



P3 CITY

CEO ERA DIRECTS OFFICERS TO COMPLETE PROJECT IN 90 DAYS

Chief Executive Officer, JKERA/ITFRP, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah Saturday conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing Parimpora-Soibugh road sub-project being executed by JKERA...

P6 THINK

SHROUD OF SECRECY BEHIND SPECULATIONS

Last week, a rumour surfaced that the Modi government was going to again furcate Jammu and Kashmir to pave way for a separate state for the Jammu region – a longstanding demand of...



P11 SPORTS

ITALY PUT ON A SHOW WITH 3-0 WIN OVER TURKEY IN EURO 2020 OPENER

Italy kicked off the European Championship in emphatic style on Friday as they delivered a commanding performance to sweep past toothless Turkey 3-0 in the...



2 Cops, 2 Civilians Killed In Sopore Shootout

Police Officer Among 3 More Injured In Exchange Of Fire



An elderly woman breaks down during the funeral of a civilian killed in Sopore shootout on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Ajaz Ali

SRINAGAR: In an audacious broad daylight attack,

Lashkar-e-Taiba militants opened fire upon a police team in Sopore town of Baramulla district leaving ● More On P10

Lashkar Behind Attack: DGP

SRINAGAR: The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was behind Saturday's attack on policemen in Sopore in which two cops and as many civilians were killed, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said here. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a wreath-laying ceremony for the two slain police constables, Singh asserted that the perpetrators had been identified and would be brought to justice very soon. He said it was a Sopore police station team on COVID-19 duty that came under attack. ● More On P10

Saudi's Bar Overseas Hajj Pilgrims For 2nd Year

Agencies

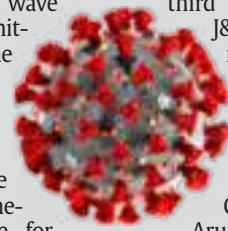
DUBAI: Saudi Arabia announced Saturday this year's hajj pilgrimage will be limited to no more than 60,000 people, all of them from within the kingdom, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The announcement by the kingdom comes after it ran an incredibly pared-down pilgrimage last year over the virus, but still allowed a small number of the faithful to take part in the annual ceremony. A statement on the state-run Saudi Press Agency quoted the kingdom's Hajj and Umrah Ministry making the announcement. It said this year's hajj, which will begin in mid-July, will be limited to those ages 18 to 65. Those taking part must be vaccinated as well, the ministry said. "The kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is honoured to host pilgrims every year, confirms that this arrangement comes out of its constant concern for the health, safety and security of pilgrims as well as the safety of their countries," the statement said. In last year's hajj, ● More On P10

J&K Gears Up To Battle Possible 3rd Corona Wave

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid widespread fears about the third wave of coronavirus hitting the country, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday asked officials that the trajectory of the disease must be put under meticulous surveillance for early detection of new trends towards a probable third wave.

Chairing a meeting to oversee the preparation of action plan for tackling a possible third wave of Covid in J&K based on the recommendations of an expert advisory committee headed by Prof. Mohammad Sultan Khuroo, the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Saturday emphasized the need for ● More On P10



J&K Reports 866 New Cases, 14 Deaths

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 866 more cases of novel coronavirus while 14 more people died of the infection at various healthcare facilities across the Union Territory ● More On P10

Delta Variant Ravaged J&K

Jammu: The spurt in coronavirus fatalities across the Union Territory, especially in Jammu division last month have been attributed to the B.1.617.2 variant of coronavirus named as ● More On P10

Elective Surgeries Allowed In Non-Covid Hospitals

SRINAGAR: Amid drop in covid-19 cases, Directorate Of Health Services Kashmir on Saturday ordered resumption of elective surgeries in hospitals in the ● More On P10

First Black Fungus Case Detected At SKIMS

The doctors at the premiere health care institution of Kashmir, SK Institute of Medical Sciences, have detected the first post Covid-19 case having Mucormycosis ● More On P10

India Says Desire 'Normal' Neighbourly Ties With Pakistan

Press Trust Of India

United Nations: India has said it desires normal" neighbourly relations with all countries, including Pakistan, and asserted that the onus is on Islamabad to create a "conducive atmosphere" and not allow its territory to be used for cross-border militancy against India in any manner. The remarks by Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission to the UN, R Madhu Sudan came at the UN General Assembly meeting on Report of the Security Council for 2020' on Friday. India desires normal neighbourly relations with all ● More On P10

US Official Concerned About Kashmir Situation

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: India remains the world's largest democracy with a strong rule of law but some of the Indian government's actions, including restrictions on freedom of expression, have raised concerns that are inconsistent with the country's democratic values, a top US official has told lawmakers. Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Dean Thompson's remarks came ● More On P10

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

KASHMIR 13.06.2021

Shri Manoj Sinha
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

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

ANANTNAG			BUDGAM			BARAMULLA			SRINAGAR		
Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category	Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category	Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category	Sl. No.	Vaccination Centre Name	Category
1	PHC Achabal	High Risk Group	9	NTPHC LALPORA	High Risk Group	1	CHC Pattan	High Risk Group	1	GMC Srinagar & Associated Hospital	High Risk Group
2	NTPHC Tailwani		10	HWC CHARANGAM		2	SHC Singhpora		2	SKIMS Soura	
3	PHC Brakpora		11	HWC SAIL		3	NTPHC Pathhallan		3	JLNM Rainawari	
4	UPHC Donipawa		12	HWC ISKENDERAPORA		4	NTPHC Wanigam		4	JVC Bemina	
5	NTPHC Dailgam		13	HWC MERIPORA		5	NTPHC G K Qasim		5	UPHC Zakura	
6	UPHC Nathpora		14	HWC HARD MALPORA		6	PHC Kunzer		6	UPHC Shalimar	
7	PHC Anchidora		15	HWC ICHAMA		7	PHC Seri Warpora		7	PHC Burzhama	
8	UPHC Pehroo		16	PHC SOIBUGH		8	PHC Hardu Aboora		8	UPHC Lal Bazar	
9	JBM Hospital Sarnal Anantnag		17	PHC WADWAN		9	PHC Mulgam		9	HWC Buchpora	
10	Town Hall Anantnag		18	NTPHC WAHABPORA		10	PHC Hayatpora		10	HWC Zoonimar	
11	SDH Bijbehara		19	HWC KHUSHIPORA		11	PHC HANJUARA		11	HWC Sangeen Darwaza	
12	PHC Marhama		20	HWC HAJIBAHU		12	PHC HAYATPORA		12	HWC Hawal	
13	PHC Sirhama		21	SC PYMUS		13	PHC KANIR		13	UPHC S.R Gunj	
14	PHC K.Kalan		22	SC AARTH		14	PHC HUSHROO		14	UPHC Narwara	
15	PHC Veeri		23	HWC RUSSU		15	PHC ZOOHAMA		15	NTPHC Habbu Kadal	
16	PHC Khiram		24	PHC KHAG		16	SC NAMTHAL		16	MMC Noorbagh	
17	PHC Akingam		25	PHC LASSIPORA		17	PHC RAPORA		17	NTPHC Bakshipora	
18	PHC Sagam		26	PHC POSHKAR		18	PHC BRANWAR		18	SDH Tangmarg	
19	PHC Wandewalgam		27	HWC SHINGUPORA		19	PHC BUGAM		19	PHC Gulmarg	
20	PHC Larnoo		28	NTPHC LOKIPORA		20	PHC KRALPORA		20	PHC Hariwatnoo	
21	SDH Kokernag	29	SC SUGEN	21	CHC CHATTERGAM	21	NTPHC Babarshi				
22	SDH Seer	30	HWC DRANG	22	PHC PAHROO	22	NTPHC Khaipora				
23	PHC Aishmuqam	31	HWC SORESH	23	CHC SUMMERBUGH	23	PHC Boniyar				
24	NTPHC Siligam	32	HWC SUTHARAN	24	HWC KENIHAMA	24	PHC Warikha				
25	PHC Mattan	33	HWC HAMCHIPORA	25	SC SHANKERPORA	25	PHC Bijhama				
26	PHC Hapalnard	34	SC ZOGIYARA	26	HWC WAGOORA	26	NTPHC Trikarnjan				
27	PHC Salia	35	HWC TRAPHY	27	HWC MEGANWAJI	27	PHC Chetdora				
28	PHC Sallar	36	SC NASSERPORA	28	HWC RAKHSHILINA	28	SDH Tangmarg				
29	PHC Awora	37	CHARISHAREEF SDH	29	CHC KREMSHORE	29	PHC Gulmarg				
30	PHC Pahalgam	38	COLONY WELLNESS	30	SDH KHANSAHIB	30	PHC Hariwatnoo				
31	PHC Sirgultwara	39	CHARIPORA WELLNESS	31	PHC HARDPANZOO	31	NTPHC Babarshi				
32	SDH Shangus	40	CHARWANI NTPHC	32	PHC WATERHAIL	32	Sub Centre Darbagh				
33	PHC Nowgam	41	TILSURA NTPHC	33	PHC KACHWARI	33	UPHC Talbal				
34	PHC Chittergull	42	NAGBAL NTPHC	34	PHC DABIPORA	34	CHC Gousia				
35	PHC Ranipora	43	BRADIPATHER NTPHC	35	SC ARIGAM	35	NTPHC Rainawari				
36	PHC Hakura	44	PAKHARPORA CHC	36	PHC KRALNEIWA	36	PHC Brein				
37	NTPHC Larkipora	45	NTPHC PARISABAD	37	PHC RAYAR	37	Sub Centre Braripora				
38	SDH Dooru	46	PHC OMPORA	38	PHC NUNNER	38	PHC Chanapora				
		47	PHC ICHGAM	39	PHC SHAMASABAD	39	NTPHC Chatterhama				
		48	PHC NUPORA	40	PHC GURWAITH	40	UPHC Batamloo				
		49	PHC SHOLIPORA	41	NTPHC RINGZABAL	41	UPHC Khonmoh				
		50	SC BATHAR	42	SDH MAGAM	42	UPHC Pantha Chowk				
		51	SDH MAGAM	43	PHC NARBAL	43	UPHC Humhama				
		52	PHC NARBAL	53	PHC MAKHAMA	44	PHC Laloo				
		53	PHC MAKHAMA	54	NTPHC BADRAN	45	PHC Jawahar Nagar				
		54	NTPHC BADRAN	55	NTPHC MAZHAMA	46	Sub Centre Natipora				
		55	NTPHC MAZHAMA	56	SC KANIHAMA	47	UPHC Lasjan				
		56	SC KANIHAMA	57	SC SHIPORA						
		57	SC SHIPORA	58	SC HANJIBUGH						
		58	SC HANJIBUGH	59	SC WASSAN						
		59	SC WASSAN								

For Free Ambulance Service Please Call Toll Free No. 108

Health and Medical Education Department, J&K

@jkinformation @dipr-jk @diprjk



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Sunday| 13-06-2021

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: The Bhumi Fellowship 2021-22

Description: Bhumi is inviting applications from young graduates between 20 and 30 years of age and offering a two-year, non-residential fellowship to them towards improving the quality of education in India. The fellowship aims to create a cadre of changemakers who transform schools in the short-term and lead the next movement in education in the long-term.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for final year students/graduates between 20 and 30 years of age. They must have past volunteering or work experience in any field. They should be passionate about transforming the education system with a willingness to commit to a two-year full-time fellowship.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 18,000 per month and other benefits
Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2021
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/THBI

Scholarship Name 2: IIT Jodhpur Senior Research Fellowship 2021

Description: Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur invites applications for IIT Jodhpur Senior Research Fellowship 2021 from postgraduate degree holders. The fellowship is meant for the project titled, "Ga2O3-based Nanomaterials with Controlled Defect and Impurity Composition for Advanced Electronic Devices".

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates below 35 years of age who hold an M.Sc. degree in Physics/ Chemistry/Nanotechnology/Materials Science with CSIR/UGC NET or GATE with 2 years of Research Experience, or an M.Tech. degree in Micro-electronics/Electronics/Nanotechnology/Physics/Materials with GATE or NET with 2 years of Research Experience. The desired qualifications of the candidates must also include knowledge in thin film de-



position, optoelectronic devices, device fabrication, material characterization, etc.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 35,000 per month plus HRA
Last Date to Apply: 25-06-2021
Application mode: Via email only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RSR4

Scholarship Name 3: COVID Crisis (Jyoti Prakash) Support Scholarship Program 2021

Description: COVID Crisis (Jyoti Prakash) Support Scholarship program aims to support children who are left vulnerable and with very little or no financial

support for their further education owing to a COVID-led crisis in their family.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian students from Class 1 to Graduation. Those who have been through any of the following crisis situation - loss of parent(s)/earning family member since January 2020 or loss of job/employment of an earning family member, can apply.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 30,000 per year and mentorship benefits
Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2021
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/CCSPI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing No: JK095262. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Kupwara within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Iqbal Mir
S/O Abdul Ahad Mir
R/O Kakroosa Handwara

sult

NOTICE

I intend to apply for contractor's DEE Class Card if any body having any objection in this regard He/She may file the same in the office of the R&B division Khanabal Anantnag. No objection will be entertained after stipulated time.

Ishrat Rahman Rather
S/o: Ab Rahman Rather
R/o:- Bonigam Qazigund
A/p:- S K Colony Anantnag

RNS

Department of (AYUSH) Govt. of J & K. District Anantnag.
AYUSH Immuno Booster Medicine Distributed at Village Hassanpora Bijbehara Anantnag. from Govt. ISM Dispensary Hassanpora Bijbehara Anantnag.



On 12/06/2021: Following the Protocol of AYUSH Department-Ministry of AYUSH Govt. of India and the Orders of Director ISM J&K Dr. Mohan Singh 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 Village Hassanpora Bijbehara from Govt. AYUSH Dispensary Hassanpora Bijbehara Anantnag. 257 beneficiaries received immunity boosting drugs and also were briefed about importance of Ayush immunity boosters in enhancement of human immunity to combat Covid 19 pandemic along other important preventive measures.

MJA

Tel: 0191-2561547 | E-Mail ID: directorsw-11@jk.gov.in
Fax: 0191-2575362

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Directorate Of Sainik Welfare Ambphalla Jammu

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE:- 189 ESTT/DSW/2021

D A T E D:- 08 June 2021

1. Applications are invited on the proforma attached as Appendix 'A' to this Notification for the following posts on contractual basis for three years:-

Name of Post	No of Post	Pay Scale	Minimum Qualification
Lady Assistant Zila Sainik Welfare Office, Jammu (District Cadre)	01	L-6E (35900-113500) (Basic Pay only authorized)	i) Should be Civil Graduate. ii) Should have served in the Defence Forces/Widow of Armed Forces Personnel/ Wife of Ex-Servicemen/Wife of Serving Armed Forces Personnel. iii) Minimum age 21 years, Maximum age 52 years. iv) Should qualify entrance test as per prescribed syllabus.

2. The prescribed application form should reach Zila Sainik Welfare Office Jammu by 15 July 2021 alongwith attested copies of following documents:-

- Academic Qualification Certificate and Marks Certificate.
- Permanent Resident Certificate/Domicile Certificate.
- Discharge Certificate of individual, where applicable.
- Pension Payment Order, where applicable.
- A certificate from CO/OC Troops of husband in active service for wife of serving Armed Forces Personnel/Part Two Order.

- The department has full right to reject the application forms not meeting the eligibility conditions.
- Eligible candidates will have to appear for a written test and interview at their own expenses.
- Incomplete application forms, application not accompanied by the requisite attested copies of certificates as indicated above and applications received late will be not be considered.
- The place and date of interview shall be intimated later. The candidates who apply for the post and do not get a call letter for Written Test/Interview will not seek reasons for rejection of their applications from the department.

