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# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P3 CITY

## FIRST REAL-TIME AIR-MONITORING STATION INAUGURATED AT SRINAGAR

J&K got its first real-time air-quality monitoring station with inauguration of first ever Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) at JKPC head-

THINK

## LESSONS AGAINST PREJUDICE

The conviction and sentencing of a policeman for the murder of George Floyd signifies a major success for the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States. However, the question of why racism persists in America, despite a prolonged and



P7 STATE

## 27000 KANALS OF FOREST LAND RETRIEVED IN THREE YEARS: GOVT

The Jammu & Kashmir's Forest department has retrieved more than 27000 kanals of forestland from "illegal occupants" in the past three years.



## Quote!

I choose to make the rest of my life the best of my life.  
—Louise Hay

## NEWS DIGEST

### 161 Cases, 2 Corona Deaths In J&K

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir logged 161 fresh cases of coronavirus on Wednesday, raising its tally to 3,19,152, while two new fatalities took the death toll to 4,360, officials said. Of the fresh cases, 38 were reported from the Jammu division and 123 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said. The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 42 cases followed by 23 cases in Baramulla district. No fresh case ● [More On P6](#)

### Weekend Restrictions Imposed In Sonamarg

**GANDERBAL:** The District Administration here on Wednesday issued an order imposing restrictions on the movement of day picnickers to the tourist resort of Sonmarg for the next two weekends. According to the order, only such persons/tourists shall be allowed to proceed towards Sonamarg who possess a proof of confirmed booking in the hotels of ● [More On P6](#)

### Missing Employee Found Dead

**SRINAGAR:** Body of an employee of Jal Shakti Department from Kulgam, who had gone missing from his home on July 12, was recovered at Harnag area in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday evening, officials said. They said that the body of the employee, Farooq Ahmad Shah son of Ghulam Rasool Shah, a resident of Parigam Kadder Kulgam, was found from a water canal in Harnag area Anantnag ● [More On P6](#)

### 11 Injured As Bus Falls Into Gorge

**JAMMU:** Eleven people were injured when a bus fell into a gorge in Katra belt of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Tuesday, officials said. The injured, most of them pilgrims, were hospitalised, they said. The accident took place when bus skidded off a road at Moori, the officials added. (PTI)

### Leopard Kills 3 Sheep In Tangmarg

**SRINAGAR:** At least three sheep were killed by a leopard in Tangmarg area of Baramulla district, reports said Wednesday. A leopard barged into a shed belonging to Javid Ahmad in Waripora Bangil village of Kunzer on Tuesday night and killed at least three sheep, reports said. The leopard was chased away by the locals after an alarm by the caretaker of the shed. Sarpanch Warpora, Block Lalpora, Tehsil Karuhomba, Mohammad Ramzan Lone said that the Wildlife Department ● [More On P6](#)

# Pakistani Militant, 2 Aides Killed In Pulwama Gunfight

## Authorities Impose Restrictions, Snap Internet Services



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** The district administration in Pulwama on Wednesday imposed restrictions after three militants, including a Pakistani national were killed in an overnight encounter with government forces. Police, army's 55 RR and

CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in New Colony in main town Pulwama on Tuesday night on the basis of specific information generated by Srinagar police about the presence of militants in the area, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. ● [More On P6](#)

## Ex-Militant Arrested After 15 Years

Agencies

A former militant, who police said was absconding for the last 15 years, was arrested by police in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Wednesday. Ghulam Hassan Chopan of village Pahalgam Sgidi in ● [More On P6](#)

## 2 Militant Associates Arrested In Budgam

Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) during a naka checking in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Mohammad Ashraf Shaksaz of Kalshipora and Mursaleen Maqbool Bhat of Shamsabad Budgam were arrested by police and army's ● [More On P6](#)

**INCRIMINATING MATERIALS ARMS AND AMMUNITION** including 2 AK rifles and a pistol were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes."

# 'Reverse' Kashmir Moves To Start Dialogue: Pak Tells India

Press Trust Of India

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf said on Wednesday that it was India's responsibility to start the dialogue with Islamabad by "reversing" its actions in Jammu and Kashmir.

