



P3 CITY

## FAMILY ALLEGES DOCTOR'S NEGLIGENCE IN BABY'S DEATH

A family from Hyderpora area of Srinagar has alleged negligence by a lady doctor, saying that her reluctance to attend the patient at appropriate time has resulted into the death of a baby in the...

P4 THINK

## THE CHILLING EFFECT OF PATENT RIGHTS ON COVID-19 VACCINES

The on-going dearth and undersupply of vaccines is the cumulative effect of a maximalist IP regime (patents, in this case) that gives its countenance to the system to manoeuvre monopoly rights to hegemonize...



P7 STATE

## GOVT TO IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR TRIBAL AREAS

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has initiated work on the launch of Integrated Village Development Scheme (IVDS) for tribal areas. The new scheme includes formulation of...



Quote!

More is lost by indecision than wrong decision.

—Marcus Tullius Cicero

### NEWS DIGEST

#### Lightning Strike Kills Soldier At LoC

**JAMMU:** An Army man was killed and two others suffered injuries when lightning struck a border area in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday, official sources said. Lightning struck at a forward area along the Line of Control (LoC) in Sawjian sector of Mandi belt in the early hours of Friday resulting in the death of a jawan and injuries to two others, they said. The injured have been hospitalised, they said, adding further details are awaited.

#### Infiltration Bid Foiled Along LoC: Police

**SRINAGAR:** Government forces on Friday claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district and recovered arms and drugs left behind by the infiltrators. According to police, an infiltration bid was foiled by cops, army's 7 RR and the personnel of BSF 87 battalion in Tangdhar sector along the LoC on Friday. "Recovered arms, ammunitions and drugs left behind by the infiltrators including one AK47, one Pistol, two grenades and other ammunition besides six packets of Heroin (market [● More On P6](#))

#### Teen Girl Drowns In Shopian Stream

**SRINAGAR:** In a tragic accident, a teenage girl on Friday drowned in a stream in south Kashmir's Shopian district. 14-year-old Mafrosha Mushtaq drowned in Nallah Vishow near her home in Reshinagari area of the district, reports said Friday. The locals, reports said, instantly started a rescue operation to save the girl. However, after hours of hectic efforts they recovered the lifeless body of the minor from the stream.

#### 4 Gamblers Held In Anantnag: Police

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Friday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Acting on specific information about gambling activities, cops from Police Post Bus Stand raided a gambling site near KP road and apprehended four gamblers, a police spokesperson said. Besides playing cards, he said, a cash of Rs 51400 were also recovered from the gamblers. "They have been arrested and shifted to the police station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 300/2021 [● More On P6](#)

## Mehbooba Vows Not To Fight Polls Till August Move Reversed



'There's So Much Of Oppression In J&K, People Unhappy; Suffocated' Observer Monitoring Desk

**NEW DELHI:** A day after attending all party meet convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President, Mehbooba Mufti said on

Friday that people in Jammu and Kashmir are "unhappy and feeling suffocated" and the ground situation is not what the BJP government was portraying to the world. The former Chief Minister of the erstwhile state said that she was not surprised when PM Modi called the meeting of political leaders of J&K on Thursday, NDTV reported Friday. "There is so much of oppression" in the region, [● More On P6](#)

#### Govt Putting Horse Behind Cart: Ex-FM Chides Govt

**Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Friday said it is bizarre that the government wants to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir first and grant statehood later. He said the Congress and other parties in Jammu and Kashmir [● More On P6](#)**

#### Modi's Meet With J&K Leaders A 'PR Exercise': Pak

**Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Friday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with top political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir as a "drama" and a "PR exercise". Modi held talks with top political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday and told them that the [● More On P6](#)**

**DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT** if the situation on ground was all hunky-dory, then the centre would have invited the Gupkar alliance for a talk? Things are clearly not how they intended it to be. They know that they need Gupkar to reach out to the people; hence they are now meeting us."

## Covid-19: J&K Sees 498 New Cases, 7 Deaths

Firdaus Ali

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 498 fresh cases of coronavirus while the deadly infection claimed lives of seven more people across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

While Kashmir Valley reported 289 new cases of infection on Friday, the remaining 209, officials said were confirmed from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of virus last year in J&K to 313974.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 82, Baramulla 35, Budgam 31, Pulwama 13, Kupwara 44, Anantnag 21, Bandipora 15, Ganderbal 16, Kulgam 29, Shopian 3, Jammu 10, Udhampur 9, Rajouri 11, Doda 25, Kathua 4, Samba 2, Kishtwar 19, Poonch 16, [● More On P6](#)

## Decline In Coronavirus Cases An Encouraging Sign: LG

Directs Officials To Ensure 100% Vaccination Of Priority Groups By June 30

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Terming the decline in coronavirus cases as an encouraging sign, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday directed officials to ensure 100% vaccination of priority groups by month-end.

Chairing a series of meetings with members of the Covid Task Force, Deputy Commissioners, and SPs to review Covid-19 situation in J&K, the LG directed the senior officials to act swiftly on utilizing the maximum capacity for testing and vaccination.

"The decline in Covid-19 cases are encouraging, however, the administration should remain extra careful and advise people to strictly follow the Covid-19 guidelines. We are still



witnessing a rise in active cases in certain areas where people are not following the Covid appropriate behaviour. District Administrations and Police Joint teams on the ground must urge people to follow the Covid rules besides imposing fine", the Lt Governor said, as per an official spokesperson.

Sinha, he said, directed the DCs, SPs, and Social welfare

department to extend assistance to Vulnerable Sections, Families, Health Workers, besides ensuring that the beneficiaries under SASCM should be provided with government benefits on priority.

"Save both Lives and Livelihoods through a robust mechanism on the ground. Ensure 100% Vaccination of Priority groups [● More On P6](#)

## 'He Was Fighting For His Family's Survival'

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** In the last 24 hours, Umer Nazir Bhat's brother has torn his three shirts in despair and distress.

The shattering act ceased when a relative gave him his slain sibling's T-shirt.

"The whole family was dependent on Umer," the family relative said. "I don't know how they will survive now!"

On Wednesday evening, Umer, 28, was shot inside his mobile shop in Srinagar's Habba Kadal area. He was immediately rushed to SMHS Hospital where the doctor declared him dead.

Following the incident, police registered a case under relevant sections of law. It was the third killing from the past week in Srinagar city.

"Despite assurances by the government, sadly the killings of civilians have not stopped. It is concerning and needs



immediate focus. JKNC condemns the barbaric killing of a local shopkeeper in Srinagar. A thorough time bound investigation must unmask the killers," National Conference said on Twitter.

A day after, in a rented accommodation in Zaldagar area of Srinagar, Umer's old father,

Nazir Bhat is endlessly looking at the front door waiting for his dead son to return home.

"What was his mistake," the father wondered and wailed. "He was a noble son fighting for his family's survival."

For the past eight months, Umer had been running a mobile phone shop [● More On P6](#)

## Farmers Hit Hard By FMD Outbreak In Kashmir

Vaccine Shortage Blamed For Cattle Deaths, Officials Pass the Buck

Auqib Javeed

**SRINAGAR:** The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) due to alleged inaction of authorities has consumed nearly 200 cattle, mostly sheep across several parts of the Kashmir Valley leading to strong resentment and anger among the farmers.

According to the farmers, the FMD outbreak among the domestic cattle has been reported in Bijbehara, Budgam, Bandipora and Baramulla areas, leaving close to 200 cattle, most of them sheep dead. Central Kashmir's Budgam district tops the list with 96 deaths due to FMD.

Mehraj-ud-din, a farmer from Central Kashmir's Budgam

told Kashmir Observer that his area witnessed 12 deaths of cow and sheep from the last ten days due to the disease.

"The Animal husbandry department failed to do the vaccination on time, as a result we could save the lives of our livestock," he said.

Mehraj says, the department used to do the vaccination in the month of March and April but this time they didn't have any vaccine.

"When we approached them for the vaccination, they categorically said they don't procure the vaccination yet," he said.

He further added that the department still doesn't have the vaccines. In June, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced free vaccination under National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) to control [● More On P6](#)

## Militant Killed In Shopian Gunfight: Police



Ajaz Ali

**SRINAGAR:** A local militant of Lashkar-e-Taiba was killed while his associate surrendered before the government forces during an encounter in

south Kashmir's Shopian district, police said Friday.

Acting on specific inputs about the presence of militants, police, army's 34 RR and CRPF laid a siege around Hanjipora village [● More On P6](#)

### Grenade Lobbed At Police Station

**M**ilitants on Friday lobbed a grenade towards Police Station Bijbehara in South Kashmir's Anantnag district; however no loss of life or injury was reported in the incident. Around 8:35 Friday, unidentified militants lobbed a grenade towards Police Station Bijbehara, which exploded without causing any damage, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anantnag Imtiyaz Hussain said. He said that the whole area has been cordoned off to nab the assailants.

### Anti-Militancy Ops To Be Intensified: DGP

**A**sserting that the number of militants active in Jammu and Kashmir has "decreased", DGP Dilbag Singh on Friday said measures will be intensified to strengthen the battle against militants and curb heinous activities of militants. Singh made the remarks after presiding over the attestation-cum-passing out parade of 604 trainee policemen at the police training centre at Reasi. "As compared to the past, there has been a decrease in the number of active militants (in Kashmir). In the coming days, the strength will be further reduced," Singh told reporters here. [● More On P6](#)

## Kashmir's Last 'Sadr-e-Riyasat' Seeks Statehood Before Polls

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Describing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with top political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir as a "very positive step", veteran Congress leader and former J&K governor Karan Singh on Friday said statehood must be restored before holding assembly polls there and asserted that such a move would go a long way in helping to "heal the wounds" of the people.

Singh, the son of Maharaja Hari Singh who signed the terms of Kashmir's accession in 1947, also said his personal opinion is that prima facie the revocation of special status

under Article 370 seems "irreversible" but asserted that the matter was before the Supreme Court and it must be decided by the top court.

In an interview with PTI, the last Sadr-e-Riyasat and first governor of the erstwhile state also demanded that the Centre must provide a "financial-cum-developmental package" to the people whose livelihoods were badly affected during the last two years following the Centre's move to bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories and revoke its special status.

His remarks come a day after Modi held talks with top political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir and told [● More On P6](#)

**SINGH ALSO LAMENTED THAT** it was a "strange irony" that his father signed the instrument of accession for the whole state and "today we are having to fight for statehood".

## Number Of Pak Militants In Kashmir Declining: Army

Press Trust of India

**SRINAGAR:** The number of Pakistani militants active in Kashmir has been dropping over the years due to several reasons like militancy financing watchdog FATF's pressure on Islamabad and these militants keeping a distance and working only as advisors, a senior Army officer said on Friday.

He said the neighbouring country's attempt to project the situation in the Valley as

an "indigenous freedom struggle" has also contributed to the decreased number of active Pakistani militants here.

"The Pakistani militants have been directed, since the last three to four years, to keep a distance and work as advisors. There are two sides to it. The first is that if a Pakistani militant is not killed, the complicity of our neighbouring country is seen less. They have pressure from Paris-based Financial Action Task Force [● More On P6](#)

### NIA Charges 7 Militants In Arms Case

**T**he National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday said it has filed a charge sheet against seven militants of the Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM) who were "smuggling" arms and [● More On P6](#)





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زوفتار نائب تحصیلدار کریری

درخواست منجانب: وحید احمد میر ولد محمد رمضان میر ساکنہ؛ کریری:

حصول نسبت: DP:

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کارڈی ہے اس سلسلے میں پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ وحید احمد میر ولد محمد رمضان میر ساکنہ؛ کریری محلہ پولیس میں ملازمت کرتا تھا۔ افراد کنبہ بذیل ہے

- 1: محمد رمضان میر عمر رسیدہ 65
- 2: سارہ بیگم عمر رسیدہ 65
- 3: تیسرہ بیگم گھریلو کام 34
- 4: تنزیلہ وحید زیر تعلیم 8
- 5: عنایہ وحید زیر تعلیم 6
- 6: عیلمین وحید زیر تعلیم 4
- 7: غلام نبی میر ناتوان 33
- 8: تجاز احمد میر ناتوان 30
- 9: روف احمد میر ناتوان 25

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں اندر سات یوم پیش کریں بعد معیاد گذر کوئی اعتراض وغیرہ قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار azz

زوفتار نائب تحصیلدار تلہ گام

درخواست منجانب: فیاض احمد میر ولد غلام قادر میر ساکنہ؛ ملک پورہ: حصول نسبت: RBA: بکن عربی فیاض و فرحانہ فیاض:

اشتیہار بمراۓ آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کارڈی ہے اس سلسلے میں پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضوع: ملک پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

- 1: فیاض احمد میر زمینداری 45 سال
- 2: تصلیہ بیگم وکرکر 44
- 3: عربی فیاض زیر تعلیم 15
- 4: فرحانہ فیاض زیر تعلیم 16

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنبہ نہیں ہے سائل کے کنبہ کی ماہوارہ آمدنی 9500 ہے سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے معیاد گذر نہ ہو کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار azz

ازوفتار نائب تحصیلدار رنگ مرگ

درخواست منجانب: اشفاق احمد لون و امتیاز احمد لون اولادان بشیر احمد لون ساکنہ:

ھر نوک چک: حصول نسبت: بیگ و RBA: .