DIPK-2787/21

No:- 357-Estt/Rect/DSW/2021/

Dated:- June 2021

(Brigadier Gurmeet Singh Shan)
Director, Sainik Welfare Deptt, J&K

Appendix A

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS LADY ASSISTANT ZSWO JAMMU

(FILLED APPLICATION BE SENT TO ZILA SAINIK WELFARE OFFICE,
AMBPHALLA, JAMMU -180005)

- Name of candidate -----
- No. Rank and Name of husband/Ex-Service Women -----
- Father's Name -----
- Address:- (Permanent & Present)-----
- Tele No -----
- E-mail id-----
- Date of birth -----
- Date of Enrolment of husband/ ESM Women -----
- Date of Discharge of husband/ESM Women-----
- Cause of Discharge of husband/ESM Women (in case discharged on medical grounds, mention disability with % and also attach disability certificate) -----
- Character at the time of discharge of husband/ESM Women-----
- Pension Payment Order, where applicable (Attach attested copies of certificate)-----
- Certificate from CO/OC Troops of husband in active service for wife of serving Armed Forces Personnel/Part Two Order, where applicable, attach -----
- Are you a permanent resident of the State /Domicile, if so attach attested copy-----
- Qualifications:- (Class 10th onwards, Attested copies of certificates including marks certificates be attached)

Name of the Examination	Year of Passing	Name of University/Board	Percentage of marks obtained	Division obtained

- Computer/IT qualifications/experience (Attach attested copies of certificates) -----
- Past experience, if any (brief note) -----
- Have you ever been arrested/imprisoned under law -----
- It is certified that I am a bonafide ex-service Women/Widow of Armed Forces Personnel/Wife of Ex-Servicemen/Wife of Serving Armed Forces Personnel and am drawing Rs. ----- as army pension. pension of Rs. -----
- Dated: -----
- Place: -----

Signature of the applicant

SPACE FOR
PHOTOGRAPH OF
APPLICANT DULY
ATTESTED

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Handwara

Fresh NIT No. 14 /e-tendering /HND/2021-22/ 1758-64 DATED_ 11-06-2021_

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Improvement/Restoration of Sagipora Kulangam road by way of P/L WBM G-II, 75mm thick wet mix incl. 25mm thick semidense with 6mm seal coat in patches/stretches (Machine mix liad by paver)	12.00	600/-	07days	HMPO/ B C & D	3054-M&R (Renewal coat)
2	Improvement/Restoration of H.S link Boys/Girls incl. Divisional office link road by way of P/L WBM G-II, 75mm thick wet mix incl. 25mm thick semidense with 6mm seal coat in patches/stretches (Machine mix liad by paver)	15.00	600/-	07days	HMPO/ B C & D	3054-M&R (Renewal coat)
3	Improvement/Restoration of Handwara Zachaldara Nichama road in Km 2 nd to 8 th , 9 th half and Km 11 th to 17 th by way of P/L WBM G-II, 75mm thick wet mix incl. 25mm thick semidense with 6mm seal coat in patches/stretches (Machine mix liad by paver)	22.89	800/-	07days	HMPO/ B & C	3054-M&R (Renewal coat)
4	Improvement/Restoration of Wadipora Baderkalji road in Km 1 st to 5 th by way of P/L WBM G-II, 75mm thick wet mix incl. 25mm thick semidense with 6mm seal coat in patches/stretches (Machine mix liad by paver)	8.95	600/-	05days	HMPO/ C & D	3054-M&R (Renewal coat)
5	Improvement/Restoration of Handwara Magam Shahloora road in Km 7 th to 13 th by way of P/L WBM G-II, 75mm thick wet mix incl. 25mm thick semidense with 6mm seal coat in patches/stretches (Machine mix liad by paver)	13.00	600/-	07days	HMPO/ B C & D	3054-M&R (Renewal coat)
6	Improvement/Restoration of Dorul-Aloom Bonpora at Renan Handwara road by way of P/L 75mm thick wet mix incl. 25mm thick semidense with 6mm seal coat in patches/stretches (Machine mix liad by manually)	5.00	200/-	03days	HMPO/ DEE	3054-M&R (Renewal coat)
7	Improvement/Restoration of Magam Zeb road by way of P/L WBM G-II, 75mm thick wet mix incl. 25mm thick semidense with 6mm seal coat in patches/stretches (Machine mix liad by manually)	5.00	200/-	03days	HMPO/ DEE	3054-M&R (Renewal coat)

- Position of AAA: Recorded
- Position of TS Granted:
- Position of Funds.- Available.
- 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:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11-06-2021
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 11-06-2021 to 18-06-2021 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	11-06-2021 from (6.00P.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	18-06-2021 (04.00P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	19-06-2021 at (11.00A.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division Handwara

Terms and Conditions as per Circular issued by fiancé department vide No.A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dt.22-12-2020

The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

a. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

b. GST R-3B latest returns for Previous Monthly irrespective of date of Tender should be uploaded.

c. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration)

d. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape E-Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (E-Challan) must be purchased after tender date and Boldly written Name of Work, Name of Contractor with contact No, NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Handwara (tender inviting authority)

e. In case the L-1 fails deposit the requisite document, the action against the L-1 as per PWD rules leading to blacklisting of contractor

f. On Opening of financial bid the L1 has to produce the Original CDR/FDR pledge to the opening Authority before allotting the work along with Cost of tender document in the shape of E-Challan g. Upload Valid Registration CARD /Renewal, PAN Card, GST Certificate, latest GST clearance ending previous Month and verification certificate of Registration card.

h. It is mandatory for all bidders participating to submit all documents in terms of soft copies in tendering website and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. However, lowest bidder will be called for submission of CDR/FDR as well as E-Challan and CDR/FDR of the other participating tenderers/ bidders will be released only after surrender of E-Challan.

i. Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

j. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

k. The contractor may purchase required material of quality and specifications prescribed, to be certified by Engineer in-charge

l. The steel/Key construction material shall be allowed only of approved brand by the government.

m. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

n. The tenderers are directed to submit their tender online; in case the last date of opening of tenders happens to be a holiday/hartal the same shall be opened on the next working day.

Qualification of the Bidder

In order to qualify all bidders shall upload following documents as defined below:-

i. Registration Card duly renewed for the current financial year 2021-22. PAN Card, GST Certificate, latest GST clearance ending April 2021 and verification certificate of registration card.

ii. In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651Dt. 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of Challan / receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Handwara on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0059.

iii. All bidders have to upload bid security declaration form instead of earnest money as per circular of finance department.

1. The tenderers shall quote their rates legibly both in words, and figures. In case of any confusion resulting on account of rates not being written neatly and legibly decision of department shall be final and binding upon the tenderers.

2. The tenders shall remain valid for a minimum period of three month from the date of opening of the tenders.

3. The work shall have to be executed strictly in accordance with the specification laid down by the Deptt./Executive Engineer in charge of the work with in the time limit specified failing which penalty up to Rs.1500/day for first 10 days & Rs.3000/day for next 15days & 15% on the total value of the work will be imposed upon the contractor which shall be at the discretion Of the Engineer in charge Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer /Executive Engineer. On contractors representation based on the valid grounds, the Executive Engineer/superintending engineer /Chief Engineer however reserves the right for granting an Extension in the time limit for any definite period of time and in case the work is not still completed within the period so extended the contractors security deposit shall be forfeited in addition to imposition of other penalties as laid down in the rules regulation for the registration of the contractors besides recovery of extra cost if any involved after getting the work done through any other agency.

4. In respect of bridge work, the span of the bridge may vary depending upon the condition at site. The rates to be quoted shall therefore hold good for variation up to 25% in the span.

5. Only those contractors should caste their tender for the work whose form capacity falls, with in the specified category of classes and whose registration cards are valid for the current financial year and also the Reqd. cards can accommodate the work advertised.

9 For any item or item of works necessitated to be executed during the course of execution the contractor shall be paid for on the basis of revised sanctioned schedule 2012 in vogue for Kashmir province subject to contractors tender percentage accepted for the item lowest in contract with respect to SSR of 2012, properly by ratio peroration formula correction dealing with any point in connection with the tender shall not be considered. Tender put in the proper form /tender document will only be accepted.

No:- 1758-64
DT: 11-06-2021

DIPK-2779/21

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Handwara.

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PARIMPORA–SOIBUGH ROAD

CEO ERA Directs Officers To Complete Project In 90 Days



SRINAGAR: Chief Executive Officer, JKERA/JFRP, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah Saturday conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing Parimpora–Soibugh road sub-project being executed by JKERA under the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project.

The Parimpora-Soibugh road connects two districts including Srinagar and central Kashmir's district Budgam. The existing road is being upgraded with improved flexible design and protective measures.

The completion of this road would augment the road infrastructure between the two neighbouring districts and would also connect the important tourist and religious destinations.

During the inspection, the CEO passed strict instructions for immediately speeding up the work and completing the project in the next 90 days. Major civil works of road comprise of improvement of road geometrics and widening of blind curves/black spots.

The CEO directed the engineering staff and contractor to ensure that the quality of the civil works is maintained as per best standards—directing Technical Assistance and Quality Assurance Compliance (TAQAC) officials to regularly monitor the quality and progress of work on a weekly basis.

The CEO directed the contractor to immediately increase the manpower and machinery deployed to ensure that the project is completed well within time. On-the-spot directions were issued to the Engineering staff for strict weekly monitoring of progress. He said that the heavy liquidity damages as penalty would be imposed on the contractors for failing to adhere to the deadlines.

Later, CEO ERA met several local deputations during his visit, who apprised him about various issues pertaining to the project.

The locals appreciated the role of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha who led the administration for speeding up the development works in the area.

CS Jal Shakti Reviews Status Of Water Supply To Srinagar City, Peripheral Areas

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, M. Raju, Saturday reviewed status of water supply to Srinagar city and peripheral areas in the backdrop of affected water supply to these areas for the past few days.

Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Chief Engineer, PHE Kashmir, Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir, Jal Shakti Department Srinagar and Executive Engineer, Water Works Jal Shakti Division Srinagar attended the meeting.

It was informed that water supply in some parts of Srinagar City remained affected for the last few days due to issues in Power Canal of Ganderbal Preng and Sindh Extension Canal which is the only source of raw water to four Water Treatment Plants of PHE department from which water is supplied to major portion of Srinagar City.

The water was being used for power generation and irrigation of local fields which considerably reduced raw water supplies to the treatment plant. The matter was taken up with Power Development Corporation and as a result the power generation

at Ganderbal was stopped to spare water for drinking and irrigation purposes. The supply position has been restored to normal now.

The concerned Chief Engineer and Executive Engineer of Jal Shakti Department informed that the water supply to the Srinagar city at the moment is quite normal as 93 MGD (Million Gallon per day) is being supplied to the city and its outskirts through 9 modern water treatment plants which are running quite normal and to their full capacity.

They further apprised that there are some pockets in city like parts of Omer Colony including Gousia Mohalla which fall at the tail end of the water supply system and get water for a limited duration only. This situation shall be countered by installation of a new production well at Malbagh replacing an already abandoned tube well for which finances have been arranged under Capex this year.

People have been asked to immediately contact the control room of PHE Jal Shakti Department at telephone numbers 0194-2452047, 0194-2477207 in case of any problem related to water supply to their respective area.

Mayor SMC Directs Officials To Ensure Proper Drinking Water Supply

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mayor SMC Junaid Azim Mattu Saturday reviewed the status of Water Supply Scheme of Srinagar City. He emphasized on preparation of Master plan for PHE for Srinagar city. During a meeting, Mattu stressed the need for augmentation of existing city water supply scheme and directed officials to ensure proper distribution of qualitative and safe drinking water to the citizens of Srinagar.

Mayor further directed the Department of Jal Shakti to prepare DPR's for SCADA system and for adding of new water treatment plants for providing standard water quality.

It was also directed to the PHE officials to ensure enforcement against installation of direct boosters on pipelines in collaboration with Ward officers of SMC.

At the end of the meeting Mattu reiterated that monthly status related water supply issues is to be sought that shall be personally monitored by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti.

X-Ray Unit Inaugurated At Govt Unani Hospital Shalteng

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday inaugurated X-Ray Unit in the hospital which fulfilled the long pending demand of the local population and the hospital management.

Interacting with the Medical and Paramedical staff, the DC enquired

about the facilities being provided to the patients. He urged them to discharge their professional duties with added zeal and dedication to ensure better healthcare facilities to the patients.

The DC directed the hospital authorities to ensure cleanliness in and around hospital besides strict adherence to Covid-19 SOPs.

The DC asked the Medical Superintendent of the hospital to undertake

necessary work for face lifting of the hospital. He also asked him to submit a proposal for acquisition of additional land for construction of residential quarters for hospital staff.

The DC said that Government has kept available alternate choice of treatment facilities for patients. He said patients can opt for alternate treatment as AYUSH treatment has long term benefits.

DC Srinagar Urges Religious Leaders To Influence People On Vaccination

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to speed up the Covid-19 vaccination drive in Srinagar district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Saturday held a consultation session with religious leaders in his office, here.

As many as 30 religious leaders including Imams, Khateebis participated in the interaction, while Additional Deputy Commissioners Syed Hanief Balkhi and Khurshid Ahmad besides Chief Medical Officer Srinagar were also present on the occasion.

During the interaction, the DC urged the leaders to use their influence to make people aware about the importance of anti covid vaccination to safeguard themselves, their family and other citizens.

He said that in the present situation of fight against Covid-19 pandemic, it is a collective responsibility of one and all to contribute their bit by adopting Covid-19 Appropri-

ate Behavior and inoculating the population with Covid-19 vaccination shots.

He said no one has the right to put others life at risk. Not vaccine but Vaccination is the magic bullet against Corona virus, he added.

While expressing their views, all the religious leaders unanimously underscored the importance of health, they said that health has the utmost importance in all religions and we should take care of it and listen to medical experts who are making all efforts to save lives that have been heavily impacted due to the ongoing pandemic.

They agreed that they will appeal to the people not to pay any attention to any rumours and shun unscientific myths about the vaccine.

The DC also conveyed to them that vaccinated regions are not affected with the attack of virus rather they are safer. We will win the fight against Covid only by vaccination and adherence to Covid protocol, he stated.

اثر نیابت قلم ایاد

مضمون کا نقذات درخواست منجانب اشفاق احمد نکی ولد غلام احمد گنائی ساکنہ لچہ برادر عطا گئی بیکوارڈ ایراسرفٹکلنیت تحت 294 SRO

اشتبہار برادر آ گائی ہر خاص وعام

معاذ حقہ عنوان اصرہ میں درخواست مانگ وقرضائیں بیکارڈ کی ہے اس سلسلے میں بیکارڈی ستر پورٹ شمولہ بیکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے جواب ہے کہ سرگرمی پیش نہیں ہوا بلکہ بیکارڈی کے بعد بیکارڈی طلب ہے سرگنیک ایئر کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کسی خطریا اعتراض جتوہا پتا ملدیا اعتراض ساتھ ہم دلا دینا پڑاں پیش کر کے معیار کرنے بعد کوئی بھی خطریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا نامہ خیسندہ

SULT

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SULT_R

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SULT_R

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SULT_R

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1325 - Ibn Battuta begins his travels, leaving his home in Tangiers to travel to Mecca (gone 24 years)
- 1373 - Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of Alliance (world's oldest extant) signed in London
- 1900 - In China, Baron von Kettler, the German minister to China, beats two young Boxers with his walking stick; when word of this circulates, rioting and arson spread throughout Peking during the night
- 1932 - Great Britain and France sign peace treaty
- 1937 - Stalin executes Russian officers Tuchachevski, Jakir, Putna and Uberevitch
- 1940 - Paris evacuates before German advance
- 1942 - 1st V-2 rocket launch, Peenemunde, Germany; reached 1.3 km
- 1942 - Germany lands 4 saboteurs on Long Island
- 1942 - US Office of Strategic Services (OSS) formed
- 1942 - The United States opens its Office of War Information, with Elmer Davis as head
- 1944 - German counter attack on Villers-Bocage, Normandy
- 1944 - Nazi Germany begins V-1 (Fieseler Fi-103) flying bomb (doodle-bugs) attacks
- 1946 - 1st transcontinental round-trip flight in 1-day, California-Maryland
- 1951 - UN arm forces reach Pyongyang Korea
- 1965 - Vietnam War: Battle of Dong Xoai ends in a Viet Cong victory
- 1966 - US Supreme Court's Miranda decision; suspects must be informed of rights
- 1971 - "The New York Times" begins publishing excerpts from the Pentagon Papers, classified documents on the long history of the U.S. in Vietnam
- 1971 - In defiance of a government ban, members of the Orange Order march through the mainly Catholic town of Dungiven, County Londonderry, causing a riot
- 1972 - The Irish Republican Army invites British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Willie Whitelaw to "Free Derry"; Whitelaw rejects offer and reaffirms his policy to not "let part of the United Kingdom ... default from the rule of law"
- 1974 - IMF establishes its "oil facility", a special fund for loans to nations whose balance of payments have been severely affected by high oil prices.
- 1977 - Convicted Martin Luther King assassin James Earl Ray recaptured
- 1978 - Israeli Defense Forces withdraw from Lebanon.

From KO Archives

No Power On Earth Can Change Of Kashmir Status: Farooq

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

Observer News Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Kashmir Observer, 13 June, 2005)

G7 Adopts Global Infrastructure Plan In Riposte To China



Agencies

More than 100 countries have signed agreements with China to cooperate in BRI projects like railways, ports, highways and other infrastructure.

G7 leaders on Saturday adopted a rival plan to oppose China's Belt and Road Initiative by helping build infrastructure in poorer nations in a "values-driven, high-standard and transparent" partnership.

The adoption of the US-inspired "Build Back Better World" (B3W) project came after President Joe Biden and leaders met to address "strategic competition with China and commit to concrete actions to help meet the tremendous infrastructure need in low- and middle-income countries," the White House said.

China has been widely criticised for saddling small countries with unmanageable debt as part of its trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, which has seen money lent for projects stretching across Asia, Africa, Latin America and even Europe.

President Xi Jinping launched the BRI in 2013 to significantly expand China's economic and political influence, with many of

the infrastructure plans seen as helping deliver its goods globally.

China denies any ulterior motives to the vast investment project.

But critics argue it uses the financial leverage arising from the scheme to boost its clout, in what they dub "debt-trap diplomacy."

The White House said the G7 initiative would be similarly global in scope, estimating that the developing world needs more than \$40 trillion in infrastructure, a gap "which has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic."

"B3W will collectively catalyse hundreds of billions of dollars of infrastructure investment for low- and middle-income countries in the coming years," it said.

Funding will emphasise the environment and climate, labour safeguards, transparency, and anti-corruption, it added, in implicit contrast to China's opaque funding.

Further details would come in the G7 summit's final communique on Sunday, the White House added.

The issue is close to home for the elite club of wealthy democracies.

Italy was the first member nation to sign on to the BRI, infuriating Washington as well as much of the European Union.

Pulitzer Prizes Honour Pandemic Reportage, Racial Justice Coverage

The Associated Press won two Pulitzer Prizes in photography Friday for its coverage of the racial injustice protests and the coronavirus's toll on the elderly, while The New York Times won the public service award for its in-depth, but accessible reporting on the pandemic.

The honours were among a series awarded for coverage of the pandemic and protests in 2020. The Star Tribune of Minneapolis won the breaking news prize for its reporting following the killing of George Floyd, while Darnella Frazier — the teenager who filmed Floyd's killing — received a special citation.

Frazier's award was intended to highlight "the crucial role of citizens in journalists' quest for truth and justice."

The AP and The New York Times each won two prizes.

The feature photography prize went to AP's chief photographer in Spain, Emilio Morenatti, who captured haunting images of an older couple embracing through a plastic sheet, mortuary workers in hazmat gear removing bodies and of people enduring the crisis in isolation.

The breaking news prize for protest coverage was shared by 10 AP photographers. One widely reproduced photograph by Julio Cortez on the night of May 28 in riot-torn Minneapolis shows a lone, silhouetted protester running with an upside-down American flag past a burning li-



quor store.

"It is a tremendous honor to win not only one, but two Pulitzer Prizes for photography, and a true testament to the talent and dedication of AP photojournalists," said AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt.

"These photographers told the stories of the year through remarkable and unforgettable images that resonated around the world."

The Star Tribune won for breaking news for its coverage of the May 25, 2020 killing of Floyd and the resulting civil unrest that tore through the city. Floyd, a Black man, died as he was being pinned to the ground by a white Minneapolis police officer.

Video of the killing sparked a wave of protests, first in the Twin Cities and then nationwide.(AP)

US, China Clash As Biden Debuts At G7 Meeting



Agencies

BEIJING: Beijing's top diplomat on Friday condemned Washington's "small circle" diplomacy, state media reported, in a phone call with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken as G7 leaders met for their first in-person summit in nearly two years.

