# KASHNIR OBSERVER

Friday 09 July | 28 Zul Qadah | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 160 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

**Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare** and Department of Horticulture



सत्यमेव जयते



# FY 2020-21 INTEGRATED APPROACH Towards Doubling the Income of Farmers

#### Availability of Capital/Loan

- No. of KCC Card holders increased from 7 lakh to 10.50 lakh.
- ₹9000 crore credit disbursed to Agriculture and Allied Sector.
- Close to 6000 crore Loan given to around 1 Million farmers under KCC.
- ₹600 crore disbursed as direct financial assistance to more than 1 million farmers under PM KISAN.

## Support for Machinery

Shri Manoj Sinha

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

- Subsidy Support for 528 tractors.
- Paddy Threshers being Provided to each Panchayats free of cost.
- Subsidy Support for more than 2000 Tillers.

#### Market Infrastructure

- **Record Procurement of Wheat on Minimum Support Price.** Among top 10 in the Country.
- Direct Marketing introduced. Tieup with Bombay Stock Exchange e-Agricultural Markets.
- 3 Procurement Mandies opened up in Jammu.
- 18 Terminal and Satelite F&V Markets functioning.



#### Increasing Production and Quality

- Modified High Density Plantation Scheme introduced. Assistance upto ₹22.5 lac per beneficiary under this scheme.
- Scheme includes Apple, Mango, Cherry, Walnut and Almond.
- Cultivation of exotic and organic vegetables with 150% increase in coverage.

### Storage-Stabilizing Market for High Returns

- Record 40,000 MTs CA Storage added in Private Sector.
- Another 30,000 MTs CA Storage under construction
- Subsidy upto ₹14 crore per beneficiary provided.
- Another 35,000 MTs CA Storage coming up in Public Sector.

### Market Linkages

- GI Tag for Saffron and Guchi assigned.
- Saffron, Apple & Cherry introduced in UAE market.
- Organic Certification for Basmati Rice of R.S. Pura.
- Registration of 65 FPOs under process.
- Opening up of APEDA & NAFED office in Srinagar & Jammu.
- MIS Scheme for Apple through NAFED to help growers.

#### SUPPORT AT ALL LEVELS

HARVESTING







GROWING





**STORAGE** 



MARKETING



DIPK-NB-1668/21



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از نیابت انت ناگ با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجداول اننت ناگ درخواست منجانب : شبیر حسین خدومی ولد محمد یا سین خدومی ساکنہ قصبہ با عات اننت است ناگ ۔ اصول لیئنگل ہیئر شریفاییٹ است باک سی خاص و عام بن زیکاروائی ہے۔ معاملہ کے نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گیئی جس سے سنگ رہیں ہیں میں میں میں میں میں میں میں میں میں م	ناگ شرک بت وندیدگام با اجلاس ں چیش کیا ہے۔اس ل کا کنبہ دھھدا میں دفتر ہزا:	روده منطوروعا قب منطورولد منطوراحمد	نت ناگ بمرادعطاً کی BA عاملہ مندر جونوان الصدر میں۔ نظور احمد خان نائب تحصلید ارحم ربے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ	21 21 24 24 25 26 26 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27 27	TICE OF THE REGIONAL T OFFICER KASHMI Notice Where as an application for tran ownership has been received from Hilal S/o Sheikh Mohammad Amin loora Ganderbal (Transferor) of 3 bearing registration No. JkOIJ.0455 6878 Engine No: 556654 Model 2005 in fa o Ghulam Qadir Mir R/o Beehama Ganderb	IR Sheikh R/o Sa- Santroo 5 chasis wour of Altaf Aha al (Transferee).	RE رى ملتہ يں	حجام وعانش <sup>حس</sup> ن بمرادعطا یکی BA <b>ماص وعام</b>	<b>بار بمراداً گا،ی ہرخ</b> لی میں درخواست سائل دفتر بذامیں <i>زیرکا</i> لب کیا گیاہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ بذیل افرد پر مشتل ہے	یا دان عبدالخ <sup>ال</sup> ت 294 C اشتم ما مندجه عنوان الصد رود شرولدریکاردا
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علاوہ اورکوکی ءوارث جا ئز موجودتہیں ہے۔لہذ ااز زیر بحث سڑیفایٹ اجرا کرنے میں م کو کی اعتراض ہوتو وہ دفتر ہذا میں سات دن کے اندراندر پیش کریں۔بعداز معیاد تراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ RNA مجسٹریٹ درجہاول اننٹ ناگ	نے میں اگر کسی تحفیل کوئی نے میں اگر کسی تحفیل کوئی کی اع بیش کرے۔میعاد	، _لہذاز بریجث سر گفکیٹ اجراء کر۔ کے اندرا ندرا پنااعتر اض معہو جو ہا۔		tion o Moha S/O A R/o B	ra within a period of seven days from t f this notice. After that no objection sh ammad Ramzan Rather b Salam Rather arzulla Tehsil Karhama	nall be entertaie	end. I have somev If anyl his/he IG_r wara v of this Bilal A S/O N	lost the RC of m where. Now I hav body haiving any er objection in th wihtin a period of	blic Notice by vehicle bearing Regd N e applied for the duplica objection in this regard e office of the Regional seven days from the dat t no objection shall be er	te of the san he/she may f Transport Ku e of publicati itetain.
OFFICE OF THE I ELECTRIC DIVISIO Phone/Fax no: 0194-241623 NOTICE IN	N (KPDCL) GAN 5 E-mail:-edgbl12 /ITING e-TENDER ID )21-22 dated 07/07/20 ir, Tenders are hereby ir	DERBAL 3@gmail.com 21 vited from resourceful		tificat nual 2 of the this re the of Srinag date of be en <b>Rajjja</b>	Public Notice a lost my Provisional-cum Character be bearing Roll No: 860311, Session 2001. Now I have applied for the dup same . If anybody having any object agard he/she may file his/her object fice of the Iqbal Memorail Institute Be gar within a period of seven days from of publication of this notice. After that tertained. Jahangir hulam Ali Malla oniem Pattan Baramulla	r Cer- n An- licate ion in emina m the t no objection s b	hall Schoo period After t Ghula F/o Zo	PU t to change the had To Zehra Moh documents. If an e may file his/her l Dobiwan Tangn l of seven days fro that no objection m Mohammad V ehra Mohammad	blic Notice name of my daughter fin nammad in school record ybody having any objecti robjection in the office of nar or other concerned of om the date of publication shall be entertained. Wani	Is as well as on in this rega f Al-Noor Moo offices withir n of this noti
	Est. cost (in Lacs) CDR Amount	tender docu- compl ment (DD)	etion of funds	l c	FFICE OF THE EXEC		<b>GE-TENDER NO</b>	PCD (PH	Q) J&K SRIN	AGAR
along with HT/LT Network at Panchayat Halqa (Repora-A, Arigoripora) and Shifting of HT Line at Panchayat Halqa (Thune-C) Pertaining to ESD Kangan and Manigam of ED Ganderbal under BTV3 Program.	Declaration		rized	basis fr	ve Engineer PCD PHQ J&K JAMMU/ Sl om approved and eligible contractors owing works.	RINAGAR on be registered with	J&K Govt. / CPV	dent of India inv VD / Railways an	d other State / Central G	overnments
The tender document consisting of terms &conditions, from official web site of JKPDD or http://jktenders.gov.i			/downloaded	S. No	Name of Work	Name of Divi- sion	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs )	t Time Al- lowed for date of completion opening of tender	Class of Contractor
S#         Description           1.         Publish/uploading of e NIT Date           2         Documents Download/Sale start date           3         Clarification Date Start           4         Clarifications Date End	Date 07-07-21 08-07-21 08-07-21 09-07-21	Time 18.00 hrs 10.00 hrs 10.00 hrs 16.00 hrs		2	Construction of two storeys LSQ Block at Model Police Station Budgam. Construction of 04 storied (G+3) LSQ block in the premises of Model Police station at Nowshahra Rajouri	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Srinagar PCD (PHQ) J&K, Srinagar	72.20 lacs 120.10 lacs	4000/-	120 days20-07-2021 180 days20-07-2021	
4     Claimcations bate Fild       5     Bid submission Start date       6     Bid submission end date       7     Opening date for E-tender	09-07-21 09-07-21 17-07-21 19-07-21	17.00 hrs 14.00 hrs 15:00 hrs		1. 2. i.	Date of Publishing 06-07-2021 a The Bidding documents can be do The Bids shall be deposited in elec	wnloaded from				6-07-2021

7 Opening date for E-tender 8 Venue of opening e bids	19-07-21 Office of the Execu	15:00 hrs ive Engineer ED Gande	erbal		i. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 10-07-2021 to 19-07-2021 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 20-07-2021 on line.
			Exe	ecutive Engineer	<ul> <li>ii. The complete bidding process will be on line.</li> <li>iii. Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&amp;K Jammu/ Srinagar on 20-</li> </ul>
No: EDC / 2710 16 /TS				ED Ganderbal	07-2021 at 1100 Hrs.
No: EDG/ 2710-16/TS Date: 07-07-2021	DIPK-NB-1664/21				iv. In pursuance to Circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J dated. 22-12-2020 issued by Finance Department of J&K, there is no requirement of submission of bid security/ earnest Money deposit (EMD).
					- However, every bidder has to furnish an undertaking/ declaration form accepting that if it withdraws or modifies its bids during the
(Government of Union T OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEE NOTICE INVIT			ION B	UDGAM	period of bid validity or if it fails to sign the contract or fails to submit a performance security within 03 days after opening of price bid, if they are awarded the contract, they will be suspended from participating in any tender process in future for a period of one year. Aforementioned undertaken/ declaration needs to be furnished as per format provided in Annexure "A" to this bid document duly at- tested by 1st class magistrate/ Notary on stamp paper.
(Modified as per Circular No. A/N	lisc(2018)-III-89 nce Department).	5/J Dt.22-12-20	020		<ul> <li>v. The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan / receipt and upload the same.</li> <li>vi. In case of abnormally low bids, the tender inviting Authority reserves the right to ask from the bidder for additional perfor-</li> </ul>
1	• •		11		mance security with the approval of the next higher Authority which shall be binding upon the bidder in such case.
NIT No.54 /e-tendering /MDB/20 For and on behalf of the President, of India, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are in	vited on Percentage basis fro	m approved and eligible C	<b>2 I</b> Contractors	registered with J&K UT	3. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for th					4. The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.
S. No Name of Work	Adv. Cost Cost of TA (In rupees) (In Rupee	Doc. Time of Completion	Class of Contrac	Major Head of t Account	5. Financial Bids will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/Srinagar. If the office
		(calendar days )			happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
I         2           I         Upgradation of Zogyari link road by way of P/L of WBM G-II	3 4 3.00 lacs 200/-	5 20 days	6 DEE	7 District Sector	6. The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder
including cross drainage pipes	2.00 /acc 200/		DEE	District Coston	/ tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said
2 Improvements of Inner link roads at Najan by way of P/L of GSB course and WBM G-II	2.00 lacs 200/-	15 days	DEE	District Sector	earnest money shall stand forfeited.
3 Construction of Lalpora to Arwah Gabigath road by way of P/L of GSB course, WBM G-II and RCC spun pipes. Name of the Project Authority.	4.75 lacs 200/-	25 days	DEE	District Sector	7. No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees
1. Reference of Authorization Letter:					is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the
Arbitration Liability     Position of AAA/TS:- Accorded	NII				tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
4. Position of Funds.:- Available.					8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
I.         Date of Issue of Tender Notice         08.07.202           2.         Period of downloading of bidding documents         08.07.2021	4.00 PM 10:00 4.00 P.M.				<ul> <li>9. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.</li> <li>i. The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding document from the website http://jktenders.gov.in</li> </ul>
3. Bid submission Start Date 08.07.2021	from 4.00 P.M				ii. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology
	upto 4.00 P.M It 11:00 AM in the Office (	of the Executive Engine	eer. Muffa	sil (R&B) Division	Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above men-
Budgam					tioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate.
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, spe	cifications, Drawings, bill of	quantities (B.O.Q), Set of	f terms and	conditions of contract	iii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded with-
and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jk Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully b			copy the te	ender shall be rejected .	out Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.
Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectra					iv. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para 2(III).
as under : <b>C1</b> Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-to	enders is dispensed with .The	same should be obtained	l only from	the Bidder who's	v. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been at- tached with bid.
<ul> <li>declared Ist Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.</li> <li>b) The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing E-challan/ or simply uploated by the context of the contex</li></ul>	ding a copy of necessary Tre	asury Challan/Receipt.			vi. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.
			Division D	den an (kan den in thi	vii. All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.
Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Cha authority).	man/ in tayour of Executive	Engineer Muttasil (R&B)	DIVISION BU	iugam (tender inviting	viii. Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.
<ol> <li>All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of E Declaration Form is as per Annexure 'A" below).</li> </ol>	arnest money deposit (EMI	) as per the circular of Fi	inance Depa	artment ( Bid Security	ix. Original Registration certificate of GST No. shall be uploaded on line.
The 1 <sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract	t as performance security in s	hape of CDR/FDR within (	02 days befo	ore fixation of contract	10. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in
and shall be released after successful completion of work. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site w	ww.jktenders.gov.in and con	veyed to the bidders auto	matically t	hrough an e-mail mes-	11. No construction material shall be supplied by Police Construction Division, PHQ. However, the brands of the material will be approved by Engineer Incharge of the concerned site in consultation with Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K.
sage on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened onlin					approved by Engineer incharge of the concerned site in consolitation with Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K.
(tender receiving authority). 3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from t	he date of opening of bids.				Executive Engineer
				Sd/- Executive Engineer,	PCD (PHQ) J&K Srinagar.
DIPK-4334/21			Muffasil (F	R&B) Division Budgam.	No:-e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2021-22/3173-79 Dated: 06-07-2021. DIPK-4231/21
No: 4966-86. DATED: 08.07.2021.					

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# KASHNIR OF PUBLICATION

#### Friday 09 July | 28 Zul Qadah | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 160 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

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#### P4 CITY

#### **DILAPIDATED ROAD STRETCH NEAR** SMHS HOSPITAL A 'DEATH TRAP'

A road stretch at Shah Mohalla, Nawabazar near SMHS hospital has become a death trap for commuters due to its deplorable and dilapidated condition.

#### **MAKE SEASONAL** SCHOOLS OPERATIONAL

In order to provide basic education to the children of the migratory population, the J&K Government envisaged a scheme in late 1970s called Mobile Schools. This was especially meant for the Bakerwal Community.



# P5 STATE

**DOCTOR'S REMOVE WOMAN'S** GALLBLADDER INSTEAD OF UTERUS



IAF Station Attack Fallout

Raj Bhawan, Civil Sectt

**Declared 'No Fly Zones'** 



# **G** Quote

Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground. — Theodore Roosevelt 55

#### NEWS DIGEST

#### **Man Held With IED** Material: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a militant associate and recovered incriminating materials including explosive substance from his possession in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Danish Ahmed Dar, a resident of Check-Sari Singhpora Pattan was arrested after he tried to flee from a checkpoint established at Archandarhama, Magam near a railway crossing, a police 
More On P10

#### **'Hideout' Busted** In Sopore

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have busted a hideout in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Around 3:30pm Thursday, police, army's 22RR and 179 Battalion CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in Ganai Mohalla Doabgah of Sopore regarding the presence of militants in the locality, a police spokesperson said. During a search in the area, he said, a hideout of Hizbul 
More On P10

#### **2540 People Fined For SOP Violation**

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday said that a fine of over Rs 3 lakh was recovered from 2540 people for violating coronavirus related rules and guidelines across the Valley. In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that continuing its efforts to curb the outbreak of 2nd wave of Coronavirus, Police have realized fine to the tune of Rs 3, 16,200 from 2540 • More On P10

#### **Guide Held In**

# **4 Militants Killed In Two South Kashmir Encounters: Police**

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have killed four militants, three of them from Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in two separate encounters in twin districts of Pulwama and Kulgam in south Kashmir. The gunfights, according to a police spokesperson, broke out during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday after specific inputs about the militants were received.



Puchal area. In Pulwama, the po-"During the search oplice spokesperson said a eration as the presence of cordon and search operamilitants got ascertained tion (CASO) was launched they were given repeated during the intervening opportunities to surrennight by police, army's 53 der, however, they fired RR with the assistance of indiscriminately upon the joint search party which CRPF personnel from 183 was retaliated leading to battalion on the basis of specific inputs suggesting an encounter," the police presence of militants in spokesperson said.

In the ensuing gun-battle, he said, two militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter. He identified the duo as Kifayat Ramzan Sofi of Padgampora Awantipora and Inayat Ahmad Dar of Samboora. Sofi was associated with LeT and Dar with the 
More On P10

## 2 Soldiers, 2 Militants **Killed In LoC Firefight**

wo militants and as many as soldiers were killed while an army personal was injured in an encounter near the Line of Control in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri, official sources said on Thursday.

They said that there was an encounter between infiltrating militants and army in the Sunderbani sector in the district in which two unidentified militants and as many soldiers were killed while one trooper was injured. One of the slain soldiers has been identified as Sepoy Yashwant Reddy of 17 Madras, the official sources said, according to news agency GNS. While a Defence Ministry spokesman based in Jammu could not be contacted for comments despite repeated attempts, the army in a tweet said: "Infiltration bid foiled in Sundarbani Sector. Further operations in progress." Today's encounter comes a day after the army said that an unidentified militant was killed in the Nowshera sector of Rajouri. As per sources, two soldiers were also injured in the gunfight in Nowshera.

AS PER POLICE RECORDS, ALL THE KILLED MILITANTS were part of groups involved in various militancy related incidents. Arms, ammunition and other incriminating materials were recovered from both the encounter sites."

#### India Asks OIC Not To Allow Pakistan's Propaganda Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday called on the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to

# **Delimitation Panel Holds Deliberations For Third Day**



#### **Exercise Meaningless Until Statehood Restored: Cong** he Congress on Thursday submitted a memorandum to the

**Observer News Service** 

Thursday that the decrease n posit ve cases and



"Since it is not possible to serve individual notices to all the persons concerned, this order is being passed exparte" the order stated.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu has been directed to ensure imple-mentation of the order in letter and spirit.

The move, as per the order, has come "in view of the security threat posed due to recent trends of carrying out drone attacks by anti-national elements.

#### **Exfiltration Case: Police**

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested an alleged guide in connection with last week's exfiltration bid that was foiled with the arrest of three youth and a guide in north Kashmir's Uri. On July 2, police had detained four people, including an alleged guide Parvaiz Ahmad Hajam of Gohallan Uri and foiled their attempt to cross over into Pakistan-controlled Kashmir. According to 
More On P10

#### 6 New Covid **Cases In Ladakh**

LEH: Ladakh recorded six new CO-VID-19 cases on Thursday which took the infection tally to 20,143, officials said. Twenty-three people recovered from the infection, taking the overall recoveries to 19,756, they said. Twenty Covid patients were discharged after recovery in Leh and three were discharged in Kargil, they said. No new death was reported in the union territory. So far, 204 people -- 146 in Leh district and 58 in Kargil district -- have • More On P10

paganda through biased and onesided resolutions.

ing's platform for anti-India

not allow vested interests like

Pakistan to "subvert" the group-

The strong comments by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came in response to the OIC secretary-general proposing to send a delegation to Jammu and Kashmir in line with relevant resolutions by the grouping's council of foreign ministers. In a meeting with Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ausat Sayeed, OIC secretary-general Yousef Al-Othaimeen also asked about the possibility of a meeting between India and Pakistan, stating the grouping's General Secretariat stands ready to assist "if the two parties would so request", according to a statement by the OIC.