تحت SRO 294

اشتیہار بمراۓ آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کارڈی ہے اس سلسلے میں پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضوع: ھر نوک چک میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

- 1: بشیر احمد لون؛ ملازم؛ 54 سال
- 2: مفتی بیگم؛ گھریلو کام 50
- 3: اشفاق احمد لون؛ زیر تعلیم 28
- 4: امتیاز احمد لون؛ زیر تعلیم 26
- 5: عاصف بشیر زیر تعلیم 20
- 6: دانش بشیر؛ زیر تعلیم 17

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنبہ نہیں ہے سائل کے کنبہ کی ماہوارہ آمدنی 56539 ہے سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے معیاد گذر نہ ہو کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار azz

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ساگام

مضمون درخواست منجانب: بشارت بشیر و راغب بشیر پسران بشیر احمد وانی

ساکنہ موضع گیری پورہ ماگامرا ادعلا بگی RBA تحت SRO 294

اشتیہار بمراۓ آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کارڈی ہے اس سلسلے میں پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضوع: گیری پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

- بشیر احمد ولد عبدالرحمان وانی ریٹائر ملازم 60 سال سربرہ کمرہ
- حفیظ بیگم زوجہ بشیر احمد گھریلو کام 50 سال
- بشارت بشیر زمینداری 20 سال
- طاہرہ بیگم زوجہ بشارت گھریلو کام 27 سال
- مہوش دفتر بشارت زیر تعلیم 06 سال
- بنت السلام دفتر بشارت شیرخوار 02 سال
- راغب بشیر پسر بشیر احمد زیر تعلیم 24 سال
- دانش احمد پسر بشیر احمد زیر تعلیم 17 سال

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنبہ نہیں ہے سائل کے کنبہ کی ماہوارہ آمدنی 21856 ہے سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے معیاد گذر نہ ہو کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار sult

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ساگام

مضمون درخواست منجانب: عاقب جمیل گنائی و جمیلہ جمیلہ اولادان عبدال جمیل گنائی ساکنہ بدو ضلع انتہ ناگ

بمراۓ عطا ئی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

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

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	عبدل جمیل ولد احمد گنائی	50 سال	مزدوری	
02	عظیظہ زوجہ عبدل جمیل	48 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	عاقب جمیل ولد عبدل جمیل	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	شیبہ جمیل دفتر عبدل جمیل	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اسطور کنبہ 14 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معدو جوبات پیش کرے۔ میعاد گذر نہ ہو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ساگام

مضمون درخواست منجانب: طاہرہ مصعو دو بیہ ارسلان احمد اولادان بیہ مصعو و احمد ساکنہ بدو ضلع انتہ ناگ

بمراۓ عطا ئی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

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

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	بیہ مصعو و احمد ولد بیہ محمد یوسف	55 سال	مزدوری	
02	مسماۃ نصرین زوجہ بیہ مصعو و احمد	45 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	طاہرہ مصعو دختر بیہ مصعو و احمد	24 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	بیہ ارسلان احمد ولد بیہ مصعو و احمد	21 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اسطور کنبہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معدو جوبات پیش کرے۔ میعاد گذر نہ ہو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ساگام

مضمون درخواست منجانب: لبنہ جان و روف احمد شاہ اولدان گل محمد شاہ ساکنہ دھال ضلع انتہ ناگ

بمراۓ عطا ئی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

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

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	گل محمد شاہ ولد محمد حسن شاہ	50 سال	مزدوری	
02	مسماۃ نسیمہ زوجہ گل محمد شاہ	48 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	لبنہ جان دختر گل محمد شاہ	17 سال		
04	روف احمد شاہ ولد گل محمد شاہ	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	منیب احمد شاہ ولد گل محمد شاہ	14 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اسطور کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معدو جوبات پیش کرے۔ میعاد گذر نہ ہو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار RNA

## INDO - TIBETAN BORDER POLICE FORCE

### AUCTION NOTICE

Commandant, 21st Bn ITB Police Force (MHA/Govt, of India), Panthachowk, Srinagar (J&K) will organize public auction, of condemned e-waste (Computer/Printer/UPS etc.) & Burnt Oil on "as is where is" basis at 1100 hrs on dated 22.07.21 at 21st BN ITB Police Force, Panthachowk, Srinagar, (J&K). List of store is also available at ITBP website www.itbp.gov.in. The items will be released to the highest bidder on depositing full amount of the Stores at the spot with Sale Tax admissible in the stores. All bidders will be required to deposit Rs. 10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) as earnest money in the shape of Hard Cash before the auction and earnest money will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders at the spot.

The undersigned reserve the right to accept/reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Commandant  
21 BN ITB POLICE

davp /19112/11/0035/2122

## Sad Demise

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Ghulam Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohammad Ramzan Bhat R/o Miashah Sahib Rainawari Srinagar. He left heavenly abode on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (Thursday). The congregational Fateha Khawani shall be observed on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (Saturday) 10:00 am at the graveyard Zindshah Masjid Rainawari Srinagar. May Almighty Allah grant Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul. All are requested to recite Dua-e-Migfirat for the departed soul.



media line ads

**Bereaved**  
**Aijaz Ahmad Bhat (son)**  
**9906574544**

## J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD,

Hema Complex, Adjacent to Gauri Shanker Mandir,  
Channi Himmat, Sect 03, Jammu.  
(www.jkssb.nic.in)  
Notification

Subject: Provisional Shortlisting of candidates for Posts of Class IV( Various Departments), UT, Divisional Cadre Jammu/Kashmir and Various district Cadres, Advertised Vide Advertisement Notice No 01 of 2020 dated 26-06-2020.

1. (i) Whereas, the General Administration Department (Indenting Department) vide No. GAD/Mtg/RB-IV/50/2020 Dated 22-06-2020 forwarded the indent for making recruitment to 8575 Class-IV posts relating to various departments in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Appointment to Class-IV (Special Recruitment) Rules, 2020 notified vide S.O. 184 of 04-06-2020 read with S.O 193 dated 17-06-2020; and

(ii) Whereas, S.O 184 of 04-06-2020 read with SRO 99 of 2008 dated 07-04-2008, envisages that the Minimum and Maximum qualification for appointment to Class-IV posts under Direct Recruitment shall be:- "Minimum Matric and Maximum 10+2 "; and

(iii) Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) vide Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2020 dated 26.06.2020, issued advertisement for 8575 District/Divisional/Union Territory Cadre posts of Class-IV belonging to various Department under provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Appointment to Class-IV (Special Recruitment) Rules, 2020; and

(iv) Whereas, the aforesaid Advertisement Notification prescribed the terms and conditions for making appointment to these Class-IV posts which, inter-alia, laid down that:

" 6. **Appointment of the candidates** (i) The selections under this advertisement notification shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Appointment to Class IV (Special Recruitment) Rules, 2020 as notified vide S.O. 184 of 04.06.2020 read with S.O. 193 dated: 17.06.2020.

### 7. Qualifications Required:-

As per S.O. 184 of 04.06.2020 read with SRO 99 of 2008 dated: 07.04.2008, the Minimum and Maximum qualification for appointment to Class-IV posts under Direct Recruitment shall be "Minimum Matric and maximum 10+2 ".

(iii) Any candidate having his/her qualification other than prescribed shall not be eligible for Class-IV posts."

(v) Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), conducted OMR based Objective type Written Test Examination for aforesaid Class-IV posts (Different Departments), belonging to UT, Divisional Cadre Jammu/Kashmir and various District Cadres, in three batches on 27th, 28th February, 2021 and 01st March 2021; and

(vi) Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board vide Notification No SSB/Secy/Sel/Class- IV/2021/3951-59 dated 25-05-2021 notified the tentative merit/result of the candidates, who appeared in the OMR Based Written Test conducted for the aforementioned posts.

2. Now, therefore:-

- i. The candidates figuring in Annexure "A to W" to this notice have been provisionally shortlisted in the ratio of 1:4 for Counselling-cum Document Verification on the basis of final score/merit i.e (Written Test + additional points as per SO 184 dated 04-06-2020) calculated on the basis of information furnished by the candidates at the time of filling of application form. It may be noted that mere figuring in Provisional shortlist will not entitle any candidates to be included in the Selection List/Wait List.
- ii. The candidates figuring in the Provisional Shortlist be called, in the numbers as will be deemed necessary, to appear before the Counselling Cum Document Verification Committee, **on the dates which shall be notified, separately**, by the J&K Services Selection Board, with the following documents in **original:-**
  - a) Copy of Online Application form.
  - b) D.O.B Certificate (10th Diploma / Marks card).
  - c) Reservation category certificate, if applicable.
  - d) Domicile certificate.
  - e) 10+2 Marks sheet / Diploma.
  - f) Other documents as per the advertisement.
  - g) Certificate/Documents on formats to be prescribed, in case additional points have been assigned to the candidates as per SO 184 dated 04-06-2020. If candidates claimed /failed to produce

the document/certificate in support of his/her claim for additional weightage/points, the Board shall deduct additional weightage /points from his/her merit and make corresponding changes in the final shortlist with out any further notice.

- h) In case of candidates claiming possession of equivalent educational qualification, it shall be mandatory to produce relevant Equivalence Certificate from the concerned authorities at the time of Document Verification.
- i) An Undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit to the effect that:
  - (a) He/she is possessing the minimum qualification of Matric and Maximum of 10+2 and he/she is not possessing the higher qualification than that is prescribed for the post.
  - (b) If at any stage of the selection or later on, it has been found that he/she is possessing the higher qualification than that is prescribed for the post, than his/her candidature shall be cancelled ab-initio, without service of any notice to him/her and he/she shall have no claim for the post.

iii. Additionally, the candidates are also required to produce a self-attested photocopy of each document/certificate/Online application form on the day of Counselling –cum Document Verification.

iv. Candidates are figuring in reserved categories, purely on the basis of details they have incorporated in their data **i.e. online application form**. Their respective claims on this account are further subject to production of valid reserved category certificate at the time of Counselling-Cum Document Verification, in addition to the normal process of verification indicated at para 02(ii).

v. The shortlisting and subsequent selection shall be subject to outcome of any writ petition(s), if any, pending before the competent Court of Law.

vi. **The shortlisting of the candidates under Persons with Disabilities (PwD) categories shall be notified separately.**

By order.

DIPK-3492/21

No. SSB/Secy/Sel/Class-IV/2021/4621-28

Sd/-  
Secretary,  
J&K Services Selection Board,  
Jammu.

Dated:- 23.06.2021





**HEAVENLY HIGHLAND:** Far from the madding crowd, lockdown-weary Kashmiris are arriving in Tosa Maidan to feel the meditative calm. KO Photo Abid Bhat

# UP Juvenile Among Six Arrested For Robberies In Srinagar

Five Theft Cases Solved, Six Accused Arrested



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Police in Srinagar Friday said it arrested three juveniles among six others involved in a number of theft cases and also claimed to have recovered stolen property from their possession.

A police spokesperson, in a

statement, said that police officers of Shaheed Gunj Police Station arrested three juvenile's and recovered three Scooties, one Bike and a Maruti car along with a bunch of keys and other equipments used in the commission of crimes.

Out of three juvenile's one is resident of UP who is expert in

making duplicate keys.

All the juveniles have been sent to juvenile home on remand, by a local court.

"In this regard, cases vide FIR numbers 65/2021, 66/2021 and 69/2021 under relevant section of laws already have been registered in Police Station Shaheed Gunj."

Similarly, the spokesperson said that Police solved a theft case under FIR No 73/2021 of PS Shaheed Gunj in which cash amount of 4 lakh was stolen from a vehicle at Old Secretariat Srinagar.

Police have arrested one accused person from Lawaypora who was involved in the commission of crime and have recovered stolen amount from his possession.

"Moreover, during the investigation of case FIR No. 67/2021 of PS Shaheed Gunj, Police have arrested two accused persons and have recovered cash amount of 52000/- from their possession."

# GMC Srinagar Holds Webinar On 'Addictive Disorders In Contemporary Times'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Government Medical College Srinagar, Friday conducted a webinar on the eve of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking.

The title of the webinar was "Addictive disorders in contemporary times- Biological view."

Faculty from different prestigious institutions spoke on different topics revolving around the theme of drug abuse.

Prof. Vivek Benegal a faculty from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore spoke about "ADHD and Opioid Use Disorders: The connecting link, this session was very informative and opened a new horizon of opioid use disorder and management.

Prof. Atul Ambekar from National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi spoke in detail about "OST: Evi-

dence for its effectiveness in opioid use disorders."

Prof. Venkata Lakshmi Narasimha from All India Institute of Medical Science, Deoghar spoke on the rampant use of tapentadol in the country and the challenges it brings to the community at large.

Prof. Yasir Hassan Rather from the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences- Kashmir spoke about the alarming phenomenon of IV drug use in Kashmir and reiterated the need for addressing this menace right today before it gets really out of control.

Dr Fazl-e- Roub from IMHANS-K spoke at length about the medical complications of opioid use disorders including parallel epidemic of hepatitis C.

Prof Mushtaq Margoob chairing a session discussed in detail about tackling the vulnerabilities in Kids to fight problem of addiction. Dr Zaid A Wani and Dr Abdul Majid Chairred the sessions and stressed on need to increase knowledge base in addiction.

# Hazratbal Resident Dies In Ramban Road Accident

Observer News Service

**BANIHAL:** A 34-year-old man hailing from Hazratbal area of Srinagar slipped to death on the Srinagar-Jammu highway at Monkey Morh in Ramban district after he went down his vehicle to relieve himself.

Reports said that Bilal Ahmad Dar, son of Ghulam Nabi Dar a resident of Dhoobi Ghat locality in Hazratbal was travelling in a cab bearing registration no. JK-01T/ 5547.

They said that Dar came out of the vehicle to relieve himself, but slipped and fell into a gorge.

Soon after the incident, Ramban Police, Quick Response Team (QRT) and local Traffic Police reached the spot and started a rescue operation, however Dar was retrieved dead from the gorge, officials said.

