep Freeze

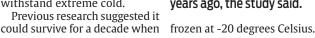
Agencies

MOSCOW: A microscopic organism has wriggled back to life and reproduced asexually after lying frozen in the vast permafrost lands of northeastern Siberia for 24,000 years.

Russian scientists found the tiny, ancient animal called the bdelloid rotifer in soil taken from the river Alazeya in Russia's region of Yakutia in the far north. The bdelloid rotifer, a mul-

world, is known to be able to withstand extreme cold.

freshwater habitats across the





■HE ORGANISM was recovered from samples taken 3.5 ticellular organism found in metres below ground. The material was dated from between 23,960 and 24,485 years ago, the study said.

This new case, which was detailed in a study in the journal Current Biology, is by far the creature's longest recorded survival period in a frozen state.

The organism was recovered from samples taken 3.5 metres below ground. The material was dated from between 23,960 and 24,485 years ago, the study said.

Land encased in permafrost - where the ground is frozen all year round - has for years thrown up startling scientific discoveries. Scientists earlier revived mi-

croscopic worms called nematodes from sediment in two places in northern Siberia that were dated over 30,000 years old.

What Kim Jong Un's \$12,000 Watch Says About His Weight Loss FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES

Jim Jong Un certainlooked slimmer weekend when he emerged from his latest lengthy absence. But it may be the North Korean leader's Swiss timepiece that provides the clearest evidence he's been watching his weight.

Kim's ever-present IWC Schaffhausen Portofino appeared to have been fastened tighter around his wrist in the latest photos released by state media, according to an analysis published Tuesday by NK News.

The Seoul-based news site compared close-ups of the \$12,000 watch from past months lawmakers in November that to support observations that Kim, 37, had slimmed down.

The North Korean leader's



weight has long been tracked by spy agencies for clues about the stability of his autocratic and secretive regime, especially since his family has a history of heart disease.

South Korea's spy agency told Kim weighed an estimated 140 gained some 50 kilograms since and state founder Kim Il Sung.

the leader for a long amount of time," said Colin Zwirko, a senior analytic correspondent for NK News.

coming to power in 2011. Un healthy enough to remain time," said Colin Zwirko, a senior analytic correspondent for NK News. "What's going on behind the scenes, if he's unhealthy? And how does that affect secu- a month before reports Saturday rity in the region given North Korea has nuclear weapons."

Kim's health became the suba 20-day absence last year in which he missed birthday cele-

The Seoul-based news site "Foreign intelligence agen- Daily NK reported that Kim had cies want to know is Kim Jong undergone a "cardiovascular surgical procedure," and, when he the leader for a long amount of finally emerged, NK News cited a mark on his wrist as possible evidence to support that theory.

want to know is Kim Jong Un healthy enough to remain

Kim hadn't been featured in North Korean state media for about that he had attended a ruling party meeting on economic issues.

The country's economy has ject of global intrigue during shown little sign of growth this year after its worst contraction in decades as it continues to struggle kilograms (309 pounds) and had brations for his late grandfather with the pandemic, US sanctions and a lack of trade with China.

Will To Survive: Nonagenarian **Beats Coronavirus**

'Timely Treatment, Vaccination Helped In Recovery'

Observer News Service

RAJOURI: 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 world has also witnessed some miraculous where the doctor tested him for Corecoveries from the clutches of the deadly infection, which help instil hope in others fighting it.

Due to the dedicated efforts of the health authorities, an increase in daily recovery rate is being observed which also imparts confidence in Covid patients.

Instances of the elderly recovering from the infection have been one of the most heartwarming achievements in these gloomy days. For the generation, recovery is not possible without putting up a valiant fight against the virus.

Setting a similar example, 96 years old Amarnath, from border village Sasal Kote village of Rajouri district has successfully defeated the coronavirus infection and has survived the pandemic.

His family members and neighis never afraid to stand up for noble causes. Once again, he has lived up to

his reputation by defeating the viral out of the situation healthy" infection in just ten days.

Bishamber Lal, his son says, "My father developed Covid symptoms some days ago; he had acute fever and cough. We immediately took him to a local primary health centre vid and his report turned positive. Then as a precautionary measure, I got all my family members tested and

they were all found negative". He further said, "That night, we kept him in home isolation and ensured that the infection doesn't spread further in the family. The next day, his condition got worse, his oxygen saturation level declined and he had to struggle to breathe and was unable to speak".

With gratitude, he lauds the district health facilities and said, "Just when his condition got worse, I called 108. Within an hour, an ambulance came and took my father to GMC Rajouri where he was admitted in a covid care ward and was kept on mechanical ventilator support".

Doctors at the hospital also applaud the spirit of Shri Amarnath and bours consider him a "fighter" who say, "He responded very well while undergoing treatment in the hospital and showed his stern resolve to come ery of elderly patients from Covid-19.

'Our entire team who were treating the patient can vouch that his strong will helped him recover from the virus so quick", said another doctor at the GMC.

After testing negative on the tenth day of his treatment, Shri Amarnath was discharged from the hospital and advised to maintain social distancing from

his family. His son also attributes his recovery to timely vaccination and said, "Had my father not been administered the two doses he might not be with us today". Entire family has thanked the health facilities for providing round

the clock and the best treatment to

the elderly family member. The story goes on to substantiate that senior citizens must continue to take adequate precautions, get vaccinated and get hospitalised on observing the mildest of Covid symptoms to stay safe. According to health experts, early hospitalisation is crucial in recov-

Drug Peddler Arrested In Bandipora

Observer News Service



BANDIPORA: Jammu and Kashmir police in Bandipora Thursday arrested a drug peddler at Mangnipora Aloosa and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

spokesperson, in a statement said, acting on specific information, a police party led by SHO Police Station Bandipora Showkat Ahmad and Incharge Police Post Aloosa Shakeel Ahmad during naka checking at Mangnipora Aloosa crossing arrested one person along with 250 Tablets of Sposmoproxyvan/plus.

The accused has been identified as Hilal Ahmad Jan, son of Ali Mohmad Jan, a resident of Qazipora Bandipora.

The spokesperson said that during preliminary enquiry it was revealed that the recovered drugs were meant to be supplied to youths of the area to make them drug addicts.

"Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of NDPS Act was registered in police station Bandipora and further investigation has been taken up."

Covid Assistance Cheques Distributed In Kupwara

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The District Administration Kupwara Thursday distributed covid assistance cheques among the registered labourers of the district.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Nazir Ahmad Lone handed over cheques worth Rs.3.24 crore to Manager, Jammu and Kashmir Bank for onward disbursement among 32400 registered labourers of district Kupwara as CO-VID assistance, at a function held here.

It was informed that the assistance shall be provided at the rate of Rs.1000 to each beneficiary.

Assistant Labour Commissioner Kupwara, Rabia Iqbal, Labour officer Nandni pandita, Bank Manager, Old Chowk Kupwara Ruhail Afzal and other concerned were present.

Drugs Worth 100 Crore Seized In North Kashmir In Two Months

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: A huge quantity of drugs worth one hundred crores Baramullla, Kupwara, Handwara, have been seized by police in North Sopore and Bandipora. Kashmir in last two months while have been arrested and booked under NDPS Act.

Inspector General of Police North members and Imams of Masajid have to play their role to eliminate drug menace from Kashmir Valley.

Divulging details, he said that for the last two months J&K Police in well as religious preachers have to north Kashmir have recovered huge play their role against the menace consignments of drugs including and the parents have to keep close Heroin, Brown Sugar, Charas, pop- watch on their wards. (Agencies)

py straw and other banned drugs worth one hundred crores from different Parts of the region including

Kumar said that recently Kupwara more than two dozen drug peddlers Police seized a single consignment of heroin worth fifty crores adding that dozens of Drug Peddlers were also arrested by Baramulla Police besides Kashmir Range Sujit Kumar Singh that some notorious drug peddlers (IPS) said parents, civil society were also arrested by Sopore, Handwara and Bandipora Police.

> He said that not only police is responsible to curb drug menace but the civil societies, parents as

Over One Lac Covid Jabs Administered In Bandipora: DC

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commis- vaccinated so far and soon the target sioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ah- will be achieved. mad on Thursday said that the district administration is rigorously conduct- wave of the pandemic, about 2000 tests ing covid vaccination drives across the are being conducted daily. district, and has administered more. He said the strict impler than one lac doses to the eligible population so far.

While briefing media about the COdecline in Covid positive cases and intotal recovery rate to 95 percent. crease in recovery rate. He however said vid Appropriate Behaviour with more

He said there are 394 active positive break the chain of coronavirus spread. patients in the district out of which 55 oxygen support in different covid centres.

nate them at their doorsteps.

He said 101379 doses have been administered so far out of which 89413 tion of covid appropriate behaviour persons were given the first dose while will ensure further decrease in posi-11966 eligible persons have got both tive cases.

the doses. He said 86.5 percent people above the age of 45 years have been

The DC said that during the second

guidelines led to a decrease in positivity rate to 4.4 percent and is expected to go down to below two percent in near VID-19 situation in the district, Dr Owais future. He said this week the recovery said that the district witnessed a visible rate increased by 2.4 percent taking the

Talking about the ongoing vaccination there is a need to continue to follow Co-process, DC urged the people to come forward and get vaccinated, which is the responsibility amid ease in restrictions. safest way to get protection and help

Dr Owais said to implement the coare hospitalised and 24 patients are on vid appropriate behaviour across the district, the law enforcing agencies Dr Owais said the intensive vaccina- have registered 1306 challans against tion drive launched in the district is violators and has realized a fine of Rs bearing fruits as the front line workers 12.50 lac since last year. He said 13 travelled the most difficult terrains to cases have been registered during the reach the eligible population to vacci-second wave and 31 persons have been arrested for violating SOPs.

He said that the strict implementa-

Goal Of Judiciary To Provide Easy Access To Justice: Magrey Observer News Service through virtual mode and can in the form of cheques and food smooth deliverance of justice

KUPWARA: Jammu & Kashmir High Court Judge, and (Chairman Building & Infrastructure Committee, Executive Chairman JK LSA) Justice Ali Mohamrated e-Seva Kendra and Vidhik Seva Kendra at District Court Complex Kupwara.

Speaking at the event, Justice diciary is to provide easy access to justice for every citizen. He said the e-Seva Kendra is the facility with which a litigant can

obtain the status of the litigation and cases easily.

While inaugurating the facilities, Justice Magrey enquired about the equipment available at the Facility Centre. He directed mad Magrey Thursday inaugu- District & Sessions Judge to make screening of PLVs and choose three PLVs who shall have computer know-how and will work on rotation basis. He also direct-Magrey said that the goal of Ju- ed for submission of progress report status on a daily basis.

In another event of District Legal Services Authority, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey distributed

items and also distributed support equipment of wheelchairs, hearing aid with collaboration of District administration. The relief distributed valued approxi-

mately five lac rupees. Later, Justice Magrey convened a meeting with Civil, Police and Judiciary administration at Conference Hall D.C Office Kupwara and reviewed the progress of judicial infrastructure and buildings.

Addressing the meeting, Jusand comfortable infrastructure file a suit at any Court of J&K relief to families of covid victims is prerequisite for facilitating tive sanctions if any required.

to the people. He reviewed the work wise status of judicial infrastructure including Court Complex Kupwara which is coming up at a cost of Rs.18.2 crore, Court Complex Handwara and other Sub Courts.