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

According to an official statement, Yusuf briefed the Senate Committee on

Defence & National Security on Pakistan's role in the changing regional scenario, Pakistan-American relations, Pakistan-India relations and the impact of the evolving situation in Afghanistan following the American military's exit.

"The onus was on India to start the dialogue process after reversing the wrongs" in Kashmir, Yusuf said, referring to the August 5, 2019 decision.

India has maintained that the issue related to Article 370 of the Indian Constitution was entirely an ● [More On P6](#)

# Srinagar Family's Birthday Outing Ends In A Tragedy

## 2 Teen Girls Drown In Tangmarg Stream

Agencies

Srinagar: Two teenage cousin sisters drowned to death after a sudden flow of water to a power canal washed them away at Ferozepur Nallah, Drang tourist resort in Tangmarg area of north Kashmir's Baramulla on Wednesday.

Two other family members were also stuck in the waters, but they survived and are being treated at the hospital. It was the birthday of one of the

deceased girl today.

Eye-witnesses said that at least four members of a family including two girls were washed away by the water that was suddenly released by the employees of Micro Hydel Power Project Drang.

"Two girls were taking photographs when a sudden discharge of water washed them away along with two other family members," said Manzoor Ahmed, a local resident of Drang. ● [More On P6](#)

## ED Serves Over Rs 14L Demand Notice To Geelani

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Enforcement Directorate has sent a demand notice of over 14 lakh to former Hurriyat Conference chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani asking him to deposit the penalty amount imposed upon him under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. As per the notice, the ED said that a penalty of Rs 14, 40,000 was imposed upon Geelani in 2019, which he till date has failed to pay. ● [More On P6](#)

....PMLA Case

## Delhi HC To Hear Mehbooba's Plea In August

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court Wednesday said it will hear in August a plea by former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, who has been summoned by the ED, challenging the Constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). A bench of Chief Justice D

N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh listed the matter for August 13 after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta requested that the plea be heard on another day as he was busy with a part heard matter.

Senior advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan, representing Mufti, submitted that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a compilation of judgements relied upon by ● [More On P6](#)

## Mehbooba's Mother Skips ED Summon

Gulshan Nazir, mother of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, did not appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday as the investigating agency has not responded to a letter written by the widow of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, seeking details of the case in which she was to be questioned, sources close to the Mufti family said. ● [More On P6](#)

## LADAKH STALEMATE

# PLA Has Not Crossed Into Ladakh: Army

## Says Chinese Activities Being Monitored



Soldiers patrolling an area in the mountainous Ladakh Union Territory. KO File Photo, Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** There has been no attempt by the Indian or the Chinese side to occupy the areas in eastern Ladakh from where they disengaged in February and both sides are engaged in talks to resolve the remaining issues in the region, the Army said on Wednesday.

The Army said it has been monitoring activities by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) including turnover of troops in the region.

The Army made the comments as part of a statement trashing a media report that said the Chinese military has again crossed the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh at several places and that there has been at least one incident of clash

between the two sides.

"Ever since the disengagement agreement in February this year, there has been no attempt by either side to occupy the areas from where the disengagement had been undertaken. There have been no clashes in Galwan or any other area, as reported in the article," the Army said.

It also said that the report mentioning that agreements with China have collapsed is "false and baseless".

"Both sides have continued with negotiations to resolve the balance issues, and regular patrolling in respective areas continues. The situation on ground continues to be as heretofore. PLA activities, including turnover of troops, continue to be monitored ● [More On P6](#)

# LG Opens First Ayurvedic College In J&K

## Announces Financial Help To 400 Dental Surgeons, 800 Paramedics Under 'Mission Youth'



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir government will provide financial assistance to 400 dental surgeons and 800 paramedics to facilitate them to start their own clinics under 'Mission Youth' programme, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Wednesday.

The LG announced this while inaugurating and dedicating Government Ayurvedic Medical College

in Akhnoor to the public.

"With the new state-of-the-art Ayurveda facility, we have achieved a new milestone in the health-care sector of Jammu and Kashmir," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

"The first Ayurvedic College in J&K with 63 seats will help the students to gain the learning of the Ayurveda system. In addition, the 60-bedded hospital would prove to ● [More On P6](#)

# Despite Court Campaign, Doodh Ganga Dying As Drain

Mubashir Bhat

After losing its 'milky' waters to chemicals, waste, plastic, and other pollutants, river Doodh Ganga is fast becoming a drain despite World Bank funds meant to restore some of its glory failing to come to its rescue.