Dar's identification could be verified from the identity card he carried with him.

# Will Turn Cluster University Into A High Ranking Institution: VC

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Professor Dr. Qayyum Husain Friday shared in detail his vision and mission of taking the Cluster University Srinagar to its zenith by integrating, in letter and spirit, the five constituent colleges, and turning the university into a high-ranking institution of higher education.

He visited Amar Singh College and interacted with the Heads of various departments and the teaching faculty of the college.

The day long visit was second of its kind to the constituent colleges of the Cluster University Srinagar, the first being the visit to S.P.College Srinagar on 14th June 202.

Vice Chancellor assured the principal, faculty and students of Amar Singh College that with their support, cooperation and committed efforts, Cluster



University Srinagar shall see an overall and systematic progress and development not just in terms of academics, but also research, sports activities, placements, and co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

The Vice Chancellor during the interactive session, took detailed overview of the various departments and the programmes being offered by the college and also discussed the prospects of introducing PG centres, skill development and employment generation courses in various constituent colleges as per the National Education Policy 2020.

# Family Alleges Doctor's Negligence In Baby's Death



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A family from Hyderabad area of Srinagar has alleged negligence by a lady doctor, saying that her reluctance to attend the patient at appropriate time has resulted into the death of a baby in the mother's womb.

Sajid Zargar, the woman's husband said that on June 20, his wife noticed less movement of a baby in her womb following which they visited Ramzana hospital where USG and some other tests were conducted.

"We were advised by everyone including the Radiologists to ensure that the delivery is done at earliest because the situation of the baby was very critical," he said, adding that they pleaded Dr Shahida Mir, for conducting surgery, who claimed that the surgery is not being carried out in 35th week of pregnancy.

"She asked to administer a steroid injection to the patient on June 20. However, in the intervening night of June 20-21, the junior doctors on duty who were monitoring fetal rate on hourly basis found zero fetal rate of the baby, the baby was dead.

He said that the doctor later visited the hospital after the death of the baby in the night, but that was of no use. "We pleaded with her to visit the hospital in the afternoon, but she didn't," he said.

Despite repeated attempts, Dr Shahida Mir couldn't be contacted for the comments—(Agencies)

# KU Condoles Demise Of Prof Shah Manzoor Alam

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Department of Geography & Disaster Management, University of Kashmir, organised a virtual condolence meet to mourn the demise of Prof Shah Manzoor Alam, renowned geographer and former Vice-Chancellor of the varsity, who passed away in Hyderabad on June 22.

The meeting was attended by geographers and academicians from different parts of the country, apart from faculty members, non-teaching staff, research scholars and students from the University of Kashmir.

Prof Mehraj-ud-Din Mir, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir, while recalling his association with Prof Alam, described him as an able administrator who contributed immensely to the growth and development of the University



of Kashmir.

Prof Shamim Ahmad Shah, Head, Department of Geography & Disaster Management paid rich tributes to Prof Alam who, he said, not only made significant contribution in geographical studies but also left an indelible mark in the annals of Kashmir University as its VC.

Prof Rubab, daughter of late Prof Shah Manzoor Alam talked about her father's association with Kashmir and thanked the department and participants for the condolences. The meeting concluded with 'Fetha Khawani' by Tariq Abdullah Khawar.

# SKIMS Sets Up Toy Library In Paediatric Oncology Ward

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) has set up a toy library for children who are cancer patients.

The idea behind setting up this library is to make children happy while they are undergoing cancer treatment.

The room encourages children to walk and play with toys which make doctors easy to deal with paediatric cancer patients.

The initiative was taken a few months ago in collaboration with Hasbro India and Nargis Dutt Foundation. "The motive of setting up this library is – children admitted in the ward get depressed or bored or they think about their medical condition," Dr Faisal Guru, Paediatric Oncologist said.

He added that it is traumatic for parents too.

"So we decided to come up with an idea where they will get a feeling that they are free from this malignant condition. So we want to give them a good environment and feeling to create positivity," he said.

# Govt Upgrades Srinagar Silk Factory With Latest Machinery

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration has upgraded the building and machinery at the old silk factory in Srinagar which were damaged by floods.

The factory building and the machinery got damaged due to the floods in 2014, which subsequently affected silk production. Seeing the situation, the World Bank funded the upgradation initiative by the administration.

Presently, silk production has increased multifold and done away with the hardships of the weavers to frequently repair the machines.

The employees at the factor appreciated the thoughtful step taken by the administration as handling new machinery with latest technology has reduced physical work and given a boost to the quantity of silk produced at the factory.

Javid Shah, an employee at



the factory, said, "Our old machines were damaged because of the floods and we did not enjoy working there. Here we have new machines which are working smoothly. Our productivity has also increased and we enjoy working here."

"It is a good initiative taken by the administration," said another employee, Mehmooda, adding that the production

cleaner and production will definitely increase. With the digital machines, it will give the weavers much needed rest," he said.

Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Commissioner Secretary of Industries and Commerce in the union territory said, "Because of the floods, machines got severely damaged and people at the factory faced a lot of hardships. The renovation was much needed. The richness and variety in the work of artisans of Kashmiri weavers are commendable."

He further said that the Centre provided funds of about Rs 30,000 crore directly, which will be used for generating employment.

"Such a scheme has not been given to any other state before," Thakur stressed.

By establishing technologically advanced machinery, silk production has got a new lease of life in Srinagar. (Agencies)

## 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

- 363 - Roman Emperor Julian is killed during retreat from the Sassanid Empire. General Jovian is proclaimed Emperor by troops on the battlefield.
- 684 - St Benedict II begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1409 - Council of Pisa selects Petros Philargi as 3rd Pope: Alexander V
- 1483 - Duke of Gloucester succeeds as King Richard III of England after Parliament declared Edward V illegitimate
- 1498 - Toothbrush invented in China using boar bristles
- 1630 - Swedish troops under Gustaf II Adolf lands at Peenemunde
- 1714- Spain & Netherlands sign peace/trade agreement
- 1794- Battle of Fleurus: major victory by forces of the First French Republic under General Jean-Baptiste Jourdan over the Coalition Army (Great Britain, Hanover, Dutch Republic, and Habsburgs) first use of reconnaissance balloon
- 1843- Hong Kong proclaimed a British Crown Colony.
- 1879- Ismael Pasha resigns as khedive of Egypt
- 1894- Karl Benz of Germany receives US patent for gasoline-driven auto
- 1900- Japan mobilizes 20,000 troops to help put down the Boxer uprising - but also advance long-term interest in gaining land and power in mainland Asia
- 1900- The Russian Tsar orders that Russian must be the official language of Finland, despite growing unrest within Finland and increasing international concern over Russia's behavior there
- 1902- Aga Khan III is appointed Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire
- 1911- Nieuport sets an aircraft speed record of 83 mph (133 kph)
- 1914-The Indian Relief Act, passes after a protracted period of Passive Resistance led by Gandhi; it abolishes a £3 tax imposed on Indians who had not renewed their indentures and recognizes "the validity of Indian customary marriages"
- 1917- 1st US Expeditionary Force arrive in France during WW I
- 1924- After 8 years of occupation, US troops leave Dominican Republic
- 1927- Comet 7P/Pons-Winnecke approaches within 0.0394 AUs of Earth
- 1934- Germany & Poland sign non-aggression treaty
- 1941- Finland enters WW II against Russia
- 1945- United Nations Charter signed by 50 nations in San Francisco
- 1960- Madagascar (formerly Malagasy Rep) declares independence from France
- 1974- The Universal Product Code is scanned for the first time to sell a package of Wrigley's chewing gum at the Marsh Supermarket in Troy, Ohio
- 1975- Indian PM Indira Gandhi declares a state of emergency
- 1978- First dedicated oceanographic satellite, SEASAT 1, launched
- 1992- India leases Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh
- 1993 -The U.S. launches a cruise missile attack targeting Baghdad intelligence headquarters in retaliation for a thwarted assassination attempt against former President George H.W. Bush in April in Kuwait.
- 1994- PLO leader Yasser Arafat returns to Gaza after 27 years
- 1995 - Gunmen ambush Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who escapes unharmed
- 1995 - Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani deposes his father Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, in a bloodless coup.
- 1997 - Galileo, Ganymede Observations (Orbit 9)
- 1997 - The U.S. Supreme Court upholds doctor-assisted suicide ban
- 2013 - 20 people are killed after a rescue helicopter crashes in Uttarakhand
- 2013 - Kevin Rudd defeats Julia Gillard in a leadership battle to become Australian Prime Minister
- 2014 Luis Suárez is expelled from the 2014 FIFA World Cup following his biting incident
- 2014 - Following the military coup in Thailand, people are warned that anyone calling for protest on social media will be prosecuted for sedition
- 2014 NBA Draft: Kansas small forward Andrew Wiggins first pick by Cleveland Cavaliers
- 2015 - US Supreme Court rules 5-4 same-sex marriage is a legal right across all US states

## From KO Archives

## Kashmir Talks Progressing Well, Says Musharraf

**ISLAMABAD** - Observing that the Indo-Pak peace was "proceeding well" and there was harmony" between the leadership of both the countries, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf today said his country sees "light at the end of the tunnel" on efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue.

"It is proceeding well. We have made progress. There is understanding and there is harmony between the leadership that is best. There are good intentions on both sides to resolve dispute peacefully," he said referring to talks on the Kashmir issue.

"We are moving forward and flexibility is shown by both sides, which is a good omen. Therefore we see light at the end of the tunnel," he told reporters before emplaning on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

Musharraf said he planned to discuss the Palestinian issue with the leaders of Saudi Arabia.

"When we talk of regional issues, the most important issue is the Palestinian dispute. We would like discuss and coordinate our stand on this," he said.

(Kashmir Observer, 26 June, 2005)



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### NO HOLDS BARRED



Traditionally, Pakistan has been averse to talking about Afghan developments with India. It desires that India's role be curtailed to the economic sphere only. This point has been recently reiterated by Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. It is also reported that it has been advising the Taliban against meaningful contacts with India at a time when Delhi is showing interest in talking to them

# The Chilling Effect of Patent Rights on COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaidushya Parth

**To assert patent rights over scientific innovations resulting from the collective processes and majorly public funding to command the pace and price of production is the motive that underscores the stated maximalist IP regime, acting as a chilling effect on the public good and access to healthcare and medicine**

The on-going dearth and undersupply of vaccines is the cumulative effect of a maximalist IP regime (patents, in this case) that gives its countenance to the system to manoeuvre monopoly rights to hegemonize the pace and production of the pharmaceuticals (vaccines). The result is a chilling effect on the mass production of the vaccines, followed by a major health and economic crisis. "The ability of a handful of powerful companies ... to claim property rights over innovations resulting from the collective processes of modern science, and to use those rights to control the pace of manufacture and thus the price of pharmaceutical products, is not an unfortunate side effect of this system but its goal," Anne Orford, a professor, wrote recently.

This principle of IP rights maximisation perturbed me for a reason, that the principal objective, that of providing access to healthcare (in this case, the vaccine) to the maximum people, appears to be so low down the priority in the current IP regime.

#### Factual Premise

When I posed the question why, one of the responses that appeared before me was the "Tragedy of the Anticommons". Its definition, simplified, is: "[It] is a type of coordination breakdown, in which a single resource has numerous right-holders who prevent others from using it, frustrating what would be a socially desirable outcome."

What is at issue here is the content of the right to health under Article 21 of the Indian constitution. The Spicy IP blog, in a chain of posts, has discussed IP and political facet of this issue. I, on the other hand, intend to highlight some constitutional concerns based on factual premises.

To begin with, I embark on two premises: the first premise being that under the present IP regime, accessibility of vaccines is an affair of consequential ordeal for an uncommon number of people. The claim, of course, is subject to proof, which would require a detailed number of variables and indicators; for the sake of argument, let us have it as given. Of course, if the argument fails, the premise, inevitably, recedes.

As to the second premise, maintaining Anne Orford's observation, to assert patent rights over scientific innovations resulting from the collective processes and majorly public funding to command the pace and price of production is the motive that underscores the stated maximalist IP regime, acting as a chilling effect on the public good and access to healthcare and medicine.

#### Constitutional Argument

The philosophy of constitutional law in India, or elsewhere, assumes that all laws and legislations



Sanjay Kanojia/AFP via Getty Images

must be in consonance with the text and spirit of the Constitution. Therefore, the argument runs as follows: the inaccessibility of the healthcare resources (vaccines, in this case), which is the result of the patently wrong regime of intellectual property, shall be tested on the touchstone of the constitutional text, based upon the constitutional right to health. That is to make clear that "The Constitution of India," Senior Advocate Shyam Divan submitted before the Supreme Court in the Aadhaar case, "is not a Charter of Servitude."

The idea that underpins the constitutionalisation of intellectual property laws is the act of balancing the two competing interests, that of the right of inventor and the interest of the greater good of the public – in this case, the right to access to medicine.

Therefore, as far as the basic human rights are concerned – such as the right to free speech and access to medicines – the intellectual property rights must pass the litmus test of the constitutional text and its purpose.

#### Statutory Response: The case of Compulsory Licensing

There are, nevertheless, some connatural excep-

tions such as compulsory licensing, ingrained in the existing IP regime. Briefly, when a government calls for a compulsory license, it accords permission to a company to manufacture an innovation without seeking laissez-passier from the patent holder.

The government today is morally bound to invoke the process of compulsory licensing to protect the people's right to health, at a time where vaccines' production are being hampered because of the various IP obligations. Conversely, the constitutional courts too are duty bound as a sentinel to protect the right of people which is guaranteed against the State.

The Central government's stand, however, on this issue is hypocritical. On one front, they are asking for a global vaccine patent waiver; on the other front, they're against discussing this issue at home. Whether the issue is taken up by the Court in future is yet to be seen.

