



## P5 STATE

## NINE SHOPS GUTTED IN OVERNIGHT BLAZE AT POONCH

Nine shops were gutted in an overnight blaze on Saturday in Mandi area of Poonch district. Witnesses said local residents held a protest against Fire and Emergency Services for allegedly reaching late and

## P6 SILENCED POLITICS

Ever since the repeal of Article 370 in August 2019, there has been a chilling effect on the politics in Kashmir. The occasional political activity has done nothing to change this reality. So, when on June 12, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration



## P4 NEWS

## EBRAHIM RAISI ELECTED NEW IRAN PRESIDENT

Dressed in a black turban and cleric's coat, Iranian ultraconservative Sayed Ebrahim Raisi casts himself as an austere and pious figure and a corruption fighting champion



## Quote!

Someday is not a day of the week.  
— Janet Dailey

## NEWS DIGEST

## Want To Work In Films? Register Online

**JAMMU:** With the framing of J&K Film Policy, it has become more convenient than ever for the region's talent to work in the film industry. The policy envisages not only promotion of unseen scenic beauty of J&K, but also for providing a platform for the local talent to prove themselves on the national level. Experienced local talent of J&K has also been called in to register themselves online at <https://tinyurl.com/jkfilmpolicy> by or before July 10, 2021. The link can also be opened by scanning the QR code. The film policy is set to benefit a wide variety of artists including dancers, fashion designers, actors, choreographers, cinematographers, sound recordists, set designers and others.

## LG Condoles Demise Of Milkha Singh

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha on Saturday condoled the demise of legendary athlete Milkha Singh and said his achievements will continue to inspire future generations. The L-G also expressed his deepest condolences to the sprint legend's family, his well-wishers and his innumerable fans across the world. Saddened to hear about the passing away of Shri Milkha Singh Ji, The Flying Sikh. A legendary sprinter who carved a niche for himself with his athletic prowess. A symbol of our nation's glory, his achievements will continue to ● [More On P10](#)

## CRPF DG Visits Kashmir To Review Ops

**NEW DELHI:** CRPF director general (DG) Kuldeep Singh on Saturday visited the Kashmir valley and reviewed the operations of the paramilitary force that is deployed for carrying out internal security and law and order duties in the region, officials said.

They said Singh first visited the camp of the 116th battalion stationed in Pahalgam. He met senior officers of the force posted in Kashmir and also addressed the troops during the 'sainik sammelan', they said. ● [More On P10](#)

## Man Injured In Gas Cylinder Blast

**SRINAGAR:** A middle-aged man was critically injured in an LPG cylinder blast in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 50-year-old Parvaiz Ahmad of Hangalgund Kokernag in Anantnag was injured in a gas cylinder explosion during the intervening night of Friday-Saturday, officials said. They said that the man received severe burn injuries following which he was taken to a nearby hospital where from he was shifted to SMHS Srinagar for advanced treatment—(KNO)

## PM To Hold Talks With Kashmir Parties On June 24



## Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting with all political parties from Jammu and Kashmir on June 24 as part of the Centre's initiatives to bolster political processes, including holding assembly elections, in the union territory, officials said here on Friday.

The meeting -- the first such exercise since the Centre announced the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and its bifurcation into

union territories in August 2019 -- is likely to be attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other central leaders.

The central leadership has begun the process of inviting National Conference (NC) chief Farooq Abdullah, PDP chairperson Mehbooba Mufti, Altaf Bukhari of the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP), and People's Conference head Sajjad Lone for the discussion, the officials said.

Mehbooba told PTI Friday night that she had received a call from the ● [More On P10](#)

## 14 J&amp;K Leaders Invited To New Delhi



## Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 14 leaders from Jammu and Kashmir, including four former chief ministers of the erstwhile state, have been invited for a meeting that will be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on June 24, officials said on Saturday.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla reached out to these leaders to invite them

to the meeting at the prime minister's residence to discuss the future course of action for the union territory, the officials said.

Among those invited are four former chief ministers -- Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah of the National Conference, senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti.

Four former deputy chief ministers of ● [More On P10](#)

## Mainstream Camp In Huddle After Talks Invite

NC, PDP; Cong To Hold Intra-Party Deliberations

The National Conference, PDP, Congress and the CPI(M) on Saturday said they will take a call on attending a meeting with the prime minister in Delhi after deliberations within their respective parties. Fourteen leaders from Jammu and Kashmir have been invited to the meeting that will be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on ● [More On P10](#)

## Mehbooba's Uncle Madni Set Free

Senior PDP leader Sartaj Madni was released after six months of detention on Saturday, hours after his niece and party president Mehbooba Mufti received an invitation from the Centre for talks with Jammu and Kashmir's regional political parties. Officials said Madni, who was under preventive detention at MLA hostel here, was released on Saturday afternoon. They said a team ● [More On P10](#)



**BETTER LATE THAN NEVER AS** the solution to all our problems lies with New Delhi and nowhere else"- Altaf Bukhari

## J&amp;K Sees Lowest 521 Corona Cases In 75 Days

## 4 More People Succumb, 2 More Cases Of Black Fungus Detected

## Firdaus Ali

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday reported on Saturday 521 new cases of coronavirus, the lowest ever single-day spike in last 75 days, even as four more

people died of the infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. While Kashmir Valley reported 346 fresh cases of Covid-19 on Saturday, the remaining 175, officials said were detected from Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected by the virus to 311209. Giving district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 117, Baramulla 20, Budgam 44, ● [More On P10](#)

## 10,000 Workers Of Power Corps Insured In 1 Month

## Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD) has insured nearly 10,000 staff and workers of various power corporations against accidental deaths in the past one month in order to provide financial security to their families.

The information about this unique and unprecedented step was given by Principal

Secretary, PDD Rohit Kansal while chairing a meeting to review the financial and physical progress on the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) of the Power department in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

The Principal Secretary, he said, reviewed district-wise and circle-wise status of financial and physical status of the ongoing works under different CSS ● [More On P10](#)

## LG To Interact With PRI Representatives Every Month

## Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will hold interactions with members of district and block development councils as well as panchayat representatives every month to take good governance to the grassroot level, an official spokesman said on Saturday.

He also said that this step lays a platform for elected representatives to voice the aspirations of the people and area-specific needs. This will ensure equitable development for all, the spokesman said.

"Taking good governance to the grassroot level and strengthening participatory democracy, the lieutenant governor, Manoj Sinha, will interact with the DDCs (District Development Councils), BDCs (Block Development Councils) and Panchayat representatives once every month under the 'LG Mulaqaat' programme," he said.

The spokesman said the



Jammu and Kashmir government is making all-out efforts to make Panchayati Raj a more vibrant institution in the Union Territory in the true sense.

Taking feedback from Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on the functioning of the administration and on execution of works on the ground, and getting first hand information about their concerning issues, will be some of the key aspects of this monthly interaction, he said.

The spokesman said the

rural development and panchayati raj department will formulate a mechanism for holding interactions of the Lt Governor with all three-tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions once every month.

The lieutenant governor has directed senior government officials and deputy commissioners to ensure PRI representatives are an integral part of every government function, accorded due protocol and involved at every stage ● [More On P10](#)

## Soldiers Assault Police Officer, FIR Filed

## Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A police officer was allegedly assaulted by some Army personnel at a checkpoint in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, following which an FIR was registered against them, officials said.

The incident took place at Poshana when the Station House Officer of Rajouri Police station, Inspector Sameer Jilani, was travelling to Kashmir to visit his ailing mother, the officials said.

They said Jilani was stopped by the Army personnel guarding the checkpoint on Mughal road, an alternative link connecting the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district.

The soldiers allegedly pounced on the SHO who was in civvies when his private car passed by some waiting vehicles. The SHO was allegedly roughed up despite having introduced himself as a police officer, ● [More On P10](#)

## Three Years Of Rundown: The Lost Middle Ground Of Kashmir Politics

## Zaid Bin Shabir

The political buzz created by New Delhi's changed guards is barely blatant at Srinagar's Bund, where the two-decade old tin-roof structure is yet to come out of the brunt of defections. The "madam" might be the only vocal voice around, but the "healing touch" tribe has lost its political say in Kashmir.

Even as the camp Mufti is witnessing a new vigour after receiving a call from New Delhi for talks, the party moralists are reiterating their madam's re-sounding words, "If tomorrow Delhi looks for someone with

lamp after doing a political misadventure, they won't find anyone for the political engagement in the valley."

But after facing a series of crushing political moves, many say, the PDP as the "lost middle ground of Kashmir politics" can't afford to maintain a moral high ground now. It all began on June 19, 2018.

"Three years ago, on this day, Mehbooba Mufti, was humiliatedly sacked as the last Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir," Khurshid Wani, senior Kashmir journalist, said.

"Fourteen months later, the



state was stripped off its special status and downgraded to two union territories. Mehbooba

was informed through her principal secretary about BJP's decision to withdraw support to

her government. Shell shocked, she drove to her residence and later to Rajbhawan to put in her

papers."

The BJP, Wani said, flawlessly executed its larger plan and

politicians in Kashmir could not understand it.

"Mehbooba could have recommended dissolution of the assembly or sought a vote of confidence though there was no possibility of getting support from NC and Congress at that point in time. Ironically, when these two parties came forward for the support, it was too late. The support was dismissed on the pretext of a dysfunctional fax machine at the Rajbhawan."

Today, Wani said, Mehbooba Mufti's PDP has scattered like a pack of cards.

What the scribe said is quite apparent ● [More On P10](#)





To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

Sunday| 20-06-2021

2

## The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

### Notice for General Public

Attention Please  
The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued as per below mentioned details:-  
Roll No: 3169209  
Class: 10th Session/ 2017 Anu/Regular  
Regd No: N16441800010  
Name : Falak Ara  
Father Name: Abdul Rashid Lone  
Mother Name : Rafiq Begum  
Date of Birth:- 17-08-2003  
Residenc:- Tujar Sharief Sopore



According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.  
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing SR.no 17ARKAM-4016324 be treated as "CANCELLED")  
Dated 17-06-2021  
Assistant Secretary  
Certificates, KD.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class Contractor" Card . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the Superintendent Engineer PWD Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice . After that n objection shall be entertained.  
Hilal Ahamd Bhat  
S/o Abdul Ahad Bhat  
R/O Takiya Batapora Bala Kunzer bmg

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class Contractor" Card . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the Superintendent Engineer PWD Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice . After that n objection shall be entertained.  
Abdul Qayoom  
S/O Mhamd Akbar Bhat bmg

## The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education, BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10TH & 12th under Below mentioned particulars  
Name : Falak Ara  
Father Name: Abdul Rashid Lone  
Mother Name : Rafiq Begum  
Roll No: 3169209 (10TH CLASS), 3208233 (12TH CLASS)  
Session /Annual Regular 2017, Annual Regular 2019  
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.  
Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Bandipora  
ams



## PARTY PRESENT



The parties Transferor (Seller) Viz Nazir Ahmad Sofi S/o Ab Rehman Sofi R/O Sallar Anantnag District Anantnag Owner of the Vehicle Tata 207 Di bearing Registration No. JK03D- 3808 and Transferee (Purchase ) Viz Mohd Amin Ganie S/O Mohd Ramzan Ganie R/O Chee Anantnag District Anantnag present before undersigned on 5-2021 as per statement issued by both the parties, they have handed/ Taken over the aforementioned vehicle along with documents properly and there is no any dispute in connection with transfer of said case frm Transeror of Transeree.  
RNA



## Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 34 of RnB-Sopore of 2021-2022 e-tendering DATED- 17.06.2021.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of AAA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
01	Improvements to 1x3 meter span culvert at Shitloo by way of protection work.	3.10 lacs	200/-	15 days	30.06.2021	DEE	3054 M&R	-
02	Restoration of Hamam Markote road Km 3rdby way of construction of R/wall	3.45 lacs	200/-	15 days	30.06.2021	DEE	3054 M&R	-
03	Upgradation of Tragpora Ferozpora Achabal road by way of Khak bajree filling in. Bchms.	3.35 lacs	200/-	15 days	30.06.2021	DEE	5054 C&T	Accorded

Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	17.06.2021
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 17.06.2021 (10.00 A.M) to 29.06.2021 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	17.06.2021 from (04.00P.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	29.06.2021 upto (4.00 P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	30.06.2021 at (04.10 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) and Bid security Declaration as per format given in SBD. The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (3% of quoted cost) within the period as specified in SBD.

3. All Bidders have to submit Bid security Declaration form instead of Earnest money as per circular of Finance Department ( Bid Security declaration from is as per Annexure "A" below.

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

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority ).

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) acquaint bid submission process.

7.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.

1.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

1.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-I

7.5 conditions shall remain same as per NIT No: 2 of 2020-21 issued under No:- 641-61 dated: 22.4.2020 PWD form 25 (Double agreement form)

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

For and on behalf of the,  
Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

No:- 2964-84  
Dated:- 17.06.2021

DIPK-3153/21

Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Sopore

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B ELECTRIC DIVISION SGR

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 40/e-tendering of 2021-22/R&B DATED: - 16.06.2021

For and on behalf of the LT Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Electrical Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Rupees/ lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H. of account
1	Installation of 30KVA Servo at official residence of District Development Commissioner, Anantnag official residence	2.66 lacs	200.00	10 days	23.06.2021	"A" Class Electrical	NFB

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-06-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18/06/2021 10.00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	18/06/2021 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	23/06/2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23/06/2021 at 6.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Srinagar

02. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

03. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below) . The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

04. Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully.

AAA/TS = Accorded

Position of Funds = available

DIPK-3191/21

Executive Engineer,  
(R&B) Electric Division  
Srinagar

NIT No. 40/e-tendering/ERB/ 719-26



### Admission in B.Arch. Programme - 2021

Please read "Having qualified NATA" instead of "Having appeared in NATA" as reflected in the Admission Notification No. 2 of 2021 against the eligibility column of B.Arch. programme issued vide No. IUUST/Acad/Admissions /Notification\_2/21/160 Dated: 04-06-2021. The other terms and conditions mentioned in the said Admission Notification shall remain same.

Further, it is for the information of all those candidates interested to seek admission in B.Arch. programme that Council of Architecture is conducting the Second Test of NATA 2021 examination on rescheduled date of **July 11, 2021**. The NATA portal [www.nata.in](http://www.nata.in) is open to facilitate applicants applying for registration for the Second Test.

No. IUUST/Acad/Admissions/21/166

Dated: 19-06-2021

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar, Academics

## 1st Death Anniversary Of our Beloved Grandmother

The past year has been the longest, toughest and saddest 365 days for us, as you were not by our side. May the afterlife be kind to you.

An entire year has passed since you decided to leave us and move on to the next life. We hope that you're in a better place.

It's been 1 year since we lost you, but we can never forget about you. RIP Mummy ji.

Having to live a life without you in it has been difficult. In loving memories, you shall continue to stay with ma forevermore. 1 year has passed since you left dear mummy but our heart is still wounded for you. We pray for your soul to be in peace forever.

Deeply remembered by  
Haaid Bin Suhail & Fajr Ul Haq



INF

## Department of (AYUSH) Govt. of J & K District Anantnag. AYUSH Immune Booster Medicine Distributed at Village R.C.GUND Anantnag from Govt. ISM Dispensary R.C.GUND Anantnag



On 19/06/2021 Following the Protocol of AYUSH Department Ministry of AYUSH Govt. of India and the Orders of Director ISM J&K Dr Mohan Singh just and by the guidelines of ADMO MADAM Dr. Nuzhat Bashir & District Nodal officer Ayush Dr. Mir Javaid Hussain sahib an awareness programme and distribution of immune booster medicines was organized at at Village R.C.GUND Anantnag from Govt. AYUSH Dispensary R.C.GUND Anantnag 354 beneficiaries received immunity boosting drugs also were briefed about importance of Ayush immunity boosters in enhancement of human immunity to combat Covid 19 panoramic along other importance preventive measures.

mja

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

Address: Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal Ph.01942951904

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl-e-NIT No.42/2021-22 issued under endorsement No. 3999-4008

Dated 17-06-2021.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Item Rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Technical Sanction No. & Date	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	P/L of RCC Spun pipes on Right/Left side of Beehama-Wayil road at Different spots and cleaning of drains along Beehama Wayil road b.w.o clearance of Mulba	02.12	200/=	10 Days	EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/CS/07 of 2021-22 17.06.2021	3054-(M&R)	DEE
2	P/L of RCC spun Pipes of various dia's at Various spots falls under Jurisdiction of (R&B) Sub Division Ganderbal	03.00	200/=	10 Days	EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/CS/08 of 2021-22 17.06.2021	3054-(M&R)	DEE
3	P/L of RCC spun Pipes of various dia's at Various spots falls under Jurisdiction of (R&B) Sub Division Kangana.	03.00	200/=	10 Days	EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/CS/09 of 2021-22 17.06.2021	3054-(M&R)	DEE
4	P/L of RCC spun Pipes of various dia's at Various spots falls under Jurisdiction of (R&B) Sub Division Lar.	03.00	200/=	10 Days	EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/CS/ 10 of 2021-22 17.06.2021	3054-(M&R)	DEE

Position of AAA: Approved Programme

Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-06-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18.06.2021 from 10.00 AM.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	18.06.2021 from 10.05 AM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	23.06.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	24.06.2021 at 10:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).

2. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)

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

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

5. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

5.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) into acquaint bid submission process.

5.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

5.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

5.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

5.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

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

7. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Division Ganderbal (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division Ganderbal must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

8. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

9. Price escalation and Taxes:- The %age quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

10. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

11. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

a. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

25. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

26. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25

No. 3999-4008  
Dated: 17.06.2021

DIPK-3190/21

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Ganderbal





# NC Rues Paucity Of Basic Public Services In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Saturday expressed concern over the failure of the incumbent administration in ensuring availability of basic civic facilities and minimal public services to people in Srinagar areas saying the crumbling infrastructure, faltering utility supplies and deteriorating basic human development indicators have become norm of the day.

"Governance and development has taken a back seat, the situation in Amira kadal is no different," Party's Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani said while addressing the party's functionaries of Amirakadal constituency at party headquarters Nawa e Subha, Srinagar.

Nasir said the constituency

has received step motherly treatment since 2015 and the projects which were initiated by the NC led government during its stint in power, have also been put into cold storage.

"With the onset of summers it was expected that the administration would undertake massive restoration works in the constituency but as of now nothing substantial has happened. The main arterials, roads, lane and bilanes continue are in ruins, a few minutes of downpour converts the whole roads stretches into cesspools and slush. The situation is grave in the low lying areas," he said.

On the occasion, Nasir impressed upon the functionaries to ensure that the membership drive reaches to Mohalla, Halqa level.

He said the people of the constituency have been impacted by

the ravaging Covid-19 innumera- bly and the laidback attitude of the incumbent administration in mitigating their woes has further pushed them to wall.

While expressing concern over the plight of youth suffering on account of joblessness and closure of spaces for pursuance of voca- tions, Nasir said the government has turned a volte face towards the issues concerning the youth of J&K. Far from providing jobs to youth of J&K the government has perversely been showing the door to scores of employed youth working in various departments. "So far the government has only been serving catch-words and false promises to youth, nothing substantial is being done to revive tourism, manufacturing, handi- crafts and small and medium, scale businesses," he said.