"During the meeting, a wide range of issues were discussed. Our Ambassador conveyed the need to correct some of the misperceptions about India that are perpetrated by vested interests in the OIC," MEA spokesperson Arindam 

More On P10

**Observer Monitoring Desk** 

IAMMU: The Delimitation Commission continued its deliberations with political parties and election officials on Thursday as part of its 4-day visit concluding on July 9. The Commission led by Justice (retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai visited to interact with leaders of

political parties and officials to gather "first hand" inputs on the conduct of the exercise to redraw

constituencies and carve out new ones in the J&K.

Among others, NC, BJP, Apni Party and Panthers party delegations met the commission in Jammu soon after they reached the winter capital after holding deliberation in Kishtwar.

A National Conference delegation led by Provincial President, Jammu province Devender Singh Rana comprising Mr. Surjeet Singh Slathia, Mr. Ajay Kumar Sadhotra. 
More On P10

JAMMU AND ITS SUB REGIONS (whether it is the plains of Jammu or the hills of Poonch-Rajouri or the erstwhile Doda District comprising Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban) feel alienated and have a sense of deprivation."

Delimitation Commission here and said undertaking a delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir will be meaningless until 
More On P10

# KPs Demand 5 Assembly Seats

🗸 ashmiri Pandits on Wednesday tion of five assembly constituencies and a Parliament seat for then in the valley as part of their rehabilita tion policy. This was 
More On P10

#### **BJP Demands Unfreezing** of 24 PcK Seats

delegation of the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit on Thursday met the Delimitation Commission here and demanded the unfreezing of the 24 assembly seats falling in Pakistan-controlled 
More On P10

**SRINAGAR:** Asserting that the second wave of coronavirus has diminished to a larger extent in wake of decreasing number of cases in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior medical expert on Thursday said that lowering guard against the deadly disease poses serious threat and lay the base for predicted third wave. Professor and Head,

ing of drones & unmanned

aerial vehicles (UAVs) over

and above these premises

The order in this regard was

issued by District Magistrate,

Jammu, Anshul Garg, in exer-

cise of powers vested to him

under Section 144 Cr. PC, an

also be complete prohibi-

tion on flying of drones and

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

**Covid-19: Expert** 

**Fatal 3rd Wave** 

Warns Against Dangerous,

As per an order, there shall

official spokesperson said.

with immediate effect.

Community Medicine, GMC, Srinagar, Mohammad Saleem Khan said

number of Covid deaths was an encouraging indication of winning the fight against the second wave of the pandemic. However, Dr Khan cautioned that the decline of second wave has resulted in non-seriousness among people towards Covid Appropriate Behavior (CAB), adherence to SOPs particu-

larly wearing of masks and physical distancing, adding that such behaviour poses serious threat • More On P10 

#### J&K Logs 262 Cases, 4 Deaths

ammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday four more deaths due to coronavirus, even as 262 fresh cases of virus were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. While Kashmir Valley reported 142 new cases of Covid-19, the remaining 120 were detected from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 318023, officials said Thursday. Giving the district-wise details, the officials said that 😐

# **Grounded Drones Create Professional Crisis For Kashmiri Photographers**

#### **Auqib Javeed**

Srinagar: JUST before a new proclamation prohibited drones in Srinagar, aerial snapper Shabir Bhat was set to shoot a pre-wedding ceremony of a New Delhi-based couple in the enchanting ruins of Pari Mahal.

The order issued by Srinagar District Commissioner not only cost him his project, but his drone worth two lakh rupees too.

"It's like robbing someone of his livelihood," Shabir, unable to make sense of the magistrate order, says.

"Why should Kashmiris always bear the brunt of these so-called securitydriven decisions? Instead of going for some defense rethink, they choose to render us commoners jobless. This is atrocious!"

Notably, a week after the Jammu drone attack, DC Srinagar Aijaz Asad in an order on July 4 banned drones and



other unmanned aerial vehicles in the City. He also directed the drone owners to deposit their aerial machines in local police stations.

The administration cautioned that any violation of the guidelines will attract punitive action, and directed police to implement the restrictions in letter and spirit.

But as the order has evoked anguish and hit the livelihood of dozens of young photographers using drones for weddings, special engagements and travel photography, DC Asad didn't respond to the repeated media queries from Kashmir Observer.

The magistrate order, however, has exempted government departments from using drones for mapping, survevs and surveillance in agricultural, environmental conservation and disaster mitigation sectors.

The use of drones picked up in Kashmir after many youth armed with degrees started investing in these aerial machines for professional reasons.

"I used to earn a good amount of money and was happy with my job, but suddenly I've been asked to hand over the equipment. What should I do now," Shabir continues.

He says he has no choice but to sell

his drone in New Delhi "even if fetches a small amount".

Like Shabir, Imad-ur-Rehman, a well-known vlogger and video creator from Srinagar, sees the order as "strange".

"How can administration ask us to hand over the equipment worth lakhs to them?" Imad, 32, wonders. "It should've notified some areas as nofly zones, like we've in different countries. Not allowing us to use drones will hit our business."

Even in the western countries, he says, the government has facilitated and made special laws for the drone users. "I want the Srinagar administration to follow those laws, so that our bread and butter would be spared."

As the "first person" to do vlogging by using drones, Imad had earlier registered his aerial machine and the necessary details to a local police station. "I'm into film-making and I can't do it without using drones," he says. "If they want to take our drones now, they should give us compensation. We've got the drones legally and the government should do a verification program and allow the professionals to operate. The drones have a unique identification number, so if my drone is misused, it can be tracked within no time."

In the last few years, drone cameras have taken wedding photography to new heights in Kashmir. The social media is flooded with the surreal cinematic aerial shots of the valley involving more and more youth in this creative venture.

"The drone has now become the essential part of the Kashmiri weddings," says Maqsood Bhat, a wedding filmmaker. "But whenever we go for drone shooting, we take the permission from tourism department. Even our clients get permission from the police if the area is restricted. We were doing it very 
More On P10





**TWO WOMEN** row a boat in the interiors of Dal Lake on Thursday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

# **Five Women Arrested For 'Immoral Activities' In City Outskirts**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday arrested five girls for allegedly indulging in immoral activities in Srinagar city. A news gathering agency quoting police

sources reported that a woman living in a rented accommodation in Tengpora area of Srinagar was being ant. They have been booked visited by a number of male and under different sections of prefemale visitors vention of immoral traffic act,"

from

maloo

on a daily sources said. The accused have been lodged basis. at the women's police station in team "А

the Rambagh area. Bat-Police said the owner of the police station house has also been arrested.

raided the "Investigation has been started house and arrested five girls including the ten-

#### A TEAM FROM BATMALOO POLICE STATION RAIDED THE HOUSE and arrested five girls including the tenant. They have been booked under different sections of prevention of immoral traffic act,"

## J&K Govt To Reconstitute **SKIMS Committees Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K government has decided to re-constitute the (HoD) for which the purchases purchase sub-committee, selection or promotion committee and the apical selection committee of SK Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura.

Earlier, the government had directed the Director SKIMS, AG Ahanger not to look after the ed into two categories including issues related to procurement the senior selection committee and appointments after his term and junior selection committee. was extended till December.

The order about the purchase these committees shall be imsub-committee states that the committee shall have powers to purchase up-to Rs 20 crores at a time, the approval of the Chief Secresubject to the availability of funds.

The government further said that in the purchase sub-commit- for the apical selection committee the Director-Ceneral Codes Finance Department will act as experts from outside the Union the Chairman of the Committee. The Chief of Materials Management, SKIMS has been des- the recommendations of the ignated as Member-Secretary of apical selection committee shall the committee while as the Dean, be implemented by the Director Medical Faculty, Additional Di- SKIMS with the prior approval rector, Medical Superintendent, of the Chairman Governing Chief Engineer, Medical Super- Body-(Agencies)

intendent, SKIMS Medical College, Bemina, Director Finance, Concerned Head of Department are to be made, representative of I&C Department, Deputy Director (Planning), SKIMS, have been selected as the Members of the

Committee. For the selection and promotion committee, it has been divid-"The recommendations of

plemented by the General Administration Department with tary," the order reads. The Government directed that,

tee, it shall be assisted by the

# **Illegal Structure Sealed At**

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation Thursday sealed one illegal structure at Badshah Nagar at Natipora.

sealed the structure.

the violators who will not apply for proper building permissions and resort to illegal construc-

"All the ward Officers, Enforce-

# **Dilapidated Road Stretch Near SMHS Hospital A 'Death Trap'**

**Residents Seek Macadamisation To Avoid Accidents** 



**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** A road stretch at Shah Mohalla, Nawabazar near SMHS hospital has become a death trap for commuters due to its deplorable and dilapidated condition.

It has been often seen that auto-rickshaws ferrying patients to hospitals overturn and two-wheelers skid, causing injuries to commuters, the local resident said.

The road was cut by the PHE Department for argumentation of water supply in the area two months ago for which necessary approval macadamisation at an earliest was given by concerned R&B to avoid frequent road accidepartment and all requisite dents in the area.

pleted, including deposition of fee for road cut. "But due to lack of coordination among concerned government departments the said road stretch of hardly 10 square feet is not being repaired and people face a lot of inconvenience," the locals added.

official formalities were com-

They said that though the matter was brought into the notice of the concerned authorities but till date no action has been taken.

The residents appealed the concerned authorities to take necessary measures including

#### TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 HIJRI PAMPORE: 01933-294132 CALENDAF • PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153 **HIGHWAY STATUS** Sgrr-Jammu highway - (Open) ZIQADAT Mughal Road - (Open) Srinagar- Leh- (Closed) -UL-HARAAM This Day in History 1442 1789 French Revolution: the National Assembly renames itself the National **Constituent Assembly** 1790- Russo-Swedish War: Second Battle of Svensksund - in the Baltic Sea, the Swedish Navy captures one third of the Russian fleet 1807- Second Treaty of Tilsit signed by France, Russia and Prussia 1810- Napoleon annexes the Kingdom of Holland as part of the First French Empire 1926- Chiang Kai-shek appointed to nationalrevolutionary supreme commander in China PRAYERS 1944- In World War II, US troops secure Saipan as Japan falls 1947 - Spain votes for Franco monarchy **FAJR** 1951 - US President Harry Truman asks Congress 3:41 to formally end state of war with Germany 1957- Discovery of element 102 (Nobelium) **ZUHR** announced 12:35 1958- Giant splash caused by fall of 90 million tons of rock & ice into Lituya Bay, Alaska ASR washes 1,800 feet up the mountain 1971- Henry Kissinger visits the People's 5:35 Republic of China to negotiate a detente between the US and China MAGRIB 1979- Voyager 2 flies past Jupiter 7:49 1989 - Two bombs explode in Mecca, killing one pilgrim and wounding 16 others **ISHA** 1992- Space Shuttle STS 50 (Columbia 13) lands 9:29 2002 -The African Union is established in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The first chairman is Thabo Mbeki, President of South Africa. 2006 -At least 122 people killed after a Sibir Airlines Airbus A310 passenger jet, carrying 200 passengers veers off the runway while landing at Irkutsk Airport in Siberia in wet conditions 2006 -FIFA World Cup Final, Olympiastadion,

- penalties: 1-1 after extra time
- secedes from Sudan.
  - 2014 Joko Widodo is elected President of Indonesia
- Palestinians claims that at least 7 children

**Observer News Service** 

(KCCI) led by General Secretary, Farooq Amin Thursday held a meeting with Mohammed Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar to allow reopening of restaurants in Srinagar with 50 percent capacity as they continue to wear deserted look and have been adversely impacted due to successive lockdowns.

President, Restaurant and Cafe Association of Kashmir (RAK), Sheikh Feroz also accompanied the delegation and apprised the authorities of the plight of the people of this industry which is on the verge of collapse, a spokesman of the KCCI said.

"The sector which employs thousands of people and is a in order to contain the contagion."

"As the Covid-19 second wave has receded 0.5% positive rate and the government has eased the lockdown, the delegation apprised the authorities of the plight of the people impacted due to closure of the restaurants as the industry supports the livelihood of thousands of people," said the KCCI spokesperson.

thorities that COVID appropriate behaviour would be followed by the stakeholders, he said. "KCCI thanked authorities for

listening to ground realities and hoped that the issues raised with the authorities will be heeded."

**Body Of Drowned Youth Retrieved** 

**Kashmir Traders Body Demands Reopening Of Restaurants In Srinagar** 

The delegation assured the au-





KASHMIR OBSERVER

Friday | 09-07-202

- Berlin, Germany: Italy beats France, 5-3 on
- 2011- South Sudan gains independence and

  - 2014 Spokesperson for Medical Aid for

**Badshah Nagar** 

**Observer News Service** 

The sealing took place in presence of Enforcement Officer who along with the entire field staff

"SMC will act tough against all

tions," an SMC spokesperson said. He said no illegal construction or any structure coming up bevond the sanctioned building plan will be allowed and will face demolition at any stage after getting

## into the notice of authorities.

and nothing would be revealed unless supported by irrefutable evidence," police said.

territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It was also mentioned that

ment Officers including field staff have been strictly directed by Commissioner SMC Athar Aamir Khan to swing into action at an appropriate time/ early stage and keep a tight vigil in ongoing constructions in the city to check the status of their permissions while doing any sort of commercial or residential construction."

## **After Eight Days**

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: The body of a man, who drowned into river Jhelum on July 1, was retrieved Thursday morning.

A senior official said that a 50-year-old man slipped into river Jhelum near Kalashpora on July 1 and confirmed that his body was retrieved on Thursday morning.

He identified the deceased as Muhammad Ashraf Zala, son of Late Abdul Aziz, a resident of Kalashpora Srinagar.

## **VC Cluster University Visits Abdul Ahad Memorial College In Bemina**

SRINAGAR: Vice Chancellor Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Dr. Qayyum Husain visited Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College, Bemina as part of a series of official visits to the constituent colleges of the Cluster University Srinagar on 7th July 2021 and held elaborate discussions with the Principal, Heads of Departments and faculty members of the college regarding the functioning and development of the Cluster University Srinagar. Also, present on this official visit were Dean Students Welfare, Cluster University Srinagar Prof. Dr. Abdul Hai and Dean Sciences, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Dr. Izhar Tantray.

During the day long visit, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor discussed the future course of action for the progress of the Cluster University Srinagar and took stock of all the faculties and departments of the college. Dr. Qayyum also interacted with all the faculty members and assured them of all possible help in resolving their issues.

In his presidential address, Prof. Dr. Qayyum spoke at length about the various measures that the university needs to focus on to improve the condition of higher education including introduction of courses that will cater to the employment deficit in the UT. While maintaining that traditional courses are still sigmina, in strengthening the Cluster nificant, Prof. Dr. Qayyum stressed University Srinagar.(KNS)

that modern courses from emerging fields will need to be given priority for overall development of students in lieu of the implementation of the NEP 2020. The vice chancellor also reiterated his commitment towards the promotion and preservation of Kashmiri Culture and Tradition by introducing courses on Kashmir studies. For accelerating the growth of higher education and development of society, Prof. Qayyum, also, spoke at length about the contribution of women in particular. Prof. Qayyum said that for realizing the objective of establishing a world renowned reputed institution of higher education, collective and committed efforts from Principals, faculty and other stakeholders of the university is required. During the event, the vice chancellor also distributed certificates amongst the students

for completion of internship at IIT Rohtak and visited various departments and faculties in the college. Speaking on the occasion, the worthy Principal Prof. Dr. Nasreen Aman thanked the Vice Chancellor for his personal and keen interest in the improvement in the overall scenario of higher education and in the progress of the Cluster University Srinagar in particular. Dr. Nasreen Aman also assured full support from the faculty and staff of AAAMDC Behave been killed by Israeli air strikes

- 2017 CEO Elon Musk is the first owner of Telsa's first mass market electric car - the Model 3 2017 - Iragi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi
- proclaims victory over Islamic State forces in Mosul
- 2018 Bright pink is the world's oldest biological colour according to scientists. produced by tiny cyanobacteria in 1.1bn-yearold marine shale rock from Taoudeni basin, Mauritania

## From KO Archives

#### **Valley Rivers Swell As Glaciers Melt**

Pulwama Areas Under Laar Waters

#### **Observer News service**

**SRINAGAR** Rivers and streams in the valley have registered an alarming increase in water levels due to the intense spell of heal gripping the region.

Several government departments have been put on alert to deal with an imminent threat of floods, even as over two hundred households have been displaced in Pulwama due to waters from the swollen Laarnullah entering inhabited areas.

Glaciers melting under the abnormally high temperatures have raised levels in the Jhelum and other rivers and streams of the valley.

In Pulwama a sudden surge in the Laar stream has inundated a large area in Joravillage, displacing 250 of its six hundred households, a KNS re-ort said.

Scores of houses have come under water and hundreds of kanals of land have been submerged, the report said. People have fled their homes seeking higher ground for safety.

The Aribal area, located on the banks of the Laar too has been inundated. Water has entered dozens of residential houses the report said.

A delegation from the affected areas has met the additional deputy commissioner Pulwama to apprise him of the situation.

The ADC has directed the tehsildar concerned to dispatch a team to review the situation and organise relief for the floodhit population

Water has entered paddy fields in several places in the utile} because of rivers over-flowing their banks.

Experts fear that a flood situation is imminent if the heat spell persists with its present intensity, Thegovt has ordered the departments concerned at the district level to be on alert to deal with any eventuality.

The metrological department says that although the maximum temperature is 5 degrees Celsius above normal and the minimum temperature 7 degrees Celsius above normal, the present situation cannot be characterised as an intense or extraordinary heat wave

The rest of the Country is experiencing normal monsoons and rainfall can be expected in the valley within the next two to three days, a spokesman of the metrological department said.

(Kashmir Observer, 09 July, 2005)

# Seminar On Mental Health Scenario Held In Srinagar

24x7 Mental Health Helpline Launched

#### **Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Covid Control Room Kashmir (DCCRK) Thursday held a day long seminar on Mental Health Scenario in Kashmir division at Auditorium hall of DIPR J&K, Srinagar.

The seminar was held in collaboration with DIPR, Srinagar under the theme, 'Sensitisation of media persons regarding mental health scenario in Kashmir'.

Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole presided over the seminar.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com said that there is a growing concern amongst parents and Civil society members that there is an alarming rise of the mental health issues in Kashmir, where young children and young adults are indulging in drug addiction and later have a higher tendency of committing suicide.

He also apprised the media fraternity that how some secsuicidal cases by sensationalising loss of such precious lives and appealed media to play a positive role in addressing the issue.

He said everyone has a moral duty not to post such videos of said that mental health issues these people who do attempt such wrong behaviours which the valley where young Children can have a negative impact on the and adults are indulging in drug psyche of the rest of the society. addiction and trying to finish

E SAID EVERYONE has a moral duty not to post such videos of these people who do attempt such wrong behaviours which can have a negative impact on the psyche of the rest of the society.

cooperate with the administration and avoid growing poppy and other cultivations in their farms, proving harmful for the society later.

He said that various initiatives have been taken and said as many as 31 FIRs have been registered against the growers which has helped in controlling the poppy cultivation in many areas. Div Com also stressed on involvement of youth in sports and recreational activities to de-stress them and help them to stay away from indulging in drug menace.

At the beginning of the session a short documentary on Positions of media are reporting such tive Mental health was launched by the DCCRK where renowned Doctors spoke on mental health issues during COVID 19.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Mustaq Ahmad Rather are on rise in the recent past in Div Com further urged people to their live by committing suicides.

health issues we are planning to start the mental health services at District level where OPD and IPD Services will be further strengthened to address these issues. Also the on the occasion, Among the panellist Dr. Rouf Hussain Rather Community Medicine Special-

He said that as there is increase

in the prevalence of these Mental

ist gave a brief presentation on the Global Health Scenario, national health scenario as well as a divisional scenario to the audience.