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

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## The Neighbourhood Factor In J&K Talks

Vivek Katju

It is ironic that the mainstream political leadership of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, which was most strongly derided and incarcerated by the ruling dispensation in the wake of the constitutional changes of August 5, 2019, has been invited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate the political process in the Union territory – the talks were held on Thursday. This development concerns only Indian politics, just as the constitutional changes were within India's domestic jurisdiction. However, J&K has an external dimension from India's viewpoint because of Pakistan's illegal and forcible control over Indian territory. Pakistan considers J&K as disputed and irrationally went all out to build international opinion against the constitutional developments but with practically no success. At the same time, there was disquiet, even if muted, in some global quarters at the administrative steps that accompanied the constitutional changes.

In sum, therefore, Modi's step to talk to the mainstream political players of J&K will attract favourable attention in the West and will be welcomed by the Biden administration. More importantly, the point for consideration is if it is a part of the quiet and out-of-sight contacts between India and Pakistan which resulted in the February ceasefire along the Line of Control and the international

border in J&K. The ceasefire has held and it would seem that infiltration levels are down. Further, while both countries have been reiterating their known positions on long-standing as well as current issues, both governments are taking care to tone down the rhetoric. Particularly significant is that Pakistan Prime

While there have been no indications in the Indian media on the substance of current Indian-Pakistani contacts, there have been reports based on leaks in the Pakistani press. Some of these indicate that the pro-contact elements in the Pakistani army, including army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, and Imran Khan want India to take some steps in J&K to show to their critics – and there is disquiet in sections of the army as well as the political class – that their endeavours with India are yielding results. At a minimum, they want the restoration of statehood to J&K and an indication that India has no intention to change the demographic character of the Kashmir Valley. The question is if this would be enough for them to override the objections of the critics to reverse some of the steps they took in the wake of the constitutional changes. Obviously, pro-contact elements would be aware that there cannot be a return to the status-quo-ante.

The Modi's government's preferred option is for Pakistan to turn its back on terrorism. Unless Pakistan does so, it is impossible for a peaceful and stable

relationship to be established. The current ceasefire along the LOC and the border in J&K is important for it has brought relief to those living in border areas and led to a fall in infiltration levels too. But as army chief General M M Naravane recently said, there is no indication that Pakistan is winding up the infrastructure of terror. It does not appear that this will stand in the way of the Modi government agreeing to a return to the bilateral India-Pakistan situ-

**What may, therefore, take place in the coming months, if not earlier, is a return of high commissioners and the restoration of some elements of bilateral trade. There may also be movement on restoring visits to the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara and an easing in some areas of visa restrictions. The restoration of sporting contacts may be more difficult, for they arouse passions that both governments may wish to avoid**

ation that existed prior to August 5, 2019.

What may, therefore, take place in the coming months, if not earlier, is a return of high commissioners and the restoration of some elements of bilateral trade. There may also be movement on restoring visits to the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara and an easing in some areas of visa restrictions. The restoration of sporting contacts may be more difficult, for they arouse passions that both governments may wish to avoid. Certainly, it would be extremely difficult for Modi to think of the resumption of a structured dialogue as long as Pakistan holds on to the instrument of terror. For Bajwa and Imran Khan, the absence of a reversal of all steps taken on August 5, 2019 will invite the charge of a complete sell-out to India, which neither can afford.

While bilateral issues are under discussion in the quiet conversations between the two sides, it is not known if they are also focussing on the Afghanistan situation. Traditionally, Pakistan has been averse to talking about Afghan developments with India. It desires that India's role be curtailed to the economic sphere only. This point has been recently reiterated by Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. It is also reported that it has been advising the Taliban against meaningful contacts with India at a time when Delhi is showing interest in talking to them. It is a different matter that Indian diplomacy was truly flat-footed on openly holding talks with the Tali-

ban, even when the group was gaining global legitimacy. It is also known that it was signalling its interest in contact with India but at that stage, Delhi was rigidly glued to President Ashraf Ghani. A cruel price has always to be paid for diplomatic obduracy.

Pakistan is currently riding high on Afghanistan. It is a crucial player in the unfolding Afghan situation and it clearly wants the Taliban to be in the driver's seat in Kabul. It certainly does not wish for a return to the 1990s situation for that may destabilise the arrangements it has made in the erstwhile Federally Administered Territories (FATA), which have been amalgamated with the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province as well as Balochistan, which is restless as it is. It would be prudent for Pakistan to look at Afghanistan with fresh eyes, especially if, as Bajwa said, it is giving priority to geo-economics. If that were the case, it should seek to reach out to India on Afghanistan and recognise that this country has major security and economic interests there. It should not forget that all Afghans want their country to have good ties with India. That said, there is no indication that there is any fresh thinking in Rawalpindi on India's role in Afghanistan.

Some movement on India-Pakistan ties is on the anvil but not a change in its basic postulates.

The Indian Express



# In This Together – Vaccination Experiences From the Valley

Dania Sheikh

“I had no qualms about the vaccine, as a doctor, I’m aware of how imperative it is to get vaccinated, so I went for it and that too on my birthday. Some of my colleagues did try to change my mind but I had made up my mind and was eager to get it done as soon as possible and I think I did the right thing.”

Vaccines are our beacon of hope to bring back some semblance of our previous ways of living. Getting fully vaccinated doesn’t make us invincible but it offers adequate protection to combat the life-threatening risks posed by this deadly coronavirus that has plagued the entire world and altered our lives completely. The chances of contracting the virus after getting fully vaccinated are reduced substantially and the severity of the disease and the fatalities are minimized to a great extent. Several health professionals from around the world have underscored the need to ramp up the vaccination process to halt the rampant spread of the virus and the emergence of new variants. Dr. Fauci, who is the health advisor to the US president in a recent press conference stated that “expediting the vaccination process could help us stay ahead of the virus, particularly the more infectious variants.” One major obstacle for mass vaccination to thwart the spread of the virus is the “vaccine hesitancy” among people. The development of the coronavirus vaccines in a record time has led to the circulations of several speculations about its safety claims. Most of the rumours regarding its short-term and long-term repercussions are unfounded, as far as the fears about the development of blood clots are concerned, health experts and medical professionals have time and again addressed those apprehensions. Dr. Khawar in an interview with Kashmir Observer stated that these are very rare cases where people were predisposed to developing blood clots or had an underlying condition. This shouldn’t deter people from getting their jab as the chances of developing a blood clot from coronavirus itself is much higher. He quoted the findings of a European study which claims that the chances of the development of blood clots from the vaccine are 4 in 1 million while the chances of the development of blood clot from coronavirus are 3-7 in a 100. These vaccines meet the safety requirements set out by WHO and have been granted emergency approval by the US FDI (Food and Drug Administration) and this establishes the safety credentials of these vaccines. Therefore, as responsible citizens and as conscientious beings, it is our duty towards ourselves and others to take the jab and contribute to bringing an end to this catastrophe that has and is still wreaking havoc and destroying lives and livelihoods.

Here are a few encouraging testimonies from people who have taken the vaccine.

“Before getting vaccinated, I had no apprehensions, even though I knew that having a fever is quite normal after getting vaccinated. After taking the vaccine shot, I had a mild fever and had pain in my arm for a couple of days, the medicine that I took was paracetamol. The arrangements at the vaccination center were quite good, all covid-19 protocols were followed”

Misbah Gillani

“I was expecting that the vaccine would induce mild fever, body ache, and cough and after taking the shot I did experience mild body ache on the first day, I had mild fever on the second day which subsided by the evening and I was perfectly normal on the third day. The arrangements at the vaccination center were upto the mark, everyone



was wearing a mask and surgical gloves and there was proper social distancing as well”

Faisal Andrabi

“Before taking the vaccine shot, I did expect that the post-vaccine effects would include fever, body ache, etc. After taking the first vaccine shot, I had a little bit of pain in my left arm on that very day but that subsided after a few hours. On the second day dint experience any side effects as such, there was just a bit of tiredness. After one takes a vaccine shot, it is always suggested that it is important to take adequate rest and not to indulge in any activity that requires a lot of manual work, I did the same. The arrangements at the vaccination center were made considering the covid-19 protocols. The room where people were getting vaccinated was divided into two parts and only two persons were allowed to enter at one time. People who had the responsibility of vaccinating us were wearing make as well, two sanitizer bottles were kept at the entrance so that people could use it before entering the room where they were being vaccinated”

Arooj Hyder Gillani

“My overall vaccination experience was pretty smooth. I didn’t have any apprehensions and I didn’t have any side effects immediately afterwards. A few days after the shot, I had a slight fever which went away with paracetamol and rest. As far as the vaccination center is concerned, I think the arrangements could have been better. Social distancing wasn’t a reality on the ground and it was a closed and congested space”

Akhil Wazir

“The only apprehensions I had were for my cousins because I had read somewhere that younger women had reported blood clots post vaccination but nothing to the extreme. I had fatigue and

pain in my left shoulder post the Covishield vaccine. I drank a lot of water and rested for three days. I found the vaccination process hassle-free. I did not have to wait in line or anything. The few people who were there when I got my jab maintained social distancing”

Taif

“I had no inhibitions about the vaccine and I got my first jab of the vaccine on the 16th of March. My sister being a doctor, we knew we both had to get vaccinated for our and our parent’s sake. My father is a C.O.P.D patient who is on oxygen support so we couldn’t risk the delay and booked our slots as soon as we could. The arrangements at the vaccination center in G.B pant hospital were impressive”

Hashim Hamid Zarger

“I had no qualms about the vaccine, as a doctor, I’m aware of how imperative it is to get vaccinated, so I went for it and that too on my birthday. Some of my colleagues did try to change my mind but I had made up my mind and was eager to get it done as soon as possible and I think I did the right thing. As far as the side effects are concerned I did experience body ache and it got worse the next day, so I took a paracetamol and I was particular about hydration and getting adequate rest and sleep was fine on the third day”

Dr. Natasha

“Being a front line worker, I was one of the first people who was looking at getting vaccinated. Of course, there were apprehensions but I went ahead with it. For women doctors, it was quite scary at first because culture makes us heed rumours. However, I am happy to confirm that after being fully vaccinated, I have conceived without any complications. So far, so good. I encourage all women to get vaccinated”

Romana Rashid

Putin’s People: How the KGB Took Back Russia and Then Took on the West by Catherine Belton is a book about how a shadowy establishment within an unstable country used political turmoil to empower and enrich itself to the point that it now controls most of the state and the country’s economy. This is very much a story of our times and, as such, serves as a warning from history to Pakistan.

Putin’s People is ostensibly about the rise of Russian strongman Vladimir Putin and the economic and political system — “Putinism” — he and his allies created over the past 25 years or so. But Putin here stands as a figure representative of the reach and power of the main security agency of the Soviet Union, the Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti, better known as the KGB.

This is a story, then, about the power of the deep state, and how it weaves that power through visible state institutions, non-state actors, personal networks and, ultimately, brute force. This is also a story about the use of wars, the threat of violence, appeals to nationalism and patriotism and unfettered corruption. It is, ultimately, about the precariousness of democracy and the corrupting nature of power in the modern state.

The book begins — like many good stories — with a tumultuous storm. In this case, the storm is the 1989 people’s uprising in East Germany. Huge crowds march on state buildings in cities across the country, tearing down symbols of the oppressive state, including, most symbolically, the wall separating East from West Berlin. These crowds also arrive at the doorstep of the local KGB office in Dresden, looking to break in and destroy all traces of the Soviet spy agency then working hand-in-hand with the hated East German secret police, the Stasi.

Putin — at the time a middling KGB operative at the agency’s Dresden office — is forced to hastily destroy the agency’s records and then flee to a nearby Soviet military base. Shocked at the crumbling of the East German state and its eventual obliteration, by absorption

into West Germany, Putin vows to never allow such a fate for his homeland.

An eye-opening book, currently the best study on Putinism and the politics of the Russian industrial oligarchy, offers a warning from history

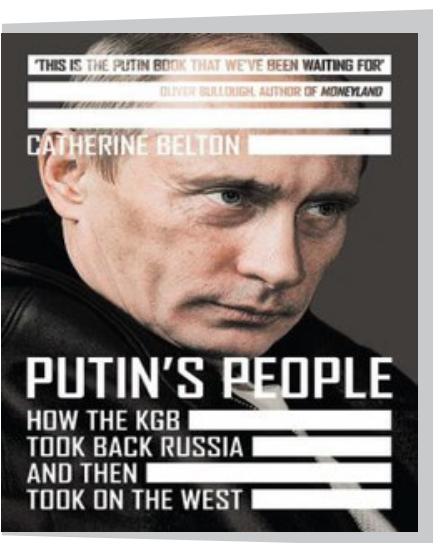
However, the Soviet Union did, in fact, follow suit. It crumbled soon after its eastern German satellite, and split into a number of constitutive states, the biggest of which was Russia. In this turmoil, the old Russian order was abandoned by the new government headed by Boris Yeltsin. Communism was disavowed, democracy instituted and a free market economy embraced.

Those associated with the old order lost power, too. Mikhail Gorbachev, who had done so much to usher in the end of the Soviet Union, was himself removed from the presidency. The Communist Party was banned, and leading figures in the KGB lost their jobs. The once all-powerful agency was split into four separate organisations.

Through interviews with some of the leading figures of those years, as well as her intimate knowledge of the politics of Russia, journalist Belton explains how the KGB, in fact, did not simply disappear.

Although the agency was dismantled, many of its senior and middle-ranking officials re-emerged during the Yeltsin years to reassert their power and bring back much of the culture and prerogatives of their former employer. Belton’s book is a history of this KGB-ism, an afterlife of the organisation that materialised through Putin and his supporters.