## Students Have Important Role Towards Environment: Dir NIT

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar Dr Rakesh Sehgal Saturday said that there is a major role of students in contributing towards the environment.

He was speaking during a day long awareness workshop on Mercury (Hg) as a global pollutant.

The event was jointly organised by Laboratory of Multifunctional Nanomaterials (LMN), NIT Srinagar in collaboration with Centre for Minamata Convention Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad.

Dr. Sehgal said mercury is a global toxic pollutant and is released into the environment through a range of natural and anthropogenic sources.

"It can travel long distances, bioaccumulate in food chains and cause harmful neurological and cardiovascular health effects in exposed humans and wildlife," he said.

Director NIT also appreciated the role of Dr. MA Shah for organising such informative events for the students of the country and stated that there is a major role of students in contributing towards the environment.

While appreciating organisers, Registrar NIT Prof. Kaiser Bukhari in his message said the primary aim of this lecture was that students would be updated with environmental causes and NIT Srinagar will be hosting such lectures in future also.

HOD Physics, Prof P A Ganaie, while conveying his message that we need to join hands to save the environment and thanked Prof Shah for making the Department vibrant to speak on noble issues.

While addressing the virtual

workshop, Dr. Shah said the workshop is intended to raise awareness among general people, students and academicians in India on the historical and present aspects of mercury use and pollution.

Dr. Shah said there is need of awareness about mercury as one of the major pollutant and there is need to join hands to make its minimum use and suggested that students need to find its alternative.

He admitted that in one of the recent events on Environmental day, this pollutant (Hg) was not discussed because of innocence.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Qureshi talked about historical use of mercury, its bioaccumulation, and how humans are exposed to it. He also gave an introduction about the Minamata Convention on mercury in which around 250 countries have signed the agreement.

He said medical effects that mercury can have on human bodies including neurological disorders, organ failures, and cardiovascular disorders.

"The natural paths of contaminations like volcanos and forest fires and the man-made paths of contaminations like coal fired power plants, metals smelting, iron and steel factories, and waste burning," Dr. Qureshi said.

He also talked about mercury cycles in the environment and gave a brief idea about the global emissions of mercury in air, in water, and in soil.

Dr. Qureshi also informed about the countries which have a major role in producing the mercury pollutants.

The event was attended by students across India and other parts of the world and interactive workshop concluded with a question-answer session by the students.

**THE NATURAL PATHS OF** contaminations like volcanos and forest fires and the man-made paths of contaminations like coal fired power plants, metals smelting, iron and steel factories, and waste burning,"

## Tributes Paid To Mirwaiz Ahmedullah Hamadani

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President, Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah on Saturday paid tributes to prominent Islamic scholar, Mir Mujahid Mirwaiz Ahmadullah Hamadani (RA) on his 83rd death anniversary.

While paying the tributes Dr. Farooq said the late Mirwaiz fought against the autocratic rule from 1916 to 1939 and remained on the forefront. "I pay my earnest tributes to him on his death anniversary. The younger generation should study the life and works of such great men as have contributed a lot towards the betterment of our society. Miwaiz Ahmedullah Hamadani sahib was one amongst such great sons of the soil who fought tirelessly for socio-political emancipation of the people of Kashmir ruined by the years of autocracy. His unparalleled contribution to the field of Islamic learning, theology and politics will continue to inspire many in the future. On his death anniversary, I pay my earnest tributes to him. May almighty elevate his stations in Jannat," he said.

Omar while paying tributes to Hamdani said his struggle and oddsman he faced during the struggle for restoration of people's rights will be remembered for all times to come. "A great polymath, Late Miwaiz is known for his heroism with which he fought for the rights of people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. Other party leaders Ali Muhammad Sagar, Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Mubarak Gul, Muhammad Shafi Uri and Abdul Rahim Rather also paid tributes to the scholar.

## SOS Children's Villages Distributes Relief Among Needy In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** SOS children's villages of Srinagar a non-government organisation distributed relief among the needy in Srinagar.

In a press release issued by the organisation, it distributed dry ration kits to 167 families under its Family Strengthening Program supported by GIVE INDIA. The kits were distributed among the marginalised families of one of the slum area in Srinagar Pamposh Colony Palpora. On the occasion Secretary District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Mr. Noor Mohammad Mir was the guest of honour.

"The vulnerable families are suffering and hardly making both ends meet given the lockdown in the valley since 2019. Its a small token of love from our organisation to the downtrodden, said Af- farmand Rashid, Project Incharge. She said SOS will hold more such relief distributions in the future to provide succour to the needy families.

SOS Children's Villages is operational in India since 1964 providing a loving home to children without parental care and keeping biological families together. It is spread across 32 villages in 22 states and Union territories.



## DLIC Clears 51 Cases Under 'Mumkin' Scheme In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Highlighting the importance of the "MUMKIN", the Chairman DLIC / Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad said the scheme is a livelihood generation scheme launched by the Government through which aspiring eligible unemployed youth can avail benefits to purchase light commercial vehicles to earn livelihood under subsidised norms.

The Deputy Commissioner exhorted upon the Deputy Director Employment to screen the remaining applications and bring more progressive youth under the ambit of the scheme by disseminating awareness among the masses so that more and more unemployed youth are benefitted.

In order to take a detailed review of the implementation of the scheme, a meeting of District Level Implementation Committee(DLIC).

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held on different aspects of the scheme

to ensure hassle-free and time bound approval of cases.

On the occasion, several cases were brought before the Committee and after detailed deliberations 51 cases of unemployed eligible persons of Srinagar district were approved under the "MUMKIN" scheme.

The Chairman DLIC was also informed that 50 more cases under scheme are in process and shall be placed before the Committee for approval within next 10 days.

The Chairman directed the concerned officers to complete other process including license verification from RTO, NOC from DIC by June 21 so that all approved cases are submitted to concerned agencies.

The meeting was informed that beneficiaries under the scheme are supported by scheme partners and Government through 20 percent cash assistance in order to meet their margin money management including insurance/ registration charges and initial repayment obligations(EMIs).

**Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer Kupwara**

**Notice**

Whereas Application has been received from Abdul Hamid Dar S/O Ghulam Rasool Dar R/O Sagipora Baramulla Vehicle No registered owner of Vehicle namely Abdul Hamid Dar S/O Ghulam Rasool Dar R/O Sagipora Baramulla Vehicle Type G127AH7861 Chasis No MAZELM1800270383 Engine K14 Brl 7043119 having NOC Certificate to ARTO office Kupwara for Registration Purpose

Now it is for general information that objection if any of the Proposed of the said vehicle shall be filled in written in the Office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Kupwara within the period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. In the Newspaper Kashmir Observer

No: 1826

Dated 17-06-21

**Assistant Regional Transport Officer Kupwara**

tjl

ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے

ہر خاص و عام مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ منظر کوڈی کاٹھ ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض آرائیڈنی ڈویژن تھنل کے آفس میں پیش کریں۔ معیاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشتر RNA

عبید احمد ڈار دلدر رفیق احمد ڈار ساکن نائل انت انت ناگ

اطلا عا م

ڈراؤنگ لائن کی گھنڈی گی۔

میری ڈراؤنگ لائن زیر نمبر Jk182017000204 کہیں پگم ہوئی ہے اب اس کی ڈوپلیکیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر آئے آرٹی او کو لوگام کے دفتر میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

بذریعہ: ادارہ شاجین بٹ ولد غلام رسول بٹ ساکن فقیر پورہ انت ناگ

از نیابت دیلگام با اجلاس جاوید احمد حکیم صاحب نائب تحصیلدار

مضمون درخواست منجانب: ابراہیم عبداللہ ولد محمد عبداللہ ڈار ساکن فقیر پورہ ضلع ناگ

برماعتی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت ایس آر آو 455

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈار یا سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنڈہ ہذا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور ساکن کا کنڈہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	ابراہیم عبداللہ ولد محمد عبداللہ ڈار	28 سال	ملازمت	LPC
02	گفتہ شاہین زوہیر ابراہیم	26 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	امیں ابراہیم ولد ابراہیم عبداللہ	06 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	اولیں ابراہیم ولد ابراہیم عبداللہ	04 سال	تعلیم	

اسطور کنڈہ 4 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معوجہات پیش کرے۔ معیاد گذرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار دیلگام RNA

ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے

ہر خاص و عام مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ منظر کوڈی کاٹھ ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشتر RNA

ہلال احمد ولد عبدالعزیز شاہ ساکن آمنو لوگام

از نیابت رہبر پورہ با اجلاس امتیاز احمد ذرا صاحب

مضمون درخواست منجانب: غمان یاسین ولد محمد یاسین خان ساکن رہبر پورہ تحصیل منٹن ضلع انت ناگ

برماعتی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈار یا سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنڈہ ہذا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور کسی بھی فرد نے سکونت پذیر نہیں کی ساکن کا کنڈہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	مسماة حفیظہ بیگم بیوہ محمد یاسین	48 سال	Pensioner	LPC
02	نمان یاسین ولد محمد یاسین	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	
03	مہناز دختر محمد یاسین	25 سال	گھریلو کام	

اسطور کنڈہ 03 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اور کنڈہ کے پاس قبضہ تعدادی 2 کنال موجود ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معوجہات پیش کرے۔ معیاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار رہبر پورہ RNA

از نیابت دیلگام با اجلاس جاوید احمد حکیم صاحب نائب تحصیلدار

مضمون درخواست منجانب: مہوش خورشید دختر خورشید احمد ڈار ساکن فقیر پورہ ضلع انت ناگ

برماعتی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت ایس آر آو 455

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈار یا سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنڈہ ہذا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور ساکن کا کنڈہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	خورشید احمد ڈار ولد محمد شمس ڈار	50 سال	دکانداری	5000
02	رہنی جان زوجہ خورشید احمد ڈار	48 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	مہوش خورشید دختر خورشید احمد	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	مہرین خورشید دختر خورشید احمد	15 سال	تعلیم	
05	رضا خورشید دختر خورشید احمد	11 سال	=	
06	ثناء خورشید دختر خورشید احمد	03 سال	=	

اسطور کنڈہ 6 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معوجہات پیش کرے۔ معیاد گذرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار دیلگام RNA

### 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

- 451 - Battle of the Catalaunian Plains: Roman and Visigoths forces defeat Attila the Hun in north east France
- 1212 - French and Spanish crusaders unite against the Almohaden at Toledo
- 1214 - The University of Oxford receives its charter
- 1530 - German Parliament joins to Augsburg together
- 1547 - Count Philip van Hessen captured
- 1567 - Jews are expelled from Brazil by order of regent Don Henrique
- 1582 - Bishop Domingo de Salazar of Manila suppresses the Philippines
- 1591 - Mauritius and Willem van Nassau occupy Devent
- 1631 - The sack of Baltimore: the Irish village of Baltimore is attacked by Algerian pirates
- 1656 - Polish King Jan II Casimir recaptures Warsaw
- 1756 - Siraj ud-Daulah Nawab of Bengal takes Calcutta from the British
- 1779 - Battle of Stono Ferry fought near Charleston, South Carolina (American Revolutionary War)
- 1866 - Italy declares war on Austria beginning the Third Italian War of Independence
- 1919 - Treaty of Versailles: Germany ends incorporation of Austria
- 1944 - Soviet forces conquer Wiborg
- 1960 - Federation of Mali and Senegal become independent of France
- 1981 - Mujahedin uprisers against Iran regime
- 1983 - Iran moves into northern Iraq (casualties top 13,800 in ten days)
- 1994 - Bomb attack on Islamic centre in Mashad Iran (70 killed)
- 1995 - Space probe Ulysses begins 2nd passage behind the Sun
- 1996 - Space Shuttle STS 78 (Columbia 20), launches into space
- 2012 - Western Libyan tribal clashes kill 105 people and injure 500
- 2015 - Heat wave peaks in southern Pakistan, goes on to kill about 2,000 people from dehydration and heat stroke
- 2015 - 1000 humanoid robots named "Pepper" sell out in under a minute (\$1,600 each) in Japan, according to its creator SoftBank Robotics Corp.
- 2016 - China's super computer tally overtakes the US; Chinese 93 petaflop Sunway TaihuLight is world's No. 1
- 2018 - US President Trump signs Executive Order ending family separation at the border for illegal immigrants.

## From KO Archives

## Group Of 4 Lashes Out At Hurriyat (A), Jama'at

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR-** Shortly after the return of Hurriyat and other separatist leaders from their trip from across the LoC, a union of four militant groups today launched a scathing attack targeting a broad spectrum of leaders including the moderate faction of the Hurriyat. UJC chairman Syed Salahuddin and the Jama'at-e-Islami.

"The designs of all groups, individuals and authorities who dream of ending the armed struggle will be foiled," Samiullah, the joint spokesman for the Al Nasireen. Farzandaan-e-Millat. Save Kashmir Movement and 'Al Aarafeen, said in statement faxed to the KNS.

He said that the UJC chairman Syed Salaluddin had committed a "historic blunder in meeting with leaders of the Hurriyat (A)."

"This meeting reflects Syed Salahuddin's ideological bankruptcy and philosophical decline," he said.

"Syed Salahuddin should make it clear as to who between the Hurriyat (A) and Syed Ali Shah Geelani he recognises as the political leader," he said adding that certain other "shortsighted" militant commanders "had tried to harm the movement in meeting with the leaders of the Hurriyat (A)."

The spokesman hit out at the Jama'at-e-Islami describing "people like" its chief. Nazeer Ahmad Kashani as "nothing but Jaffar's and Sadiq's of Kashmir"

He said that the organisation's attempts to distance itself from Geelani was clear evidence of its discord and disenchantment with jihad.

The alliance lashed out at the moderate faction of the Hurriyat, saying it had returned from across the LoC after learning new tricks of the trade.

"It was foolish of them to have got Syed Ali Shah Geelani cased out of the chairmanship of the APHC," the alliance said, adding that it would have no effect on Geelani's association with the movement.

The alliance said that it was incumbent on Geelani not to repeat the mistake he committed in propping up Prof. Abdul Ghani Bhat, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Muhammad Yaseen Malik and Molvi Abbas Ansari.

Geelani should take care not to project such people who will emerge as vet an-other Abbas group or a "sellout cartel."

The spokesman said that "final certificate of chairmanship obtained from Musharraf carried no weight with the alliance." "We have rejected them. This group is not a representative of the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people but a soul male of Mufti Muhammad Sayeed and Farooq Abdullah." the alliance said.

(Kashmir Observer, 20 June, 2005)



## Displacement From War Has Doubled In A Decade: UN



Agencies

**GENEVA:** Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the number of people fleeing war and persecution continued rising last year, with global displacement climbing to over 82 million – double the figure a decade ago, the UN said on Friday.

A fresh report from the UN refugee agency showed global displacement figures swelled by around three million in 2020 after an already record-breaking year in 2019, leaving a full one per cent of humanity uprooted and displaced.

The report highlighted how drawn-out crises like those in Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen were continuing to force people to flee, while eruptions of violence in places like Ethiopia and Mozambique were causing surging displacement.

The fact that the numbers rose for the ninth straight year was all the more devastating because Covid-19 restrictions had been expected to limit displacement.

During the pandemic, “everything else has stopped, including the economies, but wars and conflict and violence and discrimination and persecution, all the factors that pushed these people to flee, have continued,” UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi told AFP.

The UN agency found that by the end of 2020, a record 82.4 million people were living as refugees or asylum seekers, or in so-called internal displacement within their own countries, up from some 40 million in 2011.

“Today’s global displacement figures are an epic failure of humanity,” head of the Norwegian Refugee Council Jan Egeland said, pointing out that “far more people are on the move today than anytime during World War II.”

“Yet despite the staggering statistics, world leaders have been inept to resolve the greatest emergency of our generation.”

The UNHCR report highlighted that a full 42pc of the world’s displaced are girls and boys under the age of 18.

“The tragedy of so many children being born into exile should be reason enough to make far greater efforts to prevent and end conflict and violence,” Grandi said.

Some 26.4 million people were living as refugees at the end of 2020, including 5.7 million Palestinians.

Some 3.9m Venezuelans were also displaced beyond their borders without being considered refugees, while 4.1m people were registered worldwide as asylum seekers.

But while both refugee and asylum seeker numbers remained relatively flat from 2019, the number of people displaced within their own countries surged by more than two million to 48m, the report said.

This was perhaps not surprising, given that the factors that generally force people to flee did not disappear during the pandemic, but the possibility to cross borders largely did.

In 2020, at least 164 countries closed their borders because of Covid-19, and more than half of them made no exceptions for asylum seekers and refugees fleeing for their lives.

“In a situation of increased conflict and violence, in a situation in which borders have been difficult to cross because of Covid, inevitably the figure... that has gone up is that of internally displaced people,” Grandi told reporters.

Last year, more than 11 million people were newly displaced – slightly more than in 2019 – with most in just a handful of conflict-wracked countries and regions, the report showed.

They include Syria, which after more than a decade of war counts 13.5m people displaced either inside or outside the country – more than half of its population and a sixth of the global displacement total.

More than two-thirds of the world’s refugees, meanwhile, come from just five countries: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar.

## Iran Elects Anti-US Ebrahim Raisi As New President



KO Web Desk

**TEHRAN-** Dressed in a black turban and cleric’s coat, Iranian ultra-conservative Sayed Ebrahim Raisi casts himself as an austere and pious figure and a corruption-fighting champion of the poor.

On Saturday the 60-year-old was named the winner of the presidential election, set to take over from moderate Hassan Rouhani in August as 8th president of the Islamic Republic.

The Interior Ministry confirmed on Saturday that Raisi won 61.95 percent of the vote in Friday’s election on a voter turnout of 48.8 percent – the lowest turnout for a presidential election since the 1979 revolution. Raisi got 28,933,004 votes.

Former Revolutionary Guard commander Mohsen Rezaei finished second with 3,412,712 votes and was followed by moderate candidate Abdolnasser Hemmati with 2,427,201 votes, and conservative Amir Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi with 999,718 votes.

Critics charge the election was skewed in his favour as strong rivals were disqualified, but to his loyal supporters he is Iran’s best hope for standing up to the West and bringing relief from a deep economic crisis.

Rezaei, Hemmati and Hashemi however conceded defeat ahead of the final announcement on Saturday.

Raisi will take office in early August, replacing Hassan Rouhani who was not allowed by the constitution to run for a third consecutive term.

“I congratulate the people on their choice,” said Rouhani on Saturday.

Raisi is not renowned for great charisma but, as head of the judiciary, has driven a popular campaign to prosecute corrupt officials.

Raisi is associated with the Principlist camp, but he said he

ran in the election this year as an independent when he announced his presidential bid last month.

In the election campaign he vowed to keep up the fight on graft, construct four million new homes for low-income families, and build “a government of the people for a strong Iran”.

Raisi’s election marks a consolidation of power by the conservative and headline camp, which already controls the parliament and will likely have a replacement for the judiciary as well.