Later Dr. Yasir Hassan Rather Professor Psychiatry Srinagar spoke about how media must report the suicidal cases in a much better way so that it must desist others to commit such attempts. Lastly Dr. Mohammad Maqbool Dar HOD Psychiatry IMHANS,GMC Srinagar briefed the media about various facilities available for mental health issues at their Institute. He also appraised about various training and capacity building training which his department is conducting of and on amongst various stakeholders of the division. On the occasion, a 24x7

Mental Health Helpline 0194 2455384 was launched for mental health issues which will be operated from DCCRK from today. Further Advisory for media fraternity was released for reporting of these mental health issues to the general public.

# Pulwama Records 1912 **Foot-Mouth Disease Cases In 2 Months**

**Observer News Service** 

PULWAMA: Amid the ongoing that in Pulwama district which pandemic, an outbreak of infec- is known for its milk production, tious disease known as Footand-mouth Disease (FMD) has cows whose livelihood is directly left dozens of domestic animals dead in South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

The FMD erupted among the domestic animals before one to animal husbandry officials month due to which over 100 animals, mainly cows, have died in the district.

Wali Mohammad Mir, a resident of Pulwama district, said that he brought a cow with great difficulty but now after its death he has left with no source of income.

Locals said that the administration has made a number of announcements to boost the livestock industry, but the government's claims to address the recovered. problems faced at the grassroots level are proving hollow.

A local woman said, "My cow teams of the department are also died of the disease and visiting every nook and corner ironically, no medical felts have of the district to treat the anibeen provided so far even after mals and educate the farmers so

the area. Locals from various areas said dozens of farmers have lost their

dependent on the animals. The locals also have demanded compensation to the affected farmers and have also appealed to visit the area and educate the people about the disease besides the authorities should vaccinate the animals so that disease won't spread further.

District Animal Husbandry officer Pulwama, Dr Hussain said that so far 1,912 cases of foot and mouth disease have been reported in the district.

He said that among 1,912 cases 138 animals, mostly cows, have died and 1,641 cases have

He added that 133 cases are still active in the district and the outbreak of the disease in as to avoid its spread. (Agencies)

cent at present, while the recov-

He said that presently the

Giving details, the DC said

that no death due to Covid-19

has been reported anywhere

across the district since quite

some period, things are improv-

ing gradually and keeping this

in view restrictions have been

eased to a large extent particu-

larly since the district was put in

district has below 200 positive

ery rate is at 99.4 percent.

cases in the district.

# **J&K Has Huge Potential To Produce World-class Athletes: PSC**

Parliamentary Standing Committee Concludes Two-day Study Tour Of Kashmir



**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children and Youth & Sports concluded its 2-day study tour of Kashmir with discussions and deliberations over the development and availability of sporting and

other infrastructure facilities of Bakhshi Stadium in Srinagar to sportspersons and athletes of Jammu and Kashmir. The committee members door stadium across the UT.

appreciated the coaching standards and International Standard Water Sports Equipments at the facility, besides they also interacted with the water sports players who have won laurels at various national and UT and hoped that J&K would international games.

They enquired about the train- the participation of sporting ing and courses of water sports activities being held at the facility.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee had arrived on July 7 on its two-day study visit to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir where the members from both the houses of Parliament (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) met several stakeholders to receive feedback on the subject

matter of the committee. On the occasion, J&K Sports Council officials delivered a presentation with regard to different sporting and infrastructural activities in J&K.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS appreciated the coaching standards and International Standard Water Sports Equipments at the facility, besides they also interacted with the water sports players who have won laurels at various national and international games.

They informed the comthe committee members said mittee members about the that Dal Lake has huge potenrenovation and upgradation tial to host most of the water sports events in India.

under PMDP and the construc-The committee members tion of other outdoor and inalso interacted with outstanding sportspersons and en-Speaking on the occasion, quired about the issues and difficulties while pursuing Rajendra Agrawal lauded the role of the J&K Sports Council their career in their respective and Youth Services & Sports desports and games.

Calling the deliberations partment in promoting sporting and gaming activities in the with senior officials and sportspersons as fruitful, the play an important part during Committee Chairman, Rajendra Agrawal summed up the proceeding of the session and He said the objective of the said that J&K has a huge pocommittee to visit the Valley tential in terms of producing was to talk to stakeholders and world-class athletes and sports understand the issues on ground personalities while the need is to explore and groom the rein order to make valid recommendations to the Government gion's talent in right direction.

The committee was led by its He also appreciated the fachairman and Lok Sabha memcilities and trainings being ber, Rajendra Agrawal. In its last provided to the local youth day of the two-day study tour, which would encourage them the standing committee today to choose sports as their career inspected Water Sports Center while competing both at naat Nehru Park situated in famous tional and international level. Dal Lake while witnessing train-Commenting on the Water ing sessions with respect to vari-Sports Center at Nehru Park, ous water sports disciplines.

# Kashmir Observer Friday | 09-07-2021 **Doctors Remove Woman's** Uterus Instead Of Gallbladder Agencies pleaded for a "compromise".

hospital in Srinagar have allegedly removed the uterus of a 26 year old woman of Pulwama, who was supposed to undergo a gallbladder removal surgery. The woman was operated on

at Classic Hospital in Srinagar, family of the victim alleged. According to the family, the 26 year old was diagnosed with the presence of a 6mm polyp on her

gall bladder and was advised to undergo a surgery late in June. To her surprise, not only did

her post surgery checkup reveal the surgery was not required as the polyp was too small to be removed, the woman also received revealed her uterus was missing. when confronted, the hospito take responsibility and later the authority." (KNO)

Brother of the patient said the SRINAGAR: Doctors at a private family was suffering from mental trauma, as his sister had married only a couple of years back. "All we want is justice so that there won't be any more victims

of medical negligence," he said. "We have been devastated. We can never ever complete our family now," said the husband of the victim, adding that it is like a death sentence for the family. We are in disbelief, the family said. "What worries us is also the fact that removal of body part without any reason will affect the health of my wife for

her entire life. Our life has been derailed," her husband said. The Managing Director of a rude shock when an ultrasound the hospital feigned ignorance about the "medical The family also claimed that negligence" and said, "if anyone has any issue, they can tal management first refused directly approach me as I am

## **Asking Govt Employees To** Surrender BPL RCs A People **Friendly Step: RTI Movement**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement Thursday appreciated Commissioner Secretary Food Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs Department (FCS & CA) for streamlining the public distribution system (PDS) in Jammu & Kashmir by asking all the Govt employees and well to do people to surrender their BPL , Priority household (PHH) and AAY

ration cards with 15 days. Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat not having good economic conditions some years back had obtained PHH or BPL ration cards, but now some of them have got government jobs now.

ed BPL and even Antyodaya Anna many poorest of poor were left.

of poor were not provided BPL or PHH ration cards last year after doing a survey, taking details from the online portal of FCS & CA department and then cross checking it in Loolipora, Kutabal and some other villages in Budgam district. Since then we have been asking the Govt to streamline the whole PDS. Former Secretary FCS & CA Simrandeep Singh took the initiative and now the present Commissioner Secretary Zubair Ahmad

In a statement Chairman RTI ensured that ineligible people are not enlisted as PHH, BPL or AAY said that many people who were under National Food Security Act. This is indeed a great decision. We are appreciate him for aadhar linking all the consumers `` said Dr Raja Muzaffar

The Food Civil supplies and Con-He added that a huge number of sumer Affairs (FCSCA) department ineligible people had been provid- on Wednesday directed all the government employees and the Yojna (AAY) ration cards in the past consumers having good economic on political considerations while as conditions to surrender their Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Pri-"We exposed how the poorest ority Household (PHH) ration.

**Covid Situation Improving** 

## **In Bandipora: DC Observer News Service**

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Com-

missioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr.

forts are being intensified to achieve cent percent inoculation of the said population in coming weeks.

Under the supervision of se-Owais Ahmad Thursday said nior officers, door to door vacthat the Covid-19 situation is cination drives are being carried improving gradually with a out to inoculate the remaining steep decrease in positive cases 18-45 years old population besides aggressive

# **Recovery Rate Rises Above** 99 Percent In Budgam: DC



**Observer News Service** 

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza Thursday inin the district and is just 0.5 per- over, he added.

#### The DC appealed to all to adhere to all guidelines, follow appropriate Covid containment formed that the positivity rate measures. We still shall not lowhas witnessed a massive decline er the guard till this pandemic is

green zone status.

## **ADC Anantnag Stresses On Availability Of Essentials Ahead Of Eid**

**Observer News Service** 

ANANTNAG: On directions of bandry Departments would re-Deputy Commissioner (DC) An- spectively make Sheep/Goats antnag, Dr. Piyush Singla, Ad- and Poultry Birds available at ditional Deputy Commissioner reasonable rates at different (ADC), Ghulam Hassan Sheikh places of the district. d a meeting of sectoral

The meeting was informed that Sheep and Animal Hus-

The ADC asked the

**JKEC Demands Resumption Of Regular Classwork In Phased Manner** useful than online teaching.

events at international level.

in resolving difficulties, if any.

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: JK Education Cham- experts are of the opinion that dents who would attend ofber (JKEC) Thursday urged the engagement of students in fline classes and also ensure a government to start offline class rooms can prevent them stringent Standard Operating lasses in a phased manner and from becoming prev to vari-

cation department to take into "Most of the mental health account the number of stu-Procedure (SOP

last almost two years, students

of Jammu and Kashmir have

not seen schools and have not

Meanwhile, most of the stu-

dents have become addicted to

mobile phones in the garb of

resulted in a number of side

effects like social problems

teachers and classmates.

officers to finalise the arrangements for the upcoming festive occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, here.

The ADC on the occasion passed directions to Assistant Director. CAPD to ensure availability of adequate stock of food grains and other essentials like Kerosene Oil and LPG during the festival days. He pressed for intensifying the market checking to avoid inconvenience to people on account of overcharging and profiteering by the traders/sellers.

He directed the Municipal authorities to conduct special sanitation and cleanliness drives especially at Jamia Masjids and Shrines besides ensuring proper functioning of street lights.

ensure compliance to Covid-19 protocols and CAB at Shrines/ Jamia Masjids and sale Mandis of the district. He also called for taking adequate measures to frequently sensitize the masses in this regard.

During the meeting, the ADC enjoined upon officers of PHE and KPDCL to ensure uninterrupted supply of water and electricity respectively besides keeping water tankers and DG sets available to cater any exigent need.

Similarly, Fire and Emergency authorities were asked to remain alert and ready on eve of Eid and also establish additional fire fighting tenders at Shrines and Eidgahs.

added that engagement of stu- ous social evils. In the present dents in classrooms as must for scenario, when Covid-19 cases their mental health. have significantly reduced, of-

In a statement, the spokes- fline classes must replace the person of JKEC has said, "the online education which has enjoyed the company of their opening of schools in offline been followed for the last one mode is essential for the over- and a half years," said spokesall development of the stu- person of JKEC. dents which is not possible in online classes". malls, restaurants and other online learning. The same has He added that medical experts services have been resumed, have also opined that the physi- why should students be kept cal presence of students and away from schools.

teachers in class is much more

including the recent alarming JKEC has requested the edurate of suicides. MOST OF THE MENTAL HEALTH EXPERTS ARE OF THE opinion

hat engagement of students in class rooms can prevent them from becoming prev to various social evils. In the present scenario, when Covid-19 cases have significantly reduced, offline classes must replace the online education which has been followed for the last one and a half years,"

He further said that when

and improvement in recovery IKEC said that during the rate during the past few weeks.

Giving details, he said there 82 active positive cases in the district out of which only six are on of the patients are having mild symptoms or no symptoms and

have been quarantined at home. Dr Owais Ahmad informed positivity rate remained 0.6 percent during this period.

Regarding vaccination, the DC said the target has been achieved with regard to the vaccination of the target age group of 45 plus.

year old age group adding that ef- its spread is curtailed further.

Dr. Owais appealed to the eligible people to get vaccinated forthwith so that more vaccinations in a shorter span of time are done oxvgen support system while rest which will translate into significant Herd Immunity sooner.

Hailing efforts of line departments and all stakeholders for bringing the situation under conthat recovery rate went further trol, the DC impressed upon them up to about 98 percent while to remain focussed and committed so as to consolidate the results.

The DC said the Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and SOPs are vital to prevent any spike in infections and cautioned against any complacency He said more than 17000 doses on part of the stakeholders so have been given so far to the 18-45 that the virus is kept at bay and

## **Developmental Projects Discussed In Ganderbal**

#### **Observer News Service**

GANDERBAL: Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq Thursday convened a joint meeting of concerned officers and PRIs to discuss the developmental activities being carried out by various departments under different schemes, flagship programmes in the district.

The chairperson took a brief appraisal of the implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes and programmes in the district. She exhorted upon all officers to ensure that these schemes are implemented effectively on the ground level.

To ensure speedy development and effective implementation of various flagship programmes at grassroots, the chairperson sought better coordination among PRIs and district officers. She urged upon all DDC members, BDC chairpersons and district officers to work religiously on the ground for overall development of this district.

## **Progress Of MGNREGA Works Reviewed In Baramulla**

#### **Observer News Service**

BARAMULLA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Bhupinder Kumar Thursday chaired a meeting of Block Level Committees (BLCs) at Dak Bunglow here to take stock of physical and financial position of MGNREGA and other developmental works undertaken in Rural

Development Sector. After taking a comprehensive review, the DDC, who is Coordinator stressed to work in coordination and the undertaken works within the fixed timeline.

all avenues and possibilities for generating labour intenemployment in rural areas.



He also directed the BDOs and other associated functionaries to conduct field

visits in their respective areas also the District Programme so as to properly monitor the quality and standard of work. Meanwhile, the DDC dicohesion so as to complete rected the concerned to work towards redressing the grievances and issues that

He emphasised exploring are being received through the online grievance portal. He further directed to ensive works adding that such sure that all the grievances works can provide potential are responded well within a stipulated time frame.

## **Mehbooba Trying To Become** New Geelani Of **Kashmir: BJP**

#### **Observer News Service**

BANDIPORA: The Bharatiya Janata Party J&K general secretary and in-charge Kashmir, Vibodh Gupta Thursday said that the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was trying to become new separatist party in the Valley.

After paying tributes to BJP leader Waseem Bari, his brother and father on their first death anniversary, who were killed in a militant attack on this day last year at Bandipora, Gupta said that PDP was trying to become the separatist party in Kashmir, as Mehbooba Mufti is not leaving any stone unturned to become the next Geelani of Kashmir.

'PDP is disappearing with each passing day because it is based on lies and they have always lied to the people," he said, adding that BJP workers are being deliberately attacked in Kashmir as they always thwarted the plans of separatist leaders, which is why they want their workers and leaders have maximum security cover.

## **ADC Shopian Exhorts Officers To Ensure Prompt Redressal Of Grievances**

#### **Observer News Service**



SHOPIAN: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Simnani Thursday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to take stock of current status and position of public grievances that have been received by virtue of Lieutenant Governor's specially established online grievance redressal portal.

On the occasion, a comprehensive within a time bound manner.

discussion on the subject was held wherein it was informed that online grievances pertaining to various departments were registered and many of them also disposed of well within the stipulated time frame whereas some are in different phases of execution.

After taking a thorough review, ADC stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure timely and prompt redressal of all the grievances. He said that an effective and proper grievance redressal mechanism is the cornerstone of a welfare administration.

He further added that administration is working with utmost zeal and dedication towards addressing the issues of people in a convenient and hassle free manner.

Moreover, ADC directed the concerned officers to ensure all the registered grievances reach their logical conclusion within the stipulated time frame. He also extended his appreciation to all those officers who successfully disposed of all their grievances

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

# KASHMIR BSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the Kashmir Observer LLP Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001 Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar. RNI Registration No: 69503/98 Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16 Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja Switchboard: (0194) 2106304 Editorial: (0194) 2502327 Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

## KO VIEW Start with statehood

s the second wave winds down, India is witnessing a gradual return to normalcy. The economy is reopening and hopefully would not have to be locked down again going forward. And with normalcy the political activity has also resumed. The centre's recent outreach to the leaders of Jammu and Kashmir was a most conspicuous example of this change. It was the first major attempt to take the regional political actors on board following the rescinding of Article 370 in August 2019. The meeting didn't produce any concrete outcome though. There is also no indication that the initiative would be followed up in the weeks and months to come.

The ebbing pandemic would also open up space for major political events like elections. In the near to medium future, assembly elections would be held in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. This would be the first major test of prime minister Narendra Modi's popularity following his government's abysmal performance in dealing with the devastating second Covid-19 wave that took lakhs of people ill and killed thousands, a large number of them dying for lack of oxygen. Would the BJP pull through in Uttar Pradesh, India's biggest state that sends the largest number of members to parliament? It is difficult to tell this right now.

Be that as it may, for now it would be interesting to see how New Delhi seeks to tackle Kashmir. For their part, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, the five party group that seeks restoration of J&K autonomy has already expressed disappointment over the outcome of the meeting with the PM. The alliance lamented the lack of Confidence Building Measures, such as releasing political and other prisoners from jails, and taking steps to end the atmosphere of suppression.

The centre continues to remain ambiguous about the restoration of statehood. According to both prime minister and the home minister Amit Shah, the statehood would follow once the delimitation commission has increased the seats of J&K Assembly, a process which is due to be followed by elections within the union territory framework. Even then there is no guarantee that the statehood would be the next logical step. Or whether the statehood to be granted would be full or a truncated one - one that resembles a Delhi-type arrangement where the real power remains vested with the governor. Such an arrangement would hardly be enough to make a redeeming difference to the existing state of affairs, as fundamentally there won't be much that would change on the ground. So, the centre must be more considerate and sensitive towards the demands of the people of J&K and start the process of outreach with the restoration of statehood itself.

# **Make Seasonal Schools Operational**

Raja Muzaffar Bhat

**C**The Department of School Education should make seasonal schools operational by allmeans especially in High altitude areas. We need to ensure that the children of Chopans, Gujjars and Bakerwals get better education.

n order to provide basic education to the children of the migratory population, the J&K Government envisaged a scheme in late 1970s called Mobile Schools. This was especially meant for the Bakerwal Community.

During the PDP - Congress coalition Government (2002-2008), a scheme of seasonal schools was introduced in J&K. These seasonal schools were set up in different hilly districts of J&K to reach out to migratory populations (Gujjars, Bakerwals, Chopans etc). At present, seasonal schools are operational in Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, Budgam, Shopian, Kupwara, Baramulla and few other districts of J&K. Nearly 40,000 students are enrolled in these schools.

Every year, the Government seeks services of more than 1100 Educational Volunteers (EVs) for providing education to the nomadic children who would otherwise remain illiterate or will be school

spective Zonal Education Offices takes services of local educated vouth known as Educational Volunteers. These volunteer teachers are provided a monthly stipend of mere Rs 4000 which is clear violation of Minimum Wages Act wherein nobody can be paid less than Rs 225 per day. Infact, Rs 225 per day payment is mandatory for unskilled labourers and the educational volunteers are since skilled people and they should be paid at least Rs 500 per day which amounts to Rs 15000 per month. The Government has never bothered to enhance the honorarium of these poor school teachers. They used to get Rs 4000 per month in 2004 or 2005 and even after 16 years they get the same amount as stipend. The salaries of Government officials have been increased under 6th pay commission but these poor educational volunteers have

Education. Additionally, in these highland pastures, virtual classes can't be held due to poor internet connectivity. Therefore, the Department of School Education should make seasonal schools operational by all-means especially in High altitude areas.We need to ensure that the children of Chopans, Gujjars and Bakerwals get better education. The Chief Educational Officers and Zonal Educational Officers must take this issue up on an urgent basis and ensure the functioning of these seasonal schools by paying them visits.