Expressing his concern over the delay in completion of Court Complex Kupwara and Handwara, Justice Magrey gave a timeline for clearing the bottlenecks in completion of the buildings. He assured all postice Magrey said convenient sible support to the executing agencies to provide administra-

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

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

Subject: - Admission Notification for Common Entrance Test for Post Basic B. Sc. Nursing Course-2021

Notification No.065-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 09-06-2021

Online Applications, duly affixed with latest coloured photograph, thumb impression and signature are invited from Domiciles of the Union Territories of J&H /Ladakh, who are eligible and desirous for appearing in the Common Entrance Test for admission to Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Course for the academic session 2021. The selection of the candidates to such courses shall be regulated by the J&A Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002 and the Rules and Regulations there under: JK Reservation Act, 2004 as amended vide J&K Re-organization Act, 2019, S.O. 69 dated 29-022020, S.O. 127 dated 20-04-2020, and subject to further amendments, if any, by the competent authority, from time to time and the guidelines/information as contained in the Electronic Information Brochure-2021 which are evailable on the official website(s) of the BOPEE www.kbopee.com/www.iskbopee.com/

Important Information . Receipt of online application forms: w.e.f. 12-06-2021.

Last date for filling the online application forms: 26-06-2021.
 Fee Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) to be paid online through national Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking.

4. Please download e-information Brothure from BOPEE website(s) viz www.lkbopee.gov.in / www.jakbopee.org.

The syllabus for the examination/test shall be available on e-Information Brochure & also on official website www.jkbopee.govin in due course of time. 6. Date of Entrance Test: to be notified separately.

7. The candidates, in their own interest, are advised to go through the information Brochure before filling up of Online Application Forms. The Board shall not be responsible for any act of omission or commission in filling up of the Online Application Form by the candidate. It is incombent upon the candidates to go through the information contained in the e-Information Brochure and agree to follow the conditions contained therein. No candidate can claim any

alteration in any of the conditions which have been incorporated in the e-information Brochure and notified in advance. 0. The candidates are further advised to ramain in touch with the BOPEE website (s) www.kbopee.gov.in / www.takbopee.gog. The Board shall not be responsible for any delay caused in publication of Notices/Notifications in the Print Media (Newspapers) as delay, if any, in such publication(s) is not within the control of the Board, not with standing that the Board notifies the same on the official website(s) and for publication in the newspapers simultaneously on the date of issue of the said Notifications/Notices etc.

9. The entrance test, if held, shall be conducted Offline by the Board, if need arises.

10. Common Entrance Test shall be held, only, if, the number of candidates for this course is more than the number of seats, otherwise, selection shall be made on the basis of Merit secured by eligible candidates in GNM course.

The applicants can also contact the Help Desk of LT. Section of the BOPEE during the office hours and working days only on 0194-2437647 / 0194-2433590/ / 0191-2470102/0191-247937) and or email- at helpdeskiakbopee@gmail.com for any assistance / guidance in this regard Submission of Online Application Forms:

The interested candidates have to uplosed the following scanned original. / self-ettested certificates in PDF format with size from 100-200 KB along with the Application Format

domicile of UT of JSK/UT of Ladskhas the case may be (Domicile Certificate, if not - Issued, at the time of filling up of online Application Form, the candidate can upload undertaking cartifying that he/she shall submit / produce the same at the time of counselling/ Admission). For Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST cartificate issued by the Competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile Certificate.

Marks Cards of GNM course;

(ii) Date of Birth Certificate (Matriculation Certificate issued by the Board and not by Municipal Authority);
 (iv) Reserved category certificate, if any (Reservation shall be applicable for Govt, Colleges / Institutions) only.

Registration certificate issued by J&K Paramedical Council

Further, it is for the information of all the concerned that afore-titted documents as required for submission of application form shall be considered provisional and subject to change(s) as may be issued by the Sovemment /Competent Authority subsequently.

If required, finally the candidates should approach the BOPEE office Srinager/Jammu. They are advised, in their own interest, not to share their logini details with any other person, test he/she may get an opportunity to charge important details in the Application Form. They can check the status of their Application Form on the official website(s) of the BOPEE. If any form is not confirmed for want of any required information, the cancidate concerned must report in the BOPEE office Srinegar or Jammu by or before 28 June, 2021 failing which his/her Application Formishall be rejected without any further notice.

. The candidates can change/modify their online Application Form at any time before it is "submitted" online. However, for any subsequent modifications.

 The candidates shall also have to upload their photograph, signature and thumb impression images in JPEG format and size within the range of IO-50 KB as given in the instructions in the e4-information Brochure uploaded on the BOPEE website(s). 3. The candidates must, after filling up all the required entries, ensure that their online payment has been successfully made and all the requisite documents have been uploaded in specified format/size. Mere downloading of the Application Form does not mean that the candidate has submitted his/her. Application Formauccessfully, Candidate should ensure that he/she keeps checking the status of his/her online application forms until it is scrutinized by

4. The candidates should enter valid e-mail address/mobile number on the application form, which shall be used by the Board in sending messages/e-mails to them, whenever required:

Eligibility: A candidate must:

be a domicile of UT of J&R/JUT of Ladakh as the case may be (if the candidate(s) applying for this course do not have domicile certificate at the time of filling up of online application form, he/she is advised to upload an undertaking (on plain paper) certifying that he/she shall produce the domicile certificate at the time of COUNSELLING/ADMISSION). For Candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh. ST certificate issued by Competent authority of Ladakh

2. have passed 10+2 or equivalent examination from a recognized Board and have obtained a Certificate in General Nursing and Midwifery (SNM) examination and registered as R.N.R.W. with J&K Paramedical Nursing Council. A male Nurse, trained before the implementation of new integrated course besides being registered as a Nurse with J&K Paramedical Nursing Council, shall, produce evidence of training approved by Indian Nursing Council, for a similar duration in lieu of midwifery in any one of the areas such as D.T. Techniques, Ophthalmic Nursing, Leprosy Nursing, T.B. Nursing, Psychiatric Nursing, Neurological, and Neuro surgical Nursing, Community Health Nursing, Cancer Nursing, Orthopsedic Nursing:

Syllabus etc.:

The candidates applying for this course are advised to go through syllabus of GNM Courses, which they have already studied, issued by INC §Indian Nursing Council) which includes, Medical Surgical Nursing I, II, Anatomy & Physiology, Pathophysiology & Microbiology, Mental Health Nursing Psychology, Sociology, Child Health Nursing, Nutrition, Midwifery & Gynecological Nursing, Fundamental of Nursing, Community Health Medicine-I&H. First Aid. Environmental Sanitation & Communication diseases, Health Education & Communication Skills etc.

The tentative number of seats, Reservation Policy esc. (Reservation shall be only applicable to Govt. Colleges/ Institutions) etc. for the examination are given in the e-Brochure. The examination shall be conducted in one sitting of two hours duration and the paper shall contain 120 questions comprising different sections in case the Board decides so.

The eligibility is bare minimum/provisional and shall be subject to such changes/bench marks as may be fixed by the concerned Competent Authority. The Board shall on receipt of any such communication from the concerned Authority notify the same, which shall govern the eligibility criteria.

a) The information provided by the candidates in the online Application Form cannot be verified from the original documents by the BOPEE officials before admission of candidates. The information on the Application Form downloaded page or on the Admit Card of candidate shall in no case be construed as an acceptance of such information/category certificate by the BOPEE. Therefore, if at any stage, it is found that a cancidate has provided false or incorrect information in respect of any eligibility condition(s), his/her candidature will be cancelled without any further notice;

(a) The candidates are warned not to resort to any unfair / fraudulent means or act of impersonation at the time of Entrance Test or upload any

objectionable material including a photo of any object, other than his/her own photograph while submitting the online form. In case, a candidate is found taking recourse to such acts, criminal prosecution shall be initiated against him/her and his/her abettors. He/she shall be permanently debarred from appearing in the entrance Test in future.

Any candidate uploading image of an object other than his/her own photograph shall be disqualified from appearing in the Examination(s).

Besides action as warranted under law shall also be taken against such candidate.

Original Documents required to be submitted in the Institution at the time of Admission:-Marks certificates of the SNM Course;

Date of birth (Watriculation / Secondary School Certificate) from a recognized Board:
Domicile Certificate for candidates belonging to UT of J&K and ST certificate as a Domicile for candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh; d) Category Certificate, if any (applicable for Boyt, Colleges/ Institutions);

Registration Certificate issued by J&K Paramedical Council: e) f) Any other document as may be required by the Institution.

1. The candidates having more than one reserved category certificate can get benefit of only one category indicated and uploaded along with the Application Form, which in no case shall be changed afterwards. The candidate, whose category certificate has not been found valid, will be considered in open ment. If otherwise found eligible without any further notice.

II. Candidates who select single choice/preferenceshall be considered for that course/college/Institute only and he/she shall not be considered for selection.

to such College / Institution for which preference / choice has not been filled by candidate in his/ her preference form in espective of his/her ment

Roll.No Slip/Admit Card fin case Entrance Examination is held]: This shall be notified separately.

Venue for Conduct of Examination (in case Entrance Examination was held): The Examination shall be conducted at Jammu / Srineger simultaneously.

The online application forms submitted is purely provisional and is liable to be cancelled at any stage. If found invalid during the ventication process.

The reservation shall be applicable to Government Colleges / Institutions only

NOTE-3:-If the number of candidates are less than the number of seats, then the Board may recommend the selection of candidates to this course on the basis of merit of qualifying marks secured by candidates i.e. marks secured in GNM Course.

DIPK-NB-1134/21

Dr. Sunf. Gupts Controller of Examinations J&K. BOPES

No. BOPEE/Exam+16/2021

GHSS Mirgund Holds Award Ceremony

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government Boys Higher Secondary School Mirgund Thursday held an Award Distribution ceremony in the school premises.

In a statement, the school said that a function was organised on Thursday under the chairmanship of Principal Dr M Jaffar.

"Worthy CEO Baramulla G.M Lone virtually joined the function and elaborated the importance of Co-Curriculum activities," the statement said. It further said that the CEO em-

phasised that the students should be persuaded towards co-curricular activities. "The students should have a sound mind and sound body for reading and writing and these they will get de-stressed. two essential aspects should be developed and gained through cocurricular activities."

through co-curriculum activities knowledge and tremendous con-tution."



I AM HOPEFUL THAT UNDER HIS charismatic leadership the institution will illuminate and he will definitely bring laurels to the institution."

He appreciated the work of Printhe careers of the students. cipal Dr Mohammad Jaffar and his staff members and said Dr Jaffar is a charismatic leadership the insticipal Dr Mohammad Jaffar and his The CEO said due to covid-pan- dedicated and enthusiastic person- tution will illuminate and he will demic students are stressed and ality, towering figure having a vast definitely bring laurels to the insti-

tribution to shaping and moulding

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the

Kashmir Observer LLP

Published from: #5-Boulevard, Srinagar-190001

Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd. Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.

RNI Registration No: 69503/98

Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16

Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider

Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja

Switchboard: (0194) 2106304 Editorial: (0194) 2502327

Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

PAGD meet

fter 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 OPINON

Wider view

he 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

Send your write ups and feedback at

ven 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 by the unpredictoverwhelmed ability 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 challenges, 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 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 responsible choices.