The Muslim scholar, who wears a black turban to signify he is a descendant of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh), is also seen by many as the country’s next supreme leader.

### Student of the guide

Born in 1960 in the holy city of Mashhad in northeastern Iran, Raisi rose to high office as a young man.

Aged just 20, in the wake of the 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the US-backed monarchy, Raisi was named prosecutor-general of Karaj city, which neighbours Tehran.

For the exiled opposition and rights groups, his name is indelibly associated with the executions of counter revolutionaries in 1988, when he was deputy prosecutor of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran.

Nearly 34 years later in 2019, the US placed Raisi and others on a sanctions list citing the executions and other alleged rights abuses -- charges Tehran dismissed as symbolic.

Raisi is the first Iranian president to be sanctioned by the United States even before assuming office.

Raisi has decades of judicial experience, serving as Tehran’s prosecutor-general from 1989 to 1994, deputy chief of the Judicial Authority for a decade from 2004, and then national prosecutor-general in 2014.

He studied theology and Islamic jurisprudence under Ayatollah Khamenei and, according to his official biography, has been teaching at a seminary in Mashhad since 2018.

In 2016, Ayatollah Khamenei put Raisi in charge of a charitable foundation that manages the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad and controls a large industrial and property asset portfolio.

Three years later, Raisi was appointed as head of the Judicial Authority. Raisi is also a member of the assembly of experts which chooses the supreme leader.

He is married to Jamileh Alamolhoda, an educational sciences lecturer at Tehran’s Shahid Beheshti University. They have two daughters.

Raisi is the son-in-law of Ahmad Alamolhoda, the Friday prayer imam and supreme leader’s representative for Mashhad.

### ‘Uproot sedition’

His election win comes after he lost to Rouhani in 2017. This time, five ultra-conservatives and two reformists were approved to run after many other prominent figures were disqualified.

Raisi gathered support from traditional conservatives, who are close to the clergy and the influential merchant class, as well as ultraconservatives who are united in a their anti-Western stance.

He also sought to extend a hand beyond his traditional base, by pledging to defend “freedom of expression” and “the fundamental rights of all Iranian citizens”.

Raisi has also vowed to eradicate “corruption hotbeds” -- a theme he already pursued in his judicial role, through a spate of highly publicised corruption trials of senior state officials.

Even judges have not been spared by his much trumpeted anti-graft drive; several have been sentenced over the past year.

## Pakistan Will ‘Absolutely Not’ Allow Bases To US For Action In Afghanistan: PM Imran



Agencies

Prime Minister Imran Khan has categorically said that Pakistan would “absolutely not” allow any bases and use of its territory to the US for any sort of action inside Afghanistan.

“Absolutely not. There is no way we are going to allow any bases, any sort of action from Pakistani territory into Afghanistan. Absolutely not,” the prime minister told Axios on HBO in an interview.

In an excerpt of the interview, to be aired on Sunday, on the Axios website, the interviewer Jonathan Swan had questioned, “Would you allow the American government to have CIA here in Pakistan to conduct cross-border counterterrorism missions against Al-Qaeda, ISIS or the Taliban?”

Surprised over his clear-cut response of “absolutely not”, the interviewer interrupts the prime minister to reconfirm his words asking, “Seriously?”

Axios on HBO is a documentary-news programme that combines the reporting of Axios journalists with the expertise of HBO filmmakers to explore the collision of tech, media, business, and politics.

The series has featured interviews with former US president Donald Trump, Sundar Pichai, Elon Musk, Mary Barra, now US President Joe Biden, Andrew Yang and Kamala Harris, among others.

Recently, in his address in the Senate, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi ruled out the possibility of providing military bases to the United States for counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan.

He rejected as unfounded the reports to this effect and made it clear that the government would never provide military bases to the US, nor would allow drone attacks inside Pakistan.

In a cabinet briefing, Information Minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain also ruled out the possibility of any airbase of the United States in Pakistan saying all such facilities were under Pakistan’s own use.

He said it was the PTI-led government that ended ‘drone surveillance’ facility given to the US in the past.

“All the airbases are under the use of Pakistan. Right now, no negotiations in this regard are underway as Pakistan cannot give any airbase [to any country],” he said.

## Afghanistan Running Out Of Oxygen As Covid Surge Worsens



Agencies

Afghanistan’s government is racing to ramp up supplies of oxygen as a deadly third surge of Covid-19 worsens, a senior health official told The Associated Press in an interview on Saturday.

The government is installing oxygen supply plants in 10 provinces where the increase in Covid cases in some areas is hovering around 65 per cent, health ministry spokesman Ghulam Dasigi Nazary said.

By the World Health Organisation’s recommendations, anything higher than 5pc shows officials aren’t testing widely enough, allowing the virus to spread unchecked. Afghanistan carries out barely 4,000 tests a day and often much less.

Afghanistan’s 24-hour infection count has also continued its upward climb from 1,500 at the end of May when the health ministry was already calling the surge “a crisis”, to more than

2,300 this week.

Since the pandemic outbreak, Afghanistan has reported 101,906 positive cases and 4,122 deaths. But those figures are likely a massive undercount, registering only deaths in hospitals – not the far greater numbers who die at home.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan received 900 oxygen cylinders from Iran on Saturday, part of 3,800 cylinders Tehran promised to deliver to Kabul last week. The shipment was delayed by Iran’s presidential elections, said Nazary.

Afghanistan has even run out of empty cylinders, receiving a delivery of 1,000 last week from Uzbekistan.

Meanwhile, hospitals are rationing their oxygen supplies. Afghans desperate for oxygen are banging on the doors of the few oxygen suppliers in the Afghan capital, begging for their empty cylinders to be filled for Covid-infected loved ones at home.

Abdul Wasi, whose wife has been sick for nearly 10 days, has been waiting four days for one 45-litre cylinder to be filled at the Najb Siddiqi oxygen plant in east Kabul. Scores of mostly men were banging on the 10-foot steel gate of the oxygen plant. Some rolled their empty oxygen cylinders up against the gate, while others waved small slips of paper carrying the number of their cylinder inside the plant, waiting to be filled.

## Palestinians Cancel Deal For "About To Expire" Covid Vaccines From Israel

Agencies

**RAMALLAH/TEL AVIV:** The Palestinian Authority (PA) cancelled a deal on Friday to receive soon-to-expire COVID-19 vaccines from Israel after an initial Israeli shipment showed an expiration date sooner than had been agreed, the PA health minister said.

Israel and the PA announced a vaccine swap deal earlier on Friday that would have seen Israel send up to 1.4 million Pfizer-BioNTech doses to the PA, in exchange for receiving a reciprocal number of doses from the PA later this year.

The doses were due to “expire soon”, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s office said in a statement announcing the deal. The PA said they had been “approved in order to speed up the vaccination process” in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

“They told us the expiration date was in July or August, which would allow lots of time for use,” PA Health Minister Mai Alkaila told reporters later on Friday.

“But (the expiration) turned out to be in June. That’s not enough time to use them, so we rejected them,” she said.

The PA cancelled the deal over the date issue, a PA spokesman said, and sent the initial shipment of around 90,000 doses back to Israel.

Bennett’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Rights groups have criticised Israel, which led one of the world’s swiftest vaccination campaigns, for not doing more to ensure Palestinian access to doses in the West Bank and



Gaza territory it captured in a 1967 war.

Israeli officials argue that under the Oslo peace accords, the PA health ministry is responsible for vaccinating people in Gaza and parts of the West Bank where it has limited self-rule.

The vaccine deal was among initial policy moves towards the Palestinians by Bennett, who was sworn in on Sunday and replaced veteran leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

Around 55% of Israel’s 9.3 million population are fully vaccinated – a coverage rate largely unchanged by this month’s expansion of eligibility to include 12- to 15-year-olds.

Some 30% of eligible Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, home to a combined 5.2 million people, have received at least one vaccine dose, according to Palestinian officials.

According to a poll released on Tuesday by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, 40% of Palestinians are willing to take the vaccine once it is available, while 35% say they and their families are not willing to get vaccinated.

The Palestinians have received vaccine doses from Israel, Russia, China, the United Arab Emirates and the global COVAX vaccine-sharing initiative.

## US Cutting Forces, Missile Batteries In Middle East

Agence France-Presse

**WASHINGTON:** The Pentagon said Friday it was cutting the number of troops and air defense units deployed to the Middle East, confirming a Wall Street Journal report that eight Patriot batteries were being moved out from the region.

The move comes as President Joe Biden’s administration seeks to ease tensions with Iran after they heated up in 2019 and saw a strong escalation in the US military presence across the region.

The Wall Street Journal said the

Patriot anti-missile batteries were being removed from Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and that a separate anti-missile system, called THAAD, was being transferred from Saudi Arabia as well.

Each battery requires hundreds of troops and civilians to operate and support them.

Pentagon spokesperson Commander Jessica McNulty said that some of the units were being redeployed to other countries and some were returning to the United States for maintenance.

She would not say where the re-

deployed units were being moved to.

“This decision was made in close coordination with host nations and with a clear eye on preserving our ability to meet our security commitments,” she said in an email.

“We maintain a robust force posture in the region appropriate to the threat and are comfortable that these changes do not negatively impact our national security interests,” McNulty said.

“We also retain the flexibility to rapidly flow forces back into the Middle East as conditions warrant.”

### NEWS MAKERS

## UAE: Dubai Eases Travel Restrictions From Certain Countries Including India

Gulf News Report

**DUBAI:** Dubai has allowed holders of UAE residency visas stuck outside the country to return from certain nations if they have received two doses of a UAE-approved vaccine.

The Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management in Dubai, headed by Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, announced updates to Dubai’s travel protocols for inbound passengers from South Africa, Nigeria and India, effective from Wednesday June 23.

### Travel rules from India

With regard to travel from India, only passengers with a valid residence visa who have received two doses of a UAE-approved vaccine, are allowed to travel to Dubai. They should also present a negative test cer-



tificate from a PCR test taken 48 hours before departure.

UAE nationals are exempted from this requirement. Only QR-coded negative PCR test certificates are accepted.

Furthermore, passengers from India are required to undergo a rapid PCR test four hours prior to departure to Dubai. They must

also undergo another PCR test on arrival in Dubai. In addition, following arrival, passengers from India should undergo institutional quarantine until they receive their PCR test result, which is expected within 24 hours.

UAE citizens and diplomats are exempted from institutional quarantine.

South Africa and Nigeria The new protocols allow travellers from South Africa, who have received two doses of a UAE-approved vaccine to enter Dubai. Passengers must present a negative result from a PCR test taken within 48 hours before departure to Dubai; UAE nationals are exempted from this PCR test requirement.

Passengers must also undergo a PCR test on arrival in Dubai. Transit passengers should comply with entry protocols of final destinations.

For travellers from Nigeria, passengers must present a negative test result for a PCR test taken 48 hours before departure; UAE citizens are exempted from this requirement. The negative PCR test certificate should carry a QR Code and the test must have been conducted by labs approved by the Nigerian Gov-

ernment. Passengers must also undergo a PCR test on arrival in Dubai. Transit passengers should comply with entry protocols of final destinations.

**Approved vaccines in the UAE** There are four vaccines in the UAE for use on eligible individuals against the COVID-19 infection: Sinopharm, Pfizer-BioNTech, Sputnik V and Oxford-AstraZeneca.

The Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management said the updated travel protocols are part of a regular process of revising and optimising precautionary measures based on the latest local, regional and international developments. They are also aimed at enabling the city to continue serving as a global commercial hub and a bridge for travel and trade between the east and west.



## Bottlenecks On PMGSY Roads Resolved: DDC Anantnag Calls For Effective Utilisation Of Work Season



**ANANTNAG:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla Saturday said that the bottlenecks on many PMGSY roads have been resolved in record manner and the pace of work on these roads has increased across the district.

He said the administration and line departments are working together to resolve all the issues which will further expedite the road construction work in near future.

The DDC said the road infrastructure is important to enhance the connectivity across the district besides giving convenience to public commuting on these roads. He said this while reviewing the progress of the PMGSY sector in a meeting with officers and engineers of PMGSY, revenue and other concerned departments here at Dak

Bangalow Khanabal.

The meeting was one among a series of such meetings and field visits conducted by the DDC during the last few days with the purpose to upscale the progress of the PMGSY sector in the district.

Dr. Singla directed the officers of PMGSY to effectively utilise the current working season and complete the ongoing/ pending works in a time bound manner for larger public interest. He called for greater coordination among the line departments for removing the remaining bottlenecks.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress of work on ground, the DDC passed fresh directions to revenue authorities to continue cooperating with the PMGSY officers for sorting out the pending revenue issues associated with these roads.

## DC Shopian For Expediting Work On Developmental Projects

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Saturday conducted tour of various areas of the district to inspect the progress of ongoing developmental works including the construction of the clock tower and Public Park at main town Shopian.

During the visit, the DC inspected 15.5 km Sindhu Shirmal to Vishroo road upgraded by way of construction of protection works, drains, widening, and pipe culverts etc. at an estimated cost of 16 crores, besides the macadamization from Narvaw to Reshnagri road length 8km at an estimated cost of 7.2 crore.



The DC directed the concerned agencies to expedite the pace of work and complete the projects within the stipulated time.

The DC during the visit was accompanied by Tehsildar Shopian, Bilal Ahmad, Executive Engineer, PMGSY and other concerned.

## Kumar Reviews Security Situation Of North Kashmir

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police North Kashmir Range (NKR) Sujit Kumar Saturday reviewed security scenario in north Kashmir.

In a statement, a police spokesperson said that DIG NKR chaired the security review meeting with police officers to assess the law and order situation in the district. He appreciated the role of Kupwara police for their professionalism in maintaining peace and public order in the district by keeping the criminal activities under check.

He also hailed the role of Kupwara police in combating drug menace in the district and exhorted upon the officers to remain cautious and alert in order to maintain peaceful atmosphere in the district as the anti-national elements are trying to disturb the peace and stability in the area. He directed the of-



ficers to ensure better synergy among the forces to thwart any nefarious designs of the enemies of the nation.

He also directed the officers to strengthen the security grid and plug the gaps with tight security measures to neutralise those involved in militant and criminal activities.

He said that stringent action must be taken against the elements found involved in unlawful activities for vitiating a peaceful environment. He further directed the officers to maintain close liaison with the public for maintenance of peace and order.

## Bandipora Woman's Body Exhumed For Post-Mortem



Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** Twelve days after her burial, a woman's body was exhumed in Hajin area of north Kashmir's Bandipora after her family alleged that she was murdered by her in-laws. Officials said that the district administration Bandipora permitted the exhumation of the body who "died" on June 7.

They said a team led by Naib Tehsildar in presence of health officials and police exhumed the body. On June 7, a woman of Sha-

**AFTER HER** death, her family staged a protest at Press Enclave Srinagar demanding exhumation and post-mortem of the deceased and alleged that she was killed by her in-laws.

heena area of Khumna Baharabad area of Bandipora died at a local hospital.

After her death, her family staged a protest at Press Enclave Srinagar demanding ex-

humation and post-mortem of the deceased and alleged that she was killed by her in-laws.

Tosha Begum, the mother of the deceased said, "My daughter was married to a man Muhammad Shafi Sheikh of Gund Jahangir. Both had three children. She died recently and we believed it was a natural death".

She said that a couple of days later, the son of the deceased while cleaning the room found an 'Out Patient Card' of Community Health Centre Sumbal and it revealed that her deceased daughter had consumed insecticide and doctors had advised her husband to refer her to Srinagar hospital for stomach wash.

She said that her husband instead of referring her to Srinagar hospital, took her home where she died.

To ascertain the cause of death, the family approached Deputy Commissioner Bandipora who allowed exhuming the body so that a postmortem could be conducted.

## DC Budgam Assures Crop Damage Survey Of Hailstorm Affected Orchards

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza Saturday assured the farmers that authorities shall carry out the survey of losses to crop very soon and the report will be submitted to the government for further necessary action.

The DC was speaking during a public interaction session in the lawns of Government Degree College Chrar-i-Sharief.

During interaction, the DC listened to the issues, grievances and demands put forth by the deputations, individuals. The issues raised included improvement of roads by macadamisation, installation of mobile towers at tourist resort Yousmarg, completion of all requisite works of Ziyarat Sharief as well as Khanqah besides beautification of lawns and premises as well as surroundings of these auspicious sites.

Besides, the demand for



conducting surveys of all orchards whose crops got damaged due to hailstorm and other weather related issues through concerned authorities was also raised to ascertain the total losses.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC assured the deputations, individuals who put forth and highlighted the issues that all their genuine demands and grievances shall seriously be taken note of.

The DC also took stock of vaccination drives under both designated age groups of above 45 years and 18 to 44 years in Chrar-i-Sharief.

He also took firsthand appraisal of requirements, availability

of stocks related to basic needs particularly in the far flung areas of Tehsil Chrar-i-Sharief.

Later the DC visited SDH Chrar-i-Sharief to take stock of facilities and other necessities required for better medicare facilities to be provided to the indoor and OPD patients.

On the occasion, the DC was briefed by the BMO Chrar-i-Sharief that since the improvement in the Covid-19 situation, the Hospital is routinely taking care of a huge rush of OPD patients. Daily referrals have gradually gone down. Side by side the hospital is attending all other Covid-19 requirements as and when required.

**BESIDES, THE DEMAND FOR CONDUCTING SURVEYS OF** all orchards whose crops got damaged due to hailstorm and other weather related issues through concerned authorities was also raised to ascertain the total losses.

## Nine Shops Guttled In Overnight Blaze At Poonch



Observer News Service

**POONCH:** Nine shops were gutted in an overnight blaze on Saturday in Mandi area of Poonch district.

Witnesses said local residents held a protest against Fire and Emergency Services for allegedly reaching late and blamed them for negligence. The fire broke out in Bus Stand, Loran, in Mandi, at about 4:45 AM.

The locals said that by the time the Fire and Emergency Services department reached the spot, nine shops were already damaged.

A senior police official said that an FIR has been lodged to ascertain the cause of the fire.

## 'Meri Aawaaz' Portal Launched For Rejuvenation Of Water Bodies

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** To facilitate the rejuvenation/restoration of water bodies in Budgam, the District Administration Budgam Saturday launched an on-line web application 'Meri Aawaaz'.

This portal has been created for protection and restoration/ rejuvenation of water bodies by active participation of citizens. The citizens can lodge grievances related to water bodies in the district through their mobile phones/computers/laptops etc. and this shall improve the accessibility of district administration to the general public.

Grievances related to encroachment, violations, dumping of solid waste, regular maintenance, illegal mining or any other issue related to

water bodies in the district can also be submitted through this portal.

The grievances thus submitted shall be addressed by officials of the district administration that include Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, District officer PCB, District Mineral officer and District Soil Conservation Officer besides Forest department.

This system has been designed and developed by National Informatics Center (NIC) Budgam. The grievance can be uploaded on <https://budgam.jk.gov.in/meri-aawaaz> and a unique Grievance Id will be generated for each grievance which can be used for tracking of the grievance. The status of grievances shall be available on the same URL.