Moreover, because of very little remuneration, a large number of educational volunteers don't attend their duties which affects the education of children. Therefore, the government should ensure that the local youth, who are empaneled as educational volunteers for such high-altitude seasonal

#### ΟΡΙΝΟΝ

# The Surge

he rapid territorial gains made by the Taliban over the last two months should worry both the Afghan government and the regional powers who are invested in the country's long-term stability. The Taliban started their latest offensive on May 1, the day the remaining U.S. troops started withdrawing as part of President Joe Biden's plan. With 90% of U.S. withdrawal complete, the Taliban have taken control of 195 of Afghanistan's 407 districts, and are contesting 129 others. Most of their recent victories are in the northern provinces of Badakhshan and Takhar, which had resisted Taliban rule in the 1990s. In several northern districts, Afghan troops have either surrendered or retreated. If the north, home to Afghanistan's elite power brokers and leaders, is lost, the risk of a total collapse of the government in Kabul would increase. The government still controls most of the provincial capitals and cities but are practically surrounded by the Taliban. Given the pace of the Taliban's advancement in the countryside, it is pos-



1ch an offensive to take the populaforeign troops are out.

Inbox suategy is still not clear. Their political office in Doha, which started peace talks with Afghan government representatives in September 2020, continues to say they are committed to the dialogue. But on the battlefield in Afghanistan, they continue a relentless campaign aimed at capturing more territories. Part of the problem was the total abdication of leadership and responsibility by the U.S., which invaded Afghanistan 20 years ago. When direct talks between the U.S. and the Taliban began, the U.S.'s focus was not on finding a peaceful settlement to the crisis that it partly created, but on exiting the war. Therefore, instead of putting pressure on the Taliban to extract concessions, the U.S. struck a deal with them, completely ignoring the concerns of Kabul. Now, the Taliban are much more powerful on the ground and even if the peace process is revived after American pullout, they would negotiate from a position of strength. But that should not stop Kabul and regional powers China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan and India from seeking a political settlement. A violent takeover of the country by the Taliban, like in 1996, would not serve anybody's interests. The Taliban would also not find international legitimacy if they capture Kabul through bloodshed. Afghan's past experiences suggest that one-party regimes the communist regime, Mujahideen or the Taliban - failed to stabilise the country or sustain themselves in the long term. Now that the invading troops are exiting Afghanistan, the warring parties' focus should shift towards settlement and building lasting structures of power. Else, Afghanistan would fall into another cycle of violence.

The Hindu





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# Don't Go for Careless Outings

he second wave of covid-19 has surely subsided. The wave was surely harder for us Kashmiris as the mortality rate was very high in comparison with the first wave. Therefore, very obviously, it took a heavier toll on our mental health. Perhaps, this explains why when the cases have come

down now, we're seeing people getting complacent.

However, one must realise that even as cases have decreased, the danger is not over. It isn't reasonable to not follow SOPs. People are thronging to picnic destinations and the crowds there are not following SOPs. Just as the month before the second

wave, people are again not wearing masks and not following hand hygiene. Social distancing has also been taken lightly and this is alarming because in closed spaces distancing and ventilation is key.

We shouldn't make matters worse but must be more cautious till a considerable number of the population is vaccinated. We must spend this time preserving the lives we have saved and not put more people at risk. One doesn't have to stop living but one should live life responsibly now

> Shafiq Mir Shafiqm@gmail.com

Friday 09-07-2021

# MENTAL HEALTH FRIDAYS **Mental Health First Aid: Urgency and Importance**

#### Mr. Wasim Kakroo

edical First aid is precisely what it sounds like: the initial attempt to help someone who has been hurt. Many of you know about medical first aid courses, where you learn how to treat bleeding, burns, poisoning, shock, and respiratory crises. However, many of us do not know much about Mental Health First Aid. Mental health first aid is the assistance you provide to someone who is developing a mental health problem, is experiencing a worsening of mental health condition, or is in a crisis related to mental health. You can continue to provide this first aid until the person receives proper professional help or until the crisis has been resolved. Mental health first aid can help people who are experiencing depression, anxiety, psychosis, psychosis, substance use problems, eating disorders, gambling problems etc. It can also be beneficial if a person is going through a mental health crisis, such as suicidal thoughts and behaviors, self-harm that is not suicidal (sometimes called deliberate self-harm), traumatic events, panic attacks, severe psychotic states, severe effects from alcohol or other drug usage, as well as violent behavior. The idea behind Mental Health First Aid is that individuals should learn how to provide basic 'first aid' to persons who exhibit indications of mental health distress in the same way that they learn first aid for physical issues.

#### Why Mental Health First Aid?

Fortunately, more individuals are becoming aware of the significance of mental health. Still, they may be unsure what to do if someone needs help with their mental health needs. Mental health experts are concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic is worsening the mental health of those who already had pre-COVID-19 problems, as well as those who have developed some new mental health issue as a result of the epidemic. Knowing about mental health first aid is of vital importance because of the following reasons:

Mental health issues were already quite frequent in our valley and COVID-19 pandemic has increased their frequency

Stigma is connected with mental health disorders, and many individuals are unaware of these issues

Professional assistance is not always available because of lack or dearth of professionals in the field of mental health

People often do not know how to help people who are in need of help for their mental health issues

People suffering from mental illnesses frequently do not seek treatment due to stigma associated or because of various other sociocultural reasons.

#### How to provide mental health first aid?



#### **C The idea behind Mental Health** First Aid is that individuals should learn how to provide basic 'first aid' to persons who exhibit indications of mental health distress in the same way that they learn first aid for physical issues

Strange or odd thinking.

Extreme mood swings are caused by hallucinations, such as hearing or seeing things that aren't there

Restless, agitated, and disorganised behaviour.

Significant reduction in performance at school or work.

Trouble concentrating.

Substantial decrease in job or school performance

Substantial withdrawal from friends and relatives.

Ignoring self-care (such as neglecting personal appearance and hygiene, and eating poorly).

Suicidal thoughts or behaviors. Self-harm that is not suicidal (deliberate

self-harm). High-risk or harmful behaviour. Confusion and disorientation. Emotional outbursts. Sleep issues.

When attempting to be there for a friend, neighbour, or coworker, it is critical to have a good attitude and an open mind in order to genuinely be helpful. Use these Mental Health First Aid principles to be an effective nonjudgmental listener to people around you:

#### Contemplate upon your own mental state.

Before approaching someone with your problems, make sure you're in the appropriate state of mind to discuss and listen without passing judgments. Examine your own mental state to ensure that you are calm, open, and ready to assist a person in need.

Adopt an accepting, sincere, and empathic attitude.

Adopting an accepting attitude means respecting another person's sentiments, personal beliefs, and experiences as valid, even if they differ from your own or you disagree with them. Imagining yourself in the other person's shoes might help you be more honest and empathic. Use your skills to demonstrate that you are paying atten-

Simple linguistic skills might assist you to monstrate to the other person that you are at tentively listening. This involves asking questions, paying attention to tone of voice and nonverbal clues, using minimum prompts such as "I see" and "ah," and not interrupting the individual to allow them time to convey their thoughts and feelings

#### Recognize and respect cultural differences.

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If you are assisting someone from a different cultural background than your own, you may need to modify some verbal and nonverbal actions, such as the quantity of eye contact or the amount of personal space. Before partaking in any activity, be prepared to discuss what is culturally suitable and practical for the person, or seek guidance from someone from the same cultural background.

#### 3. Respond in Crisis

Read about various mental health issues, their signs and symptoms so that you increase your understanding and confidence to aid in a crisis - to evaluate and de-escalate a situation, reassure a person in distress, know where to seek assistance, and how to keep yourself safe.

#### 4. Prevent Things from Getting Worse

A mental health problem, like a physical ailment or sickness, can worsen if not treated or supported properly.

#### 5. Aid someone in recovering faster

It is critical to seek assistance. The sooner a person receives help, the sooner they can recover or learn to manage their symptoms in a healthy manner and return to their usual life.

#### 6. Reduce Mental Health Stigma

Almost nine out of 10 persons with mental health disorders are stigmatized. There are rising worries that stigma causes persons with mental health difficulties to get second-class physical healthcare. Talking about Mental Health First Aid may help to dispel common misunderstandings about persons who may be suffering from mental illness, as well as teaching people on how to assess their own mental health.

#### 7. Encourage Seeking Professional Help

Inquire whether the person requires assistance in dealing with their emotions. A visit to their primary care physician is an excellent place to start if they desire assistance. You may also ask them about their alternatives, especially local and internet services. Encourage them to take action on their choices.

If the person refuses to accept assistance, attempt to figure out why. They may have some erroneous notions about receiving assistance or their alternatives. Make them feel better about obtaining help.

If the person continues to refuse aid, remind them they may contact you if their mind changes. Respect their freedom not to seek help unless you feel they are putting themselves or others in danger

People who want to receive free professional help especially about their children or adolescents can call at the child guidance and well

#### Identify Early Signs

Observing changes in behavior, whether emotional or physical, can assist in determining whether you or someone you know is suffering from a mental health problem. The first step is to be aware of the signs and symptoms of mental health issues so that you can determine when it is appropriate to intervene.

Only a qualified expert can diagnose a mental illness, but you may be on the lookout for changes in a person's mood, behaviour, energy, habits, or personality. These changes might indicate a mental health issue.

pamine.

that we have created are destroying how

society works." The reality is that plat-

forms like Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok

and Instagram leverage the very same

neural circuitry used by other addictive

activities to increase "engagement" aka

addiction. And real life, reading novels,

doing your work projects, engaging in

long conversations- none of these give

you that constant stream of dopamine;

#### Among the signs that may suggest a serious issue are:

Becoming quiet or withdrawn. Substance abuse issues

Changes in behaviour or feelings of shame or worthlessness that have lasted more than two weeks.

oht or annetite

#### 2. Listen without being Judgmental

Changes in we

It's difficult to remain nonjudgmental all of the time. We form snap judgements about individuals the moment we see or meet them based on their look, conduct, and what they say. And that's OK. Nonjudgmental listening isn't about avoiding those judgements; it's about not expressing those negative judgments, which may stand in the way of assisting someone in need.

#### Maintain positive body language.

Positive body language may demonstrate to the other person that you are paying attention and genuinely care. Keeping comfortable eye contact, sitting down rather than standing, sitting beside and inclined toward the individual rather than exactly opposite him or her, and maintaining an open body stance are all examples of this.

being centre helpline number 9419683109. This centre is run by IMHANS as a specialty clinic for child and adolescent population where psychiatrists, professional clinical psychologists, mental health counselors, speech therapists, remedial educationists, lawyer etc. work in a team for the benefit of child and adolescent population who are in need of mental health services.

The author is a Child and adolescent mental health therapist at Institute of mental health and Neurosciences (IMHANS-K)

ver the years, I have noticed that an increasing number of people are reporting that they are struggling with procrastination. Delaying tasks and not doing what we planned to do impact not only our unbudging to-do list, but also our selfesteem, and self-worth. We stop trusting ourselves and lose faith in our ability to show up for ourselves.

I believe what most people are calling procrastination is actually a problem with distraction or, even worse, an addiction to dopamine.

We live in a new age, with weapons of mass distraction all around us in the form of dopamine-releasing apps literally at our fingertips.

#### Dopamine role?

Dopamine is the neurotransmitter that is associated with pleasure-you know the feel-good relaxed feeling you feel when you buy something new, or eat chocolate cake, or check your Instagram-that's dopamine and it has been found to be a major component in addictions, but also in procrastination, motivation, and impulsivity. And because we live in a world that is infused with dopamine-inducing activities, media messages of 'do what makes you happy,' and with hedonistic messages about buying the latest gadget or newest car, we are becoming worse at tolerating frustration, staying the course when we feel disengaged or bored.

# Is It Procrastination, **Distraction, Or Addiction?**

Dr Saliha Afridi



they all require you to withstand bouts of boredom and tolerate frustration.

#### Distraction or dopamine?

Take a look at your coming week's schedule and make a commitment to yourself to complete some challenging tasks, and do consider your time and energy when you time-box them into your

schedule. For example: I will work on this project at 2pm-4pm on Monday. I will call my client on Tuesday at 3pm. Make the tasks consistent with your personal and professional goals.

Then evaluate at the end of each day whether you completed those assigned tasks-and if not, ask yourself the following questions:

1 What did I feel when I was supposed to start on the assigned task? (i.e. anxious? Tired? Bored? Unmotivated?)

2 What did I do instead of starting (i.e. sleep, watch Netflix, call a friend, scroll through social media, work on a different project?)

3 How long did I go off track for?

Knowing the answer to these questions will help you understand what could be keeping you from achieving your goals. If it is indeed dopamine that you were seeking, then consider limiting your time on social media apps and streaming YouTube or Netflix. You can use it as a reward for finishing your tasks, but make sure you put a time limit to when you will get off your device. If you are procrastinating, then it might be worth your while to understand why you keep postponing starting or completing the task. Chances are not knowing how to manage your time and/or your emotions has a lot to do with it.

We are all too quick to call ourselves procrastinators because we have not really considered the whole realm of possibilities of what could be keeping us from achieving our goals. However, until we figure out the real problem underlying our lack of discipline, we will never be able to truly tackle the issue in a significant way. Take the time to understand your social media habits, as well as your triggers when you get distracted or procrastinate.

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# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے ہرخاص وعام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مظہر کوڈی کلاس ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے۔اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کوکوئی اعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دنوں کے اندرا ندرا پنااعتراض آراینڈ بی ڈویژن وایلو کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔معیاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ المشتھر	اطلاع عام میں عبدل رشید بٹ ولد محمد حیان بٹ ساکنہ کھڈونی است ناگ بذریعہ اشتہار ہرخاص وعام کو مطلع کرتا ہوں کہ میر ابیٹا مداثر احمد بٹ ولد عبدل رشید بٹ کوہم نے اپنی جایداد سے بے دخل کر دیا ہے اب اگر سی بھی شخص کوکوئی بھی لیئن دین یا حساب وغیرہ ہوتو وہ اس کا خود ہی ذمہ دار ہوگا۔ بذریعہ: عبدل رشید بٹ ولد محمد حیان بٹ		COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE ANANTNAG         DISTRICT JUDGE ANANTNAG         Present Mr Naseer Ahmad Dar         Ghulam Hassan Sheikh       1. Parvaiz Ahmad Sheikh					
مارون چومان گوجرولدر حمات الله چومان گوجر ساکنهٔ نگ داردٔ بلزار مامه RNA	ساکنہ کھڈوٹی اننٹ ناگ۔ RNA	Hy gha		iheikh R/o y QasbaBa- ag	V/S			
از نیابت دندیدگام بااجلاس منظوراحمد خان نائب تحصلیدار درخواست منجانب :شبیراحمد کھوکر، سائما جان اولا دان محمد شفع کھوکر ساکنداڈ ہال ضلع اینت ناگ	<b>از نیابت وندیاگا م بااجلاس منظورا حمد خان نا ئب تحصلیدار</b> درخواست منجانب: بر بان احمد داروریئس احمد دار پسر ان گلزارا حمد دارسا کندد یولگا مضلع اینت				PUBLIC NO	TICE		
بغرض حصول PSP پہاڈی سپیکینگ سرفنگیٹ ۔	در تواست سخاب. برمان انمدد ارور یک انمد دار چنران مرارا مدد ارسا کندد یولام ک ایت ناگ						d by petitioner (s) in eeda W/O Gh Hassan	
اشتہار بمرادآگا بی ہرخاص وعام۔ معاملہ مندر جوعنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول PSP سرفطکیٹ دفتر بذا	بغرض حصول PSP پہاڈی سپیکدینگ سرفنگیٹ ۔ پشد ہر بہ بیلا میں جن	· I I Hence Objections if any are invited from all and Soliday to the aforesald claim, b						
میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹوار تی حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ	اشتہار بمرادآ گابی ہرخاص دعام۔ معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول PSP سرفنگیٹ دفتر ہٰدا	meri	merits . Issued under my hand seal of the court on 07/07/2021				all be determined on	
سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔ نام افراد کنبہ آمد نی	میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پڑوار تی حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے	RNA		,			Principal District judge Anantnag	
نام افراد کنبه آمد کی ا_محد شفع کھو کر =/7000	کہ سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔ نام افراد کنبہ			Covernme	ont of lamm	nu and Kashmir		
۲_زریفه بانو گهریلوکام ۳٫ شبیراحمد کھوکر زیرتعلیم	ا_گلزاراحمد ڈارولدغلام محمد ڈار مِحمد ڈار					ateof		
۳۰، بیرا نمد شور ۵، ماجدا جمد کھو کر زیادہ	۲۔ حنیفہ زوجہ گلزاراحمد ڈار ۳۰، بربان احمد ڈارولد گلزاراحمہ زیر تعلیم		Sch	ool Ed			shmir	
۲، -سائمه جان زنعگیم	۵، ریئس احمدواروند سرارا عمد	Sub		orizedly absent fi				
، شازین <sup>ش</sup> فع 2، شازیب شفع نابالغ	اسکےعلاوہ اورکوئی افراد کنبہ موجود نہیں ہے۔ اور کنبہ کی تمام امد نی زرعی وغیرہ. 1 لا کھرو پیہ سب میں مذہب کی مذہب کے معنی کر میں		Show Cause Notice					
اسکےعلاوہ اورکوئی افراد کنبہ موجود نہیں ہے۔ اور کنبہ کی تمام امدنی زرعی وغیرہ 1.5 لا کھروپیہ تک ہے	تک ہے۔لہذا سرفنگیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوکوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندرد وران دفتری اوقات میں اپنااعتر اض پیش کریں ، معیاد گز رنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض						rizedly absent from their	
۔ کہذا سرفظیف اجراء کرنے میں اگر سی صخص کوکوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتر ی	المدرورون کو او کاف میں چہ سرم کی بیٹی ویں میں دورف کو مراجع کا قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔	5.0	District	Name of the official	Designation	Place of posting	Date from which un-	
ادقات میں اپنااعتراض پیش کریں،معیادگزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ RNA نائب تحصیلدار۔	RNA نائب تحصيلدار-	1	Anantnag	Raino Xoul	Teacher (PMs	MS Borgund Verinag	authorizedly absent	