- 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-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 set-
- Control Developing an understanding of internal control helps individuals act as prob lem-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



All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001 email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Be sensitive towards those who died by suicide

ashmir 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 lense 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

Friday | 11-06-2021

The Pandemic of Pornography

Wasim Kakroo

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

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 chemidependency, 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

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:

- Spending large amount of time watching porn Experiencing cravings to watch porn
- Requiring increasing amounts or more explicit porn to gain same level of satisfaction as before
 - 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 con-

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 excitation 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:

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

Consequences of Porn Addiction

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

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%

- Normalization of sexual violence.
- Increase in aggression towards women.
- Insomnia/ low motivation
- 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, depres-
- 15. Skewing what is acceptable sexual behavior
- 16. Preoccupation with sexual thoughts throughout
- 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 psychologi cally 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

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

A month of internet porn is more than enough time for someone to become addicted to this supernormal 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

'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

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

- Set aside time each day for various distress tolerance activities as it will help you "destress" and raise your dopamine levels naturally and hence you will feel less urge to seek pleasure through porn watching.
- Engage in other vocational activities such as reading, writing, listening to music, and so on. Regularly take part in social events and
- maintain relationships with family. 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.
- Keep in touch with friends, relatives, and acquaintances when you're separated from them physically due to lockdown or self quarantine.
- Make an abstinence list that includes specific problematic habits related to porn watching and a plan for avoiding or not engaging in those activities.
- Use mindfulness exercises to pay attention to behaviors, time spent on various activities, cravings, and other factors.
- 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.
- 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. 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. Involve your teen or child in the creation of fam-
- ily technology agreements regarding safe gadget Establish device-free zones and times in your home (for eating, playing, schoolwork, and
- Talk to your teen about how to report content over the internet that isn't acceptable/age ap-
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

'Eggs, meat, milk essential for ending malnutrition, especially in kids'

Agencies

more balanced, sustainable approach to consuming food from live-**L**stock -- one that meets nutrition needs and focuses on local production methods -- is essential for delivering on global commitments to combat malnutrition in all its forms, said a comprehensive report released on Wednesday from UN Nutrition.

While acknowledging key health and environmental challenges linked to overconsumption, the analysis also shows that livestock can provide nutrient-dense foods for addressing undernourishment that causes stunting in approximately 22 per cent of young children worldwide and health risks at other key stages of life, especially for pregnant and lactating women.

The report, "Livestock-Derived Foods and Sustainable Healthy Diets", includes contributions from experts at the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural

Development (IFAD). It seeks a more informed conversation about the role of livestock-derived foods in the world today by exploring the scientific evidence behind their risks and benefits, including their value during "critical life stages": six

months of age through early childhood: at school age and in adolescence; and during pregnancy and lactation.

"Overall, the evidence shows that context is key when we consider the role of food from livestock in our diets," said UN Nutrition Executive Secretary Stineke Oenema, who coordinated the development of the new paper.

"They have serious consequences for human health if they are absent from or deficient in the diets of certain vulnerable groups, or if consumed to excess by others." But when it comes to addressing undernutrition, the report finds that food from livestock can play a powerful role.

"If we want to provide healthy diets for vulnerable children and pregnant or lactating mothers, which is where you see the worst impacts of malnutrition, the scientific evidence is clear: Food from livestock provides benefits that are very hard and sometimes impossible to replicate solely with plant-based foods," said Lora Iannotti, Director of the E3 Nutrition Lab in Washington University in St. Louis.

"That doesn't mean you dismiss chronic disease and environmental problems linked to livestock foods, which can be significant," added the lead author of the report.

"But you also cannot neglect the fact that insufficient access to livestock or animal-source foods more broadly is a major factor behind high rates of malnutrition that persist in many parts of Asia and Africa." The report seeks to inform the discussion about livestock impacts on human health and the environment by presenting evidence of how risks and benefits vary considerably depending on consumption patterns, time of life and production practices.

The report shows that some parts of the world eat too much food from livestock and other regions, not enough.

For example, global statistics documenting a decades-long surge in consumption of livestock products fail to capture how that growth has been driven largely by middle-income countries. The report also highlights the nutritional divide between regions and populations where people eat a lot of livestock products and those where they do not.

In 2018, the average European consumed 69 kilos of meat, seven times more than the average African --though disparities exist even within high-income countries.

The evidence also indicates that there are health consequences to overconsumption of livestock products, particularly processed meat. This underscores the need for policy and other measures, such as national dietary guidelines, to reduce consumption in populations that eat too much livestock-derived foods.

However, the biggest dietary health issue for some groups today is undernutrition, which could be solved in part by greater access to livestock foods.

Study links politics, boredom with breaking public-health rules

Agencies

ccording to the findings of a new psychology research, people who are more prone to boredom and are socially conservative have a higher probability of breaking public-health rules.

The study was published in the journal Motivation and Emotion. While previous research demonstrated a connection between being highly prone to boredom and breaking social-distancing rules, this study demonstrated the association was more prominent as participants' social conservatism increased.

"Many public-health measures such as wearing a mask or getting a vaccine have become highly politicized," said James Danckert, professor of psychology at the University of Waterloo. "People who find these measures a threat to their identity, and who suffer from boredom a lot, find breaking the rules helps them



re-establish a sense of meaning and identity. Boredom threatens our need to make meaning out of life and some things such as politics can strengthen our sense of identity and meaning."

For the study, researchers asked more than 900 people to respond to questions about boredom, political ideology and adhering to publichealth measures such as wearing a mask or not socializing outside one's household. They then applied a variety of statistical analysis techniques to explore the relations that underly these elements.

As the pandemic continues, the work has implications for public health policy and communications. For instance, focusing on what people can do rather than what they are restricted from doing. Such messaging could help provide a more positive framework to help people ground their sense of identity and control.

"Many of the restrictions have become heavily politicized and much of the messaging from governments has focused on personal responsibility," Danckert said. "But this can become finger-pointing and blaming and most of us recoil from that. What we need is to promote our shared values - the things we all have in common and the positive things we can get back if we all pull

"It can be difficult for some people to cope with boredom and that can have serious consequences for an individual and for society at large. Boredom is not a trivial experience - it's worth paying attention to it," Danckert concluded.

Website: www.jkdears.com | Tel/Fax: 0194-2494585 (S) e-mail: dirjkers@gmail.com | 0191-2474553 (J)

Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing

SDA Colony Bemina, Srinagar – 190018 / Parayvaran Bhawan,Gldani Transport Nagar Narwal, Jammu - 180006

Notification No: 10 of 2021 Dated: 09-06-2021

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW/PROFICIENCY TEST NOTICE FOR SIS-DP 2ND and ENVIS PROJECT

Whereas, vide Notification No: 3 of 2021 dated 24/04/2021 vide endorsement No: DEERS/2021/S-182/127-28 Dated: 24-04-2021 and Interview Notification No: DEERS/2021/S-182/159-167 Dated:21-05-2021, applications were invited for conducting the interview/proficiency test of candidates for recruitment on SIS-DP

Whereas, based on the eligibility criteria, certificates attached and terms and conditions, a list of Eligible/Not-Eligible candidates was issued vide Notification No. 9 of 2021 dated:26.5.2021. There was a very poor response for the position of Environmental Specialists.
Whereas, few positions vacant under ENVIS Project were also advertised vide Notification No: 4 of 2021 dated 24/04/2021 vide endorsement No: DEERS/2021/

ENVIS-Project/129-30 Dated: 24-04-2021; however, due to covid restriction, the walk-in-interview/proficiency test could not be conducted. As such, the following positions of SIS-DP Update and ENVIS Project are hereby advertised again on a temporary, project-mode basis co-terminus with the Project. The eligibility, experience, monthly emoluments and number of positions is as provided below:

SIS-DP U	PDATE PROJECT			
S. No.	Title	Eligibility Criteria	Emoluments Per month (Consolidated)	Positions
1	Environmental Specialist	Essential: M.Tech in Environmental Engineering with two years experience Or M.Sc Environmental Science with three years experience Desirable: Candidates having PhD in Environmental Science and Certificate course in Remote Sensing/GIS and experience in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies with publications in reputed journals, proven verbal and communication skills shall be given preference.	`25000/-	(2)
ENVIS PE	ROJECT			
1	Programme Officer	Essential: PhD in Environmental Science from a recognized University with three years experience. Desirable: Candidates having certification in RS & GIS, Publications in Scopus indexed reputed journals, Experience in developing Environmental Education Material shall be given preference.	`46690/-	1
2	Data Entry Operator	Graduate with Diploma in Computers/RS&GIS Desirable: Fluent in MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, CorelDraw/Photo-	`14641/-	1

NOTE: Candidates in their own interest should satisfy themselves, before applying for any position, that they are eligible for the positions applied for viz, domicile of J&K, requisite qualification and requisite experience. There shall be no change in the eligibility criteria and terms/conditions. Candidates are advised not to

The candidates are required to fill up the online form available at www.jkdears.com with relevant certificates (viz. Domicile, Date of birth, Academic/professional qualification, experience certificate) by $20^{
m th}$ of June 2021 up to 10.00 pm. The link shall automatically close after the prescribed period.

The list of eligible and in-eligible candidates shall be displayed on the departmental website on 22nd June 2021. Only the eligible candidates will be allowed to appear in the interview on 24th June 2021.

All original documents/certificates as prescribed must be produced at the time of interview for necessary verification. The appointees shall have to work strictly as per Annual Darbar Move Schedule. The appointees shall have to arrange their own accommodation for

The DEERS reserves the right to engage the candidates from the waiting list, securing above 50% marks, on the other ongoing short-term projects. without going for fresh recruitment process

Depending upon the technical/administrative exigencies the DEE&RS reserves the right to modify the number of vacancies at any time before issuance of engagement orders or cancellation of this and previous notifications without assigning any reason thereof.

No separate communication/email shall be entertained. The interview facilities shall be in place both at the office complex of Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, Paryawaran Bhawan, Transport Nagar, Gladni, Jammu-180006 and SDA Colony Bemina, Srinagar – 190018.

No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview. The detailed terms & conditions, application form can be downloaded from the departmental website www.jkdears.com. Candidates in their own interest are requested to frequently check the departmental website for updates 10.

In all matters relating to interpretation of terms and condition(s) of the earlier and this Notification, the decision of Director, DEE&RS shall be final

SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The appointment shall be purely on temporary project-mode basis for the period as specified in the engagement order and subject to the funding from

the sponsoring agency. The performance of temporary project-mode staff shall be monitored monthly by the Principal Investigator, if the performance of the engagee is not

found up to the mark, his/her engagement shall be terminated without any further notice. Experience certificate of only Government Departments and Universities shall be considered. Candidates with experience from Private Organization having worked for government projects, should get the experience certificate countersigned/stamped from the concerned Government Department for which the Project was undertaken. The experience certificate should clearly depict the work assignments performed. The experience claimed shall have to be supported

by certificates issued by the concerned employer stating clearly the number of months of experiences in the relevant field. The engagee shall submit himself/herself to the orders of the Government and the Principal Investigator and authorities under whom he/she may be placed from time to time by the Government.

The Government will pay the engagee consolidated emoluments as per the appointment order and as per increment given by the sponsoring agency from time to time, as long as he/she remain in the service and performs the duties.

The engagee shall be entitled to casual leave of 15 days in one year or as per government instructions issued from time to time The appointment shall not confer any right to regularization and the engagee has to submit an affidavit to this effect, duly attested by the First-Class

Magistrate. If the engagee appointee at any time wilfully neglects or refuses to perform his/her duties, the appointing authority shall immediately terminate his/

her contractual appointment without any notice and he/she shall not be entitled to any salary for such period. The selectee shall have to work at the office complex at Bemina, Srinagar (Summer) and/or at Jammu (Winter) as per the convenience of the project

management. However, he or she may be required to travel throughout the UT for conducting fieldwork. The job requires extensive travelling and working under arduous field conditions in high altitude areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The engagee shall not claim any TA/DA for fieldwork. The department shall arrange the transport/boarding and lodging facility during such work/ surveys. In case Government boarding/lodging is not made available to the engage during such tours, then a lump sum amount of Rs. 500/= per day for boarding/ lodging shall be paid to them for undertaking their own arrangements. The GT Vehicle/Private Taxi (Govt approved rates) shall be provided by the department.