## DDC Kulgam Directs Officers For Timely Disbursement Of MGNREGA Payments

Observer News Service

**KULGAM:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam Dr. Bilal-Mohi-Ud-Din-Bhat today chaired a meeting to review the functioning of Rural Development Department (RDD) at the mini-secretariat here.

During the meeting, the DDC took a comprehensive review of progress on various centrally sponsored schemes including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 14th FC and status of B2V works.

At the outset, the ACD gave a detailed presentation regarding the development targets achieved by the department.

All the BDOs also apprised the DDC about the status of work projects in their respective blocks and achievements made so far under various schemes.

The DDC instructed the concerned to ensure timely disbursement of MGNREGA payments. He also directed to scale up the pace of all works under the execution of Rural Development and complete the same within the stipulated time.

The meeting was attended by ACD, ACR, ACP, CPO, Executive Engineers of REW, BDOs and other concerned officers.

Earlier, the DDC chaired a separate meeting of district officers and officers of executing agencies to take the first-hand



appraisal of various developmental projects in the district.

On the occasion, the DDC sought a detailed account of various developmental works under different sectors from the concerned officers who briefed him about the physical and financial progress on the implementation of several projects.

The DC also reviewed the status of various languishing ongoing projects and works approved under the Back to Village programme. He impressed upon the officers to speed up the pace of work on these projects.

He also stressed for regular monitoring of works and directed the district heads to meet the targets and set timelines for the completion of vital projects in the district.

The DDC also took stock of the estimation process of new works to be executed under District Capex.

The meeting was attended by ACD, CPO, CMO, CEO, Executive Engineers of PHE, R&B, PDD and other concerned.

## DDC Kupwara Stresses On Conducting Awareness Programmes About Govt Schemes

**KUPWARA:** A meeting of District Level Review cum Consultative Committee (DLRCC) of district Kupwara was convened Saturday under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Imam Din.

On the occasion, the DDC directed the banks for earlier disposal of all cases on priority basis. He directed officers of line departments to sponsor cases properly and submit the cases to respective branches as per service area on a weekly basis.

The DDC further directed the banks and the sponsoring agencies to work with cooperation, coordination and cohesion to achieve the goals and targets of development and progress, besides focus on generation of employment for unemployed youth of the district. He also directed all departments and banks to conduct awareness programmes at village/block levels to generate proper awareness about the schemes among the people.

Highlighting the overall performance for 4th quarter under Annual District Credit Plan, Lead District Manager, Kupwara, Shamim Ahmad Haji informed the meeting that under District Credit Plan 2020-21, District has recorded an achievement of Rs 1340.53 Crores as on 31-03-2021 which constitutes 97 percent against target of Rs 1382.26 Crores.

He said that the achievements under priority sector advances were to the tune of Rs 847.30 Crores against the target of Rs 1182.87 crores for 4th quarter 2020-21 which constitutes 69 percent while as under non-priority sector, the achievements are to the tune of Rs 493.23 Crores against target of Rs 199.39 Crores which constitutes 196 percent.

He further informed that deposits of the banks in the District were to the tune of Rs 2980 Crores as on 31-03-2021 compared to Rs 2696 Crores as on 31-03-2020 thereby registering an

increase of Rs 284 Crores constituting 9 percent. The advances of the banks stood at Rs 3087 Crores as on 31-03-2021 against Rs 2512 Crores as on 31-12-2019 thereby registering an increase of Rs 566 Crores which works out to 18 percent. The CD ratio of the District as on 31-12-2020 stood at 103, he added.

Rs 518.72 crore have been disbursed by the banks amongst 29569 beneficiaries under PM Mudra Yojana Scheme with 85 percent credit disbursement.

It was also informed in the meeting that the district has already sanctioned 2937 cases under various govt sponsored schemes and disbursed 82.15 Crore. Under the new KCC scheme for Animal Husbandry, Sheep & Fisheries, the banks have sanctioned 10921 cases and have disbursed Rs 57.52 Crores to the beneficiaries.

Officers of line departments and representatives from various banks of the district attended the meeting.

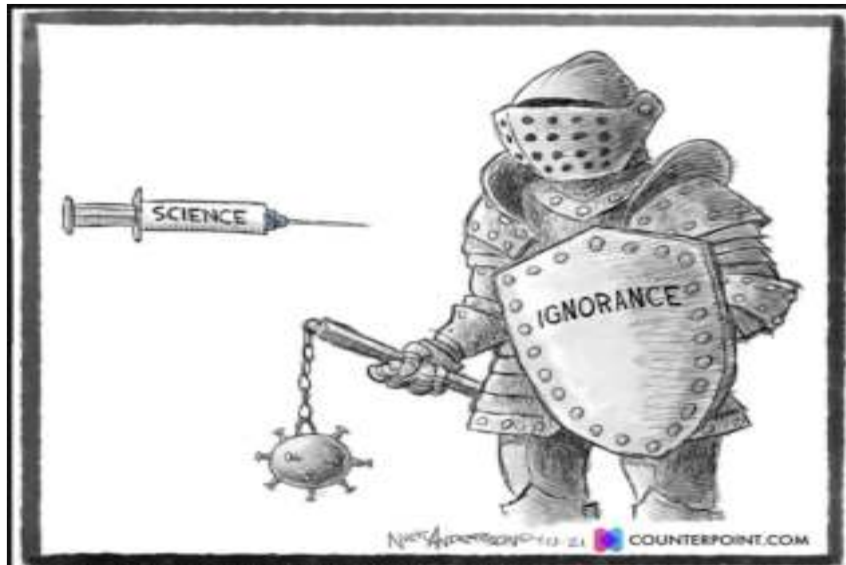
UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR. SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER E-TENDER NIT NO. 55/XEN/EDS/2021-22 OF 06/2021						
Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on item rate basis from approved and eligible Registered Civil Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.						
S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	Repairs / Renovation of Manholes at Tulsibagh Srinagar.	1.29 lacs	200/-	20 Days	DEE	2216-Non Plan
2.	Repairs / Renovation of Set No.K-8 (A-k Block) by way of wooden paneling, and Distemper at Tulsibagh Srinagar.	1.80 lacs	300/-	15 Days	DEE	
Position of AAA: Position of funds: 1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <a href="http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in">www.jk-tenders.gov.in</a> as per schedule of dates given below:-						
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17.06.2021 from 3.00 PM.				
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17.06.2021 from 3.00 PM.				
3.	Bid submission Start Date	26.06.2021 upto 3.00 PM.				
4.	Bid Submission End Date	26.06.2021 at 3.05 PM.				
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.				
2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Chailan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Chailan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).						
3. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)						
4. The 1 <sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.						
5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site <a href="http://www.jktenders.gov.in">www.jktenders.gov.in</a> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).						
6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.						
7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.						
7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website <a href="http://www.jktenders.gov.in">www.jktenders.gov.in</a> to acquaint bid submission process.						
7.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.						
7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.						
7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.						
7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.						
a. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.						
8. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.						
9. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued by this office time to time.						
						Sd/- Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Sgr.
DIPK-3166/21						
Noc - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/2085-95/2021-22 /T-1 Dated: - 17-06-2021						



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### NO HOLDS BARRED



As for statehood, the centre is understood to not be in favour of restoring it until it has completed the process of fresh delimitation of Assembly seats. And to this end, a delimitation commission has been working for the last one and a half year.

# Silenced Politics

As long as the BJP government is in power in New Delhi, Kashmiri establishment parties, let alone separatist groups, won't be able to engage in normal political activity. That's a given

RIYAZ WANI

It is unlikely that space for normal political activity will open up anytime soon. Though there's talk of the centre seeking to engage the establishment parties in J&K as part of its efforts to restore statehood to J&K and pave the way for Assembly elections, this may not change much.

Ever since the repeal of Article 370 in August 2019, there has been a chilling effect on the politics in Kashmir. The occasional political activity has done nothing to change this reality. So, when on June 12, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration held its first meeting after seven months to discuss the ongoing situation in Kashmir, it appeared that the Valley will finally witness a return to normal politics. The meeting came amid fresh speculations about the centre mulling more extraordinary constitutional and administrative changes in J&K including bifurcation and carving out of new administrative units. On a positive note, there were also rumours that efforts were on to restore statehood to J&K.

There was thus, a sense of de javu. The PAGD meeting was a throwback to the August 4, 2019 meeting of the Kashmiri parties which too was held amid extraordinary speculations about the withdrawal of J&K's autonomy. And as it turned out, the speculations came true the very following day.

But in the case of June 6, the rumours have so far not come true. In their interactions with the media, the PAGD leaders also played down the rumours. They displayed a sense of resignation to what might happen next with the amalgam's president Dr Farooq Abdullah saying that "they had reposed their faith in Allah".

Gupkar-Alliance-PAGD-Meeting.jpg

The reports of New Delhi making further changes in Kashmir have also alarmed Pakistan, forcing it to write to United Nations Secretary-general Antonio Guterres. The centre has so far not responded to the reports. However, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in an interview with a national television channel denied any move to bifurcate the union territory and said that such "completely baseless rumours" were spread by anti-national people with vested interests.

But the speculations about the new changes being contemplated about Kashmir haven't abated. Some major changes being speculated about are bizarre: People expect steps such as further division of J&K into Kashmir and Jammu, South Kashmir being made a part of Jammu, a union territory within Kashmir being carved for Kashmiri Pandit community etc. On a positive note, some also expect restoration of statehood to J&K.

But as things stand, the last prospect looks unlikely in the near term. So do the other speculations. But considering that the centre has earlier done unthinkable in regard to Kashmir - such as repealing Article 370 and bifurcating J&K into two union territories - the speculations have acquired a ring of plausibility. More so, when such possible measures do align with the BJP's ideological outlook on Kashmir. For example, the BJP would like to create a separate



enclave for Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley

In February 2020, home minister Amit Shah had made it clear that the government will create townships in all the 10 districts of the Valley for the resettlement of the Kashmiri Pandit community. He had assured the members of the community that a blueprint for the purpose was being given final touches. The plan also involved the renovation and rebuilding of temples destroyed since the outbreak of separatist militancy three decades ago. The home minister was also reported to have sought help from the Pandit groups to assist the government in compiling a database of all the properties that had either been occupied or encroached upon so that the government could initiate redressal mechanisms to restore the property to the rightful owner.

As for statehood, the centre is understood to not be in favour of restoring it until it has completed the process of fresh delimitation of Assembly seats. And to this end, a delimitation commission has been working for the last one and a half year.

The exercise is due to change the electoral game in the Valley. The commission set up by the government is likely to enhance the seats for Jammu making it politically at par with Kashmir.

If that happens, a Jammu based party like the BJP would have more political weight in the future J&K Assembly. And even if a Kashmir based party were to form or lead a future government, it would have little manoeuvring space to carry out its agenda or overturn the laws passed by the New Delhi

backed administration over the last two years.

Any further changes in Kashmir, however, would face severe opposition from Pakistan and jeopardize the nascent thaw in the relations between the two neighbours in the wake of what is deemed to be an ongoing back-channel dialogue.

Should any changes be made, this could once again sour India, Pakistan relations, something that may not be in the interest of regional peace.

Going forward, the situation looks very uncertain. It is unlikely that space for normal political activity will open up anytime soon. Though there's talk of the centre seeking to engage the establishment parties in J&K as part of its efforts to restore statehood to J&K and pave the way for Assembly elections, this may not change much. The harsh truth is that the centre will engage on its terms and offer little accommodation to the demands of the major regional parties like the National Conference and the PDP. There is also little hope that these parties will be allowed to publicly raise their issues. They will have no option but to wait. As long as the BJP government is in power in New Delhi, they won't be able to engage in normal political activity. That's a given.

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

The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer

# Reign of Reckless

Marwan Bishara

After the leaders of the United States and Russia concluded their summit on Wednesday, President Vladimir Putin assured a Canadian journalist that such meetings are meant to save the world from nuclear destruction, and find solutions to the world's economic, climate and medical problems. President Joe Biden, for his part, told journalists that there are no secret codes to foreign policy, that it is all about personal relationships, about human nature.

All this sounded rather comical, if not tragic, considering the two men supposedly on a quest to save the world could not even find it in themselves to hold a joint news conference after their three-hour chat to assure their people, and the rest of the international community, of their noble intentions.

Not only had their first face-to-face meeting not made the world safer or better; but like old brats, they took swipes at each other's countries, using stale clichés and sinister arguments.

In other words, the summit solved nothing; none of the serious challenges to global security, whether cyber or strategic. And though Biden and Putin did agree to begin a strategic dialogue, it can hardly be considered a reboot or a "reset".

And since this was a preview for a future US-China summit, there is certainly little to celebrate and much to contemplate as the Biden administration hardens US positions and changes the rules of diplomatic engagement to keep its rivals in check. Biden will undoubtedly pursue a similar strategy in his future interactions with China's Xi Jinping in the hope of containing Beijing before it becomes a leading global power.

Clearly, global power politics is not about leaders' personal chemistry; looking into each other's

eyes, soul-searching to save the world.

Clearly, the endgame of these summits is not achieving a peaceful, healthy and clean world free of nuclear weapons.

And clearly, the challenges are too vast and indeed too complicated and consequential to global and individual security.

But the logic that guides the superpowers tackling these challenges is rather simple - it is the logic of power. Neither human rights and democracy, nor sovereignty and international law, just power. And that applies to democratic and authoritarian regimes alike.

That is not to say, I see no difference between liberal-democratic and totalitarian regimes, I certainly do, and have a strong preference.

But when it comes to foreign policy, certain democracies have been no less imperialistic or criminal in their foreign policy than their authoritarian counterparts. Colonialism is one stark example. And in the case of totalitarian regimes, some like China, have delivered more prosperity to their people, especially poor people, than many democracies.

For centuries, great powers, regardless of their colours and stripes, competed under the pretext of security, but eventually led to greater global insecurity.

Their attempts to dominate regions and continents to deter other ambitious powers from doing the same have ruined the lives and livelihoods of

countless people around the world.

And for much of the second part of the 20th century, their rivalry had turned nuclear, endangering the world with total, Mutually Assured Destruction.

MAD, indeed.

In sum, despite their claim to benevolence, enlightenment, liberty, civilisation, and even total human emancipation; despite their preaching of democracy and human rights, or insisting on international law and an international rules-based system, global powers have led the world to the worst conflicts and most devastating wars.

Like pyromaniac firemen, they repeatedly tried to put out fires with more fire, burning down everything they touched.

And yet, as Biden put it, there is no secret code as to why and how they do it - it is not rocket science.

Still, despite appearances to the contrary, theirs is no personal business but rather a dirty business. Once you shun the enormous humbug coming out of governments, it all becomes rather clear.

Here is my simplified version of this complicated picture. Life in a world dominated by superpower politics is very much like life in a tough neighbourhood, where a few bullies take advantage of the absence of authority to dominate the streets by force. That is geopolitics.

They continuously accumulate arms and assets to expand their influence and surpass other tough bullies around the block. The fancy phrase for that is "offensive realism".

When they agree to a certain division of the neighbourhood into areas of influence; that is "defensive realism".

Improving one's standing to take on potential threats using all available means is strategy. Demoralising others to justify one's own threatening posture is propaganda.

Some intimidate or manipulate powerless neighbours, providing them with protection in return for loyalty and support, others may use more carrots than sticks to attract support; these are patron-client relationships that come in handy to indirectly dominate vast areas of the world.

When a bully gets super cocky, another may avoid confrontation by nudging a third bully to step up to the challenge; that is called "passing the buck". For the past two decades, careful not to antagonise Washington, Beijing has passed the buck to Moscow, leaving it to face an aggressive post 9/11 America.

But when one bully joins another bully against an aggressive third, that is "band-wagoning". In that way, European powers join the US and an alienated Russia may join China, as they compete for world domination in the 21st century.

Both are repeating what their predecessors did over centuries eyes wide open: jostling for power and influence regardless of the cost to the world.

And judging from delusional performances at this week's news conferences, Biden and Putin do not seem to have learned much from the mistakes of their predecessors.

Al Jazeera



“

I did not want to make it profitable for me alone, but for the society too. Hence, I started employing local Kashmiri women in the production process and also ensured that most of my ingredients were locally sourced indigenous herbs. The idea was to benefit everyone involved in the “MaSha” chain

# Cruising the Business World from Home

Local Home Based Online Businesses by Kashmir Women

Dania Sheikh



Kashmir is another name for challenges. It's filled with duels of narratives and wars of survival. Yet, people sneak in life and livelihood amidst all these tensions. The forerunners of business this time around have been women, who are taking up the digital space to fund their pockets and fuel their dreams. More and more women are starting home based ventures which balance the precarious patriarchy out. The investment costs are less, public dealing is curtailed and access is democratised on the internet. Additionally, those who wish to invest more, open physical stores and expand, no longer have to rely on the benevolence of others to trust women with business.

Kashmir Observer got in touch with such, small home-based business run by women digitally. These interactions unleashed all sides of narratives. Ones of challenges in a male dominated society but also of a society with allies in mothers, fathers and family. A story of tribulations on account of conflict and the challenges thrown at everyone by the pandemic. But all in all, a tale of resilience.



“The idea for Masha started soon after I completed my LLM (Masters in Law) on the prestigious Chevening scholarship, from UCL, London. On my return to the state, I realised I had some time off to do what I enjoy doing i.e. prepare some homemade oils and face packs. The only thing I did differently this time was that I put it up for sale on a Facebook platform. It was then that I had my moment of epiphany and I realised that I could create a business that stands for change out of this passion of mine. I did not want to make it profitable for me alone, but for the society too. Hence, I started employing local Kashmiri women in the production process and also ensured that most of my ingredients were locally sourced indigenous herbs. The idea was to benefit everyone involved in the “MaSha” chain.

Running the entire show online isn't easy and the August 5 decision made it worse with the complete communication blockade. No internet, no phone, and a complete lockdown ensured we had no business. Despite losing sales we weren't willing to give up on our women workforce so we retained them throughout the period which was an additional financial responsibility that lay on us despite no sales during that period.

I have bootstrapped this business but I have huge plans for it and the workforce involved. I am trying to expand, both in terms of the product range as well as the market”

Masha by Malika by Malika Galib Shah  
Instagram Handle: @masha\_by\_malika

“I have always been deeply interested in food and a keen home cook and baker. Baking has been a major part of our family repertoire with my grandmother and mom being seasoned bakers, laying the foundation for my interest in it. Cakes and other things I baked would invariably become a hit at family get togethers and parties with friends. They encouraged and insisted that I should consider making these available to a larger group of people. My colleagues with whom I shared the results of my baking were particularly encouraging and instrumental in helping me take the leap. The appreciation and boost I received from this gave me the confidence to take my passion further and turn it into a home based venture.

As with most businesses, the recurrent lockdowns since August 2019 had a big impact on my venture. Being a business that's solely dependent on the Internet for promotion, sales and networking, the complete digital blackout was a severe blow. Recovering from the setback took some time, effort and major re-strategising. After the initial disorientation settled, I

realised the hurdles and challenges were also an opportunity to evolve and adapt as an entrepreneur. With innovation, creativity and constant support and understanding of my clients I could continue and gradually build my business.”