5.N 0.	District	Name of the official	Designation	Place of posting	Date from which un- authorizedly absent		
1	Anantnag	Rainu Koul	Teacher (PMs Package)	MS Bongund Verinag	19/07/2018		
2	Anantnag	Ajay Bhat	Teacher	H5 Dalwach	09/03/2019		
3	Batamulla	Mehnaz Rashid	Teacher	PS Ashpeer	05/03/2018		
4	Baramulla	Ambreen Mushtag	Teacher	GHS Takyabal	08/03/2010		
5	Baramulla	Afroza Ashraf Amin	Teacher	HS Nowpora	01/10/2014		
6	Baramulla	Abdul Majeed Khan	Teacher	MS Shirpora	03/09/2015		
7	Baramulla	Arumella Koul	Teacher (PMs Package)	BHS Divar	11/03/2013		
8	Baramuita			01/09/2018			
9	Baramulla	Ravindar Pal Singh	Lecturer Political Science	HSS Singhpora	01/03/2015		
10	Baramulta	Mohammad Akber Serro	Peon	HS Doabagh, Rafiabed	13/05/2017		
11	Baramulla	Mussawer Qayoom	Teacher	HS Nowpora	11/04/2016		
12	Baramulla	Ranjeet Kour	Teacher	HS Kralweth	28/04/2014		
13	Baramulla	S.Jasmeet Singh	RRT Teacher	MS Hachipora	26/04/2018		
14	Baramulta	Ranjeet Kour	Teacher	MS Check Tapper	01/09/2010		
15	Bandipora	Shahida zargar	Teacher	MS Ashtingeo	01/10/2016-14/06/2017 and		
16	Budgam	Saima Mushtaq Farooqi	Teacher	MS Dangerpora Zone BK Pora	10/10/2017-20/12/201 23/02/2018 t 23/02/2019 08/03/201 to 30/07/2019 an 15/01/2020 till date		
17	Budgam	Mohammad Saleem Dar	Teacher	GMS Aripenthan	27/03/2015		
18	Ganderbal	Mohd Rafig Khan	RRT	Zone Hariganwan	11/03/2012		
19	Kupwara	Subal Anees	Teacher	BHS Nawgabra	10/05/2015		
20	Kupwara	Sheetal Bhat	Teacher (PMs Package)	BHSS Kupwara	12/08/2011		
21	Kupwara	Natia Mushtaq	Teacher	BHS Laderwan	01/09/2015		
22	Kupwara	Neelofar Jan	Teacher	Primary School Khumriyal	01/07/2002		
23	Kupwara	Aijaz Ahmad Bhat	Teacher	GPS Shulpers	05/08/2015		
24	Кирмага	Goldi Dhar	Teacher	UPS Shalibathoo	01/03/2017		
25	Kupwara	Tarig Ahmad Bhat	Teacher	BMS Sogam	16/03/2015		
25	Kupwara	Roona Lalla	Head teacher	UPS Shellbathoo	and the second state the second		
27	Kupwara	Ashag Parvez Mir	Teacher		01/11/2009		
28	Kupwara	and the second se	the first includence of the local	UPS Kachree	06/05/2012		
-	and the second	Shaista Ajaz	Teacher	GHS Gundisath	01/03/2017		
29	Kupwara	Shazia Shafeeq	Teacher	High School Gundisath			
30	Putwama	Mussalb Mushtaq	Class IV Lab Bearer	1.000000	17/10/2020		
31	Shopian	Heena Ramzan	Teacher	BMS Meemandar	13/12/2018		
32	Srinagar	Mawat Rashid	Teacher		01/04/2002		
33	Srineper	Sodal Shareeen	Teacher	BMS Harrathei	01/08/2015		
34	Srinagar	Veenakshi Devi	Teacher (PMs Package) Teacher (PMs	BHSS Khormoh MS Moti Mohalla	21/11/2018		
35	Srinagar	Sunil Kumar Raina Dimple Tickoo	Package) Teacher (PMs	GHS Zewan	01/08/2018		
36	Srinegar		Package) Teacher	GHS Batmaloo	01/01/2011		
37	Srinagar	Dinaz Rather	Teacher	GHS Padshahi Bagh	01/03/2016		
38	Srinagar	Fatima Jameel	descent of the second se	BMS Soura	01/09/2012		
39	Srinagar	Nighat Hussain	Teacher	BHSS Zadidal	10/07/2013		
40	SrinagAr	Saima Gani	Teacher /Phds	BHS Barthana	24/03/2014		
41	Srinagar	Shivani Raina Teacher (PMs BHS Barthana Package)		11.7 00.000	and the second second		
		and the second	Teacher	MP ML HSS	20/02/2007		
42	Srinagar	Akhter Noor		Mi Kand Mohalla	4/10/2013		
43	Srinagar	Initiyaz Alumad	Teacher	Department/Drawing	Disbursing officent		

# DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES KASHMIR

Bemina by-pass Near Hajj House Srinagar Email ID:dhskashmir2020(5)gmail.com Tel.No:01942493712. Fax: 01942493711

#### Advertisement Notice No:- 01/ATF/DHSK of 2021 Dated: 07/07/2021

Subject: Hiring of contractual staff for setting up of Addiction Treatment facilities (ATFs) under National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) on prescribed format for District Hospital Pulwama, Budgam, Shopian, Bandipora and Kulgam.

Application forms are invited from the eligible candidates of UT of J&K for engagement against the following posts for Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Pulwama, Budgam, Shopian, Bandipora & Kulgam approved by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) Government of India and Nationally coordinated by National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi, initially for the period of one year (2020-2021) extendable on yearly basis, subject to good performance & conduct or till continuation of sponsored scheme, whichever is earlier.

10.

Name or the Post	No of Posts	Eligibility/Qualifi- cation	Remunera- tion	Selection (	Iriteria
Medical Officer	One for each District Hospital/ATF	MDBS from a recognised institu- tion along with medical counsel registration. Preferable MD or equivalent qualification in Psychiatry	Rs.60000 / Month		MBBS=70 points MD=10 points Viva-Voce=20 (i) on pro-rata basis. creening test:' Screening test=40 MBBS=30 points MD=10 points tv) 20 points

The candidate shall have to give one month advance notice before leaving the

job. In case numerous applications are received for individual post, then the candi-11. dates shall have to appear in Screening Test and the shortlist will be made on the basis of the merit obtained in the Screening Test as well as academic / technical qualifications of the applicants.

Qualifying candidate shall have to appear in the interview, the date for which 12. will be notified in leading local News Papers.

13. Applications not accompanied with necessary supported documents shall be rejected summarily.

Instructions for submitting applications:

Nurse	One for each District Hospital/ATF	ANM Preferable: GNM /BSC Nursing	Rs,20000/ Monnth	Viva Voce=20 points Note: item (i) & (ii) on prorata basis. ANM =70 Or GNM/BSC Nursing=80 Points Viva Voce=20 points Note: item (i) on pro-rata basis In case of screening test: Screening Test-60 Points Matric=10 points ANM=10 Points Or GNM/USC Nursing 'IS Points iv) Viva-Voice-ISPoints Note: Item (1) (ii& (jjj) on pro-rata basis.	relevant do for which th Documents 1. 2. 3. Paramedica 4. D.O.B Cer 5. Domicile 6. Experien 7 One pass spare photo	e can to be Esse Mark Regi l Cou cificat Certif ce Cer port s graph	nts in office didate inter submitted: ntial qualifie scertificate stration Cer ncil re ficate. tificate If ar ize self ates n to be subm	bmit the applicatio of the Medical Sup ids to apply. cation certificate. of essential qualifitificate from MCL/S ny. ted photograph to nitted along with the e already working of	erintende ication. State Med be affixed e form	ents of conce dical Council d on the appl	rned Dist /J&K Sta lication f	trict Hospit te Nursing
Counsellor	One for each District Hospital/ATF	Graduate in Psychology/Social Work/Sociology. Preferable in Masters in above discipline	Rs.20000 / month	Graduation = 70 points Masters=I0Points Viva voce= 20 Note: item (i) &(ii) on prorata basis. In case of screening test: Screening Test=40 Points Graduation-30 Masters= 10 Points Viva Vocc=20 Points Note: item (i) (ii) &(iii) on pro- rata basis.		se, the 3/21	ey want to a	pply; they should s Accounting	ubmit the Sc	eir resignatio I/ Dr Musht Direct	n along v aq Ahn or Heal Kashn	with applic nad Rath Ith Servic nir Divisic
Data One for each Manager District Hospital/ATF	able: Month	Rs. 15000/ Month	rata basis. Graduation =60 points Qualification/Experi ece in computer application=20 viva-voice=20 points Note: item (i)on pro-rata basis In ease of screening test Screening test 40Points Graduation=30 Points Qualification /Experience in		Pest A Marine Parent Oate o Parent Tensil E-mail Contai Detailo	apiled for of Candidate lage I Binth went Address	/fechnical Qualification	Bleck	100445	Tone	Phonegraph	
				computer application= 10 Visa voice=20 points Note: Item (i) &(ii) on prorata basis.	10 <sup>m</sup>			Suty Board University	Passing	Ottained Cut	Marka	
		for submiss y 2021 up to		pplication	Profess Express Passed		Subjects/Brance B	Examing Body/Baard/Linkarsby	Passing		Yosal Nauha	15aga
<b>Terms 8</b> 1. 2.	t <b>conditions</b> The candida The consolic be conveyed b	te must be domicile lated honorarium p NDDTC, New Delh	of J&K UT. er month sh ii.	all be inclusive of all allowances d all be as per criteria notified in this	5	Anter a		Free	1.	Total Experies		
6. dates to c have to su	All engagem Initial term of continuation of The posts a laim for perma	of contract shall be f centrally sponsored re contractual and nent absorption in rit to the effect that	or the remai d scheme wh do not confe the departn	ual basis and non transferable. ning period of financial year (2021- ichever is earlier. er any right for the selected candi- nent. The selected candidate shall I not claim for any regular appoint-	_0	1 de 1 The 1 The 1 The	we never been	e that this application are true to debarred from appealing consident by any obset	in any exar f law in Indi	sination/interview a for breach of a	n Ny law in N	

Whereas, several notices were served by the Department/Denwing & Disbursing officer 43 Srinagar Chief Education Officer concerned to these officials to explain their position for remaining un-authorizedly absent from their legitimate daties which did not evoke any response in writing or in person from these officials indicating therein their unwillingness to continue in the Department;

Whereas, remaining un-authorizedly/continuously absent from legitimate duties by Government Servant attracts action as warranted in terms of Article 128 & 113 Of JKCSR Vol-I of

1956 which reads ax:-

"Absence without leave ar after the end of leave involves loss of appointment". Article 128

Article 113

"After five years of continuus absence on leave an officer is considered to be out

Now, therefore, through the medium of this notice, above mentioned officials are asked to explain as to why action as warranted under Article (128) and Article (113) of J&KCSR Vol-I of 1956 (whichever applicable) to them)shall not be taken against them. The official shall present themselves before this Directorate along with written statement of defense within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance of the notice, failing which it shall be construed that they have nothing to say in their defense and action as warranted under relevant rules shall be initiated against them without any further notice.

DIPK-4247/21

#### No: DSEK/Estt/III/B-Trs/M2/150/012/1121

Dated 06-07-2021

Sd/ Director School Education Kashmir

ment/extension in the department. The engagement can be terminated on account of non/poor performance without any notice keeping in view the public health importance of the programme.

8. No candidate is eligible for TA/DA

Emphasis shall be given for selection of candidates as per district-wise merit. g. However, in case of non-availability of suitable eligible candidate from the concerned District, selection will be made from the Divisional-level merit list.

Sale:-

Plain -

against the unity and integrity of india. 1. I understate that any writit concestment of the facts shall result in the cancellation of my candidatus and the appointing any dishifty may distant me from opplying for future selection. 2. I shall accept the selection mode by the selection committee, which will be binding on mix. Signature of Candidate

Name of the Cantidate.

# NEWS

# **Series Of Attacks Target US Personnel In Iraq And Syria**



and Syria were targeted in three rocket and drone attacks in the past 24 hours, US and Iraq officials said on Wednesday, including at least 14 rockets hitting an Iraqi air base hosting US forces, wounding two American service members.

While there were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attacks - part of a wave targeting US troops or areas where they are based in Iraq and Syria - analysts believed they were part of a campaign by Iranian-backed militias.

Iraqi militia groups aligned with Iran vowed to retaliate after US strikes on the Iraqi-Syrian border killed four of their members last month.

Two people were slightly wounded in the rocket attack on the Ain al-Asad air base in western Iraq, said coalition spokesman US Army Colonel Wayne Marotto. The rockets landed on the base and its perimeter. He said earlier that three people were wounded.

US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the two personnel injured were US service members. One suffered a concussion and the other had minor cuts, one of the officials added.

Two rockets were fired at the US Embassy inside Baghdad's Green Zone early on Thursday, Iraqi security sources told Reuters.

The embassy's anti-rocket system diverted one of the rockets, said one of the sources - a security official whose office is inside the Green Zone. The second rocket fell near the zone's perimeter, security officials said.

Smoke is seen in al-Baghdadi following rocket attacks in Anbar province, Iraq July 7, 2021\_ Reuters

Sirens blared from the embassy compound inside the zone, which houses government buildings and foreign missions, the sources said.

In Syria, the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces said no damage was done by a drone attack on the Al Omar oil field in an eastern area bordering Iraq where US forces came under rocket fire but escaped injury on June 28.

The Pentagon said a drone had backed groups. -REUTERS

S diplomats and troops in Iraq been brought down in eastern Syria and that no US service members had been injured and there had not been any damage.

Iragi army officials said the pace of recent attacks against bases hosting US forces with rockets and explosiveladen drones was unprecedented.

Iraqi military sources said a rocket launcher fixed on the back of a truck was used in Wednesday's attack and was found on nearby farmland set on fire. On Tuesday, a drone attacked Erbil airport in northern Iraq, targeting a US base on the airport grounds, Kurdish security sources said. Three rockets also landed on Ain al-Asad on Monday without causing casualties. Escalation

The United States has been holding indirect talks with Iran aimed at bringing both nations back into compliance with the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which was abandoned by then-President Donald Trump. No date has been set for a next round of the talks, which adjourned on June 20. Hamdi Malik, an associate fel-

low at the Washington Institute and a specialist on Iraq's Shi'ite militias, said the attacks were part of a coordinated escalation by Iranianbacked militias in Iraq.

The attempt to strike in eastern Syria appeared to be the first example of operations being carried out simultaneously in both countries.

"It seems to me they have the green light from Iran to escalate, especially given that the nuclear negotiations are not going well. But at the same time, they do not want to escalate beyond a certain point - they are more vulnerable to US air strikes than they used to be - and they don't want to overcomplicate the negotiations Iran is holding with the West." The United States told the UN Security Council last week that it targeted Iranian-backed militia in Syria and Iraq with air strikes to deter them and Tehran from conducting or supporting further attacks on US

personnel or facilities. Iran denied supporting attacks on US forces in Iraq and Syria and condemned US air strikes on Iranian-



Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, centre, talks to delegations of Afghanistan government, left, and Taliban at the Iranian foreign ministry office in Tehran [Iranian Foreign Ministry Office handout/EPA]

# **Afghan Gov't Delegation** Meets Taliban In Iran

n Afghan government delegation has met Taliban representatives in Tehran, the Iranian foreign ministry says, as the armed group makes significant advances amid a pullout of US troops.

tween the warring Afghan sides fol-

the talks on Thursday said the Afghan government and Taliban agree that "war is not the solution to the

cation or date was not mentioned.

"Both sides condemn attacks that target people's homes, mosques and hospitals and lead to former Vice President Younus destruction, and also condemn the destruction of public institutions ment, the Iranian ministry said. and call for the punishment of the perpetrators," the statement said, Mujahid confirmed Stanikzai's referring to talks hosted by Tehran visit to Tehran to "discuss issues of as an opportunity to strengthen a mutual interest".

But he made no reference to any In another statement on Thurs-Afghan government delegation, saying only that Stanikzai was day, Iranian Foreign Minister Moholding talks with "some Afghan

personalities". "They will discuss and exchange "Bravery in peace is more imopinions on the current situation of portant than bravery in war bethe country and finding a solution through talks." Mujahid added. cause for peace, one must sacrifice

and set aside maximum demands In his opening remarks, the Iranian and consider the other side's deforeign minister hailed the "defeat" of US troops after 20 years of war that Zarif called on both sides to utihad caused "extensive damage" but lise the opportunity to talk and warned of the "unfavourable results of continuing the conflict". put an end to the fighting for the

benefit of the Afghan people. He Iran and Afghanistan share deep stressed that Iran will always be cultural ties and a 945km (587 miles) border. Iran hosts several While opening the talks on million Afghan refugees and mi-Wednesday, Zarif had welcomed the grant workers and is deeply condeparture of its US foe from its eastcerned about the intensifying turern borders but warned: "Today, the moil in the neighbouring country. Amid the spectre of another

civil war in Afghanistan, fears have grown in Iran over a new wave of Afghans seeking refuge in the country, which is already struggling to stem worsening poverty under tough US sanctions.

Qanooni represented the govern-Zarif appealed to the warring parties in Afghanistan to return to Taliban spokesman Zabihullah the negotiating table, calling "commitment to political solutions the best choice for Afghanistan's leaders and political movements".

# Friday | 09-07-2021

KASHMIR OBSERVER

# **India Trashes Pak Claim Of RAW's Role In Lahore Blast**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ndia on Thursday strongly trashed Pakistan's allegations that Indian spy agency RAW orchestrated last month's bomb blast in Lahore.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said it is not new for Pakistan to engage in "baseless propaganda" against India.

He said Pakistan should focus on setting its own house in order and take credible and verifiable action against terrorism emanating from its soil.

The international community is well aware of Pakistan's credentials when it comes to terrorism, he said.

On Sunday. Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf alleged that India was behind the blast outside the house of Hafiz Saeed in Lahore.

Saeed is the 2008 Mumbai terror attack mastermind and chief of the banned Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD).

Three persons were killed and 24 others injured in the blast.

## **National Spelling Bee Win Could Be Footnote To Hoops Career**



LAKE BUENA VISTA (US): The biographical blurbs about competitors in the Scripps National Spelling Bee include a litany of other interests, from sports to musical instruments to science competitions to Indian classical dance.

Scripps' motivation for sharing those hobbies and passions is clear: It sends the message that the spellers are normal kids, not robotic middle-schoolers with a monomaniacal devotion to memorising the dictionary.

But even among the more wellrounded spellers who will compete on Thursday in the ESPN-televised national finals, Zaila Avant-garde stands out.

The 14-year-old from Harvey, Louisiana, has earned more recognition for her athletic prowess than her achievements in spelling. She is a basketball prodigy who has appeared in a commercial with Stephen Curry and owns three Guinness world records for dribbling multiple balls simultaneously.

She has more than 12.000 Instagram followers – where videos of her dazzling skills have won praise from musician Michael Franti, among others – and she hopes to attend Harvard, play in the WNBA and tional winner: Jody-Anne Maxwell possibly coach one day in the NBA, if of Jamaica in 1998. he doesn't go to work for NASA

who is home-schooled, claims to have it figured out.

"For spelling, I usually try to do about 13,000 words (per day), and that usually takes about seven hours or so," she said. "We don't let it go way too overboard, of course. I've got school and basketball to do." Seven hours a day isn't going overboard?

have my suspicions. I don't know. I have some suspicions that maybe it's a bit less than what some spellers do," she said.

Whether all that preparation leads to a trophy and \$50,000 in cash and prizes will be determined Thursday night when Zaila faces 10 other spellers for the only in-person portion of this year's pandemic-altered bee. Normally staged at a convention centre outside Washington, the bee was moved to an ESPN campus in Florida, with attendance strictly limited and masking and

distancing protocols in place. "This is an entirely different experience. The structure of the bee is different, the location is different, so I'm really excited to see what this bee has in store," said 14-year-old Ashrita Gandhari of Ashburn, Virginia, competing for the fourth time. Zaila – whose father changed her last name to Avant-garde in honor of jazz musician John Coltrane – would chart a new career path for spellers if her hoop dreams come true.

She could also make spelling history of a different sort, by becoming the first Black American champion. The only previous Black winner of the bee was also the only interna-

Zaila said she hones

Agencies

The high-level peace talks be-

continue talks on the specific

#### people and political leaders of Afghanistan must make difficult decisions for the future of their country." Deputy chief negotiator Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai headed the Taliban delegation, while

mands," he said.

ready to facilitate more talks.