In case the field visit is within 50 Kms and does not involve any night stay, then the lump sum amount of Rs. 150/= shall be reimbursed per day as to and fro convenience charges. All such tours should be duly certified by the concerned Principal Investigator/Co-investigator of the Project for reimbursement. If, the engage requires to travel outside the UT or to Jammu in case his/her headquarter is at Srinagar or to Srinagar in case his/her headquarter is at Jammu for attending Project related trainings, Workshops, or any other official work, he/she shall be paid shared taxi (govt. approved rates) and AC 2-tier train fare and a lumpsum amount of Rs. 800/per day shall be reimbursed towards lodging, boarding and local transportation. However, in case, these facilities are

provided by the sponsoring agency or the department itself, then same shall not be reimbursed. The applicants who have obtained professional/academic qualifications from recognized institute/University should only apply and an undertaking to this fact should be submitted at the end of the application form.

In case, an application succeeds in getting selected by supplying false/concocted information or any unfair means, his appointment shall be liable to be a supplying false/concocted information or any unfair means, his appointment shall be liable to be a supplying false/concocted information or any unfair means, his appointment shall be liable to be a supplying false/concocted information or any unfair means, his appointment shall be liable to be a supplying false/concocted information or any unfair means, his appointment shall be liable to be a supplying false for a supplying false falcancelled by the Principal Investigator of the Project at any time and all dues paid to him would be recovered

15. In all matters relating to the interpretation of terms and condition(s) of the earlier and this Notification, the decision of Director, DEE&RS shall be final and

DIPK-2702/21

Department of (AYUSH) Govt. of J& K District Anantnag. **AYUSH Immune Booster Medicine** Distributed at Village Shamsipora Ananthag from Govt. ISM Dispensary Shamsipora Anantnag



On 10/06/2021 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 Javaid Hussain sahib an awareness programme and distribution of immune booster medicines was organized at at Village Shamsipora Anantnag from Govt. AYUSH Dispensary Shamsipora Anantnag 296 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.

Agriculture production & farmers welfare department **Directorate of Agriculture**

Lalmandi Srinagar

Advisories and recommended Beekeeping activities for the Month of June

- Check absconding of Bees by providing ample Ventilation. Absconding occurs when Honey Bees permanently leave their hive and this usually occurs due to poor ventilation, too much heat, lack of water and flora in the surrounding, predators such as Wasps. The absconding can be checked by choosing a good hive location, elevating hives off the ground on a stand to prevent ants, placing wasp traps, keeping the colonies strong with a good and proliferative Queen Bee, by giving artificial and stimulative feeding & following Bee pest control measures in consultation with the Apiculture experts.
 - In case of decreased Bee Flora in the plains, the colonies should be migrated to the hills. Provide stimulative feeding in case there is dearth of flora or there are incessant rains.

Fumigate colonies for acraine and mite control.

- Equalization is done by providing the weak colonies with some added bees from a strong colony or by giving them extra brood. Advantages of Equalization: It will make all colonies produce more quantity of honey. It will also lessen the threat of Robbery in an apiary. It is an effective technique of avoiding swarming by reducing crowding in more populous hives. Besides it motivates weak colonies and will not upset the backing colonies since strong colonies improve rapidly. However, there is a tage of equalization too, and that is this process can spread diseases and pests between the colonies.
- Inspect colonies regularly for varroa mite and apply formic acid fumigations, however, avoid use of chemical treatments before the Honey is harvested. Extraction of Honey is usually carried out during mid May to June for the spring crop. While extracting honey it should be kept in mind that sufficient stores are left for the bees and extraction of honey is restricted to the super frames only.

Some of the important pollen and Nectar providing Flora in the valley during the m

S. No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Pollen (P)
			Nectar (N)
1.	Garden Speedwell	Veronica longifolia	P-N
2.	Woundwort / Brownwort / Heart of the Earth	ne Prunella vulgaris	P-N
3.	Wild Spinach/Lamb's Quarters	Chenopodium vulgare / Chenopodium album	P-N
4.	Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	P-N
5.	Wild Rose/Baby Rose	Rosa multiflora	P-N
6.	Prickly Rose/Wild Rose	Rosa acicularis	P-N
7.	Pulses & Vegetables	-	P-N

For further Assistance Beekeepers are requested to contact their respective Apiculture Dev. Officers, Apiculture Dev. Assistants (at DCTC's), Contact Apiculture Dev. Assistant (Entomology), Research Assistant (Entomology), Agriculture Extension Assistant (Entomology) or Assistant Entomologist Lalmandi Srinagar (Email ID: assistantentomologist20@gmail.com).

DIPK-2721/21 Issued through: Information & Publications, Directorate of Agriculture, Kashmir

∆ssistant Entomologist Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir

No: DEERS/2021/S-182/202-204

Dated: 09 -06-2021

(Dr. Neelu Gera) PCCF/Director EE&RS

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



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 live out of the testing mode coming weeks following a

testing phase. The mobile application, which has been tested by some an online media briefing. airlines, was originally designed to facilitate passenger been registered to test the screening at the airport check- system, he said.

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 in the next couple of weeks," IATA Director General Willie Walsh told reporters during

Around 60,000 people have

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



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

¬he all-powerful GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet on June 12 to eters, hand sanitizers, oxygen decide on GST rate cut for CO-VID essentials and black fungus centrators, ventilators, PPE medicine, according to officials. kits, N-95 and surgical masks In the previous meeting on and temperature checking

May 28, the Council, which equipment. has state ministers as members, a Group of Ministers (GoM) was set up to recom- drugs, and medicines for COmend tax relief on COVID essentials, including PPE kits, for COVID detection. masks and vaccines, to the GST council.

port on June 7. Officials said changed after the BJP and oppothe GST Council would be sition-ruled states sparred over meeting on June 12, to discuss the GoM report as well as will reach the common man. consider tax rate cuts for black fungus medicine.

stood to have pitched for a of black fungus. rate cut on COVID essentials. Uttar Pradesh Finance Min- tion ruled states have been ister Suresh Kumar Khanna, demanding a reduction in taxwho is also a member of the es but the central government GoM, on Wednesday said that felt the move may not result 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.

sions on COVID relief items was mandated to examine whether a GST rate cut or exemption is required for medical-grade oxygen, pulse oxim-

esides, the panel also looked into COVID vaccines VID treatment and testing kits

therapy equipment like con-

The GST Council on May 28, left taxes on COVID-19 vac-The GoM submitted its re- cines and medical supplies unwhether the tax cut benefits

However, Goods and Services Tax (GST) was exempted on Some state finance minis- import of Amphotericin B-a ters in the GoM are under- medicine used for treatment

Congress and other opposiin tangible gains for people. Currently, 5 per cent GST is

levied on domestically manufactured vaccines, while it is 12 per cent for COVID drugs The GoM on GST conces- and oxygen concentrators.

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



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 prothis north district by stating that on the pretext of operating ille-

gally. The protest now entered day three, with drivers stating that they had no hope in view.

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 depart-

Another driver, Irfan told Kashmir Dot Com that with test from 7th of this month in lockdown and no work, they were unable to pay off loans on

become suicidal as we are not able to feed our families. We are not able to pay power and water bills," he said.

The drivers said that the Geology and Mining department had created chaos in a bid to "streamline the royalty" of sand and gravel.

They said that due to this, not only were the drivers suffering but the people at large were being forced to buy the material at exorbitant rates. They also reguested the Lieutenant Governor and the Deputy Commismany vehicles were being seized their vehicles and their families sioner Bandipora to redress their were forced to starve. "We have grievances at the earliest. (KDC)

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, Cooperative 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, Shafgat Ighal 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 Cooperative 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.

Islamabad Consumer Cooperative Wholesale Store Limited



commonly known as Super stressed upon the officers to Bazaar Anantnag transacts venture in dairy, poultry and Medical and Consumer Business with two fair price medical shops running round the Cooperative Movement viable clock at District Hospital and offering five (05) percent and He further informed that the medicines and surgical items respectively.

other potential areas besides putting strong efforts for making and vibrant in the district.

SSP, Imtiyaz Hussain, ADC, fifty (50) percent rebate on Gulzar Ahmad and senior officials and field functionaries of cooperative department were Cooperatives present on the occasion.

Amazon Likely To See \$425 Million

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 dataprotection 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.

als' 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.

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



BLOOMBERG

audi 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.

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 comfor its initial public offering. Aramco had to reduce spend-

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 firstquarter profits soared — thanks to the recovery in both crude and gas - its free cash flow fell short of the \$18.75 billion Order books for the sale 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 Sassower wrote in pany made to garner support a note Tuesday. Saudi Arabia's plans to reduce its dependence on Aramco will be challenged ing, cut jobs and sell non-core by the nation's fiscal deficit, assets as the spread of the they said.

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

ndia'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 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 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 nonbasmati rice growing by 136.04% to USD 4794.54 million; wheat by 774.17% to USD 549.16 million; and other cereals (millets, maize and other coarse gains) 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 milliongrowth 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 11.25 million; nutmeg, mace 22.62 per cent with exports during 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 benefitting 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

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

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, is an achievement that testifies our commitment as well as customer satisfaction with more. the brand. As we continue to ed time," said Sneha Tainwala, three storage options and its crore in just 45 days of its launch.



Business Head, Redmi India. Redmi Note 10 series pack high-end features such as option. The top model of 8GB the Rs 3,000+ crore sales figure 120Hz Super AMOLED Display, RAM and 128GB carries a price 108MP camera, Qualcomm tag of Rs 21,999. Snapdragon 732G, and a lot

The regular Redmi Note strengthen our footprint, we 10 price in India starts at Rs Note smartphones globally. hope that we continue to de- 11,999 for the base 4GB + 64GB liver a seamless and unique model and the 6GB + 128GB experience to our consumers option costs Rs 13,999. The ries of devices has witnessed a even during this unprecedent- Redmi Note 10 Pro comes in record sales worth over Rs 300

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

According to reports last month, the company has sold more than 200 million Redmi

On Wednesday, Xiaomi India announced that its Mi 11X se-

Eu Privacy Fine, Says Report mazon.com could be fined



The case relates to Amazon's collection and use of individu-

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.

Two Building Crashes In Mumbai Kill 13; Eight Children Among Dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI: At least 12 people, including eight children, were killed and seven others injured after two floors of a three-storey residential building collapsed on an adjoining single-storey house in Malwani in suburban Mumbai, officials said on Thursday.

One person died in a separate incident of house crash at Dahisar, a western suburb of Mumbai, on Thursday evening, civic officials said.

Nine members of a family were among the deceased in the first incident which took place around 11.15 pm on Wednesday, when Mumbai experienced heavy rains throughout the day, at the New Collector Compound on Abdul Hamid Road in the Malwani area of suburban Malad, the officials said.

The ill-fated building was constructed illegally and had suffered damage in cyclone Tauktae, which passed close to the Mumbai coast last month, police said, adding its contractor has been arrested on culpable homicide charge.

The Maharashtra government announced an ex-gratia of Rs five lakh each to the kin of those who lost their lives in the house collapse at Malwani, while the Centre will give an additional Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia to them.

While earlier civic officials said a single-storey house had collapsed, they later clarified it was a three-storey building.

The second and third floors of the three-storey building collapsed on the adjoining single-storey house, said Santosh Dhonde, acting ward officer of the city's P-North ward.

Fire brigade and other agencies immediately rushed to the spot and started a search and rescue operation, the official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

Eight children and four adults, including a 60-year-old man, died, he said, adding that most of the deceased were from two families.

Seven others were injured and the condition of one of them was critical, he said. People rescued from under the debris were taken to nearby hospitals, he added.