The backdrop to the rise of this KGB-ism is the dire shape of the Russian government’s finances soon after the shift to a market economy in January 1992. Yeltsin’s cash-strapped government raised money by auctioning off state industries to well-connected businessmen, creating overnight billionaires who emerged as



Putin’s People: How the KGB Took Back Russia and Then Took on the West  
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the new powerbrokers during Yeltsin’s reign. By one estimate, nearly 50 percent of the country’s wealth was in the hands of just seven business tycoons by the time Yeltsin left office.

Economic problems continued to pile on Yeltsin, however, and he became increasingly beholden to these newly emergent oligarchs. A disastrous currency devaluation in 1998, followed by a default on government debt and a subsequent war in Chechnya, forced Yeltsin to step down and install a figure who would be acceptable to his growing critics, and yet could also be controlled by him and his family.

## The Rise Of The Deep State

Waqar Zaidi

Mistakenly, he thought Putin was such a man, and Putin was appointed acting president on New Year’s Eve in 1999.

Putin was a popular choice. Following his return from East Germany, he had eventually ended up running the remnants of the KGB in Moscow, and later taken a leading part in the muscular Russian response to Chechen separatism. The strongman appealed to a population tired of political and economic turmoil.

“To the Russians”, writes Belton, “it seemed like a breath of fresh air. Compared to the sick and ailing Yeltsin, suddenly they had a leader who was in charge.” An election was soon called, and Putin was emphatically elected as the president of Russia in March 2000.

Putin brought several former KGB men into his administration and, through him and his supporters, the agency was finally able to take revenge for being shut out of power during the Yeltsin years. Seeing themselves as guardians of the nation — and the oligarchs as a threat — Putin and his guard set about curbing the power of the new billionaires. Yeltsin’s oligarchs were threatened, blackmailed and bribed into handing their industries over to Putin’s allies.

Once the old billionaires were subdued, Putin and the new oligarchs — who now controlled Russian industry — turned to expand their influence overseas through investment and the raising of foreign capital. In 2005 alone, they raised more than \$4 billion in share sales in London, compared to \$1.3 billion in all markets in the 13 years after the Soviet collapse. The London establishment, in turn, met Putin’s oligarchs with open arms. The Russian share listings earned huge profits for London’s bankers, lawyers, consultants and public relations firms.

The path to acceptance was paved with public relations coups, such as Putin’s close confidante Roman Abramov-

ich’s purchase of the London-based Chelsea Football Club in the summer of 2003. London newspapers “marvelled at Abramovich’s private Boeing 767 as he swooped into London to inspect his new club. They devoted copious column inches to his luxury yachts, including the world’s biggest, the Eclipse, a 168-metre floating palace kitted out with two helicopter pads and its own submarine ... Few asked where his money came from.”

London became the new oligarchs’ playground, known to Russians as “Londongrad”, or “Moskva-na-Thames” (Moscow on the Thames). “In London, money rules everything,” boasted one Russian tycoon. “Anyone and anything can be bought.”

Even American real estate tycoon Donald Trump was pulled into Putin’s orbit. With the possibility of a lucrative Trump Tower in Moscow as bait, Trump emerged as an empathetic supporter of Putin in the 2000s, and their support for each other during Trump’s election campaign and then presidency is, of course, well known.

Trump is now gone, but Putin and his deep state remains. Democracy in Russia is in tatters, and a state-within-a-state controls the country’s economy, military and foreign policy. Its reach and influence extend beyond the country into international financial and political centres of power such as London and Washington, DC.

Putin’s People is an eye-opening book, and currently the best study we have on Putinism and the politics of industrial oligarchy and the KGB during Putin’s reign. Although many of the processes described are particular to Russia, the book nevertheless stands as a warning about the fragility of democracy and the dangers of the deep state.

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Dawn



## Mehbooba Vows

she said, adding that the centre must have realised that things have not gone as they had planned.

According to the report, Mehbooba accused BJP of portraying an opposite situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir. The report also quoted her saying that "there is so much of oppression in Jammu and Kashmir that people are unable to even breathe"

When asked why she was invited to the PM's meet even though she was blamed for being a militant sympathiser, Mehbooba said that this is something only the Prime Minister or Home Minister would be able to answer.

"They (the centre) have realised that things have not gone as they had planned, and maybe out of little empathy that they had left, they decided to meet us. We went out of respect for the office of the Prime Minister," she said.

"Do you really believe that if the situation on ground was all hunky-dory, then the centre would have invited the Gupkar alliance for a talk? Things are clearly not how they intended it to be. They know that they need Gupkar to reach out to the people; hence they are now meeting us," she added.

The PDP President however acknowledged that the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and the Prime Minister and Home Minister heard what she had to say. She also termed the invitation by PM as a welcome measure.

"What one can hope for is that when the Prime Minister says Dil ki dooriyaan kam karni hai that he means it," she said, adding "

The former CM reiterated her vow that she will not contest elections till the government of India reverses August 2019 move and restore Article 370 and Article 35A.

"I will not contest the elections. I will do this because otherwise people will feel that the resolution of Article 370 is just a slogan for me and I am just doing politics over it. That is not the case; hence, I will personally not contest any election till it's reversed," she said.

"Article 370 and 35A were a means for us to have job security and also our identity of being from J&K. So, these are important to us. And that is why you must have seen that J&K was India's most prosperous state," she added.

Speaking about the fallout of special status revocation, the ex-Chief Minister said that since the day Article 370 and 35A were scrapped, the people fear that the demography will be changed, so the centre needs to address these fears.

"Another thing is that jobs must be secured for the local youth. For confidence-building measures, they need to do much more. They need to release many other prisoners apart from our party leaders," she said.

"If the siege is lifted, people are not harassed, students and journalists are not harassed, people are not picked up...These confidence-building measures must be undertaken," she added.

Mehbooba also defended her party's youth wing president Waheed Para saying that the allegations that he gave Rs5 crore to Geelani's son to instigate stone-pelting in J&K in 2016, when her government was in power was absurd and nonsense.

Talking about militancy, the PDP president said that though data might suggest that militancy has come down, there is still disquiet in the region.

"When a local youth picks up a gun and then they get killed, the flag on their grave becomes a Pakistani flag. Once militants get killed, they become Pakistani," she said.

She also pointed out the alleged harassment of journalists by government forces for their reporting.

## Govt Putting

want statehood first and the elections later.

"Congress and other J&K parties and leaders want Statehood first and Elections afterward. The Government's response is Elections first and Statehood later," he said on Twitter.

"The horse pulls the cart. A state must conduct elections. Only such elections will be free and fair. Why does the government want the cart in front and the horse behind? It is bizarre," he added.

Nearly two years after the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs and revocation of its special status, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held talks with top political leaders from the erstwhile state, and said the Centre's priority is to strengthen grassroots democracy there for which delimitation has to happen quickly so that polls can be held.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was also present at the meeting, had said that the delimitation exercise and holding of peaceful elections in the Union Territory are important milestones in restoring statehood as promised in Parliament.

## Modi's Meet

Centre's priority is to strengthen grassroots democracy there for which delimitation has to happen quickly for polls to be held.

This was the first interaction between the top leadership of the Union government and mainstream parties in J&K since August 5, 2019, when the Centre revoked its special status provided under Article 370 and bifurcated the border state into Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"In my view it was a drama and why was it a drama? Because at best it could be called a public relations exercise but nothing was achieved," Qureshi said a day after the high-level meeting on Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi.

Qureshi said the Kashmiri leaders at the meeting "unanimously demanded full-fledged restoration of statehood".

"The leaders were not given any solid reply to their demand and instead told that a decision about restoration of the special status of Kashmir will be taken at an appropriate time, which is an ambiguous statement," he said.

He pointed out that the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leadership was not invited to the meeting.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have spiked since New Delhi abrogated the Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy.

Qureshi claimed that India was trying to bring demographic changes in Kashmir which was worrying for Pakistan as it would have long term implications.

To a question about back-door diplomacy with India, he said no such communication was going on with India but confirmed intelligence-level contact.

There is no back-door channel but there is contact on the regional situation at an intelligence level but there is no back-door channel," he said.

Talking about the Afghan peace process, Qureshi said he was not aware of the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in Afghanistan but Turkey was expected "to maintain security responsibilities at

Kabul airport".

"Pakistan wants a stable and peaceful Afghanistan whereas the United States appreciates Pakistan's positive role in the peace process," he said.

The foreign minister also said that there was no change in Pakistan's policy on nuclear assets. Our nuclear assets are for our own defence. We have no aggressive intentions," he said.'

## FATF Retains

that Terror Financing (TF) investigations and prosecutions target senior leaders and commanders of UN designated terrorist groups," an FATF statement said.

The UN designated terrorists include Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Azhar, Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Saeed and its 'operational commander' Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi.

The FATF said Pakistan should continue to work to address its strategically-important deficiencies by enhancing international cooperation by amending its anti-money laundering law and demonstrating that assistance is being sought from foreign countries in implementing UNSC Resolution1373 designations.

Pakistan should also be demonstrating that supervisors are conducting both on-site and off-site supervision commensurate with specific risks associated with Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs), including applying appropriate sanctions where necessary.

Pakistan has also been asked to ensure that proportionate and dissuasive sanctions are applied consistently to all legal persons and legal arrangements for non-compliance with beneficial ownership requirements, demonstrating an increase in money laundering investigations and prosecutions and that proceeds of crime continue to be restrained and confiscated in line with Pakistan's risk profile.

This included working with foreign counterparts to trace, freeze, and confiscate assets and demonstrating that DNFBPs are being monitored for compliance with proliferation financing requirements and that sanctions are being imposed for non-compliance, it said.

The FATF also referred to the high level political commitment made by Pakistan in 2018 to work with the FATF and Asia Pacific Group to strengthen its anti money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism.

With Pakistan's continuation in the grey list, it is increasingly becoming difficult for the country to get financial aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union, thus further enhancing problems for the neighbouring country which is in a precarious financial situation

Pakistan needed 12 votes out of 39 to exit the grey list and move to white list.

Islamabad has been avoiding black list, for which it needs support of three countries. China, Turkey and Malaysia are its consistent supporters.

Pakistan was placed on the grey list by the FATF in June, 2018 and was given a plan of action to complete it by October, 2019. Since then the country continues to be in that list due to its failure to comply with the FATF mandates.

The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

The FATF currently has 39 members including two regional organisations -- the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council.

India is a member of the FATF consultations and its Asia Pacific Group.

## Militant Killed

of the district and launched a joint Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) on Friday morning, a police spokesperson said. During the search operation, he said, the presence of militants got ascertained and they were given repeated opportunities to surrender.

"However, they denied the surrender appeal and fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, one militant was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter," the police spokesperson said.

He identified the killed militant was Murtaza of Samboora in Awantipora and associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba.

"As per police records Murtaza was also involved in several militancy crime cases including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities," the police spokesperson said.

He further said the family members of another holed-up militant were brought to the encounter site to again persuade him to lay down arms.

"It was due to the great efforts and utmost patience of police, security forces and repeated surrender appeals with the help of his family members, the trapped militant Sahil Ramzan Dar of Bemnipora ultimately surrendered before the joint forces," the police spokesperson said.

Dar, he said, was an active militant of LeT since March 2021.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 1 AK-56 rifle, 1Pistol, 3 AK-magazines, 2 grenades were recovered from the encounter site/possession of surrendered militant. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," he said.

"In this connection, Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared off of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

Meanwhile, IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar once again reiterated his appeal to all "misguided youth" who have joined militancy to shun the path of violence and return to mainstream.

"He also said that police are committed to accept them with open arms as society needs them the most, especially their parents," the police spokesperson said.

Kumar, he said, also complimented police and central forces for showing utmost patience and exhibiting professionalism by taking surrender of active militants during live encounters, thus saving a precious life.

## Anti-Militancy Ops

Replying to a question about the total number of militants active in Kashmir valley and targeting of civilians and police officers by them, Singh said, "It is not a one sided battle. When more than 200 armed militants will be present in an area, it is not that they will continue to die, when you (security forces) fight them (during gun battles)".

"It is not that they will not resort to any unholy act. Our endeavour is to put an end to their activities and curb militancy," he said.

Asked about 'Operation All-Out', he said the already-taken measures will be intensified to strengthen the battle against militants and curb heinous activities of militants.

'Operation all-out' is an offensive launched by the security forces to flush out militants.

He refrained from commenting when asked about PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's allegation of large-scale harassment and detention in the valley.

Singh also declined to comment on another question about preparation for assembly elections in the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent meeting with J&K political leaders.

In his address to trainee policemen, Singh said winds of change are blowing in J&K and they have a greater role and added responsibilities to perform their duties in such a changed environment.

Paying tributes to martyrs of police, Singh said all of them will continue to be remembered for times to come.

He thanked PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for appreciating the Jammu and Kashmir police force for performing their part of the security grid in J&K.

## Kashmir's Last

them that the Centre's priority is to strengthen grassroots democracy there for which delimitation has to happen quickly for polls to be held.

Reacting to the prime minister's meeting with 14 political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, including four former chief ministers, Singh said, "I definitely think it is a very positive step. First of all, because everybody was involved and people who once were discarded as anti-national, they all came -- National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party both."

"I believe everybody spoke their mind very frankly and the prime minister listened very attentively to everybody. Three and a half hours of the meeting was there and my own view is that it is a very positive move because something was needed to break the ice," the former Union minister said.

The whole situation after the change of status had become "ossified politically", Singh said, adding that the meeting was the start of a political process that is to be welcomed.