Yang Jiechi, the Chinese Communist Party's chief diplomat, told Blinken that "genuine multilateralism is not pseudo-multilateralism based on the interests of small circles".

"The only genuine multilateralism is that founded on the principles of the charter of the United Nations and international law," Yang told Blinken, in their first one-on-one talks since acrimonious China-US discussions in Alaska in March.

The US administration of Joe Biden has maintained a firm line against China, and hopes to rally allies to counter Beijing on trade, technology and human rights -- particularly in Xinjiang, where Washington has accused China of genocide.

Yang on Friday hit back against those claims, urging the United States to "resolve its own grave human rights violations and not use so-called human rights issues as a pretext to arbitrarily interfere in the internal affairs of other countries".

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said in a statement that Blinken "stressed the importance of cooperation and transparency regarding the origin of the coronavirus", including allowing World Health Organisation experts back into China.

Biden has ordered US intelligence to report back by late August whether Covid-19, first detected in late 2019 in the city of Wuhan, emerged from an animal source or a laboratory accident.

Former president Donald Trump trotted out the lab-leak theory but was widely dismissed, with many believing he was seeking to deflect criticism over his own handling of the pandemic, but Biden has said there was a need for further study after criticising Beijing for not giving more access to a WHO probe.

The laboratory theory has outraged China, which has sought to rebrand itself in the world's eyes not as the country that failed to stop the virus, but as a model on how to contain it.

"Genuine multilateralism is not pseudo-multilateralism based on the interests of small circles," Yang told Blinken, according to state television.

"The only genuine multilateralism is that founded on the principles of the charter of

the United Nations and international law," Yang said.

Yang also renewed accusations of US hypocrisy on human rights as Blinken pressed on what the United States considers the genocide of Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim Turkic people who are incarcerated in camps.

"The United States should resolve its own domestic serious human rights violations, and not use the so-called human rights issues as an excuse to arbitrarily interfere in the internal affairs of other countries," he said.

Yang made similar accusations about the United States in front of cameras during the meeting in Anchorage, taking aback US officials who expected brief, civil remarks but raising his star power inside China.

Concern on Taiwan Blinken also voiced alarm at China's increasing pressure on Taiwan, including military flights off its coast.

Blinken "called on Beijing to cease its pressure campaign against Taiwan and peacefully resolve cross-strait issues", the State Department statement said.

The United States in recent days agreed to reopen trade talks with Taiwan and authorised a military plane to bring a delegation of senators who offered Covid vaccines.

Thousands March In Support Of Muslim Family Killed In Truck Attack In Canada

Agencies

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called the killings a 'terrorist attack' and vowed to clamp down on far-right groups and online hate.

Thousands of people marched on Friday in support of a Canadian Muslim family run over and killed by a man driving a pickup truck last Sunday in an attack the police described as a hate crime.

The four victims, spanning three generations, were killed when Nathaniel Veltman, 20, ran into them while they were out for an evening walk near their home. A fifth family member, a 9-year-old boy, survived.

People in London, Ontario marched about 7 kilometers (4.4 miles) from the spot where the family was struck down to a nearby mosque, the site close to where Veltman



was arrested by police.

Some carried placards with messages reading "Hate has no home here," "Love over hate." Similar events were held in other cities in Ontario, Canada's most populous province.

"The best part was not just the numbers ... but the diversity of the people coming from every single community in London, coming together for this cause," said 19-year old college student Abdullah Al Jarad at the march.

The attack sparked outrage

across Canada, with politicians from all sides condemning the crime, spurring growing calls to take action to curb hate crime and Islamophobia.

Veltman made a brief court appearance on Thursday and will return to court on Monday. He faces four charges of first-degree murder and one of attempted murder.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called the killings a "terrorist attack" and vowed to clamp down on far-right groups and online hate.

Italy Limits AstraZeneca Vaccine Shots To People Above 60

Agence France-Presse

ROME: Italy said Saturday it would restrict the AstraZeneca vaccine to the over-60s, with younger people who have already received one dose to complete the cycle with an mRNA jab.

The change follows an improvement in coronavirus infection rates in Italy, which has been devastated by the pandemic but will next week lift restrictions in much of the country following a sharp decline in cases.

The EU's medicine agency in April drew a link between rare blood clots and AstraZeneca jabs but stressed that the benefits of the vaccines outweighed the risks. "The changed epidemiological situation has led to a reassessment of the risk-benefit ratio for age groups less at risk of severe forms of Covid-19," the Italian government's Technical and Scientific Committee (CTS) said.

A health ministry statement Saturday updating the CTS opinion on vaccines said that AstraZeneca's vaccine should now be given "only to people aged 60 or over".

Out of a principle of "maximum caution", for the under-60s who have already received the first dose of AstraZeneca, "the cycle should be completed with a second dose of mRNA vaccine" such as Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna, administered eight to 12 weeks later.



Italy in March blocked the AstraZeneca jab over health fears, but after the EU's medicines agency gave the green light, approved it for everyone over 18.

It recommended preferential use for people over the age of 60, but AstraZeneca has been used for younger people, including in popular "open days".

Italy has so far administered 41 million vaccines and almost 14 million people out a population of around 60 million are fully vaccinated.

From Monday, restrictions in regions home to more than 40 million people, including the areas around Milan and Rome, will be classified as the lowest risk "white" zones.

Most coronavirus restrictions will be eased except for the requirement to wear a mask and respect social distancing.

Health Minister Roberto Speranza said it was an "encouraging result that allows us to look forward with more confidence", while urging people to remain vigilant.

About 127,000 people with coronavirus have died in Italy since February 2020.

Pakistan Province To Block Phones Of The Unvaccinated



Agencies

Pakistan province said on Friday it will block the mobile phones of people refusing to get Covid-19 jabs, in the latest move to penalize the unvaccinated in a country where only a fraction of the population have been inoculated.

It comes after Sindh province said civil servants who refuse to be vaccinated will not be paid from July.

A third wave of infections has begun to stabilize in Pakistan after weeks of tough restrictions, and in Punjab -- the country's most populous province which includes the megacity of Lahore -- demand for jabs has slowed.

"At first this was only a proposal, but people have been very hesitant in getting vaccinated so the decision was made," said Hammad Raza, spokesman for the Punjab Primary Health department.

He said the state telecoms agency will decide how to implement the measure.

Pakistan's nationwide vaccination rollout has ramped up in recent weeks with more than 200,000 doses administered most days, but it adds up to only a fraction of the 220 million population.

Almost 10.5 million doses

have been administered, with China supplying most of the vaccines.

But concerns about the side effects of the jab, coupled with misinformation that it causes infertility or death within two years, have sparked vaccine hesitancy.

"Pakistan's education level is low. People are also spreading rumours and misinformation about the vaccines," Salman Has-eeb, the head of Pakistan's Young Doctor's Association, told AFP.

"So, information campaigns by the government won't work for the short-term. They will have to make use of the law to ensure everyone gets vaccinated."

The measures were met with concern by some Pakistanis in Lahore.

"It will be hard for me if I can't use my phone, but I am very scared about the vaccine," said Saima Bibi, a domestic worker in Lahore.

"You can't force someone to get vaccinated," added Farwa Hussain, a teacher in Rawalpindi, who has already received a shot.

Under new incentives, those who do get vaccinated will be allowed access to cinemas, celebration halls, and shrines, while restrictions will be lifted on businesses in districts with more than 20% of the population protected.

Pakistan has recorded more than 940,000 infections and 21,500 deaths, but with limited testing and a ramshackle health-care sector, many fear the true extent of the disease is much worse.

National data also shows that around 300,000 recipients of the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine haven't returned for a second dose.

NEWS MAKERS

Hardline Pakistani Cleric Detained For Threatening Malala Yousafzai

Agencies

A firebrand Pakistani scholar has been detained for making death threats against Nobel prize laureate Malala Yousafzai over her comments on marriage, officials said on Friday.

Since surviving an assassination attempt by the Taliban at aged 15 in rural northwest Pakistan, the Oxford graduate has become a global figure promoting education for girls.

But a recent interview with the fashion magazine Vogue stirred debate in her home country -- where she is already a divisive figure -- when she questioned whether a legal union between a couple was

necessary.

The issue was debated by MPs in her home province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who said her comments were against Islam.

"Malala is dreaming to become the country's prime minister but promoting obscenity," cleric Sardar Ali told students of a local seminary in the north-western city of Lakki Marwat last week.

He added that he would blow her up in a suicide attack if she returned.

Police official Wasim Sajjad told AFP Sardar Ali had been charged with making threats, hate speech, and inciting terrorism.

The arrest was confirmed by a second senior police official, Muhammad Imran.



Last year Yousafzai called out Prime Minister Imran Khan on Twitter, after a Taliban militant who claimed to have been behind her attack escaped from detention.

She appeared on the front cover of the British edition of Vogue magazine last week

dressed in a full-length designer gown and head scarf.

"If you want to have a person in your life, why do you have to sign marriage papers, why can't it just be a partnership?" she asked, in an interview where she said she was still deciding what to do after finishing her degree.

Though celebrated in many quarters, Yousafzai has received backlash in Pakistan over the years, where some say global attention on the attempt on her life has given the country a bad reputation.

She is also criticised for her perceived championing of Western liberal values, and has faced constant scrutiny over her clothing and views on world affairs.

'I'm In A Whale's Mouth, He's Trying To Swallow Me'

Agencies

A commercial lobster diver has survived after being caught in the mouth of a humpback whale off the coast of Cape Cod before he was spat out.

Michael Packard, 56, said he was about 45 feet (14 metres) deep in the waters off Provincetown when "all of a sudden I felt this huge bump, and everything went dark".

He thought he had been attacked by a shark, common in area waters, but then realised he could not feel any teeth and he was not in any pain.

"Then I realised I'm in a whale's mouth ... and he's trying to swallow me," said Packard.

"And I thought to myself this



is it, I'm gonna die."

Packard estimates he was in the whale's mouth for about 30 seconds on Friday but continued to breathe because he still had his breathing apparatus in. Then the whale surfaced, shook its head, and spat him out.

He was rescued by his crewmate in the surface boat.

"I saw light, and he started throwing his head side-to-side and the next thing I knew I was outside [in the water]," Packard told the Cape Cod Times.

Jooke Robbins, director of

humpback whale studies at the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, Massachusetts, said she had no reason to doubt the account.

Robbins said she had never heard of an "accident" of this type, but "it may be that he was just in the wrong place at the wrong time".

"I didn't think it was a hoax because I knew the people involved ... So I have every reason to believe that what they say is true," she told AFP news agency.

"When they [whales] fish ... they rush forward, open their mouth and engulf the fish and the water very quickly," she said, adding they have large mouths, but throats so narrow they would not be able to swallow a human.

DDC Kulgam Asks Officers To Remove Bottlenecks Impeding Projects

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Saturday reviewed the progress of ongoing projects under State, District CAPEX, NABARD and others schemes in PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control sectors.

The DDC took project wise review of all the sectors and stressed on the concerned departments to expedite the pace of work to ensure timely completion of all these work projects within set timelines.

During the meeting bottle necks hampering the speedy completion of several work projects of PHE were also discussed.

The DDC directed the concerned to remove all bottlenecks which are impeding the process of completion of several work projects.

He also set timelines for several



work projects of PHE and directed the concerned to expedite execution process and complete these work projects within set timeline so that these WSS projects can be dedicated to people.

The DDC also directed the concerned officers of Irrigation department to establish control room to ensure irrigation facilities to farmers.

The meeting was attended by ACR, Executive Engineers from PHE, Irrigation and Flood control department and other concerned officers.

DC B'la Discusses Road Safety Measures, Transport Mechanism

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Bhupinder Kumar today chaired District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meeting with the concerned functionaries in order to discuss various road safety measures and other vital issues pertaining to transport mechanism.

On the occasion, ARTO presented a detailed presentation wherein he described the present scenario of the public transport system along with road safety action plan reflecting targets assigned to allied departments. Representatives of various other departments and NGOs also presented their record performance pertaining to transport mechanism besides appraising bottlenecks hampering the proper implementation of road safety measures.

DC emphasised upon the concerned authorities to work in proper coordination and cohesion so that real objectives, as envisaged in the traffic plan are realised.

He also deliberated for adopting the requisite safety measures so that the accidental ratio is minimized. Moreover, DC exhorted upon the concerned stakeholders to mobilize all the available resources in order to provide safe road infrastructure and sustainable transport services to the masses with best emergency care.

Kumar further directed to identify the black spots so that appropriate remedial measures are taken for the overall safety of human lives. He also emphasized upon the concerned authorities to formulate a proper and viable plan with respect to emergency and critical care and disseminate awareness by displaying hoardings embedded with emergency helpline numbers. He also directed the govt functionaries to hire commercial vehicles for transacting any kind of official functions. The DC also directed to take transporters and others associated with transport sector on board while formulating road safety plans and measures.

Admin Making Efforts To Build Strong Road Infra In Anantnag: DDC

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla Saturday said that strong road infrastructure is being built in the district to improve physical connectivity for public comfort and convenience besides facilitating economic activities and development.

He informed that District Administration is making timely efforts and leaving no stone unturned to clear all the bottlenecks impeding progress on these roads.

The DDC made these remarks during his visit to PMGSY road construction projects/sites at Nowshera, Sirhama, Hatigam, Darigund,

Viddy and other places where he took onspot assessment of the ongoing works.

Dr. Singla further said that the Revenue, Forest, PDD, Jal Shakti and other departments have been directed to coordinate with each other and work in tandem for smooth execution of these projects adding substantial progress has been made in recent times.

The current working season is being utilised fully which will help in achieving targets and creating valuable physical assets, he remarked.

Meanwhile, people hailed the authorities and administration for speeding up the progress on infrastructure development and road construction projects in the district.

Covid Positivity Rate Witnesses Significant Decline In Shopian: DC

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Saturday urged the people not to lower the guard in view of significant decline in Covid-19 positivity rate in the district and called for strict adherence to Covid-19 SOPs and guidelines issued by the government from time to time to prevent its spread.

The DC said this during a media briefing held here to apprise them of the Covid situation, containment and mitigation measures.

Giving details, the DC said that the recovery rate has increased to a great extent in the district whereas, the positivity rate has significantly come down to 4.6 percent in the district. He congratulated all those persons involved in Covid-19 mitigation efforts for their hard work and good result.

He further said that the number of total positive cases recorded in the district is 371, while the number of recovered patients is significantly increasing to a great extent. Besides, he said 58 deaths have been recorded in the district since the beginning of Covid-19 pandemic.

To deal with any future Covid resurgence, the DC said that 5-bedded facilities equipped with all required medical infrastructure have been established at 98 Panchayats so that immediate medical help can be given to the Covid patients of the respective areas.

The DC said that unlock does not mean that people should ignore SOPs, but the people are once again appealed to strictly follow the guidelines, make usage of masks, maintain social distancing and wash hands properly to avoid spread of virus and break the chain.

Navin Inaugurates Celebration Of 'Paddy Transplanting Day' In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Navin Kumar Choudary, Saturday visited various paddy cultivated lands of Anantnag district as part of celebration of paddy transplanting day.

While interacting with the farmers, Choudary said that the prime motive behind celebration of this day is to raise awareness among the farmers regarding use of new scientific technologies in farming to increase the income and production of their agricultural produce. He termed farmers as the backbone of our economy saying that the government is committed to boost the agriculture activities through different schemes which are in vogue for



uplift of this sector.

It is pertinent to mention here that the paddy transplanting day was celebrated at zone Mattan, Aishmuqam, Achabal which was appreciated by the local farmers as a morale booster for the fraternity.

Navin asked the concerned officers to take up some concrete steps towards expanding the agricultural land and motivate the farmers for adopting progressive scientific farming techniques and cash crop cultivation to ensure food security for the posterity.

DC Kupwara Stresses For Completion Of Sampling, Vaccination Targets

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din Saturday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the Covid containment measures in the district.

The DC said that achievement of Health department is the achievement for the whole district therefore, every department should render necessary support for mitigation of Covid crisis in the district. He stressed upon the concerned officers to speed up the vaccination process in the district and ensure cent percent inoculation of the target population.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure closely monitoring of the sampling and vaccination process at each Vaccination Centre on daily basis.

It was informed in the meeting that the district registered 13132 Covid positive cases out of which 12027 cases have been recovered, constituting a recovery rate of 91.58 percent. The district also recorded 5.33 percent positivity rate this week. It was further informed that 130329 vaccine under 1st and 2nd doses have been inoculated in the district till date.

Imperative For Children To Follow Covid SOP's During Possible Third Wave: Magrey



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Judge, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey Saturday emphasised to follow laid-down guidelines and SOPs to safeguard children during the predicted third-wave of Covid-19 Pandemic.

Justice Magrey, who is also the Executive Chairman of J&K Legal Services Authority (J&KLSA) said this during an awareness programme on Covid-19 caring for children during 3rd wave organized by District Legal Services Authority, Pulwama here at New Court Complex.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Magrey said that during prevailing situation general public particularly covid-hit children need to be given counselling and psychological support to boost them to fight the stress and anxiety they have been through during the pandemic.

He said that as a constitutional obligation, all stakeholders have to share responsibility to fight the pandemic together. He advised all the participants and Institutions to develop mechanisms in keeping children safe from the looming threat of third wave and devise measures to provide them proper counselling and support.

Stressing on adopting all precautionary measures and advisories issued by the experts and administrations to tackle upcoming third-wave, Justice Magrey said that

We have constitutional obligations towards our citizens to ensure protection of people especially during prevailing situation by sensitising them about precautionary measures to protect precious human lives and in this regard awareness programs are being organised in every nook and corner of the UT of J&K and Ladakh.

He further said that legal service authorities are playing a pivotal role in reaching out to people and children in need. He stressed the need of adopting a healthy and mindful lifestyle which is a means towards the path of peace and prosperity.

On the occasion, the DDC Pulwama put forth detailed status of COVID-19 measures being taken by the district administration with support from its stakeholders. He informed that Pulwama has recorded 12500 cases till date including 5 percent to 6 percent of children. It was informed that the district administration has identified children who have lost their parents/bread earners due to COVID-19 pandemic who would be provided relief and other monetary benefits.

Dr Hilal Ahmad Bhat Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF India highlighted the need for clear guidance and urged to provide care and protection to the Covid-19 affected children. Dr Muzafar Jan, Head of Deptt Pediatrics GMC Srinagar emphasized the need to provide emotional support to children and ensure that children adapt and adjust to ongoing COVID-19 crisis. He also shared his power point presentation with the audience about covid-19 and the steps to be taken for management of mental health and stress, laying special emphasis towards children.