The deceased have been identified as Sahil Sarfaraz Sayyed (9), Arifa Sheikh (9), Shafiq Md Saleem Siddiqui (45), Tausif Shafiq Siddiqui (15), Aalisha Shafiq Siddiqui (10), Alfisa Shafiq Siddiqui (1.5 years), Afina Shafik Siddiqui (6), Ishrat Bano Shafiq Siddiqui (40), Rahisa Bano Rafik Siddiqui (40), Tahes Safik Siddiqui

Hemant Parab, Mumbai fire brigade chief, told PTI that they found the 12th body while clearing the debris in the evening and identified the victim only as Sardar.

(12), John Irranna (13) and a 60-year-old

man named only as Sardar.

"We found one more body in the evening," Parab said.

He said though they have cleared most of the debris, the fire brigade's search and rescue operation was still on at the spot. According to civic and fire brigade officials, some people might still be trapped under the rubble and so the search and rescue operation was still on.

The civic body said of the 12 people who died, nine were from a single family. As per the BMC, the collapsed building was located on collector's land and its owner got permission from the collector's

office while constructing a permanent However, Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Vishwas Nangre Patil told reporters that the building was constructed illegally and had serious struc-

During cyclone Tauktae last month, the building suffered certain damages, he said, adding Wednesday's incident could have been averted if proper precautions had been taken.

An FIR under IPC sections 304 (2) (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 336 (Act endangering life or personal safety of others), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 34 (common intention) was registered against the building contractor, Ramzan Nabi Shaikh, its owner Rafique Siddiqui (who lost nine members of his family) and others, the police said.

Contractor Ramzan Shaikh (34), a resident of Malwani, was picked up by police after the incident for questioning and later placed under arrest, said Dilip Sawant, Additional Commissioner of Police (North

After the tragedy, the Mumbai police are going to write to the state's public works department (PWD) to conduct a structural audit of all structures located near the collapse site, an official said late in the evening.

Meanwhile, one person died after three houses in a chawl (old row tenements) located at Dahisar crashed on Thursday evening, civic officials said.

The incident occurred at Lokhandi Chawl in Shivaji Nagar area of Dahisar east around 6.35 pm, they said.

On being alerted, the personnel of fire brigade and other agencies rushed to the spot, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials said.

One person was rescued from the spot and rushed to Shatabdi Hospital in Kandivali, a fire brigade official said.

"However, doctors at the hospital declared that person, 26-year-old Pradyumna Saroj, dead before admission," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief at the loss of lives in the building collapse at Malwani and announced Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia each for the next of kin of the deceased from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

In a condolence message from the prime minister, his office tweeted, "Pained by the loss of lives due to the collapse of a structure in Malad West, Mumbai. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the bereaved families. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest." A sum of Rs 50,000 would be provided to each of the injured, Modi said.

The Maharashtra government separately announced an ex-gratia of Rs five lakh each to the kin of those who lost their lives in the tragedy. It also said that the medical expenses of the injured will be borne by the government.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray condoled the loss of lives in the incident and visited the Shatabdi Hospital in the city on Thursday to inquire about the wellbeing of the survivors, a statement issued by the chief minister's office (CMO) said.

As soon as Thackeray got information of the incident last night, he spoke to municipal commissioner I S Chahal and directed that the rescue operation be carried out in a careful manner and the injured be rushed to hospital and treated with government expense, it said.

Rafique Siddiqui, who stayed in the illfated building, survived the tragedy but lost his wife and eight other family members. The 45-year-old had stepped out to buy milk minutes before the building came crashing down.

When he came back, he found his world turned upside down as nine members of his family, including his wife, brother, sister-in-law and six children from the two families, died in the incident.

May Records 2nd Highest Rainfall In 121 Years; No **Significant Heat Wave Spell: IMD**

NEW DELHI: May received highest rainfall in 121 years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its monthly report Thursday, attributing two back-to-back cyclones and western disturbances for the record precipitation.

It also said that at 34.18 degrees Celsius, the average maximum temperature over India this May was the fourth lowest since 1901.

The lowest ever temperature recorded for May was 32.68 degrees Celsius in 1917. The temperature was lowest since 1977 when it was of 33.84 degrees Celsius, the IMD said.

There was no significant heat wave spell observed during the month over any parts of India, he said. Rainfall over the country as

a whole for the month of May 2021 shows that it has recorded 107.9 millimetres which is 74 per cent more than its Long Period Average (LPA) of 62 mm.

"Rainfall over India during the month of May was second highest since 1901. The ever highest rainfall occurred in the year 1990 (110.7mm)," the IMD said in its monthly report for May.

May saw formation of a cyclone each in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Tauktae formed over the Arabian Sea and developed into an 'extremely severe cyclonic storm'. It hit the Gujarat coast on May 17 after battering states along the western

Cyclone 'Yaas' developed

over the Bay of Bengal and intensified into a 'very severe cyclonic storm'. It hit the Odisha coast on May 26 and also affected West Bengal.

These two systems brought rainfall not only over the states along the western and eastern coasts but also to other parts of the country. For instance, as Cyclone 'Tauktae' weakened, it headed towards north India and brought rains over several parts of north India.

Similarly, Yaas' brought rains over east India including Jharkhand, Bihar as it weakened.

The IMD said that in all three months of the summer of 2021, frequencies of western disturbance activities over north India were higher than

In March, April and May 2021, it was seven, nine and eight respectively against normal of 4-6 WDs, the IMD

Western disturbances are cyclonic storms that originate in the Mediterranean, traverse across Central Asia and hit the north India. They are critical to northwest India as they are a major source of snow and rainfall during the winters.

Like in March and April 2021, heat wave conditions in May 2021 was occasional and also for shorter periods over very small region.

"No significant heat wave occurred during the month over the country except northwest Rajasthan where it was observed for two days on May 29 and 30, the IMD said.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT** PAGE

J&K Logs 25

Among the victims from the Valley, officials said, included a 70-year-old woman from Sangerwani, who died at district hospital Pulwama, four days she was admitted there. Also, another 70-year-old woman from Tral also died at the same facility, a day after she was admitted there.

A 65-year-old woman from Ashmuqam died at GMC Anantnag, 12 days after she was admitted there, officials said. Three deaths were reported at SMHS hospital, they said.

Regarding the fresh cases, officials said that Kashmir Valley reported 785 and Jammu division 332 new cases of coronavirus thus pushing the total number of people infected by the virus in J&K to 304866.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 194 cases, Baramulla 100, Budgam 121, Pulwama 77, Kupwara 81, Anantnag 74, Bandipora 44, Ganderbal 30, Kulgam 56, Shopian 8, Jammu 50, Udhampur 47, Rajouri 44, Doda 56, Kathua 16, Samba 11, Kishtwar 24, Poonch 22, Ramban 51 and Reasi

Moreover, they said, 2363 more patients have recovered—886 from Jammu Division and 1477 from Kashmir.

A total of 282142 people have recovered, leaving the active positive cases to 18581-6949 in Jammu and 11632 in Kashmir, they

Prepare In Advance

be appropriate to have oxygen generation plants in each of the Government Medical Colleges or the allied hospitals. "This would be beneficial for the medical world for all times to come in extending medical treatment to all categories of patients."

At the same time, the court said, the temporary arrangements so for made may not be completely dismantled and may be kept in readiness for future.

Rejecting prayer by an advocate that relatives of the covid-19 victim shall be allowed to see face and carry out religious rites and rituals, the court said that guidelines by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate General of Health Service (EMR Division), take care of it.

"According to the guidelines, the dead body has to be carried to the cremation/ burial ground in a secured bag by the authorities for the performance of the last rites which shall ordinarily be in the presence of the relatives. We are informed that a maximum of 20 relatives are permitted. The guidelines also provides for viewing of the face of the deceased by the relatives and performing of rituals except for touching of the body," the court said, adding, "In view of the above guidelines and the permission accorded to view the face of the dead body by unzipping the bag and to perform last rites and rituals without touching the body, we are of the opinion that the religious sentiments of the family members have been sufficiently taken care of by the Government.'

The court also rejected prayer for converting Government stadiums into vaccination

"We do not think that such a prayer requires to be considered by the Court as it is for the administration to consider, if they are short of place for vaccination centres. If there is any shortage or need for extra place for vaccination centres, the administration would certainly evolve methods to arrange for adequate space and establish the same," the court said, adding, "Moreover, the administration has undertaken the vaccination drive even institutional-wise, in a way converting important institutions into vaccination centres temporarily for a limited

The creation of large vaccination centres, the

court said, may not be feasible as it would result in concentration of large numbers of people at one place which would be very risky and may be a cause of spread of Covid-19.

Assembly Polls

Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.

The notification issued in March had extended the term of the delimitation commission by one year and the panel would look only into the delimitation of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had come into existence in October 2019 after the Centre abrogated the special status of the erstwhile state in August that year and an-

nounced its reorganisation. Before Parliament passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act in August 2019, the effective strength of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was 87, including four seats from Ladakh, which is now a separate Union Territory without a legislature. The strength of the realigned Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is 107 now with 24 seats to continue to remain vacant as that fall in Pakistan-controlled

The report quoted sources as saying that the National Conference may now revisit its decision and may likely be a part of delimitation Commission Proceedings

Quoting a top political leader, the report said that in March they were earlier told by GOI to start their political activities as assembly elections will be held by the end of this year.

"However the Covid wave disturbed everything and the plan of holding elections by the end of the year was deferred." he said.

"Recently we were advised to start political activities. If there will be no third Covid wave in J&K as is being predicted across the country, then the central Government told us that elections can happen in November or December

Quoting another politician, the report said that the meeting by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi was recently convened to discuss the holding of elections.

The Lieutenant Governor (LG) Sinha, outgoing J&K chief secretary BVR Subrahmanyam, his successor Arun Mehta, Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Arvind Kumar, J&K Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh and Special DG J&K Police CID were part of the meeting. Earlier Amit Shah had called a meeting with Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

Political commentators also say that yesterday's meeting by PAGD was called in the backdrop of a green signal by the Central Government to local political parties to prepare for elections, the report added

Assembly Polls In Pak

elections in Gilgit-Baltistan and said any action to alter the status of the region has no legal basis. India has also clearly conveyed to Pakistan that the entire Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an "integral part" of the country.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice (retd.) Abdul Rashid Sulehria unveiled the schedule for the elections at a press conference in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK).

"PcK will use their right to vote on July 25 for good governance, " said Sulehria, who is head of the election commission.

He said that the candidates can submit their nomination papers till June 21 and the final list will be released on July 3.

The elections will be held to elect 45 representatives of the legislative assembly, including 33 in PcK and 12 for Kashmiri migrants, ARY news reported.

"Four constituencies have been enhanced in

this election," Sulehria said.

Paramilitary Rangers and police along with civil administration will be deployed during the polls to enable over 28 lakh eligible voters to cast their franchise.

Earlier, the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) had urged for postponing the election in PcK for two months due to the threat of resurgence of the coronavirus but the same was rejected by all Opposition

The last general election for PcK Legislative Assembly was held in July 2016 and won by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz led by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Corona Curfew

However, movement of essential services have been allowed in all the three districts.

Besides north Kashmir, corona curfew has also been imposed in central Kashmir's Budgam and south Kashmir's Kulgam district in view of pandemic.

Police Probing

him, was injured by militants owing allegiance to the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed

group on June 2 in the Tral area of Pulwama. The official said so far 20 persons have been questioned in connection with the killing of Pandita but no formal arrests have been made

He said investigators also want to question the 22-year-old woman, who was injured in the firing by the militants, but have to wait till she comes out of the hospital.

"We are working on all angles and everyone connected with the deceased is being probed. Even the family which was hosting the victim on the day of the incident is being questioned," the official said.

A police handout released after the incident said Pandita, who was a protected person, had defied the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and went to the village without his personal security officers.

