



## P3 CITY

## 'CITY SPECIFIC ACTION PLAN BEING PREPARED TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY'

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday held a meeting to review the implementation and monitoring of the National Clean Air programme (NCAP) ...

## P6 THINK

## G-7 SUMMIT DISAPPOINTS

The 47th annual G-7 Summit, ended on Sunday last at the Carbis Bay in Cornwall, UK. Though the British Prime Minister wanted the summit to showcase his brand of 'Global Britain', after Brexit, there were terse exchanges between



## P5 STATE

## BUDGAM RESIDENTS PLANT SAPLINGS ON 'DILAPIDATED ROAD' TO REGISTER PROTEST

The villagers of Check Mohalla in Central Kashmir's Budgam district Monday planted paddy saplings on the road to protest against the dilapidated condition of the



## Quote!

Sometimes you will never know the value of something, until it becomes a memory.

— Dr. Seuss

## NEWS DIGEST

## Trench Collapse Kills Labourer

**SRINAGAR:** A labourer died while two others were injured after a trench they were digging, collapsed and fell on them in Bijbehara area in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Monday afternoon, an official said. An official said that three labours were injured after an the wall of an under construction trench collapsed on them in the afternoon at Durpora Khiram, reported news agency KNO. He said that they were shifted to PHC Srigufwara for initial treatment, however, one among them succumbed to his injuries while the condition of other two was said to be critical. The official said the injured duo was referred to GMC Anantnag for further treatment. He identified the deceased as Subzar Ahmad Lone son of Abdul Rehman Lone, resident of Durpora Khiram.

## Bear Mauls Man To Death

**SRINAGAR:** A middle aged man was mauled to death by a bear during cattle grazing in Ladermad forests of central Kashmir's Budgam district late last night. Officials said that the man who was grazing cattle in Ladermad forests was mauled to by a bear during midnight. They identified the deceased as Mohammad Ramzan Chopan son of Abdul Aziz Chopan, resident of Boniyar Surasyar area of Chadoora.

## Man Found Dead Inside Train

**JAMMU:** A 65-year-old man was found dead inside a train at the railway station here, officials said on Monday. The train had reached the Jammu Railway Station from Odisha and was parked in the washing line when Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel spotted the body on Sunday, the officials said. They said the body has been shifted to the mortuary at the Government Medical College for post-mortem and identification. (PTI)

## Rape Accused Lodged In Jail Dies

**SRINAGAR:** A 37-year-old rape accused from Brath Kalan Sopore and lodged in a jail in Kupwara district has died, officials said on Monday. They said inmate identified as Lateef Ahmed Mir son of Hamza Mir was arrested in case FIR No 15/2021 under section 376 (rape), 342 (wrong confinement) registered at police station Sopore. Mir was under judicial custody in district jail Kupwara from February 5. "He was under quarantine after testing covid-19 positive. However, he had tested negative of late. Yesterday he was shifted to hospital and died," Superintendent of Kupwara, Shahbaz Hussain said as per news agency GNS.

## ...Corona Wave Ebbs In J&amp;K

## 599 New Cases Reported, Lowest In Over 2 Months

Firdaus Ali

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 599 new cases of coronavirus, the lowest ever number of cases in over two months, while nine more people succumbed to the infection across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 438 new cases were reported from Kashmir Valley while 161 were detected from Jammu Division thus taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 308011. The 599 cases were the lowest to be recorded in the Union Territory in the last 68 days.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 161, Baramulla 38, Budgam 60, Pulwama 37,



Handicraft shops have reopened in the floating market inside Srinagar's Dal Lake as coronavirus cases continue to show a sharp decline. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Kupwara 62, Anantnag 33, Bandipora 19, Ganderbal 7, Kulgam 17, Shopian 4, Jammu 22, Udhampur 13, Rajouri 33, Doda 27, Kathua 5, Samba 11, Kishtwar 5, Poonch 15, Ramban 8 and Reasi 17 fresh cases of coronavirus. Moreover, they said, 2139 more ● [More On P10](#)

## Majlis Pitches For Early Vaccination

**M**uttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), an amalgam of socio-religious organisations on Monday asked people to shun unreasonable reluctance and get vaccinated sooner so that the normal life affected by pandemic is resumed and the people in Valley remain well protected for a possible third wave. ● [More On P10](#)

## Police Arrest 12 Violators, File 4 Cases

**P**olice on Monday said that it has arrested twelve people and filed four cases in the ongoing drive against the people violating coronavirus rules in the Valley. In a statement issued here Monday, a police spokesperson said that during the last 24 hours, Police have ● [More On P10](#)

## CS Takes Stock Of Facilities At SMHS Hospital

**T**he Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday directed the SMHS administration to optimally utilize the available human and material resources for treating Covid and non-Covid patients and ensure that high-quality medical care is provided to patients round-the-clock. Mehta along with Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department today visited SMHS hospital on Monday and took stock of medical facilities being provided, especially to COVID patients, an official spokesperson said. During the visit, he said, the Chief Secretary inspected various medical wards and checked availability of necessary equipment and other facilities at the tertiary hospital. "The Chief Secretary also ● [More On P10](#)

## Wetland Conservation, Management

## Govt Sets Up Technical, Grievance Panels

## Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday accorded sanction to the constitution of separate technical and grievance committees for conservation and management of wetlands.

The Technical Committee

is headed by Director, Department of Environment, Ecology & Remote Sensing while it members include Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan, Research & Training), Special Secretary (Technical), Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, J&K (member secretary),

Law Officer, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Dr. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir, Dr. Deepika Slathia, Sr. Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu and Er. Ajaz Rasool, ● [More On P10](#)

## HC Orders Release Of Youth Arrested In Aug 2019

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir high court on Monday quashed detention order under Public Safety Act against Pulwama resident and directed his release from preventive custody forthwith after over one year and ten months.

A bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey quashed the detention order against Tanveer Ahmad Shergojri son of Gulzar Ahamd Shergojri of Checkpora Nawa Tehsil Pulwama after hearing his counsel ● [More On P10](#)

## KAS Officers Induction Into IAS Under Process: Govt

## Observer News Desk

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government said on Monday that the induction of Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officers in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) was under process and over 200 officers have been promoted across the Union Territory. "Stagnation of Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service officers is being addressed. In last 2-3 months 200+ have got promoted. More in offing. Their induction into IAS is under process. In

return all should dedicate themselves in the service of people wherever they are posted," Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Manoj Dwivedi posted on his official Twitter handle. The induction process in IAS has come to halt since 2013 due to multiple issues including seniority dispute and litigation.

The Centre's indecisiveness over whether J&K will have 50 per cent promotion quota or 33 per cent at par with other ● [More On P10](#)

## Militant Found Dead In Soura Laid To Rest

Family Says Amir Was A Kidney Patient, Suspect Renal Failure Caused His Death

## Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** A day after an Al-Badr militant's body was found abandoned near a shrine in Soura area of this capital city, his family said on Monday that their son was diagnosed with a renal failure and may have died of kidney ailments like his mother and elder brother.

22-year-old Amir Gafoor Malik alias Akhtar Bhai, an active militant of the Al-Badr was found dead outside the main entrance of the Janab Sahib Shrine in Anchar area of Srinagar's Soura. His death had triggered speculations about infighting between the militant groups. "I'm sure he died ● [More On P10](#)

## Single Dose Sufficient For Already Infected People: Study

## Press Trust Of India

**HYDERABAD:** A single dose of COVID-19 vaccine is sufficient for an infected person as there was a greater antibody response when compared with those who have had no prior infection, according to a study released by AIG Hospitals on Monday.

The city-based AIG Hospitals

recently published a study conducted on 260 health-care workers, who got vaccinated between January 16 and February 5, in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases (a peer-reviewed journal). The study was designed to assess the immunological memory response in all those patients. All patients were given ● [More On P10](#)



## 100% Vaccination Will Suppress Third Wave: Expert

**T**he vaccination of the entire population in Jammu and Kashmir could prevent or suppress the possible third coronavirus wave hitting the Union Territory, a senior doctor said on Monday. "Everything about the emergence of third Covid-19 wave, its severity and impact on children has been ● [More On P10](#)

## Govt Working On Equitable Development Of UT: LG

## Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday said that his government is working on many fronts for equitable development of all the regions of the Union Territory.

Sinha, as per official spokesperson made these remarks while

interacting with former J&K Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig and DDC Chairperson, Baramulla at Raj Bhavan here on Monday. The DDC Chairperson, he said, projected various developmental demands of her constituency, besides several welfare issues of DDC members.

"The Lt Governor, while interacting with the ● [More On P10](#)

## In Remembrance



## HAKIM IFTIKHAR HUSSAIN

15 days have passed since you left for heavenly abode leaving your family and friends in grief.

We pray for your Maghfirah

REST IN PEACE

Family and Friends

## Basmati Truce: Pak, India Agree To Share Ownership

## Agencies

**ISLAMABAD:** In a rare agreement between two arch-rivals India and Pakistan, which have a history of long-time rivalry with disputes on every front from sea to land, exporters from both sides of the border have mutually agreed to share the ownership of the regions prized Basmati rice, a solution considered the most workable to reach the European markets.

"There has to be a joint ownership, which is a logical solution to the dispute," said Faizan Ali Ghouri, a Pakistani rice exporter.

The fight between India and Pakistan over the claim of the origin

of Basmati rice has a long history, as this variety is produced largely on both sides of the border.

India has filed a claim in the European Union (EU) seeking a geographical indication (GI) tag for Basmati rice. Pakistan, on the other hand, has opposed India's claim and has filed a request for a protected GI tag.

"There is no logic in both countries' claim for the sole exclusivity of Basmati rice. Although its origin is Pakistani Punjab, it is grown in both sides of the border. Therefore, a joint ownership is the only viable solution to the long-standing dispute," said Ghouri.

"The EU buyers also prefer joint ownership of the ● [More On P10](#)





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**KASHMIR  
OBSERVER**

**Tuesday| 15-06-2021**

# Study says depression during pregnancy can affect mother-infant relationships

Agencies

The findings of a recent study revealed that women with depression during pregnancy, or with a history of depression, have a reduced quality of mother-infant relationships.

The study was funded by National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) and its results were published in the journal 'BJPsych Open'.

In the study, researchers examined whether depression, either before or during pregnancy, affects the mother-infant relationship.

Researchers looked at the quality of mother-infant interactions eight weeks and 12 months after birth in three groups of women; healthy women, women with clinically significant depression in pregnancy, and women with a lifetime history of depression but healthy pregnancies.

The study used a sample of 131 women: 51 healthy mothers with no current or past depression, 52 mothers with depression referred to the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust Perinatal Psychiatry Services, and 28 'history only' mothers with a history of depression but no current diagnosis.

Quality of interaction  
At both eight weeks and 12 months, mothers and babies in the depression and history-only groups displayed a reduced quality of interaction. Specifically, at eight weeks, 62 per cent in the group of mothers with depression during pregnancy and 56 per cent in the



group of mothers with a history-only of depression scored in the lowest category of relationship quality, where therapeutic interventions are recommended, compared with 37 per cent in the healthy group.

All mother and baby groups improved in their quality of interaction between 8 weeks and 12 months which researchers say indicates that with time all mothers and their babies can become more attuned to each other.

At six days, newborn babies of mothers in the depression and history-only groups had decreased social-interactive behaviour, which, together with maternal socio-economic difficulties, was also predictive of reduced quality of interaction, while postnatal depression was not. Dr Rebecca Bind, lead author and Re-

search Associate at Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, said, "Our findings suggest that perinatal mental health professionals should offer support not only to women with depression during pregnancy but also to pregnant women with a history of depression, as they may also be at risk of interaction difficulties. Future research should try to understand why a history of depression, despite a healthy perinatal period, may impact the developing relationship."

Senior author Carmine Pariante, Professor of Biological Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London and Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, said, "We recommend

that healthcare professionals provide pregnant women at risk of interaction difficulties with examples of positive caregiving behaviours, and with ways to engage their babies and understand their needs, all of which could be incorporated into parenting and birth classes and health visits."

Pariante added, "We also suggest that interventions that can help the mother-infant interaction should be made more widely available, such as video feedback, where a clinician and mother discuss what behaviours work best to engage and comfort the baby, and structured mother-baby activities, such as art and singing groups. This is especially important because we know that the early years are vital for future mental health and wellbeing."

The relationship between mothers and infants was assessed using the Critten-den Child-Adult Relationship Experimental-Index which assesses 'dyadic synchrony', a term that describes the quality of the relationship as a whole.

Researchers analysed films of three-minute interactions filmed at eight weeks and 12 months postnatal. Mothers played with their babies while researchers scored the relationship based on seven aspects of behaviour: facial expression, vocal expression, position and body contact, affection and arousal, turn-taking contingencies, control, and choice of activity.

The researchers are grateful to the women and their infants who participated in the PRAM-D study and to everyone on the study team who recruited, collected, and analysed data.

## Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Baramulla NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Abdul Rauf Wani S/o Mohammad Shafi Wani R/O 32 Talipora Rafi Abad (Transferor) of Car bearing registration No. DLIOCF 3647 chasis No: MA-JAXXMRKADK 78711 Engine No: DK78711 Model 2013 in favour of --(Transferee).

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

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

NOJK-RTOK 480

Dated: 14/06/2021

GMS

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM NOTICE

Where a application has been recieved from one. Shri : Syed Basharat Mustafa Kazmi S/O: Syed Khadim Hussain R/o: Chandpora Budgam for issuance of duplicate driving license. D.L. No JK0420110008640 Dated:2011

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the issue of duplicate driving license in respect of D.L No JK0420110008640 Shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this news. No submission /request shall be entertained after the expiry of stipulated period of time.

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.689

Dated 14/06/2021

mcb

## OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas, an application has been received from one Shahid Yousuf Dar S/o Mohamad Yousuf R/o Chattalbal Sgr for LMV vehicle No: jk01t-8001 model 2013 Type of vehicle LINEA Has lost his registration Certificate. Now it is therefore, notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed duplicate registration Certificate shall be filed in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. JK/ RTOK/7487

Dated 06-03-2021

Sd/ Regional Transport Officer,  
Kashmir

## Leaders who listen to employees have more resilient teams, research show

Agencies

Leaders who encourage their employees to learn on the job and speak up with ideas and suggestions for change have teams that are more effective and resilient in the face of unexpected situations, according to new research from Rice University and the University of Windsor.

"A Resource Model of Team Resilience Capacity and Learning" will appear in a special issue of Group & Organization Management. Authors Kyle Brykman, an assistant professor at the Odette School of Business at the University of Windsor, and Danielle King, an assistant professor of psychological sciences at Rice, studied what makes employees more resilient and fosters learning in the workplace. The researchers specifically examined the interactions of 48 teams from five Canadian technology startups.

"Understanding what organizations can do to help employees become more resilient is the focus of our work in my WorkResilience Research Laboratory," King said. "This research project offered an opportunity to uncover the important role of leadership and employee voice in the resilience process."

Brykman and King found that teams that were more effective and resilient if their bosses encourage employees to take risks, make suggestions and learn from the process.

## 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 ARTO Kupwara within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Iqbal  
Peer S/O Abdul Ahad  
Peer R/O Kakraosa  
Handwara

sult

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



On 14/06/2021; 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 Y. K. Pora from Govt. AYUSH Dispensary Y. K. Pora Anantnag. 261 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

Government of Jammu and kashmir

**Office of the Assistant Director Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Anantnag**  
Phone/Fax01932-22951 Email Capdang121@gmail.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public of District Anantnag that the PDS- Kerosene OIL WILL BE distributed to AAY/PHH Ration Cards as per the SRO 285 @ 2.75 liters/ Ration Card per month (May & June 2021) In case of any complaint regarding K Oil distribution and t know the Quota of Kerosene Oil that has been allotted to the dealer of your area please contact office of the Assistant Director Personally or Call on 01932222951, 7006463655, 7889949219

Assistant Director  
FCS&CA Anantnag

RNA

## Kehkashaan Educational Institute Devbugh

Govt. Recog.

Ref. No. 5B9/KEID/M-21

Dated: 29-03-2021

## List of Managing body

S. No	Name & Parentage	Designation	Address
01	Ghulam Hassan Dar S/o Ghulam Mohd Dar	S/oChairman 8494086516	Devbugh Teh. Kunzar
02	Bilal Ahad Mir	Secretary 6005890065	Kreshama Teh Kunzar Distt. Baramulla 03
03	Mohd Ashraf Malik S/O Ab Rashid Malik	Accountant 8494095559	Devbugh Teh Kunzer Distt Baramulla
04	Ghulam Nabi Mir S/o Abdul - Ahad Mir	Member 9541667399	Devbugh Teh Kunzer Distt Baramulla

Chairman

ZNA Kehkashaan Edu. Institute Devbugh,

## Office of the Principal Kehkashaan Educational Institue Devbugh Zone Kunzer

Govt. Recog.