Similarly, Dr Umair Kazmi Paediatric CHC Rajpora said that concerted efforts be made by all the key stakeholders to ensure the care and protection of children.

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

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Addendum to Notification No.065-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 09-06-2021 issued under endorsement No. BOPEE/Exam-16/2021 dated 09-06-2021.

In Notification No.065-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 09-06-2021 issued under endorsement No. BOPEE/Exam-16/2021 dated 09-06-2021, the following shall and shall be deemed to have been added under heading "Eligibility" in point No. 2 at page no.03:-

" the candidates having obtained a certificate in General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) examination through later entry after passing FMPHW/MMPHW/ANM with J&K Paramedical Nursing Council will also be eligible for Post Basic B.Sc.Nursing".

E & O E

DIPK-NB-1184/21

Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

No. BOPEE/Exam-16/2021

Dated: 10-06-2021

Ehsaas Trust Thanks Iran For Donating Oxygen Concentrators

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Islamic Republic of Iran has donated 300 oxygen concentrators to India among which Kashmir based voluntary organisation Ehsaas Trust International (ETI) has also been given a share.

A statement of ETI said that the oxygen concentrators have been donated by the Astan-e-Quds, a powerful religious institution of Iran on the directions of the spiritual head and the Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatollah Syed Ali Hussaini Khamenei.

The concentrators were delivered through the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic in New Delhi Dr. Agha Ali Chegeni.

"Earlier we had concentrators of 5 litre capacity only available with us which were not useful in case of severe cases, however, the Iranian concentrators that we have received now are of 10 litre capacity which will be extremely helpful in providing relief to patients with severe condition," General Secretary of Ehsaas International Hakim Mohammad Ilyas said.

He said the concentrators are of the best quality and expressed his gratitude to the Iranian Ambassador in New Delhi and also to the representative of the Ayatollah Khamenei Hojat-al-Islam Aga Mehdi Pur, for their efforts.

Ilyas said that these concentrators shall be used in the COVID- Care Hospital, which is a joint initiative of Srinagar Municipality, Ehsaas Trust International, and Voluntary Medicare Society.



از دفتر ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر محکمہ آثار قدیمہ سرینگر کشمیر اشتہار نیلامی

بر خاص و عام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے۔ کہ محکمہ آثار قدیمہ سرینگر واقع در گولہ پورہ راجست ناگ مانومنٹ پر میوہ اخروٹ کی بولی دینا مطلوب ہے۔ اس لئے بولی دہندگان سے گزارش کرتا ہے کہ وہ (۲۹) ماہ جون ۲۰۲۱ء بروز منگلوار دن کے بارہ بجے (ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر آرکائیوز، آرکیالوجی اینڈ میوزیم اولڈ اسمبلی کمپلیکس سرینگر) میں حاضر رہے۔ بولی دہندگان کو مبلغ پانچ ہزار روپے (5000 Rs) بطور ضمانت ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر محکمہ آثار قدیمہ اولڈ اسمبلی کمپلیکس سرینگر میں (۲۹) جون ۲۰۲۱ء بروز منگلوار دن کے (4:30) تک بعوض رسید جمع کرنا ہوگا۔ یا بذریعہ ڈاک منی آؤر متعلقہ آفس میں ارسال کرے۔ بولی دینے کا حقدار وائی شخص ہوگا جو مذکورہ بالا تاریخ تک ضمانت اوپر دیا گیا رقم جمع کیا ہوگا۔ جو بولی کے بعد ایک ہفتہ کے اندر واپس کیا جائے گا۔ بولی پندرہ ہزار روپے (15000 Rs) سے شروع ہوگی۔

المشتہر

DIPK-2852/21

ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر آرکائیوز، آرکیالوجی اینڈ میوزیم
اولڈ اسمبلی کمپلیکس سرینگر کشمیر۔

از دفتر ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر محکمہ آثار قدیمہ سرینگر کشمیر اشتہار نیلامی

بر خاص و عام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے۔ کہ محکمہ آثار قدیمہ سرینگر واقع در پرہ پورہ راجست ناگ مانومنٹ پر میوہ اخروٹ کی بولی دینا مطلوب ہے۔ اس لئے بولی دہندگان سے گزارش کرتا ہے کہ وہ (۲۳) ماہ جون ۲۰۲۱ء بروز منگلوار دن کے بارہ بجے (ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر آرکائیوز، آرکیالوجی اینڈ میوزیم اولڈ اسمبلی کمپلیکس سرینگر) میں حاضر رہے۔ بولی دہندگان کو مبلغ پانچ ہزار روپے (5000 Rs) بطور ضمانت ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر محکمہ آثار قدیمہ اولڈ اسمبلی کمپلیکس سرینگر میں (۱۹) جون ۲۰۲۱ء بروز منگلوار دن کے (4:30) تک بعوض رسید جمع کرنا ہوگا۔ یا بذریعہ ڈاک منی آؤر متعلقہ آفس میں ارسال کرے۔ بولی دینے کا حقدار وائی شخص ہوگا جو مذکورہ بالا تاریخ تک ضمانت اوپر دیا گیا رقم جمع کیا ہوگا۔ جو بولی کے بعد ایک ہفتہ کے اندر واپس کیا جائے گا۔ بولی پچیس ہزار روپے (25900 Rs) سے شروع ہوگی۔

المشتہر

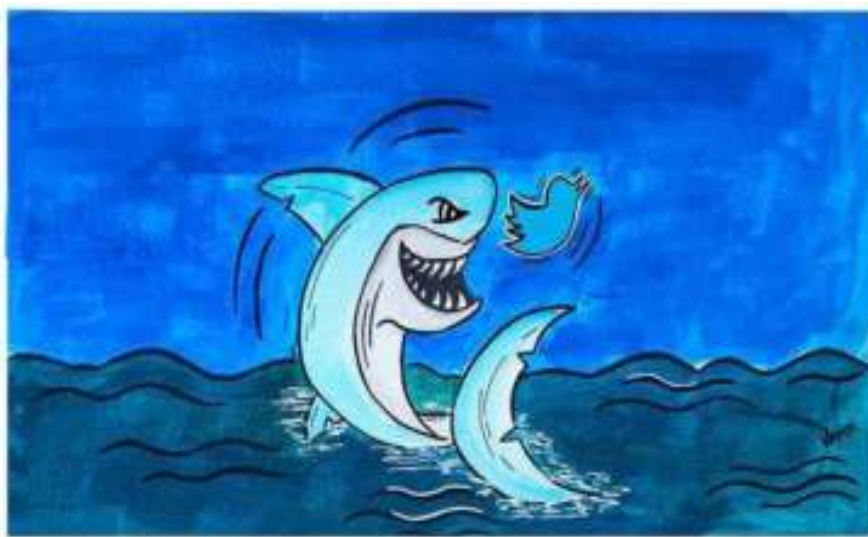
DIPK-2851/21

ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر آرکائیوز، آرکیالوجی اینڈ میوزیم
اولڈ اسمبلی کمپلیکس سرینگر کشمیر۔

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NO HOLDS BARRED



“Once again, a life-and-death issue, and the costs of inaction, should be at the forefront of the G7's agenda. Our failure so far to build on the development of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines with a plan to immunize the whole world is unacceptable. Already, 3.8 million people around the world have died from COVID-19

Shroud Of Secrecy Behind Speculations

Muhammad Tahir

“Kashmir remained tethered to a sort of governance structure whose main element was secrecy. And, it is within this political context we must situate the origination of recent rumours and their rapid spread among the population

Last week, a rumour surfaced that the Modi government was going to again furcate Jammu and Kashmir to pave way for a separate state for the Jammu region – a longstanding demand of the Dogra heartland concentrated around the Jammu-Sambha-Kathua belt. Speculations were also rife that New Delhi would carve an exclusive settler-enclave for the Kashmiri Pandits (as envisaged by group Panun Kashmir) and further disintegrate the Kashmir Valley by merging parts of south Kashmir districts with the Jammu division. A series of events excited these speculations, including the news of around 200 companies of paramilitary forces being deployed to Kashmir. Many people even (apprehensively) expected that Modi will announce the new Kashmir plan during his ‘Address to Nation’ on Monday 7 June. But he didn’t.

It took some days before Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Singh, dismissed the reports. In an interview with an Indian news channel, he said that “these are completely baseless rumours. I refute them with all the responsibility.”

But, why didn’t the state move quickly to quash the rumours? Why did LG take almost a week to issue a statement and let the rumour mill go on overdrive? Could it be, as some people believe, that the state was testing the waters? Gauging the reaction of the local population on such possible plans?

Whatever be the case, we must understand the context which causes the people in Kashmir to react in a certain way; their recent lesson in state’s secrecy is just three years old.

A day before August 5, 2019, when a Kashmiri journalist had tweeted about an impending curfew, the District Magistrate of Srinagar denied it. The Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir also called such reports “rumour-mongering”.

Even though the state had tried to operate with absolute secrecy, there were still crevices through which bits of information slipped and reached the people. Secrecy around happenings within Kashmir also served to contain the spread of protests. Previously, during the 2010 and 2016 civilian uprisings, street protests in Kashmir had become widespread through ripple effect. Even though after August 5, 1193 stone-throwing incidents were reported across Kashmir, these remained localized events.

Extensive concealment of governmental processes is characteristic of the authoritarian regimes, but democratically-elected governments also resort to secrecy, though efficacy of such attempts may be weakened due to certain legal frameworks (such as the right to infor-



MP and President of National Conference (NC) Farooq Abdullah and PDP chief and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti after a meeting of Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), in Srinagar, Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Photo: PTI/S. Irfan

mation) and relatively free civil society institutions, including media (Barros 2016). Marlies Glasius (2018) suggests that we should focus on the regime practices when theorizing authoritarianism and illiberalism. Authoritarian practices entail enforcing secrecy, spreading disinformation and disabling voices (of critique from civil society actors) so as to sabotage accountability “to people over whom a political actor exerts control, or their representatives” (p. 517). Illiberal practices “infringe on the autonomy and dignity of the individual” in terms of their civil and political rights. Illiberal practices “may also be designed to promote an ideological project, or even to carry out the will of the majority” (p. 531). Situating these theoretical insights within the context of Kashmir, one can find sufficient evidence of how such practices have been operationalised by different governments to manage Kashmir.

Another tool in the box of utilities around secrecy has been the communication blockade. Post the abrogation of Article 370, a complete crackdown on narratives ensured that there is a shroud of silence over every kind of information. In such a schema, the very

possibility of truth, facts and news remained obliterated. This furthered the possibility of rumours around secrecy.

Ironically, it is the hurdles in the way of access to truth that enable a regime of rumours which find more acceptance than any official statements. This is why in this tug of narratives, Kashmiris prefer scattered, subaltern and suspicious rumours over what is official and established.

New Delhi has since the very beginning tried to manage Kashmir. While democracy, more or less, operated in mainland India, Kashmir remained tethered to a sort of governance structure whose main element was secrecy. And, it is within this political context we must situate the origination of recent rumours and their rapid spread among the population.

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

The author is an independent researcher

Vaccines For All Or Vaccine Apartheid?

GORDON BROWN

LONDON – The G7 summit starting on Friday will mark the first time that world leaders have met in person for almost two years. It is Joe Biden’s first such meeting as US president and Angela Merkel’s last as German Chancellor. The gathering will also be the first test of what UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s oft-quoted “Global Britain” slogan actually means.

When thinking of past G7 summits, most people will remember little more than well-choreographed leaders’ photo opportunities. But on rare occasions, a G7 can bring meaningful policy breakthroughs. So it was in 2009 when, in consultation with African leaders, the Italian-hosted G8 broke new ground on international development. In introducing this session, I remember recounting fellow leaders of the story of a Rwanda schoolboy caught up in the genocide of the 1990s and now immortalized in the Kigali Genocide Memorial museum, where, in a section devoted to children, one can find his photograph and a plaque that reads:

David, age 11
Ambition: to be a doctor
Favorite sport: football
Favorite hobby: making people laugh
Death: by mutilation
Last words: the UN are coming to save us

In his idealism and innocence, David believed the international community would save him and his mother. We



didn’t. David’s story was repeated by US President Barack Obama and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. We agreed that the international community had done too little to help people in mortal danger, and our communiqué announced our intention to do much more.

Once again, a life-and-death issue, and the costs of inaction, should be at the forefront of the G7’s agenda. Our failure

so far to build on the development of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines with a plan to immunize the whole world is unacceptable. Already, 3.8 million people around the world have died from COVID-19. Some 80,000 more are dying every week. And it is not an exaggeration to state that the G7’s members will decide who is vaccinated and safe and who remains unvaccinated and at risk.

“When thinking of past G7 summits, most people will remember little more than well-choreographed leaders’ photo opportunities. But on rare occasions, a G7 can bring meaningful policy breakthroughs

In the last few days, the United States has offered to supply 500 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to developing countries, and may offer more. The United Kingdom is expected to offer 100 million doses. Others will respond, too.

But the numbers being discussed fall short of the 11 billion doses needed. We need a continuous flow over the next few months and beyond to meet Johnson’s

pledge to vaccinate the whole world by the end of 2022. Achieving this requires guaranteed funding and pooled purchasing that in turn leads to new manufacturing capacity and a secure pipeline of vaccine supply on every continent. And we need a decision to finance all of this now if we are to avoid the familiar vicious circle whereby the world fails to underwrite the costs and we fall short of the vaccination supplies we need.

The omens for the world’s poorest countries are not yet encouraging.

The vast majority of the 2.5 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses produced so far have gone to the richest countries. Sub-Saharan Africa has received less than 2%. As a result, only 2% of the region’s population has had a first vaccine shot, and only 0.2% are fully immunized. The Anglican archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, calls this “vaccine apartheid.” And today, with African rates of COVID-19 infection rising by an estimated 25% per week, the world’s poorest countries face two problems that perhaps only the G7 can resolve. First, they cannot contain the spread of the disease if they have to wait in a queue this summer and autumn for leftover Western doses, most of which won’t arrive until next year. Second, they cannot reach Western levels of immunization or protect themselves with testing and protective equipment without more financial support: \$16 billion more is needed this year, and upward of \$30 billion in 2022.

Project Syndicate

Make Comedy Great Again

Content Creator Mohsin Tariq's Instagram blog "Kashmiri Memes Reloaded" has become the new digital haunt and hang-out for Kashmir's Young



Tooba Towfiq

When cafes, parks and streets decided to empty out people during the second wave of covid-19 in Jammu and Kashmir, youngsters found their new hangout on Mohsin Tariq's Instagram live on his handle @kashmiri_memes_reloaded.

Mohsin took the internet circle in Kashmir by storm, especially earlier this year, when he uploaded short Instagram reels calling out common prejudices that plague our society. Perhaps the selling point of this kind of content was that it chided those who shamed people for choices that are often incorrectly or overly criticised in our society. His comedy dominantly engages with the sexist, casteist and classist attitudes that go unchallenged — debunking each, one laugh at a time.

To the digital demographic that uses the internet in Kashmir, he offered a welcome diversion from earlier content trends that would often invite viewership on account of being demeaning to communities and people. To his followers who he calls, K-people, Mohsin's Instagram handle represents a fresh and safe space.

His popularity owes itself to him being quite relatable. However, it is essentially this element that invokes enigma around him as he's not based out in Kashmir. To demystify this enigma, Kashmir Observer got up close and personal with K-people's best friend himself. Here's what had us hooked with what he shared with us:

Even as people feel a connect with you, there's still a mystery around your specifics. Could you tell us a little about yourself?

I was born in Khuzestan, Iran to Kashmiri parents. I had the opportunity to travel and live in various countries throughout my life. One of my fondest childhood memories was attending Burn Hall school in Srinagar. I have lived in Srinagar for five years between grade 5th and 10th. I completed the rest of my education from ABAC in Bangkok, Thailand. I work and live outside Kashmir but do not feel comfortable divulging

more details about it. It's also fun because people try and keep guessing.

A lot of my followers think I am from Lassipora. Frankly, I didn't even know the place existed. It is only after being told that I realised that my made-up place was in fact a real one in Kashmir. I am from Srinagar and so are both of my parents.

What inspired you towards content creation?

Being far away from the K land, the Kashmiri meme page was born out of the sheer longing to connect with like-minded people and get to know more about my roots, culture and stay in touch with what's happening in the valley. Initially, I had started off with a different page where I intended to bring together all kinds of content posted on the k-social media space. However, I had to soon discontinue that because of Instagram policies.

That's when I decided to create content on my own. As the page evolved, I realised I had something bigger on my hands, so I decided consciously to create content with social messages.

You're new to the social media landscape in Kashmir, when you started, did you feel there was a space that was open for you to fill?

I was quick to realise (with my few live interactions with people) that on K-social media, there was a lack of a safe space where the millennials and Gen Z could come up and discuss issues that they were facing. A space where they could laugh, feel safe, welcome and where they would feel like they are a part of a community which they could call their own.

A page where humour is king.

Do you feel that your social media community is distinct?

I would like to believe it's very distinct because my content has reached people across the globe especially those living away from Kashmir. The content I created hit a sweet spot with Kashmiri Pandits, the Kashmiri Sikh community, Kashmiri Muslims and some non-Kashmiri followers as well. In turn, what my page, Kashmiri_memes_reloaded did was to bring these communities together under one big umbrella.

When you examined the comedy scene on K-social media. Did you consciously feel the need to jump in and contribute?

I love K social media comedy; some memes and reels are just phenomenal. However, I personally believe that comedy has to be more meaningful. It is something everyone should be able to enjoy without being disrespectful to different communities or people.

I have tried really hard to make our K-people community stay one on the principle of accepting and being kind to each and all. The community that I and my followers have built, works each day to ensure that racist slurs, abusive language, sexist comments and bullying is filtered out. We mutually report such instances and weed out the trash when need be.

Could you tell us how you've managed to be so updated about mundane things that are impossible to

“

My content has reached people across the globe especially those living away from Kashmir. The content I created hit a sweet spot with Kashmiri Pandits, the Kashmiri Sikh community, Kashmiri Muslims and some non-Kashmiri followers as well. In turn, what my page, Kashmiri_memes_reloaded did was to bring these communities together under one big umbrella

gauge, not having lived here for so long?