Kashmir Reels

Celsius above the normal, the officials said. They said Qazigund in south Kashmir recorded a maximum of 34.3 degrees Celsius highest of the season, while the mercury in Kokernag, also in south, settled at the maximum of 32.2 degrees Celsius.

The officials said Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir registered the maximum of 30.2 degrees Celsius, while the mercury in Gulmarg settled at 25.5 degrees Celsius which was the highest of the season.

Meanwhile Jammu experienced the season's hottest day on Thursday with temperatures soaring to 41.6 Degree Celsius. Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed hot

with a sharp increase in day temperatures. However, there is a possibility of a respite in the hot weather conditions as the Met Office has predicted light to moderate rains on Saturday and Sunday.

weather conditions over the last several days

There is a chance of scattered to fairly widespread rainfall on Saturday and Sunday, the

However, the intensity of the rainfall would be more in the Jammu region as compared to the valley

Will Abide

by the Saudi Government. Our priority continues to be the health and well-being of people of both nations and also of humanity" Naqvi said, while addressing a Press Conference at the Haj House in Mumbai on Thursday, as per an official handout.

The handout further said that the Minister said that a nationwide campaign will be launched by various social and educational

institutions to curb and crush rumours and apprehension regarding the vaccination drive going on in India.

"State Haj Committees, Waqf Boards, their associated organisations, Central Waqf Council, Maulana Azad Education Foundation and other social and educational institutions will be part of the campaign," Naqvi said, as per the

Speaking about the country's preparations for Haj 2021, Naqvi, as per the handout said that a review has been taken of the current position on vaccinations, based on directions given by the Haj Committee of India and the guidelines given by the Health Department of

the Government of Saudi Arabia. More than 2.5 million people perform the Haj pilgrimage in the holy city of Mecca every

It may be recalled that last year, due to Covid 19 pandemic, the Saudi Arabian Government had announced that it would hold 'limited Haj' confined to people of different nationalities already living in the Kingdom.

India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Ausaf Saveed: Consul General of India in Jeddah Shahid Alam and senior officials of the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs attended today's meeting through video conferencing. The Haj Committee of India CEO M A Khan and other officials were also present, the handout read.

Tourism Players

a decline in fatalities and positive cases. The decision has exhilarated the tourism stakeholders as the Valley is once again set to receive tourists, raising hopes and solving financial constraints of shikarawalas, houseboat owners, hoteliers, restaurant operators, ponywalas and handi-

craft dealers. "Since last week, we have received around 10-20 bookings per travel agency but the numbers will grow up to 40-50 bookings if the Tourism Department brings in an effective and durable infrastructure for safe and prosperous tourism in Kashmir." Habibullah Pandow, a senior member of the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) told Kashmir Observer.

The hoteliers too have welcomed the phased lifting of the lockdown in Valley and have expressed optimism that the tourist inflow will increase day by day.

"Since lockdown was lifted and partial restrictions were imposed, we are getting around 10-15 bookings in one single day," President Kashmir Hotels and Restaurants Owners Federation (KHAROF), Wahid Malik, told

Kashmir Observer. He further added that the number of tourists arriving in Kashmir is relatively low compared

to the winter rush. "I'm sure the number of tourists travelling to Kashmir will grow by the end of this month," he said.

Publicity Secretary of Houseboat Association Kashmir, Mohammed Amin Malik said that the tourism industry suffered a whopping loss of Rs 1500 crore since August 2019, when Jammu and Kashmir's special status was revoked and the state was split into two Union Territories.

The unprecedented lockdowns following it broke the backbone of the tourism industry. It may take a while to recover from those losses but for now, we really appreciate the means that the Tourism Department has taken in order to revive the crumbling state of Kashmir's Tourism," he said. According to Kashmir Chamber of Commerce

dustry in Kashmir has lost around 70,000 iobs and many stakeholders believed that the numbers would have grown by the end of this year, if J&K administration hadn't restored the tourism activities in the Valley. Meanwhile, the tourism department has also

and Industry (KCCI), since 2019 the tourism in-

braced up and have taken a slew of measures

to ensure a Covid free inflow of tourists into Kashmir

"For now, tourists entering Kashmir through airport and highway have to undergo a Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) and only those who are found negative will be allowed to march forward," Secretary Tourism Sarmad Hafeez said.

He further said that those tourists who are found positive for the virus will be directly referred to the government managed quarantine care centres where they will have to stay till the time they're found negative.

"During their stay in these quarantine centres, their essentials including medicines will be managed by the administration itself. We are discussing new measures to arrange a hassle free inflow of tourists into Kashmir and for the same we are in contact with various airlines and Airport Authority of India," he said.

He further added that in order to save time for these tourists, the Tourism department is having brief discussions with DDMA and Airport Authorities for ensuring that the tourists carry not more than 72-hour old RT-PCR report while entering Kashmir via any mode of

"For now, the tourist inflow in the valley isn't that much, but as soon as we implement new strategies that will ensure a Covid-free tourism, the number of tourists will surely grow," he added. Almost two weeks back, the Tourism

Department had come up with two-pronged strategies to ensure that the Tourism industry recovers from the state of shambles. The first and the foremost step, according to Hafeez was to ensure that people related with the Tourism are fully vaccinated. Till now, around 20,000 people who are re-

lated with Kashmir's tourism have been vaccinated," he said, adding "Vaccination will ensure that tourists and local stakeholders, both are safe.' The Second strategy, he said, was to organise capacity building workshops for the members of the Tourist-trade to familiarise them about

the ways of doing business Post-Covid and making them adhere to safety protocols. "From Wednesday next week, our capacity building program will commence with 4000 stakeholders including shikarawalas, hoteliers and houseboat owners in the first session."

Hafeez added. **Youth Critically**

unnamed police official confirming the incident and saying that a case has been registered in this regard for due investigations.

In Kashmir, Cantonment

position to give property tax to anybody,"

Wani said. "We also told them when it is not implemented in other parts of Kashmir why only our area. However, there was no positive response."

Gas Leak Sparks

from the fire and emergency department besides two from the army have reached the area and are trying to contain the spread of the fire. A number of senior police officers including DySP headquarters and local SHO besides additional SP are on the spot.

A police officer said that due narrow lanes.

fire tenders were finding it difficult to reach the At least 20 houses have already been engulfed and efforts are underway to contain the

further spread of fire. (GNS) **Ex-Cop Held With**

62/21 under section 7/25 of Indian Arms Act has been registered into the recovery at Police Station Tangdhar and due investigations taken up, they added. (GNS)

Calls For Buttler, Morgan's Non-Participation In IPL After Racism Row



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The likely non-participation of Eoin Morgan and Jos Buttler in the second phase of the IPL could save them from being sanctioned by their respective franchises Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals for posting allegedly racist tweets about Indians in 2017.

The English cricket system has been shaken after pacer Ollie Robinson got suspended by the ECB for his racist and sexist tweets about Muslims and Asians when he was 18.

The posts, in which Buttler and Morgan used the word 'sir' to mock the Indians, started doing the rounds on social media after the ECB suspended Robinson. The IPL is set to resume on September 19 in the UAE.

"KKR and RR will be in a fix as these are players earning from Indian Premier League and as late as 2017 were making fun of how Indians speak English," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity

"Now you can be dismissive of these posts but this also speaks about what their general perception about Indians is. It's a tricky terrain but both KKR and Royals have a way out," he said.

According to a report, "Screenshots have also been shared of a message by Buttler in which he says 'I always reply sir no1 else like me like you like me' and, separately, Morgan includes Buttler in a message which says, 'Sir you're my favourite batsman'." They were allegedly joined by KKR head coach Brendon McCullum in this conversation.

The source, who has worked as a BCCI official since the first edition of IPL, said that an "uncondi-

tional apology" is fine but beyond that, the Board and the franchises "shouldn't stretch it".

"Firstly, if Shah Rukh Khan and Manoj Badale are mindful of their respective franchises' image, a statement of apology from both Morgan and Buttler would suffice.

"Now with ECB not allowing them for second phase of IPL due to their own commitments, the suspension would count for very little. You are suspending players who are not coming for the second phase. It will be mere posturing," the official said.

Many in BCCI feel that it would only be prudent not to stir a hornet's nest as "there could well be some YouTube videos of some players making sexist remarks or body shaming others which could now come out in public domain."

Suspending Morgan is also convenient for KKR as there is very little chance of the franchise making it to top four when the remainder of IPL is played in the UAE between September 19 to October 15.

McCullum's case could be trickier

While Morgan and Buttler can avoid the embarrassment by simply not showing up as per England and Wales Cricket Board's Director of Cricket Ashley Giles' diktat, things aren't as simple for McCullum, whose unforgettable 158 on the first day of IPL-1 had set the tone for the world's most watched cricket entertainment show.

In case of McCullum, he might have to tender an apology and it will be interesting to see if the KKR management, including principal owner Khan, is fine with him sitting in the dug-out for the remainder of the tournament.

All Indian Shooters Capable Of Winning Medal In Tokyo Olympics: Pavel Smirnov

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: It's not about one, two or three but all his shooters are capable of winning a medal, including gold, at the Tokyo Olympics, reckons Pavel Smirnov, the longstanding foreign coach of the Indian pistol team.

On the back of their unprecedented success in recent years, the Indians will enter the upcoming Olympics with heightened expectations, especially the incredibly talented bunch of young pistol shooters such as Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker.

Not to be left behind is the duo of Abhishek Verma and Yashaswini Singh Deswal, with the seasoned Rahi Sarnobat adding to the team's strength.

"Each and every one of them can finish on the podium, and I have seen a bit of Indian shooting over the years. On their day they can win medals at the highest level. Even gold," Smirnov told PTI from Zagreb.

A vaunted Indian team fired a blank at the 2016 Rio Games, a shocking result that forced radical changes in the Indian shooting setup on the recommendation of a review committee led by Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra.

Smirnov, who coached Vijay Kumar to a 25m rapid fire pistol silver medal at the 2012 London Olympics, following which he was appointed as the national pistol team's foreign coach, saw the likes of fancied Jitu Rai failing to deliver in Rio five years ago.

He says it's time to look ahead to the upcoming edition of the Games.

"I am very hopeful with this team. They deserve to do well because they have all made sacrifices, some at a very young age, shown maturity and worked very hard over the last four years. There is no reason for us not to have a very good Games," Smirnov said.

The disappointment of Rio

2016 doesn't rankle any more.

"There is no benefit in dwelling on the past. That is not in our control. What is in our control is what we can do in the future and we are thinking like that at the moment." Unlike in the previous Games,



the number of coaching staff has been reduced for the upcoming Olympics because of the pandemic.

Along with the rifle foreign coach Oleg Mikhailov, Smirnov will however be with the team throughout the Games with the others being rotated as per the maximum 30 per cent coaching staff rule of the International Olympic Committee for the Games.

"Rules are rules. Everyone needs to follow. The federation will implement them accordingly and in the best interests of the team I am sure," Smirnov, who was with the Army prior to joining the Indian team, said.

Smirnov could not accompany the national shooting squad to Zagreb on May 11 due to delay in visa processing. However, that had been sorted and he is now back to training his wards in the Croatian capital.

"Well I am here now and enjoying being back with the team. Had a calm quarantine but definitely feels nice to be back in the range, in the thick of things. Things are very good and we are being taken care of very well."

The coach has been with the Indian team since 2013 and asked about his future plans (continuation), he said he is currently focussed only on the Olympics.

"Now that is thinking too far ahead. At the moment, I am only thinking about the Olympics," he signed off.

The Tokyo Olympics are slated to be held from July 23 to August 8 and the Indian shooting team will be a represented by a record 15 members there.