Sweet Treats by Tanya  
Instagram Handle: @sweettreatsbytanya

“My startup which sells wedding accessories and offers customised products as well is currently running online through social networking sites.

I was always at the forefront of organising and managing events at school, family get-togethers, friends birthday parties and so on. I would always enjoy making the arrangements, helping with the decorations, planning and executing the events. My love for this was reinforced when everyone started appreciating my skills to effectively manage these events. This is when I considered taking up something on these lines as a career.

In 2017, at my cousin's wedding we went to buy accessories in the local market. There were not many customised options available based on the customer needs and we ended up ordering custom made decorations from outside Kashmir. That is when I realised the gap and focussed on fulfilling the fondness of this art in people, as it's very inconvenient for everyone to order from outside the state and even worse to settle down for less.

My biggest inspiration has been my Grandfather.”

Wedding Bunch by Faleen  
Instagram Handle: @wedding\_bunch

“The pandemic, as brutal as it has been, has forced a lot of people to reflect, pursue things they otherwise wouldn't have the courage/time to and same was the case for me. As a final year law student having little familiarity with the inner workings of a business of this nature, it was something that I probably wouldn't have delved into despite being passionate about it. It was only after the lockdown that I pushed myself to do the research, interact with people behind these beautiful products you see on our page and understand the underlying process which brings the craft to life.

Coming from a family that has been associated with Kashmiri handicrafts for generations, the art has always been close to my heart. With all other businesses taking a hit, I decided to start this small online venture of my own. It is an extension of a family business, but allows me the creative liberty to experiment, incorporate new ideas and reach a wider audience.

My family has been very supportive. I am lucky to have parents who don't impose and on the contrary, encourage me to take responsibility for my pursuits. Talking about people, when I had just started I was barely expecting the warm response that Kashmoir received. The internet is indeed a magical place and I truly am grateful.

However outside the unexpected and encouraging responses from total strangers, there have also been times when we've had to face backlash from people - be it the uninvited misogyny or judgements based on assumptions. What this experience has taught me though, is that as long as one has a vision and the intentions behind it are pure, nothing can demoralise you or throw you off.

I want to bring back Kashmiri craft to the younger crowd and propagate versatility while taking inspiration from our art. Another driving motivation behind this venture is the empowerment of our local artisans, making sure that they are paid well for their skills and the hard work they put in. I intend to create a friendly workspace between designers and artisans to come up with new ideas that you'll see in the coming months. Our art is way more than what can be displayed on an Instagram page, so my focus is to reflect it through our products”

Kashmoir Studio by Mahnoor  
Instagram Handle: @Kashmoir

“I always wanted to come up with something of my own. Since childhood, I have loved to pack gifts and add a creative touch to the packaging. My family would always appreciate me for that. After my marriage, my husband also encouraged me to start it as a business and that's how it began.

I started my work in 2019 and the abrogation of article 370 and 35 A happened in the same year. The turmoil that erupted disrupted my work to a large extent but I plan to hit back!”

Token By Zara  
Instagram Handle: @tokenbyzara

“I'm a civil engineer but I always had a passion and flair for designing apparels. My family pushed me to turn my passion into reality. The only apprehensions I have are about the precarious political situation here. The August 5 move, the shutdown and the internet blockade made it impossible for me to carry on with my work, it was halted for about two months and I had to start all over again. But I stand unfettered, I am expanding my business gradually. I started with footwear and now I'm also selling apparels and customising these. The next milestone for me is a physical store”

Mokhte by Nida  
Instagram Handle: @mokhtebynida

“My mother's passion for cooking and my passion for doing something out of the box is what propelled me to come up with this venture. The response that we got was overwhelming, everyone was supportive of our endeavour. The uncertain political situation is an obstacle but there's nothing we can do about it. In Sha Allah if time and circumstances allow I intend to expand my business.”

Maaji Hinde Aath  
Instagram Handle: @maaji\_hinde\_aath





# How Vaccines Work Against The Delta Variant

The Delta variant of the coronavirus, first identified in India, is a cause for global concern with studies showing it is more contagious and resistant to vaccines than other forms of Covid.

But there is also evidence vaccines retain important effectiveness against Delta after two doses. Here is what we know about how variants respond to jabs.

**Fewer antibodies...**

Several lab tests show that the Delta variant seems to have stronger resistance to vaccines than other variants do.

A British study published in the Lancet medical journal in early June looked at levels of neutralising antibodies produced in vaccinated people exposed to the Delta, Alpha (first identified in Britain) and Beta (first identified in South Africa) variants.

It found that antibody levels in people with two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech shot were six times lower in the presence of the Delta variant than in the presence of the original COVID-19 strain on which the vaccine was based.

The Alpha and Beta variants also provoked lower responses, with 2.6 times fewer antibodies for Alpha and 4.9 times fewer for Beta.

A French study from the Pasteur Institute concluded that neutralising antibodies produced by vaccination with the Pfizer/BioNTech jab are three to six times less effective against the Delta variant than against the Alpha variant.

**... but vaccines still work**

Although they represent an essential marker, the levels of antibodies measured in a lab are not enough to determine the efficacy of a vaccine.

In particular they do not take into account a second immune response in the form of killer T cells -- which attack already-infected cells and not the virus itself.

As a result, real-world observations are crucial to measuring



vaccine effectiveness -- and the first results are reassuring.

According to data published on Monday by Public Health England, vaccination with Pfizer/BioNTech and AstraZeneca is as effective at preventing hospitalisation in the case of the Delta variant as it is in the case of the Alpha variant.

Two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech jab prevent 96 percent of hospitalisations due to the Delta variant, while AstraZeneca prevents 92 percent, according to a study involving 14,000 people.

Previous data released by British health authorities at the end of May come to similar conclusions for less serious forms of the illness.

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is 88 percent effective against symptomatic Covid caused by the Delta variant two weeks after a second dose, while the jab is 93 percent effective for cases caused by the Alpha variant.

AstraZeneca shows efficacy of 60 percent against cases caused by the Delta variant and 66 percent in the case of Alpha.

Scottish authorities published similar data on Monday in the Lancet.

The team behind the Sputnik V jab meanwhile tweeted on Tuesday that theirs was "more efficient

against the Delta variant... than any other vaccine that published results on this strain so far".

They did not publish results but said the study by the Gamaleya Center, a Russian research institute, had been submitted for publication in an international peer-reviewed journal.

**One dose not enough**

Among authorised vaccines only one -- developed by Janssen -- is given in one dose instead of two, and not enough data exists to determine its effectiveness against the Delta variant.

For the others, lab and real-world tests both conclude that one dose of any vaccine only gives limited protection against the Delta variant.

"After a single dose of Pfizer-BioNTech, 79% of people had a quantifiable neutralising antibody response against the original strain, but this fell to... 32% for B.1.617.2 (Delta)," says the lab study from June.

The Pasteur Institute found that a single dose of AstraZeneca would have "little to no efficacy" against the Delta variant.

Data from the British government confirms the tendency in real-world scenarios: both vaccines were 33 percent effective against

symptomatic cases caused by Delta 3 weeks after the first dose compared to around 50 percent effectiveness against the Alpha variant.

In the UK -- where the Delta variant is now responsible for 96 percent of new cases -- these findings pushed the government on Monday to reduce the waiting period between doses from 12 weeks to eight for people over 40.

In France the wait has been reduced to three weeks from five for a second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines.

The Pfizer/BioNTech jab does however offer very high (94 percent) protection against hospitalisation due to the Delta variant after one dose.

**Shots and social distancing**

Scientists agree that the best defence against the Delta variant is to get a full two-dose vaccination against coronavirus.

Top French scientist Jean-Francois Delraissay says creating a "block of vaccinated people" will help keep the Delta variant from spreading throughout the population.

A US study from June 10 points to the importance of vaccination to keeping the list of variants from growing.

"Increasing the proportion of the population immunised with current safe and effective authorised vaccines remains a key strategy to minimise the emergence of new variants and end the COVID-19 pandemic", it says.

Antoine Flahault, who heads up the University of Geneva's Institute of Global Health, insists it is still crucial to observe social distancing, share infection information, and observe restrictions when necessary to "keep virus circulation low".

The more the virus circulates, he says, the more opportunity it has to mutate and generate new variants.

*Agencies*

## ‘ADHD medications may reduce suicidality risk in certain children’

Parents, take note! ADHD medications may lower suicide risk in children with hyperactivity, oppositional defiance, and other behavioural disorders, according to a new research.

The research was led by the Lifespan Brain Institute (LiBI) of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the University of Pennsylvania.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'JAMA Network Open'.

The results of the study address a significant knowledge gap in childhood suicide risk and could inform suicide prevention strategies at a time when suicide among children is on the rise.

"This study is an important step in the much-needed effort of childhood suicide prevention, as it leverages data collected from approximately 12,000 U.S. children to identify an actionable target to reduce childhood suicides," said senior author Ran Barzilay, MD, PhD, an assistant professor at LiBI.

Barzilay added, "Early diagnosis and treatment of behavioral symptoms with ADHD medication, particularly among children with severe externalizing symptoms, may serve not only to improve learning and behavior problems, but also to decrease suicidality risk."

Suicide rates among children have been steadily rising. According to the CDC, suicide was the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 24 in 2018.

Yet the rates are still relatively low in preadolescent children, making it difficult to identify factors that may lead to or prevent suicidal tendencies in this age range. Additionally, there are ethical limitations in enrolling potentially suicidal youth in placebo-controlled randomized clinical trials.

"In an ideal world, we want to test a medication effect on suicidality with a randomized prospective trial," Barzilay said.

Barzilay added, "But given the challenges of conducting such studies, we are obligated as a society and as scientists to generate clinical insights

using data collected in large-scale observational studies of children."

The LiBI researchers, in concert with Gal Shoval, MD of Tel Aviv University, circumvented this barrier by leveraging data from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study.

As the largest long-term study of brain development and health in the country, the ABCD Study sample includes a cohort of 11,878 children between the ages of 9 and 10 who were recruited through school systems.

The cohort spans 21 sites across the United States, encompassing more than 20 per cent of the U.S. population in this age group, and includes comprehensive data on child development, including data on mental, social, and emotional health.

The magnitude and breadth of data collected in the ABCD study allowed the research team to control for multiple confounders and to dissect specifically the association of ADHD medications with suicidal tendencies.

Performing a secondary analysis of the ABCD Study data, the LiBI researchers found that of the 11,878 children in the study, 8.5 per cent were treated with ADHD medication, such as methylphenidate, Adderall or clonidine, and 8.8 per cent reported past or current suicidality.

The researchers found that children expressing suicidal tendencies had more externalizing symptoms and were more likely to receive ADHD medication than non-suicidal children.

However, among children who demonstrated significant externalizing behaviors, those taking ADHD medications had lesser odds for suicidality, suggesting a moderating role for ADHD medications in these children.

To study whether this effect endured, the researchers analyzed data from participants' one-year follow-up assessments. They found that children with high externalizing symptoms who were treated with ADHD medications at baseline were less likely to be suicidal one year later.

*Agencies*

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

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

Subject: - Admission Notification for B.Ed. Course 2021 at Govt. College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu.

**Notification NO.068-BOPEE of 2021**  
**Dated :16-06-2021**

Online Applications are invited from the eligible and desirous candidates for appearing in the Entrance Test for admission to B.Ed. Course at Govt. College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu for academic session 2021 under Cluster University of Jammu. The selection of the candidates shall be governed by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002 and the Rules and Regulations there under; the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 as amended vide J&K Re-organization Act, 2019 and the Rules there under as amended vide SRO 518 of 2019 dated 02-09-2019, S.O. 127 dated 20-04-2020 subject to further amendments, if any, by the Competent Authority, from time to time and guidelines as contained in the Electronic Information Brochure-2021. These Rules Regulations and e-Brochure are available on the official website(s) of the BOPEE www.jkbopee.gov.in / www.jakbopee.org

### Important Information

1. Receipt of online application forms: w.e.f.22-06-2021.
2. Last date for filling the online application forms: 12-07-2021.
3. Fee Rs. 1200/- (Rupees one thousand two hundred only) to be paid online through national Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking.
4. Please download e-information Brochure from BOPEE website(s) viz www.jkbopee.gov.in / www.jakbopee.org.
5. Helpdesk numbers given in the Notification.
6. Date of Entrance Test, if held, shall be notified separately.
7. The candidates, in their own interest, are advised to go through the Information Brochure before filling up of Online Application Forms. Board shall not be responsible for any act of omission or commission in filling up of the Online Application Form by the candidate. It shall be presumed that the candidate has gone through the information contained in the Information Brochure and has agreed to follow the conditions contained therein. No candidate can claim any alteration in / conditions which have been incorporated in the Information Brochure and notified in advance.

8. The candidates are further advised to remain in touch with the BOPEE website (s) www.jkbopee.gov.in / www.jakbopee.org. The Board does not undertake any responsibility for any delay caused in publication of Notices/ Notifications in the Print Media (Newspapers) as delay, if any, in such publication(s) is not within the control of the Board, notwithstanding that the Board notifies the same on the official website(s) and for publication simultaneously on the date of issue of the said Notifications/Notices etc.
9. The examination may be conducted Offline by the Board.

### Online Application forms:

The Application Forms have to be submitted online through the BOPEE websites www.jkbopee.gov.in / www.jakbopee.org (through URLs/ links provided for this purpose) from 12-06-2021 to 12-07-2021. The payment of Rupees 1200/- (Rupees one thousand and two hundred only) as fee is to be made also online through integrated Bill Desk Payment Gateway which can be used to make payment with any national Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking. The procedure for filling Application Form and eligibility etc. of the candidates has been given in detail in the e-Brochure. The applicants must necessarily, in their own interest, go through this e-Brochure before attempting to fill up the online Application Form.

### Help Desk:

The applicants can also contact the Help Desk of I.T. Section of BOPEE during office hours only on 0194-2437647 / 0194-2433590 / 0191-2479371 / 0191-2470102 and/or email-at helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com for any assistance/guidance in this regard on any working day within the prescribed last date.

### Submission of Online Application Forms:

The interested candidates have to upload the following scanned original / self- attested certificates in PDF format with size from 100-200 kb. along with the Application Form:-

- domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (Domicile Certificate, if not issued, at the time of filling up of online Application Form), the candidate can upload undertaking certifying that he/she shall submit / produce the same at the time of counselling). For Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by the Competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile Certificate
- Qualifying marks certificate (Marks Certificate of graduation); ( where result is declared)
- (Matriculation) Date of Birth Certificate; and
- Reserved category certificate, if any, (including Sports Certificate) on the prescribed proforma. (Duly renewed where ever applicable).

However, it is for the information of all concerned that afore-titled documents as required for submission of application form shall be considered provisional and subject to change(s) vide any order as may be issued by the Government subsequently.

### Note:

1. The candidates can change/ modify their online Application Form at any time before it is submitted online. However, for any subsequent modifications, if required, the candidates should approach the BOPEE office Srinagar/Jammu. They are advised, in their own interest, not to share their login details with any other person, lest he/she may get an opportunity to change important details in the Application Form. They can check the status of their Application Form on the official website(s) of the BOPEE. If any form is not confirmed for want of required information, the candidate concerned must report in the BOPEE office Srinagar or Jammu by or before 14th of July, 2021(or upto two days after the last date fixed by the Board from time to time) failing which his/her Application Form shall be rejected.
2. Candidates shall also have to upload their photograph, signature and thumb impression images in JPEG format and size within the range of 10-50 kb as given in the instructions in the e- Information Brochure and on the BOPEE website(s).
3. The candidates must, after filling up all the required entries, ensure that their online payment has been successfully made and all the

requisite documents have been uploaded in specified format/size. Mere downloading of the Application Form does not mean that the candidate has submitted his/her Application Form successfully. Candidate should ensure that he/she keeps checking the status of his/her online application forms until it is scrutinized by the Board and approved/accepted/rejected as the case may be;

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

5. For any help/assistance candidates may call "Help Desk" numbers during office hours of the working days.

### Eligibility

#### The Applicant must:

- a) have passed B.A./B.Sc./B.Com./B.C.A./B.B.A. from a recognized University/Institution according to 10+2+3 pattern, or an equivalent examination considered under the statutes of the Cluster University of Jammu governing the award of Degree of B. Ed.; and
- b) have obtained not less than 50% of marks in aggregate in the qualifying examination in open merit and not less than 45% of marks in aggregate in any reserved category.
- c) Domicile of J&K or Ladakh.
2. The candidates appearing/ appeared in the qualifying examinations are also eligible to appear in the Entrance Test but they have to upload/submit the qualifying examination certificate within the prescribed date to be notified separately.

### Syllabus etc:

The syllabus, the tentative number of seats, Reservation Policy etc. for the examination are given in the e-Brochure. The examination shall be conducted in one sitting of three hours duration and the paper shall contain 180 questions comprising different sections.

### Note:-

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

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

### Warning:

- a. The Candidates are warned not to resort to any unfair/fraudulent means or act of impersonation at the time of Entrance Test or upload any objectionable material including a photo of any object, other than his/her own photograph while submitting the online form. In case, a candidate is found taking recourse to such acts, criminal prosecution shall be launched against him/her and his/her abettors. He /she shall be permanently debarred from appearing in the Entrance Test in future.

- b. Any candidate uploading image of an object other than his/her own photograph shall be disqualified from appearing in the Examination(s). Besides action as warranted under law shall also be taken against such candidate.

### Original Documents Required to be submitted in the College at the time of Admission:

- A. domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (Domicile Certificate, if not issued, at the time of filling up of online Application Form, the candidate can upload undertaking, on a Plain Paper, certifying that he/she shall submit / produce the same at the time of counselling/admission). For Candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST certificate issued by the Competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as Domicile Certificate.
- B. Marks certificate(s) of the qualifying examination;
- C. Date of Birth (Matriculation Certificate/Secondary School Certificate) from the Board of School Education;
- D. Category Certificate, if any.
- E. Any other document as may be required by the college/institution.

### Roll No Slip/Admit Card (if entrance test shall be conducted ):

The notification for downloading of online/electronic admit card will be issued separately.

### Venue for conduct of Examination Card (if entrance test shall be conducted:

The examination shall be conducted at Jammu/Srinagar simultaneously as may be decided by the Board.

### Issuance of Admit Cards and Date of Test Card (if entrance test shall be conducted:

The information with regard to availability of Online Admit Cards, Venue and Time of the Entrance Test will be issued separately in due course of time. The date of Entrance Test shall be notified separately.

### Note:

- A) The online submitted form is purely provisional and is liable to be cancelled at any stage subject to the final verification of the documents and even at any stage where such a document is proved to be fake/false.
- B) In case the Board shall not conduct the entrance test, the selection of the eligible candidates shall be made on the basis of the %age of the marks obtained in the qualifying examination.

E.& O.E.

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)  
Controller of Examinations J&K, BOPEE

No. BOPEE/Exam-17/2021  
Dated: 16-06-2021

DIPK-NB-1273/21



## 'Flying Sikh' Milkha Singh Cremated With Full State Honours



Press Trust of India

CHANDIGARH: Iconic sprinter Milkha Singh was on Saturday cremated with full state honours here, marking the end of an era in which his pioneering accomplishments on the track galvanised a newly-independent India.