Asked about the demand of most Jammu and Kashmir leaders for restoration of statehood, he said it was a unanimous view because after being in special status for 70 years suddenly to be demoted to not even a state down to a Union Territory is "something nobody in Jammu and Kashmir has appreciated".

"So statehood is a universal demand, the question is timing. Now as I understand the situation, the first step now is delimitation. The delimitation commission is already working, they should submit their report very soon. After delimitation then the next step is elections. My own view is that...we should have elections as a full state," Singh said.

He asserted that full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir should definitely be restored before assembly elections because if it goes to polls as a Union territory and then becomes a state, that would not make any sense because the situations are different with difference in status.

"As soon as possible, we should get statehood, I mean if we get it tomorrow there is nothing like it but in any case when we fight the next elections we must fight them as a full-fledged state," the 90-year-old leader said.

Singh also lamented that it was a "strange irony" that his father signed the instrument of accession for the whole state and "today we are having to fight for statehood".

Asked if statehood could reduce "dil ki doori" -- a term used by Prime Minister Modi at the meeting, Singh said restoring statehood will go a long way to help "heal the wounds".

"By itself, it won't be enough but it would definitely be a major step," he added.

Asked about calls from a section for restoring Article 370 provisions that granted special status to J&K and were abrogated in 2019, Singh said, "My personal belief in this is that it seems to me prima facie that the changes are irreversible but the matter is before the Supreme Court so we shouldn't unnecessarily make any detailed comment on it what should be done and what should not be done."

The veteran Congress leader urged the Supreme Court to take up the matter soon, asserting that it was a very crucial and important issue that should be given priority. Asked about divergent views struck by Congress leaders on the Article 370 issue, Singh said he was not a Congress spokesperson and would not want to speak on behalf of the party.

"I expressed my personal view that it did not seem to me that Article 370 can be restored...My view may be slightly divergent from others. But the consensus is what Ghulam Nabi (Azad) said" and the matter is before the Supreme Court and they will decide on it.

Asked what were his expectations from the Centre on J&K going forward, Singh said he expected that they would move forward as they say on delimitation, elections and statehood.

Demanding a financial-cum- developmental package for the people of J&K, Singh said for two years the state suffered very heavily.

"The whole Kashmir Valley, the horticulture was destroyed, tourism which is our mainstay was destroyed so tens of hundreds of crores of losses were suffered," he said, adding that in Jammu also heavy losses were incurred.

"So they should first compensate those people who lost during those two years," he said.

Modi's J&K outreach saw the prime minister conveying to the 14 political leaders from the union territory during their face-to-face meeting here that he wanted to end the "Dilli ki Doori" as well as "Dil ki Doori" (distance from Delhi as well as the distance of hearts) with Jammu and Kashmir, which has witnessed a prolonged spell of militancy and unrest.

The four former chief ministers of the erstwhile state who participated in the discussions were Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah of the National Conference, Congress' Ghulam Nabi Azad and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti.

Four former deputy chief ministers were in attendance too - Congress' Tara Chand, People's Conference leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig and BJP's Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta.

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 also formed part of the delegation.

This was the first interaction between the top leadership of the Union government and mainstream parties in J&K since August 5, 2019, when the Centre revoked its special status provided under Article 370 and bifurcated the border state into Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

## Decline In

including health workers, frontline workers by Month-end. Universal coverage of the first dose of 45 and above age group needs to be done by the already set timeline of 30th June," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

Stressing on enforcing containment measures at micro-level, the LG, he said, directed for declaring

areas with high positivity rate as Micro Containment Zone to stop the spread of Covid infection.

"Directions were passed to all the District Administrations to bring down the positivity rate, besides generating daily Covid reports at Block-level," he added.

The official spokesperson said that the LG laid special emphasis on government-public joint efforts in the fight against Covid pandemic and urged the people to support District Administration in vaccination drive, contact tracing, and protecting at-risk populations.

"In order to reach out to the maximum population with greater awareness on Covid pandemic and its challenges, the Lt Governor emphasized on an extensive and vibrant IEC campaign in collaboration with the School Education Department, Youth Services and Sports and J&K Bank," he said.

With a view to acknowledge the exceptional work done by Good Samaritans and Government employees in this Covid crisis, the LG, as per official spokesperson, asked the Health and Medical Education Department to formulate a scheme to reward the outstanding performances in Covid management in every district.

During the meetings, the official spokesperson said that Sinha reviewed public health response to Covid-19 with regard to testing, positivity rate, vaccination, Covid appropriate behaviour etc.

"While taking stock of the functioning of Oxygen plants, the Lt Governor directed for operationalization of the remaining two oxygen plants at the earliest which were received recently," he added.

Meanwhile, Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed presentation detailing out district wise status of various Covid monitoring parameters.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dilbag Singh, DGP; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department; Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Information Department; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary Public Works (R&B) Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Mukesh Singh, ADGP; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Deputy Commissioners and SPs, attended the meetings through virtual mode.

## Covid-19: J&K

Ramban 17 and Reasi 96 fresh cases of Covid-19. Moreover, they said, 871 more patients have recovered in the last 24 hours--334 from Jammu Division and 537 from Kashmir.

About the seven more fatalities, the officials said that five were reported from Jammu division while two more people succumbed to the virus in Kashmir Valley. With these deaths, the overall fatality count reached 4291 across the Union Territory.

Meanwhile, the officials also confirmed one new case of mucormycosis (black fungus), bringing the cumulative number of confirmed cases to 28 in J&K.

## 'He Was Fighting

near Chinkral Mohalla of Habba Kadal. His father who had been working as a daily-wager had to give up on his job when diabetes rendered him immobile.

Umer's mother was working as a helper at various commercial offices and homes but the recent deadlier wave of the Covid-19 had left her jobless.

"Umer single-handedly saved his family from collapsing when the pandemic hit Kashmir," Afaan Feroz, Umer's cousin, said. "He revived the meagre condition of his home."

After last year's pandemic lockdown, Umer had decided to set up a mobile business. "He was tirelessly earning for his family's better future," Afaan said.

Even though Umer wasn't making a huge profit, he was content with the small profit that aided his family's existence.

"But last evening, his family's hopes were shattered," the cousin lamented. "Just look at his father, mother and brother! What will become of them now?"

## Farmers Hit

livestock diseases, especially foot and mouth disease (FMD) and brucellosis, in the next five years. The total output of Rs.13, 343.00 crore for five years (2019-20 to 2023-24).

However, the farmers said, the sheep and animal husbandry department failed to procure the free vaccination under this program. The disease is taking a heavy toll on the affected farmers financially amid the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have already suffered due to back to back lockdowns. Now the disease will dent our business completely," said another farmer, Ajiaz Ahmad Shah from north Kashmir's Bandipora.

Shah says, the district animal husbandry got active after several cattle were found dead in the district.

Following the disease, the government of Jammu and Kashmir issued an advisory and asked the sheep farmers to adhere to several recommendations to safeguard their livestock in view of the occurrence of FMD.

The advisory stated that the farmers need not to panic as FMD in sheep causes negligible mortality.

"Separate the affected animals from the apparently healthy animals. Restrict the movement of in contact animals to prevent the spread of the disease and don't allow animals for grazing at common place. Keep newly purchased animals under quarantine for 14 days before including them in the herd," reads the advisory.

It reads that spray 4 per cent Sodium Bicarbonate solution around the farm premises daily to prevent its spread.

"Feed soft and palatable feed/fodder to the affected animals. Wash /rinse the ulcerated vesicles found on mouth, tongue, hoof, teeth etc with 1 percent potassium permanganate solution at least once a day and apply boro-glycerine (1 part of boric acid and 9 percent parts of glycerin) on the mouth lesions."

It further read that look out for any FMD signs/ Symptoms in your flock viz high fever blisters erosions on mouth and feet and lameness.

The advisory has also asked the sheep farmers to contact the concerned veterinarian of the block/SEC and follow his/her advice.

An official from the Animal and sheep husbandry department, however confirmed to Kashmir Observer that the department couldn't procure the vaccination on time.

"Yes, because of the covid-19 pandemic, we couldn't procure the vaccine on time. But as soon as we got reports of the disease outbreak, we started procuring the vaccine on our own funds and our staff is on the field to do it," said the official, wishing not to be named.

He however said, the department may not be able to cover all the livestock as the number is very huge.

"We have over 17 lakh populations of sheep and it will be difficult for us to procure the number of vaccines. Still we are trying our best," he added.

Director, Sheep Husbandry, Bashir Ahmad Khan told Kashmir Observer that the disease used to be mainly found in cows and bedfellows. However, it was found in small animals like sheep as well.

The Director passed the buck when asked why the department failed to procure the vaccine.

"It was the domain of Animal husbandry to procure the vaccines under the Centre's program. You can ask them," Khan said.

He, however said they have sent teams in higher reaches for the vaccination and to appraise the farmers regarding the disease.

## Number Of Pak

(FATF) and others," General Officer Commanding of strategic Chinar Corps of the Army, Lt Gen D P Pandey told reporters at a function here.

He said the longer strategy formulated by Pakistan is to use killing of militants during encounters to fuel anti-national sentiments.

"When you kill a Kashmiri youth who has been a militant for five-six months, a family is established against our country, it becomes unhappy. So, then (it involves) his extended family, his friends, the village. This is their (Pakistan) strategy. They coordinate in the background, they motivate a young child, radicalise him, hand him guns without any training, push him forward and when he is killed, things follow.

It is their strategy to show it (militancy) as an indigenous movement where the whole effort is local. When they kill someone, a message comes within half-an-hour that this is local Kashmiri freedom struggle," he added.

Giving more details, the Corps Commander said only two foreign militants were killed in Kashmir this year.

"Our counter-infiltration grid has been very strong for the last few years, which means that less number of foreign militants were able to infiltrate," he said.

He also said the security situation in the Kashmir Valley of the last few years cannot be compared with that of the last two to three decades.

"It (security) has improved much. There are many things to it - abrogation of (Article) 370, development, having a good control and other things. But, an important aspect is the presence of foreign militants - which are all from Pakistan and it is not like a mix from some other countries," he said.

Lt Gen Pandey said one should not see everything from the prism of militant numbers as terrorism has two factors -- "terror" and "ism".

"This 'ism', this nexus which lives on the money, is still there and we have to break it, which is not a work of one or two years, but many years. Some people from Kashmiri diaspora, sitting in foreign countries, want the youth here to pick guns.

They incite poison and get money. The youth--who have problems in their homes, their education, their debts, are poor and illiterate--are getting killed. Until the civil society in Kashmir understands it, stops it and exposes them, this cycle will continue," he said.

Asked if the improvement in situation warranted a withdrawal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, the Army officer said the law was needed as militants were a floating population, moving from one place to another.

"There is a need for the security forces to ensure that the people feel safe and secure, and durable peace is established because the situation in Kashmir, due to various reasons, can very well shift very fast," he added.

Lt General Pandey also dismissed opinions that involvement in counter-insurgency operations was compromising the Army's operational capabilities in conventional warfare.

"The Indian Army's training and focus is always on the conventional training. CI/CT operations is our number two task. We are here in a supporting role. The J-K police and the civil administration work and when they need us, they call us and we operate there, he stressed.

On heavy artillery being moved to Ladakh, the Corps Commander said these are normal "turnover processes".

"Everyone knows China's activities across the LAC, so a balance of force is maintained and we act on that," he said.

Asked if the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan was a cause of concern in respect of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Lt Gen Pandey said the situation here has changed from the past 30 years.

"I think there are two options, maybe some people will come here, but I assure you that whenever anyone tries to come, the control of J-K Police (over the situation) is very strong, and no wrong act will be allowed in Kashmir, he added



## ACB Files Chargesheet Against Former SPMR College Officials In Corruption Case



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Anti-Corruption Bureau J&K Friday produced a Charge-Sheet against the then Principal at Government SPMR College Of Commerce Jammu and others in a Special Anti Corruption Court, in Jammu.

In a statement ACB said that its Rajouri office produced Chalan against accused Dr. Hemla Aggarwal, then Principal, Government SPMR College of Commerce Jammu (now retired); Jia Lal, then Accounts Assistant at Government SPMR College of Commerce Jammu (now retired); in-service public servant Jagdish Kumar son of Late Ishwar Dass, a resident of Sagoon, and then Storekeeper at Government SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu (now Senior Assistant), and (private beneficiaries) and Sunil Malik M/S Sun Broadcast Equipments Pvt. Ltd, Bhavnish Sachdeva, then Sr. Manager M/S Sun Broadcast Equipments Pvt. Ltd 2/5 West Patel Nagar, New Delhi and Vinay Kumar Thakur M/S Audio Video Centre 25 Palika Bazar, Cannught Place Delhi before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu in case FIR No.23/2014 registered in P/S VOJ (now ACB) under section 5(1) (d) r/w 5 (2) J&K PC Act. Svt. 2006 and sections 120-B, 409, 468, 471 RPC.

The statement said that instant case was registered on August 16, 2014 on the basis of outcome of a verification conducted by Vigilance Organization (now ACBJ) to enquire into the allegations regarding purchases made by Professor Hemla Aggarwal, then Principal Com-

merce College Jammu at exorbitant rates. During verification it was revealed that Prof. Hemla Aggarwal, Principal Commerce College Jammu has shown purchases of softwares for I-Mac System namely Final Cut Plugging, Edius 4 Canopus and Adobe Master Collection CS3 for an amount of Rs. 78,000/-, Rs. 46,800/- and Rs. 1,40,400/- respectively. However, during verification it came to fore that the above mentioned software were neither requisitioned nor found loaded in I-Mac System. Moreover, three (03) CDs CS3 (compact discs) software final cut plugging, Edius 4 Canopus and Adobe Master Collection CS3 were not found available.