Fee Details for the academic Year 2020-2021

S. No	Class	Monthly Fee
01	5th	360
02	4th	350
03	3rd	340
04	2nd	330
05	1st	320
06	U.K.G	320

Principal

ZNA Kehkashaan Edu. Institute Devbugh

## Public Notice

My Fathers Name in passport bearing passport No J7219426 has been wrongly mentioned as Gulzar Ahmad Dar while his correct name is Mohd Abass Dar. Now I want same to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard, He/She may file his/her objection in the passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: NISSAR AHMAD DAR  
S/O : MOHD ABASS DAR  
R/o : DOGRIPORA TEHSIL AWANTIPORA, District Pulwama

RNA

## ان نیا بت لار نو با اجلاس خواجہ غلام نبی لون نائب تحصیلدار

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب محمد یاسین بڈھانہ نیاز محمد بڈھانہ ساکنہ ہفرا راجوار برآمد عطا یگی لیگل ہیبرسٹریٹیکٹ تحت

SRO 294

## اشتبہار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بذمہ زکاردنی ہے اس سلسلے میں بذمہ حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا پیدائش پڑ ہے اور کہہ بذمہ افرود پیشتمثل ہے سٹریٹیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی غرض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر بذمہ پیش کرے معیار دہرے بعد کوئی بھی غرض یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا نائب تحصیلدار

sult

## ان نیا بت لار نو با اجلاس خواجہ غلام نبی لون نائب تحصیلدار

مضمون درخواست منجانب: عبدالقیوم کھانہ نے والد عبدالسلام کھانہ کے ساکنہ دہری پورہ تحصیل لار نو ضلع انت ہاگ برآمد وصول RBA سرٹیفکٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ایک وارڈار یا سرٹیفکٹ دفتر بذمہ پیش کیا ہے اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ دھندا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پڑ ہے اور کسی بھی فرد نے سکونت پذیر نہیں کی ساکنان کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	عبدالسلام کھانہ نے والد محمد	63 سال	مزدوری	
02	حاجہ بانو زوجہ عبدالسلام	56 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	عبدالقیوم کھانہ نے والد عبدالسلام	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	محمد امین کھانہ نے والد عبدالسلام	21 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	جید احمد کھانہ نے والد عبدالسلام	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	
06	ہمیدہ کھانہ نے والد عبدالسلام	18 سال		

اس طرح سائل کا کنبہ پانچ افراد پر مشتمل ہے اس کے علاوہ اوکوئی افراد کنبہ موجود ہیں ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سٹریٹیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی غرض یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معہ وجوہات پیش کرے۔ معیار دہرے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

RNA

## ان نیا بت لار نو با اجلاس خواجہ غلام نبی لون نائب تحصیلدار

مضمون درخواست منجانب: خورشید احمد خان ولد محمد اکبر خان ساکنہ موضع مت ہندو تحصیل لار نو ضلع انت ہاگ برآمد وصول RBA سرٹیفکٹ تحت SRO 294

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ایک وارڈار یا سرٹیفکٹ دفتر بذمہ پیش کیا ہے اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ دھندا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پڑ ہے اور کسی بھی فرد نے سکونت پذیر نہیں کی ساکنان کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	محمد اکبر خان ولد عزیز عثمان	70 سال	عمر سیدہ	
02	نقیچہ بیگم زوجہ محمد اکبر خان	65 سال	=	
03	خورشید احمد خان ولد محمد اکبر خان	39 سال	سرکاری ملازم	
04	رضی جان زوجہ خورشید احمد	37 سال	گھریلو کام	
05	عائشہ خورشید دختر خورشید احمد	08 سال	زیر تعلیم	
06	عائشہ جان دختر خورشید احمد خان	06 سال	تعلیم	

اس طرح سائل کا کنبہ پانچ افراد پر مشتمل ہے اس کے علاوہ اوکوئی افراد کنبہ موجود ہیں ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث نمبر شمار سرکاری ملازم موجود ہے۔ سائل کے کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 7,94,788 روپیہ ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سٹریٹیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی غرض یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معہ وجوہات پیش کرے۔ معیار دہرے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

RNA

## ان نیا بت ساگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ساگام

مضمون درخواست منجانب: اقرا جان دختر محمد حسین راتھر ساکنہ موضع انت ہاگ

برآمد وصول RBA سرٹیفکٹ تحت SRO 294

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ایک وارڈار یا سرٹیفکٹ دفتر بذمہ پیش کیا ہے اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ دھندا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پڑ ہے اور کسی بھی فرد نے سکونت پذیر نہیں کی ساکنان کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	محمد حسین ولد گل راتھر	45 سال	سرکاری ملازم	
02	گلنکشا بانو زوجہ محمد حسین راتھر	40 سال	گھریلو کام	=41781
03	اقرا جان دختر محمد حسین راتھر	22 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	نسرینہ حسین دختر محمد حسین راتھر	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	زیشان حسین پسر محمد حسین راتھر	14 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طرح سائل کا کنبہ پانچ افراد پر مشتمل ہے اس کے علاوہ اوکوئی افراد کنبہ موجود ہیں ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سٹریٹیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی غرض یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معہ وجوہات پیش کرے۔ معیار دہرے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار ساگام

RNA



# 'City Specific Action Plan Being Prepared To Improve Air Quality'



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday held a meeting to review the implementation and monitoring of the National Clean Air programme (NCAP) for improving air quality in Srinagar district.

The DC directed the officers of all line departments to prepare City Specific Action Plan (CSAP) measures for strengthening the monitoring network, reducing

vehicular/ industrial emissions, identifying major causes of air pollution and increasing public awareness.

The DC said to improve quality of air is paramount for larger public benefit and all possible measures will be taken for the purpose. He called for collective effort to monitor quality of air to ensure desired air quality in Srinagar.

The DC said Central Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound, na-

tional level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 percent to 30 percent reduction in particulate matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.

He directed the SMC authorities to remove all construction material along roadsides which is one of the reason for air pollution. He further directed for sprinkling water on roads before conducting cleanliness.

With regard to curbing adulteration in fuel, the DC asked the Legal Metrology department to submit a proposal for setting an independent testing laboratory in the district so that accountability and transparency in tests is maintained.

The ARTO was directed to submit a list of all 25 years old vehicles within weeks time.

The DC directed the officers to submit an action taken report regarding measures to be taken for early implementation of NCAP within one week.

Earlier, the Environment experts put forth various suggestions and measures need to be taken for improving the quality of air in Srinagar before the meeting.

## Rs 1.6 Cr Released For Registered Construction Workers Of Srinagar



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Labour Commissioner, Abdul Rashid War, Monday released Rs.1,06,99,600 as welfare assistance for 1,514 registered construction workers of Srinagar district under J&K Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Act.

On the occasion, Labour Commissioner said that the sole aim of this welfare assistance is to help these workers in providing education to their children especially in challenging times of Covid pandemic. He lauded the role of department in timely release of assistance to these work-

ers. He also appreciated the officers for launching twitter handle to generate awareness about schemes and programmes of the department for socio-economic empowerment of construction workers.

Labour Commissioner impressed upon the officers to work with zeal and enthusiasm ensuring that the benefits reach to the grassroots level workers. He asked them to make sure that all eligible construction workers are registered with the Board to avail its benefits. He also asked the officers to sensitize the general public about their schemes through awareness camps on regular basis.

## Mainstream Parties Pay Tributes To Shujaat Bukhari On Third Death Anniversary

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Political parties and civil society organisations Monday paid tributes to slain journalist Shujaat Bukhari on his third death anniversary.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Spokesperson Imran Nabi while paying glowing tributes to Bukhari, said, "I pay my tributes to all those journalists who lost their lives in the line of duty. On this day I particularly remember Shujaat Bukhari Sahib; the jinxed providence of our state robbed us from a bold voice in his shape, I pray for peace to his soul and much-needed strength to his family and friends."

Chairman People's Democratic Front (PDF) Hakeem Yaseen while paying rich tribute to Bukhari said his contribution to field of journalism and Kashmiri language and literature will be written in golden words in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Shujat sb was a bold, fearless and farsighted journalist who never compromised on the true values and ethics of journalism."

Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) spokesman while highlighting the contributions of Bukhari said that the coming generations shall see in Shujaat an epitome of courage and selflessness who lived and died as a fearless and objective journalist. He led a dynamic and active life and never bartered his principles for any materialistic gains, added the spokesman.

"Today is his third death anniversary. Three years have passed when he was silenced. But one still wonders who died that day-Shujaat or his killers? On this day Shujaat gave us all a reason to be proud of objective, fearless, and selfless journalism. Mourning his death will be naive, let us celebrate the courage with which he fought in the forefront. Rest in Peace Shujaat," said the PC spokesman.

## Red Cross Celebrates 'World Blood Donor Day' In Srinagar



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Indian Red Cross Society, UT Headquarters of Jammu & Kashmir Monday organised a Blood Donation camp on the eve of 'World Blood Donor Day-2021' themed 'Donate Blood & Keep the World Beating' at Red Cross House, Exchange Road, here.

The Camp was inaugurated by Kifayat Hussain Rizvi, Honorary General Secretary, IRCS-J&K in presence of MS Rather, Former General Secretary, IRCS-J&K, GA Qureshi, Honorary Treasurer, IRCS-J&K, M.Y. Zargar, Honorary Secretary, IRCS-Regional Branch, Kashmir and prominent Members and Volunteers of Red Cross.

The drive saw close to 40 voluntary blood donors, office bearers of IRCS-J&K and Staff members coming together to donate blood for a noble cause. Volunteers and medical staff helped the people and gave moral support to the people donating blood. Donors were provided with the sealed refreshment packs keeping in view the COVID SOPs.

Similar camps were organised at IRCS, Regional Branch Jammu and District Branches of IRCS at Pulwama, Shopian, Kupwara, Kishtwar and Kathua with prime objective

to spread awareness about the benefits of blood donation besides saving a human life. Total of 153 points of blood have been collected in these camps.

Speaking on the occasion, Kifayat Hussain Rizvi appreciated the blood donors for their noble sentiment and selfless human services. He further said that those who donated the blood have in fact saved a human life.

The Honorary General Secretary while saluting the selfless and noble service of volunteers and blood donors said that IRCS-J&K has been at the forefront to provide quick relief during the distressed periods like fire, floods, earthquakes and pandemics.

IRCS, besides distributing food kits and Hygiene kits during the recent months, distributed tents, blankets, buckets, tarpaulin to fire victims of the sweeper colony, Noor Bagh area of Baramulla, besides financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 14.50 Lakhs.

The cash assistance and relief material to fire victims was provided by the District Red Cross Committee, Baramulla, through its Chairman.

At the end, Honorary Treasurer, IRCS-J&K thanked all participants and medical staff of Associated Hospitals, Srinagar for their technical co-operation.

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### APPEAL

We, 371, +2 Incharge Principals, humbly request the Administrative Secretary to Govt School Education Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu to clear our vigilance files pending in GAD for months now. We want to submit that the similar files of around 646 incharge principals have been already cleared.

#### DIAL-EMMA



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

#### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

#### RAILWAYS



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

#### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

### This Day in History

- 1246 - With the death of Duke Frederick II, the Babenberg dynasty ends in Austria
- 1389 - Battle of Kosovo; Turks defeat Serbs
- 1567 - Battle at Carberry, Scotland: Protestant troops beat Earl Bothwell's army
- 1667 - 1st fully documented human blood transfusion is performed by French physician, Dr. Jean-Baptiste Denys, when a small amount of sheep blood is transfused into a 15-year old boy, who survives the procedure
- 1808 - Joseph Bonaparte becomes King of Spain
- 1826 - Ottoman Sultan Mahmud II abolishes the elite Janissary corps executing thousands for treason to make way for a more modern army
- 1864 - Battle of Petersburg begins as General Ulysses S. Grant assaults the Confederate line at the important Southern rail center of Petersburg
- 1869 - World's 1st plastic Celluloid is patented by John Wesley Hyatt, Albany, NY
- 1876 - Tsunamis after earthquake floods NE coast of Japan, kills 28,000
- 1878 - World's first moving pictures caught on camera (used 12 cameras, each taking 1 picture) done to see if all 4 of a horse's hooves leave the ground
- 1888 - Wilhelm II becomes Emperor of Germany
- 1896 - Tsunami strikes Shinto festival on beach at Sanriku, Japan; 27,000 are killed, 9,000 injured and 13,000 houses destroyed
- 1911 - Tabulating Computing Recording Corporation (IBM) is incorporated.
- 1913 - The Battle of Bud Bagsak in the Philippine concludes
- 1916 - Boeing Model 1 [B & W Seaplane], the 1st Boeing product, flies for the 1st time
- 1917 - In order to calm troubled relations with Ireland, the British grant amnesty to the Prisoners taken during the Easter Rising of 1916
- 1924 - Ford Motor Company manufactures its 10 millionth automobile
- 1940 - World War II: France surrenders to NAZI Germany, German troops occupy Paris
- 1940 - Soviet Army occupies Lithuania
- 1943 - Congress of racial Equality (CORE) forms
- 1954 - Great Britain's 2 biggest steel factories nationalized
- 1960 - Argentina complains to UN about Israeli illicit transfer of Eichmann
- 1965 - South Africa begins economic boycott of Dutch products
- 1977 - Spain's 1st free elections since 1936 (41 years)
- 1978 - Soyuz 29 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 6; they stay 139 days
- 198 - 5 En route to Halley's Comet, USSR's Vega 2 drops lander on Venus
- 1988 - NASA launches space vehicle S-213
- 1991 - Birth of the first federal political party in Canada that supports Quebec nationalism, le Bloc Québécois
- 1996 - IRA bomb in Manchester wrecks city centre at 11.17am, injuring 200
- 2001 - Indian epic "Laagan" directed by Ashutosh Gowariker, starring Aamir Khan and Gracy Singh premieres
- 2002 - Near earth asteroid 2002 MN missed the Earth by 75,000 miles (120,000 km), about one-third of the distance between the Earth and the Moon
- 2012 - Apple I computer sells for a record \$374,500
- 2015 - Real estate mogul Donald Trump launches his campaign for US President

### From KO Archives

## Musharraf Envisages Rapid Accord On Kashmir

**KUALA LUMPUR** - Stating that the Kashmir problem could be solved in "two weeks" if India and Pakistan show political will, President Pervez Musharraf

Musharraf today expressed optimism that it would be resolved in a "certain timeframe".

"I think it can be resolved in two weeks if there is a will and we discuss the options and reach an agreement. Well, two weeks maybe...I have just said that.

"The most important thing for the leadership is to have the will to reach a conclusion. I see that at this moment, the leadership does have," he told reporters here when asked if he shared the optimism of some that the Kashmir issue could be settled in a couple of years.

"Therefore," Musharraf said "I am optimistic that it would be resolved in a certain timeframe". The Pakistan President, who was on his-way to Australia, said he would love to visit Kashmir. "I would love to go there" but he would not make a formal proposal as "the time was not ripe yet."

About Siachen, he said talks were being held between the two countries on withdrawing troops and redeploy them to end the "eyeball to eyeball confrontation". He expressed optimism that an agreement would be reached on the issue.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said yesterday that the two countries were exploring the possibility of putting their troops out of Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield and turn it into a "mountain of peace".

He also refused to affirm whether he would step down in 2007 and hand over power to a civilian leader, saying "we will cross the bridge when we come to it."

(Kashmir Observer, 15 June, 2005)

## Water Scarcity Hits Umar Colony, Residents Seek LG's Intervention

**SRINAGAR:** The residents of Umar Colony B, Lane No 2, Lal Bazar, Srinagar Monday said that the area is facing acute water shortage for the last couple of months.

The residents sought immediate attention and intervention of JK Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for restoration of water supply in the area. They alleged that the concerned department has failed to address the issue despite repeated pleas.

Ghulam Ahmad, a resident of the area said that the area is not getting proper water supply.

He said that the residents approached the Jal Shakti department many times but the department has failed to address the issue.

Another resident, Farooq Ahmad said, "We appeal Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir for his intervention in to the matter so that our genuine water shortage problem will be resolved.

"We have submitted representations in the offices of Lt. Governor, Chief Secretary, PHE department etc but till date no effort was made."

vid-19 Appropriate Behavior. He said strict adherence to Covid-19 SOPs is must at this stage to im-

prove parameters and to prevent further spread of Covid-19 infection in the district.

### IT Innovation Park To Come Up At KU

**SRINAGAR:** Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad Monday reviewed the blueprint of the state-of-the-art IT Innovation Park proposed to be set-up at the varsity's Directorate of Information Technology and Support System.

The four-storeyed park is aimed to create a technology platform for enabling innovative start-ups to develop software-based applications, products and solutions to address not just local and national needs but those with global perspective too, a university statement said.

Addressing IT professionals and officers on the occasion, Prof Talat said the IT Innovation Park is targeted to support and nurture around 50 start-ups (physical and virtual) per-year, with incubation facilities, over a period of five years while enabling research scholars and students of the Directorate of IT&SS to undertake specialization in Cloud Services, Data Mining and Artificial Intelligence.



## Saudi Arabia Allows Women To Register For Haj Without Male Guardian



Agencies

Saudi Arabia has announced that women can now register for the annual Haj pilgrimage without a male guardian (mahram), Al Arabiya News reported on Monday.

In its registration guidelines issued for this year's Haj for domestic pilgrims, the Saudi Ministry of Haj and Umrah said women did not need to have a male guardian to register, and could do so along with other women.

"Those wishing to perform Haj will have to register individually. Women can register without a mahram (male guardian) along with other women," the ministry said in a tweet.

The development comes days after it was announced that Saudi women can now live on their own without requiring the consent of their father or male guardian after a new legal amendment by the Kingdom.

The landmark steps erode the longstanding guardianship system that renders adult women as legal minors and allows their "guardians" — husband, father and other male relatives — to exercise arbitrary authority over them.

In 2019, the Kingdom had granted permission to women

to travel abroad without approval from a male guardian.

### Limited attendance for Haj

Saudi Arabia announced on Saturday it would allow 60,000 residents vaccinated against Covid-19 to perform this year's Haj, but Muslims from abroad would be barred for a second straight year.

The Haj typically packs millions of pilgrims into congested religious sites and could be a major source of contagion amid the coronavirus pandemic.

This year it would be "open for nationals and residents of the Kingdom, limited to 60,000 pilgrims", the Haj ministry said, quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency.

The pilgrimage, scheduled to be held in July, would be limited to those who have been vaccinated and are aged 18-65 with no chronic illnesses, it said.

Saudi Arabia said those wishing to perform Haj would have to apply online, without specifying how many foreign residents would be among the 60,000 pilgrims.

In 2020, foreigners were 70 per cent of the pilgrims, while Saudis made up the rest.

The Kingdom said later that it had informed other countries of the decision not to allow pilgrims from abroad.

## Biden Rallies NATO Against 'New Challenges' From Russia, China



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM — US President Joe Biden warned Monday that NATO must adapt to new challenges posed by China and Russia as he met fellow leaders to renew Washington's "sacred" bond with its allies.

Arriving at NATO headquarters in Brussels for a summit with his 29 counterparts, Biden stressed that the alliance was "critically important" to US security.

His first visit as president to the summit has been billed as a renewal of bonds after his predecessor Donald Trump called the US commitment into question.

But it is also a moment to renew priorities and strategies for dealing with Moscow and Beijing, novel threats, and NATO's hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan after years of conflict.

"I think that there is a growing recognition over the last couple of years that we have new challenges," Biden told NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at bilateral talks ahead of the main summit.

"We have Russia that is not acting in a way that is consistent with what we had hoped, as well as China," he said.

"I want to make it clear: NATO is critically important for US interests in and of itself. If there weren't one, we'd have to invent it," he said.

And he stressed once again that Article 5 of the NATO treaty—the obligation of members to defend one another, once called into question by Trump—was a "sacred obligation."

The allies were due to agree to a statement stressing common ground on securing their withdrawal from Afghanistan, joint responses to cyber attacks and the challenge of a rising China.

"We're not entering a new Cold War and China is not our adversary, not our enemy," Stoltenberg told reporters as he arrived at NATO headquarters ahead of the leaders.

"But we need to address together, as the alliance, the challenges that the rise of China poses to our security."

### Erdogan talks

Looming large at the summit is also the scramble to complete NATO's hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan after Biden surprised partners by ordering US troops home by September 11.

France's President Emmanuel Macron met one-on-one with his Turkish counterpart and fellow ally Recep Tayyip Erdogan ahead of the summit, and Biden was due to meet him later.

On the table will be Ankara's offer to secure Kabul airport after NATO troops leave—but also concerns in other capitals about Turkey's own aggressive regional policy.

In contrast to Trump, Biden has firmly reasserted American backing for the 72-year-old military alliance—and his administration has been making a show of consulting more with partners.

"I welcome the fact that we have a president of the United States who is strongly committed to NATO, to North America and Europe, working together in NATO," Stoltenberg said.

But there remain divisions among the allies on some key issues—including how to deal with China's rise and how to increase common funding.