I churn out content from the niches of my personal experience and memories. I am a Kashmiri at heart, through and through. Additionally, my community ensures that I stay updated. They're the ones that often flag issues they face and inspire me to make content around these.

Tell us a little about your live sessions on Instagram. What do you feel is the selling point for these?

My live sessions are pretty unique. I have viewers from the age of 4-70, watching every day without fail. The sessions are light, humorous and easy-breezy most times. It's a free space to say whatever you want to say, without being judged. The excitement of who's 'Neksht'/'Next keeps people on the edge of their seats at all times.

Many people have connected offline just by engaging with each other in the comment's section. A lot of business networking has happened via my lives. And who's to know how much love has spread? I am made to believe that these sessions are an escape from people's mundane lives and are almost like therapy to most.

What would you say is the vision of your journey as a content creator?

I only have one solid vision, even if small. My job's done if even one person, anywhere in or outside Kashmir, can unlearn one of our societal dogmas. That's the hope that drives me. The hope to have a world where we're kind to each other and one is not only soft towards judging others but also kind towards dealing with oneself.

Whose work in Kashmir do you enjoy the most in Kashmir's art and entertainment scene especially on Social Media?

The music that's coming out of Kashmir is stellar. We're all proud of how artists are coming up with work that is local and global at the same time. I am rooting for each one of them and each has a huge potential.

Your very popular dictum, "Ye gonah hai", has found fans in young people who use it to state confidence in their choices. How do you think you've found acceptance and handled criticism?

The trick is humour. To take everything said at me with a pinch of salt and a tall glass of humour. As long as I know that I personally am not doing anything severely wrong, whatever is said to me is irrelevant.

Why are discussions about politics a big no-no in your space?

Being children of conflict, our lives are ridden with negativity, pain, mental illnesses, political dramas and much more. Every moment is tiring.

That is why I made a conscious decision to create a space where people from all walks of life can come together and just for a moment, be united. This has created a happy escape for many who put aside their political views and focused on their similarities rather than differences.

‘People with 'healthy obesity' still at higher risk of diabetes, CVD’

Agencies

A new study has found that having a normal metabolic profile does not mean that a person with obesity is actually healthy (referred to as metabolically healthy obesity), since they face an increased risk of diabetes, heart diseases, strokes, and respiratory diseases.

The findings of the study were published in 'Diabetologia', the journal of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD).

The research was conducted by Dr Frederick Ho and colleagues at the Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK. They examined whether individuals who had obesity and a normal metabolic profile are healthy, or if they too have a higher risk of developing obesity-related health issues.

It is estimated that globally there are over 300 million people with obesity, and if current trends continue then this figure will likely exceed 1 billion people by 2030 and comprise 20 per cent of the world's adult population.

The ongoing global epidemics of type 2 diabetes (T2D), hypertension, cardiovascular disease (CVD), and many other serious health problems are linked with obesity.

Obesity typically leads to metabolic

problems, characterised by elevated blood sugar, increased blood pressure (BP), insulin resistance, and other adverse metabolic changes. These effects are not universal, and some people with obesity have normal blood pressure, favourable blood fats, little or no systemic inflammation, and a healthy level of insulin.

This is sometimes referred to as having 'metabolically healthy obesity' (MHO), and its occurrence is estimated to be 3 per cent to 22 per cent in the whole general population.

This study looked at the association between MHO and all-cause mortality, T2D, heart attack and stroke, heart failure (HF) and respiratory diseases, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

MHO was defined as a body mass index (BMI) of 30 kg/m2 or above as well as meeting at least four of the six metabolically healthy criteria. These include blood pressure and 5 blood-based biomarkers: C-reactive protein (CRP, a marker of inflammation), triglycerides (fats), low-density lipoprotein (LDL/'bad' cholesterol) and high-density lipoprotein (HDL/'good' cholesterol), and glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c, a measure of average blood glucose over the previous 2-3 months).

Based on metabolic and obesity status,



participants were categorised as: metabolically healthy non-obese (MHN), metabolically healthy obese (MHO), metabolically unhealthy non-obese (MUN), and metabolically unhealthy obese (MUO).

The authors analysed the details of 381,363 individuals (excluding those classed as 'underweight') for a median follow-up period of 11.2 years. They were part of the UK Biobank project: a large-scale prospective cohort study that re-

cruited participants from the general population across England, Scotland, and Wales between 2007 and 2010.

The authors found that MHO individuals were generally younger, watched less television, exercised more, had higher education level, lower deprivation index, higher red and processed meat intake, and were less likely to be male and non-white than participants who were MUO.

Compared to metabolically healthy participants without obesity (MHN), participants with MHO were 4.3 times more likely to have T2D, 18 per cent more likely to suffer heart attack or stroke, had a 76 per cent higher risk of heart failure, were 28 per cent more likely to suffer respiratory disease and 19 per cent more likely to suffer COPD.

Compared to metabolically unhealthy people without obesity (MUN), those classed as MHO were 28 per cent more likely to have heart failure.

The authors said, "Generally, rates of cardiovascular and respiratory outcomes were highest in MUO, followed by MUN and MHO, except for incident and fatal heart failure, and incident respiratory diseases. For these outcomes, people with MHO had higher rates than those with MUN."

They added, "People with metaboli-

cally healthy obesity were at a substantially higher risk of diabetes, heart attack and stroke, heart failure, respiratory diseases, and all-cause mortality compared with people who were not obese and with a healthy metabolic profile. Particularly worth noting is that people with metabolically healthy obesity had a higher risk of heart failure and respiratory disease than metabolically unhealthy participants without obesity."

Furthermore, the team also found that, amongst a subset of participants with follow-up metabolic and obesity data, one third of those with metabolically healthy obesity at the beginning of the study period became metabolically unhealthy within 3 to 5 years.

The researchers concluded, "People with metabolically healthy obesity are not 'healthy' as they are at higher risk of heart attack and stroke, heart failure, and respiratory diseases compared with people without obesity who have a normal metabolic profile."

They advised, "Weight management could be beneficial to all people with obesity irrespective of their metabolic profile. The term 'metabolically healthy obesity' should be avoided in clinical medicine as it is misleading, and different strategies for defining risk should be explored."

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: Extension of date for removal of deficiencies by such candidates who have applied for admission to (12th Based) Paramedical Diploma (PM/GNM/ANM /MRT) Courses-2021

References:

- (i) Notification No. 052-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10-04-2021
- (ii) Notice No. 045-BOPEE of 2021 dated 05-05-2021
- (iii) Notice No. 051-BOPEE of 2021 dated 28-05-2021

Notice No. 053-BOPEE of 2021
Dated: 11-06-2021

In view of the prevalent COVID-19 situation and requests made by many applicants of (12th Based) Paramedical (PM/GNM/ANM/MRT) Diploma Courses-2021 who had to **upload their deficient documents till 11-06-2021** in accordance with *Notice No. 051-BOPEE* of 2021 Dated 28-05-2021 and could not do so till date due to varied reasons, the Board has decided to further extend the last date upto **20-06-2021** for these applicants to **upload their deficient documents**, failing which such applicants shall be treated as not eligible, for inclusion of their names in the Provisional Merit List and further counseling rounds for allotment of seats, on their own risk & responsibilities and no claim of such applicants, whatsoever reason(s), shall be entertained later on by the Board under any circumstances.

Note:

- The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified vide earlier issued Notices/Notifications in this regard.
- All the applicants are advised to remain in touch with the J&K BOPEE website regularly for all updates.

E & O E

Sd/- (Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

DIPK-NB-1169/21

No. BOPEE/Exam-10/2021

Dated: 11-06-2021



SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE-HOSPITAL

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

Sub: Amendment, Corrigendum & 2nd Extension in eNIT No. SKIMS-MCH-MMD - 02 of 2021 dated 30/04/2021.

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

S.No. in Tech. Specs. of e-NIT	Existing tendered specifications	Now to be read as
05 (b)	Online UPS with suitable rating and 30 minute back-up for console/digital system should be supplied along with DR System	Online UPS with suitable rating and 30 minute back-up for console and digital system should be supplied along with DR System

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

S.No. in terms & conditions of eNIT	Existing tendered terms & conditions	Now to be read as
(10)	Validity of tender: The tenders must be valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of the financial bids. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. No escalation of rates shall be allowed by the Institute during the currency of the contract. The validity should be extendable for further duration as mutually agreed upon.	The tenders must be valid for a period of 270 days from the date of opening of the technical bids . Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. No escalation of rates shall be allowed by the Institute during the currency of the contract. The validity should be extendable for further duration as mutually agreed upon.

Also the eNIT is **extended for a further period of two (02) weeks**, as per following revised schedule.

Last date for submission of online bids	25/06/2021
Opening of Technical bids on	27/06/2021 at 02:00 PM

Other terms & conditions of the eNIT shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Assistant Materials Management Officer
SKIMS MCH Bemina

No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/eNIT/S-394/19-20/2009-16
Dated: 10/06/2021
(Not to be published)

DIPK-NB-1163/21

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

e-mail:- rnbdivisonshopian@gmail.com (Phone/Fax No: 01933-260226)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh to NIT NO: 26 (sr 1,2,4,5)

NIT No: Fresh/ 34 / 859-68 / SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2021-22 Dated:- 09-06-2021

For and on behalf of the **Lt. 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 Government for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion (In days)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	AAA No / Dt	TS No / Dt
1	Constt. Of Lane from Govt Girls High School to H/o Mehraj-u-din Teli at Herbatpora Shopian Ward 04.	UDS	1.263	DEE	21 working days	200	81-DDCS of 2021 20-3-2021	02-R&B/ Div/Spn of 2021-22 22-05-2021
2	Constt. Of Lane and drain from H/o Mohd Saleem Sodagar to H/o Bashir Ahmad Gandroo at Kumar Mohalla Shopian Ward 12.	UDS	1.224	DEE	21 working days	200		
3	Constt. Of Lane from Masjid Sharief New Colony Gagren to H/o Altaf Hussain Turey at Gagren Shopian Ward 16.	UDS	1.228	DEE	21 working days	200		
4	Constt. Of Lane and drain from H/o Mohd Yousuf Rather upto H/o Gh Nabi Rather at Rather Mohalla Shopian Ward No. 08.	UDS	2.483	DEE	21 working days	200		

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:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-06-2021
2	Document downloading Start Date.	11-06-2021
3	Document Downloading End Date.	18-06-2021
4	Bid submission Start Date.	11-06-2021
5	Bid Submission End Date.	18-06-2021
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19-06-2021 at 11:00 A.M

- Bidders must upload the requisite cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan / Treasury Challan Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority). (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).
- All the Bidders have to upload / submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" enclosed).
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR within 03 Days before fixation of Contract.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (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.
- All other terms and conditions are as per PWD form-25 (Double agreement form)

No. :- NIT/e-Tendering/1869-71
Dated:- 09-06-2021

DIPK-2836/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Division Shopian

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MUFFASIL (R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM

FRESH NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

(Modified as per Circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dt.22-12-2020

Issued by Finance Department).

NIT No.36/e-tendering /MDB/2021-22/3619-39 DATED. 11-06-2021

For and on behalf of the President, of India, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on **Percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of Completion (calendar days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	Repairs and Renovation and Branding of Sub Center at Sali Beeru (Budgam)	7.87 lacs	300/-	30 days	DEE/CEE	4210- Medical

1. Position of AAA/TS:- **Accorded**
2. Position of Funds:- **Available.**

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11.06.2021 4.00 AM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11.06.2021 4.00 P.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	11.06.2021 from 4:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	17.06.2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19 .06.2021 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam

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:-

Note :- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected .

Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectarlat Finance department vide No.QM.No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under :-

- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tender is dispensed with .The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.**
- The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing E-challan/ or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt.**
Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ in favour of Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam (tender inviting authority).
- All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of Finance Department / Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).**
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.**
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.**

DIPK-2821/21

No: 3619-39. DATED: 11.06.2021.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam

GST Council Cuts Tax On Covid Medicines, Equipment



The 44th meeting of the GST Council, the second this year in the midst of the second wave of Covid pandemic, began on Saturday morning through video conferencing.

The meeting is being chaired by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and is being attended by finance ministers of all states and union territories. Senior officers from the Centre and States are also present in the meeting.

The meeting is taking place after the 43rd meeting of the Council on May 28 announced a series of duty concessions on Covid relief items in addition to relaxation of compliance measures for taxpayers.

At the last meeting of the Council, it was decided to form a group of ministers (GoM) to examine the need for further reductions and decide on any new rates for medical equipment and vaccines.

The meeting is expected to consider recommendations of the GoM while offer more compliance relaxation to taxpayers.

It may also announce few measures to correct the inverted duty while discuss the compensation cess dues arising in 2021-22 due to a possible shortfall in cess collections.

Two other important items

including lowering of GST rates for two wheelers and bringing natural gas into the indirect tax fold may also be included in the agenda for discussion.

Sources said certain states like Punjab have sought GST duty cut on essential medical supplies meant for Covid treatment. The council may accordingly discuss some of the measures like reducing GST or exempting from duty of Corona virus related items like hand sanitisers, face masks, gloves, PPE Kits, temperature scanners, oximeters, certain Covid medicines and ventilators among others based on suggestions of the GoM.

The meeting is also to take political colour with few opposition ruled states like West Bengal, Punjab have been pushing for exempting Covid vaccine from GST. The finance ministry has been opposing such a move that would deny the benefit input tax credit for producers.

Also, the GST compensation for FY22 is expected to dominate the discussions of the Council with States seeking higher compensation in the wake of fall in tax revenue expected this year due to pandemic related disruptions and lockdowns in various parts of the country. - IANS

'Business Will Not Run As Usual After Pandemic, Need To Bring Reforms'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AURANGABAD: It will not be business as usual after the COVID-19 pandemic and we need to bring more "simplicity" in the ease of doing business by doing away with the current maze of rules, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said here on Saturday.

He was speaking to reporters after visiting the Aurangabad Industrial City and Marathwada Auto Cluster at Waluj near here.

To a question about proposed reforms after the pandemic, Kant said, "It is very clear that business will not run as usual after the pandemic. We need to bring reforms as much as we can, after COVID.

"We have made many rules, regulations and procedures. By removing them, we need to bring more simplicity to ease of doing business," he added.

The country also needs to "grow the technology and



leapfrog along with it," Kant said, adding that the Union government is working in this direction.

Talking about Aurangabad and the surrounding areas, he said this part of central Maharashtra needs a regional master plan for development with consideration for possible growth in the next 25 years.

"This area has a potential and can come up as one of the fastest growing region in the country from the tourism and industry point of view," he said.

Fuel Prices At Historic Highs, Diesel Crosses 100 A Litre In Rajasthan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Diesel price today breached the 100 per litre mark in Rajasthan after yet another increase in fuel rates, which also led to Karnataka becoming the 7th state to record 100 a litre petrol.

Petrol price was hiked by 27 paise per litre and diesel by 23 paise, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The hike - the 23rd one since May 4 - pushed fuel prices across the country to new historic highs.

In Delhi, petrol hit an all-time high of 96.12 a litre, while diesel is now priced at 86.98 per litre.

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

And because of this petrol retailers at over 100 per litre mark in six states and union territories - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Karnataka got added to that

list with many places in the state including Bidar, Bellary, Koppal, Davanagere, Shimoga and Chakmangalur recording over 100 per litre petrol.

Petrol in the state capital Bengaluru is priced at 99.39 per litre and a litre of diesel comes for 92.27.

Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan near the India-Pakistan border was the first place in the country to see petrol hit 100 a litre mark in mid-February and on Saturday it also earned the distinction of diesel crossing that psychological mark.

Petrol in the city is sold at 107.22 a litre - the highest rate in the country, and diesel comes for 100.05. Premium or additive laced petrol in the town sells for 110.50 a litre and same grade diesel at 103.72.

Rajasthan levies the highest VAT on petrol and diesel in the country, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Mumbai on May 29 became the first metro in the country where petrol was being sold at

over 100 a litre. Petrol now costs 102.30 a litre in the city and diesel comes for 94.39.

After Leh, Srinagar too is witnessing near 100 a litre petrol (Rs 99.27). Hyderabad too is in the same league with petrol costing 99.96.

Petrol sells for 101.73 a litre in Leh and diesel costs 93.66.

The hike on Saturday was the 23rd increase in prices since May 4, when state-owned oil firms ended an 18-day hiatus in rate revision they observed during assembly elections in states like West Bengal.

In 23 increases, petrol price has risen by 5.72 per litre and diesel by 6.25 a litre.

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

International oil prices have firmed in recent weeks in anticipation of demand recovery following the rollout of vaccination programme by various countries.

THE HIKE ON SATURDAY WAS THE 23RD INCREASE IN prices since May 4, when state-owned oil firms ended an 18-day hiatus in rate revision they observed during assembly elections in states like West Bengal.

Bandipora Gets Organic Vegetable Cluster Sale Outlet At Trigam

BANDIPORA: Joint Director Agricultural Farms, procurement Mandis and promotion of Spices and Medicinal plants, Dr Syed Waseem Ahmad Shah today inaugurated organic vegetable cluster sale outlet at Naid Bagh Trigam Sumbal here.

Progressive farmers from organic vegetable cluster Ganastan and other adjoining vegetable areas participated and got encouraged by the information about the various departmental schemes.

At the Sale outlet farmers from organic cluster Ganastan exhibited their organic food products for sale including mushroom and honey.

The programme was conducted while following Covid SOP's strictly. In addition to farmers, various Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women including Shehjar



FPO displayed their work regarding Agriculture.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Bandipora, Rafiq Ahmad Kakroo, Agrostologist Mujtaba Yahya, SDAO Sumbal Farooq Ahmad Sofi, District officers and other Sub-Divisional and zonal level officers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Joint Director said that organic

farming is acknowledged worldwide as a crop production system which can sustain the health of soil, ecosystem and people by combining tradition, innovation and improved farm technology.

He said the need of the hour is to broaden the base of such centres for bringing the right product at the right price for the consumers.

He emphasized that organic cultivation is emerging as the most lucrative farm activity and needs to be promoted across Jammu and Kashmir.

While elaborating on the organic sector's success in the valley, he said that organic vegetables are becoming an integral part of regular food consumption as people are growing health conscious, for which the department is taking various initiatives.