ICC To Mark WTC Final With Induction Of 10 Legends Into Hall Of Fame



Press Trust of India

SOUTHAMPTON: The ICC will induct 10 legends of the game into its illustrious Hall of Fame, with two players each from five eras, dating back to cricket's early days, joining an existing list of 93 of the world's greatest.

The global cricket body on Thursday announced a special edition of the ICC Hall of Fame to coincide with the first-ever World Test Championship final, to be contested between India and New Zealand, from June 18 in Southampton.

As many as 10 legends of the game who have made a significant contribution to the history of Test cricket will be inducted to join the 93 players, who are already in the il-

lustrious list, taking the total to 103.
"It is an honour for us to an-

"It is an honour for us to announce a one-time induction of ten cricketing greats into the ICC Hall of Fame to coincide with the first-ever final of the World Test Championship in Southampton," ICC acting chief executive Geoff Allardice said in a release.

"We are celebrating the history of the game and what better way than to honour some of the greats that founded and played the game across different eras. These are all players with a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations for years to come."

The special intake will see two players from each of the following five eras join the ranks of the world's greatest players: Early Cricket Era (pre-1918), Inter-War Cricket Era (1918-1945), Post-War Cricket Era (1946-1970), ODI Era (1971-1995), Modern Cricket Era (1996-2016).

The 10 legends inducted as part of the special edition have been voted by the ICC Hall of Fame Voting Academy, comprising living Hall of Fame members, a FICA (Federation of International Cricketer Association) representative, prominent cricket journalists and senior ICC figures.

The announcement will be made during a live show streamed via ICC's digital media channels.

The special edition ICC Hall of Fame show will be hosted by Alan Wilkins and streamed live on all ICC digital channels, including Facebook and YouTube on June 13.

Anti-Racism Movement In Cricket Needs Re-Sparking, Re-Engaging: Jason Holder

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The anti-racism movement in cricket needs more than just players taking a knee before matches in order for it to have some meaning and substance, feels West Indies all-rounder Jason Holder.

Almost a year ago, West Indies became one of the first two international teams to take a knee in support of Black Lives Matter, a movement that gained momentum after the death of African American George Floyd at the hands of a white police officer last year.

"I had a few discussions about it and I feel as though some people feel it's now a watered-down action taken before the games. I would like to see some new initiative to spark the movement again," Holder was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.com.

"I don't want people to just think we're taking the knee because Black Lives Matter, that's the tradition and that's the norm. It has to have some substance, it has to have some meaning behind it."

"I would like to see some more emphasis, some more thought process going into actually resparking or re-engaging the movement so it can actually hold some substance," he added.

The former West Indies captain urged athletes to do more for the anti-racism movement while speaking ahead of their series against South Africa. What Holder wants can be achieved through greater awareness and action, he feels.

As they have done in all of the series they have played last year

in the wake of Floyd's death, West Indies are certain to take the knee at the start of each of the two Tests against South Africa

Tests against South Africa.

Holder indicated that more could be in store from their team this year as far as amplifying the

movement was concerned.
"Maybe, that's something we can
do as a group. Maybe, a video collage and a video message, just to reiterate what the movement stands
for and what it's all about," he said.

In a departure from the past, South Africa will also join the movement as a group this time, even though they have allowed individual players to make own gestures.

"It's been quite a journey for our side with regards to this topic," Dean Elgar, South Africa's new Test captain said.

"We had a meeting with West Indies cricket yesterday – myself, Kraigg Braithwaite and the two team managers.

"We have given the players their right to perform whichever act or gesture they want. "If players are comfortable with

taking a knee, they may. If a player wants to do the previous gesture that we had, of raising your right fist, they are entitled to do that.

"If they aren't comfortable just yet, they've got to stand to attention so we can respect the campaign," Elgar added.

Anti-racism has again become a subject of discussion in the cricketing world following recent events in England, where Ollie Robinson has been suspended for historic racist tweets and a few other players also under investigation for old posts.

Team India Undergoes First Group Training Session Ahead Of WTC Final

Press Trust of India

SOUTHAMPTON: Team India carried out their first group practice session at a ground adjacent to Ageas Bowl here on Thursday, five days after being allowed staggered training in the run-up to the World Test Championship final against New Zealand.

The WTC final is scheduled to be held from Jun 18 to 22.

It was the first time the players mixed with their teammates on the ground after being allowed to run in the gymnasium and the main playing field at different time slots on completion of the third day of their hard quarantine in the UK.

"We have had our first group training session and the intensity was high Fire. #TeamIndia's preparations are on in full swing for the #WTC21 Final," the BCCI wrote in a twitter post along with a short video of the training session.

The players had a full net session, where the likes of skipper Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant batted for a considerable amount of time and faced throw-downs as well.



The bowlers too had an intense session with all the main players – Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Ravichandran Ashwin – participating in the practice session.

The nets were followed by a fielding session under fielding coach R Sridhar, which mostly focussed on

catching in the slip cordon.

Earlier, the players were allowed to come out of their Hilton Hotel rooms, a Hampshire Bowl property, on the third day, following which

they started their individual training. The players were also provided basic equipments in their rooms for exercise purposes.

Asian Games Gold-Winning Boxer Dingko Singh Dies Aged 42

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Asian Games gold medal-winning former boxer Ding-ko Singh, who inspired a generation of Indian pugilists with his swash-buckling ring craft and flamboyant personality, died on Thursday after a long battle with liver cancer.

He was 42 and had been fighting the disease since 2017. He is survived by his wife Babai Ngangom, a son and a daughter.

During his battle with cancer, the former bantamweight (54kg) boxer's health woes were compounded by a bout of jaundice and Covid-19 last year.

"We lost a legend," Olympicbound boxer Vikas Krishan said summing up what he meant to Indian boxing. Dingko's gold in the Bangkok Asiad was the first in 16 years for Indian boxing after Kaur Singh's top finish at the regional showpiece's 1982 edition.

"Dingko Singh passing away is an irreplaceable loss for Indian Boxing. He was an inspiration to a generation of boxers and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations," Boxing Federation

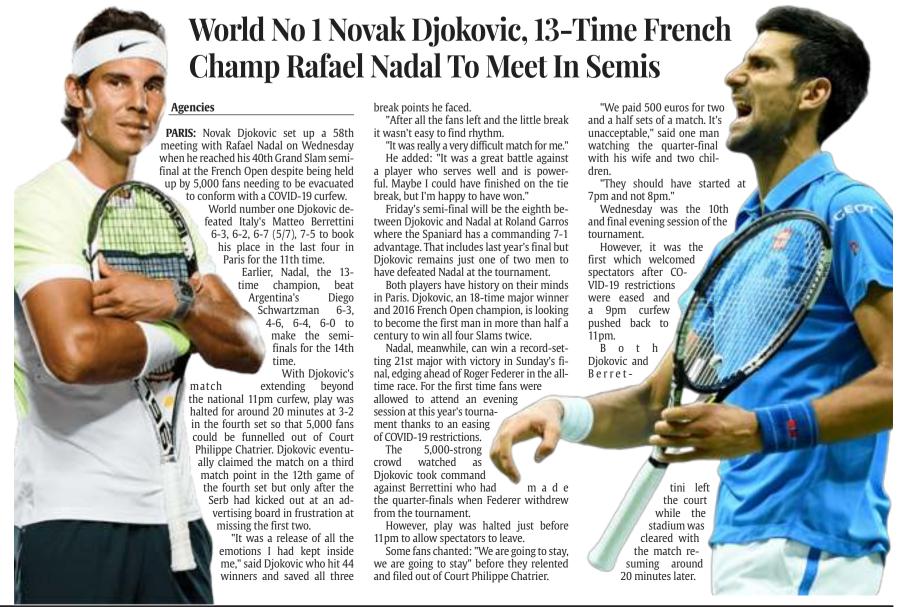


"In this hour of grief and loss, the boxing family stands in solidarity with his wife and family and pray for the departed soul," he added.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju also offered condolences on his demise along with several Indian boxers, some of whom have only heard tales of his dazzling persona.

"I'm deeply saddened by the demise of Shri Dingko Singh. One of the finest boxers India has ever produced, Dinko's gold medal at 1998 Bangkok Asian Games sparked the Boxing chain reaction in India," Rijiju said.

"He was a rockstar, a legend, a rage. I remember I used to queue up to watch him fight in Manipur. He inspired me. He was my hero. It is a huge loss. He has gone too soon," said Women's Boxing ace Mary Kom.



People Struggling, **Travelling Long Distances To Get Covaxin Dose**



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: As people are struggling to book slots for Covid-19 vaccination in their cities, many of them who are in less than 45 years age group from Delhi-NCR are travelling a long distance to get their first and even second dose of Covaxin.

These people are even travelling distance of 224 km from Delhi and 232 km from Meerut

"We came from Noida to get our vaccination done. We came from a long distance to get Covaxin but are satisfied after getting the vaccine," said a beneficiary who travelled from Noida to Agra for vaccination.

Moolchand Medcity, Agra, had started vaccination for people in the 18-44 age group days ago and almost 450 people have been inoculated so far, amongst these beneficiaries most of them are from places like Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Meerut, Etawah and Mathura.

"With respect to our Mool-

94,052 New Cases

to get vaccinated," Vibhu Talwar, medical director, Moolchand Medcity, Agra told ANI. "Largely people are coming for

chand Medcity Agra facility, large-

ly we were getting people from

places like Mainpuri, Aligarh,

Etawah, Mathura, Ferozabad,

Delhi, Meerut, Noida, Gurugram

their first dose," he added. "In this high temperature, I have travelled from Delhi on bike to get a vaccination for my second dose. I think it's much needed at this time when so many people are losing their life," said a beneficiary who travelled on a bike to get his second dose from Delhi.

The family of Himanshu Wadhva from Delhi all below 45 years of age are struggling for their second dose of Covaxin but not getting a slot.

"We are trying for a week to get our second dose of Covaxin, but not getting a slot because of the vaccine shortage," said Wadhwa. Another family, Bhutanis from Delhi is facing the same problem and worried about their vaccina-

Record 6,148 Covid Deaths In India In 24 Hours,

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: With Bihar revising its figures and putting the total number of fatalities caused by Covid-19 at 9,429, India reported its highest single-day spike of 6,148 deaths, pushing the toll to 3,59,676, while 94,052 new cases took the tally to 2,91,83,121, according to the Union health ministry's data updated on Thursday.

The active cases have reduced to 11,67,952 comprising 4 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has improved to 94.77 per cent, it said.

A net decline of 63,463 cases has been recorded in the total number of Covid-19 cases in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Also, 20,04,690 tests were conducted on Wednesday, taking the total cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid-19 in the country to 37,21,98,253, while the daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.69 per cent. It has been less than 10 per cent for 17 consecutive days, the ministry said.

Weekly positivity rate was recorded at 5.43 per cent. Recoveries continue to outnumber daily new cases for the 28th consecutive day.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 2,76,55,493, while the case fatality rate has increased to 1.23 per cent, the data stated.

Cumulatively, 24,27,26,693 Covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered so far under the nationwide vaccination drive in the

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

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

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4.

The 6,148 new fatalities include 3,971 from Bihar, 661 from Maharashtra, 405 from Tamil Nadu, 192 from Karnataka and 156 from Kerala

Covid-19 death toll in Bihar was on Wednesday revised drastically upwards by the state health department, which put the total number of fatalities caused by the pandemic at 9,429.

A total of 3,59,676 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,01,833 from Maharashtra, 32,291 from Karnataka, 28,170 from Tamil Nadu, 24,704 from Delhi, 21,516 from Uttar Pradesh, 16,555 from West Bengal, 15,293 from Punjab and 13,271 from Chhattisgarh.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation. PTI

Delta Variant Predominant Despite Complete, Partial Vaccination: Study

NEW DELHI: A preliminary study conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Delhi claimed that the presence of COVID-19 Delta variant (B1.617.2) is predominantly found even after the first dose or both doses of vaccine has been administered.