Partners are concerned about the rush to leave Afghanistan and some question the strategy of an alliance that Macron warned in 2019 was undergoing "brain death."

Other leaders arriving for the talks dismissed this phrase, but European leaders stressed that they did not want to be drawn into a US confrontation with China at the cost of focusing on Russia.

The summit at NATO's cavernous Brussels headquarters is set to greenlight a 2030 reform program.

The leaders will agree to rewrite the core "strategic concept" to face a world where cyber attacks, climate change, and new technologies pose new threats.

Moscow's 2014 seizure of Crimea gave renewed purpose to NATO and fellow leaders will be keen to sound Biden out ahead of his Wednesday meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

On China, Biden is picking up from where Trump left off by getting NATO to start paying attention to Beijing and is pushing for the alliance to take a tougher line.

But National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, briefing reporters from Air Force One, played down how big a part this would play in the statement. "The language is not going to be inflammatory," he said. -AFP

## Palestinians Not Counting On Change As Bennett Replaces Netanyahu



Agencies

Palestinian groups have dismissed the change in Israel's government, saying new Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is likely to pursue the same right-wing agenda as his predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's office called the Israeli parliamentary vote on Sunday an "internal Israeli affair" while groups in the besieged enclave of Gaza pledged to keep up their fight for Palestinian rights. Gaza has been under an Israeli air, land and sea blockade since 2007.

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, issued a statement saying it was "inaccurate" to call Bennett's coalition government a "government of change" unless there was a significant shift in its position on the Palestinian right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Bennett, who heads the ultra-nationalist Yamina party and describes himself as "more right-wing" than Netanyahu, has said that the creation of a Palestine state would be "suicide" for Israel. He has also called for the annexation of most of the occupied West Bank.

As prime minister, the millionaire former high-tech entrepreneur leads an unwieldy coalition from the political right, left and centre. Analysts say Bennett's government will likely avoid sweeping moves on hot-button issues such as policy towards the Palestinians and instead focus on domestic reforms.

### Palestinians unmoved

"This is an internal Israeli affair," said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for Abbas. "Our position has always been clear, what we want is a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital."

In a statement, the Palestinian foreign ministry posed a host of questions to Bennett's government. "What is the position of the new government regarding the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital?"

"What is its position of the settlement and annexation processes? What is its position on Jerusalem and respect for the historical and legal situation there? Its position on the signed agreements? Its position on the resolutions of international legitimacy? Its position on the two-state solution and negotiations on the basis of the principle of land for peace?"

In Gaza, Palestinian groups vowed to keep resisting Israel.

"We aren't counting on any change in the occupation governments, since they are united on the policy of killing Palestinians and confiscating Palestinian rights," said Sami Abu Zuhri, a senior Hamas official.

And prior to the Israeli parliament vote, Fawzi Barhoum, a spokesman for Hamas said: "Regardless of the shape of the government in Israel, it will not alter the way we look at the Zionist entity. It is a settler occupier entity that must be resisted by all forms of resistance, foremost of which is armed resistance."

## Pakistan SC Stops Demolition Of Hindu Dharamshala In Karachi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan's Supreme Court has ordered the Karachi administration to stop the demolition of a Hindu dharamshala and leasing out the heritage property located in the heart of the city.

A three-judge bench — led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed — issued the order on Friday while hearing a case regarding the implementation of a 2014 judgment on minorities' rights.

During the hearing, Dr Ramesh Kumar — a co-opted member of a one-man commission on minorities — stated that the property at Saddar Town-I in Karachi — measuring about 716 square yards was a dharamshala, The Express Tribune reported on Sunday.

Kumar also placed before the court photographs of the building. He said the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) leased out the property to some private person, who was demolishing the dharamshala to construct a commercial plaza.

Kumar said the ETPB chairman contended that the Sindh High Court (SHC) has allowed the ETPB to lease the place out, have it demolished and raise a new building there.

The Supreme Court bench, however, said such an order of the SHC was not before it.

"The very photograph apparently shows that the building



is of dharamshala constructed in the year 1932, which can be read from the marble slab affixed on the building and must be a protected heritage building," the apex court said.

The court issued notice to Sindh's secretary of heritage, asking him to file a report regarding the building.

"In the meantime, no demolition activity of the said building shall be conducted by anyone, and possession of the building and the land shall be taken over by the Commissioner Karachi, who shall manage the same and not allow any person to enter it.

"No demolished material shall be allowed to be removed. This should be done by the Commissioner Karachi today and a report, in this respect, be submitted to the Office of the Supreme Court," the report quoted the court's order.

The order noted that the one-man commission has also filed an application with the request that it may be allocated more funds as earlier funds of Rs 7 million (70 lakh) allocated to it have already been spent and some liabilities have also accrued.

## Novavax Covid Vaccine, To Be Made By Serum Institute, Shows 90% Efficacy

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON: Novavax's COVID-19 jab is more than 90 per cent effective, including against coronavirus variants, the vaccine maker said Monday after a large-scale US study.

The jab "demonstrated 100% protection against moderate and severe disease, 90.4% efficacy overall," the company said in a statement, adding "the study enrolled 29,960 participants across 119 sites in the US, and Mexico to evaluate efficacy, safety and immunogenicity."

The Maryland-headquartered company said it intended to apply for regulatory approval by the third quarter of 2021.

After that, it said, it would be on course to make 100 million doses per month by the end of the third quarter and 150 million doses per month by the end of the year.



"Today, Novavax is one step closer to addressing the critical and persistent global public health need for additional COVID-19 vaccines," said Stanley C. Erck, Novavax's president and chief executive.

"Novavax continues to work with a sense of urgency to complete our regulatory submissions and deliver this vaccine, built on a well understood and proven platform, to a world that is still in great need of vaccines."

While some rich countries have made progress on vaccinating their populations, there remain concerns that many poorer

countries are being left out of the global inoculation drive.

Vaccination rates in the world's poorest nations are far behind the Group of Seven industrialized powers and other wealthy states — in terms of doses administered so far, the imbalance between the G7 and the planet's low-income countries, as defined by the World Bank, is 73 to one.

Unlike some rival jabs, Novavax's vaccine — formally known as NVX-CoV2373 — does not have to be stored at ultra-low temperatures.

The company said it was "stored and stable at 2°- 8°C, allowing the use of existing vaccine supply chain channels for its distribution."

In theory at least, this means the shots should be more easily transported and administered in countries with less well developed health infrastructures.

## FM Zarif: Israel's Tyrant Falls As Iran Continues March Of Glory



Agencies

The Iranian foreign minister says Benjamin Netanyahu's ousting as prime minister of Israel after several years of wars and aggression against the Palestinians and threats to the Islamic Republic shows that the tyrant has fallen while Iran continues the march of glory.

"After a long period of wars and attacks against the Palestinians and threats to the Islamic Republic, the tyrant has fallen, and here is #Gaza raising the sign of #victory, and #Iran continues the march of #glory," Mohammad Javad Zarif said in an Arabic-language post on his Twitter account on Monday.

He hoped that Netanyahu's successors would probably learn that a structure, which is founded based on aggression and occupa-

tion, will not last long.

The Israeli parliament, or Knesset, on Sunday approved a new coalition led by most notably opposition figure Yair Lapid's Yesh Atid party and the Yamina party headed by Naftali Bennett, ending the record-setting 12-year rule of outgoing Netanyahu.

In the vote of confidence in the Knesset, 60 lawmakers voted in favor of the coalition while 59 voted against it.

A single vote tipped the balance against Netanyahu, making the new coalition's members and their relatives, who were standing by, to break into a paroxysm of joy.

Bennett was then sworn in as prime minister, ending Netanyahu's unprecedented 12-year run on premiership. He will hold the position on a rotational basis with Lapid.

Under the United States' protection, the Israeli regime has escaped all attempts at holding it accountable for its occupation of the Palestinian territories and bloodshed of Palestinians. The regime has also avoided answering for its acts of terror throughout the region and beyond and its military nuclear program that is the only one in the Middle East.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Iran Approves First Homegrown COVID-19 Vaccine

Agencies

TEHRAN: Iran has approved an emergency use of its first domestically developed coronavirus vaccine that could bring the hardest-hit country in the Middle East closer to inoculating its citizens against COVID-19.

The emergency authorisation was approved after the country faced problems from importing enough vaccines due to US sanctions.

Health Minister Saeed Namaki made the announcement at a ceremony in Arak University of Medical Sciences on Monday saying permission to use the Iranian vaccine COVI-ran Barekat has been granted.

Iranian pharmaceutical company Shifafarmed made the vaccine based on deactivated virus, and the first study of the safety and effectiveness began in late December.

Iran is also working on a vaccine in cooperation with Cuba.



Namaki said that another vaccine, produced jointly by Iran and Cuba, will join the country's vaccine package next week.

"The permit for using the Pasteur vaccine will be issued next week, and in the near future, the Razi and Fakhra vaccines will be added to the list of usable [Iranian COVID] vaccines," the minister noted.

Iran's local vaccine research has gained urgency as officials allege that heavy American sanctions will hamper the Islamic Republic's mass inoculation efforts.

The Razi vaccine, officially known as Razi COV-Pars, is Iran's second homegrown vaccine and a product of the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, which is administered via injection and inhalation.

Fakhra, the third Iranian vaccine, is developed by the Iranian Defense Ministry's research center, formerly headed by nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was assassinated in a suspected Israeli-linked terror attack late last year.

## Pakistan Police Detain 19 After Being Denied Free Burgers

Agence France-Presse

LAHORE: A group of police officers in Pakistan flipped out when a takeaway joint refused to hand over free burgers, detaining all 19 staff at the branch.

Workers at the trendy chain Johnny & Jugnu in the eastern city of Lahore were rounded up and held for seven hours overnight on Saturday, leaving behind unattended kitchens and hungry customers.

"This is not the first time something like this has happened with our kitchen teams at our restaurant, but we want to make sure this is the last," the fast food chain said in a statement published on social media.

The beef started when staff at the restaurant refused a "request from a very high profile special guest".

Restaurant staff told AFP that most of those arrested were young people, including many university students.



Following outcry among fans, nine police officers involved were suspended yesterday, senior provincial police official Inam Ghani said on Twitter.

"No one is allowed to take the law into his own hands," Ghani said. Pakistan's police officers are infamous for corruption and for demanding kickbacks from local businesses.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has called for a reform of Punjab's police force, saying "cronies" had been appointed by politicians to control police stations.



## Positivity Rate Witnesses Drastic Decrease In Ganderbal: DC



Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna Monday said that the active cases have drastically decreased in the district this month. She said last week the active cases in the district were almost 507 which are now 249. Regarding the tests done in

last week, she said RAT positivity was 3.95 percent which has decreased to 1.97 percent and overall positivity in the district was 6.39 percent which has come down to 3.47 percent.

Elaborating on the RAT testing facility in the district, she said that RAT testing facility is now available in all 126 Covid Care Centres and about 1700 tests have been done at these centers till date. She urged people to get tested at these centers if they feel Covid related symptoms.

While giving details on Vaccination for 18-44 years for priority groups, the DC said that over 7000 persons are vaccinated till date and appealed Shopkeepers, transporters, Journalist, lawyers and Amarnath Yatra service providers to visit vaccination centers and get first dose of vaccination which is prerequisite for saving themselves from Covid pandemic.

## Principal Secretary Reviews JAKEDA SHPs

**JAMMU:** A team of Engineers headed by Principal Secretary, Science and Technology Department, Alok Kumar and Chief Executive Officer, Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), Babila Rakwal, inspected Small Hydro Projects (SHPs) being developed by JAKEDA in Ganderbal and Anantnag districts.

The team visited 2 MW capacity Rayil SHP developed by Gousia Road Construction Company, 5 MW SHP Baltikulan developed by Mass-N-Ergy Private Limited, 6 MW SHP Butakulan being developed by S A Power Utilities Private Limited in Ganderbal and 5 MW capacity SHP Ichoo-Kokernag developed by OZZ Trading Private Limited in Anantnag.

Pertinently, the two SHP sites at Ichoo and Baltikulan have been commissioned during the last financial year, 2 MW SHP Rayil in May, 2021 and 6 MW

SHP at Butakulan in Ganderbal district has been proposed to be commissioned by the end of the current fiscal. The cumulative capacity of these three commissioned SHPs is 12 MW with an aggregate annual energy generation of approximately 63 million units.

The commissioning of the SHPs has not only benefited the local populace in terms of providing employment opportunities but has also contributed towards tapping of small hydro power potential in remote areas of J&K.

The Power Generated from the Small Hydel Projects has been categorized under white category (Clean Energy) by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF). Since these projects have minimal impact on environment, the energy generated thereof from these SHPs shall help in reduction of CO2 emission @ 50 thousand tonnes annually.

## Budgam Residents Plant Saplings On 'Dilapidated Road' To Register Protest

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The villagers of Check Mohalla in Central Kashmir's Budgam district Monday planted paddy saplings on the road to protest against the dilapidated condition of the road.

Eyewitnesses said that the residents planted paddy saplings on the road stretch to protest against the government's failure of repairing the road and to attract attention of authorities.

Ahmad, a resident said, "Villagers planted paddy saplings as a mark of protest on the Chadoora-Check Mohalla Qazipora road to highlight its dilapidated condition."

He said authorities have never paid heed to their demands.

They alleged that the said road hasn't been macadamised for the last one decade despite repeated requests by the villagers.

The local Auqaf Committee



members said that they have informed the R&B department about the dilapidated condition of the road many times but the authorities never bothered to address the issue.

The locals appealed the district administration Budgam to take the cognisance of their genuine demands and requested him to issue the orders for the repairing and macadamisation of the road at the earliest so that the villagers can have access to better road connectivity. (Agencies)

## CS Directs FCS&CA To Ensure 100 Percent Aadhar Enrolment



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta Monday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Taking note of the J&K's 6th ranking in the index measuring performance under 'One Nation One Ration Card', the Chief Secretary appreciated the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department for efficiently implementing the scheme across the Union territory. "One Nation One Ration Card System is an important citizen-centric reform and its implementation ensures availability of ration to beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) through portability across the country", he observed.

It was informed that the Department is ensuring food security to the residents of Jammu and Kashmir by timely and efficient distribution of food grains at highly subsidised and affordable prices through a network of 6738 Fair Price Shops (FPS). The Department has distributed 1.03 lacs metric tonnes of food grains to the beneficiaries in the month of May, 2021.

The Chief Secretary directed the Department to weed out fake beneficiaries through 100% Aadhar enrolment by 31st July 2021, besides operationalising the online biometric-authenticated sale of ration across all 6738 FPS.

It was informed that the Department is formulating a nomination policy whereby beneficiaries in old age or those living with disabilities can nominate a responsible

person after due verification to collect the quota of the subsidised ration on their behalf.

Reviewing the supply chain management towards end-to-end computerisation to contain wastage and pilferage of food grains, the Chief Secretary directed the Department to implement real-time online monitoring of their storage and transportation to-and-fro all stores and FPS within one month.

The Chief Secretary directed FCS&CA Department to undertake a thorough review of kerosene distribution in Jammu and Kashmir in line with the guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna.

The Department was also asked to undertake third party review of the Public Distribution System in Jammu and Kashmir bringing forth the satisfaction level of consumers.

**“ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD SYSTEM IS AN IMPORTANT citizen-centric reform and its implementation ensures availability of ration to beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) through portability across the country”,**

### Absenteeism...

## DC Anantnag For Strict Monitoring Of Attendance At GMC

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** Taking cognisance of reports regarding unauthorised absence of some doctors from duty at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) also District Magistrate Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla Monday directed the Principal of the college to strictly monitor the attendance and roster of the doctors and paramedical staff there.

The DC further asked the Principal to ensure the health staff at the college attend the duties punctually and follow the roster in letter and spirit besides forwarding the attendance to the office of the Deputy Commissioner on a daily basis.



Meanwhile, on directions of the DC, a team of officials headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh and Tehsildar Anantnag being members, was sent to GMC Anantnag to verify the attendance of the doctors on ground.

Speaking on the matter, the DC said that the doctors should regularly attend the duties adding that the punctuality of medical staff becomes even more significant during these testing (Covid) times.

## Dir Finance HE Dept Takes Stock Of Developmental Projects At IUST

**AWANTIPORA:** Director Finance, Department of Higher Education J&K Abdul Majeed Bhat along with other officials Saturday took stock of various developmental projects undertaken by the Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST).

Special Secretary to Vice Chancellor IUST, Mursheed A Khan

while welcoming the Director Finance and other officials informed them about the progress made by the University on the academic as well as on the infrastructural front. Mursheed gave a detailed account of various ongoing projects at the campus.

Director Finance while lauding the efforts and contribution of en-

tire IUST fraternity for the growth and development of the University, expressed hope that the University shall continue to grow in future as well. Director Finance instructed the executing agency as well as university engineering wing for speeding up the work on the various ongoing projects for their timely completion.

## DDC Pulwama Sets Timelines For Completion Of Developmental Projects

Observer News Service

**PULWAMA:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary Monday inspected the on-going construction work of Indoor Stadium, Government Degree College Rajpora, Pulwama-Shadimarg Road, CB Nath - Abhama Road, Sangerwani-Anderwadi Road and various Water Supply schemes in the area.

On the occasion, the DDC directed the executing agency to expedite the pace of work on these projects to ensure their timely completion. He also directed concerned officers to monitor the ongoing developmental works so that people can be benefited in due time.

During the visit several delegations apprised the DDC about



various issues faced by them in their respective areas. He assured delegations that all their genuine demands would be redressed at an earliest.

## Imam Khamenei Library Establishes 'Wall Of Kindness' In North Kashmir



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Amid Covid-19 pandemic, 'Wall of Kindness'- a charity corner - for the needy people has come up in Yakmanpora area of Singhpora block in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The initiative was taken by Idara Islamic Library Imam Khamnaei Yakmanpora for the needy people in the area.

The charity corner invites the passers-by with a slogan: "Leave what you do not need" and "take it if you need".

At the wall people can leave their surplus clothes, food and other items for the needy people who can collect whatever they need from the items placed there.

Moulana Muzaffar Mehdi Najfi inaugurated the charity corner on Sunday.

Earlier, chairman Idara Islamic Library Imam Khamnaei Yakmanpora, Gulzar Ahmad Sofi, along with

other members of trust cum library had formulated the idea of 'wall of kindness' few weeks back.

"Wall of kindness is also known as 'Deewar-e-Meherban' in some countries and was first started in Iran and then initiative spread across the globe," said Molvi Aejaz Hussain Bhat.

"It is a small effort to bridge the gap between the various sections of people," he said, adding that "we received an overwhelming response from the people who donated items such including woollen clothes, food, books, and blankets."

On the occasion, many locals appreciated the initiative and termed it a welcome step for the village.

"It is a welcome initiative and civil society will extend every possible step for this purpose," said a local Fayaz Ahmad Sofi.