Milkha, who was 91, was bid a tearful adieu in the presence of his family members and several dignitaries, including sports minister Kiren Rijiju. 'The Flying Sikh', as he was fondly called, died on Friday night due to COVID-19 related complications.

His son and ace golfer Jeev Milkha Singh lit the funeral pyre. Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator V P Singh Badnore, Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal, Haryana's Sports Minister Sandeep Singh were among the other dignitaries who attended the last rites.

Prof Jagat Ram, Director of PGIMER where Milkha was admitted, was also present.

A police contingent reversed arms and sounded the last post in the sprinter's honour. Milkha was also given a gun salute.

The Punjab government had declared a one-day state mourning and a holiday as a mark of respect to the legend.

Earlier, a wreath was also laid on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the Army.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had earlier in the day said the Punjab government will accord state funeral to Milkha Singh.

Earlier, the funeral procession started from Milkha's Sector 8 residence. His body was carried in a bedecked vehicle, with common people turning up along the short route to the Sector 25 cremation ground to pay their last respects to the legend.

Interacting with reporters after the cremation, Rijiju spoke about Milkha's last wish was to

see India win an Olympic gold in athletics.

"Today, Milkha ji is not among us, but we will fulfil his wish. He has given a big message," he said.

When asked if any award would be instituted in his name, Rijiju said these things will be discussed with family at an appropriate time and whatever needs to be done by the Sports Ministry in this regard will be done.

"We have told the family that right from the Prime Minister to Governor Sahab, who is present here, we are with them in their hour of grief. Entire nation is with them," he said.

He said he was also carrying the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the family.

Governor Badnore said Milkha "was our pride".

"Whenever I used to meet him, sometimes even in the golf course here, he would meet with great affection. Not only Chandigarh, Punjab and India, but Milkha ji's demise is a loss to the entire world. He was an inspiration for millions," said Badnore.

Milkha died on Friday night after a month-long battle with COVID-19. He had lost his former national volleyball captain wife Nirmal Kaur to the same ailment on Sunday. The Padma Shri awardee, who was nicknamed 'The Flying Sikh' for his achievements, is survived by Jeev and three daughters.

The legendary athlete was a four-time Asian Games gold medallist and the 1958 Commonwealth Games champion but his greatest performance remained the fourth-place finish in the 400m final of the 1960 Rome Olympics. His timing of 45.6 sec at the Italian capital remained the national record for 38 years before Paramjeet Singh broke it in 1998. He also represented India in the 1956 and 1964 Olympics and was bestowed the Padma Shri in 1959.



## India Moves To 120-3 Against New Zealand In WTC Final

AGENCIES

SOUTHAMPTON: New Zealand's all-out pace attack made India top order batsmen work hard under overcast conditions in the world test championship final on Saturday.

Captain Virat Kohli was unbeaten on 35 and Ajinkya Rahane was not out on 13 as India moved to 120-3 before early tea was taken due to bad light.

After the first day's play was washed out due to rain, the inclement weather encouraged New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson to field first after winning the toss with five fast bowlers chosen in the playing XI.

Kohli survived a caught behind down the leg side against Trent Boult as on field umpire Richard Illingworth believed the Indian skipper had edged the ball and referred it to the TV umpire for a review whether wicketkeeper BJ Watling had caught the ball cleanly.

However, television replays clearly suggested the ball didn't make any contact with Kohli's bat despite Watling catching the ball cleanly.

After losing both openers in the opening session, India lost

Cheteshwar Pujara (8) in the mid-session against some lively swing bowling by all five seamers. Pujara struggled for 35 balls to get off the mark before he finally square drove Neil Wagner to point boundary for his first runs.

But Boult was successful in his return spell when he had Pujara trapped leg before wicket with a sharp inswinger. Earlier, the opening pair of Rohit Sharma (34) and Shubman Gill (28) won the early battle against the swing of Tim Southee and Boult, adding 62 runs before both fell in the space of one run in an eventual last half hour before lunch.

Sharma looked to have settled down well and played two elegant backfoot cover-driven boundaries against Colin de Grandhomme, who surprisingly bowled ahead of Wagner.

Kyle Jamiesen finally induced a thick outside edge of Sharma as Southee pounced onto a two-handed low catch in the third slip to give New Zealand a breakthrough.

Wagner lived up to his reputation of picking up wickets early as the left-arm swing bowler found the outside edge of Gill's bat in his

first over to give the Black Caps double delight in the first session.

Wicketkeeper batsman Watling will be playing in his last test match as he had announced his retirement from test cricket.

"Really great occasion for him to play his last game, and I'm sure he'll enjoy it," Williamson said at the toss.

In contrast to New Zealand's all-out seam attack, India has gone with two specialist spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja with Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah as the fast bowling options.

Kohli said he would have bowled first, too, had he won the toss, but he was happy to bat.

"Big final," he said. "(Put) runs on the board and it's always a bit of an advantage. The two spinners can bowl in any conditions and if there's a bit of dampness, they're really accurate and can make use of it as well."

If the outcome is a draw, the trophy will be shared. India players wore black armbands in memory of the country's celebrated sprinter Milkha Singh, who died at age 91 late Friday night because of complications of COVID-19.

## Japan Imposes Stricter Regulations On India Athletes, IOA Calls It 'Discriminatory'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Indian athletes and officials travelling for the Tokyo Olympics have been asked by the Japanese government to undergo daily COVID-19 tests for a week prior to their departure and not interact with anyone from another country for three days on arrival, strictures that have left the IOA fuming.

Stricter regulations have been put in place for all travellers — including athletes, coaches and support staff — who have resided in 11 countries, including India, where different variants of COVID-19 have been identified, within 14 days of their arrival in Tokyo.

"The unfair and discriminatory" rules have drawn sharp criticism from the Indian Olympic Association. India's COVID-19 situation has improved considerably after a catastrophic second wave with daily cases declining from more than 3 lakh a few weeks back to just over 60,000 right now.

India has been clubbed in Group 1 alongside Afghanistan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"Before you travel: You must be tested every day, for seven days, prior to your departure to Japan," the advisory stated for

the Group 1 countries.

"Physical distancing: For seven days prior to your departure to Japan, you must keep your physical interaction with all others, including from another team, delegation or country, to an absolute minimum," it added.

On arrival, athletes and officials will also not be allowed to interact with anyone else apart from their on delegation for three days.

"At the Games. You will be tested every day as is the case for all athletes and officials.

"For three days after your arrival in Japan, you will not be able to physically interact with anyone from another team, delegation or country."

Athletes have been asked to check into the Games Village five days before their competition begins.

IOA president Narinder Batra and secretary general Rajeev Mehta, in a joint statement, questioned the new regulations.

"Athletes are allowed to arrive in the Games Village only 5 days before their event. Now 3 days will be wasted, this is the time the Athletes need to be moving towards their mode to Peak.

Highly unfair for Indian Athletes," the joint statement read.

"Where and when will the Athletes have their Breakfast, Lunch Dinner etc. during these 3 days, as everyone has food in the Games village food hall where all Athletes and officials of other NOCs are present all the time.

"If Food Packets are being delivered outside the Rooms of the Athletes then who will plan their body requirements like Proteins, food preferences etc. and will it not affect the performance of athletes, who will not get their preferred diet, just 5 days before the Olympics"

Several athletes like weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, wrestler Vinesh Phogat and Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra are training abroad and will travel to Tokyo from their respective locations.

However, a major chunk of the Indian contingent will leave for the Games from India and the regulations will affect their training.

The IOA questioned the need for the regulations given that athletes from India will be fully vaccinated and will be undergoing daily tests for a week before their departure.

"Where and when will the Athletes practice as practice/training areas are never empty and Athletes and officials of other NOCs are present all the time.

## For IPL 2021's Sake Caribbean Premier League Tweaks Its Schedule To Avoid Clash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The BCCI seems to have ensured the participation of the Caribbean players in the remainder of the IPL as the organisers of the CPL have revised their schedule to avoid a clash of dates with the popular Indian T20 tournament.

The Indian Premier League was suspended mid-season last month after the coronavirus breached its bio-bubble and is scheduled to restart in the UAE from September 19.

According to a report in ESPNcricinfo, the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) will now be played in St Kitts and Nevis between August 26 and September 15, four days before the IPL's resumption.

The CPL was originally scheduled to start on August 28 and conclude on September 19. The likes of big-hitting Chris Gayle, spinner Sunil Narine and all-rounder DJ Bravo among others are part of different IPL franchisees.

The development would please the BCCI, especially when participation of the Australian players in the IPL is under doubt.

"Both IPL and CPL are

important to CWI, to our cricketers and to fans," Ricky Skerritt, the Cricket West Indies president said.

"CWI's role was to facilitate arrangements for a non-overlapping and smooth transition from one tournament to the next. Cricket administrators must collaborate if cricket is to survive the risks and costs of COVID-19."

Skerritt said they would also soon finalise the guidelines for the franchises to be part of the bio-secure bubble.

"Any bubble-related decisions are made by the local St Kitts health authorities and CPL medical advisors (same as CWI), in the context of the local Covid-19 situation," he said.

"Just four weeks ago, St Kitts recorded community spread for the first time. For over a year, all cases were imported, identified, quarantined, and recovered. The first local COVID-19 (related) death happened just two days ago," he said.

It may be noted that the owners of two the Kolkata Knight Riders and the Punjab Kings also own teams in the CPL — the Trinbago Knight Riders and the St Lucia Zouks respectively.

## Elgar's 77 Helps South Africa To 218-5 Against West Indies



AGENCIES

GROS ISLET: Dean Elgar showed the qualities South Africa recognized in raising him to the captaincy, making 77 to lead the Proteas' fightback against the West Indies on the first day of the second test.

Elgar's late partnership of 79 with Quinton de Kock, his predecessor as captain, solidified South Africa's recovery from 37-3 in a damp morning session after it was sent in to bat.

De Kock followed up his match-defining 141 not out in the first test with an unbeaten 58 which had South Africa 218-5 when stumps were drawn in bad light, just before the rain returned.

Wiaan Mulder was 2 not out. Elgar survived the torrid start to the South African innings when the ball swung and was beaten twice by Kumar Roach in the short period between the delayed start of play and a fleeting rain break.

His first scoring shot was a boundary and he went on to his first half-century as captain from 147 balls. He was bowled by Kyle Mayers who brought a ball back from outside the left-hander's off stump just before the arrival of the second new ball.

De Kock brought up his 22nd test half-century from 89 balls in an assertive innings which helped break the early domination of the West Indies fast bowlers.

Shannon Gabriel earlier took two early wickets on his return to the West Indies to put South

Africa under pressure. The veteran fast bowler struck in his first over, the second of the day and again to break a crucial partnership just before tea to leave the Proteas 125-4 heading to the final session.

West Indies won the toss and opted to bowl in St. Lucia as it looks to draw the series. The home team lost the first test by an innings but used damp early morning conditions to its advantage.

Elgar put on an 87-run stand with Kyle Verreynne (27) but Gabriel ended that just before the tea break when Verreynne was caught down the leg side and failed with a review.

Gabriel, who missed the first test, ended the day with 2-47 and fellow pacers Kumar Roach, Jayden Seales and Mayers had one wicket each, although the West Indies bowlers had to work hard in the second and third sessions as the skies cleared.

They were dominant in the first session as Aiden Markram (0), Keegan Petersen (7) and Rassie van der Dussen (4) all departed for the Proteas, with the ball swinging and seaming around.

Rain delayed the toss and also caused a short delay during that first session at Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium.

Markram flashed at a wide delivery from Gabriel to be caught at backward point. Petersen edged to the slips off Seales, and Van der Dussen left a delivery from Roach which jagged back and into his stumps.

## Hungary Holds France To 1-1 Draw At Euro 2020

AGENCIES

BUDAPEST: Antoine Griezmann scored midway through the second half to give France a 1-1 draw with Hungary and avoid the biggest upset of the European Championship.

Hungary took the lead in first-half injury time when Atilla Fiola scored at a packed Puskas Arena. But Griezmann equalized from just inside the penalty area after Hungary failed to clear Kylian Mbappe's cross from the right. Mbappe had a late shot saved by Hungary goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi.

The 67,215-capacity Puskas Arena in Budapest is the only stadium to allow full crowds.

Fiola latched onto the ball



after Roland Sallai won a header down the left flank, burst into the penalty area and held off defender Raphael Varane before clipping the ball into the bottom corner. World Cup champion France missed several good chances before Hungary's goal.

## Argentina Beats Uruguay 1-0 In Copa America Classico

AGENCIES

SAO PAULO: Argentina beat Uruguay 1-0 on Friday in its second match at Copa America, making Lionel Messi's team co-leaders of Group A with Chile with four points each.

Midfielder Guido Rodriguez scored the only goal at the Mané Garrincha stadium in Brasilia with a header in the 13th minute after Messi crossed from the left. The ball hit goalkeeper Fernando Muslera's right post before going in.

Earlier Chile beat Bolivia 1-0 on a goal by English-Chilean striker Ben Brereton.

Seeking some defensive solidity, Argentina changed nearly all of back four after the 1-1 draw with Chile. Right-back Gonzalo Montiel, defender Lucas Martinez Quarta and left-back Nicolás Tagliafico were replaced by Nahuel Molina, Cristian Romero and Marcos Acuña, respectively. Nicolás Otamendi was the only defender who remained.



Rodriguez replaced injured Leandro Paredes.

Argentina controlled nearly all of the game against an Uruguayan team that included the powerful offensive duo of Luis Suárez and Edinson Cavani.

Argentina midfielder Rodrigo de Paul said his team deserved to

finally win — it had not won since November 2020.

"Today we tried to be a more compact team. We know that with the players we have here we can score at any time," he said. "Today we gave another little step to improvement, we will celebrate it."

Coach Oscar Tabárez has not

seen his team win in four matches. He said in a press conference that Uruguay did not have many opportunities against Argentina, but still has a good chance to advance to the knockout stage in the next three matches.

"We have players that know well how to score goals, but we could not use them," he said.

Argentina's next match will be against Paraguay on Monday, the same day that Uruguay will play its second match in the tournament against Chile.

A victory against Uruguay could move Argentina into first place in its group and avoid an early knockout-stage meeting with defending champion Brazil, which is in Group B.

The result also provided some relief for Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni, who was criticized after his team's opening 1-1 draw against Chile on Monday.

The top four teams of each group will advance to the knockout stage.

## Eriksen's Surprise Visit Gave 'Good Energy' To Denmark Team

AGENCIES

COPENHAGEN: Christian Eriksen surprised the Denmark team with a visit in the middle of a training session and then gave them all a hug, his teammates said Saturday.

Eriksen was discharged from a Copenhagen hospital on Friday and immediately went to see his teammates at their European Championship base camp outside the capital.

Midfielder Christian Norgaard and defender Joakim Maehle said it came as a big surprise.

"I didn't know he was coming, so we stopped the training session when he arrived," Norgaard said. "He seemed to be in good spirits, and it gave a good energy to the team. We were allowed to give him a hug, and it was great to see him walk around with his son. It was a good day in many ways. It was what we needed."



The 29-year-old Eriksen suffered cardiac arrest during Denmark's first Euro 2020 game against Finland last Saturday and had to be resuscitated with a defibrillator. His teammates formed a protective wall around him as he was getting treatment to shield him from public view.

He was discharged from the

hospital after being fitted with an implantable heart monitoring device that is meant to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Maehle said Eriksen was accompanied by his partner and two young children during his visit. The Inter Milan midfielder had lunch with the team before going home to spend time with his family.



# Senior Delimitation Panel Official To Hold Virtual Meet With J-K DCs In Coming Days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi:** A senior official of the Delimitation Commission will hold a virtual meet with all deputy commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir to discuss various inputs on geographical features of electoral constituencies and the suggestions made by them, sources said on

Saturday.

Set up in March last year, the Delimitation Commission is mandated to redraw the constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir which at present is under central rule.

This year, the panel headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai was given one more year to complete its task.

The delimitation panel had recently sought data on the area of existing constituencies and asked the deputy commissioners for their suggestions to make them more "geographically compact".

Having received the data and suggestions, the Delimitation Commission has decided to hold a virtual meeting with the

DCs to take forward the matter.

"As far as possible, the constituency should be fully geographically compact," explained a functionary.

The development comes amid efforts by the Centre to bolster political processes in Jammu and Kashmir. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to chair a meeting with a select

group of political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir next week, which is expected to set the road map for holding assembly elections there.

Jammu and Kashmir has been under the Centre's rule since November 2018 and in August 5, 2019, the Centre abrogated its special status and bifurcated it into union territories.

## Excluding Officials Working In Ladakh For Promotion Not 'Legally Viable': Govt

AGENCEIS

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday asked administrative departments not to "exclude" officers and officials working in Ladakh for promotions, underlining that the same was not "legally viable".

"It has been observed that some administrative departments are issuing promotion

orders in respect of officers/officials presently working in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir excluding employees who are continuing to serve on the corresponding post in the Union territory of Ladakh after reorganization of erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir," reads a circular issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi (IAS), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### PM To Hold

Centre for a meeting on June 24. "I am yet to take a decision. I will discuss with my party members and take a final call," she said.

Both Abdullah and Mehbooba had served as chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Asked about the prospect of talks with the Centre, CPI(M) leader and spokesperson of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) M Y Tarigami said there has been no word from New Delhi, but added that if it happens, it would be welcomed.

"We have never closed our doors for meaningful engagement with the Centre. Though I have no information about any dialogue, if it happens, it will be welcomed," Tarigami said.

The PAGD is an alliance of some parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the NC and the PDP, that was formed in the aftermath of the Centre's August 2019 decisions.

JKAP president Bukhari said, "I welcome, if and when, the talks take place. This vindicates our position of March 2020 when we had made it clear that dialogue is the only mechanism to restore democracy and statehood for Jammu and Kashmir."

"Better late than never as the solution to all our problems lies with New Delhi and nowhere else," he added.

The Jammu and Kashmir units of the BJP and the Congress are also likely to be part of these discussions, which are being seen as part of efforts to strengthen normal political processes in the union territory.

The officials said the delimitation commission under the leadership of Justice (retd) Ranjana Desai, which was set up immediately after the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill in Parliament, is likely to expedite its work and submit its report. The commission was set up in February 2020 and has been given an extension of one year in March this year.

Barring Bukhari, other leaders have served a spell of detention following the August 2019 decision of the Centre to abrogate special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the erstwhile state into union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

In the District development Council election last year, the PAGD surged way ahead of the BJP and its allies, including the JKAP, by bagging 110 seats out of 280 with the National Conference emerging stronger with 67 seats within the alliance. The BJP was the single largest party with 75 seats.

The political mainstream of the union territory, especially those having a strong base in Kashmir Valley, have been critical of successive administrations of the union territory for neglecting the demands of the people and raising questions on the development slogan raised post August 2019.

### 14 J&K Leaders

the erstwhile state -- Congress leader Tara Chand, People's Conference leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig, and BJP leaders Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta -- too have been invited to the meet.