The liquid and solid waste ceaselessly goes directly into the river in huge quantities despite the civil society's campaign and the judicial rebuke.

And the same contaminated water is the drinkable water source to many parts of Srinagar and Budgam areas.

"The sewage and waste water is the main cause of the contamination of this water body," said Muhammad Ramzan, a resident of uptown Srinagar. "The consumption of polluted and infected water is jeopardizing our health to a great extent now."



The inhabitants have been time and again reaching out to government due to the alarming deterioration in water quality of Doodh Ganga in the face of barrage of pollutants flowing into the water stream at different points.

Taking cognizance of the dilapidated condition of the river Doodh Ganga due to high levels of pollutants in its water, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court under a Public Interest Litigation of its own motion, ordered the directing

respondents to take necessary action for preservation of Doodh Ganga Water Stream and Doodh Ganga Water Filtration Plant located at Kralpora.

The investigation report by the JK Pollution Control Board—now Pollution Control Committee—identified 13 Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC)—run drainage pumping stations as the main pollutant carriers, as none of these drainage stations had a sewerage treatment facility before throwing the effluent into the river.

The unfortunate turn of events started unfolding for the inhabitants when SMC started upgrading 49 Drainage Pumping Stations located in and around Srinagar City under a Scheme funded by the World Bank.

And the targets included upgradation of most of the 13 blacklisted Pumping Stations identified ● [More On P6](#)







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**KASHMIR  
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**Thursday| 15-07-2021**

**2**

### از نیابت قلم آباد

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب ریاض قادر بٹ ولد غلام قادر بٹ ساکنہ لچھی ہمارا دعا لگی RBA تحت 294 SRO

### اشتہار ہمارا دعا لگی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کارڈنی ہے اس سلسلے میں ہنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ شمولہ ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موع مندرجہ قلم آباد میں رہائش پذیر ہے سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ پانچویں اعتراض یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے معیار کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار sult

### از نیابت قلم آباد

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب پرویز احمد خان و معراج الدین خان اولادان محمد عبداللہ خان ساکنہ ہرل ہمارا دعا لگی بیکور ایراسرٹیفکیٹ تحت 294 SRO

### اشتہار ہمارا دعا لگی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کارڈنی ہے اس سلسلے میں ہنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ شمولہ ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موع مندرجہ قلم آباد میں رہائش پذیر ہے سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ پانچویں اعتراض یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے معیار کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

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### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG



Whereas a joint application has been received by this office from Mr Irfan Fazil Bhat S/o Gh Mohd Bhat R/o Lorigpora Pahalgam Anantnag (Party no ist) as transferor (seller) owner of the vehicle TAVEERA bearing registration No Jk03C7600 (commercial /non-commercial) covering under R/p No ANG and MrMohdSaleemaWaraS/o GhMohdWaraR/o LariporaSirgufara Anantnag party no 2nd ) as transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party ni 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Before the case is disposed off on its merits,anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation /objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



No: 101/8079/Ang  
Dated : 05/07/21  
Assistant regional transport officer Anantnag

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG



Whereas a joint application has been received by this office from MrAbaid Ahmad Wagay S/o Gh Nabi Wagay R/o New Goriwar Bi-behara Ang (Party no ist) as transferor (seller) owner of the vehicle ALTO 800 bearing registration No Jk03H 4140 (commercial /non-commercial) covering under R/p No ANG and MrAb Hamid Allah S/o MohdRamzanMallah R/o Be-hiBaghyariporakulgam party no 2nd ) as transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party ni 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Before the case is disposed off on its merits,anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation /objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



No: 101/8976/Mvd/Ang  
Dated : 14/07/21  
Assistant regional transport officer anantnag

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

Whereas a joint application has been received by this office from Mr Khurshed Ahmad Khan S/o M Amin Khan R/o Nai Basti Anantnag (Party no ist) as transferor (seller) owner of the vehicle TATA SUMO bearing registration No Jk03C 3301 (commercial /non-commercial) covering under R/p No and Mr Ali Mohd Padder S/o Bashir Ahmad Padder R/o Wangund Qazigund (party no 2nd ) as transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party ni 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Before the case is disposed off on its merits,anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation /objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