"This initiative is mainly meant for the downtrodden section of the people," said Assadullah Magloo, a teacher by profession.

## Choudhary Approves Action Plan Of Rs 51.90 Cr For Agriculture Sector

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare, Navin Kumar Choudhary, Monday approved action plan worth Rs. 51.90 crore for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes RKVY, NMSA and NeGPA for the year 2021-22.

Principal Secretary, who is also Chairman, State Level Project Screening Committee (SLPSC), State Level Executive Committee (SLEC) and State Executive Committee (SEC), accorded approval to the plan during a meeting convened in this regard.

The total action plan approved

included Rs. 9.90 crore under RKVY, Rs. 38.00 crore under NMSA and Rs. 4.00 crore under NeGPA.

Principal Secretary reviewed various interventions made under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes RKVY, NMSA and NeGPA during the year 2020-21 besides deliberating on several aspects of proposed action plan under the said schemes.

Mission Director, RKVY, NMSA and NeGPA, Mohammad Iqbal Chowdhary, Director Agriculture Kashmir gave a detailed presentation regarding the achievements made during 2020-21 besides highlights of proposed action plans under the schemes for 2021-22.

## GMC Bla Organises Blood Donation Camp To Commemorate 'World Blood Donor Day'

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** To mark the commemoration of 'World Blood Donor Day' being observed every year on 14th of June, Government Medical College Baramulla Monday organised a blood donation cum awareness camp in which faculty members of GMC, medical staff and other paramedics showed their enthusiastic participation.

Camp was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Bhupinder Kumar wherein the Principal of GMC Prof (Dr) Ruby Reshi donated her blood as the first donor.

The DC appealed to various stakeholders to come forward in the current crucial circumstances and extend their helping hand for the betterment of the society at large.

Complimenting the participants who donated their blood, the Principal said that blood donation not only saves lives of others but also keeps one self healthy as it gets regenerated within a short duration of time.

## Anantnag Admin Organises Blood Donation Camp

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** On the occasion of World Blood Donor Day 2021, the Deputy Commissioner (Chairman District Red Cross Society) Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla Monday inaugurated Blood Donation Camp at Dak Bangalow Khanabal here.

The camp was organised by District Red Cross Society Anantnag in collaboration with GMC, Anantnag.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the blood donation is a noble need which saves precious human lives. Sometimes, even a single drop of blood can prove life

saving, he added.

Calling upon people to come forward for blood donation, the DC said it benefits health by stimulating the process of blood formation in the body and thus should become our habit both for our personal health and for fulfilling social responsibility.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh coordinated the activities of the camp besides supervising the donation process.

Sheikh also led the donation drive and was the first person, among a total of 41 donors includ-

ing officials from other departments and police and security persons, who donated their blood on the occasion.

Highlighting the importance of blood donation, the ADC said it ensures the blood banks are replenished regularly for timely utilisation by patients in need of blood. He said it is a big philanthropic activity and all healthy individuals should donate blood to serve humanity in real sense.

Pertinently, the donors were tested for Covid-19 beforehand by Rapid Antigen method for ensuring safety of the recipients.

She further said that several initiatives are being taken to strengthen the blood bank of the college and informed that 40 points were donated during today's camp.

## DC Kupwara For Smooth Conduct Of Mata Kheer Bhawani Asthapan

Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din along with Additional District Development Commissioner, Nazir Ahmad Lone and team of concerned officers Monday visited Mata Kheer Bhawani Asthapan, Tiker in Kupwara district to review the arrangements being put in place by the Administration for smooth conduct of week long Annual Pilgrimage of Mata Kheer Bhawani Asthapan (APMKB), commenced from June 13.

Tehsildar Kupwara was ordered to act as Duty Magistrate for the purpose and he will also coordinate the arrangements being made by the different departments. Likewise, Chief Medical Officer Kupwara was asked to keep an available team of Doctors along with sufficient Medicare and Test kits/vaccine doses during the days of Pilgrimage.

Assistant Director FCS&CA Kupwara shall ensure the availability of essential commodities in the area while as Assistant Director Fire & Emergency Services Kupwara was directed to keep fire tenders available at the venues.

The Executive Engineer Electric Division Kupwara shall ensure uninterrupted Power Supply to the said area during these days and Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kupwara shall provide potable Drinking water through tanker services during the days of pilgrimage.

Executive Officer MC Kupwara was directed to make necessary arrangements in respect of sanitation etc. He was also asked to ensure cleaning of the site/road leading to the venue.

The DC also urged all stakeholders including all devotees and management to strictly adhere to COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and protocol including use of masks.



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### K O V I E W

## Getting to dialogue

Over the last two weeks, Kashmir has been agog with all sorts of speculations about the centre mulling some more important changes with regard to Jammu and Kashmir. All anticipated changes are extraordinary: people think that the centre is mulling further division of J&K. Many say a new union territory is being carved within the Valley. On the positive side, there's hope that the centre may restore statehood to J&K. But before that, the centre would like to complete the delimitation exercise which is set to give more seats to the Jammu division, thereby bringing it politically at par with the Kashmir Valley. This is expected to be followed by the restoration of statehood and the announcement of Assembly elections.

There are also speculations about the nature of the statehood, the centre will be inclined to grant. There is an apprehension that the centre may only be inclined to restore a Delhi type statehood where the power will largely vest with the Lieutenant Governor with some local representation in the everyday governance. However, nothing is known with certainty as of now.

According to some media reports in sections of national media, the centre is set to hold dialogue with the J&K political parties including the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD). The recent meeting of the PAGD which took place after a long hiatus is seen in this context. Otherwise, the PAGD had long given up the pretense of existing as an alliance which is dedicated to struggle for the restoration of Article 370 that granted J&K an autonomous status within Indian Union.

Be that as it may, it will certainly be a positive development should the centre start engagement with the political groups in Kashmir. This will certainly go a long way to address the current political vacuum in the union territory. It has been a long time since the political activity has been by and large dead in the Valley. The release of the political leaders last year, in a sense, changed little on the ground. In fact, some political leaders are still in jail and there is no telling when or if they will be freed in near to medium future.

This is where a dialogue between the centre and the J&K leadership holds some hope. This could go a long way in breaking the ice and putting the union territory on the road to a political normalcy. Every J&K citizen has a stake in such a dialogue and all would want it to reach its logical conclusion: a statehood for J&K and redressal of the local political and public grievances and aspirations.

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

## Tweaking the tax

In its meeting on Saturday, the GST Council cut tax rates for key Covid-related medicines and equipment in line with the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) formed to go into the issue. While frequent changes in tax rates create uncertainty for businesses and households, doing so now in the midst of a pandemic, for a limited time period, to provide relief to financially stressed households struggling to meet their health expenses, is a judicious move. While some had argued in favour of zero rating of these items, which is done for exports, doing so would have required an amendment to the GST Act. On the other hand, exempting these products from GST would have placed manufacturers at a disadvantage as they would not have been able to claim input tax credit.

Equally pressing is for the GST Council to address the problems that add complexity to and continue to plague the indirect tax framework. For one, the matter of the inverted duty structure needs to be addressed. Perhaps a product-wise examination needs to be considered. And while this may not be an appropriate time, the GST Council must also examine the issue of rationalising the tax rates. According to an RBI study, the weighted average GST rate had declined from 14.4 per cent in May 2017 to 11.6 per cent in 2019, implying that the current GST regime is not revenue neutral. This impacts tax collections, and creates fiscal pressures for both central and state governments. Such pressures are exacerbated during economic downturns when there are greater demands on governments to provide relief to the economy. The GST Council must, therefore, move quickly to address the lingering structural issues in the GST architecture.

Indian Express

# G-7 Summit Disappoints

The 3Cs: Covid, China and Climate Change dominated the G-7 Summit. But overall the leaders were not able to present a united stand on any major issue

Asad Mirza

Western leaders met after four turbulent years of Donald Trump in the White House. Though Biden was welcomed into the Club, he was unable to make a significant mark at the summit, as most of the pre-summit promises were not included in the final communiqué

The 47th annual G-7 Summit, ended on Sunday last at the Carbis Bay in Cornwall, UK. Though the British Prime Minister wanted the summit to showcase his brand of 'Global Britain', after Brexit, there were terse exchanges between the French, EU and British leaders and officials on the issue. In effect, the summit turned out to be more Biden focussed and even as expectations were raised high on some real agreement taking place on the 3C's before the summit, though that was not the result ultimately.

Broadly, Biden sought to set a new tone after the unrestrained Trump years. Most G-7 leaders seemed relieved to have a return to a more predictable and traditional US administration. France's Emmanuel Macron welcomed Biden back to the "club." But the final Communiqué showed that even Biden's expectations to ensure a consensus on many of his promises fell short.

#### Covid-19 and Vaccine Diplomacy

On the issue of Covid-19, the leaders of the seven most affluent western nations seemed united, but there was a difference of opinion on the way forward. Earlier, they had shown commitment to donate 1 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses over the next year to poorer countries. But in reality, the bloc fell short of its own goal -- 613 million new doses pledged, instead of a billion.

Even so, the vaccine effort gave Biden some help with his China push. Biden has criticised China for a transactional brand of vaccine diplomacy, where the shots are being doled out for geopolitical advantage. Biden called on democracies to counter China and Russia by donating vaccines equally and based on need, without seeking favours in return.

The COVAX facility, backed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), aims to secure 2 billion vaccine doses for lower-income countries by the end of 2021.

"We will work together with the private sector, the G20 and other countries to increase this contribution over the months to come," the communiqué said.

#### The Dragon Dealing

On the second day of the summit, the US unveiled plans to counter China through infrastructure funding for poorer nations. Promising to "collectively catalyse" hundreds of billions of infrastructure investment for low- and middle-income countries, the G7 leaders said they would offer a "values-driven, high-standard and transparent" partnership.

G-7s "Build Back Better World" (B3W) project was aimed directly at competing with China's trillion-dollar Belt and Road Infrastructure (BRI) initiative, which has been widely criticised for saddling small countries with unmanageable debt, including even G-7 member Italy since its launch in 2013.

However, several leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, pushed back over worries about turning the G-7 into an anti-China group, suggesting any infrastructure programme should be framed as a more positive, pro-environment effort.

French President Emmanuel Macron also pushed back publicly, saying that the "G-7 is not a group that is hostile to China." Macron was one leader who sought the middle ground.

China hit back at these statements dismissively saying that the days when "global decisions" were dictated by a "small group of countries are long gone". Chinese embassy in London issued a statement saying that world affairs should be handled through "consultation by all countries", and added that the valid global system was the "international order based on the principles" of the United Nations.

The final version of the communiqué skirted B3W, instead creating a task force to study how to spur infrastructure development abroad. It made no mention of BRI, though Biden renewed his call at a press conference, and said that, "I proposed that we have a democratic alternative to the Belt and Road initiative, to build back better."

#### On Climate Change

The claim by environmental activists before and after the summit was that the world's rich nations, which caused the climate crisis, know what's expected of them - but they consistently fail to deliver in full. They asserted



that for the umpteenth time the rich club has failed to deliver on its promise to channel \$100bn a year to poor nations coping with climate change's negative effects.

Environmental campaigners further warned that there could be no overarching deal to protect the climate unless a \$100 billion sum is reached and guaranteed at the vital COP-26 climate conference in Glasgow in December.

Teresa Anderson, from Action Aid said that the G7 must announce real finance through grants and stop turning a blind eye while the world's poorest and most marginalised are hit hardest.

The summit made some progress, especially on heralding the demise of coal - the fuel that drove the industrial revolution and sent emissions soaring. President Biden talked about the end of coal for power generation in America (with no details of a date, or of how he would get legislation passed through the Congress). The president also trumpeted the end of coal finance for poor nations, with the hope that this may heap pressure on China to follow suit.

#### India's Commitments

As PM Modi had announced last month, due to surging Covid cases in India, he did not travel

to the UK and addressed the summit virtually. He conveyed India's commitment to "collective" solution to global health challenges, and called for "one earth, one health" approach, which aims for unity and solidarity among the states of the world to deal with the pandemic. He also emphasised the need to keep raw materials for vaccines easily accessible.

Mr. Modi further sought G7's support for a proposal moved by India and South Africa at the WTO for a TRIPS waiver. This waiver will help India scale up production of anti-COVID-19 vaccines. The argument found strong support from Australia and other countries. French President Emmanuel Macron too argued for strengthening the abilities of countries like India that can play a vital role to contain the pandemic.

#### Summit's Attainment

The UK summit was the first G-7 summit to be held in the last two years, and will serve as a blueprint for international gatherings in the post-pandemic age. Western leaders met after four turbulent years of Donald Trump in the White House. Though Biden was welcomed into the Club, he was unable to make a significant mark at the summit, as most of the pre-summit promises were not included in the final commu-

iqué. This shows that he'll have to work hard to convince his European allies.

It was also the final summit for German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has served as a bulwark for Europe for 16 years, a position which is being eyed by Macron to become "Dean" of the club. Also, there was no mention of a new US-UK Atlantic Charter modelled on the historic statement made by Churchill and Roosevelt on the post-war world order, a dream cherished by both Biden and Johnson to be remembered as the one who led the world's economic recovery post-pandemic.

The summit's Communiqué, which was issued several hours after the end of the summit, promises many things but falls short of what was expected to be achieved before the summit.

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

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## Can a remote proctored exam be a good alternative for JEE Main amidst COVID?

The home based remote proctored exam is conducted in a way that students can appear for the test from their home or from any other place with computer, internet setup and the web-camera. A few other basic hardware and software requirements are also needed in the computer, which are generally available in computers.

The candidate is monitored through a web camera for the entire duration of the exam. The test screen

of the computer is also monitored through special software for any wrong practice. The web camera also records the movements and facial expressions of candidates during the test.

If any student is found indulged in any wrongful means, the test gets automatically canceled. In case of interruption in a test due to power or hardware/software failure, candidates are generally provided alternative timing for the exam.

Around 10 lakh students would be appearing in the remaining two sessions of the JEE Main, which is a huge number. The problem is, every JEE candidate might not have a computer. Moreover, a good internet connection is something not available in every part of the country, specially in the rural areas, thus making the remote proctored test a difficult alternative for JEE Main.

Perhaps one of the toughest phases for students who want to pursue engi-

neering is the preparation process for both JEE Main and Class 12th board exams at the same time. Both the examinations are conducted around a few days apart and it may become an added pressure on many students. However, if planned properly it may turn out to be just the opposite.

...  
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# Manne Kaak, the Obscure, Died of Covid. But What Killed Him?

Wajahat Qazi

Did Manne Kaak really die of Covid? Was it trials and tribulations that killed him? Or did the bottled up stress that he as a proud man of dignity hid, took his life? Did stress, mostly financial and largely emotional, diminish his executive functions and thereby worsen his chances at life?

“Wajahat Saeb, Eid chhe, kharcha gotes (Its Eid. I need something)”, Manzoor or Manne Kaak, as I would fondly call him, would quietly ask me. “Manne Kaak, Peya tratt, Kaami tsoor chuk (Manzoor, damn you, you’re a shirker)”, I would humorously and jovially tell him. In a stentorian tone of voice, my Manne Kaak, would equally jovially then laugh with me.

Manzoor or manne Kaaak, was not a moonlighter in the conventional sense: he had no regular job. He sometimes worked as a school bus conductor, sometimes as a day labourer, supplementing his meagre income by stitching shawls and so on. In the harsh Kashmiri winters, we(my family) would engage him to look after our house. Manne Kaak’s wife was diagnosed with breast cancer a couple of years ago. The cancer worsened after he , instead of proper medical treatment, sent his wife to a local pir for what he believed would be better treatment. The entire burden of looking after the family, which includes a young school going daughter — cooking , washing, shopping and earning, fell on Manne kaak.

A handsome man with sharp and elegant features, Manne Kaak started growing weak and haggard as the burden of life and poverty fell on him. A back surgery that was performed on him due to disc issues left him incapable of doing daily wage labor. The sources of income were dwindling and life’s troubles were piling up. But Manne Kaak soldiered on, battling the odds and hand dealt to him , bravely. He would never seek charity nor would he crib and complain over his condition.

“Wajahat saeb, why don’t you establish a business? I would be the first person to work for you”, Manne Kaak would say to me. “Here business people are ruthless. They don’t care for us poor people”, he would add. “I will help you, Manne kaak”, I would reassure him. The prompt response from him would be an emphatic no. “No , No, Wajahat Saeb. I will not accept anything unless it is for work”

As time wore on, Manne Kaak grew weaker still. To assuage his dignity, I would send him on errands, slip a note in his pheran or kurta after he would return. Manne Kaak would loudly protest and a battle of words and wit would ensue which I would win. “Wajahat saeb, yi haz gov galat. Be chuss tuhunz kaem karaan kyazi ki tse chuk mye tott. (This is wrong. I run errands for you because I love you; not for money)”, Manne kaak would protest.



Manne Kaak must have been in his mid or late forties but looked a sixty-something. Life’s troubles were draining him. Looking after his sick wife and raising his daughter under great adversity added to his troubles. But society looked on. Manne Kaak bravely and courageously fought his battles alone till the day he lost his battle with life. Manne Kaak was broken within and without but he never showed it.

On the crisp 14th June morning , I was woken up by the shrill and incessant ringing of my mobile phone. A harried, sobbing woman broke the sad and tragic news to me, “Manne Kaak passed away during the night”. Numb with shock, I asked, “How?”. The answer was all too familiar for our times, “He complained of breathlessness, oxygen levels dipped and he died”. I disconnected the call, and tried to make sense of Manne Kaak leaving us so early. Tears welled up in my eyes. “Manne Kaak, I let you down. Society let you down. Sorry, Manne Kaak. Please forgive me”, is all I could think.

I suspect that Manne Kaak died of Covid that must not have been diagnosed at the right time. But, it could be something else. Did Manne Kaak really die of Covid? Was it trials and tribulations that killed him? Or did the bottled up stress that he as a proud man of dignity hid, took his life? Did stress, mostly financial and largely emotional, diminish his executive functions and thereby worsened his chances at life?

I wonder to myself, who would take care of his ailing wife and young daughter after the mourning period is over?

These are questions that I ask myself and pose to broader society: do we not owe an obligation and duty of care to our weak and vulnerable? Are they not equally human as us?

I know the answers but beyond some very sparse help to Manne Kaak, neither I nor society could do anything for him.

Alas!

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## The Right To Disconnect

So, how does one juggle the desire to be a team player without committing to working 24/7?

Dr Camille Preston

You’ve finished dinner, put the kids to bed, and you’re about to binge-watch a television show you’re likely embarrassed to admit you’re even watching when a notification pops up on your screen. The message—from a younger team member who now seems to be working on a noon-to-midnight schedule—is marked urgent. Do you open it and respond?

If this scenario sounds familiar, you’re not alone. In the world of remote work, what it means to be “off” is murky. Now, as some people return to the office and others go permanently remote, time off is about to get even more difficult to define and protect.