Amazon And Flipkart To Face Anti-Trust Suit After Delhi HC Dismisses Plea



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Karnataka High Court on Friday dismissed the plea by e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart on the investigation ordered by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) against them for alleged violations of provisions of competition laws.

Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar passed the order dismissing the petitions filed by the two companies.

"It would be unwise to pre-judge the issues raised by the petitioners in these writ petitions at this stage and scuttle the investigation," the judge said in the order.

On January 13, 2020, fair trade regulator CCI ordered a probe

against Flipkart and Amazon for alleged malpractices, including deep discounting and tie-ups with preferred sellers on their platforms, following which both the companies had moved the High Court seeking quashing of the probe order.

The Karnataka High Court on February 14, 2020 granted an interim stay on the investigation ordered by the CCI. Following this, the CCI had approached the Supreme Court, which on October 26, 2020, asked it to approach the High Court.

The CCI's January, 2020, probe order followed a complaint filed by Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh, whose members comprise many traders dealing in smart phones and related accessories.

Centre Asks Ministries To Target 20 Percent Reduction In Controllable Expenditure



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The government has asked all ministries and government departments to target 20 percent reduction in expenditures like domestic and foreign travel, overtime allowance, rent and office expenses, in the current fiscal year as it tightens its purse strings amid the second wave of the pandemic.

The Department of Expenditure under the Finance Ministry issued an office memorandum in this regard on June 10.

"All the ministries/ departments are requested to take steps to curtail all avoidable non-scheme expenditure and aim for 20 percent reduction in controllable expenditure. Expenditure in 2019-20 may be taken as the baseline for this purpose," the memorandum said.

However, expenditure related to containment of the pandemic is excluded from the scope of this order.

The memorandum said, ministries should aim to control expenditures like overtime allowance, rewards, domestic and foreign travel, office expenses, rents, rates and taxes, royalty.

Besides, expenditures related to publications, other administrative expenses, supplies and materials, cost of ration, clothing and tentage,

advertising and publicity, minor works and maintenance, service or commitment charges, grants-in-aid general, contribution and other charges, should also be cut.

The savings that would accrue to the government due to this move cannot be exactly ascertained.

This is the second year in a row that the government has come out with measures to rationalise expenditure.

Last year, the expenditure department had asked all ministries /departments to review appointments of consultants, curtail functions and ban use of imported paper for printing as part of measures to rationalise non-priority expenditure.

As per estimates, the government is staring at an additional expenditure of up to Rs 1.45 lakh crore to provide free vaccines and foodgrains to people devastated by the deadly second wave of covid infections.

Reversing a policy where states competed for vaccine supplies for certain age categories, the government earlier this week announced that the central government will procure vaccines for all adults.

All above 18 years of age would get free vaccines from June 21.

Also, the free foodgrain scheme that was to end in June has been extended till November 2021.

Is Binging Netflix Bad For The Earth? Study Probes Carbon Output

BLOOMBERG

Streaming your favorite hourlong television show is the environmental equivalent of boiling a kettle for six minutes or popping four bags of popcorn in the microwave, according to an industry-backed study from climate group Carbon Trust.

The findings are encouraging to researchers — and good news for streamers such as Netflix Inc., which helped fund the work — because they show the carbon footprint of streaming is smaller than some estimates in the past showed. Further, the study revealed ways in which entertainment companies can cut the emissions their products generate.

Like most industries, the

film and television business is on a mad dash to cut carbon dioxide output, hoping to help mitigate the worst effects of climate change. While streaming a show has less of an impact on the environment than, say, the production of a new movie, companies are looking for any way they can to improve sustainability.

"There was a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding about the carbon impact of video streaming," said Andie Stephens, lead author of the white paper and associate director at the Carbon Trust.

"We therefore wanted to put this into perspective, and help to increase the knowledge and understanding of the impact of video streaming."

The research found an



hour of streaming emits the equivalent of about 55 grams of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, based on a user in Europe. About half the emissions come from the device used itself, with larger and

THERE WAS A LOT OF MISINFORMATION and misunderstanding about the carbon impact of video streaming," said Andie Stephens, lead author of the white paper and associate director at the Carbon Trust. "We therefore wanted to put this into perspective, and help to increase the knowledge and understanding of the impact of video streaming."

hubs where internet information is processed and stored.

Researchers behind the white paper also examined whether watching content in high definition had a greater impact on emissions than standard definition. They found it makes little difference. Further, the sustainability of the business has been improving. While demand for streaming has soared, especially during the pandemic, the amount of energy consumed by those activities has fallen as

equipment becomes more efficient and green power rises in popularity.

A group called Dimpact — comprised of media companies and researchers from the U.K.'s University of Bristol — has been trying to gain a clearer picture of how bad streaming is for the environment. In March, the Bristol researchers created a carbon calculator. Using the tool, Netflix said in March about an hour of streaming emitted less than

100 grams of CO2 equivalent, similar to the latest findings.

The new report is a "validation of the work that we had done," said Emma Stewart, the head of sustainability at Netflix.

Separately, Netflix plans to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by the end of 2022, a target that means it will offset all the emissions it can't eliminate by that time. About 50% of Netflix's emissions come from the physical production of new content, and 45% stems from corporate operations.

The company doesn't include its customers' web use in the calculation of its carbon footprint, though Stewart said they can encourage partners to make cleaner devices and customers to switch to so-called green tariffs, which add more renewable power to the grid.

LG Meets Family Of Slain BJP Councillor

Agenceis

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday visited the family of Municipal Councillor Rakesh Pandita, who was killed by militants in Tral, Pulwama on June 2, and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family members.

Conveying condolences to the family members of the deceased President of Municipal Committee



Tral, the Lt Governor said that whole administration stands with the family of late Rakesh Pandita in this hour of grief.

The LG assured the bereaved

family of stringent action against the perpetrators, and informed that a high-level investigation has already been initiated.

He added that the militants

involved in this heinous act of violence will be brought to justice soon.

The LG sanctioned the ex-gratia amount of Rs 40 lakh to the family members of late Pandita.

Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor, Dr. Raghuvar Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Jammu accompanied the Lieutenant Governor.

Twitter Sends Notices To Cartoonist Manjul, Other Prominent Users On Requests From Law Enforcement Agencies

Unnamed law enforcement agencies have asked Twitter to take down certain tweets of popular cartoonist Manjul, fact-checking website Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair and others, over alleged violation of law.

Manjul, Zubair and retired IAS officer Surya Pratap Singh have shared screenshots of the notice sent by the microblogging platform on their Twitter

handles over the last few days.

Sources said the Ministry of Electronics and IT was not involved in sending these legal requests to Twitter.

It wasn't clear which agencies have flagged these tweets by these users and for what violations.

Emails sent to Twitter did not elicit a response.

Meanwhile, the screenshot shared by Manjul showed

Twitter as saying: "In the interest of transparency, we are writing to inform you that Twitter has received a request from Indian law enforcement regarding your Twitter account @MANJULToons, that claims the ... content violates the law(s) of India".

It further stated that Twitter has not taken any action on the reported content at this time as a result of this request.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

2 Cops, 2 Civilians

two cops and as many civilians dead and three others, including an officer injured, police said Saturday.

Around 11:45 am today, unidentified militants appeared in busy Arampora area of Sopore town and opened fire upon a police team that was deployed for corona lockdown duties, a police spokesperson said. In the surprise militant attack, he said, four policemen and four civilians were injured.

All the injured, he said, were removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. However, two cops and two civilians breathed their last before the doctors could operate upon them.

The police identified the killed cops as Constables Showkat Ahmad of Beerwah Budgam and Waseem Ahmad of Narbal in the Srinagar outskirts. The two slain civilians have been identified as Manzoor Ahmad Shalla of Shalimar Colony and Bashir Ahmad of Mahrajpora in Sopore.

The injured were identified as sub inspector (SI) Mukesh Kumar, special police officer (SPO) Danish Ahmad, and civilian Nayeem Ahmad Khan of Mahrajpora.

According to the reports, the police officer and the civilian have been referred to Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment.

According to reports, Khan has multiple gunshot injuries and his condition continues to remain life threatening at the SMHS hospital here.

Soon after the attack, army, CRPF and police reinforcements rushed to the area and launched a major cordon and search operation (CASO) to nab the attackers. Senior police officers also reached the spot to take stock of the situation and to oversee search operation.

According to witnesses, the joint team closed all the entry and exit points around Arampora and conducted searches. The search operation, according to witnesses continued for several hours however no arrests were made.

"The street vendors were arranging their products while skeletal transport was plying on the roads when sudden bursts of gunfire rattled the area," Mohammad Shafi, an eyewitness told Kashmir Observer.

He said that the frightening sounds of gunfire continued for nearly five minutes forcing the vendors to abandon their carts and move towards the safer places.

"The passerby also ran for their lives. There was complete chaos," he said.

Meanwhile, the police spokesperson said that a case has been registered in this regard under relevant sections of law.

"Police are vigorously investigating all the circumstances of this crime," he said.

Lashkar Behind

Even as they mounted a retaliation, four police personnel and three civilians were injured, the DGP said.

Constables Waseem and Showkat succumbed to injuries later, while Sub-Inspector Mukesh Kumar and SPO Danish are undergoing treatment, and their condition is stated to be stable, he said.

Two of the three civilians injured in the attack died too, the police chief said.

He said initial indicators have led to the identification of the outfit, and a follow-up on that is on.

The forces have launched an operation in the area, and we are hopeful that we will soon bring to justice the perpetrators of the crime... As per our information, LeT is involved in it, and we have almost identified the militants in the attack, but we will not share their details yet," the DGP said.

He said police and other security force personnel work in dangerous circumstances and sometimes such attacks take place.

"Unfortunately, our responsibilities are such that we have to work in danger and sometimes, such incidents take place. But, our endeavour is to bring to justice all those involved in such attacks," the police chief said.

Asked if militancy has increased in recent days, Singh said police and other forces have good control on all areas of the Valley.

If you see in relative terms, then the militancy is not increasing, but decreasing. The police and other forces have good control on all areas, and operations are also being carried out.

However, due to COVID-19, there has been a decline in anti-militancy operations, but the forces have maintained pressure and we are launching operations so as to strengthen peace and development, Singh added.

Sopore Shootout

uncertainty of life and more so could tell a sudden end: "Tomorrow, some of us would end up dead on these streets. Such is our life."

This fatal forecast had almost become repetitive after an HMT man lost his life in the cross-firing in Sopore last year.

A year later, on 12 June 2021, as Bashir was out to gauge the weekend mood of the curfewed town, he met the same sudden end he had predicted for years.

Bashir figured in the list of four slain, including two cops, when, as DGP Dilbag Singh said, Lashkar-e-Taiba militants opened fire on the police patrolling party in the town.

Some clips of the attack show people running for their lives in the town amid the gun rattle, with a police jeep standing in a haze of smoke.

But in the ensuing hush and settled dust, the

town had shrunk in fear, before a battery of cops arrived to block the entry and exit routes, and launched a manhunt.

"Death is certain but why do we Kashmiris always have to face such an end," said Saleem Farooq, an elderly man from Sopore.

"I knew Bashir Ahmed of Takiabal Sopore and Manzoor Ahmed of Shalimar Colony Sopore. Both were street vendors. Both were out to earn bread for their families. And both were innocent to die like this."

Like most of the civilians, Bashir used to refer Sopore as "an unpredictable township" which had transformed from the "Chota London" to the politically-uncertain zone after the armed movement erupted in Kashmir during late eighties.

"Bashir would remember and often recall those consumed by the armed clashes in front of his eyes in the town," the slain vendor's wailing relative said. "He was somehow fearful of the same end. Alas, his hunch wasn't wrong!"

The attack once again became a collective condemned cry, with who's who in the summer capital sending out strong statements against it.

LG Manoj Sinha denounced it as the "despicable and cowardly act" which will not go "unpunished".

Such attacks must be condemned without reservation, former chief minister Omar Abdullah said. "The government must ensure a stop to such brutal loss of lives," Omar's party, National Conference, said.

The trail attacks like the one at Sopore leave behind mutilated bodies, ravaged homes and murder of dreams, the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) reacted. "Our souls have been scarred for decades now by such wanton acts of violence."

Gun, said Sajjad Lone of Peoples Conference, came to Kashmir in 1989 and 32 years down the line, "I can unambiguously state that gun enslaves the very people that it purports to fight for. The gunmen really need to ponder whose war they are fighting."

Regardless of any political, ideological or religious motivations, said Altaf Bukhari of Apni Party, "violence in any of its manifestations is unacceptable".

Back in Sopore, Bashir's family members and friends recall his trysts with the town's uncertain mood with a rapt clarity. But the man, they say, never hesitated to step out on the same streets for the sake of his family's welfare.

"At the same time he was mindful of the suddenness of this strife," said Parvaiz Ahmad, Bashir's relative. "And his end came exactly as he had predicted while talking about the uncertainty of life in Kashmir."

Saudi's Bar

as few as 1,000 people already residing in Saudi Arabia were selected to take part in the hajj. Two-thirds were foreign residents from among the 160 different nationalities that would have normally been represented at the hajj. One-third were Saudi security personnel and medical staff.

Each year, up to 2 million Muslims perform the hajj, a physically demanding and often costly pilgrimage that draws the faithful from around the world. The hajj, required of all able-bodied Muslims to perform once in their lifetime, is seen as a chance to wipe clean past sins and bring about greater humility and unity among Muslims.

The kingdom's Al Saud ruling family stakes its legitimacy in this oil-rich nation on overseeing and protecting the hajj sites. Ensuring the hajj happens has been a priority for them.

Disease outbreaks have always been a concern surrounding the hajj. Pilgrims fought off a malaria outbreak in 632, cholera in 1821 killed an estimated 20,000, and another cholera outbreak in 1865 killed 15,000 before spreading worldwide.

More recently, Saudi Arabia faced danger from a different coronavirus, one that causes the Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS. The kingdom increased its public health measures during the hajj in 2012 and 2013, urging the sick and the elderly not to take part.

In recent years, Saudi officials also instituted bans on pilgrims coming from countries affected by the Ebola virus.

Saudi Arabia had closed its borders for months to try and stop the spread of the coronavirus. Since the start of the pandemic, the kingdom has reported over 462,000 cases of the virus with 7,500 deaths. It has administered some 15.4 million doses of coronavirus vaccines, according to the World Health Organization. The kingdom is home to over 30 million people. (AP)

J&K Gears Up

strict enforcement of Covid appropriate behavior in addition to vigorous vaccination drives for successful containment of the disease, an official spokesperson said.

In the meeting, he said, it was informed that in comparison to the first wave which was slow, gradual, and mostly affected elderly/ co-morbid population; the second wave was abrupt, steep, and severely infected the young and middle-aged population.

"As such, it was stressed that the trajectory of the disease must be put under meticulous surveillance for early detection of new trends towards a probable third wave," he said.

Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education, Atal Dullloo; Prof. Mohammad Sultan Khuroo, and Mission Director, National

Health Mission (NHM) participated in the meeting.

According to the official spokesperson, the Health and Medical Education Department was asked to constitute a medical advisory team consisting of field experts in virology, epidemiology, and microbiology to provide multi-dimensional scientific recommendations for evidence-based scientific management of COVID-19.

Mehta, he said, complimented the efforts of the Health & Medical Education Department in combating the COVID-19 pandemic by maintaining high level testing and vaccination rates, and ramping up Covid dedicated medical facilities.

"The Chief Secretary directed the Department to conduct stratified serological surveys in Jammu and Kashmir for ascertaining natural/ vaccine induced seropositivity in the population and identifying susceptible groups and areas in the Union territory to be taken up under targeted vaccination drives," he added.

J&K Reports

during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, Kashmir Valley reported 601 fresh cases of coronavirus while remaining 265 were detected across the Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected in J&K since the outbreak of pandemic last year to 306638.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 164 cases, Baramulla 66, Budgam 71, Pulwama 71, Kupwara 68, Anantnag 51, Bandipora 34, Ganderbal 31, Kulgam 37, Shopian 8, Jammu 34, Udhampur 18, Rajouri 32, Doda 45, Kathua 12, Samba 20, Kishtwar 5, Poonch 29, Ramban 50 and Reasi 20.

Moreover, they said, 2153 more patients have recovered—707 from Jammu Division and 1446 from Kashmir. So far 286180 people have recovered, leaving the number of active positive cases to 16284—6022 in Jammu and 10262 in Kashmir.

Regarding the 14 more fatalities, officials said that eight of the victims were residents of Jammu division and the remaining six from the Valley. With these deaths, the overall fatality count has reached 4174 in the Union Territory.

Delta Variant

Delta by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Recent epidemiological studies have suggested the role of the new SARS-CoV-2 variants for raging second COVID wave in India including Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said. He said that the sudden increase in the number of COVID related deaths in UT of J&K especially in Jammu raised an alarm about the circulating variant of concern (B.1.617.2) in Jammu, which was proved right by the study, said Dr Shashi Sudhan Principle and Dean GMC Jammu.

As per the official spokesperson, Dr Sudhan said that the COVID positive samples are routinely sent to Indian SARS CoV-2 Consortium of Genomics (INSACOG) for genomic sequencing and analysis of circulating COVID-19 viruses and several variants have been reported in Jammu.

He also quoted the Principle GMC as saying that there was available information to suggest that the increased transmissibility and increased deaths in the month of May were linked to the variant of concern.

The official spokesperson further said that as per the recent data of Covid-19 Positives samples sent from Department of Microbiology, GMC Jammu to National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi, for genetic sequencing, 68.5% of the tested positive patients were reported to have variant of concern i.e. B.1.617.2, generally known as the double mutant and been classified as being "of concern" by the WHO.

"The PMC further said that the mortality rate among patients admitted in the HDU of GMC, Jammu was 62.5% in those infected with the 'variant of concern,' with a very high number of young patients, indicating the higher public health implications of the variant," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, Dr. Sudhan further added that among those patients admitted 58.4% were reported to have B.1.617.2, 22.47% were reported to have B.1 mutation, 6.74% were having B.1.1 mutant, 3.37% had B.1.617.1 variant while as 1.1% had B .1.17 the UK variant.

"Further, she added that 2.247% of admitted patients were reported to have no mutant at all," he added.

Elective Surgeries

interest of better patient care.