In addition, CPI(M) leader Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) chief Altaf Bukhari, Sajjad Lone of the People's Conference, J-K Congress head G A Mir, BJP's Ravinder Raina, and Panthers Party leader Bhim Singh have been invited to the meeting.

The meeting -- the first such exercise since the Centre announced the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and its bifurcation into union territories in August 2019 -- is likely to be attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other central leaders.

When contacted, Omar Abdullah said that he had received an invitation and would go along the direction of the party chief.

Sources in the National Conference said that over the next few days, the senior Abdullah will be holding consultations with party leaders. The Political Affairs Committee of the PDP would also be meeting on Sunday to take a decision about the talks.

### Mainstream Camp

June 24 to discuss the future course of action for the union territory.

The meeting -- the first such exercise since the Centre announced the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and its bifurcation into union territories in August 2019 -- is likely to be attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other central leaders.

The PDP will hold a meeting on Sunday to discuss the invitation of the Centre to political parties of Jammu and Kashmir for talks, party president Mehbooba Mufti said on Saturday.

Mehbooba told PTI, "There is no clear-cut agenda about the talks with New Delhi. However, I have asked my party's Political Affairs Committee (PAC) for a meeting to discuss the same."

The last chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, who had an alliance government with the BJP from 2016 to 2018, she said that the decision of whether to participate in the talks would be taken by the party.

"There is no agenda for the meeting but I was conveyed that the meeting is being called to review the general situation and how to take the political process forward. There is no clear-cut agenda," Mehbooba said.

A National Conference (NC) leader told PTI, "The party president (Farooq Abdullah) received a phone call from Delhi today, inviting him for the meeting with the prime minister on June 24."

He said the party will sit and discuss the invitation to the meeting over the course of the next couple of days.

"To participate or not in the meeting is a matter of discussion. The party leadership will sit soon and discuss the issue. But, at least, there is a realisation in Delhi now and this meeting is a good thing. Dialogue and democracy go hand to hand in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

The NC leader also said after the meeting of the party, the meeting of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is likely to take place to discuss the issue.

The PAGD is an alliance of some parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the NC and the PDP, that was formed in the aftermath of the Centre's August 2019 decisions.

Pradesh Congress Committee chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said its chief G A Mir has also received an invitation for the meeting.

"The party shall take a view on the issue of participation in consultation with senior leadership in a couple of days, Sharma said.

Earlier during the day, Mir said his party had yet not received any invitation from the Centre.

He, however, added such a step, if taken, was welcome as dialogue with stakeholders was the only way forward.

Another invitee, senior CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami, said he would discuss the issue of the participation in the meeting with his party before taking a final call on it.

The CPI(M) leader, who is also the spokesman of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), said the meeting is scheduled at 3 pm on June 24.

According to officials, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla reached out to these leaders to invite them to the meeting.

Among those invited are four former chief ministers -- Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah of the National Conference, senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti.

Four former deputy chief ministers of the erstwhile state -- Congress leader Tara Chand, People's Conference leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig, and BJP leaders Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta -- too have been invited to the meet.

In addition, CPI(M) leader Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) chief Altaf Bukhari, Sajjad Lone of the People's Conference, J-K Congress head G A Mir, BJP's Ravinder Raina, and Panthers Party leader Bhim Singh have been invited to the meeting.

BJP Jammu and Kashmir unit president Raina said he is confident that all the leaders invited to the meeting will attend the "important" deliberation.

The meeting convened by the prime minister is in accordance with the wishes of heads of various political parties who have been seeking time from him and demanding such a meeting for a long time, he added.

### Mehbooba's Uncle

of Anantnag police is on its way to Srinagar to take him home.

"The police team will hand him over to his family in the South Kashmir district," the officials added.

The release of Madni came hours after Mufti received an invitation from the Centre for talks with the Union territory's regional political parties.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to chair a meeting with all political parties from Jammu and Kashmir on June 24 as part of the Centre's initiatives to bolster political processes, including holding assembly elections, in the union territory.

Mufti confirmed that she has received the invitation but said the party's political affairs committee (PAC), of which Madni is also a part, will take a call on whether to participate or not in the Centre's meet.

Madni was detained on December 21 last year, a day ahead of the counting of votes of the District Development Council elections.

Several leaders of the PDP and the National Conference, including Naeem Akhtar, Peer Mansoor and Hilal Ahmad Lone, were detained that day.

They were shifted to the MLA hostel here, from where they were gradually released later. Meanwhile, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti welcomed the release of Madni.

"Relieved that PDP's Sartaj Madni has finally been released after 6 months of wrongful detention. It's high time that GOI (government of India) releases political prisoners and other detainees rotting in jails in and outside J&K. A raging pandemic should've been reason enough to free them," Mufti wrote on Twitter.

### J&K Sees

Pulwama 33, Kupwara 24, Anantnag 49, Bandipora 22, Ganderbal 16, Kulgam 18, Shopian 3, Jammu 26, Udhampur 19, Rajouri 17, Doda 39, Kathua 16, Samba 14, Kishtwar 12, Poonch 22, Ramban 5 and Reasi 5 fresh cases of coronavirus.

Moreover, they said, 1197 more patients have recovered--359 from Jammu Division and 838 from Kashmir Valley. So far 297557 people have recovered, leaving active positive cases

at 9414--3357 in Jammu and 6057 in Kashmir, they added.

Regarding the four more fatalities, the officials said that two each were reported from Kashmir and Jammu divisions, taking the fatality count to 4238.

The officials also said that two more mucormycosis (black fungus) cases were confirmed in J&K, taking the number of confirmed cases to 24. (With GNS inputs)

### 10,000 Workers

being executed by different agencies in various districts and circles of the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Managing Directors, JPDC, Gurmeet Singh, MD, KPDC, Basharat Ahmed, Chief Engineer, JPDC, Jammu, Ashwani Sachdeva, Chief Engineer, KPDC, Ajaz Ahmed, Chief Engineer, JPDC, Manhar Gupta Chief Engineer Projects, Kashmir, Javed Ahmed, Director General Planning, PDD, Tariq Khan, Director Finance, Sultan Malik, Heads of Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) and Project management Agencies (PMAs), SES, EXENS and other concerned officers.

At the outset, the official spokesperson said, a detailed power-point presentation was given about the targets and achievements under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, (DDUGY), PMDP, RAPDRP, RGGVY, IPDS and other schemes undertaken in PDD in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

"It was informed that under CSS Rs. 1576.96 crore has been sanctioned for rural system strengthening projects while Rs. 1538.98 crore has been sanctioned for projects in urban areas. These include projects under the CSS such as DDUGY and IPDS and also under special package under the Prime Minister's Development Programme (PMDP)," he said.

"The projects include various distribution strengthening works such as the creation of substations, augmentation of existing stations as well as HT/LT improvements, AB cabling etc," he added.

While reviewing physical and financial progress on CSS, Kansal, as per the official spokesperson noted that a majority of projects under execution were heading towards completion with most of them to be completed between September and December this year.

Kansal, he said, directed the concerned officers to remove all the bottlenecks and RoW issues and speed up the completion of the projects. He also asked the concerned engineers to prioritise works and enhance manpower for timely completion of these projects.

"He also asked the concerned officers to devise a system to continuously monitor and redress all pending issues including delays in payments besides removing all bottlenecks like forest clearances and land-related issues," the official spokesperson said.

"Kansal made a special mention of taking over of completed projects. He emphasized that inspections of physically completed projects should be expeditiously completed. He specifically directed the concerned chief engineers of both the corporations (JPDC, KPDC) to minimize the gap between completion of projects and handing over the same so all completed projects could be put for public use at the earliest," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the Principal Secretary asked CEOs of both the power distribution corporations to ensure all compliances including proper maintenance of accounts, timely audits and submission of UCs. Kansal, he said, also emphasized that all these issues were important and should be focused on.

"The Principal Secretary made a special mention of the safety and welfare of the lowest field functionaries. He directed the officers to focus on relevant safety measures and to ensure that there is no loss of human life. He reviewed the measures enhancing safety and directed that isolators and earthing rods be provided on every 11 KV feeder in the UT," he said.

"This shall ensure that the field workers remain safe even if there is accidental touching of live lines or equipment and due to accidental charging of lines or equipment during shut down activity. He also directed the field officers to ensure that personal safety equipment be provided to all field workers," he added.

### LG To Interact

of planning and implementation of developmental projects.

"The Jammu and Kashmir government is strengthening participatory democracy, and making PRIs more empowered, vibrant in the true sense. The 'LG Mulaqaat' will become a platform to voice developmental aspirations of the people and a strong mechanism to address area-specific needs," the spokesman quoted Lt Governor Sinha as having said.

In a recent meeting, Sinha had assured DDC chairpersons that the government's focus is on the empowerment of the panchayati raj system and strengthening grassroot level of democracy.

He had also said that the administration will leave no stone unturned to make this institution more responsive while making sure PRI representatives are taken on board on issues confronting the common man.

"I can assure you that the government will provide all facilities, office and accommodation to DDCs. Your participation was a response to those who were raising doubts over DDC

election," Sinha had told the DDC chairpersons.

Recently, the government approved a Rs 12,600.58-crore District Capex Budget 2021-22, which is more than double to the previous year's budget, for equitable development with active involvement of Panchayats, BDCs, and DDCs, the spokesman said.

### Soldiers Assault

the officials said.

"In connection with today's incident of man-handling of a police officer at Poshana check post on Mughal road, FIR No. 234/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered in police station Surankote against the said personnel, the police said in a statement.

It said further investigation and legal proceedings are underway.

### Three Years of

in the PDP headquarters in one searing summer day in Srinagar. The three years of political plague has hushed the camp beyond its reputation.

From its conference room, where as chief minister Mehbooba Mufti once wrote "the dawning sunlight is glistening over the Jhelum" is now lamenting its own desolation. The ecstatic sentry on the entrance is workless as once buzzing concrete erection is unruffled. The two party workers, the bifurcated lawn and one SUV vehicle catalyzes to the deserted-view that the place displays.

Amid this sleepy polity at "abode of defectors"--where in 2014 hundreds of "Qalam-Dawaat" supporters frantically celebrated their late leader's band blowing its winning whistle over the archival Abdullahs--the Peoples Democratic Party camp is sullen in the season of speculations.

The leftovers have restricted their afternoon walks on the Fairview that caresses a tin-sheet wall and a fortified bunker of the party headquarters, to avoid the growing impact of marginal treatment.

"Since the start of the parade of resignations," a deputy district president of PDP says, "we feel like people hurl insults and abuse at us."

Even now, he says, there're people castigating the PDP and its cadres for their "unholy alliance" catalyzing BJP's Kashmir agenda in 2014. Once their power-house, the PDP headquarters now serves as a refuge for its party-workers.

Across "this Mufti Sahab's dream" as Mehbooba Mufti refers to Srinagar office, the party workers were always known for their loyalty and volatile self for crusading against the invincible National Conference, be it the elections or a new recruit drive. They were the "campaigning furies", a party worker calls his comrades. Many cadre-based workers had used their personal blogs to run posts that laced deep investigations and withering taunts against the past CM-ship holders.

"The social media campaign gained popularity among the audiences," says a party-worker who contributed to the campaign. "Within months we had a huge audience that catered to win against the NC."

Amid this victory show of 2014, the party giants had no idea that the most important address in Kashmir would not be consumed fighting against the vintage Abdullahs but rather to gather the rumbles of their own "Qalam-Dawat" flag.

But beyond the impact of these growing disparages across the valley, PDP's foot-soldiers had to sense the distress wrapping their party headquarters when the pendulum of defectors, amidst the smokescreen politics, shifted towards the new campaigners for "Naya Kashmir".

I meet a district president, presiding over a serious discussion, on the afternoon of June 2021, inside the PDP nerve centre. The small room inside the conference hall is filled with leftover loyalists. The low-lying foot-soldiers appear a bit emboldened amid the growing ruckus over talks.

"These three years gave us lifetime lessons," says a party leader on the command chair. "We faced defections, losing some senior party leaders like Muzaffar Beg and Khursheed Alam to Sajad Lone's People's Conference. Their resignation was the last nail in the coffin. The PDP had survived the political emergency because of them."

Beg's homecoming to PC, his political launch pad, has not only powered Lone's foot in the "side-switching" politics, but has also started to rumble PDP's "restoring the pre-Aug 5 position of J&K" agenda that has left serious pressure on the daughter of Mufti Mohammed Sayeed.

The side-switching politics in Kashmir didn't just normalise the growing tribe of defectors but also traumatised the already paralysed politics of PDP by exposing the cracks and differences within the party.

"If a co-founder himself resigns from the party, how can a cadre-based worker remain satisfied with the growing desolation of the party," says a political analyst from Kashmir.

But before PDP's political ground would present a sense of failed leadership for its party workers, many oldies of the party had already predicted the same for Mufti's future.

"Why would someone wish to be a part of an organization that remains the first priority on the Centre's target list," says a DDC elect from PDP.

"The same was predicted by Beg and Alam. They knew the centre would come hunting for them, if they remained a part of Mehbooba's camp."

In her first speech inside PDP headquarters,

after a 14-month long incarceration, Mehbooba's statements were filled with verses from the Holy Quran but it wasn't enough to retrieve her "Qalam-Dawaat" supporters, who by that time had already gravitated towards other camps.

Before the Centre's desperate normalcy bid in face of Kashmir's DDC elections would change the silenced polity of Kashmir, the old party's "fury campaigners" had already shifted sides towards Sheikh Bagh.

For Mehbooba Mufti, the growing subject of distress was the arrival of a new political neighbour. Just down the street, is the Centre's "reserved trump card" in Kashmir politics, The Apni Party, patronised by Altaf Bukhari, who now crusades against his ex-boss. The merchant floated his political ship with help of a few dozen defectors from the Mehbooba Mufti camp.

"The advent of Altaf Bukhari as the centre's man had discarded these dynastical fronts," says a PDP defector. "Unlike the PDP, Altaf Sahab neither has shifted his priorities nor his power."

Unlike Mehbooba's failed attempt, Bukhari created a symbolic moment when he began his ceremonial speech to his PDP connivers by reciting verses from the Holy Quran. "After Sheikh Abdullah, Altaf Sahib was the first leader to lure his supporters using the power of the holy scripture," says Musavir Khan, an ex-PDP worker.

Alleging that there was a marked difference between 'what the leaders of PDP were discussing' and 'what they were practicing', many senior torchbearers walked away from the league and began a new career in the Apni Party that fortified the trader-turned-politician's methods to gather support with these few connivers.

Bukhari's Apni Party also served as a refuge to many PDP defectors who feared for their existence when the PDP's Waheed Para was sentenced for a crime that his tribe-members dismissed as a "political vendetta".

"Waheed Para's case is a perfect example of why staunch party workers tend to resign," says Para's close-aide.

The action against the PDP's young "mover and shaker" has not only scared seniors but has also enforced many office-bearers to go into a period of obscurity or look for a new ferry.

While many assumptions are being made for Mehbooba's fate in the ongoing sand-shifting politics, her party workers are already seeing a faint hope in New Delhi's capital conference.

Even before the actual talks, there're speculations about the stated position of Fairview, which many say the BJP government won't even bring up for discussion. This makes many believe that it won't be a pushover for Mehbooba to create a din over the restoration of the 'pre-August 2019' position during the round-table conference.

This speculation of sorts has itself created speculations about the madam's political fate in Kashmir politics now.

"In these tumultuous three years following her exit from the seat of power Mehbooba tasted a jail term and her movements are always under scrutiny," journalist Khursheed Wani said.

"She is seldom allowed to go out of her barricaded mansion. Worse, a government agency is probing alleged misuse of funds on construction at the burial place of her father Mufti Mufti Sayeed.

Mehbooba has been left alone even by her family members. Her brother Tasadduq, was never seen or heard of. Most of the Bukharis, Soharwardis and Andrabis are no longer associated with the PDP. The people, especially in South Kashmir, don't seem to be too interested in her.

Kya woh toffee lene gaye thay, her justification for brutal killing of youngsters during her reign, in the aftermath of Burhan Wani's killing

in 2016, seems unforgettable."

### LG Condoles Demise

inspire the future generations, Sinha said on Twitter.

The 91-year-old died at a hospital in Chandigarh on Friday after a month-long battle with COVID-19, during which he lost his wife and former national volleyball captain Nirmal Kaur to the same ailment.

National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah also expressed grief over the athlete's demise.

A man whose legendary achievements are only dwarfed by his humility & his determination, has left a mark that will forever inspire generations of athletes & sportspersons. #RIPMilkhaSinghji, Abdullah tweeted.

### CRPF DG Visits

"The DG encouraged the troops to come up with suggestions that will augment the efficiency of the force," a senior officer said.

He also shared meals with them here, he added. The DG later visited the south Kashmir operations range of the CRPF in Awantipora and reviewed highway security, he said.

The force secures a "significant" portion of the Jammu-Srinagar highway.

The CRPF has deployed at least 70 regular battalions in the Kashmir valley for undertaking counter-militancy operations and rendering law and order duties.



## Director Tourism Holds Webinar Meeting With West Bengal Tour, Travel Operators



KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Director, Tourism Kashmir, Dr GN Itoo on Saturday held detailed discussions with the tour and travel operators of West Bengal through webinar.

During the discussions, the Director Tourism apprised the West Bengal tour operators about the safety measures and Covid related facilities in place for the travelers visiting Kashmir. He also briefed them about the current status of the tourism sector in view of the improving COVID-19 situation.

Around 80 delegates belonging to the Travel Agents Association of Bengal (TAAB) and Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) attended the meeting.

Dr Itoo said the J&K administration has been successful in containing the Covid-19 pandemic to a larger extent with the help of massive vaccination campaigns and rigorous testing. He said the department has already covered 80 percent of tourism stakeholders in the vaccination drives. He said the testing at Srinagar airport has been made hassle free and they are also facilitating vaccination of the travellers interested in taking a job here.

Terming West Bengal as

one of the oldest partners of Kashmir tourism; the Director Tourism sought their feedback and inputs in conducting safe and responsible tourism once the COVID situation further improves. He also discussed with them the plans of the Department to revive tourism, once the pandemic situation improves.

During the webinar, many TAAB members asked travel related queries and gave feedback to the Director Tourism. He said the Department has already framed a committee of officers to look into the grievances of tourists coming to Kashmir and seek their redressal. He assured full support to the travel and tour operators from Bengal so their clients leave back the Valley with beautiful and cherishing memories.

Earlier, Governing Body Member of TAAB Kaushik Kar spoke on age-old relations between J&K and West Bengal in the tourism sector. He said many travellers are eager to visit Kashmir this summer also and assured to promote Kashmir among their travellers from his state.

President TAAK, Farooq Ahmad Kuthoo and other representatives assured full cooperation and support to TAAB members.

**EARLIER, GOVERNING BODY** Member of TAAB Kaushik Kar spoke on age-old relations between J&K and West Bengal in the tourism sector. He said many travellers are eager to visit Kashmir this summer also and assured to promote Kashmir among their travellers from his state.