**Taliban Surround Afghan City As Commandos Launch Counterattack Israel Levels West Bank Home Of** 

low months-old discussions in Qatar that have been stalled by a diplomatic impasse and escalating violence. A joint statement released after

Afghanistan problem" and that all efforts must be director toward achieving a peaceful political solution. The two sides also agreed to

mechanisms of achieving lasting peace and establishing an Islamic state at a later meeting whose lo-

#### political solution. hammad Javad Zarif thanked both the sides for the meeting and prioritising the Afghan people.

## **Palestinian-American Suspect**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

sraeli forces on Thursday demolished the family home of a Palestinian-American man accused of being involved in a deadly attack on Israelis in the West Bank in May.

Associated Press video footage showed Israeli army troops leveling the two-story home of Muntasser Shalaby in the village of Turmus Ayya with controlled explosions.

Îsrael says Shalaby carried out a May 2 drive-by shooting in the Israeli-occupied West Bank that killed Israeli student Yehuda Guetta and wounded two others. officials say the demolitions de-He was arrested days after the attack. His wife, Sanaa Shalaby, told the AP they were estranged for several years and that he spent most of his time in Santa Fe, New urged a halt to punitive home Mexico, where he had married



three other women in unofficial Islamic ceremonies. The entire family has US citizenship.

The Israeli Supreme Court upheld the demolition order in a decision last month.

The case drew attention to Israel''s policy of punitive demolitions of the homes of Palestinians who attacked Israelis. Israeli ter future attacks, while rights groups view them as a form of collective punishment.

The US State Department has demolitions

HERAT: Taliban fighters on motorbikes roamed a provincial Afghan capital Thursday after a day of heavy fighting that saw them storm the city in their most brazen assault since the United States stepped up its troop withdrawal.

By AFP

The government flew in hundreds of commandos to Qala-i-Naw in Badghis, the first provincial capital to face an all-out assault by the Taliban since May 1 when the insurgents launched a blistering campaign to capture new territory. cycles." With the US troop pullout "90

percent complete", according to the Pentagon, fears are mounting that Afghan forces will be Herat. stretched without the vital air support of the US military.

Residents in Qala-i-Naw had either fled the city or stayed indoors Thursday after more than 24 hours ban targets through the night. of intense fighting that saw the Afghan air force launch strikes on Taliban positions.



"The Taliban are still in the city," also surrounded the city.

"All districts are under their resident Aziz Tawakoli told AFP. control... People are really in fear," "You can see them going up and down the streets on their motorshe said.

"All shops and government in-He said many of the city's 75,000 stitutions are closed. There are still people had fled their homes -- eireports of sporadic fighting." ther to neighbouring districts or to Women will not be able to work' -

"The shops are closed and there Parisila Herawai, a rights activist in the city, expressed concern for the safety of women in particular. "It is an emergency situation for all women, especially activists," Badghis provincial council she told AFP

member Zia Gul Habibi said the "If the Taliban plan to remain in the city, we will not be able to work." Taliban suffered casualties, but

Competitive spelling came relatively late in life, starting at age 12.

"Basketball, I'm not just playing it. I'm really trying to go somewhere with it. Basketball is what I d'ouevre. But basketball's like the main dish."

Don't be mistaken: Zaila brings the same competitive fire to spelling that she shows on court. She won last year's Kaplan-Hexco Online Spelling Bee – one of several bees that emerged during the pandemic after Scripps cancelled last vear – and used the USD 10.000 first prize to pay for study materials and USD 130-an-hour sessions with a private tutor, 2015 Scripps runner-

up Cole Shafer-Ray. The time commitment required to master roots, language patterns and definitions is what keeps many top spellers from seriously pursuing sports or other activities. But Zaila,

other African-Americans who might not understand the appeal of spelling or can't afford to pursue it.

"Maybe they don't have the money to pay \$600 for a spelling program, do," Zaila said. "Spelling is really a they don't have access to that," Zaila side thing I do. It's like a little hors said. "With tutors and stuff, they charge, like, murder rates."

The bee has been rightly celebrated as a showcase for students of colour – a speller of South Asian descent has been the champion or co-champion of every bee since 2008 – but Zaila is not the first speller to point out issues with economic diversity.

Indian-Americans are the wealthiest US ethnic group, according to Census data, and Indian professionals who immigrate to the US have access to a network of bees and other academic competitions targeting their community.

I Michael Durnil, the bee's new executive director, said he hopes to make more resources available to spellers who can't access elite-level training.- AP

#### BOTTOMLINE

# **'Talibanned': Favourite Afghan Pastimes Again Under Threat**

#### Agencies

activities and pastimes in Afghanistan during its 1996-2001 rule, including kite flying, TV soap operas, pigeon racing, fancy haircuts, and even playing music.

These have made a comeback in the years since, but fears are growing they will be banned again if the armed group returns to power.

Taliban fighters have made enormous military and territorial gains since US troops began their final withdrawal in May. The group's leaders say they want Afghanistan to return to being an Islamic state ruled by religious elders.

The AFP news agency looks at some of the activities the Taliban banned, and the fears of those now taking part in them. The musician

ing as a professional musician play- ed by attending a concert. The Taliban had outlawed doz- ing the japani, a traditional Central ens of seemingly innocuous Asian stringed instrument he first picked up as a boy.

He still remembers the evening 20 years ago when the Taliban broke into a house where he and his friends were playing music and singing songs.

According to the Taliban's strict interpretation of Islam, only the human voice should produce music and only in praise of God.

"I was young, so I was beaten less than my friends," said Mohammad, now 40 and a resident of the former Taliban bastion of Kandahar.

"I was still unable to stand for three days," he added.

He was lucky, he said, describing how on another occasion the Taliban cut off the fingers of one of his friends for playing the japani. When the group was removed

Sayed Mohammad makes a liv- from power, Mohammad celebrat-

"When the music played, I felt a tremor passing through my body out of sheer joy," he said. "Joy that our country was free and that people were now free to start a new life." Since then, many Afghans like Mohammad have become profes-

sional musicians and singers. "There is no pleasure in life if we live

in fear," the father of eight told AFP. He is determined to pursue his passion, even if the Taliban returns to power. "It's like an addiction. Even if they cut our fingers we will still play music."

#### The kite-maker

In a bustling Kabul market shop, surrounded by hundreds of colourful kites of all sizes, Zelgai says he is determined not to give up the business his family has run for generations - and he has flown close to the wind before.



The Taliban outlawed kite flying in the capital's Shor Bazaar. on the grounds it distracted young men from praying and other religious activities, but Zelgai and his family kept operating.

"Of course, we did it in secret," the 59-year-old told AFP at his shop

is hardly anyone on the streets,"

Tawakoli said, adding that helicop-

ters and planes had bombed Tali-

His colourful store has hundreds of fragile readymade kites for sale, and he also takes orders for elaborate custom designs.

since the Taliban was out of power.

showcase and sell our kites openly without any fear," Zelgai said.

The much-loved national pastime earned a reputation abroad after Afghan author Khaled Hosseini's 2003 bestselling novel The

Today, when the wind is right, thousands of kites can be seen fluttering in Afghanistan's clear blue skies.

using glass-encrusted twine to cut the strings of their opponents.

vive on this," Zelgai said.

The day Manizha Talash took up breakdancing, she knew she would become a target for the Taliban. Talash is the only female mem-

ber of a group of mostly Hazara

"This is freedom ... we are able to boys who practise breakdancing in Kabul, usually in secret.

The 18-year-old has the support of her mother, who has several jobs to support the family after her husband went missing a few years ago.

But for Talash, who dreams of Olympics, the risks of continuing

Not only is she a girl taking part Some are engaged in fights, with in a forbidden activity, but she is the pilots trying to outwit each oth- also a member of the Hazara comsome Muslims.

"If the Taliban has not changed "People would suffer if it is and they lock women at homes and trample their rights, then life would be meaningless for me and for millions of other women of Afghanistan," said Talash.

Despite the risks – the troupe was forced to switch practice venues after receiving death threats – she is determined to pursue her passion.

Kite Runner was turned into a film. representing Afghanistan at the are multiple.

er with their flying skills and some munity, considered heretical by

banned. Thousands of families sur-

The breakdancer



And business has soared in the years

# NEWS

# **China's Non Observance Of Border Agreements** 'Disturbed' Foundation Of Bilateral Ties: Jaishankar

Press Trust of India

**MOSCOW:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday that there has been a lot of concern about the India-China relationship since last one year because Beijing has not observed agreements on the border issue which has "disturbed" the foundation of the bilateral ties.

"I would say for the last 40 years we had a very stable relation with China China emerged as the second largest trade partner.., Jaishankar said in response to a question on China-India relations at the Primakov Institute of World Economy & International Relations in Moscow.

"But for the last one year, there has been a lot of concern about the relationship because China has not observed agreements that it had signed up to when it came to our border, said Jaishankar, who is here on a three-day visit.

"After 45 years, we actually had a border incident with casualties. And peace and tranquility on the border, for any country, is the foundation of a relationship with a neighbour. So naturally the foundation has got disturbed, so has the relationship, he added.

India and China were locked in a military standoff at multiple friction points in eastern Ladakh since early May last year. However, the two sides completed the



sibility of nuclear arms race

between the two countries,

Jaishankar dismissed it saying

the evolution of the Chinese nu-

withdrawal of troops and weapons from the North and South banks of Pangong lake in February following a series of military and diplomatic talks.

The two sides are now enclear program has a much larger gaged in talks to extend the dynamic than India. disengagement process to the "I don't believe there is a nuremaining friction points. India has been particularly pressing clear arms race between India and China. China became a for disengagement of troops in nuclear power in 1964, India in Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang.

1998, he said. In his address, ahead of his bi-According to military officials, lateral meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, each side currently has around 50.000 to 60,000 troops along Jaishankar also emphasised that the LAC in the sensitive high alon the political front, it is essentitude sector. There was no visible forward tial for India and Russia to work

movement in disengagement of together to ensure the stability and diversity of the world "as troops in the remaining friction points as the Chinese side did we know it". not show flexibility in their ap-'This includes insistence on proach to this issue at the 11th honouring agreements and obround of military talks. serving laws," he said, apparently referring to China which has been behaving aggressively in the Indo-Pacific region.

On the economic side, there is a growing realisation on the importance of resilient and reliable supply chains. "Our collaboration can surely add to the options before the world, as we have already seen in the case of vaccines," Jaishankar said. In the world of current diplo-

macy, the India-Russia ties is a particularly mature relationship, he said.

"More than its contemporaries, it has withstood the test of time, finding new convergences with changing circumstanc-Geo-political compatibiles. ity, leadership trust and popular sentiment remain its key drivers. "History is very much in our

favour, something that cannot always be said for all relationships," Jaishankar said.

Drawing from the past, assessing the present and committing to the future, I have every confidence that our two nations would continue to realise the full benefits of our Special and Privileged Strategic Relationship," he said.

There is no doubt that relations between Russia and India have been among the steadiest of the major relationships in the world after the Second World War, he noted.

New Delhi: Observing that last year's north-east Delhi ridigital platforms like Facebook ots that left 53 people dead and have become power centres 200 injured.

Upholds Delhi Assembly's right to summon in Delhi riots case

with ability to influence opin-Upholding the Delhi ions, the Supreme Court on Thursday said they must be ac-Assembly's right to summon, the top court said while countable, adding it is difficult Facebook has played a crucial to accept the "simplistic aprole in enabling free speech by proach" adopted by Facebook providing a voice to voiceless that it is merely a platform and a means to escape state censorship, it cannot lose sight posting third party information and has no role in generating, of the fact that it has simultacontrolling or modulating that neously become a platform for disruptive messages, voices, Further observing that the

and ideologies. Entities like Facebook, which has around 270 million users in India, have to remain accountable to those who entrust them

with such power, it said. A bench headed by Justice S K Kaul held that the Delhi Legislative Assembly and its committee have the power to compel attendance of members and outsiders on grounds of its privilege.

While acknowledging the distribution of power, it said that though law and order and police do not fall under the legislative domain of Delhi Assembly, in the larger context the concept of peace and har-mony goes much beyond that. It said in any case, the representative of the social media

Raina, the delegation also sought ad-

equate representation for Jammu in

The Delimitation Commission, led

by Justice (retd) Ranjana Prakash

Desai, arrived in Jammu and Kashmir

on a four-day visit on Tuesday to inter-

act with leaders of political parties and

officials to gather "first-hand" inputs

for the mega exercise of redrawing

constituencies and carving out new

Once the delimitation exercise is

completed, the number of assembly

seats in Jammu and Kashmir will go

Twenty-four seats of the assembly

"We demanded political reserva-

tion for PcK refugees by unfreezing

the eight assembly seats from the PcK

quota, three seats for Kashmiri Pandits,

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes and other neglected people.

Jammu, too, must get adequate repre-

sentation in the assembly," Raina said.

The BJP delegation that met the

commission included former deputy

chief ministers Nirmal Singh and

Kavinder Gupta, BIP chief spokesper-

son Sunil Sethi and former legislator R

continue to remain vacant as they fall

ones in the union territory.

up from 83 to 90.

under PcK.

the assembly.

giant would have the right to not answer questions directly covered by these two fields.

In its 188-page verdict, the bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Hrishikesh Roy, said that members and non-members can equally be directed to appear before the committee and depose on oath and Facebook cannot excuse itself from appearing pursuant to the new summons issued to them on February 3, 2021.

"The need to go into this incident(riots) both from a legal and social perspective cannot be belittled. The capital of the country can ill-afford any repetition of the occurrence and thus, the role of Facebook in this context must be looked into by the powers that be. It is in this background that the Assembly sought to constitute peace and harmony committee."

Observing that Facebook has been playing a significant role in giving a voice to various sections of society across the world, the apex court said that it has to be noted that their platform has also hosted disruptive voices replete with misinformation.

#### CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

#### 4 Militants Killed

Al-Badr outfit.

In the neighbouring Kulgam district, two more militants were killed in the encounter that erupted during the night hours at a checkpoint, police spokesperson said.

On credible inputs regarding the movement of militants on the highway, he said, a joint check point was set up by police and army's 1RR at Zadora-Qazigund.

"During checking, when a suspicious vehicle was signalled to stop by the naka party, two militants who were boarding the vehicle came out and started firing indiscriminately upon the joint party. However, the alert party retaliated to the fire effectively, leading to the elimination of two militants on the spot," the police spokesperson said.

He identified the slain militants as Nasir Ahmad Pandith of Redwani and Shahbaz Ahmad Shah of Katrusu Kulgam, both affiliated with the LeT.

"As per police records, all the killed militants were part of groups involved in various militancy related incidents. Arms, ammunition and other incriminating materials were recovered from

both the encounter sites," he said. "In this connection Police h

#### OIC said. **Delimitation Panel**

Mr. Sajjad Ahmed Kitchloo and Mr. Javed Ahmed Rana met the Delimitation Commission here this evening and presented a memorandum. The text of the memorandum is reproduced herewith.

"Any Delimitation process has a vital role in empowering each constituent to be an equal shareholder in the process of democracy so that each one feels empowered and not feels relegated, isolated, disconnected or disempowered," NC said in the memorandum.

"This Delimitation Commission in the circumstances that it has been constituted is unique and its findings can have far reaching consequences in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir. History will judge its decision and our role critically and if we fail we shall fail our people and the Nation as a whole."

The NC delegation said the party was confident that the Delimitation Commission shall work in the most transparent, judicious and fair manner providing justice to all in delimiting the constituencies as per the constitutional framework based on the basic tenets of Delimitation - population, geography, topography, area, physical features, contiguity, convenience of administrative units and facilities of easy communication and approachability of public convenience. "We feel that decentralisation should form core of democracy, all regions or sub-regions crave for equal role in the governance where no one should nurture a feeling of subservience or discrimination," it said, adding, "We are for the singular, inclusive Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir is a model of unity in diversity, but each region and sub region has its own diverse characteristics and thereby peculiar needs and demands which need to be addressed by the Delimitation Commission in a manner that everyone feels involved and democratically empowered." Jammu region with an area of 26293 Km2 and population of 53,50,811 (as per 2011 census which is the basis of this Delimitation Commission) is a pluralistic society with multi ethnicity, linguistic diversity and has representation of various castes and creeds. Iammu and its sub regions (whether it is the plains of Jammu or the hills of Poonch-Rajouri or the erstwhile Doda District comprising Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban) feel alienated and have a sense of deprivation, the memorandum reads. "This Delimitation Commission must give its due to all parts of Jammu region so that our commitment for the equitable empowerment of all regions and sub regions does not get dented," it said, adding, "There are also geographical and topographical challenges in Jammu region and certain areas are far flung, inaccessible, remote, backward and mountainous and so a need to address their issues in a manner that they can also be equal partners in the process of democracy by being able to conveniently exercise their franchise. Representation particularly in the far flung, rural areas must be judiciously decided so that there is accessibility and ease of public delivery to enable effective governance and approachability of public representatives, it said.

the Scheduled Tribes of the region must get adequate judicious representation. Reservation should be based on settled criteria which should be followed in a transparent manner to ensure that the faith of the people is maintained in the institution of the

A delegation of JKNPP headed by Prof.Bhim Singh met the Commission and submitted that "Jammu & Kashmir is one State and unfortunately has been converted into a Union Territory along with Ladakh region which was an undesirable decision. The Panthers Party stands for Restoration of Statehood of J&K.'

is urged to take immediate steps to ensure that regional tension in J&K is diluted. The urgent need is the distribution of Assembly seats between the two provinces, say Jammu and Kashmir. There has been political tension between Jammu and Kashmir for the reason that delimitation was not held several times in the past."

Besides, an Apni Party delegation led by Vice President Choudhary Zulfikar Ali also met the members of Delimitation Commission and submitted a detailed memorandi

#### **Exercise Meaningless**

full statehood is restored to it. Statehood is imperative for the restoration of the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir, it said.

matter.

national capital can ill-afford

any repetition of the riots wit-

nessed last year, the top court

stressed that 'unity in diversity'

of India cannot be disrupted

and the role of Facebook in this

context must be looked into by

This(unity in diversity) can-

not be disrupted at any cost

or under any professed free-

dom by a giant like Facebook

claiming ignorance or lack of

any pivotal role, the court said,

and dismissed the plea filed by

Facebook India Vice President

and MD Ajit Mohan and oth-

ers challenging the summons

issued by the Delhi Assembly's

Peace and Harmony committee

for failing to appear before it

as witness in connection with

the powers that be.

The Delimitation Commission, led by Justice (retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai, arrived in Jammu and Kashmir on a four-day visit on Tuesday to interact with leaders of political parties and officials to gather "first-hand" inputs for the mega exercise of redrawing constituencies and carving out new ones in the union territory.

The Centre abrogated the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and divided it into two union territories on August 5, 2019.

"Until full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir as part of the Union of India is restored, there would be no meaning for the Delimitation Commission to undertake any exercise," the memorandum said.

Unfortunately, the meeting called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi last month gave no concrete assurance in this regard, the Congress delegation led by former ministers Muka Ram and Raman Bhalla said.

"This (statehood) is an essential confidence building measure imperaive for the restoration of the demo-

#### **Grounded Drones Create** Led by J-K BJP president Ravinder

professionally and with a sense of responsibility. But this order has left us in lurch.

#### **Man Held With IED**

spokesperson said Thursday. Dar, he said, was carrying a bag when the naka party tried to stop him for check-

ing and he tried to flee. "However, the alert naka party tactfully apprehended him. During the search, 1.2 kilograms of explosive substance & two electronic detonators were recovered from his bag," the police spokesperson said.

He further said that the preliminary investigation has revealed that Dar was actually a militant associate and was providing logistics and other material support to the militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in various areas of Budgam.