"It is impressed upon all Chief Medical Officers, Medical Superintendents and Block Medical Officers under the Administrative control of this Directorate to resume conducting of elective routine surgeries in their respective Non-Covid health institutions forthwith in view of the decline in the number of Covid-19 positive cases reported from across Kashmir Division," reads a circular issued by DHSK Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather.

However, all the necessary precautions, guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures issued by competent authorities from time to time must be adhered to while performing surgeries in the interest of safety of patients as well as healthcare workers, the circular added.

First Black

infection popularly known as Black Fungus, officials said here on Saturday.

A top health official said that a 35-year-old female from Udhampur who had recovered from Covid-19 showed symptoms of Mucormycosis like bilateral eye swelling and acute pain on left side and greenish discharge from her nose.

He said that the patient was recently diagnosed with Type-2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) and after a greenish discharge from her nose, the patient was initially admitted in Udhampur. "The patient went to Chandigarh for further treatment, where after brain MRI, Mucormycosis treatment was given to her but she didn't recover," he said.

Meanwhile, a top official from SKIMS said that a patient was admitted in the institute on June 04 and after an MRI of brain was done, it showed Mucormycosis which involves nose, orbit and frontal lobe of the brain known as rhino-orbital cerebral Mucormycosis.

He said that the patient has now developed proptosis in left eye and has lost vision in left eye for which an ENT consultation has been done and biopsy was also taken.

"Doctors are planning for neurosurgery and ENT consultation today for debridement," the official said.

Notably, 18 cases of Mucormycosis or Black Fungus have been already confirmed in Jammu and Kashmir besides that there are 8 suspected cases and so far 4 patients have died in the UT.

India Says Desire

countries, including Pakistan. Our consistent position is that issues, if any, between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully, in an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence," Sudan said in the General Assembly.

"The onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere, including by taking credible, verifiable action to not allow any territory under its control to be used for (cross-border militancy) against India in any manner, he added.

Speaking earlier, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Munir Akram raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir during his remarks.

Sudan said it is rather unfortunate that Pakistan continued to indulge in theatrics not befitting the forum.

It is clear that the international community is not getting fooled by this delegation anymore, he said, adding that the country sought to exploit the UNGA forum and once again raised matters internal to my country.

Sudan asserted that the decision taken by the Parliament of India on Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are matters internal to India.

India abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 on August 5, 2019 and bifurcated it into two Union territories.

India, currently serving a two-year term on the Security Council as a non-permanent member, further said that as a member of the 15-nation Council it will continue its efforts along with other elected members to pursue reforms in the working methods and for better reporting to the General Assembly.

Sudan said the General Assembly debates on the reports of the Security Council time and again have sought more in-depth analysis by the Council of its work in the annual reports.

Unfortunately, this request has not been heeded to by the Council, whose functioning is based on anachronistic working methods centred around the principle of decision making by consensus. This principle affects mostly the elected members, who ironically hold the majority voice in the Council, he said.

He said India believes it is important for the Security Council to pay more attention to its report to the General Assembly rather than view it as a mere formality.

The General Assembly is indeed the most representative organ of the United Nations. The fact that there exists a separate provision in the UN Charter mandating such a report by the Security Council itself shows the importance with which this report is viewed.

"Hence, the annual report of the Security Council must inform, highlight and analyse the measures that it has decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security during the reporting period.

India also reiterated the need for analysis of the UN peacekeeping operations, the flagship tool for the maintenance of international peace and security.

We need more information on how peacekeeping operations are run, the problems they face, on why certain mandates are set or changed, or on when and why they are strengthened, scaled-down or ended. As most peacekeepers are contributed by non-Council members, who put the lives of their troops at risk to serve the cause of international peace, a better partnership between the Security Council and the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) is needed, he said.

US Official Concerned

during a Congressional hearing on Democracy in the Indo-Pacific on Wednesday at the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia and Nonproliferation.

India remains the world's largest democracy with a strong rule of law and independent judiciary and enjoys a strong and growing

strategic partnership with the United States," Thompson said.

"However, some of the Indian government's actions have raised concerns that are inconsistent with India's democratic values, he said.

This includes increasing restrictions on freedom of expression and the detention of human rights activists and journalists, he said.

Thompson said the US regularly engages in and on these issues, including the important work of civil society.

India has previously rejected criticism by foreign governments and human rights groups on allegations that civil liberties have eroded in the country.

The government has asserted that India has well established democratic practices and robust institutions to safeguard the rights of all.

The government has emphasised that the Indian Constitution provides for adequate safeguards under various statutes for ensuring the protection of human rights.

Responding to a question from lawmakers, Thompson said the US has been concerned in Pakistan and Bangladesh about some of the restrictions on journalists that have been there.

Similarly, at times, that has happened in India; though, I think, India, we can say, has a very vibrant press overall that reports very freely on its government, he said.

Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan, who represents a Congressional district from Pennsylvania, raised the issue of Kashmir during the Congressional hearing.

Although of course, they're two great democracies, democracies including ours and India's are not without their flaws and problems. I do have a pretty big (number of) Kashmiris in my community and there is, of course, concern about the treatment of the Kashmir people, she said.

What is the dialogue that is ongoing between the administration and the Indian government on these human rights issues broadly, if you could share a little bit there? she asked.

Thompson said that the Biden administration routinely raises issues related to a vast array of rights and democratic issues with India.

Kashmir is one area where we have urged them to return to normalcy as quickly as possible, including we've seen some steps taken: The release of prisoners, the restoration of 4G access, things of that nature. There are other electoral steps we'd like to see them take and that we have encouraged them to do and will continue to do so, Thompson said.

Congressman Steve Chabot said that by many accounts, the US and India, as the world's two largest democracies, are uniquely poised to join forces in promoting democratic values in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

And I'm assuming that this administration would agree with that. If so, what initiatives does this administration intend to pursue to take advantage of that unique relationship between the US and India as the two largest democracies? he asked.

We are, right now, through our global comprehensive strategic partnership with India looking at areas where we can work together to strengthen across the region the effects of the ability of countries to push back on malign influence and through the Quad initiative where we brought in Japan and Australia, as well, Thompson replied.

Initiated in 2007, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad is an informal grouping of the US, India, Australia and Japan.

The Quad member countries have resolved to uphold a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific amid growing Chinese assertiveness in the region.

The US has a tremendous opportunity to work together with four like-minded countries, all democracies, that are looking at ways we can help deliver tremendous relief in the wake of COVID-19, Thompson said.

"They can look at how we set standards and work together on critical technologies and diversifying supply chains. And finally can fight climate change and work on improving the environmental situation across the region, he said.

Congresswoman Houlahan said the United States and India, the world's two largest democracies, are uniquely placed to join forces in promoting a democratic system and democratic values in the Indo-Pacific region, specifically, and probably beyond.

The United States, Thompson said, has a global comprehensive strategic partnership with India.

The US is looking at ways to both strengthen India's ability to be a positive player and influencer throughout the region, including the Quad.

The Quad relationship is extremely important because of the ASEAN centrality and the vast regional reach that it has for us to be able to bring these kinds of democratic ideals across the board, he said.

Our ability to leverage each other's assistance programmes and complement one another where relationships may be stronger between us in a country versus India in a country or vice versa, there's a great, leveraging opportunity there, said the State Department official.

"As is the case around the world, the Chinese government uses a combination of economic levers and soft power to pressure South Asian countries to align with its interests, and smaller countries are especially vulnerable to this pressure," Thomson said.

India's White-Ball Squad To Quarantine In Mumbai For 2 Weeks Before SL Tour



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's white ball squad, led by Shikhar Dhawan, will quarantine in Mumbai from June 14 to 28 and undergo six RT-PCR tests on alternate days before flying off to Colombo for the six-match series against Sri Lanka, starting on July 13.

It is understood that all the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that will be followed by the Lanka-bound squad will be same as those of the first team currently in the United Kingdom for the World Test Championship final and five-match series against England.

"All the rules will be same like we followed in England. The out-station players will come by charter flight and some fly business class of commercial airline," a BCCI source privy to development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"They will do seven days of room quarantine and then can meet in common areas inside the bio-bubble. The players will do gym sessions in staggered manner."

While the three-match ODI series starts on July 13, it is expected that Indian team will have match simulation practice (situational training) after individual sessions, following three days of room quarantine at the team hotel in Colombo.

"It will be just like what's happening in England. Match situations will be created and that's how the intra-squad training will be held.

"You can't have your main players get out off the first ball and not bat again or bat for the whole innings. Everyone needs training so it won't be practice games as such," the source said.

The Indian teams over the years have always stayed at the Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo.

Trent Boult Hopes Playing Edgbaston Test Will Get Him Ready To Face India

Press Trust of India

LONDON: Initially not expecting to feature in the ongoing second Test against England, New Zealand pacer Trent Boult is hopeful that achieving game fitness rather than bowling in the nets will put him in "good stead" in the upcoming World Test Championship final against India.

Boult, who missed out on the first Test against England as he opted to spend time with his family after the suspension of the IPL in May, was also set to sit out the second match as well. However, the pace spearhead was out of quarantine sooner than expected as UK relaxed its quarantine rules.

"Initially I wasn't expecting to play this game but everything fell into line, and I gave myself that chance to get out there and I think I'll definitely be better off for that head out," Boult was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"It's one thing loading and getting through numbers in the nets but to simulate that kind of game fitness and having to come back three, four or five times in a day ... there's no real other way to do that. So I'm hoping it puts me in good stead (for the WTC final)."

The inaugural WTC final between Indian and New Zealand is scheduled to be held in Southampton from June 18-22.

"The toes are a bit sore but that's what happens when you ram into the shoes for 30 overs. I'm excited about what lies ahead next week in Southampton but equally excited with the opportunity here over the next couple of days," Boult said.

The first Test between the Blackcaps and hosts England



ended in a draw and New Zealand made six changes for the second match which began on Thursday.

"What worked really well was the travel went well and I managed to get out of isolation in the UK quicker than was expected.

"As you can imagine, I was very excited with the prospect of playing the second Test. I felt like I gave myself the best chance with preparing with that week back at home and then getting straight into it here.

"Hopefully, we can get the job done and win a very important series."

New Zealand have plenty of bowling options ahead of the marquee Test next week with pacers Tim Southee, Kyle Jamieson, Neil Wagner and Matt Henry performing well in ongoing series but Boult feels some "hard calls" are on the cards.

"Healthy competition," Boult said about their pace-bowling options for the WTC final.

"The boys are very excited about the prospect, but they've put in a lot of hard yards not just over the last couple of weeks but over a couple of years of a Test Championship cycle.

"Some hard calls will have to be made but the big picture is the collective goal of lifting the world title," he added.

Coach David Robertson Awarded British Empire Medal For His Football Work In Kashmir Valley

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: David Alexander Robertson, coach of Kashmir's famous football club Real Kashmir FC, has been honoured with British Empire Medal (BEM) for his services to the community in the Valley and strengthening UK-India relations, a feat he dedicated to the people of Kashmir and the team he has been engaged with.

According to the list released on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth II's birthday on Friday evening, "Manager, Real Kashmir Football Club, India, receives a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the community in Kashmir and UK-India relations."

The awards were announced on Saturday by the British government to mark the monarch's official birthday.

The 52-year-old Robertson, who has been coach of Real Kashmir Football Club, has received a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to the local community.

"The award recognises Mr Robertson's outstanding contribution to the sport and the community as head coach of RKFC since January 2017. This included guiding the football team into the I-League the first time the team has competed at this level," the official list read.

"The last season of the I-League saw RKFC attain the highest number of home ground match attendees, averaging 25,000 people per match."

Robertson said he was "absolutely delighted" and honoured to have been recognised and awarded this honour for his work in Kashmir.

"I have enjoyed every minute spent in Kashmir. It has been a real pleasure to have worked and met so many wonderful people. I think of Kashmir as my second home," he said.

The BEM is a British and Commonwealth award for meritorious



civil or military service worthy of recognition by the Crown.

When contacted, Robertson told PTI from his home in Scotland that it has been an amazing journey of almost five years of working with the people of Kashmir and the club.

"I remember the initial days when barely a few dozen turned up for a match of RKFC to a crowd watching from even trees and nearby building tops and cheering the team," Robertson said.

"I dedicate this to my club especially my owner Sandeep Chattoo and people of Kashmir."

The story of RKFC is all about determination to achieve the best in football and win millions of hearts across the globe, he said.

Talking about his owner, David said Chattoo is unlike other club owners and added, "He treats everyone in the club as his own family member. This definitely makes a difference."

"I thank him for all the support extended to the club because his aim is to win hearts of the people in the Valley through the game of football."

Chattoo congratulated Robertson for being awarded the medal by the British government and said this would help in further boosting the morale of people as well as the team.

Sports Departments Distribute Equipments, Other Items To Athletes In Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) and Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC), in separate events on Saturday distributed sports equipment and other materials among athletes in Jammu.

Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Ms Nuzhat Gul gave away books and stationary items to 22 needy women hockey players at a function organized by Hockey J&K at Green Field Play Ground, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Ms Gul while addressing the players said that result oriented hockey was needed in this time of competition. She asked players to practice hard in hockey and at the same time stressed upon them to study hard and excel in examinations as well.

A training camp for Women and Men Hockey players was declared open by the Secretary JKSC on the occasion.

In the other event, Director General, Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS), Dr Saleem-Ur-Rehman, dedicated Rifle Shooting and Fencing material and equipment to



the youth of district Doda.

The event was held at Sports Stadium, Doda.

The DG advised the department

to follow COVID Safety protocols as they keep open the newly launched sports like Rifle Shooting and Fencing for youth. He said this would enable the participants, players and

beginners alike, to get equal benefit and training properly. The DG also handed over a mechanized pitch roller for Doda Cricket ground.

Later, the Director General visited the Berbhag area of Beoli Panchayat for the inspection of land for a proposed 2nd Cricket/Sports Stadium, coming up in the Berbhag area of Doda.

Shakib Al Hasan Banned For Four Games Of Dhaka Premier League



Press Trust of India

DHAKA: Star Bangladesh cricketer Shakib Al Hasan has been let off lightly with a four-match suspension from Dhaka T20 Premier League, following his on-field meltdown during a match between Mohammedan Sporting and Abahani Limited.

According to leading Bangladesh cricket portal 'BDCrictime', "Mohammedan Sporting Club captain Shakib Al Hasan has been banned for four matches due to his arrogant behaviour in the Dhaka Premier League. He will not be able to play the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh round matches of the DPL."

While his team Mohammedan won the match easily by DLS method, Shakib Al Hasan lost his cool twice during the game -- once when he kicked the stumps after a strong leg-before appeal against his Bangladesh teammate Mushfiqur Rahim and secondly when umpires called for covers with one ball left to complete a minimum of six overs of the Abahani innings which would be required for a result. This time,

he rushed from mid-off and uprooted the stumps.

The match did start and Shakib's team won easily but he also misbehaved with rival team officials and former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud Sujon.

Later Shakib tendered an unconditional apology on his official facebook page, but his act of trying to damage match property is as good as Level III offence. Shakib Al Hasan plays for Kolkata Knight Riders in Indian Premier League (IPL).

The portal also reported that the decision was taken by Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) chaired by Kazi Imam.

Shakib's boorish behaviour went viral as video footage of him uprooting the stumps has since then been shared more than million times from various social media handles.

Shakib Al Hasan is Bangladesh's most prolific international cricketer with more than 10,000 international runs across formats along with nearly 600 wickets.

He has already been banned for one year after failing to report a corrupt approach during an earlier edition of Indian Premier League.

Michael Holding Criticises England Team's 'Moment Of Unity' Gesture

Press Trust of India

LONDON: West Indies great Michael Holding has criticised England cricket team's "moment of unity" gesture in the ongoing Test series against New Zealand, saying it was not supporting Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement but giving subtle meaning of "all lives matter".

England players wore T-shirts sporting messages against any racism, religious intolerance, sexism and other anti-discrimination slogans, having decided to not take the knee after the series against West Indies last year.

Holding, who is a passionate advocate for equality in cricket and the wider community, feels the gesture is akin to saying "all lives matter" rather than supporting BLM movement.

"What this England (cricket) team are doing now with this 'moment of unity', that is not supporting Black Lives Matter," Holding told 'Sky Sports'.

"What you are doing there is, when I say, 'black lives matter', you are telling me 'all lives matter'," the 67-year-old added.

Holding applauded England football team for "showing some backbone" by continuing to take the knee despite criticism. England's footballers were booed and jeered

by some fans for taking a knee in warm-up games ahead of the Euro Championship. However, they have pledged to continue the gesture.

"The footballers, Gareth Southgate (manager) and the England team, I applaud them for what they're doing. They are getting a lot of stick for taking the knee, they're getting booed, but they are showing some backbone.

"They are showing some instinctual fortitude. They're saying 'we're doing it because we know what we're doing -- not for a political movement, we're doing it for humanitarian reasons,'" Holding added.

Following the death of African-American George Floyd in police custody in the USA last year, Holding had delivered an emotional and powerful message against racism, asserting that the black race has been dehumanised and its accomplishments wiped off from a history "written by people who do the harm."

"I'm never going to talk about any political movement. I care about the three words: Black Lives Matter," said Holding, who has written a new book 'Why We Kneel, How We Rise'.

"(We've got a chance) That is an expression my mother used with me when I was a kid. I see we have a chance, because I see movement."

Djokovic Beats Nadal In French Open Thriller To Reach Final

Press Trust of India

PARIS: Novak Djokovic stopped Rafael Nadal's bid for a 14th French Open title and handed the King of Clay just his third loss in 108 matches at the tournament by coming back to win their thriller of a semifinal 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-2 on Friday night.

Terrific as the play was for most of the four hours, the match ended with a bit of a whimper: Djokovic grabbed the last six games.

So Djokovic will be seeking his second trophy at Roland Garros and a 19th major championship overall when he plays in Sunday's final.

The top-seeded Djokovic's opponent will be fifth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas.

It will be the 29th career Grand Slam final for Djokovic, and the first for Tsitsipas. Tsitsipas beat Alexander Zverev in the semifinals.

Nadal had won the past four titles in Paris, part of his collection of 20 Slams, tied with Roger Federer for the most by a man in tennis history.

The 35-year-old Spaniard is 105-3 for his career and Djokovic is respon-



sible for two of those defeats.

The masterpiece of a third set lasted 1 hour, 33 minutes alone, and an 11pm nationwide curfew in place because of COVID-19 was approaching.