So, how does one juggle the desire to be a team player without committing to working 24/7? And should this decision be left up to employees, or is it time for leaders to take a clear stand?

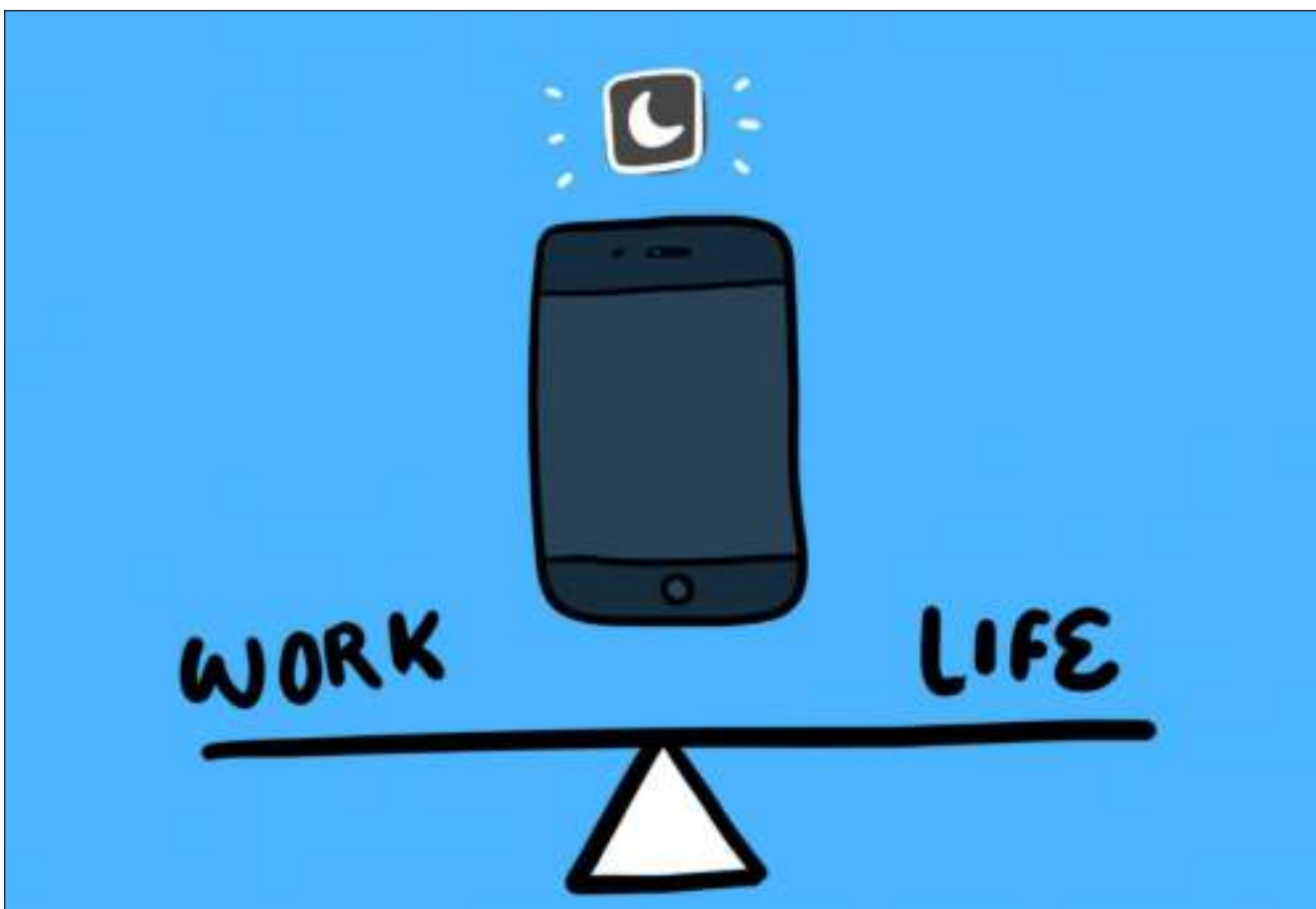
What is “the right to disconnect”?

The “right to disconnect” is a lobby that has been brewing for years. It also seems to mean very different things in different contexts.

Not surprisingly, the earliest “right to disconnect” legislation was implemented in France, also home to an envious 35-hour workweek. In 2016, the French government ruled that any company with 50 or more workers must draw up a “charter of good conduct” outlining when employees are not expected to be online responding to messages.

Since then, “right to disconnect” legislation has been adopted in a few other jurisdictions, including Spain. But rather than gain momentum as legislation, in most parts of the world, calls for the “right to disconnect” seem to be coming from company leaders or employees.

For example, in 2017, the German car manufacturer Daimler introduced a “mail on holiday policy”. Under the policy, employees can opt into one of three messages before going on vacation, including a message that says that any email sent will be deleted. According to Daimler officials, the policy came as a huge relief to employees and enhanced



work-life balance.

In other cases, workers have led the charge to disconnect. One might not think about police officers when they think about online work, but there are growing demands on law enforcement officers to make themselves available outside work hours. In spring 2021, one Australian police union decided that enough is enough. The expectation, they argued, was taking a toll on officers’ mental health. In response, they voted to adopt a “right to disconnect” for their members.

**Balancing work flexibility with right to disconnect policies**

In a 2018 Fast Company article, I argued that “right to disconnect” legis-

lation is unlikely to work, especially in the United States. Instead, I suggested that a holistic approach—one focused on helping employees better manage their boundaries—is the best solution.

After more than a year of remote work, I still maintain that this is the right approach. But for the approach to be effective, leaders need to provide clear guidance on when employees need to be available online and when they can log off. To begin, leaders should ask themselves five key questions:

Do you have a compelling need to have your employees available online all the time? If not, have you communicated with employees about when they don’t need to be available online?

If you need some employees avail-

able 24/7, ask yourself: A) Who are these employees? B) Why are they required to be available online outside regular work hours? C) Are these employees compensated for their additional availability, and if not, could they be? D) What is their constant availability worth to you and your organisation (i.e., how much are you willing to pay for 24/7 access)?

Asking some employees to be available outside regular work hours shouldn’t be a crime. However, if a leader needs to do this, it is important to be clear about who is and is not obligated to make themselves available outside regular work hours, know why one is making this “ask,” and be prepared to pay for it.

For anyone who doesn’t need to be

available 24/7 and likely would benefit from disconnecting, leaders are strongly advised to provide clear guidance on expectations. Leaders can also support their employees by helping them understand the power of taking time off to recharge.

Psychology Today

Asking some employees to be available outside regular work hours shouldn’t be a crime. However, if a leader needs to do this, it is important to be clear about who is and is not obligated to make themselves available outside regular work hours, know why one is making this “ask,” and be prepared to pay for it.



# Vaccination of entire population will inhibit severity of third Covid-19 wave: Dr Abdul Rouf

S<sup>R</sup>INAGAR, JUNE 14: "Everything about emergence of third Covid-19 wave, its severity and impact on children has been talked on Social Media but there is equal possibility of preventing or suppressing it, by ensuring cent percent vaccination of entire population", said Dr Rouf, Public Health consultant.

"The strategy of vaccination of entire population must be implemented properly without leaving behind any eligible individual," said Dr Rouf while emphasizing on importance of vaccination.

"This will increase defence mechanism against new infection in the body and nullify chances of catching virus again," he said while elaborating benefits of vaccination.

He said that if all the adults in a family get vaccinated, the chances of children getting infected is highly unlikely as vaccinated parents become a shield for children.

He maintained that infodemics needs to be curbed which induces fear and covid vaccination phobia among the people. He advised educated people to cross check the source of news from the Google to ascertain veracity of content of news which will help them not to fall for fake stories.

He said that the research regarding covid vaccination for children is being conducted in many countries and added that if vaccination for children is allowed in near future then the process shall be taken on priority basis. This, he said, will



Dr Abdul Rouf

protect children from the deadly disease.

"The data regarding second wave shows adults as well as children have developed immunity against the virus and children remained mostly unaffected except some children with co-morbidity diseases. However, the intensity of third wave and its adverse impact depends on the mutation of corona virus and behavior of new variants viz-a-viz propagation and severity of infection," Dr Rouf explained.

Moreover, he said that people need to bring about behavioral changes in themselves corresponding to covid, like developing habit of mask wearing and washing of hands frequently. This, will protect us, in case we may have to live with covid for few more years, he added.

Dr Rouf rejected the claims of some people regarding feeling suffocation while wearing masks, saying that there was advisory for wearing double mask and it is not appropriate to make such excuses.

Public health consultant, Dr Rouf said that he has been working in the covid for one and a half year and yet he never got infected by covid because of vaccination and observance of Covid SoPs, particularly wearing of masks.

Besides, he emphasized that the covid guidelines issued by government time and again like maintenance of physical distance, wearing of mask and washing of hand with soap, shall have to be followed without any lethargy.

## Study finds three factors that may predict college students' loss of self-control

J<sup>o</sup>ining a club that sparks a new interest, playing a new intramural sport or finding a new group of friends may be just as indicative of a college freshman's loss of self-control as drinking or drug use, according to new research at West Virginia University.

Self-control, the ability to exercise personal restraint, inhibit impulsivity and make purposeful decisions in that first year partly depends on a student's willingness to try new things, including things adults would call "good."

That's a new finding, according to Kristin Moilanen, associate professor of child development and family studies. The study, "Predictors of initial status and change in self-control during the college transition," observed 569 first-year students ages 18-19 at five points over the course of the academic year. Participants completed the first wave of the study two weeks before arriving on campus and the other four over the course of the year.

The tendency to try new things is one of two indicators -- the other is maternal attachment -- that may gauge which students would benefit from an intervention, the study



found.

"It does suggest that one of the points of college is to go out and try new things," she said. "There may be some value in finding out who needs reining in or training in decision making that they need to slow down and think."

Students who were less interested in trying new things maintained stable control throughout the year, she said.

A first-year student's self-control tendencies also depend on the students' attachment to their par-

ents, particularly their mothers.

"They're responsive," she continued. "They tend to get along, their relationship is predictable and they know what their parents are going to do, how they're going to react. They don't hide their mistakes from their parents."

Conversely, students who were detached from their parents were more likely to tread more dangerous behavioural waters.

Moilanen said that stems from parents who were unavailable or inconsistent, making their chil-

dren tend to push other people away and dismiss the importance of parental attachment.

"Their self-control erodes more than those who are more securely attached," she said.

Screening for insecure attachment and personality dimensions may be valuable for identifying first-year college students who could benefit from discrete targeted early interventions, particularly those who aren't as attached to their mothers; that student may benefit from connecting with peers and building a support system, according to the study.

A third factor, stress, is also likely to blame for college freshmen's loss of self-control, though this was not considered in the study.

"It's probably reflecting fluctuations in stress over the academic year," Moilanen said. "First-year students don't have the most accurate representation for what to expect and then they get here and they find that it's fun, but they also find it's stressful."

Stressors, even small ones, Moilanen said, can be more disruptive to self-control than people realize.

## Study finds new links between high-fat diets and colon cancer

### Agencies

A<sup>n</sup>ew study has found that high-fat diets can trigger a molecular cascade of events that leads to intestinal and colon cancer.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Cell Reports'.

For decades, physicians and dietitians have urged people to limit their intake of high-fat foods, citing links to poor health outcomes and some of the leading causes of death in the US, such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

gateway that coordinates intestinal tumor formation when they adapt to high-fat diets, and elevate cancer risk. Within the ISCs are high-fat sensor molecules that sense and react to high-fat diets levels in the cells.

"We were following up on mechanisms that might be required for stem cells to adapt to the high fat diet --and that's where we came across the PPARs," said Mana. These peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (or PPARs) trigger a cellular program that elevates cancer risk, but the exact mechanisms were unclear because there are multiple types of



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dietary components high in saturated fats such as red meat are thought to be risk factors for colon cancer. Diet is thought to strongly influence the risk of colorectal cancer, and changes in food habits might reduce up to 70 per cent of this cancer burden.

Other known epidemiological risk factors are family history, inflammatory bowel disease, smoking and type-2 diabetes.

But out of all the risk factors that elevate colon cancer risk, diet is the one environmental and lifestyle factor that may be the easiest to control - simply by changing people's behavior and eating habits - if we knew the exact connections. "There's epidemiological evidence for a strong link between obesity and increased tumor risk," said School of Life Sciences assistant professor Miyeko Mana.

Mana added, "And in the intestine, the stem cells are the likely cell of origin for cancer. So, what is that connection? Well, diet is something that feeds into that cycle of obesity and colorectal cancer."

The new ASU study led by Mana and her team has shown in greater detail than ever before of how high-fat diets can trigger a molecular cascade of events that leads to intestinal and colon cancer.

As foods are broken down and make their way through the gut, they interact with intestinal stem cells (ISC) that lie along the inside surfaces of the gut. These ISCs reside in a series of regularly folded valleys of the gut, called crypts.

ISCs are thought to be the

PPARs, and complexities in teasing out their roles.

"There is a family of 3 PPARs, named delta, alpha and gamma. At first, I thought just PPAR delta was involved, but in order to see if that gene is really responsible for the phenotype, you have to remove it," added Mana.

Mana's team was able to explore and unmask the role of individual PPAR delta and alpha using a mouse model that controlled their activity in the cell. In her team's study, mice were given a long-term high fat or normal diet, and the activity of each PPAR was carefully monitored to study the effects on cancer risk.

In their knockout study, they first removed the PPAR delta gene.

"But when we removed it from the intestine, we still observed the phenotype. So, we wondered if maybe another PPAR was compensating and that's where we thought about PPAR alpha. Both of those (PPAR delta and PPAR alpha) appear to be required for this high fat diet phenotype within the stem cells," said Mana.

This was frustrating to Mana because she knew right away that developing a potential therapeutic to offset the PPARs just became a much taller task.

"When you think about this therapeutically, if you are incorporating a lot of fat into your diet and you want to reduce your risk of colon cancer, targeting two different factors is more challenging then if you are targeting just one," added Mana.

To further tease out the genetic complexity, Mana next turned her attention downstream of the PPARs.

### Agencies

W<sup>h</sup>en sleep researcher Michael Scullin, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at Baylor University, realised he was waking up in the middle of the night with a song stuck in his head, he saw an opportunity to study how music and particularly stuck songs might affect sleep patterns.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Psychological Science'.

Scullin's recent study investigated the relationship between music listening and sleep, focusing on a rarely-explored mechanism: involuntary musical imagery, or "earworms," when a song or tune replays over and over in a person's mind.

These commonly happen while awake, but Scullin found that they also can happen while trying to sleep.

"Our brains continue to process music even when none is playing, including apparently while we are asleep," Scullin said.

A 15-year longitudinal study shows that childhood insomnia symptoms that persist into adulthood are strong determinants of mood and anxiety disorders in young adults.

Scullin added, "Everyone knows that music listening feels good. Adolescents and young adults routinely listen to music near bedtime. But sometimes you can have too much of a good thing. The more you listen to music, the more likely you are to catch an earworm that won't go away at bedtime. When that happens, chances are your sleep is going to suffer."

People who experience earworms regularly at night -- one or more times per week -- are six times as likely to have poor sleep quality compared to people who rarely experience earworms. Surprisingly, the study found that some instrumental music is more likely to lead to earworms and disrupt sleep quality than lyrical music.

The study involved a survey and a laborato-

ry experiment. The survey involved 209 participants who completed a series of surveys on sleep quality, music listening habits and earworm frequency, including how often they experienced an earworm while trying to fall asleep, waking up in the middle of the night and immediately upon waking in the morning.

In the experimental study, 50 participants were brought into Scullin's Sleep Neuroscience and Cognition Laboratory at Baylor, where the research team attempted to induce earworms to determine how it affected sleep quality.

Polysomnography -- a comprehensive test and the gold standard measurement for sleep -- was used to record the participants' brain waves, heart rate, breathing and more while they slept.

"Before bedtime, we played three popular and catchy songs -- Taylor Swift's 'Shake It Off,' Carly Rae Jepsen's 'Call Me Maybe' and Journey's 'Don't Stop Believin'," Scullin said.

Scullin added, "We randomly assigned participants to listen to the original versions of those songs or the de-lyricized instrumental versions of the songs. Participants responded whether and when they experienced an earworm. Then we analyzed whether that impacted their nighttime sleep physiology. People who caught an earworm had greater difficulty falling asleep, more nighttime awakenings, and spent more time in light stages of sleep."

Additionally, EEG readings -- records of electrical activity in the brain -- from the experimental study were quantitatively analysed to examine physiological markers of sleep-dependent memory consolidation. Memory consolidation is the process by which temporary memories are spontaneously reactivated during sleep and transformed into a more long-term form.

"We thought that people would have earworms at bedtime when they were trying to fall asleep, but we certainly didn't know that people would report regularly waking up from sleep with an earworm. But we saw that in both the survey and experimental study," he said.

Participants who had a sleep earworm

showed more slow oscillations during sleep, a marker of memory reactivation. The increase in slow oscillations was dominant over the region corresponding to the primary auditory cortex which is implicated in earworm processing when people are awake.

"Almost everyone thought music improves their sleep, but we found those who listened to more music slept worse," Scullin said.

"What was really surprising was that instrumental music led to worse sleep quality -- instrumental music leads to about twice as many earworms," Scullin added.

The study found that individuals with greater music listening habits experienced persistent earworms and a decline in sleep quality. These results are contrary to the idea of music as a hypnotic that might help sleep.

Health organisations commonly recommend listening to quiet music before bedtime -- recommendations that largely arise from self-reported studies. Instead, Scullin has objectively measured that the sleeping brain continues to process music for several hours, even after the music stops.

Knowing that earworms negatively affect sleep, Scullin recommended first trying to moderate music listening or taking occasional breaks if bothered by earworms. Timing of music also is important -- try to avoid it before bed.

"If you commonly pair listening to music while being in bed, then you'll have that association where being in that context might trigger an earworm even when you're not listening to music, such as when you're trying to fall asleep," he said.

Another way to get rid of an earworm is to engage in cognitive activity -- fully focusing on a task, problem or activity helps to distract your brain from earworms. Near bedtime, rather than engaging in a demanding activity or something that would disrupt your sleep, like watching TV or playing video games, Scullin suggested spending five to 10 minutes writing out a to-do list and putting thoughts to paper.



Record High: India's WPI Inflation Zooms To 12.94% In May

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Base effect, along with high transportation fuel cost, lifted India's annual rate of inflation based on wholesale prices to record high levels in May.

Accordingly, WPI rose by 12.94 per cent in May from a rise of 10.49 per cent in April.

This is the highest rate of WPI inflation in the current series. The previous high mark was observed in April.

The monthly rate of inflation, in May 2020 stood at (-) 3.37 per cent.

On sequential basis, the month over month change in WPI index for May 2021 as compared to April, was 0.76 per cent.

"The high rate of inflation in May 2021 is primarily due to low base effect and rise in prices of crude petroleum, mineral oils viz petrol, diesel, naphtha, furnace oil etc and manufactured products as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement on WPI.