"Besides it was also revealed that said militant associate was in touch with Pak militant commanders and LeT militants operating in valley," the police spokesperson said.

"Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 154/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Magam and investigation into the matter has been initiated," added.

# KASHMIR OBSERVER **<**10

**Entities Like Facebook Must** 

**Be Accountable: SC** 

Delimitation Commission."

"The Delimitation Commission

registered cases under relevant sections of law and investigations have been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police till the areas at both encounter sites are completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

#### India Asks OIC

Bagchi said at a media briefing.

"Further, the OIC should be watchful that their platform is not subverted by these vested interests for comments on internal affairs of India or for anti-India propaganda through biased and one-sided resolutions," he said.

"As regards Pakistan, I have already referred to vested interests in my remarks," he added.

Bagchi was replying to a question on the statement issued by the OIC following the meeting.

"We have seen the press release issued by the OIC Secretariat regarding the meeting between our ambassador to Saudi Arabia and the Secretary-General of the OIC on July 5. The meeting was held in response to an earlier request made by the OIC Secretary-General to meet our ambassador," the MEA spokesperson said.

In the past, the OIC has criticised India over the Kashmir issue.

On its part, New Delhi has always been asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of the country and that the OIC has no locus standi in matters internal to India.

The OIC is a grouping of Muslimmajority nations.

In its statement, the OIC said Al-Othaimeen received Sayeed on July 5 in his office in Jeddah and that the Indian envoy was paying a "courtesy visit".

"The Secretary General welcomed Ambassador Sayeed and reviewed with him a number of issues concerning the situation of Muslims in India, along with the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, and relevant UN and OIC resolutions opposing any unilateral actions on the issue," it said.

"He conveyed the desire of the OIC General Secretariat to dispatch a delegation to the disputed territory in line with relevant resolutions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers," the

"The Scheduled Caste Communities,

"J&K is being run by bureaucrats and bureaucracy. The bureaucracy may be performing well but, in any democracy, the bureaucracy cannot be the substitute of democracy," the delegation informed the Commission Members. as per a party spokesperson.

The delegation further emphasized on the Delimitation Commission to expedite the process of delimiting the assembly constituencies of the erstwhile State at a faster pace by involving all the stakeholders and open for a wider deliberation, and discussion by visiting the remote areas, tehsil headquarters, and district headquarters to understand the topography, geography and composition of the population in the erstwhile State before taking a final decision on delimiting the constituencies

"It is important to visit the far-flung areas viz Pirpanjal (Rajouri-Poonch), Ramban, Reasi, Ramnagar, Udhampur, Bani. Billawar and Basohli areas of Kathua District, and other remote areas of Kashmir Province," the leaders said.

They further stressed upon the Delimitation Commission to enhance the number of seats as mandated in the Reorganization Act, 2019 on the basis of population as population being one of the criteria for enhancing the seats, and seats be provided to those districts which are underrepresented till now.

"The administrative units should be the districts for redrawing the Assembly Constituencies and minimum units should be patwar circles except where there are compulsions and constrained with the district and administrative units," the delegation said, as per the party spokesperson.

They also demanded creation of a Parliamentary seat for the Pirpanjal Region.

"In Jammu-Poonch Parliamentary segment, Rajouri-Poonch has 10 lakh population (which is remote border districts) and Jammu-Samba has 18.5 lakhs in comparison," the delegation told the Commission.

The delegation also requested the Commission to expedite the process of delimitation of assembly constituencies.

May we at INC point out that until the restoration of statehood for J&K, as demanded in the CWC resolution of 6th August 2019, is completed, the delimitation process commencement will be rendered nugatory," Bhalla told reporters here.

'The unlawful detention of political leaders and their incarceration for long period without any charges is itself an anathema to the founding principles of democracy under our Constitution," he said.

The government must end the incarceration of political leadership as a step towards strengthening grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

The Congress urged the commission to circulate its draft proposal among all political parties so that they can put forth their suggestions and objections, if any.

It also requested the commission to recognise the genuine aspirations of different sections and areas and consider giving each of them their rightful due, it said. (PTI)

#### **KPs Demand**

conveyed by a delegation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, led by Ramesh Raina, to Delimitation Commission headed by Justice Ranjana Desai in Srinagar.

Raina made the presentation before the Commission by stating that the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community was rendered as "politically irrelevant", which resulted in the community becoming an "abandoned child". "The recent domiciliary laws that

came into force has increased the community count and also the voting rights of the people to about 4 lakh lending more strength to our claim of political voice both in Parliament and the legislature of UT.

"At least 4-5 seats in the assembly and one in Parliament commensurate with the mechanism evolved for the purpose be granted to KPs," Raina told the Commission.(PTI)

#### **BJP Demands**

Kashmir to grant reservation to people displaced from PcK, Kashmir Pandits, SCs and STs.

S Pathania. (PTI) cratic process in Jammu and Kashmir. **Covid-19: Expert** of third wave of Coronavirus.

"The third wave of Covid is highly dangerous, fatal and can take a heavy toll of lives", he warned, and suggested that in order to keep the impact of the third wave under control people need to follow previously fixed guidelines.

"Crowding the markets, health resorts and marriage ceremonies without wearing masks and no regard for social distance is unsolicited and unbecoming behavior," he added.

He urged the people to act responsibly in every domain of life and social interaction in the interest and safety of their families and society.

While acknowledging that people mostly remained confined to homes for one and half year and are eager to start their normal life. Dr Khan said that people may go out to attend to their needs but strict adherence to CAB is needed to avoid possible third wave.

He also recommended and emphasized on the vaccination and termed it as a strong tool to fight against covid disease.

He said that vaccination of elderly people has been almost completed; now, all the individuals above 18 years should get themselves vaccinated.

#### **J&K Logs 262**

Srinagar reported 53, Baramulla 22, Budgam 5, Pulwama 8, Kupwara 11, Anantnag 14, Bandipora 7, Ganderbal 11, Kulgam 11, Jammu 25, Udhampur 11, Rajouri 16, Doda 21, Kathua 6, Samba 3, Kishtwar 3, Poonch 8, Ramban 10 and Reasi 17. No fresh case of virus was detected in south Kashmir's Shopian district, officials said.

Regarding the deaths, they said, two each were reported from Jammu and Kashmir, taking the fatality count to 4353

Moreover, officials said, 353 more patients have recovered, 136 from Jammu Division and 217 from Kashmir. There was one new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) re-

ported today and thus the cumulative number of confirmed rose to 31 in I&K.

#### **'Hideout' Busted**

Mujahideen was found in the basement of a single storied house.

"Incriminating materials including a huge cache of arms & ammunition were recovered from the busted hideout. The hideout was destroyed on spot in presence of the Executive Magistrate. In this connection, one militant associate was also arrested." the police spokesperson said.

"All the recovered materials have been taken into Police custody for the purpose of investigation. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Sopore and further investigation has been initiated in this regard," he added.

#### **2540 People Fined**

people throughout the Kashmir val-ley during the last 24 hours for violating the various rules and guidelines regarding Covid-19.

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

#### **Guide Held In**

a police spokesperson, during further questioning in the case, Hajam confessed about the involvement of another guide, Mohammad Majloon Sheikh of Dudran Boniyar.

"Acting swiftly, police arrested him besides recovered incriminating material from his possession," he said.

"Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Uri and further investigation into the matter is in progress," he added.

#### 6 New Covid

succumbed to the virus, they said. Of the fresh cases, three each were reported from Kargil and Leh districts, officials said.

A total of 2,673 sample reports, including 1,225 from Leh and 1,448 from Kargil, were found Covid negative on Wednesday, they said.



SO WHILE I WAS PLAYING WITH PUNE CITY FC IN 2014 I did my 'C' license, then in 2016 I did my 'B' and finally in 2018 I did my AFC 'A' license. It would have taken another 5 to 10 years if I had waited for my retirement.

# ICC CEO Manu Sawhney Resigns Amid Inquiry Over Conduct



**Press Trust of India** 

**DUBAI:** International Cricket Council (ICC) CEO Manu Sawhney on Thursday resigned from his position, four months after his allegedly "abrasive conduct" came under the scanner during an internal investigation, prompting the world body to send him on leave.

Sawhney will leave the organisation with immediate effect. Geoff Allardice will continue as Acting CEO supported by the Leadership Team working closely with the ICC Board," the world tralia are completely against body said in a statement.

Sawhney was sent on "leave" in March pending an inquiry after he came under scrutiny for his "abrasive behaviour" with colleagues.

Sawhney has termed the governing body's probe against him worked with for 17 years. as a "premeditated witch-hunt".

It is understood that Sawhney, who replaced Dave Richardson Committee of Manchester Unitafter the ICC World Cup in 2019 ed Ltd.



The 56-year-old has been under pressure since the election process for the new chairman was set in motion last year, which ended with Greg Barclay taking the position in November. It is alleged that Sawhney's "authoritarian style of functioning" is far removed from the inclusive approach taken by Richardson and has not gone down well with the employees.

Also, a few cricket boards seem unhappy with him for backing interim chairman Imran Khawaja during the elections last year.

The second reason why some of the bigger boards are upset is his backing to the ICC's recent ...Chief Executive Manu decision of asking boards to bid whney will leave the organ- and pay a fee for hosting events during the next cycle.

It is understood that BCCI, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Cricket Austhe idea and have made their displeasure clear at the various

board meetings. Sawhney is the former CEO of Singapore Sports Hub and also served as Managing Director of ESPN Star Sports, a company he

He is also a non-executive director and member of the Audit

# Euro 2020 Final: Italy Holds **Historical Edge Over England**



#### Agencies

LONDON: Pirlo's "Panenka." Schillaci's Golden Boot clincher. Another emotional goal celebration from Marco Tardelli.

The major-tournament rivalry - if it can be called that - between Italy and England has Skuhravy. been marked by a few stand-out moments, and they all belong to

come the top scorer at the tournament. And he took it, converting a penalty in the 86th minute to give Italy a 2-1 win and finish with six goals, one more than Czechoslovakia striker Tomas

The only other tournament meeting way in the group stag

# Mehrajuddin Wadoo, The Head Coach, Set To Make **His Debut In JK Pro League**



R Elahi

SRINAGAR: J&K's legendary footballer Mehrajuddin Wadoo is all set to make his debut as a Head Coach with the Sports Council Football Academy's (SCFA) seniorteam at the upcoming JK Professional League 2021. The Pro League will kick off

from July 12 and Wadoo will be seen scheming and plotting in the dug-outs of Synthetic Turf Ground at TRC in Srinagar with another legendary footballer of J&K, Ishfaq Ahmed, who is the Assistant Coach at the SCFA academy.

Head Coach Wadoo has worked for many years to reach this point. Even before retiring boots and earn his badges.

"When I was in the national named Bob Houghton. I was highly impressed by him and his coaching methods as well as his way with the players, almost like a father figure. Simultaneously, me and Ishfaq were organising training camps for young footballers in Kashmir. All these experiences

passion," Wadoo told Kashmir Observer

"So while I was playing with Pune City FC in 2014 I did my 'C' license, then in 2016 I did my 'B' and finally in 2018 I did my AFC 'A' license. It would have taken another 5 to 10 years if I had waited for my retirement. Now I'm planning to complete my Pro license this or the next season," he said. Mehraj has spent much time

gaining his coaching, training and managerial experience. After hanging his boots at Mumbai City FC, he went back to Pune City FC to take over its U18 Academy as head coach. Mehraj was also roped in by J&K Sports Council to head in 2017, having spent close to its football academy initiative two decades at the summit of in 2018. Then in 2019 he was Indian football, Mehraj was with ISL team Hyderabad FC as quick to lace up his coaching assistant coach and in 2020 as its developmental officer.

"I would train kids in Kashteam from 2005 to 2011 we mir and then leave for a few had a great English coach months and work with ISL teams to gain more experience. What I used to learn there I would implement it here. It's a work in progress. You never

Since March of this year, Wadoo's full time focus has been Sports Council's Football Academy. Where he not only trains helped me determine my fu- the senior team but is also

Anurag Thakur, Former BCCI Chief, **Takes Charge As Union Sports Minister** 

**Press Trust of India NEW DELHI:** Anurag Thakur on Thursday took charge as the country's 17th sports m ister, succeeding Kiren Rijiju and promised to do everything possible to make India a sporting powerhouse. The 46-year-old former Cricket Board President was given responsibility of sports and youth affairs along with the Informa- I would like to take everyone tion and Broadcasting ministry after he took oath as a cabinet



a sports minister is to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of turning India into

## **Fans Banned At Olympics As Tokyo Enters State Of Emergency** Agencies

SPORTS

TOKYO: Fans are banned from

tional Olympic Committee and were banned months ago.

"Many people were looking nese organizers on Thursday.

IOC members.

PM Suga said the state of emer-



gency would go into effect on Monday and last through Aug. 22. by banning local fans from the This means the Olympics, opening on July 23 and running through Aug. 8, will be held entirely under emergency measures. The Para-

lympics open on Aug. 24. "Taking into consideration the impact of the delta strain, and in order to prevent the resurgence of infections from spreading across the country, we need to step up virus prevention measures," Suga said.

Suga, who had long favoured fans, hinted at a no-fan Olympics in announcing the state of emergency.

'I have already said I won't hesitate to have no spectators," he added.

# Messi Vs Neymar As **Argentina Takes On Brazil In Copa America Final**



#### Agencies

RIO DE JANEIRO: The most improvised Copa America will have the final most of the fans dreamed of.

Brazil and Argentina play for the South American title on Saturday at Rio de Janeiro's historic Maracana Stadium, one of soccer's spiritual homes. It should be a memorable ending to a tournament plagued by setbacks and moved at the last minute to one of the countries hardest-hit by COVID-19.

late decision to stage the tournament in his country after Argentina and Colombia were dropped as co-hosts.

Brazil became Copa America host only two weeks before the opener. Messi and Neymar, who won the Champions League together with Barcelona in 2015, are good friends. They were on opposite sides in 2011 when the Catalan giants thrashed Brazil's Santos 4-0 in the Club World Cup final. Argentina and Brazil have faced off more than 100 times,

but only in four deciders. Argentina won the first of fending champions, and Lionel them 2-0 in 1937 for the South American championship the



stop learning," Wadoo said. ture without foregoing my seen with U12 kids, loving ev- Kashmir," Wadoo lamented.

ery bit of it. Mehraj is effusive in his praise for the local Kashmiri talent, stressing that if the youth receive proper guidance, Kashmir might see many Mehrajuddin Wadoos. But the task at hand is tougher than it might look. He will be tak-

ing SCFA's U18 team to the Pro League, competing with the likes of J&K Bank FC, Lonestar Kashmir FC, Kashmir Avengers

FC, among others. All this, for two spots at the 2021-22 season of I-League

2nd Division. "SCFA will be the youngest team to compete at the Pro League. Whatever the result, we want these young boys to taste competitive football and understand where they actu-

ally stand," Wadoo said. "Ishfaq and I have stayed outside for decades. We have worked with great coaches and top teams. We have experienced the best of facilities as well. Our motivation is to bring football in Kashmir at par with the same level," he added.

"But this is not possible with just one football ground. Every team trains here at TRC. It becomes congested with all the competitive matches and training sessions. We need more grounds to fully explore, unearth and nurture the talent here in

Thakur said his vision as

the Tokyo Olympics following a state of emergency aimed at containing rising coronavirus infections in the capital. Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced the state of emergency. The Interna-

Japanese organizers followed Olympics. Fans from aboard

forward to watching the games at the venues, but I would like everyone to fully enjoy watching the games on TV at home," Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike said after meeting with IOC and Japa-The emergency declaration

was made the same day as the arrival in Japan for IOC President three days in self-isolation at the five-star hotel that lodges





the Italians.

In four meetings at either a World Cup or a European Cham- Balotelli's second-half header pionship, the Azzurri have won handing them a 2-1 victory in three of them and advanced via steamy Manaus in Brazil's Amaa penalty shootout in the other.

England might have home advantage in the Euro 2020 final between the teams on Sunday at Wembley Stadium but, historically, Italy has the edge.

"We know the size of the task," England coach Gareth Southgate said. "It's the biggest possible test we can have."

This is no classic international rivalry. Indeed, they have only met once in a knockout match at a major tournament and that was in 2012, when Italy won 4-2 on penalties in Kyiv – after a 0-0 draw through extra time in the latest shootout heartache for England.

It will best be remembered for a coolly taken "Panenka" penalty by stylish midfielder Andrea Pirlo midway through the shootout. England was somewhat fortunate to get that far anyway after being outplayed for large parts of the match.

That has been a theme. The first match between England and Italy at a tournament came at Euro 1980, when Tardelli guided a near-post finish past goalkeeper Peter Shilton to earn the Azzurri a 1-0 win in their second group match.

screaming, fist-waving celebration after scoring Italy's second goal in a 3-1 victory over West Germany in the 1982 World Cup final. His reaction after the winning goal against England was also emotional as he wheeled his way around the perimeter of the field before rolling onto the ground and holding his head in his hands.

In 1990, the teams met in a land, in August 2012. third-place playoff at the World least gave Italy striker Salvatore ner and I hope it's us.'

of the 2014 World Cup and the Italians again won, with Mario

zonian rainforest. Since then, there have been a pair of 1-1 draws in friendly games, none of which were played before Roberto Mancini became Italy coach in May 2018.

The overall record stands at 11 wins for Italy and eight wins for England in a total of 27 matches. Undefeated in the first eight meetings, England has only managed one win in the last seven.

Under Mancini, Italy is on a 33-match unbeaten run – a national record.

"They have been a top team for the last couple of years," Southgate said. "We have followed their progress closely. We know the way they play – with great energy, with great style – they are always difficult to score against.'

Italy's influence on English domestic soccer has been huge over the past decade, with three coaches - Mancini (Manchester City in 2012), Claudio Ranieri (Leicester in 2016) and Antonio Conte (Chelsea in 2017) – leading teams to Premier League titles.

Mancini ended City's 44-year wait for a top-flight championship, but was fired a year later, Tardelli is best known for his just three days after a surprising loss in the FA Cup final to Wigan. That loss came at Wembley, where Mancini is returning on Sunday in a bid to guide Italy to a second European title.

"I think Italy against England is always a great match," said Italy midfielder Marco Verratti, who made his international debut in a 2-1 loss to England in a friendly game in Bern, Switzer-

"Two great teams and nations. Cup in Italy. It's regarded as Both deserve to be in the final. a match no one really wants They had a sensational tournato play, coming so soon after ment. We both performed well losses in the semifinals, but it at but there can only be one winminister on Wednesday. He comes into office at a time when the nation's athletes are in the final stage of their preparations for the Olympic Games from July 23. "I am grateful to the Hon'ble

Prime Minister who gave me a new responsibility involving youth and sports. It is his belief, his love for sports and his ever-growing initiative which is taking Indian sports forward," he told reporters after taking charge.

has been done so far under winning from the Cooch Behar Kiren ji (Rijiju) will continue. Lok Sabha seat in 2019.



along and work for betterment of Indian sports," he said.

Thakur is the first cabinet minister since Mani Shankar Iver (2006-2008) to get the sports ministry's responsibility.

He will have a young deputy in Bengal BJP leader Nisith Pramanik, who at 35, became the youngest minister in the cabinet. Besides being appointed as

minister of state for sports under Thakur, Pramanik has been given the additional responsibility as MoS in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

He is serving his first term as "Whatever good work that a Member of Parliament after

#### NEWS MAKERS

"I will try to take along the state governments, sports bodies, associations and federations. I want to see India doing well in sports and try to fulfil the dream of the Hon'ble Prime Minister," he said.