Djokovic's previous match had been delayed more than 20 minutes while the audience, limited to 5,000 people under coronavirus restrictions, was cleared out of the stadium, but an announcement was made Friday to let everyone know they would

be allowed to stay until the end of the match.

Earlier chants in French of "We won't leave! We won't leave!" were replaced by choruses of the national anthem and cheers of thanks for President Emmanuel Macron.

Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia, will face Tsitsipas, a 22-year-old from Greece, who edged Alexander Zverev 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3.

Tsitsipas already had given away all of a two-set lead in his semifinal

earlier Friday when he double-faulted to trail love-40 in the opening game of the fifth. But Tsitsipas steeled himself to win five consecutive points, including one with a cross-court forehand passing shot he celebrated by shaking his racket as the crowd chanted his last name.

That hold pushed the No. 5-seeded Tsitsipas back in the right direction.

"I'm someone who fights. I was not willing to give up yet. I think I did few things right that worked in my favour," said Tsitsipas, who entered the day 0-3 in major semifinals.

"It was a breath of fresh air, that first game," he said. "I felt revitalized." Tsitsipas broke to go up 3-1 in the fifth with plenty of help from Zverev, who double-faulted and flubbed a trio of groundstrokes. Eventually, Tsitsipas served out the biggest win of his career, ending it after more than 3 1/2 hours on his fifth match point.

"It was a match full of emotions, full of so many different phases that I went through," Tsitsipas said. "So at the end, it was just such a big relief I was able to close it in such a good way. It was just exhausting."

Italy Put On A Show With 3-0 Win Over Turkey In Euro 2020 Opener

Agencies

ROME: Italy kicked off the European Championship in emphatic style on Friday as they delivered a commanding performance to sweep past toothless Turkey 3-0 in the Stadio Olimpico and stamp their early authority on Group A.

After a goalless first half, an own goal and strikes by Ciro Immobile and Lorenzo Insigne were just reward for the home side, who played with relentless positivity from the start.

Their dispiriting failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup looked a distant memory as they stretched their unbeaten run to 28 matches in a buoyant atmosphere.

They were helped by a flat display from Turkey, who lost their fifth consecutive opening match of a European Championship finals and barely mustered a worthwhile attack all night.

"It was important to start well here in Rome and it is a joy for us and for all the Italians," said coach Roberto Mancini.

"We produced a good perfor-

mance and I think we satisfied everyone, for the fans and all the Italians watching. (But) there are six games to go and there are a lot of good teams." Switzerland and Wales, who meet in the group's second game in Baku on Saturday, already knew Italy were the group favourites but the size of their task has suddenly looked somewhat bigger.

STRONG START

After a build-up featuring a spine-tingling rendition of Nessun Dorma by opera singer Andrea Bocelli -- channelling thoughts of Italia '90 -- a spectacular fireworks display and a typically raucous rendition of Italy's national anthem, the 16,000-strong crowd was in fine voice by kick-off. They were given plenty to cheer too as Italy made all the early running against a Turkish team happy to sit deep and invite pressure. However, Mancini's side were left frustrated in their efforts to break through the wall of red shirts.

Giorgio Chiellini had a header tipped over with a spectacular one-

handed save by Ugurcan Cakir and Immobile nodded a cross wide as Italy went in at the break with 14 attempts to none from Turkey -- but without a goal.

They kept probing and their patience was rewarded when Berardi fired a cross into the six-yard box where Demiral chested the ball into the net -- the first time in a European Championship that the tournament's opening goal was an own goal.

The ever-dangerous Leonardo Spinazzola had a shot beaten away and Manuel Locatelli's low effort was palmed wide before Immobile doubled Italy's lead by pouncing on Cakir's parry from another Spinazzola effort to neatly knock in the rebound.

The Azzurri's dominance was rewarded again when Immobile threaded a pass to Insigne, who placed a precise finish into the bottom corner with 11 minutes remaining.

It marked the first time Italy had scored three goals in a match at the Euros at their 39th attempt and capped a perfect start.

719 Doctors Died Of Covid In Second Wave Of Pandemic: IMA



Agenceis

New Delhi: As many as 719 doctors have died during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the latest report by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), with Bihar reporting the highest number of 111 doctors dying in the line of duty.

The second wave of coronavirus pandemic across the country is not over yet. This is the reason doctors are losing their lives every day while saving the lives of Covid-infected patients.

According to the IMA, a total of 1,467 doctors have died so far since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

As many as 748 doctors had lost their lives during the first wave of the pandemic.

Delhi is the only state after Bihar where more deaths of doctors have been reported. According to official figures, 109 doctors have died in Delhi, 79 in Uttar Pradesh,

43 in Rajasthan, 39 in Jharkhand and 35 in Andhra Pradesh.

However, there are some states where only a few doctors have lost their lives such as one in Puducherry, two in Tripura, two in Uttarakhand, two in Goa, while three doctors in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab have died due to infections during the second wave.

According to the information provided by the IMA, most of the doctors between 30 to 55 years have lost their lives during the second wave of Covid-19, including resident doctors and doctors working as interns. Apart from these doctors, some pregnant women doctors have also lost their lives in the line of duty.

The coronavirus pandemic curve also seems to be flattening across the country, as 84,332 new Covid-19 cases were reported in the last 24 hours and 4,002 infected persons lost their lives due to the virus, according to the union health ministry data.

Chances Of 3rd Wave Quite Real, Delhi Govt Preparing On War-Footing: Kejriwal

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday cautioned that the chances of the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic were quite real, while he asserted that his government was preparing on a "war-footing" to combat it.

Indications are coming from the UK on the fear of the third wave. Cases are rising there, despite 45 per cent of vaccination. So, we cannot afford to sit idle, he said. Kejriwal was speaking at an online event during which he jointly inaugurated 22 new PSA oxygen plants at nine hospitals across Delhi.

"These new oxygen plants at nine hospitals across Delhi being added today to strengthen our preparations to fight Covid," he said.

The chief minister in his address cautioned that the chances of the

"third wave of the coronavirus pandemic were quite real"

"We cannot afford to sit idle and our government is preparing on a war-footing to combat it," he said.

The Delhi government also procuring oxygen tankers to equip system to fight Covid in case of third wave, Kejriwal added

"People of Delhi have come shoulder-to-shoulder in combating the second wave of Covid, and our gratitude to industry sector too for joining the fight," he said.

Kejriwal congratulated people of Delhi, saying they have together faced the Covid second wave with struggle and discipline and "succeeded in controlling it".

"We pray that the third wave of Covid doesn't hit us, but if it happens, Delhi has to again fight together," he added.

Centre's Stand On Covid Vaccine For Pregnant Women As Matter Reaches Court

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: A pregnant woman has approached the Delhi High Court seeking direction to the Centre to include pregnant women in COVID-19 vaccination drive on priority basis.

The high court was informed by the Centre's counsel that the government is seized of the issue and will take a decision on the same.

Noting the statement made by the Centre's counsel, Justice Amit Bansal said no further orders are required and disposed of the woman's petition.

Advocate Vasudha Zutshi, representing the woman, said the petitioner is in advanced stage of pregnancy and desires to get vaccinated on priority basis. She sought direction to the government to issue a fresh notification to include pregnant women in the vaccination drive on priority basis.

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma and central gov-



ernment standing counsel Anurag Ahluwalia said National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) has issued a notification on May 28 in which various recommendations were made including that all pregnant women visiting antenatal care may be informed about the risks and benefits associated with the COVID-19 vaccines, Covishield and Covaxin, available in

the country.

Based on the information provided, a pregnant woman may be offered the available COVID-19 vaccine at the nearest centre and the vaccine can be given anytime during the pregnancy, the NTAGI recommendations said, adding that all nursing mothers are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines anytime after delivery.

War Archives, Declassified War Histories To Be Public Soon: Defence Ministry

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today approved the policy on archiving, declassification and compilation of histories of wars and operations by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

"Timely publication of war histories would give people accurate account of the events, provide authentic material for academic research and counter the unfounded rumours," the Defence Ministry statement noted.

According to the policy, each organisation under the Ministry of Defence such as tri-services, Integrated Defence Staff, Assam Rifles and Indian Coast Guard, will transfer the records, including war diaries, letters of proceedings and operational record books, to the History Division of Defence Ministry for proper upkeep, archival and writing of histories.

"The responsibility for declassification of records rests with the respective organisations as specified in the Public Record Act 1993 and the Public Record Rules 1997," the Defence Ministry statement noted.

According to the policy, records should ordinarily be declassified in 25 years.

"Records older than 25 years should be appraised by archival experts and transferred to the National Archives of India once the war/operations histories have been compiled," it stated.



The History Division will be responsible for coordination with various departments while compiling, seeking approval and publishing of histories of wars and operations, it mentioned.

"The policy mandates constitution of a committee headed by Joint Secretary, Defence Ministry and comprising of representatives of the tri-services, MEA (Ministry of External Affairs), MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs) and other organisations and prominent military historians (if required), for compilation of war and operations histories," it noted.

The policy also set clear timelines with regard to compilation and publication of histories of wars and operations, it mentioned.

"The above-mentioned committee should be formed within two years of completion of war/operations. Thereafter, collection of records and compilation should be completed in three years and disseminated to all concerned," it stated.

The requirement of having war histories written with clear cut policy on declassification of war records was recommended by the Kargil Review Committee headed by K Subrahmanyan as well as NN Vohra Committee in order to analyse lessons learnt and prevent future mistakes.

"Post Kargil War in 1999, GoM (Group of Ministers) recommendations on national security also mentioned the desirability of authoritative war history," the statement mentioned.

Heavy Rain Lash Mumbai; Train, Bus Services Hit Due To Water-Logging



Agenceis

Mumbai: Heavy rains, coupled with thunderstorm and strong winds, lashed Mumbai and its suburbs on Saturday, leading to disruption of train and bus services as tracks and roads got waterlogged at several locations, officials said.

A Central Railway spokesperson said the suburban train services between Dadar and Kurla stations on the main line were suspended after the water rose above the track level, while a Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) official said that several of its buses had to be diverted due to water-logging at some points.

At 10 am on Saturday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued a thunderstorm warning for a few districts in Konkan region, including Mumbai, for the next three hours from that time.

"Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning and moderate to intense spells of rain with gusty winds 30-40 kmph are likely to occur at isolated places," the IMD said in its warning for Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, Raigad and Ratnagiri districts of Konkan.

It had earlier issued an 'orange alert' for Mumbai for Saturday. An orange alert implies that authorities should be prepared to handle any sit-

uation arising out of severe weather condition. The Central Railway official said, "Due to more than 61.21 mm rainfall in the last one hour, coupled with a high tide of 4.34 metres at 1.32 pm and closing of Mithi river floodgates, water level has been rising on track between Kurla and Sion."

The suburban services on the Harbour line also slowed down due to water-logging on tracks near Chunabhatti station as a result of "extremely heavy rain", he said.

Trains have been running at a restricted speed for safety reasons, the official said.

The operations of local trains on other sections of the main line and other routes, including the Thane-Vashi line, are normal, he added.

A Western Railway spokesperson said that the suburban services on their corridors are running without any disruption, but they are closely monitoring the situation.

Water-logging was witnessed at several locations in Bandra east, Hindmata, King's Circle, Kurla Kamani and Wadala.

The BEST spokesperson said the undertaking diverted its buses on at least 17 locations due to water-logging on roads.

Mumbai has been witnessing heavy rain since Wednesday. PTI

NEWS MAKERS

'Corona Mata' Temple Built At UP Village, Demolished



Agenceis

People at Juhi Shukulpur village here built a "corona mata" temple, seeking divine grace to stay clear of the infection. However, the temple built on June 7 was demolished on Friday night.

Villagers alleged that it was demolished by police, which denied the charge, saying it was constructed on a disputed site and one of the parties involved in the dispute razed it.

Villagers said the temple was constructed five days ago by Lokesh Kumar Srivastava with the help of donations from local residents.

He installed the idol of the

"corona mata". Radhey Shyam Verma of the village was appointed its priest, after which people started offering prayers there.

Lokesh, who lives in Noida, jointly owns the land with Nagesh Kumar Srivastava and Jai Prakash Srivastava. He left the village for Noida after the temple was constructed.

Nagesh in his complaint to police said the temple was constructed to grab the land.

Sangipur police station SHO Tushardutt Tyagi said the temple was built on a disputed land and was razed by one of the parties involved in the dispute.

The matter is being investigated, police said.

High Court Gives Centre Kerala, J&K's Example Over "Door-To-Door" Vaccine

Agenceis

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court asked the Union government to look at the door-to-door vaccination programme carried out successfully by Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir, and take a sound decision on its present policy that states door-to-door vaccination was not possible.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice GS Kul Karni noted that it was unable to understand what the Centre's problem was in starting door-to-door vaccination when states such as Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir were already carrying out such drives.

Responding to a query raised by the court earlier this week, as to how a senior politician got vaccinated at his residence in Mumbai, Anil Sakhare, counsel for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), on Friday said the jab was not given by the civic body.

The bench then asked additional government pleader Geeta Shastri, appearing for the Maharashtra government, about who administered the vaccine to the politician. <r Shastri sought a week's time to respond.

To this, Chief Justice Datta said, One week to take information on this? This is alarming. There is an old saying 'You show me the man and I will show you the rule.'

The court was hearing a public interest litigation filed by advocates Dhruvi Kapadia and Kunal Tiwari, seeking door-to-door vaccination for senior citizens above the age of 75 and persons who are specially-abled, wheelchair bound or bed-ridden.

The court asked how the Union

BJP Seeks NIA Probe Against Digvijay Singh After His Remarks On Article 370

Agenceis

The BJP in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday lambasted senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh over his purported remarks on revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, with a leader of the saffron party demanding a probe by the NIA into the Congress veteran's activities, while state Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan accusing the Sonia Gandhi-led party of speaking the "language of Pakistan".

Another BJP leader alleged that Singh has betrayed the country and his remarks come in the category of "anti-national act".

During a clubhouse conversation, Singh purportedly made the remarks to a person, who the BJP said was a journalist of Pakistani origin.

On Saturday, BJP's IT cell's chief Amit Malviya shared a clip of Digvijay Singh's purported chat on his Twitter handle, claiming that in the clubhouse chat, the Congress leader was talking about reconsidering Article 370 in Kashmir.

"Democracy was not there in Kashmir when they revoked Article 370. Then 'insaniyat' (humanity) was not there because they put everyone behind bars and 'Kashmiriyat' is something which is basically the fundamentals of secularism. Because in a Muslim-majority state, there was a Hindu raja (king) and both worked together. In fact, the reservation in Kashmir was given to Kashmiri Pandits in government services. So therefore, the decision of revoking Article 370 and reducing the statehood of J&K is extremely sad decision and the Congress party would certainly have to have a relook on this issue," Digvijay Singh is allegedly heard saying in this audio with a screen shot that shows several faces.

Reacting to this, MP CM Chouhan said the Congress had committed a sin by imposing Article 370 in Kashmir.

"Kashmir is the crown jewel of India. It is an integral part of the country. It was the Congress, which committed the sin of imposing Article 370 in Kashmir. Congress speaks the language of Pakistan," Chouhan said.

He added that Sonia Gandhi should clear the stand of the Congress party on this issue.

"She should answer, and if they do not answer, then it will be assumed that they completely agree with Digvijay Singh's views," he said.

Chouhan said that Digvijay Singh will never be successful in his intentions.

"No matter how hard you try, your plans will never be successful. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, this country is one, and will continue to be one," he said, while accusing the Congress's Rajya Sabha MP of fuelling separatism and disturb-



ing peace in Kashmir.

State BJP president V D Sharma said the National Investigation Agency (NIA) should investigate the phone calls of Digvijay Singh, and questioned the involvement of a Pakistani journalist in this chat.

Sharma also said that he will soon write a letter in this regard to Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"NIA should investigate all the activities of Digvijaya Singh. The act of involvement of Pakistan's journalist in the chat should also be investigated...I will write a letter to the union home minister in this regard," he said, adding that the Congress veteran is habitual of doing this.

Sharma said Digvijay Singh has made a "fashion" of attacking sovereignty of the country for appeasement and vote bank politics.

Reacting to the audio, Madhya Pradesh Medical Education Minister Vishvas Sarang said that it is unfortunate that Digvijaya Singh gave this statement in a clubhouse chat, in which the Pakistani journalist was present.

"Digvijay Singh has betrayed the country by making this statement. This remark over Article 370 comes in the category of anti-national act, Sarang said.

He said that Digvijay Singh and other Congress leaders are trying to defame India on the international stage.

"Nobody can change the decision of revoking Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Facing flak, Digvijay Singh posted a tweet saying, "Illiterates cannot understand the difference between shall and consider."

Talking to PTI, a senior State Congress spokesperson said this was a national issue and the party has yet not issued any guidelines to speak on this subject.

"We can't give a reaction on Singh's alleged statement on this issue as of now," he said.

Meanwhile, former minister and Congress MLA from Raghogarh, Jaivardhan Singh, son of Digvijay Singh, in a tweet said, "The next election will not be fought on Article 370 but on the issues of rising inflation, unemployment and the devastation caused by COVID-19 in the country."



government policy says door-to-door vaccination was not possible presently, when individual states such as Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir were carrying out the drive.

"How is it that individual states like Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir have introduced and are successfully doing door-to-door vaccination? What is the Centre's comment on the Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir pattern?" the bench asked.

"We are not able to understand what the Centre's problem was. Why don't you (Union) communicate with these states and if it appeals to you, then you can ask other states also to start the same drive," the court said, asking the government to take a "sound decision."

The court also noted that it was very happy with the good job being done by the BMC during the pandemic and asked why the civic body was hesitant to introduce door-to-door vaccination.

To this, BMC counsel Mr Sakhare pointed out a letter written by civic commissioner Iqbal Chahal to the Centre stating that the civic body was willing to carry out door-to-door vaccination and requested the Union government to provide guidelines for the same.

The bench directed Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh to take instructions from the Health Secretary of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on the letter and posted the matter for further hearing on June 14.

ASG Singh told the court that the COVID-19 pandemic had a national impact and all states need to work in coordination with the Centre.

The Centre forms guidelines and it is expected from all state governments that the guidelines are followed, Singh said, adding that the guidelines for the vaccination drive are updated as per the prevalent situation from time to time.