Last year, the Centre had imposed a full nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

On segment wise basis, prices of primary articles, which constitute 22.62 per cent of the WPI's total weightage, rose at a slower rate of 9.61 per cent last month from 10.16 per cent in April 2021.

However, WPI food index rose to 8.11 per cent from 7.58 per cent reported for April.

The prices of manufactured items remained at elevated levels with a rise of 10.83 per cent from 9.01 per cent.

On the same note, the prices of fuel and power with a weightage of 13.15 per cent rose 37.61 per cent from 20.94 per cent.

Specifically, diesel prices in-

creased by 66.3 per cent in May against 33.82 per cent during April.

During the same period, petrol prices rose by 62.28 per cent in May from 42.37 per cent.

Similarly, other key consumables such as potato became a bit expensive. Its prices deflated by (-) 27.9 per cent in May against (-) 30.44 per cent in April.

The vegetable prices in May fell (-) 9 per cent against a rise of 9.03 per cent.

In contrast, prices of pulses became dearer on a YoY basis by 12.09 per cent last month from 10.74 per cent.

"As expected, the YoY WPI inflation spiked further to a fresh-series high 12.9 per cent in May 2021, driven by the double whammy of high global commodity prices and a very low base," ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar.

"All the major sub-indices other than primary food articles, and crude oil and natural gas recorded a rise in their YoY inflation in May 2021 relative to the previous print." According to Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, high input costs are severely impacting the price cost margins of the businesses in the difficult time of pandemic coronavirus.

"High commodity prices are posing a serious challenge to the small businesses to operate in the difficult pandemic times, which needs to be addressed immediately through the adequate reforms in the supply chains of high price commodities," he was quoted as saying in a statement.

"We suggest to do away with the custom duties on the imports of primary raw materials for industrial use for at least current FY 2022 and impose export duties on various primary commodities showing huge price increases, exceeding 50 per cent over the last FY 2021."

May Retail Inflation At 6-Month High Of 6.3% On Higher Food, Fuel Prices

Agencies

India's retail inflation shot up to six-month high of 6.3 per cent in May, after easing to a three-month low of 4.23 per cent in April, according to the government data released on Monday.

Inflation, based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), has breached the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target range for the first time after five months. The RBI is mandated to maintain the crucial number at 4 per cent in the medium term, with a 2 percentage point margin on either side as part of its inflation target.

A Reuters poll estimated the inflation rate to be 5.30 per cent in May.

Food inflation accelerated to 5.01 per cent in May, as compared to 1.96 per cent in April, while core inflation stood at 6.6 per cent.

Within the food items, the rate of fall in vegetables prices was at (-) 1.92 per cent in May, as against (-) 14.18 per cent in the previous month. Meanwhile, the inflation rate in food and beverages was at 5.24 per cent.

Inflation in 'fuel and light' category remained elevated at 11.58 per cent during the month as against 7.91 in the previous month.

Inflation rate in edible oil and fats soared to 30.84 per cent in the Month of May as against



25.91 per cent in May.

Meanwhile, the wholesale price-based inflation, released earlier during the day, soared to a record high of 12.94 per cent in May, on rising prices of crude oil and manufactured goods.

While there were fewer supply chain disruptions during the recent pandemic lockdowns compared with last year, a general rise in inflation globally has elevated domestic price pressures. Higher global commodity prices including including crude, edible oils and gold are clearly spilling over into consumer inflation.

The Reserve Bank, at its June month monetary policy meeting, estimated an average inflation rate of 5.1 per cent for the current financial year. The RBI is mandated to maintain the crucial number at 4 per cent in the medium term, with a 2 percentage point leeway on either side as part of its inflation target.

Fuel Prices At Fresh Record High Across India



**NEW DELHI:-** After staying unchanged for a day, prices of petrol and diesel were hiked again on Monday, June 14, 2021, touching fresh record highs across the country. In the national capital, the petrol price rose by 29 paise while that of diesel too inched up 30 paise.

Following the latest price revision, petrol in Delhi is now retailing at Rs 96.41 a litre while diesel is selling at Rs 87.28. In the financial capital Mumbai, petrol price now stands at Rs 102.58 while diesel costs Rs 94.70, data available on Indian Oil Corporation's website showed.

This was the eighth price rise in the auto fuel prices so far in the month of June that follows 16 hikes in May. Prices have been on the rise since the past month (May 4) after oil market- ing companies (OMCs) resumed their price revisions ending an 18-day hiatus that coincided with the assembly elections in key states.

Following these hikes since May 4, the price of petrol has crossed the Rs 100-per-litre

mark in seven states and union territories including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Lakshadweep and Karnataka.

Last month, Bhopal became the first state capital to have petrol hit the three-figure mark followed by Jaipur and Mumbai. Today, Hyderabad joined this list with petrol hitting Rs 100.20 a litre. Bengaluru too is inching towards this psychological landmark where petrol is retailing at Rs 99.63.

Petrol and diesel rates are at the highest in the country in Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan where petrol comes for Rs 107.53 a litre. Diesel here touched the three-figure mark on Saturday and currently is retailing at Rs 100.37 per litre, the Indian Oil data showed. In Madhya Pradesh's Anuppur district, petrol today is priced at Rs 107.17 a litre and diesel at Rs 98.29.

In India, the fuel prices differ from state to state depending on the local taxation (VAT) and freight charges. Apart from this, the central government charges an excise duty on auto fuels.

**FOLLOWING THE LATEST PRICE REVISION, PETROL IN DELHI** is now retailing at Rs 96.41 a litre while diesel is selling at Rs 87.28. In the financial capital Mumbai, petrol price now stands at Rs 102.58 while diesel costs Rs 94.70, data available on Indian Oil Corporation's website showed.

Oil Minister Defends High Fuel Prices, Says Govt Spending More On Welfare, Covid Vax

By IANS

Accepting that high fuel prices have been a cause of difficulty to the general public, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday said that at a time when the government expenditure has surged due to welfare schemes along with vaccination coverage amid the pandemic, the government is saving money for such initiatives for the public.

Speaking to reporters, Pradhan said: "I accept that the current fuel prices are causing trouble to the consumers, there is no ambiguity over it. But whether it is the Centre of the state governmentsover Rs 35,000 crore is being spent on vaccination during a year.

Recently, the Prime Minister announced Rs 1 lakh crore spending for giving free food grains to the poor under Pradhan



Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana."

He also added that under PM Kisan scheme, thousand of crores have been transferred to the accounts of farmers and also mentioned that recently the minimum support prices (MSP) for rice and wheat have been announced keeping in view the well-being of farmers, which have added to the government exchequer.

"All these expenses (are there) and along with those, investments are required for job creation and developmental activi-

ties," he said.

"In this time of difficulty, we are saving money to spend for welfare initiatives," the Minister said.

On a question on criticism by the Opposition over high fuel prices, the Minister retorted by asking why the states where Congress is in power, such as Rajasthan, Punjab and Maharashtra, fuel prices have not been lowered.

The statement comes at a time when both petrol and diesel prices have surged to unprecedented levels and in several places including Mumbai, and Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan, petrol prices have surged over the Rs 100 per litre mark.

In Sri Ganganagar, even diesel has crossed the Rs 100 a litre mark. In Delhi, petrol was sold for Rs 96.12 while diesel was priced at Rs 86.98 per litre on Sunday.

World Has To Decouple Trade Policy, Green Goals: Goyal At UN Trade Forum 2021



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Hoping that the developed countries will not use the inter-play of trade and climate challenge "too much", Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said the world should decouple trade policy and its green goals.

He also hoped that credit rating agencies and bodies like the IMF "which kind of dictate" the financial architecture of the world do not land up being unfairly harsh on the developing and less-developed countries as this is a time to become compassionate, more liberal and supportive to these nations.

"I think a little longer rope needs to be given even to earlier agreements or earlier commitments so that these countries (developing and less developed) have space to bring their economies back on track," Goyal said at the UN Trade Forum 2021.

Let the trade policy look for more inclusive growth all over the world and all the countries need to work towards climate justice and sustainable lifestyle. "We do hope that the developed world will not use the inter-play of trade and climate challenge too much because I think trade should allow all countries to prosper.

"It should not create trade barriers which will ultimately become a hindrance to taking the prosperity to the poorer, lesser developed countries," he said. Goyal added: "I do believe that we have to decouple trade policy and our green goals". Rather, he said, the UN and the other multilateral agencies like the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) should focus on getting the world together to fulfil their commitments around climate change.

The minister added that there should be differentiated responsibilities when it comes to the developing world or the less-developed countries, as they have to fulfil their commitments which they made in Paris particularly relating to capital, and technology.

Further, Goyal said the world should learn lesson from the 2008 economic crisis and the developed world should not land up in "over adventurism" in terms of fiscal proliferation.

Talking about healthcare, he said that under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, 500 million people have access to medical facilities free of charge and "we are going to expand it to 100 per cent coverage so that every citizen in India and every resident gets access to healthcare".

The government is investing in upgrading healthcare facilities and expanding them, he added. About the forthcoming meeting of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) 12th ministerial conference in Geneva, Goyal said the members cannot prioritise only the agenda of the developed world.

It has to address issues that have been long pending such as the asymmetry in agri subsidies and finding a permanent solution to the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes, he added.

WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said the member countries have agreed for text-based negotiations of the proposal of India and South Africa for temporary TRIPS waiver to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Now, we have revised text from proponents India and South Africa which is supported by the vast majority of developing countries. "It is going to be tough because still there are differences. We hope we can get a pragmatic approach. I am not in a hurry. I want to get some agreement by July because lives are involved," she said.

Paytm Launches Vaccine Appointment Booking Feature On App



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Fintech major Paytm on Monday said its users will now be able to book vaccination appointment on the app apart from finding available slots.

"Paytm users can now search, discover and also book their vaccination slots for both Covaxin and Covishield at the nearest centre through the Paytm app. The service would help Indians seamlessly book vaccination slots and gain immunity, helping in fighting the ongoing pandemic," Paytm said in a statement.

CoWIN head R.S. Sharma had recently said over a dozen entities, including large digital companies like Paytm, MakeMyTrip and Infosys, are looking at approval for offering vaccine bookings.

The government had, last month, released new guidelines for the integration of CoWIN with third-party applications, easing the way for such apps to offer vaccine bookings.

Previously, giants like Facebook and Google to startups such as HealthifyMe have introduced a slew of tools to help

people find slots for vaccination appointments.

Platforms like Under45 and GetJab became popular overnight as they alerted users when vaccine slots opened up and then directed them to the CoWIN platform to secure an appointment.

In May, Paytm too had launched 'Vaccine Finder' feature on the app to help the user find leads for vaccine booking, including information such as the type of vaccine available and the fee charged for it.

"It is our endeavour to help India come out of this pandemic a lot stronger. Our vaccine finder will help citizens seamlessly book slots at the nearest centre and get vaccinated," a Paytm spokesperson said.

India has been ramping up vaccination to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. India has so far administered over 25.4 crore jabs to eligible beneficiaries.

The government has been undertaking vaccinations in a phased manner, starting with those over 60 years, then for those over 45 years and most recently, for those aged between 18-44 years.

OnePlus Nord CE 5G Creates A Niche Of Its Own

Agencies



**SPECS:** 6.4-inch full HD+ screen, Oxygen OS 11 with Android 11, Qualcomm Snapdragon 750G processor, 6GB with 128GB/8GB with 128GB/ 12GB with 256GB

storage, 64MP+8MP ultra-wide+2MP mono camera, 16MP front camera, 4500 mAh battery, 30W Warp charging

**Price: Rs 22,999 onwards**  
**Colour: Blue Void, Charcoal Ink**  
In the Box: OnePlus Nord CE 5G, Warp Charge 30 power adapter, Warp Type-C cable, Phone case, pre-applied Screen protector

Since its first launch, OnePlus has been popular for its reasonably priced flagship smartphone alternatives offering uncompromised performance. But the rising input cost and flagships getting expensive have left a vacuum in the sweet spot of sub Rs 25,000 category. Filling this gap is the mid-budget OnePlus Nord CE. Priced starting Rs 22,999, this 5G enabled Nord CE comes with a decent set of specifications offering great performance. Mind you, this isn't a

successor to the OnePlus Nord launched last year. Instead, it's a trimmed-down version, creating a niche of its own.

First thing first, Nord CE isn't a flagship premium yet it looks good. It is a no-nonsense design with an almost borderless display at the front and a vibrant panel curving towards the sides at the rear. Side edges have minimalist controls too -- power button on the right, volume buttons and SIM tray on the left, and the Type-C charging port along with a 3.5mm jack at the bottom. With the Nord CE, OnePlus has done away with the notification slider (popularly referred to as alert slider) -- a very practical feature that used to come in handy when in meetings. Neither does the front or the rear attract fingerprints. Unlike the current range of smart-

phones in the market, it feels lightweight (170 grams) and is comfortable to hold too.

Complementing the design is the 6.4-inch full HD+ AMOLED display with bright and vivid colour reproduction. The touch response is good and this AMOLED screen is legible in bright daylight too. It also houses a fingerprints scanner, which is quick in unlocking the phone. 90Hz refresh rate offering smoother-looking motion has been turned on by default but can be switched to 60Hz too. The difference can be noticed while gaming. And then there are settings such as vision comfort for adjusting the screen's colour temperature and saturation, and read mode, that are soft on the eyes.

Everyone wants to buy a smartphone with a great cam-

era. Even though the Nord CE does not have fancy camera specs, the triple camera setup does not disappoint either.

Restricted at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I mostly tested the phone's camera on my terrace garden -- pointing it at flowers, fruits, birds and beautiful mornings and evening sky. The automatic scene detection on the primary camera (64MP but captures images using pixel binning at 16MP) identified most of the scenarios, resulting in capturing some stunning images. Most shots captured during ample lighting turned out to be sharp with great colour accuracy and details. However, low-light isn't its forte but the Nightscape mode that takes around 7 seconds to capture an image resulted in some brighter shots (with visible noise).



# Muslim Man Thrashed, Says Asked To Chant Jai Shri Ram, Police Say No Such Allegations In FIR

Press Trust of India

**Ghaziabad:** In a video on social media, an elderly Muslim man has accused four men of beating him up, chopping his beard and asking him to chant Jai Shri Ram in the Loni area of Ghaziabad.

The Ghaziabad police said it has already registered an FIR and arrested one man, Parvesh Gurjar, for his involvement in this alleged incident which took place on June 5 but was reported to police two days later.

Ghaziabad Senior Superintendent of Police Amit Pathak, however, said victim Abdul Samad, a Bulandshahr resident, had not made any allegation of being forced to chant Jai Shri Ram or the chopping up of his beard, in his FIR lodged on June 7 with a delay of two days.

"How come he is making new allegations now on June 14?" asked Pathak, suspecting someone else of instigating him of making new allegations.

Ghaziabad (Rural) SP Iraj Raja said Gurjar was arrested a few days after the incident for his role in some other criminal case, but he was found involved in beating up Samad too, so he was put under the arrest in this case as well.

Raja said the motive behind



the beating up of Samad by Gurjar and his associates was a dispute between the two over the purchase of an amulet.

Samad also practised occultism and had sold some amulet to Gurjar, purportedly to free one of his family members from some "evil effect" but a dispute arose between the two as there was no desired result of the amulet, Raja said.

After Gurjar's arrest, the police repeatedly summoned Samad to join the investigation, but he never came to the police, the SSP said, adding he was also summoned for Monday, but he is yet to appear.

Meanwhile, showing his

injuries in the video, Samad has said he was abducted from the Gokulpuri area when he took an auto for Loni in Ghaziabad.

The autorickshaw had already two people in it when he hired it while two more boarded it a little distance ahead, said Samad in the video, adding the four suddenly pounced upon him inside the auto, covered his head with a piece of cloth and began beating him up.

"They eventually drove me to a secluded house in a field in Behta Hazipur village of Loni where they further beat me up while asking me to chant Jai Shri Ram," alleged Samad in the video.

# UP Police Passing Off Death Of TV Journalist As Being Caused By Accident, Alleges Editors Guild

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** The Editors Guild of India (EGI) on Monday accused the Uttar Pradesh police of passing off the death of a TV journalist as being caused by an accident, claiming they did not pay any heed even though he had informed them about the danger to his life.

In a statement, the guild said it is shocked by "the cavalier manner" in which the Uttar Pradesh police is treating the "mysterious death" of Sulabh Srivastava in Pratapgarh.

According to the police, Srivastava died on Sunday after his motorcycle rammed into a pole in Pratapgarh. He was returning from Ashrahi village under Lalganj police station area when the incident took place.

The journalist had recently run a story about the liquor mafia.

The guild said Srivastava, who was threatened by the liquor mafia for exposing their wrongdoings, had recently written a letter to the police expressing grave apprehensions for his life.

The journalist believed that some people were following him, it said, adding the authorities paid no heed to his fears.



Srivastava died a couple of days after writing the letter to the police, it said.

"The police is passing off his death as being caused by an accident, claiming that his bike rammed into a handpump," the guild charged.

The EGI said the journalist's death comes at a time when media is facing "increasing pressures from the central and the state governments who insist that they follow the official narrative regarding the

administration's handling of the pandemic".

What is further worrying is that the police and the local authorities "liberally and unjustifiably" use laws such as sedition and the UAPA to file charges and arrest journalists, the editors' body charged.

"This is against the spirit of the judgement given by the Supreme Court in Kedar Nath Singh case and reiterated in the recent sedition case against Vinod Dua," the EGI said.

It alleged that journalists and cartoonists critical of the government are also being targeted on social media as pressures are being mounted by the government on these platforms to remove such critical journalists on the specious ground that they are violating the law of the land.

"All of this is contrary to the commitments that Prime Minister Narendra Modi made at the G-7 summit to democracy, openness and against authoritarianism," the EGI said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 599 New Cases

patients have recovered—729 from Jammu division and 1410 from the Valley. Also, the officials said that one new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) has been reported today, bringing the cumulative number of confirmed cases to 20 in J&K.

Regarding the fatalities, the officials said that four were reported from Jammu Division while five people succumbed to the infection at various healthcare institutions in the Valley. With these deaths, the overall fatality count in the Union Territory rose to 4195.

Among the victims from the Valley, officials said, included a woman from Kakapora area of Pulwama, who died within half an hour of her admission to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag. Besides her, two more women a 70-year-old woman from Awantipora died three days after remaining admitted to hospital, while a 71-year-old woman from Rathsun Tral died 12 days after remaining admitted to the hospital.

### Majlis Pitches For

In a statement issued here, the Majlis led by incarcerated Hurriyat Conference (M) chairman, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, has said that the medical fraternity of the Valley have conveyed their serious concern to the socio-religious conglomerate that many people especially in parts of Srinagar, are reluctant to be vaccinated hence putting their lives, the lives of their family members and that of the community at large at great risk of spreading the virus and also jeopardising the attempts to overcome the pandemic.