"Every individual tries to fulfil a responsibility given to him honestly. Whatever needs to be done for youth affairs and sports, we will do.'

Thakur was the president of the BCCI between May 2016 and February 2017.

Before that, he was the secretary of the Board and also headed the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA).

A Member of Parliament from HP's Hamirpur constituency, Thakur was serving as the minister of state for finance and corporate affairs under Nirmala Sitharaman before Wednesday's cabinet reshuffle.

His brother Arun Dhumal is currently the treasurer of the BCCI.

Messi's challengers have won a combined seven World Cups and 23 continental titles.

his first major trophy with his

country, which hasn't won any

since 1993. Messi played and lost

the Copa America finals of 2007,

2015 and 2016 and the 2014

World Cup, the latter against

a title with the national team,"

captain Messi said after Tues-

day's 3-2 penalty shootout victory

against Colombia in the semifinal.

get the first objective, which was

to play the final, play every match.

Neymar was ruled out of the 2019 Copa due to injury. He said

Peru on Monday that he wanted

"But Brazil wins the final,"

Neymar jokingly said. He was

Now we aim higher than ever."

'We aim high, we managed to

"What I want the most is to win

Germany at the Maracana.

Neymar's Brazil team, the de-

predecessor of the Copa. Brazil won the other three. The Argentine star wants to lift

One year later, the two arch rivals met for the Confederations Cup title in Germany. The Selecao hammered Argentina 4-1 after another great display by Adriano, who was playing alongside Kaka and Ronaldinho. Argentina was heavy favorite

to win the 2007 Copa, but Brazil crushed Messi's hopes with a 3-0 win in the final.

Brazil also beat Argentina in the previous Copa. A 2-0 victory in the semifinal came with goals by Gabriel Jesus and Roberto Firmino.

Jesus is out of Saturday's final due to suspension and Firmino may have lost his place to Lucas Paquet. Argentina hopes to after Brazil's 1-0 win against win its 15th continental title and equal Uruguay's record to face Argentina in the decider. tally. Brazil seeks its 10th South American trophy.

The final will be played in an one of the players who ex- empty Maracana due to health pressed concerns about the protocols.

# Sergio Ramos Joins PSG On Free Transfer, Signs 2 Year Contract

Agencies

PARIS: Paris St Germain have signed Spain defender Sergio Ramos on a free transfer after he left La Liga club Real Madrid, the French Ligue 1 side announced on Thursday. Ramos left Real last month after failing to reach an agreement to extend his 16year stay in the Spanish capital. He helped Real win four

Champions League titles and five La Liga trophies. signed a two-year contract, joins PSG after they finished second last season behind



The 35-year-old, who has and were knocked out in the itself at the highest level, Champions League semi-fi- Ramos said.

"I want to continue to "Paris Saint-Germain is a grow and improve at Paris champions Lille in Ligue 1 club that has already proven and help the team to win as season.

many trophies as possible." Ramos missed a large chunk of last season with injuries and was left out of Spain's Euro 2020 squad but said when leaving Real that he was determined to keep proving himself at the top.

He becomes PSG's latest signing following the arrival of Morocco defender Achraf Hakimi from Serie A side Inter Milan on a five-year deal. Media reports say PSG are

also close to signing Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma on a free transfer after his contact with AC Milan expired at the end of last

## **English FA Charged With Offenses After Euro Semifinal Win**

Agencies

LONDON: UEFA has charged the English Football Association with three offenses from its European Championship semifinal win over Denmark.

The disciplinary cases were opened over the use of a laser pointer by fans, fireworks being set off and for disturbing the Danish national anthem.

England won the Euro 2020 match 2-1 in extra time at Wembley Stadium.

nals by Manchester City.

# **OUTPOST**

## **NCW Writes To Delhi Police Head Over Website** 'Auctioning' Muslim Women



**Press Trust of India** 

New Delhi: The National Commission for Women on Thursday wrote to the Delhi Police chief seeking a probe into a now-defunct website allegedly uploading pictures of many Muslim women and putting them on "auction", the NCW said.

The commission has asked for a detailed action taken report within 10 davs. it said.

NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma has requested Delhi Police Commissioner Balaji Srivastava's intervention to investigate the website that put up pictures of many Muslim women with derogatory remarks.

In a statement, the NCW said it has taken suo motu cognisance of a

he Supreme Court on Thurs-

day said Facebook has the

"power of not simply a hand

but a fist, gloved as it may be", as

these platforms employ business

models having potential to polar-

jay Kishan Kaul, Dinesh Maheshwari

and Hrishikesh Roy said: "These

platforms are by no means altruis-

tic in character but rather employ

business models that can be highly

privacy intrusive and have the po-

"Facebook has the power of not

These platforms have become

The bench observed that devel-

opments around the world reflect

rising concerns across borders. "The

concern is whether the liberal debate

which these platforms prof

power centres themselves, having

the ability to influence vast sections of opinions, it added.

simply a hand but a fist, gloved as

tential to polarise public debates.

bench comprising Justices San-

ise public debates.

it may be.'

Agenceis

'Fist, Not Hand': SC Says

**Polarise Public Debate** 

**Facebook Has Potential To** 

media report which mentions that a website called 'Sulli Deals' on an internet platform named 'Github' was uploading pictures of many Muslim women including journalists, activists, analysts, artists and researchers with derogatory remarks and had put them up for "auction"

"Chairperson Ms Rekha Sharma has written to Commissioner of Police, Delhi seeking intervention to investigate into the matter and for filing FIR under relevant sections so that the perpetrators of the crime cannot escape punish-

ment," the statement said. It said a detailed action taken report in the matter has to be informed to the Commission within 10 days. PTI

over millions of people.

It said algorithms, which are se-

quences of instructions, have hu-

man interventions to personalise

content and influence opinions as

tive is to subserve their business

interests. It is first a business and

then anything else. As per their

would only appear before any

committee if it served their com-

mercial and operational interests,

as it did when they appeared before the parliamentary commit-

tee. But if their business interests

are not served, they seek a right to

stay away," said the bench, stating

over a third population of this

planet. In India, Facebook claims to

be the most popular social media

The bench said the business

be permitted to take

with 270 million registered users.

model of intermediaries like Face-

book, being one across countries.

Facebook today has influence

this is completely unacceptable.

acknowledgement, they

"As such, their primary objec-

part of the business model.

own

# **World Food Prices Fall In June For First Time In A Year: UN Food Agency**



Agenceis

ROME: World food prices fell in June for the first time in 12 months, pushed lower by declines in vegetable oils, cereals and dairy products, the United Nations food agency said on Thursday. The Rome-based FAO also said

in a statement that worldwide cereal harvests would come in at nearly 2.817 billion tonnes in 2021, slightly down on its previous estimate, but still on course to hit an annual record.

The Food and Agriculture Organization's food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar, averaged 124.6 points last month versus a revised 127.8 in May.

The May figure was previously given as 127.1. On a year-on-year basis, prices

were up 33.9% in June. FAO's vegetable oil price index plunged 9.8% in June, partly on the back of a fall in palm oil prices, which were hit by expectations of output gains in leading producers

and a lack of fresh import demand.

Soy and sunflower oil quotations also dropped

The cereal price index dropped 2.6% in June month-on-month, but was still up 33.8% year-onyear. Maize prices fell 5.0%, partly because of higher-than-expected

yields in Argentina and improved

crop conditions in the United States. International rice prices also fell in June, touching 15-month lows, Global wheat production prosas high freight costs and container

in 2021 edged up. The forecast for world cereal utilization in 2021/22 was cut by 15 million tonnes from the previous month to 2.810 billion tonnes, still 1.5% higher than in 2020/21.

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World cereal stocks by the close FAO said.

# **Petrol, Diesel Prices Continue To Rise Touching New Highs Across Country**

#### Agenceis

netrol and diesel prices continued their upward march on Thursday also, the second successive day of rate increase, taking the prices to cross new highs across the country. Accordingly, the price of pet-

rol increased by 35 paise from Rs 100.21 on Wednesday to Rs 100.56 a litre on Thursday in Delhi. Diesel prices increa

ports by some East Asian countries compensated for a slowdown in China's meat purchases.

FAO said the slight fall in its estimate for world cereal production this year was principally triggered by a sharp cut to the Brazilian maize production forecast as prolonged periods of dry weather weighed on yield expectations.

pects also retreated this month, as dry weather in the Near East hurt yield prospects there. By contrast, the forecast for global rice output

of seasons in 2021/22 are now expected to rise above their opening levels for the first time since 2017/18. "Higher maize stocks foreseen in China account for the bulk of this month's upward revision to world cereal inventories,"

As Hardeep Singh Puri Takes Over As New Oil Minister

**Fuel Prices Rise To New High** 



#### Agenceis

New Delhi: Petrol and diesel prices rose to fresh highs on Thursday as Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas saw a change of guard with Hardeep Singh Puri taking over from Dharmendra Pradhan. Petrol price was hiked by 35 paise per litre and diesel by 9 pai-

se, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. This took fuel prices across the country to a fresh high. Soon after taking charge of the

ministry, Mr Puri said he would comment on the issue only after getting a full briefing from the officials. "Give me some time. I need to

be briefed on the issues," he told reporters. "It will be very wrong for me to comment on it (fuel prices) when I have just stepped into this building." Petrol price, which has already

100 in over half of the crossed country, rose to 100.56 a litre in Delhi and 106.59 in Mumbai. Diesel rate climbed to 89.62 per litre in Delhi and 97.18 in Mumbai. "My formal training is in an

area where comments are not offered without full information." Mr Puri, a former diplomat, said. A 1974-batch IFS officer, Mr Puri comes into the oil ministry at

a time when the country is reeling under a surge in fuel prices. Also, the country's reliance on imported oil is increasing as domestic oil and gas production, particularly from fields operated by state-owned oil firms, continues to be static.

"As we transform towards a \$5 trillion economy, energy availability and consumption will be of paramount importance," Mr Puri said. "My focus will be on increasing domestic production of crude and natural gas.'

Along with Mr Puri, Minister of State for Petroleum Rameswar Teli also took charge. Outgoing minister Mr Pradhan, who has been given the ministries of human resource development and skill development in the cabinet reshuffle on Wednesday, was present when the new ministers took over.

Mr Teli is the first Minister of State in the oil ministry during the seven ears of the Modi gover Mr Pradhan, who had been handling the ministry since the Modi government took office in May 2014, was the longest-serving oil minister in the independent India. Unlike his predecessors, he

The hike on Thursday is the 37th increase in the price of

shortages continued to limit export sales, FAO said. Dairy prices dipped 1.0% on a monthly basis, with all components of the index easing. Butter recorded the largest drop, hit by a rapid decline in global import demand and a slight increase in inventories, especially in Europe.

The sugar index posted a 0.9% month-on-month gain, reaching its highest level since March 2017. FAO said uncertainties over the impact of unfavourable weather conditions on crop yields in Brazil, the world's largest sugar exporter, pushed prices up.

The meat index rose 2.1% from May, with quotations for all meat types rising as increases in im-



Mr Puri said. "The energy issues in this ministry have immense potential and several challenges. The need to adapt to changing times, adopt new technologies and to be in consonance with the energy transition taking place across the world, provides a fascinating opportunity."

He said he would work towards the development of a natural gasbased economy in the country and increase the share of natural gas in the primary energy mix of the country to 15 per cent by 2030 from current 6.2 per cent.

The Indian economy was a \$2.89 trillion economy before CO-VID struck and it is in transition to becoming a \$5 trillion economy.

"I must confess that I am reluctant to go into substantive issues unless I am briefed," he said.

Mr Puri said he felt honoured by the trust reposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Dharmendra Pradhan ji's are big shoes to fill," he said. "In the last seven years, under the able guidance of my predecessor (Mr) Pradhan, a number of path-breaking reforms and initiatives have been ushered in the sector. I would strive to take them forward, and fulfil the expectations of the Prime Minister, our people and the country."

Petrol has crossed the 100-alitre mark in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar, Punjab, Ladakh, Sikkim and Puducherry.

Diesel, the most used fuel in the country, is above that level in some places in Rajasthan, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

Fuel prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as value-added tax (VAT) and freight charges.

As much as 55 per cent of the retail selling price of petrol in Delhi is made up of taxes (Rs 32.90 a litre excise duty collected by the central government and 22.80 VAT levied by the state government). Half of the diesel price is made

up of taxes (Rs 31.80 central excise and 13.04 state VAT).

encourage has itself become a casualty," it said in its 188-page judgment.

The bench held that for intermediaries to say that they can sidestep this criticism is a fallacy. as they are right in the centre of these debates

"It has to be noted that their platform has also hosted disruptive voices replete with misinformation. These have had a direct impact on vast areas of subject matter which ultimately affect the governance of states," it observed.

In this modern technological age, it would be too simplistic an intermediary like Facebook to contend that they are merely a platform for exchange of ideas without performing any significant role themselves - especially given their manner of functioning and business model, it stressed.

The bench observed that governments have expressed concern for necessity of greater accountability by these intermediaries which have become big business corporations with influence across borders and

contradictory stands in different jurisdictions. For example, in the US, Facebook projected itself in the category of a publisher, giving it protection under the First Amendment of its control over the material disseminated on its platform. This identity allowed it to justify moderation and removal of content.

"Conspicuously in India, however, it has chosen to identify itself purely as a social media platform, despite its similar functions and services in the two countries," noted the bench.

The court's judgement came on a writ petition filed by Facebook's Vice President Ajit Mohan, challenging validity of the summonses by the Delhi Assembly's panel in connection with Delhi riots. The Peace and Harmony Committee, headed by AAP MLA Raghav Chadha, was formed on March 2. 2020, following the Delhi riots, issued the summons as "serious questions have been raised on the role of Facebook platform as a mechanism to disseminate hate and divisiveness".

the city but a tad lower by just 9 paise per litre to touch Rs 89.62 a litre. Across the country as well retail prices of both petrol and diesel increased for the second consecutive day but the actual rates varied depending on the level of local taxes in states.

Fuel prices have been rising in the country for over two months now.

On Wednesday, the increased rate took petrol prices to cross a century-mark in Delhi and Kolkata, the two metros where the rates were still below the three digit-mark. Petrol price is now over Rs 100 a

litre almost all across the country. Diesel is also catching up and may soon be available over Rs 100 a litre across the country soon. Officials in oil companies attri-

bute the consistent increase in fuel prices to the development in global oil markets where both product and crude prices have been firming up for the past couple of months on demand rise amidst slowing of pandemic. However, a closer look at the fuel retail prices

in India gives a picture that it is the high level of taxes that is keeping fuel rates higher even in times when global oil prices are firm.

Global crude oil price is now hovering around \$75 a barrel. It was over \$80 a barrel in October 2018 but even then, the petrol prices hovered around Rs 80 a litre across the county. So, even with lower oil prices now, petrol prices have hit the century and crossed it by a wider margin now in several parts of the country

The only way retail prices could be brought down in this period is by way of tax cuts by both the Centre and States, suggests experts as crude oil prices are seen rising from here on.

Fuel prices are already touching new highs every other day. Starting from a price line of

Rs 90.40 a litre on May 1, petrol is now priced at Rs 100.56 a litre in the national capital, rising by a sharp Rs 10.16 per litre in the last 69 days. Similarly, diesel prices in the capital also rose by Rs 8.89 per litre in the past two months to reach Rs 89.62 a litre in Capital.

With the price rise, fuel rates have been revised upwards in 37 out of 69 days between May, June and July up to now to take retail rates touch new highs across the country.

With global crude prices also rising on a pick up demand and depleting inventories of world's largest fuel guzzler -- the US, retail prices of fuel in India are expected to firm up further in coming davs. The benchmark Brent crude reached a multi-year high level of over \$75 on ICE or Intercontinental Exchange.

did not have a deputy. "The work of this ministry touches each and every citizen in the country directly or indirectly,"

since May 4, when state-owned oil firms ended an 18-day hiatus in rate revision they observed during assembly elections in states like West Bengal. In 37 hikes, the price of petrol

has risen by 10.16 per litre. During this period, diesel rates have soared by 8.89 a litre in 35 instances of the price rise.

**AS WE TRANSFORM TOWARDS** a \$5 trillion economy, energy availability and consumption will be of paramount importance, My focus will be on increasing domestic production of crude and natural gas."

## **Mutations Help This Coronavirus Variant Evade COVID-19 Vaccines: Study**

#### Agenceis

Three mutations in the spike protein of Epsilon variant of SARS-CoV-2 help the virus to evade the protection offered by current vaccines or past COVID-19 infection, according to a study.

The mutations also provide the variant of concern named CAL.20C a means to totally evade specific monoclonal or lab-made antibodies used in clinics, and reduce the effectiveness of antibodies from the plasma of vaccinated

in the US. visualised the variant"s different from the original configuthat the Epsilon variant "relies on an indirect and unusual neutralisa-

Neutralising antibodies are an important specific defence against

## Method Found To Accurately Detect COVID-19 From Mobile Phone Swabs: Study

#### Agenceis

esearchers have developed a non-invasive and low-cost method that can accurately and rapidly detect COVID-19 using samples taken from the screens of smartphones.

The researchers from University College London (UCL) in the UK analysed swabs from mobile screens rather than directly from people using the method known as Phone Screen Testing (PoST).

They found that people who tested positive by the regular nasal swabbing PCR test were also positive when samples were taken from smartphone screens.

The new method, described in the journal eLife on Tuesday, detected the COVID-19 virus on the phones of 81 to 100 per cent of contagious people with a high viral load, suggesting it is as accurate as



antigen tests.

The researchers noted that globally active screening for COVID-19 is still a priority as new variants keep emerging and the vaccination rollout is not guaranteed in many countries.

However, testing is expensive and can be physically unpleasant, both of which are significant hurdles on the road to an effective test and trace system, they said. As PoST is an environmental test

rather than a clinical test, it is both non-invasive and less expensive than a traditional nasal swabbing PCR, according to the researchers. This means not only is it suitable for rollout in lower-income countries, but it also removes the discomfort of current COVID-19 testing options, potentially increasing takeup of regular testing among the general population, they explained. The team noted that PoST sampling takes less than a minute and does not require medical personnel,

which eases mass adoption in big facilities and large-scale applications.

about the economic and social impact that the pandemic would leave behind, particularly in lowerincome countries," said Rodrigo Young from UCL Institute of Ophthalmology.

"PoST is a method that would not only make COVID-19 mass testing much easier but could also be used to contain outbreaks of new naturally occurring and man-made viruses, to avoid future pandemics," Mr Young said.

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A machine is currently under development by Diagnosis Biotech, a Chilean startup founded by Young, which will build on this research, safely taking a phone for PoST sampling and deliver the results directly via SMS to minimise contact.

people, the researchers said. The team, led by researchers at the University of Washington infection machinery to see what is ration of the coronavirus, and what the implications of these changes are. The finding, published in the journal Science on July 1, shows tion-escape strategy.'

viral invaders. A molecular clock analysis shows that the precursor to the Epsilon variant emerged in May last year in California.

By summer of 2020 it had diverged into its B.1.427/B.1.429 lineages and spread across the US.

The variant has been reported in at least 34 other countries since then. The researchers tested the resilience against the Epsilon variant of plasma from people who were exposed to the virus, as well as vaccinated people.

The neutralising potential of the plasma against the Epsilon variant of concern was reduced about 2 to 3.5 fold, they said.

Like the original SARS-CoV-2 virus identified in Wuhan China in December 2019, the variant infects cells through its spike glycoprotein -- the structure that crowns the surface of the virus, and helps it to infect the human cells

The researchers found that the Epsilon mutations were responsible for rearrangements in critical areas of the spike glycoprotein.

"Like many, I was very worried