During investigation, it came to fore that all the above mentioned accused persons are part of the conspiracy hatched by main accused Hemla Aggarwal, then Principal SPMR College Jammu who got prepared bills for the hardware and softwares already in her possession and payment from government funds causing loss to the state exchequer.

The investigation conducted has prima facie established the offences under section 5(1) r/w 5 (2) J&K PC Act. Svt. 2006 and sections 120-B, 409, 468, 471 RPC against above mentioned accused persons. "After completing the investigation of the case, sanction for launching of prosecution of the accused in-service public servant Jagdish Kumar, then Storekeeper at Government SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu (now Senior Assistant) was also obtained from the competent authority. The Anti-Corruption Bureau J&K produced a charge sheet against the above-mentioned accused persons before the Court of Spl. Judge Anti-Corruption Court Jammu on 24.06.2021."

The next date of hearing has been fixed for July 14, 2021.

## Covid Positivity Rate Falls Below Two Percent In Kupwara

Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Imam Din Friday said that Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and Vaccination are the only weapons through which Covid can be defeated.

He said district Kupwara recorded Recovery rate of 96%, Fatality Rate of 1.16% and Positivity rate of 1.61%.

Regarding isolation, the Deputy Commissioner said that

the district has 293 patients in home isolation and 27 in hospital isolation.

The Deputy Commissioner further said that vaccination is going on in a mission mode to achieve cent percent target and 57% of target population in the district have been vaccinated against Covid-19 so far.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated his appeal to the general public to follow COVID SOPs and come forward for vaccination.

## Adv Khan Reviews Development Scenario Of Doda District



Observer News Service

**DODA:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, Friday visited Doda and reviewed the development scenario of the district with emphasis on centrally sponsored schemes like PMUY, JJM, PMGSY and MGNREGA.

Advisor directed the concerned to extend handholding to the beneficiaries in collecting the documents from all the concerned departments. He also asked them to forward the pendancy to the concerned authorities for timely sanctioning of cases.

Regarding transportation of ration to the dealers at their doorsteps, the Advisor directed

the concerned department to take up the matter on priority basis with the RTC. He asked to stop the flour supply in the district and get 100 percent wheat against the flour.

Advisor, while assessing progress on PMGSY roads, asked the concerned agency to verify all the commissioned roads and ensure all are through for transportation. He also asked to settle the land disputes, if any, in coordination with PRI members for end to end connectivity.

Referring to ongoing mega projects, Advisor asked the executing agencies to speed up the pace of work on these vital works and ensure local labourers get employment in these projects.

## Govt To Implement Integrated Village Development Scheme For Tribal Areas

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government has initiated work on the launch of Integrated Village Development Scheme (IVDS) for tribal areas. The new scheme includes formulation of Integrated Village Development Plan (IVDP) under Special Central Assistance for tribal development with an aim for focused development in tribal areas and gap-filling viz a viz infrastructure. A special grant of 98 Cr will be provided under IVDP for infrastructure gap filling in more than 400 tribal villages, apart from village plan.

The scheme is being implemented by the Tribal Affairs Department in coordination with the Rural Development Department and district administrations.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary convened a meeting with district teams for formulation of Integrated Village Development Plan for all villages having 500+ tribal population.

The Integrated Village Development Plan under Tribal Development initiative envisages to fill infrastructure gaps in all sectors. Plan formulation and village prioritisation will be done on 55 different monitorable parameters in 14 different sectors. These include Health and Nutrition, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Education, Housing, Livelihood, Electric Supply, Road Connectivity, Mobile/Internet Connectivity, Farm and Non-Farm activities, Market Interventions, Skill and Entrepreneurship, Financial Inclusion, Social Security and Digitisation. The Integrated Village De-



**6 SECRETARY, TRIBAL AFFAIRS, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary convened a meeting with district teams for formulation of Integrated Village Development Plan for all villages having 500+ tribal population.**

velopment Scheme envisages multiple objectives including ensuring adequate Infrastructure, improvement in Socio-economic indicators, Flexibility for focussed interventions, welfare and development, Capacity building of PRIs, enhancing capacity to avail opportunities and securing rights, protection against exploitation and equitable development.

The IVDPs formulated by field teams in coordination with Gram Panchayats will be approved by the District Planning and Monitoring Committee headed by Deputy Commissioners and having members from all line departments. The State Level apex committee headed by Chief Secretary will approve the plans after screening and recommendation from the Tribal Affairs Department. Directors, Rural Development Department, are coordinators for plan formulation in respective divisions. Pertinently first meeting for formulation of IVDPs was held with Deputy Commissioners on 7th June

2021. The plans are expected to be completed by 31st July as per notified schedule.

The scheme will be implemented on 100% Grant-in-aid basis and first instalment will be released immediately on selection of villages while second instalment will be released after approval of Village Development Plans which will be formulated by the districts. The State level committee will consider and approve the proposals received from districts.

Department is also in the process of initiating a training programme of key functionaries involved in formulation of Village Development Plans under the scheme. More than 70 Government schemes will be converged for implementation in selected tribal villages. This year's annual plan is focused on key infrastructure development in health, education, livestock improvement, youth engagement and Skilling sectors for overall socio-economic development of tribal communities in J&K.

## BDC Member's Husband Obtains Rs 28L Loan On Fake Papers



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The district administration Budgam has launched an investigation after a man allegedly secured a housing loan of Rs 28 lakh from Jammu Kashmir Bank by producing fake documents, using fake rubber stamps of top officials and even claimed the ownership of ancestral land, mortgaged it that belonged to his neighbour.

The accused has been identified as Mukhtar Ahmed Lone, a resident of Bugroo Khansahib area who is the husband of a BDC member.

"We are investigating the matter and have directed the police to lodge a cheating case in this regard. The accused may have cheated people in other cases as well and we are investigating that too. The accused has used the fake stamps of SDM, Tehsildar, Sub-Registrar and Patwari," Sub-Divisional Magistrate Khansahab Syed Ahmed Katari said.

The fraud surfaced when the land owner Haji Bashir Ahmed whose land was mortgaged by the accused without his knowledge was informed by a bank employee about the matter.

"I was shocked after learning it. How can he do this single-handedly. How can Bugroo branch of JK Bank sanction loan in his favour when he has used fake stamps and fake documents. Some bank employees might be part of this fraud and it must be investigated," the land owner said, adding that the accused is misusing the position of his wife who is a

tigating that too. The accused has used the fake stamps of SDM, Tehsildar, Sub-Registrar and Patwari," Sub-Divisional Magistrate Khansahab Syed Ahmed Katari said.

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BDC member.

"Every stamp the accused has used in the documents is fake. The stamp vendor who has provided these fake stamps of officials to the accused will also be arrested. The involvement of some bank employees in the fraud can't be ruled out. We have asked Khansahab police to speed up the investigation," he said.

The JK Bank has already transferred Rs 15 lakh to the personal account of the accused Mukhtar Ahmed Mir.

A police official said that an FIR vide number 130/2021 under sections 420, 478 has been registered in this regard and investigation set into motion on priority basis. "Guilty will be booked," he said.

Cluster Head Jammu Kashmir Bank Budgam Azad Ahmed Bhat said that the Bank has a separate Inspection Vigilance Department that will investigate this matter. "If police have proof about the accused, they should arrest him. If the involvement of any bank employee is being established, he too will face the music," Bhat said, adding that an internal investigation has already been started in this case.

## Div Com Jammu Directs PDA To Tap Adventure, Eco-Tourism Potential

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer Friday inspected the tourist facilities in the Jammu division's famous tourist destination, Patnitop.

He also reviewed the pace of progress on Tourism development projects and functioning of Patnitop Development Authority at a meeting attended by District Development Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat-UI-Islam; Chief Executive Officer, Patnitop Development Authority, Sher Singh.

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed in detail progress on the projects coming up in Mantalai including Tourist facilitation centre, dining centre/ cafeteria, eco log huts with solariums integrated into cottage design, Meditation enclaves in apple

orchard; helipad, ambulance shed, fire tender, wind vane, open air amphitheater with green rooms, landscaping, beautification of premises, Parking area with gender based toilets, security check posts, guard rooms, sewage Treatment plant, water treatment plant, battery operated cars, installation of signages.

The meeting also reviewed the works executed in Sudhmahadev and Patnitop, including Tourist Cafeteria with toilets, hall, solar lighting, benches, convention centre with lounge at Patnitop, clock rooms, gender based toilets, solar lightings, Solid Waste Management, last mile connectivity and pathways, construction of budget accommodation at Kud.

The Divisional Commissioner said that the Patnitop circuit has potential for eco-tourism, adventure tourism

and directed the concerned departments to explore possibilities of developing more such facilities to increase the tourist footfall and to make Patnitop one of the best tourist destinations of J&K.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed in detail Water, power scenario, road connectivity, traffic management, land acquisition.

The concerned executive engineers apprised the Div Com about the progress of work on the projects implemented to augment the water, power infrastructure at Patnitop.

The Div Com directed SE PWD to resolve the land requisition issue of the approach road of Krimchi Temple immediately. The CEO PDA, DFO and SDM were directed to ascertain the status of land involved for construction of approach road to sewerage treatment plant.

## DC Budgam Inspects Developmental Projects, Sets Open Community Classes



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** Deputy Commissioner Budgam Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza Friday took stock of ongoing Developmental projects in several areas of the district including Hanjoora Breinwar Road with a total length of 11.0 Kms.

The DC was apprised that work on 8.2 Kms of road has been completed and for balance of 2.80 Kms, work is in progress by way of Surface corrections. The road shall be macadamised shortly and completed in all respects. The funds for the road stands allotted for an amount of 1383 lacs. The DC also was also briefed that

2 x 45 M Nuahard Bridge over Nallah Doodhganga on Hanjoora Breinwar Road stands sanctioned for an amount of 537 Lacs. The

work of Sub & Super structure is in progress. The Bridge shall be completed during the current year. On the occasion, the DC interacted Various public delegations who put forth their issues and demands regarding water supply, electricity, road connectivity and better health facilities. The DC redressed many issues on spot and assured that all genuine demands shall be looked into at an earliest.

The DC while taking stock of education, instructed the teachers to impart quality community education to students keeping in view all mandated SOPs of Covid-19 pandemic. During the visit, the DC Budgam in presence of VC DDC Budgam Nazir Ahmad Jahra also inaugurated 50 bedded KGVB Girls Hostel at Brenwar Chadoora

## Seven Drug Peddlers Arrested In Anantnag, Kulgam And Sopore

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir police Friday arrested seven drug peddlers in Anantnag, Kulgam and Sopore and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A police spokesperson said that in Anantnag, Police received information through reliable sources that Aijaz Ahmad Mir and Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir both son's of Mohammad Maqbool Mir, residents of Doonipora Sangam have hoarded a large quantity of contraband substance in their residential house.

Accordingly, a police party under the supervision of SDPO Bijbehara alongwith Executive Magistrate raided the specific location.

"During search, 60 Kgs of Poppy Straw (Fukki) concealed in 03 Nylon bags were recovered from the said house. Both the accused persons were arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody."

In Sopore, officers from Police Post Warpora at a checkpoint established at Warpora intercepted two persons identified as Nissar Ahmad Lone son of Abdul Ahad Lone, a resident of Pethbugh Warpora and Rayees Ahmad Peer son of Abdul Rasheed Peer, a resident of Now-

pura Baramulla.

During checking, officers recovered 3168 Spasmodoxyvon capsules concealed in a bag from their possession.

Meanwhile, Police have also apprehended two drug peddlers in Warpora, Sopore and recovered 158 Spasmodoxyvon capsules from their possession. They have been identified as Danish Bashir Mir son of Bashir Ahmad Mir resident of Behrampora Rafiabad and Adil Ashraf Najar son of Muhammad Ashraf Najar resident of Nowpora Baramulla.

In Kulgam, a police party of PS Kulgam at a checkpoint established near Simmania Colony intercepted a motorcycle bearing registration number JK22B-6962 ridden by one person identified as Dilbar Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Razaq Bhat resident of Labripora Kulgam. During checking, 550 grams of Charas were recovered from his possession.

All the accused persons have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody. Vehicles used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective Police Stations and further investigation has been initiated.

## Kupwara Woman Dead In Doodpathri Road Accident

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** A woman was killed after a vehicle she was driving rolled down into a deep gorge on Tangnar Doodpathri road in central Kashmir's Budgam district Friday afternoon.

Officials said that a car bearing

registration number JK03J-6384 driven by a lady met with an accident on Doodpathri road, resulting in her on spot death.

He identified the deceased as Saima Jan, a resident of Kupwara.

Meanwhile, a police official said that a case has been registered and investigation started.

## Minor Girl Drowns In Shopian

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** A 14-year-old girl drowned in Nallah Vaishaw in Reshinagri area of South Kashmir's Shopian district.

Eyewitnesses said that a minor girl identified Mafrosha Mushtaq, daughter of Mushtaq Ahmad Reshi, a resident of Reshinagri Shopian drowned in Nallah Vishaw in her locality.

He added that during searches locals as well as police retrieved her body from the Nallah.

A senior police official said that an investigation into the matter has been initiated to ascertain the cause of the accident.

## Injured Forest Guard Succumbs

Observer News Service

**DODA:** A forest guard, who was injured in a road accident on Thursday near High School Manoe in Tehsil Chilli Pingal (Bhalesa) of Doda district, succumbed to his injuries on Friday.

According to officials he succumbed to his injuries on way to GMC Jammu.

A senior police official said that a Swift car bearing registration number JK02CM-0885 met with an accident at Manoe on Thursday in which one SPO identified as Ashok Kumar (1053/SPO) posted at Spp Malikpora died on spot and another forest guard namely Muahammad Ashraf, son of Muhammad Shafi Zargar of Bhella Thathri was injured.