Quoting data, the MMU spokesperson said that in district Srinagar, out of 7 lakh people who are 18 years and above, only 2.90 lakh have been vaccinated, which is less than even 50%.

"Out of the total Covid deaths of 798 in Srinagar, 98% were those who were not vaccinated at all. This goes to show that vaccination is a protection against Covid complications and death," he said.

Drawing a comparison between first and second corona wave quoting data, the Majlis spokesperson said that while 15 health staff members died because of Covid last year, no fatalities, pneumonia or vaccine reaction was witnessed among the 15000 health care staff and 50000 frontline workers, who received both doses of vaccine from February 2021.

"So the effectiveness of vaccination, as a means of protection from Covid 19, is well established," he said.

MMU, as per the spokesperson said that as such the unreasonable reluctance among many for voluntary vaccination especially in some parts of Srinagar, needs to shun by one and all.

"This is imperative so that normal life in terms of business, education, religion, and travel that has been severely curtailed by the pandemic is resumed & the population of the valley is well protected for a possible third wave," he added.

He further said that Majlis and its chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq reiterate their appeal to people to get vaccinated as soon as possible and observe the SOPs by wearing masks and maintaining social distance so that by the grace of Almighty we can overcome this pandemic as soon as possible, be protected from it and resume our normal life activities.

The MMU comprises Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid Srinagar, Darul Uloom Raheemiya Banderpora, Muslim Personal Law Board Jammu & Kashmir, Jamiat Ahle Hadees, Jama'at-e-Islami, Anjuman Sharian-e-Shiayan, Itihad-ul-Muslimeen, Anjuman Himayat-ul-Islam, Anjuman Tableegh-ul-Islam, Jamiat Hamdania, Anjuman Ulema-e-Ahnaaf, Darul Uloom Qasmiya, Darul Uloom Bilaliya, Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam, Anjuman Mazhar-ul-Haq, Jamiat-ul-Aima Wa Ulema, Anjuman Aima Wa Mashaa'ikh Kashmir, Darul Uloom Naqshbandiya, Darul Uloom Rasheediya, Ahle Bayt Foundation, Madrasa Kanzul Uloom, Peerwaan-e-Wilayat, Auqaf Islamia Khirram Sirhama, Bazm-e-Tawheed Ahle Hadeeth Trust, Anjuman Tanzeem-ul-Makaatib, Muhammadiyah Trust, Anjuman Anwaar-ul-Islam and

Karwaan-e-Khatam-e-Nabuwat.

### Police Arrest 12

arrested 12 persons, lodged 4 FIRs and also realized fine to the tune of Rs 68,7255 from 4278 people throughout the Kashmir valley for violating the various coronavirus rules and SOPs. Besides, the police spokesperson said that 9 vehicles were also seized in district Shopian for violating Covid norms.

"The special drive against the violators of Covid-19 guidelines/rules continued throughout all the districts of Kashmir Valley to ensure that people adhere to SOPs/guidelines envisaged by government to curb COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

### Single Dose

the Covishield vaccine.

The study also said Memory T-cell responses elicited by a single dose of vaccine were significantly higher in the previously infected group compared with those who had no prior infection. Commenting on the impact that this study can have on the overall vaccine administration strategy, Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman, AIG Hospitals, and one of the co-authors of the study, said the results show that people who got infected with COVID-19 need not take two doses of vaccine as a single dose can develop robust antibody and memory cell response at par with two-doses for those who didn't get the infection.

This will significantly help at a time when there's a shortage of vaccine in the country and more people can be covered using the saved doses, Dr Reddy said. Once the requisite number of people are vaccinated for achieving herd immunity, these patients who got infected and received only one dose can take the second dose of the vaccine, he further said.

At this point, all our strategies should be directed at the widespread distribution of available vaccines and to include the maximum number of people at least with a single dose, Dr Reddy added.

### 100% Vaccination

talked about on Social Media but there is equal possibility of preventing or suppressing it, by ensuring cent percent vaccination of the entire population", said Dr Rouf, Public Health consultant.

He said that the strategy of vaccinating the entire population must be implemented properly without leaving behind any eligible individual. This, he said, will increase the defence mechanism against new infection in the body and nullify chances of catching virus again.

Dr Rouf said that if all the adults in a family get vaccinated, the chances of children getting infected are highly unlikely as vaccinated parents become a shield for children.

He maintained that infodemics needs to be curbed which induces fear and Covid vaccination phobia among the people.

The senior medical practitioner advised people to cross check the source of news from the Google to ascertain veracity of content of news which will help them not to fall for fake stories.

He said that the research regarding Covid vaccination for children is being conducted in many countries and added that if vaccination for children is allowed in near future then the process shall be taken on priority basis. This, he said, will protect children from the deadly disease.

"The data regarding the second wave shows adults as well as children have developed immunity against the virus and children remained mostly unaffected except some children with co-morbidity diseases. However, the intensity of the third wave and its adverse impact depends on the mutation of corona virus and behavior of new variants viz-a-viz propagation and severity of infection," Dr Rouf said.

Moreover, he said that people need to bring about behavioural changes in themselves corresponding to Covid, like developing the habit of mask wearing and washing of hands frequently.

"This will protect us, in case we may have to live with Covid for a few more years," he added.

Rejecting the claims made by some people that they feel suffocated while wearing masks;

Dr Rouf said that there was an advisory for wearing double mask and it is not appropriate to make such excuses.

"I have been working in the Covid for one and a half year and yet he never got infected because of vaccination and observance of Covid SoPs, particularly wearing of masks," he said.

Besides, he emphasized that the Covid guidelines issued by the government time and again like maintenance of physical distance, wearing of mask and washing of hand with soap, shall have to be followed without any lethargy.

### Govt Working

former Deputy CM, and DDC Chairperson, observed that the J&K government is working on many fronts for equitable development of all the regions of the UT," he said.

"He assured them to take up their genuine issues for consideration and urged them to continue working for the promotion of public welfare," he added.

Also, the official spokesperson said that the former Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages met the LG and expressed gratitude on behalf of language and literature lovers of J&K for granting the status of official languages of the UT to Kashmiri and Dogri.

"Dr. Hajini also put forth issues pertaining to implementation of New Education Policy in respect of Kashmiri and Dogri languages; revival of Academy of Art, Cultural and Languages, extension of assistance to artists and writers; promotion of local languages through regional channels etc," he added.

The LG, as per official spokesperson observed that the UT Government has taken various reformative measures for the promotion of local art and languages of J&K, besides imparting education in all the official languages.

He said that Sheikh Muzaffar, President, Jammu & Kashmir Nationalist Peoples' Front also called on the LG and discussed various developmental and youth related issues.

He further said that Waleed Khalid, an entrepreneur apprised the LG about various concerning issues of the Business community, especially the young entrepreneurs while political leader and former Vice Chairman, JK Cements, Er. Nazir Ahmad Yatoo submitted a memorandum of demands regarding the development of Yusmarg from a tourism point of view. He also demanded the strengthening of road connectivity and communication networks in the area.

"Later, The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to the visiting deputations and assured them that all the genuine concerns and demands put forth by them would be looked into meticulously," he said.

On the development of potential tourism places, the LG, as per the official spokesperson observed that the Tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir is being developed as per the vision of sustainable development goals.

"Addressing the issues of young entrepreneurs, the Lt Governor said that the Government is working on inclusive socio-economic development by providing ample livelihood opportunities, enhancing skills, and extending assistance to the budding and young entrepreneurs of the UT," he added.

### CS Takes Stock

reviewed the status of bed occupancy and availability for isolation and treatment of COVID patients; oxygen demand and supply, and duty roster of medical professionals to cater to COVID/non-COVID patients," the official spokesperson said.

"The hospital administration was directed to optimally utilize the available human and material resources for treating COVID and non-COVID patients and ensure that high-quality medical care is provided to patients round-the-clock," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the Chief Secretary further directed doctors and paramedical staff to make frequent check-ups rounds to monitor patients' health conditions and take timely measures to prevent health deterioration of critical patients as a part of robust healthcare system.

### Govt Sets Up

Retired Superintendent Engineer, Lakes & Waterways Development Authority. The committee, formed in terms of Rule 5(6) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, can also co-opt any other member as per requirement, reads an order by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi (IAS) Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government.

The committee has been tasked to review brief documents and management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the Wetland Authority.

"The Technical Committee shall meet at least once in every quarter to perform its functions, as per Rule 5(7) of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017," the order said.

The wetlands being vital parts of the hydrological cycle are highly productive ecosystems which support rich biodiversity and provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as water storage, water purification, flood mitigation, erosion control, aquifer recharge, microclimate regulation and aesthetic enhancement of landscapes. Many wetlands are threatened by reclamation and degradation through drainage and landfill, pollution (discharge of domestic and industrial effluents, disposal of solid wastes), hydrological alteration (water withdrawal and changes in inflow and outflow), over-exploitation of their natural resources resulting in loss of biodiversity and disruption in ecosystem services provided by wetlands.

Meanwhile, grievance committee shall be headed by Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, and its members include Additional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir, in the offices of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir, Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee and Special Secretary/Additional Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment (Member-Secretary of the Authority).

The terms of reference for the committee include providing a mechanism for hearing and forwarding the grievances raised by the public to the Authority.

"The Grievance Committee shall meet at least once in every quarter to perform its functions, as per Rule 5(7) of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017," the order said. Department of Environment, Ecology and Remote Sensing has been nominated as the Nodal Department for preparing digital inventory etc of wetlands of Jammu and Kashmir.

### HC Orders Release

and additional advocate general for the government.

"The only precious and valuable right guaranteed to a (detainee) is of making an effective representation against the order of detention," the court said in the judgment reserved June 3.

"Such an effective representation can only be made by a (detainee) when he is supplied the relevant grounds of detention, including the materials considered by the detaining authority (deputy commissioner Pulwama) for arriving at the requisite subjective satisfaction to pass the detention order," the court said.

"Since the material is not supplied to the (detainee), the right of the (detainee) to file such representation is impinged upon and the detention order is resultantly vitiated."

Examining the present case on the touch stone of the settled position of law and perusal of record, the court said that the detainee was not supplied the materials relied upon by the detaining authority.

"The (detainee) was provided material in the shape of grounds of detention with no other material / documents. On these counts alone, the detention of the (detainee) is vitiated, the (detainee) having been prevented from making an effective and purposeful representation against the order of detention," the court said and quashed the PSA order against Tanveer passed on 7 August 2019 and subsequently ordered his release from preventive custody "forthwith". (GNS)

### KAS Officers

States in the prestigious All India Services affected determination of vacancies for induction since 2014.

In 2020, the Government of India decided that J&K will have a 67:33 formula for All India

Services, which means J&K will now get 67 percent IAS officers from direct recruits and 33 percent from promotion quota through induction of local officers in these services.

The authorised strength of erstwhile J&K cadre of IAS was 137. Of which 75 were direct recruitment posts and 62 promotion quota.

It is erstwhile to mention that Central Government promulgated an ordinance on January 7 this year to merge J&K cadre of IAS, IPS and IFS with Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, popularly known as the UT cadre—(With KNO inputs)

### Basmati Truce

rice variety as they want to keep both New Delhi and Islamabad on board in terms of commodity exports," he added.

Ghouri's views were seconded by Ashok Sethi, the director of Punjab Rice Millers Export Association in India, who also suggested that both the countries should jointly protect the Basmati heritage.

"India and Pakistan are the only two countries which produce Basmati in the world. Both should jointly work together to save the heritage and protect the GI regime of rice," said Sethi.

It is pertinent to mention that the EU had recognised Basmati as a joint product of India and Pakistan in 2006.

Both Pakistan and India make good money from their respective exports of Basmati rice. Pakistan annually earns \$2.2 billion, while India makes about \$6.8 billion from Basmati exports.

"Both countries export Basmati rice. India, in its application to the EU, has never stated that it is the only Basmati producer in the world," insisted Vijay Sethi, a New Delhi-based exporter.

While both sides still have their own historical details on the origin of Basmati, it is rare to see two arch-rivals, who are not ready to come to the table for talks until their demands are met, come down to a mutual agreement.

Pakistan demands India to reverse its August 5, 2019 decision that changed the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into two Union Territories by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A, as a benchmark to make way for dialogue and address other issues between the two countries.

India, on the other hand, demands Pakistan to stop cross-border terrorism and take decisive action against terror elements, which it claims, enjoy the support of the establishment.

### Militant Found

because of a kidney failure as our family has a long-existing history of renal failure deaths," Amir's brother, Saqlain Malik told Kashmir Observer on Monday.

"There may have been an infection to his kidney that caused his death."

The Malik family has a long existing history of deaths due to kidney failure. Almost 8 years back, Amir's mother passed away after suffering from acute prerenal kidney failure and soon after her death, Amir's elder brother passed away at his home in Shopian, suffering from the same disease.

As a teenager Amir was yet to overcome the grief of separation, he was soon diagnosed with a renal failure. As a labourer Amir's father Gaoor Ahmed Malik couldn't do much except donate one of his kidneys in order to save his second son.

According to officials, Amir joined militant ranks in October last year and was a category-C militant of Al-Badr outfit.

A senior police officer told Kashmir Observer that there are unconfirmed reports about an ongoing rift between Al-Badr and The Resistance Front outfits.

"It looks like Al-Badr's active militants are choosing TRF over their parental organisation and the same fact may have driven the Al-Badr ranks into a mode of disarray," he said while wishing not to be named.

He further added that there is a high possibility that Amir had fallen prey to the same rift, resulting in his death.

"Once the ongoing investigation rests, the puzzle will be solved," the officer added.



## Looking At Same Points Per Test Win From Next WTC Cycle: Interim ICC CEO Allardice



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The much-debated World Test Championship points system is set to undergo a change during the second edition where all teams will get "same standardised number of points" for winning a game rather than the 120 allocated per series, ICC interim CEO Geoff Allardice said on Monday.

During the last cycle, the value for each series was 120 points where a two-match India-Bangladesh series had 60 points for a win while a four-match India-Australia Test series had 30 points in store per victory.

However, during the last phase with lot of series cancelled, ICC reverted to the percentage points system where a team's ranking was calculated on the basis points divided by the number of matches played.

"We have looked at this at the end of this cycle as well and we have the second cycle starting in a month and a half and there will be some tweaks to the points system," Allardice said during an interaction with select media outlets.

"...We can put in a standardised number of points for per Test match, so that it doesn't matter whether it's a two Test series or a five-Test series, so same number of points will be available for each match that's played.

"But every team will be judged on percentage of points its wins and not on total," Allardice explained.

While COVID-19 did wreak havoc on the calendar, an India-New Zealand final after taking all postponements into account is a fair result, he said.

"One of the things that happened during this cycle was that it became evident that not everyone was going to complete their six series as a result of postponements due to COVID," he reasoned.

"Because we have had teams

playing uneven number of series, we made it a point to tweak the points system and make it as fair as possible and make sure that it reflected the matches that we did play rather than being influenced too heavily by the series we didn't play."

Allardice felt that it was a "fair system" as New Zealand didn't play one series due to COVID related postponements but they have still been able to qualify by the strength of their performance in the other series.

"We preferred to have not changed the points system in the middle of a tournament but (because of) the circumstances due to COVID, we needed to ensure that the best two teams got to the final."

India coach Ravi Shastri had suggested a three-match final which he believes is an ideal assessment of a team's performance graph over two year period but Allardice pointed out the practical difficulties surrounding that idea.

"In a perfect world, a three Test series would be a great way to decide the WTC but reality of international cricket schedule is such that we are not going to get a month."

"...blocking out a month for all team tournament final isn't realistic, so that's why one match final was decided upon. Why it's quite exciting is it brings in something new. We have a one-off Test match to decide we have the best Test team in the world."

He also felt that even if weather plays spoilsport, five days of Test cricket with a reserve day to cover time is good enough and if no result still comes out, declaring joint winners is a fair deal.

"One of the idiosyncracies of Test cricket is that draw is a result. We didn't want to start the final with one team having to win and one team looking for draw," he said.

## Kulgam Village Decries Playground Plunder By 'Influentials'

Agencies

**KULGAM:** Locals of Hablishi Village of South Kashmir's Kulgam district, on Monday alleged that "open loot" of more than fifty kanals of playground land by influential people was taking place and that the concerned authorities were not addressing the issue.

Local youths of Hablishi Kulgam told local news agency, CNS, that a playground in the area consisting of more than fifty kanals of government land, was used by youths from different areas to play cricket and other sports, but some "influential land grabbers by using money and influence have grabbed the whole playground."

"We have filed dozens of representations and complaints from Tehsildar, Hablishi to Deputy Commissioner Kulgam but unfortunately everybody has acted like mute spectators," the locals alleged.



Although the concerned Revenue Department has admitted that the encroached land has already been identified by it but till date they have failed to retrieve the said land from encroachers.

"It looks like the concerned Revenue Department has given free hand to loot Government land," a budding cricket player, Sameer Ahmad said.

The Hablishi youth have requested LG Manoj Sinha and Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir to intervene in the matter and retrieve the playground in the interest of the youth of the area.

Meanwhile Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat told CNS that local youths should approach him directly so that he can look into the matter.

## ICC Reveals Prize Money For World Test Championship Winners

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** The winner of the upcoming World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand will walk away with a prize money of USD 1.6 million along with the Test Championship Mace, the International Cricket Council said on Monday.

India and New Zealand will battle it out for the prestigious title at Southampton on June 18.

"The winners of the much-awaited ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final between India and New Zealand will take home a purse of \$ 1.6 million along with the ICC Test Championship Mace," an ICC statement read.

"The losing team will get USD 800,000 for finishing second in the nine-team competition, which was played over a near two-year cycle, adding context to Test cricket and to crown the first official world champions in the longest format of the game."



The governing body said that the team finishing third among the nine competition nations will get USD 450,000 cheque, while the prize money for the fourth-placed team will be USD 350,000.

"... the one that finishes fifth gets USD 200,000 while the remaining four teams will get USD 100,000 each," it said.

The inaugural World Test Championships saw nine teams competing over a near two-year cycle to

add context to Test cricket.

The team claiming the inaugural world champions title in the longest format of the game will get the Test Mace, which was previously given to teams topping the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings.

"In case the final ends in a draw or a tie, the finalists will split the prize money for the first and second places and share possession of the Mace during the time they remain champions," the ICC said.

## Mushfiquir Rahim, Kathryn Bryce Voted ICC Players Of The Month For May



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Former Bangladesh captain Mushfiquir Rahim and Scottish all-rounder Kathryn Bryce were on Monday adjudged the ICC Players of the Month for May in the men's and women's categories respectively.

The winners were announced by the ICC in a press release.

Diminutive wicket-keeper batsman Mushfiquir played one Test and three ODIs against Sri Lanka in the month of May, where he helped Bangladesh win their first ODI series against Sri Lanka by scoring 125 in the second game.

Commenting on Mushfiquir's performance in May, former India batsman VVS Laxman, representing the ICC Voting Academy, said: "Even

after 15 years at the highest level, Mushfiquir has not lost his appetite for run-making.