## Geology & Mining Dept Decides To Prepare Policy Document To Revive Sand Mining



Agencies

**Srinagar:** After the denial of Environment Clearance (EC) by the Jammu and Kashmir Environment Impact Assessment Authority (JKEIAA) the authorities have decided to prepare a policy document to revive traditional sand mining identifying rightful beneficiaries and send it to the Government of India (GOI) for consideration.

According to the minutes of minutes chaired by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Mining a copy of which lies with news agency reads that the JKEIAA has declined EC for minor mineral blocks located in river Jhelum on some technical observations, it was discussed and decided to proceed to invoke the clause (AXI) of the e-auction document to cancel the e-auction process and refund the 50 percent bid amount to the successful bidders of these blocks.

"To prepare a policy document in order to revive the traditional/customary sand mining identifying the rightful beneficiaries in consultation with I&FC Department. The proposal once finalised shall be forwarded to GOI for consideration," the minutes of the meeting reads.

The document states that

JKEIM has expressed reservations for in-stream mining and as such are reluctant to grant Environmental Clearances (EC) to 58 e-auctioned minor mineral blocks falling in river Jhelum.

"The delay in execution of sand blocks of River Jhelum has created a large gap in demand and supply which is affecting the livelihood of thousands of people traditionally associated with the profession of sand extraction leading to an increase in the incidents of illegal mining, besides hampering the progress of important infrastructure development projects," it said.

The document reads that the meeting was informed that 98 blocks have been granted EC, out of which 64 leases are operational.

"In addition to this public hearing has been conducted for 34 blocks," the documents said.

The documents said that the chair stressed for more concentrated efforts to clear the cases for EC and fixed the target of 120 ECs and 106 operational mines at the end of this month with special emphasis on Kashmir province as only 14 mining leases of minor mineral blocks have been granted in Kashmir to date.

"The Department should expedite and facilitate in securing the necessary Clearances i.e.,

NOCs and EC for such ancestrally occupied quarries so that quarry license is granted in their favour in order to regulate the extraction of building material and address the grievances of erstwhile quarry holders," it said.

The meeting as per document emphasized on early completion and execution of Mine Surveillance System (MSS) for proper monitoring of the mining leases and curbing the illegal mining was emphasised.

"Besides the proposal for GPS tracking of vehicles involved in the transportation of minerals shall also be prepared," the document reads.

About illegal mining the document reads that necessary action as warranted under rules be taken against unauthorized persons extracting minor minerals from the area adjacent to the e-auctioned minor mineral blocks including the filing of FIRs. Any laxity in the matter on part of the concerned SHO shall be viewed seriously.

"All SSPs shall ensure that the illegal mining does not take place in the areas of their jurisdiction other than e-auctioned minor mineral blocks specifically after issuance of Mining Leases/ completion of other formalities thereof," the document reads—(KNO)

## DC Budgam Assures Crop Damage Survey Of All Affected Orchards In District

KO NEWS DESK

**BUDGAM JUNE 19 :** District Development Commissioner Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza accompanied SDM Chadoora, Chief Medical Officer, ACD and other concerned officers on Saturday visited Charisharrief in order to take stock of vaccination drive under both designated age groups of 45 and above and 18 to 44 years. Besides the visit was also aimed to have first hand view of other requirements, availability of stocks related to basic needs particularly in the far flung areas of Tehsil Charisharrief.

The DC later convened a public interaction session in the lawns of Government Degree College Charisharrief attended by large number of locals as well as deputations from surrounding areas.

During interaction DC patiently listened to all the issues relating to various demands grievances put forth by the deputations, individuals mostly pertaining to improvement of roads by macadamisation, installation of mobile towers at tourist resort Yousmarg, completion of all requisite work of Ziyarat Shareef as well as Khankah besides beautification of lawns and premises as well as surroundings of these auspicious cites. Besides demand was also raised for conducting survey of all orchards whose crops got damaged due to hailstorm and other weather related issues through concerned authorities to ascertain the total losses.

Speaking on the occasion, DC assured the deputations, individuals who put forth and highlighted the issues that all genuine demands and grievances shall seriously be taken note of. He further added that since the onset of 2nd wave of Covid-19 pandemic, the administration with its all machinery had to negotiate important and unavoidable engagements and emergencies in order to contain the spread. Everyone of us is fully aware that Covid-19 is a serious and urgent issue to tackle, now that situation has improved and developmental and other activities shall be resumed with full pace through concerned departments/agencies, the DC said.

Regarding the issue of survey of orchards, the DC reiterated that horticulture sector as we all know is back bone in providing financial support to huge chunk of population, he assured the farmers that concerned authorities shall carry out the survey of losses very soon and the report will be submitted to the government for further necessary action.

Later the DC visited SDH Charisharrief in order to take stock of facilities and other necessities required for better medical care to be provided to the indoor and OPD patients regularly. During the visit the DC was briefed by the BMO Charisharrief that since the improvement in the Covid-19 situation, the Hospital is routinely taking care of huge rush of OPD patients. Daily referrals have gradually gone down. Side by side the hospital is attending all other Covid-19 requirements as and when required.

## Farmers From South Kashmir Suffer As Authorities Fail To Reconstruct Siphon Damaged In 2014 Floods

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Farmers of several villages in Pulwama and Shopian are suffering as authorities have failed to reconstruct the siphon damaged in 2014 flood.

The siphon along with the bridge on rivulet Ranbiara got damaged during 2014 floods at Rakh Village of Pulwama district, however, authorities have constructed an alternative bridge near the spot, but have failed to reconstruct the siphon on which dozens of hectares of land are dependent on watering purposes.

Farmers from Rakh, Zahidbagh, Darbagh, Naina, Batpora and Watchi area of Pulwama and Shopian district said that due to the absence of siphon, dozens of kanals of land are still dry and are unable to plant paddy.

They said that a pumpsheds

was installed in the area but due to unscheduled power supply and frequent technical issues in the pump, water isn't adequate in the area and several farmers are still waiting to water their land for paddy plantation.

They said that the irrigation department is fully aware of the issue but they aren't serious to solve our issue.

"We have brought this issue in the notice of concerned authorities several times but to no avail," they said.

Locals requested concerned authorities to look into the matter at the earliest so that farmers can irrigate their land and complete plantation.

An official of the irrigation department said that the mega project has been already approved to reconnect two ends of the canals. He assured that work on the project will start soon—(KNO)

## ‘Mineral Extraction Rights Need To Be Fully Reinstated Across J&K’

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Apni Party State Secretary and former VC Muntazir Mohi-ud-din on Saturday welcomed the much anticipated government decision which stated that 58 mining blocks in Jhelum will now be allotted to locals as the companies from outside J&K have failed to get necessary Environment Clearance in a stipulated time frame.

Expressing contentment over the decision, Muntazir as per a statement issued to the news agency, said that for months Apni

Party had launched a comprehensive campaign demanding that the mineral extraction rights be reinstated in favor of the locals whose families have been involved with this occupation since ages.

"I am very thankful to the Lt. Governor led administration which has eventually reciprocated with the long pending demand of the people of J&K. As natives, the first preference and rights over the mineral extraction belongs to the local populace. I on behalf of Apni Party congratulate the people, especially those families who have

suffered immensely due to the prior denial for carrying out the extraction," he said.

Muntazir said that even though this decision has been a momentous one, the Government still needs to ensure that the mining extraction rights, in regards with natives, be holistically restored all across J&K without any disparity.

"Even the administration has acknowledged that illegal lifting and transportation of such minerals has resulted in huge losses

to the Government exchequer. Therefore, it becomes imperative that the persisting mineral extraction ban is lifted all-over J&K without any preconditions or further delay. It will also help to curb the menace of illegitimate mineral lifting and address the problem of soaring prices of the building material," he said.

He also called upon the Deputy Commissioner Budgam and DDC Chairman Budgam to intervene in regards to the skyrocketed prices of the bricks that has caused immense inconvenience

to the people who need to construct their houses or other commercial properties.

"The construction works have come to an imminent halt due to the soaring prices of bricks which has even rendered masons & laborers out of work. The government has failed to put a check on rising prices while the brick kiln owners continue to charge as per their wishes. The administration needs to assess the situation on ground zero and curb such anomalous price hikes," he demanded—(KNO)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class Contractor" Card . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Superintendent Engineer PWD Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice . After that n objection shall be entertained.

**Farooq Ahmad Bhat**  
**S/O Mohammad Khbar Bhat** **bmng**

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG.

**NOTICE**

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Nazir Ahamd sofi S/o Ab Rehman Sofi R/o Sallar Anantnag(Party no.1st) as transferor (seller) owner of the tata 207 Di Bearing Regd.No.JK03D-3808 and transferee (Purchaser) Mohd Amin Ganie S/o Mohd Ramzan Ganie R/o Chee Anantnag (Party no 2nd) as transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C and R/P of the above noted vehicle from party no 1st to 2nd.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits any body having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 07 days from the publication of this notice to the office of undersigned. No any representation /objection shall be entertained after stipulated period

**Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag**

**RNA**

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ساگام

مضمون درخواست منجاب: شاکت رسول زوچہ کوثر حسین بخشی ساکنہ انکھام ضلع انت ناگ

برمادعطاء RBA سرٹیفکٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اریا سرٹیفکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عمل فیئلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ دھ دھ میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور سائل کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	عبدالرشید بخشی ولد محمد مقبول بخشی	65 سال	ریٹائر ملازم	
02	مسماۃ محمودہ بانو زوچہ عبدالرشید بخشی	58 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	کوثر حسین بخشی ولد عبدالرشید	33 سال	سرکاری ملازم	
04	شاکت رسول زوچہ کوثر حسین بخشی	28 سال	گھریلو کام	
05	شبنم رشید دختر عبدالرشید	24 سال	گھریلو کام	
06	آدیہ کوثر دختر کوثر حسین	02 سال	نابلغ	

اسطور کنبہ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معوجہ بات پیش کرے۔ میعاد گزرنے بعد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

**RNA** نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس نائب صلیدار ساگام

مضمون درخواست منجاب: شوکت احمد حجام ولد محمد اکبر حجام ساکنہ بدوہ ضلع انت ناگ

برمادعطاء RBA سرٹیفکٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اریا سرٹیفکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عمل فیئلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ دھ دھ میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور سائل کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	محمد اکبر دامادہ عبدالرحیم حجام	55 سال	مزدوری	
02	مسماۃ مبینہ زوچہ محمد اکبر حجام	50 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	انتیا ز احمد حجام ولد محمد اکبر	27 سال	مستزی	
04	مظفر احمد حجام ولد محمد اکبر	25 سال	Barbir	
05	شوکت احمد حجام ول محمد اکبر	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اسطور کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معوجہ بات پیش کرے۔ میعاد گزرنے بعد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

**RNA** نائب تحصیلدار



## "Talks Are On" With China For Next Round Over Ladakh Situation: IAF Chief



AGENCEIS

HYDERABAD (TELANGANA): India Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria on Saturday informed that a decision for another Commander-level talks with China regarding the situation at Eastern Ladakh will be taken soon as talks are on for the next round.

Talking about the situation in Eastern Ladakh at the Combined Graduation Prade at Air Force Academy in Dundigal, the Air Chief Marshal said that the Indian forces are regularly monitoring the ground reality in terms of deployments or any changes on the Indian as well as the Chinese side.

"Talks are on for next round. There is a proposal for Commander-level talks and decisions will be taken. The first attempt is to continue with talks and do disengagement of

balance friction points and follow it with de-escalation," IAF Chief Bhadauria said.

"In parallel, the ground reality is being monitored closely in terms of current leftover locations, deployments, or any changes. We are taking all required actions on our parts," he said.

IAF Chief Bhadauria further said that the IAF is undergoing a transformation with the rapid infusion of niche technologies.

The Air Chief Marshal said, "IAF is undergoing a monumental transformation. Rapid infusion of niche technologies and combat power in every facet of our operations has never been as intense as it is now."

"This is primarily because of the unprecedented and rapidly evolving security challenges that we face, coupled with the rising geopolitical uncertainty in our neighbourhood and beyond," he added.

**“ IAF IS UNDERGOING A MONUMENTAL transformation. Rapid infusion of niche technologies and combat power in every facet of our operations has never been as intense as it is now.”**

## Bodies Buried Along Ganga: Plea Seeking Cremations Dismissed



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Allahabad: The Allahabad High Court on Friday dismissed a petition seeking directions to the state authorities to cremate buried along the Ganga.

A Bench of Chief Justice Sanjay Yadav and Justice Prakash Padia turned down the argument of the petitioner that it is the responsibility of state to perform cremation according to religious rites and dispose of the bodies buried near the Ganga at

different ghats in Allahabad.

The court observed, "Having gone through the entire petition, we are of the view that the petitioner has not done much research work in respect of rites and customs which are prevalent among various communities living along the bank of the river Ganga."

The court said the petitioner may file a fresh plea after thoroughly researching about practices of the communities along the Ganga.

## 16-Year-Old Girl Commits Suicide In Hyderabad; Upset Over Parents Scolding Her



AGENCEIS

Hyderabad: Upset over being scolded by her parents for spending a lot of time on her mobile phone, a 16-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide here, police said on Saturday.

The girl, who recently completed her 10th standard, left home on Friday night without informing her parents, after which they launched a search for her.

She went to a desolate spot,

poured kerosene over her body and set herself ablaze, police said.

Locals alerted the police after which they rushed to the spot today and found her mobile phone also nearby.

Police answered a call from her parents and asked them to identify the body, which they did.

A case under Section 174 of CrPc (police to enquire and report on suicide) was registered following a complaint by her father, they said. PTI

# India Abstains On UN General Assembly Resolution On Myanmar

AGENCEIS

UNITED NATIONS: India has abstained on a UN General Assembly resolution on Myanmar, saying its views have not been reflected in the draft and New Delhi does not believe the resolution, tabled hastily, is conducive to "aiding our joint efforts towards strengthening democratic process" in the country.

The UN General Assembly adopted the draft resolution "The situation in Myanmar" on Friday with 119 Member States voting in favour, including Myanmar while 36 nations abstained, including Myanmar's neighbours - India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Laos, Nepal and Thailand. Russia also abstained.

Belarus was the sole country voting against it.

"This resolution was tabled in the UN General Assembly in a hasty manner without adequate consultations with neighbours and regional countries. This is not only unhelpful but may also prove counter-productive to the efforts of the ASEAN to find a solution to the current situation in Myanmar," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador TS Tirumurti told PTI.

In the explanation of the vote in the General Assembly hall, Tirumurti said as Myanmar's immediate neighbour and close friend of its people, India is cognizant of the "serious impact of political instability" and the potential of its spillover beyond



Myanmar's borders.

India has been calling for greater engagement with the objective of peacefully resolving all issues.

"We already have such an ongoing initiative under the aegis of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations). It is important that we extend support to the ASEAN efforts," Mr Tirumurti said.

"During the discussions on this resolution, we had engaged in a spirit of finding a constructive and pragmatic way forward and had accordingly shared our suggestions to those who piloted this resolution," he said.

"However, we find that our views have not been reflected in the draft being considered for adoption today. We would like to

reiterate that a consultative and constructive approach involving the neighbouring countries and the region, remains important as the international community strives for the peaceful resolution of the issue," Mr Tirumurti said.

He emphasised that the fact that there is a lack of support from all neighbouring countries as well as several countries in the region itself "should, hopefully, serve as an eye-opener to those who chose to pursue a hasty course of action."

"We, therefore, do not believe that the tabling of this resolution for adoption at this juncture, is conducive to aiding our joint efforts towards strengthening the democratic process in Myanmar. We are therefore constrained to abstain," Mr Tirumurti said.

**“ WE, THEREFORE, DO NOT BELIEVE that the tabling of this resolution for adoption at this juncture, is conducive to aiding our joint efforts towards strengthening the democratic process in Myanmar. We are therefore constrained to abstain.”**

## Education Ministry Releases Guidelines For Parents To Facilitate Children's Home-Based Learning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Union Education Ministry on Saturday released guidelines for parents and caregivers on how to provide support to children and facilitate their home-based learning at a time when schools are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The guidelines emphasised the need for parents to create a safe, engaging and positive learning environment for children, have realistic expectations from them, take care of their health and ensure a healthy diet, and also have fun, a statement from the ministry said.

In a tweet, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said the 'Guidelines for parent participation in



home-based learning during school closure and beyond' have been drafted "for parents and caregivers to provide information on the 'why', 'what' and 'how-to' of participation in supporting children during school closure, irrespective of literacy levels".

"I strongly feel that a home is the first school and parents are the first teachers. In this pandemic, the role of parents is pivotal in the growth and learning of children," he tweeted.

These guidelines are meant not only for parents but also for

caregivers, other family members, grandparents, community members and older siblings engaged in promoting the welfare of children.

The activities suggested in the guidelines are in accordance with the various stages of school education under National Education Policy 2020, the statement by the ministry said.

Age-appropriate art activities have been categorized on basis of 5+3+3+4 system such as Foundation Stage (age 3 to 8 years); Preparatory Stage (age 8 to 11 years); Middle Stage (age 11 to 14 years); and secondary stage: From Adolescent to Adult (age 14-18 years).

The activities are simple and suggestive, which can be adapted and adopted to local needs and contexts. The guidelines appreciate the

role of art as a therapy for children under stress or trauma, the statement said.

"They (guidelines) also lay significance on improving children's learning by monitoring and addressing their learning gaps."

Collaboration of parents with teachers in documenting and reflecting on the progress of children in their learning is important for both teachers and parents, the statement by the Education Ministry said.

The guidelines also advise schools to involve parents by providing information and ideas on helping students with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, planning and involving them in school decisions, it said.

## Will Continue Fight Till Lakshadweep Gets Justice: Aisha Sultana



AGENCEIS

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Filmmaker Aisha Sultana, who was booked for sedition in Lakshadweep, on Saturday said she has not done anything against the country so far and would continue her fight till the islanders get justice.

She was talking to the media at the airport in Kochi before leaving to the archipelago to appear before the Kavaratti police for questioning on Sunday in connection with the case.

She said her advocate was also accompanying her and she would cooperate with the police.

"I believe that I will get justice as I have not done anything wrong.

My words were wrongly interpreted and I have already mentioned everything in detail in my recent Facebook post," Sultana said.

On her controversial usage of 'biological weapon' during a television discussion, she said all these controversies had happened based on that particular word.

"I have not done anything against the country. All these have happened over a word I uttered. So, it is my responsibility to prove that I have not done anything wrong. I will continue my fight till my land and people get justice," she added.

In a relief to Sultana, the Kerala High Court had on Thursday granted her interim anticipatory bail for a week,

**“ I HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING AGAINST THE COUNTRY.**

**All these have happened over a word I uttered. So, it is my responsibility to prove that I have not done anything wrong. I will continue my fight till my land and people get justice.”**

while reserving orders on her anticipatory bail application.

It had directed her to comply with the notice issued by Kavaratti police to appear before it for interrogation on June 20 in connection with the sedition case.

The allegation is that the filmmaker, while participating in a debate telecast by a Malayalam news channel on June 7, made an assertion that the Centre used 'biological weapon' against the people of Lakshadweep.

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