Only a day after the accident injured forest guard had also succumbed to injuries, when he was being taken to GMC Jammu.

Meanwhile police have initiated proceedings under law to ascertain the cause of the accident.



## Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Receives Made-in-Iran COVID-19 Vaccine

Agenceis

**TEHRAN:** Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei Friday received the first coronavirus vaccine developed by the Islamic Republic. Iran leader called the development of the vaccine a point of "national pride".

"Some insisted from a while ago that I use a vaccine," the 82-year-old, who has had a string of previous health problems, said after receiving the first dose of the jab called COVIran Barekat.

"I didn't want to use a non-Iranian vaccine. I said we will wait until, inshallah, the local vaccine is produced and we can use our own vaccine," he said.

The supreme leader had in January outlawed the use of United States and United Kingdom-made

under the supreme leader that is in charge of developing the vaccine, has said it now produces three million doses per month and will soon boost production to 11 million doses a month to become the largest vaccine manufacturer in the Middle East.

While the vaccine's detailed scientific data have not been made public yet, its developers have claimed it was 93.5 percent effective among individuals 18 to 75 in its second phase of human trials.

They have also claimed 12 countries from Asia, South America and Europe wish to buy the vaccine, without naming them. Besides COVIran Barekat, several other locally developed vaccines are in various stages of development.

A vaccine developed by Iran's Pasteur Institute in collaboration



vaccines, notably those developed by Pfizer and Moderna, as he said they "cannot be trusted".

Human trials on the COVIran Barekat vaccine began in late December and about 24,000 volunteers received jabs as part of its third phase of trials that recently concluded.

The vaccine received an emergency use authorisation earlier this month and is expected to be rolled out on a large scale in the coming weeks. Iran's local vaccine research has gained urgency as heavy American sanctions have hampered the Islamic Republic's mass inoculation efforts.

Setad, a powerful organisation

with Cuba is finishing its third phase of human trials in several cities across Iran and is expected to receive an emergency use authorisation soon. It is said to be 62 percent effective.

Razi COV-Pars, a vaccine developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, is also undergoing its third phase of human trials and is expected to be approved in the coming weeks.

An organisation under Iran's defence ministry has also developed a vaccine called Fakhravac in honour of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a nuclear scientist who was assassinated in November in an attack blamed on Israel.

## Australia, Israel Were Covid Success Stories. Then, Delta Variant Struck



**SYDNEY:** Australia and Israel, which had been successful in fending off Covid-19, reimposed restrictions on Friday as cases surged of the highly contagious Delta variant which also threatened Africa with a brutal third wave.

The centre of Australia's largest city Sydney entered lockdown, a shock for a population that had returned to relative normality after months of recording very few local cases, while vaccination success story Israel reimposed indoor mask-wearing less than two weeks after it lifted the measure.

And in Fiji, another country that saw early successes against the virus, health authorities admitted for the first time that Covid transmission is widespread in the community.

While vaccination campaigns have helped bring down infections in numerous -- mostly wealthy -- countries, the rise of the Delta variant which was first found in India has led to fears of new waves of a virus that has already killed nearly 3.9 million people.

In Australia, which has been one of the most successful nations in containing the coronavirus after shutting its borders, around a

million people in four eastern and central Sydney neighbourhoods were ordered to stay home for at least a week.

Sixty-five infections have been reported in a flare-up linked to a limousine driver infected about two weeks ago when he transported an international flight crew from Sydney airport to a quarantine hotel.

The premier of the state of New South Wales, Gladys Berejiklian, called it the "scariest period" since the pandemic began.

It was a dramatic development for a city that had returned to relative normality after months of recording very few local cases.

Bondi local Alana Trepper said "to be honest, I probably think that it should have happened a couple of days ago because there's been a pretty decent spread the last few days."

Israel puts masks back on Israel, which has prided itself on having one of the world's most successful vaccination campaigns, has seen infections surge since dropping a requirement to wear masks in enclosed public places 10 days ago.

After four days of more than 100 new cases a day -- includ-

ing 227 on Thursday -- the health ministry reversed the decision.

The head of Israel's pandemic response taskforce, Nachman Ash, said the rise was likely due to the Delta variant, adding that the increasing cases were not yet matched by a parallel rise in hospitalisations or deaths.

Fiji meanwhile recorded a surge of 300 new daily infections on Thursday, after going a full year without recording a single community case until April -- when the Delta variant arrived.

But with numbers doubling every nine days, the government's head of health protection, Aalisha Sahukhan, said "all the evidence is that there is widespread community transmission".

Russia is also battling rising Delta cases, reporting more than 20,000 cases on Thursday, the country's highest number since January.

"Brutal" third wave in Africa And in Africa, which has so far been spared the worst of the pandemic, infections are surging at an alarming rate in at least 12 countries, with continental cases expected to hit a record peak in around three weeks.

## 48 Delta Plus Covid Variant Cases Detected In India; Maharashtra With Highest Cases: Centre

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Forty-eight coronavirus cases of 'Delta Plus' variant have been detected from 45,000 samples sequenced so far in the country, with Maharashtra reporting the highest number of such cases at 20, the Centre said on Friday.

It said nine cases of Delta Plus variant were found in Tamil Nadu, seven cases in Madhya Pradesh, three in Kerala, two each in Punjab and Gujarat, and one case each in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Jammu and Karnataka.

The Union government maintained that 90 per cent of the



Covid-19 cases in India are being driven by the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant.

"Covid variants of concern have been found in 174 districts in 35 states/UTs with the highest

number of cases seen in Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Telangana, West Bengal, and Gujarat," it said.

"The proportion of Covid-19 cases with variants of concern rose from 10.31 per cent in May 2021 to 51 per cent on June 20, 2021," it added.

The government also asserted that both the Covid-19 vaccines--Covishield and Covaxin--work against SARS-CoV-2 variants like the Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta.

It added that the second wave of Covid-19 is not yet over in the country as 75 districts still have more than 10 per cent prevalence and 92 districts have 5-10 per cent prevalence of coronavirus.

## Govt Extends I-T Compliance Deadlines; Exempts Tax On Employee's Covid Treatment

**New Delhi:** The government on Friday extended deadlines for various income tax compliances and said the amount paid by an employer to employees for Covid-19 treatment would be tax exempt.

Also, ex-gratia payment received from employer by family members in case of death of an employee due to Covid-19 would be exempt from income tax.

The Income Tax Department, in a statement, said the payment deadline for the Vivad Se Vishwas direct tax dispute resolution scheme has been extended by two months till August 31. Taxpayers can make payments till October 31 with additional amount of interest.



The last date for PAN-Aadhaar linking too has been extended by three months to September 30, 2021.

The deadline for employers to furnish Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) certificate in Form 16 to employees too has been extended till July 31, from July 15, 2021. PTI

### NEWS MAKERS

## Need To Breastfeed Could Block Canadian's Path To Olympics



Agenceis

**Toronto:** A Canadian basketball player is being "forced to decide between being a breast-feeding mom or an Olympic athlete."

Kim Gaucher says COVID-19 rules prevent her from bringing her daughter, Sophie, who was born in March, to the Tokyo Olympics next month. In an Instagram video, she adds that she has tried appeals but "nobody can do anything."

The 37-year-old Gaucher is looking into options, such as shipping milk, but has run into complications.

Gaucher says Olympic organizers have said "no friends, no family, no exceptions."

The Canadian women's team is ranked fourth in the world. Canada opens Olympic play against Serbia on July 26. (AP)

## ICJ Bill Giving Kulbhushan Jadhav Right To Appeal Presented In Pakistani Senate

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The International Court of Justice (Review and Reconsideration) Bill, meant to provide the right of appeal to Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav, was presented in the Senate on Thursday, after being passed by the National Assembly on June 10.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan introduced the bill in the House, after which the Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani referred the bill to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, reported Geo News.

The bill seeks to provide a further right of review and reconsideration in giving effect to the judgment of the International Court of Justice. It was adopted by the National Assembly on June 10 after approval from the 21-member standing committee.

According to the bill, the High Court has the power to review and reconsider where the ICJ concerning a foreign national passes an order in respect of rights under the Vienna Convention of Consular Relations or a foreign national is aggrieved in respect of the rights available under the same.

However, India recently expressed that it is not convinced



with Pakistan National Assembly passing a bill to give the right of appeal to Kulbhushan Jadhav in Pakistani high courts.

India says the bill is full of shortcomings and is a breach of the ICJ judgment.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a weekly media briefing that the bill does not create machinery to facilitate effective review and reconsideration of the case as mandated by the judgment of the ICJ

"We have seen the news reports relating to the Review and Reconsideration Bill 2020



that has been passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan. The Bill codifies into law the earlier Ordinance-- with all its shortcomings. It does not create a machinery to facilitate effective review and reconsideration of Shri Jadhav's case, as mandated by the judgement of the International Court of Justice," Bagchi said.

The ICJ has ruled that Pakistan was in breach of its international obligations because of the failure to provide consular access to Jadhav.

Bagchi said the ordinance, now the Bill, invites the municipal

courts in Pakistan to decide whether or not any prejudice has been caused to Jadhav on account of the failure to provide consular access.

"We call upon Pakistan to take appropriate steps to address shortcomings of the bill and to comply with the judgement of ICJ in letter and spirit," he added.

India has slammed Pakistan for adopting a "farical" approach in denying available legal remedies to Kulbhushan Jadhav against his death sentence in contravention of the ICJ order. (ANI)

## 2,000 In Mumbai Given Fake Vaccines, Another 500 In Kolkata

Agenceis

**MUMBAI:** The police said today that around 2,000 people were injected with fake COVID-19 vaccines in Mumbai, Maharashtra, and another 500 -- some of them disabled -- might have suffered the same fate in West Bengal's Kolkata.

Vaccination rates rose sharply this week after the centre made shots free following a devastating pandemic surge in April and May.

The police in Mumbai said that around 2,000 people who thought they were being vaccinated were in fact injected with a saline solution.

Ten people have been arrested including two doctors at a private hospital in Mumbai, the police said, with the scammers targeting residents of an upscale housing complex in one case.

"We (then) discovered that eight more camps were organised by this syndicate," said Vishwas Patil, joint commissioner of police (law and order division).

The police have recovered 1.24 million in cash which was "fraudulently obtained" by the accused.

The police in Kolkata, meanwhile, have arrested a man posing as a civil servant with a master's degree in genetics who reportedly ran as many as eight spurious vaccination camps.

The police said at least 250 disabled and transgender people were injected at one site, and that in total nearly 500 people may have been given counterfeit jabs across the city.

Kolkata official Atin Ghosh

said that the seized vials were falsely labelled as containing the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine Covishield.

"It was found that the Covishield label was stuck over another label, that of Amikacin Sulphate 500 mg, an antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections of the urinary tract, bones, brain, lungs and blood among others," Mr Ghosh said.

The scam came to light after an actress and politician, Mimi Chakraborty, who received a shot at one of the camps to raise awareness, became suspicious and alerted the police.

The police seized fake ID cards from the suspect, one of an information ministry official and another as a municipal commissioner. His car sported Kolkata government stickers.

Debashis Barui, a Kolkata health official, said that many of those who had been injected were now "panicking" about the possible side effects.

"If any emergency arises, civic authorities will organise medical camps in the area to take care of those who have had fake shots," Mr Barui said.

One of them, Ruma Sikdar, 35, said that she had been feeling drowsy and had discomfort in her arm. "What I am worried about is how to get the real dose before the third wave hits," the home-maker said.

"We didn't think that this could happen when the world is battling the pandemic," said student Debjit Majumdar, who also received the fake jab.

**IT WAS FOUND THAT THE COVISHIELD LABEL was stuck over another label, that of Amikacin Sulphate 500 mg, an antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections of the urinary tract, bones, brain, lungs and blood among others."**

## Pregnant Women Can Be Vaccinated Against Covid-19, Says Union Health Ministry



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Health Ministry on Friday said that pregnant women can be vaccinated against Covid-19. While addressing a press conference on behalf of the Union Health Ministry, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director-General Dr Balram Bhargava said, "The Ministry of Health has given guidelines that the vaccine can be given to pregnant woman."

"The vaccine is useful for the pregnant women and it should be given," Dr Bhargava said.

Dr Bhargava said that in terms of administering Covid-19 vaccines to children is still debatable until relevant data is available.

"There is only one country that is giving vaccines to children at the moment. Whether very small children will ever need vaccines, is still a question. Till such time, we have more data on vaccination of children, we would not be in a position to vaccinate children at large," the ICMR director said.

"However, we have started a study on children between 2 years to 18 years and we will have a result on it by September," he added.

During the conference, Director of the National Centre for Disease

Control (NCDC) Dr SK Singh informed that a total of 48 cases of Delta Plus variant of Covid-19 have been detected in the country so far.

Dr Singh said, "Eight states are important where we have found more than 50 per cent of the variant of concern. These are Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Telangana, and West Bengal."

"Covishield and Covaxin work against the variants of SARS CoV2 -- alpha, beta, gamma as well as delta. Delta Plus is present in 12 countries. As many as 48 cases have been identified in India but more importantly, they have been very localised," Dr Bhargava said regarding the Delta Plus variant of Covid-19.

Delta Plus or AY.1 will always remain a variant of concern (VoC) as it is mutated from the Delta variant (B.1.617.2), which is also a VoC, he added. Meanwhile, Joint Secretary of the Union Health Ministry Lav Agarwal informed that the recovery rate has increased to 96.7 per cent.

"In the 4th week of May, 531 districts of the country were reporting more than 100 cases. In the 2nd week of June, it fell down to 262 districts. Right now, only 125 districts in the country are reporting more than 100 cases," Agarwal added. ANI