The study included 63 people who got breakthrough infections; of which 36 patients received two doses, while 27 had received one dose of vaccine. "SARS-CoV-2 lineages could

be assigned for a total of 36 (57.1 per cent) samples, 19 (52.8 per cent) in patients who completed both doses and 17 (47.2 per cent) in patients who completed only a single dose. B.1.617.2 was found to be the predominant lineage with 23 samples (63.9 per cent) out of which 12 were in fully vaccinated and 11 in partially vaccinated groups. 4 (11.1 per cent) and 1 (2.8 per cent) samples were assigned the lineages B.1.617.1 and B.1.1.7 respectively. The B.1.617.2 lineage was first described in India and associated with increased transmissibility as well as immune escape and has grown to become one of the predominant lineages in India," the AIIMS study said.

Ten patients received Covishield while 53 received Covaxin, of which 41 were males and 22 were females.

"Our analysis included 63 cases of vaccine breakthrough infections for which the dates of vaccines could be ascertained, of which 36 patients received two doses, while 27 had received one dose of vaccine. Ten patients received AZD1222/Covishield while 53 received BBV152/ Covaxin," the study read.

The patients had a mean age of 37 (21-92), of which 41 were males and 22 were females. None of the patients had any comorbidities which could act as a predisposing factor for breakthrough infections.

"As lineage B.1.617.2 (Delta) was



also prevalent in this group, any significant differences in lineages among fully and partially vaccinated samples were analysed. The difference was not found to be significant in both double dose vaccinated and single-dose vaccinated groups," the study added.

The report further stated that there are no reports of deaths in a sample size of 63 people, even though almost all cases reported high-grade unremitting fever for 5-7 days.

"Viral load at the time of diagnosis was high in all the patients irrespective of vaccination status or type of vaccine received. The initial course of disease with highgrade non-remitting fever lasted for five to seven days in the vaccinated group, similar to the clinical presentation in unvaccinated patients. During the subsequent course of illness, neither disease worsening (stable biomarkers) nor mortality was reported in the present group, confirming the previous observations," as per the study.

The presence of Delta variant was about 60 per cent of people who received a double dose of either vaccine and it was found in 77 per cent of people who received one dose.

Of the breakthrough infection cases analysed, 10 patients (8 with double doses of vaccine and 2 with single vaccine dose) additionally had total Immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibodies assessed, of which 6 pa-

tients had IgG antibodies a month before the infection, while 4 had antibodies after the disease episode.

The patients included health care workers (24, 13 of which were from the same hospital) and close analysis of the genomic sequences suggests that the samples clustered separately with origins closely clustering with lineages from different states, suggesting the disease transmission happened most likely from different and independent sources.

The study also made the comment on the prevalence of Delta variant in Delhi and said, "Reinfections and vaccine breakthrough infections are rare occurrences and genomic sequencing of vaccine breakthrough infections can provide useful insights. In the present group of vaccine breakthrough infections investigated using genome sequencing, closely overlapping and mirroring the COVID-19 cases in the state of Delhi, the variants of concern B.1.617.2 and B.1.1.7 comprised the majority, but the proportions were not significantly different in comparison with the population prevalence of the variants during this period with high community transmission."

Mortality due to COVID-19 was ascribed to 2 per cent cases (primarily older population, average age-82 years). The study has not been peer-reviewed yet.

8 Children Among 11 Die In Malwani Building Collapse In Mumbai



MUMBAI: Eight children and three adults were killed and seven other people injured after two floors of a three-storey building collapsed on an adjoining single-storey house in Malwani area of Mumbai, officials said on Thursday.

The incident took place around 11.15 pm on Wednesday at the New Collector Compound on the Abdul Hamid Road in the Malwani area, they said. While earlier civic officials said a single-storey house had collapsed, they later said it was a three-storey building.

According to police, the building was constructed illegally and after the incident, its contractor was being questioned.

The second and third floors of the three-storey building collapsed on the adjoining single-storey house, said Santosh Dhonde, acting ward officer of the city's P-North ward.

immediately rushed to the spot and started a search and rescue operation, the official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said. Eight children and three adults

Fire brigade and other agencies

died, he said, adding that most of the deceased were from two separate families. Seven others were injured and

critical, he said. People rescued from under the debris were taken to nearby hospitals, he added.

the condition of one of them was

The deceased have been identified as Sahil Sarfaraz Sayyed (9), Arifa Sheikh (9), Shafiq Md Saleem Siddiqui (45), Tausif Shafiq Siddiqui (15), Aalisha Shafiq Siddiqui (10), Alfisa Shafiq Siddiqui (1.5 years), Afina Shafik Siddiqui (6), İshrat Bano Shafiq Siddiqui (40), Rahisa Bano Rafik Siddiqui (40), Tahes Safik Siddiqui (12) and John Irranna (13).

According to civic and fire brigade officials, some people might still be trapped under the rubble and the search and rescue operations were on.

As per the BMC, the collapsed building was located on collector's land and its owner got permission from the collector's office while constructing a permanent structure.

However, Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Vishwas Nangre Patil told reporters that the building was constructed illegally and had serious structural faults. During cyclone Tauktae last month, the building suffered certain damages, he said, adding that Wednesday's incident could have been averted if proper precautions had been taken.

"We are registering an offence under section 304(2) (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and will take effective action in this case," the police official said.

The offence is being registered against the building's contractor and owner, the official said.

The contractor has already been taken into custody for an en-

Expedite Second Vaccine Jab To Healthcare Workers: Centre To States

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Terming the low Covid vaccination coverage among the healthcare and frontline workers, especially for the second dose, a cause of "serious concern", the Centre advised the states and Union territories on Thursday to sharpen their focus and prepare effective plans for expec second dose coverage among these priority groups.

At a high-level meeting chaired by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan with the states to review the progress of vaccination, it was highlighted that while the national average for the first dose administration among the healthcare workers (HCWs) is 82 per cent, for the second dose, it is only 56 per cent, a statement issued by the health ministry said.

Further, the coverage in 18 states and Union territories, including Punjab, Maharashtra, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Assam, is below the national average in this aspect.

For the frontline workers (FLWs), the national average of first-dose coverage is 85 per cent but for the second dose, it is only



47 per cent, the statement said. Nineteen states and Union territories, including Bihar, Harvana. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Telangana, Karnataka and Punjab, have reported a second-dose coverage of frontline workers below the national average, it added.

The Union health secretary reiterated that universal coverage and full protection amongst this group is crucial to protect the healthcare response to the pandemic and a timely completion of the vaccination schedule is important for conferring full protection to the beneficiaries. The states were asked to sharpen their focus and prepare effective plans for expediting the second dose administration for the healthcare workers and frontline workers, the statement said.

The states were also asked to dedicate special time slots or sessions for the exercise, it added.

Mr Bhushan highlighted the less than adequate private sector participation in the Covid vacci-

According to the revised guidelines, 25 per cent of the vaccine stock can be procured by the private hospitals, which can set up Covid vaccination centres (CVCs) for supplementing the government's efforts in further universalisation of the vaccination drive.

UPSC To Commence Interviews For Civil Services Exam From August 2

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has decided to commence interviews for civil services examination 2020. which were deferred due to a surge in Covid-19 cases, from August 2, according to an official statement.

The civil services examination is conducted annually by the UPSC in three stages—preliminary, main and personality test (interview)-to select officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.

It had in April this year deferred interviews for the prestigious examination due to increase in coronavirus cases. "After reviewing the situation,

the Commission has decided to commence the personality test of the civil services examination, 2020 from 02.08.2021," according to the statement issued by the UPSC.

The e-summon letters of personality tests (Interviews) of the candidates will be made available shortly, which may be downloaded from the Commission's website www.upsc.gov.in and www.upsconline.in. it said.

"No request for change in the



date and time of the personality test (interview) intimated to the candidates will ordinarily be entertained," the Commission said.

On the basis of the results of the civil services (main) examination, 2020, declared by the UPSC on March 23 this year, the Commission decided to commence the personality tests (interviews) of the civil services (main) examination, 2020, from April 26.

"However, due to unprecedented growth in the number of people infected with novel coronavirus (CO-VID-19) countrywide, as a precautionary measure, the Union Public Service Commission deferred the personality test of the civil services examination 2020, which were scheduled to commence with effect from 26.04.2020," the statement said, PTI

Ramdev's U-Turn: All 'Good Doctors' Are Messengers Of God, Will Get Vaccinated Soon

Haridwar: Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of centralised Covid vaccination drive for all adults and administering Covid vaccines free of cost at government hospitals for adults from June 21, Yoga guru Ramdev on Wednesday urged everybody to get vaccinated and stated that he too will take the jab soon.

He stated that people should practice yoga and Ayurveda, which will act as a shield against diseases and will prevent Covid casualties.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made a historic announcement of vaccinating every citizen free of cost from June 21. Everybody should get vaccinated. Also, people should practice yoga and Ayurveda which will prepare a protective shield against disease and will also prevent Covid casualties. I will also get vaccinated soon."

Commenting on the drug mafia, he said, "We cannot be at enmity with any organisation. And all the good doctors are all messengers sent by God on this earth. They are a gift to this planet. But if a person being a doctor does anything wrong then that is the fault of that individual. Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadh stores had to be opened because drug mafias have opened fancy shops where they are selling unnecessary medicines at very high prices instead of basic and necessary ones."

"Our fight is not with the doctors of the country, the doctors who are opposing us, they are not doing it

through an institution," he added. After controversy over allopathy and Ayurveda, the yoga guru stated that there was no doubt that allopathy is better in terms of emergency cases and surgeries but

Ayurveda treats incurable diseases. "We want that nobody should be



harassed in the name of medicines and people should refrain from unnecessary medication. There is no doubt that allopathy is better for emergency cases and surgeries. But other life-threatening diseases, incurable disorders can be cured through ancient practices listed in

Yoga Ayurveda, which is not a matter of argument," said Ramdev. As the Uttarakhand government

announced certain relaxations amid the ongoing Covid-induced curfew, Baba Ramdev requested the state government to allow Char Dham Yatra with Covid guidelines.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Wednesday wrote to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) against yoga guru Ramdev alleging him of making "Unprovoked demeaning and prejudicing utterances against modern medi-

The controversy started with a video, floating on different social media sites, showing Ramdev terming modern allopathy "a stu-

pid and failed science" Last week, the IMA had appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take appropriate action under sedition and other charg-

es against Ramdev for allegedly 'spearheading a misinformation campaign on Covid vaccination".

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

On May 23, Ramdev had withdrawn his statements on allopathic medicine after receiving a strongworded letter from Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan who called his remarks "inappropriate".

According to the Haridwarbased Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust statement, Ramdev was reading out a WhatsApp forwarded message in the video that has gone viral on social media. (ANI)

Sweltering In Delhi As Mercury Remains Above 40



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: For the second consecutive day, the mercury went past 40 degrees in the national capital on Thursday settling at 41 degrees Celsius, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The minimum temperature will remain one notch above the season's average at 29 degrees Celsius.

The haze, the UV index has made it feel more like 46 degrees Celsius though, with the IMD saying that dry weather in the city is a major

contributor to the rise in temperature which is expected to further go up in the coming days.

The national capital on Wednesday settled at 42.2 degrees Celsius maximum, three notches above the season's average, while the minimum temperature was 31.4 degrees Celsius, four notches above the season's average The IMD has forecast a partly

cloudy sky and strong surface wind blowing at a speed of up to 20-30 kmph during the day.

Delhi's air quality index (AQI) on