"What made his feat even more notable was that it was Bangladesh's first-ever ODI series triumph against the 1996 World Cup champions.

"To shore up the middle order and don the wicket-keeping gloves speaks volumes of his fitness and skills."

Bryce, on the other hand, is the first player from Scotland, male or female, to make it to the top 10 of the batting or bowling lists in the MRF Tyres ICC Player Rankings released recently.

Bryce played four T20Is against Ireland where she scored 96 runs and took five wickets with an economy rate of 4.76 in the month of May.

## Southampton Curator Aims For 'Pace, Bounce And Carry' In WTC Final Pitch

Press Trust of India

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Head groundsman at Southampton Simon Lee is aiming to produce a pacy and bouncy pitch for the World Test Championship final with some assistance for spinners later on in the game. The final will be played between India and New Zealand from June 18.

"Pitch preparation for this Test is a little simpler as we are a neutral venue, we are guided by the ICC, but we all want is a good pitch that offers an even contest between the teams," Lee told ESPNcricinfo.

"For me personally I just want to get something out that has some pace, bounce and carry in the pitch.

"It can be a hard thing to do in England as the weather doesn't help us most of the time, but the forecast in the build-up is good with a lot of sun, so we are hopeful that we'll get some pace and a hard pitch without over-rolling it and killing it."

Both the teams have high quality pace bowlers and Lee wants them to be in the game at all times.

"Pace just makes red-ball cricket exciting, I'm a cricket fan and I want to produce a pitch where the cricket lovers have to watch every ball in case they miss something, be that

some class batting or an amazing spell of bowling.

"A maiden over can be quite exciting if it's a battle of skill between both bowler and batter. So, yeah, if we can get some pace and bounce in the pitch, but not too one-sided towards seam movement, we'll be happy," he said.

In the spin department, India have the edge over New Zealand with Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja expected to be part of the playing eleven. Lee said spinners too would come into play eventually.

"As I said, the forecast is looking okay, the pitches dry out very quickly here as we do have some sand mixed into our cricket loam, which helped it hold together when the pitches were re-laid some 10 years ago, but it can help it spin as well.

"To get to that point we'll need the seamers to bowl, some runs scored, and make some rough along the way. The pitch will always get talked about a lot, but you need the players to play their part to make a good game," the curator said.

"...so if we produce a pitch that allows the players to show their skills at the top level and we have an entertaining game for the fans, we will be more than satisfied."

## Hasan Ali To Remain In PSL After Resolving Family Matter



Agencies

**ABU DHABI:** Islamabad United fast bowler Hasan Ali has decided to stay for the rest of the Pakistan Super League after resolving a family matter. Hasan was due to fly back home on Sunday, but will now remain in Abu Dhabi and complete Pakistan's premier Twenty20 league.

"I was going through a personal family issue, which has been resolved thanks to my wonderful wife," Hasan said in a statement on Monday.

"She assured me she will take care of it and wants me to concentrate on my cricket and my career.

"Hats off to such a wonderful partner. She has always stood by me through the hardest times and after consulting with her, I have decided to stay on with Islamabad United for the remainder of the PSL 6."

Hasan missed Islamabad's stunning 28-run win over Lahore Qalandars on Sunday after his team was reeling at 20-5 at one stage.

The win lifted two-time champion Islamabad to the top of the table with 10 points. Hasan has taken 10 wickets in the competition and is the team's top strike bowler.

"It is fortunate for us that Hassan will be available for us through the rest of the tournament," Islamabad owner Ali Naqvi said. "But more importantly we're happy that whatever issues there were have been resolved. We wish the very best to Hassan in every aspect of his life."

Islamabad is due to take on Karachi Kings later on Monday.

## CHHETRI One Goal Away From Entering All-Time Top-10 As India Play Afghanistan

Press Trust of India

**DOHA:** Goal-machine Sunil Chhetri will look to add to his tally and enter the all-time top 10 scorers' list as a buoyant India meet Afghanistan in the joint 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup qualifiers here on Tuesday.

While the Indian team needs just a draw from their final game against Afghanistan to secure a place in the third round of AFC Asian Cup qualifiers after Oman defeated Afghanistan 2-1 on Friday, a hat-trick for Chhetri will see him equal the iconic Pele in terms of numbers of goals scored in the international arena.

Chhetri is also just one goal off entering the all-time top-10 list of goal-scorers, something he can easily achieve against Afghanistan, if not a hat-trick.

A Chhetri-inspired India ended their winless run in international football when the captain struck a brace against Bangladesh in their previous outing. The talk since then mostly centered around the Indian talisman surpassing the legendary Lionel Messi as international football's second highest scorer among active players.

A veteran in top-flight at 36, Chhetri played down the comparisons with the Argentine global superstar, but he will certainly look to put his best foot forward come the next match and add to his tally of 74 goals. If the Blue Tigers can avoid defeat in the upcoming match, they will finish third in their group, an improvement over the fifth-place result during the last campaign.

India are already out of contention to progress further in the

World Cup qualifying campaign, and is now looking to secure a berth in 2023 Asian Cup, scheduled to be held in China.

India will enter the game as clear favourites despite Afghanistan's ability to fight it out. Igor Stimac's men will be high on confidence after thoroughly dominating Bangladesh, against whom they enjoyed nearly 75% possession while completing more than 600 passes.

If they are to repeat that kind of impressive stats, India will need the duo of Chhetri and Manvir Singh to fire upfront, with Brandon Fernandes marshalling the midfield and keeping the supply chain flowing.

With Stimac reposing immense faith in him, Brandon has established himself as one of the country's top players playmakers. He has provided three assists out of the five goals India has scored in the qualifying campaign so far and he would be more than eager to continue in the same vein. Form and past record both favour India and anything less than a victory for the Blue Tigers will be seen as an upset.

As far as Afghanistan are concerned, they will take heart from their spirited performance in their previous outing against India, who were held to a stalemate at home by their lower-ranked opponents in 2019.

But the recent defeat against Oman means Afghanistan are not among the top fourth-placed teams in the World Cup qualifiers and a failure to win against India would send them to the playoffs just to get into the third round of Asian Cup qualifiers.





## CBSE Panel Yet To Submit Report On Evaluation Criteria For Class 12 Students



Agenceis

A CBSE constituted panel is yet to submit its recommendations for the criteria to evaluate class 12 students whose exams have been cancelled in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to sources. The 13-member panel, set up by the board for the purpose, was supposed to submit its report by Monday. However, it is likely to take a few more days for finalising the criteria.

"The panel has not submitted its report. Widespread discussions have been held to come up with a fair and objective criteria. The final recommendations will be submitted soon," a source said.

"Most panel member are in favour of giving weightage to class 10 and 11 scores besides pre board and internal exams for class 12. However, a final call is yet to be taken and the report will be submitted in a few days," the source added.

The Supreme Court on June 3 granted the central government two weeks time to devise a well-defined objective criteria for assessment of Class 12. The CBSE had on June 4 constituted a 13-member committee to work out the criteria. The panel was given ten days to submit its report.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has also written to Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' suggesting that the result for class 12 students, whose exams were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, should be tabulated taking into account the marks scored during class 10, 11 and pre-board exams.

The government on June 1 cancelled the CBSE class 12 board exams amid the continuing pandemic across the country, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that the decision was taken in the interest of students, and the anxiety among students, parents and teachers must be put to an end.

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

It was also decided in the meeting that in case some students desire to take the exams, such an option would be provided to them by the CBSE as and when the situation becomes conducive.

The exams were scheduled to be conducted in May-June and were postponed in view of the second wave of the pandemic. The CBSE had already cancelled class 10 board exams and announced an alternative marking policy.

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

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

For class 10, schools have been asked to submit the tabulated marks by June 30 and the result is expected to be declared in July.

## Delta Plus: New Covid Variant Identified, Experts Say No Cause Of Concern For Now

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The highly transmissible Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 has mutated further to form the 'Delta plus' or 'AY.1' variant but there is no immediate cause for concern in India as its incidence in the country is still low, scientists here said.

The new Delta plus variant has been formed due to a mutation in the Delta or B.1.617.2 variant, first identified in India and one of the drivers of the deadly second wave. Though there is no indication yet of the severity of the disease due to the new variant, Delta plus is resistant to the monoclonal antibody cocktail treatment for Covid-19 recently authorised in India.

"One of the emerging variants is B.1.617.2.1 also known as AY.1 characterised by the acquisition of K417N mutation," Vinod Scaria, clinician and scientist at Delhi's CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), tweeted on Sunday.

The mutation, he said, is in the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, which helps the virus enter and infect the human cells.

According to Public Health England, 63 genomes of Delta (B.1.617.2) with the new K417N mutation have been identified so far on the global science initiative GISAID.

In its latest report on coronavirus variants, updated till last Friday, the health agency said Delta plus was present in six genomes from India as of June 7.

"The variant frequency for K417N is not much in India at this point in time. The sequences are mostly from Europe, Asia and America," Scaria wrote on Twitter.

The earliest sequence of this genome was found in Europe in late March this year.

Noting that the travel histories for the variant are not readily available to make assumptions, Scaria said an important point to consider regarding K417N is the "evidence suggesting resistance to monoclonal antibodies Ca-



sirivimab and Imdevimab".

This cocktail recently received emergency-use authorization in the country from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation. Drug majors Roche India and Cipla have priced the antibody cocktail at a steep Rs 59,750 per dose.

Similar to antibodies which are proteins that the body naturally produces to defend itself against the disease, monoclonal antibodies are artificially created in a lab and tailor-made to fight the disease they treat.

Casirivimab and Imdevimab are monoclonal antibodies that are specifically directed against the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, and designed to block the virus' attachment and entry into human cells.

Scaria also indicated the mutation may be associated with the ability to escape the immune response against the virus.

Allaying fears, immunologist Vineeta Bal noted that while there may be some setback in the use of commercial antibody cocktail due to the new variant, resistance to the therapy is not an indication of higher virulence or severity of a disease.

"How transmissible this new variant is will be a crucial factor to determine its rapid spread or otherwise," Bal, guest faculty at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, told PTI.

She also noted that the quality and quantity of neutralising antibodies, responsible for defending cells from pathogens, generated in the individual infected with the new variant is unlikely to be affected because of the mutation.

"Thus in individuals catching infection with the new variant, it may not be a matter worth worrying," she added.

Pulmonologist and medical researcher Anurag Agrawal concurred.

"There is no cause of concern due to the new variant in India as of now," Agrawal, the director of CSIR-IGIB, told PTI.

The scientist said the blood plasma from many fully vaccinated individuals will have to be tested against this variant to determine whether it shows any significant immune escape.

As the Delta variant continues to evolve and acquire new mutations, there is a lot of interest in understanding its evolution. He said SARS-CoV-2 has a nearly constant rate of acquiring genetic variants, and each variant has acquired additional variants in a stepwise fashion.

"Understanding this continued evolution is of great importance in mapping the evolutionary landscape of emerging variants. Largely the virus has tried to optimise for transmission and immune escape by step-wise acquisition of new mutations," he added. PTI

## Will Work To Boost Relations With India: Israel's New Foreign Minister



Agenceis

JERUSALEM: Israel's new government will work to "advance strategic relations" with India, Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said on Monday, a day after Naftali Bennett became the new premier ending Benjamin Netanyahu's 12-year hold on power.

"I look forward to working together to advance the strategic relations between our countries and hope to welcome you to Israel soon," Lapid tweeted in response to a congratulatory message from External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Thank you @DrSJaishankar

I look forward to working together to advance the strategic relations between our countries and hope to welcome you to Israel soon. <https://t.co/bwUztVrvbM>

Yair Lapid (@yairlapid) June 14, 2021

Jaishankar, earlier in a tweet, congratulated his new Israeli counterpart.

"Congratulate APM & FM @yairlapid of Israel on his appointment. Look forward to working closely together to further advance our multifaceted strategic partnership," Jaishankar wrote.

Lapid, the head of the Yesh Atid party, would take over premiership in September 2023 under a power-sharing deal with Bennett, serving for two years till the end of the term.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Bennett on being sworn in as Israel's new prime minister, and said he looked forward to meeting him and deepening the strategic partnership between the two countries as they celebrate 30 years of the upgradation of diplomatic ties next year.

In his tweets, PM Modi also conveyed his "profound gratitude" to Netanyahu, whose long tenure as Israeli prime minister ended on Sunday.

PM Modi thanked Netanyahu for his "personal attention" to India-Israel strategic partnership.

"As you complete your successful tenure as the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, I convey my profound gratitude for your leadership and personal attention to India-Israel strategic partnership @netanyahu," PM Modi tweeted.

As you complete your successful tenure as the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, I convey my profound gratitude for your leadership and personal attention to India-Israel strategic partnership @netanyahu.

— Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) June 14, 2021

The personal chemistry between the two leaders has often been talked about in the Israeli media and Prime Minister Modi got a royal welcome during his historic trip to the Jewish state in July 2017 when Netanyahu accompanied him almost like a shadow during his entire visit.

The gesture then extended to PM Modi is reserved for very few people in Israel.

Bennett, the 49-year-old leader of the right-wing Yamina party, took oath of office on Sunday after the Knesset (Parliament) elected him as the 13th Prime Minister of Israel.

The new government - an unprecedented coalition of ideologically divergent political parties drawn from the Right, the Left and the Centre, along with an Arab party - has a razor-thin majority in a 120-member house.

## 'House Already Burgled': Ranchi Residents Paste Notices Fearing More Thefts



Agenceis

Ranchi: People staying on the outskirts of Ranchi are living in fear of theft at their houses. Some residents have even put up notices on their houses saying "theft has already taken place in this house. Do not waste your effort". Such notices have been put up in the Pundag locality of Ranchi at over five houses.

The residents who have put up the notices say, "Police efforts to stop theft have gone in vain. We lodged a complaint with the police but it failed to bring the desired results in the area."

"A theft took place twice in a month in my house. The thieves took away jewellery worth Rs 1.5 lakh during the second theft," said Rekha Devi, a resident of Bhagwati

Nagar in Pundag locality of Ranchi.

Manoj Kumar, another resident of Bhagwati Nagar, said, "On Saturday my family had gone to our in-laws house. We stayed there at night. On Sunday morning our neighbours informed us about a theft in our house. We reached home and found that the thieves had decamped with Rs 2 lakh cash and jewellery worth Rs 1 lakh."

Thefts took place in more than six houses at Bhagwati Nagar on Saturday and the thieves took away jewellery worth more than Rs 8 lakh.

"Our house has been burgled twice. We have been forced to write slogans to ward off thieves as nothing is left in our house," said Sanjeev Khanna, another resident of Bhagwati Nagar.

## 'From Rs 2 Crore To Rs 18.5 Crore In Minutes:' Ram Temple Trust Accused Of Land Scam

Press Trust of India

Two Opposition leaders have accused Shriram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai of buying a piece of land worth Rs 2 crore at an inflated price of Rs 18.5 crore for the Ram temple premises in the matter of a few minutes. The allegations were levelled by Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and a former minister in the Samajwadi government, Pawan Pandey.

Singh and Pandey have sought a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate into the land purchase for the temple premises, terming it a case of money laundering.

The leaders have alleged that Rai purchased the land at Rs 18.50 crore from the first purchaser, who had bought it minutes earlier on March 18, 2021, from its original owners for a sum of Rs 2 crore. The land measured 1,208 hectares and is located in Bag Bjaisi village under Sadar tehsil of Ayodhya district.

"Champat Rai, the general secretary of Shriram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust with the help of Trust's member Anil Mishra bought the land worth Rs 2 crore at Rs 18.5 crore. This is a case of



money laundering and the government should get it probed by the ED and CBI," Singh told reporters in Lucknow.

SP's former Ayodhya MLA Pandey backed Singh and demanded a probe into the incident.

Singh quoted entries of the registered sale deed of the land to back his claim. He said the land was first purchased by Sultan Ansari on March 18, 2021, from its original owner Kusum Pathak, wife of Harish Kumar Pathak for a sum of Rs 2 crore. A few minutes later, the same land was purchased by Trust's general secretary Rai for Rs 18.50 crore from Ansari, Singh said, again quoting entries of the second sale deed showing the transaction between Ansari and Rai.

Singh alleged that Trust mem-

ber Anil Mishra and Ayodhya mayor Hrishikesh Upadhyay testified the land sale deed as witnesses and were witnesses to the purchase of the land by Rai as the Trust's general secretary. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government must initiate a thorough probe by the CBI and ED, and the corrupt persons should be sent to jail, as it is the question of faith of crore devotees of Lord Ram, who have given their hard-earned money for the construction of the Ram temple," Singh said.

Rai strongly refuted the allegations levelled against him. "Allegations of even assassinating Mahatma Gandhi were levelled on us. We do not fear allegations. I will study the allegations levelled on us, and probe them," he said.

## Indian Man Believed To Have Headed 'World's Largest Family' Dies

Agenceis

An Indian man from the northeastern state of Mizoram, who is believed to have headed the "world's largest family", has died, officials said.

Ziona Chana, 76, who headed a Christian sect that allowed polygamy for men, has left behind 38 wives and 89 children. The sect, called Chana Pawl, was founded by his father in 1942. It has about 2,000 members, most of them living in Mizoram's Baktawng village.

On Sunday, Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga announced Chana's death on Twitter.

"With heavy heart, #Mizoram bid farewell to Mr.

Zion-a (76), believed to head the world's largest family, with 38 wives and 89 children," he said.

Mizoram and Baktawng Tlangnuam have become major tourist attractions because of the family, the chief minister added.

According to officials, Chana, who also had 33 grandchildren, died on Sunday afternoon due to complications related to diabetes and high blood pressure, Indian media reports said.

"He was taken to a private hospital in another district and as per the reports received, he passed away today (Sunday)," Kumar Abhishek, the deputy commissioner of Serchhip district, told Anadolu Agency.

Lal Thanhawla, former chief minister of Mizoram and a se-

nior politician from the Congress party, told Anadolu news agency Chana's demise is a "very big loss to everyone".

"The family is very disciplined and there are a lot of things to learn from them," he said.

Chana married his first wife in 1959 when he was 17, reports said, and claimed he once married ten wives in a single year. His last marriage came in 2004 to a 25-year-old.

They shared a dormitory near his private bedroom, and locals said he liked to have seven or eight of them by his side at all times. Polygamy is illegal under the Indian law. However, a few tribes in India's northeast allow polygamy under their customary laws, which state

authorities permit.

According to reports, the large family lives in a pink four-storey house, called the "New Generation Home". It has 100 rooms, with the wives sharing a dormitory near Chana's private room. The family was featured twice on the popular TV show Ripley's Believe It Or Not, BBC news reported.

In 2014, the family also appeared in the advertisement of a leading dishwashing brand, according to India's Hindustan Times newspaper.

Despite his family's huge size, Chana told Reuters news agency in a 2011 interview he wanted to grow it even further.

"I am ready to expand my family and willing to go to any extent to marry," he said.

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