No: 101/8175/Mvd/Ang  
Dated : 14-07-2021  
Assistant regional transport officer anantnag

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : Mohammad Rafiq Dar S/o: Noor Mohammad Dar R/o: Wahid-pora Ganderbal as Transferor) & Shri. Bashir Ahmad Naik S/o Mohammad Sabir Naik R/o Odura Near School Odura Kulgam as Transferee) for transfer of Tipper Carriage route permit No.720/Gc/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04A-5847. Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 981 Dated 07/07/2021



mcb Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG



Whereas a joint application has been received by this office from Mr Imran Majid Lone S/o Ab Majid Lone R/o New Qazibagh Anantnag (Party no ist) as transferor (seller) owner of the vehicle TATA SUMO bearing registration No Jk03B 7545 (commercial /non-commercial) covering under R/p No 235/Mc/ ANG and Mr Subzar Ahmad Bhat S/o Sonullah Bhat R/o Badragund Anantnag (party no 2nd ) as transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party ni 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with EDB Ang. Before the case is disposed off on its merits,anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation /objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



No: 101/8174/Mvd/Ang  
Dated : 14-07-2021  
Assistant regional transport officer anantnag

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : 'Habib ullah Mir S/o: Gh Ahmad Mir R/o: Summer bugh Lasjan Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Fayaz Ahmad Dar S/o Gh Mohammad Dar R/o Takipora Budgam as Transferee) for transfer of Tipper Carriage route permit No.926/Gc/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04A-9230. Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 1038 Dated 13/07/2021



mcb Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly spelled in school records as Mohammad Uzair S/o Abdul Majeed Najar while the correct spelling is Mohammad Uzair S/o Ab. Majeed Najar and His DOB has been wrongly written as 07-08-2012 while his correct DOB is 07-08-2011 which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Primary School Palpora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Ab Majeed Naar F/O Mohammad Uzair R/o Adna Magam bmg

## Imamia Public Secondary School Meer Behri Dal (Sgr)

Run By

Educational Trust Kashmir

H.O Auqaf Complex Alamgari Bazar Srinagar, 190011, phone 2421966

### Managing committee of the institution

S.No	Name/ Parentage	Residence	Qual.	Occupation	Designation
1	Shri Mohammad Shafi Latoo S/O Late Mohammad Asghar Latoo	Kani Kachi Meer Behri Dal Srinagar	B.A	Business	Chairman
2	Shri Ghulam Mohammad Latoo S/O Late Mohammad Maqbool Latoo	Sofi Mohalla Meer Behri Dal	F.A Pass	Business	Member
3	Shri Mohammad Yousuf Kath S/O Late Mohamad Qasim Kath	Kath Mohalla Meer Behri Dal	F.A. Pass	Business	Member (Parent)
4	Dr. Nasreen Malik S/O Ghulam Mohammad Malik	Khanayar Srinagar	PHD, B.ED	Sr. Science Teacher Coordinator Acadm)	Member
5	Shri Ashiq Hussain Akhoo S/O Ghulam Hassan Akhoo	Kachri Mohalla Meer Behri Dal	10TH	Business	Member (Parent)
6	Shri Mohammad Amin Latoo S/O Mohammad Qasim Latoo	Lati Mohalla Khurd Meer Behri	10TH	Business	Member (Parent)
7	Smt. Safia Amin W/o Javaid Ahamd Matoo	Fateh Kadal Srinagar	B.Com, B.ed.	Sr. Teacher	Member (Staff)
8	Shri Latif Ahamd Nagoo S/O Ghulam Husain Nagoo	Hassanabad Rainwari Srinagar	M.SC	Principal (Coordinator Academci)	Member

Note: If any person has any kind of objection regarding the above constituted managing committee may report to the Director Of Education within a period of seven days . After expiry of this period no objection shall be deemed acceptable.

Principal Imamia Public Secondary School Meer Behri (Dal) Srinagar

INF

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOURA SRINAGAR 190011 KASHMIR

Sub: - Notice inviting quotation for procurement/renewal of Digital Signature Certificates (DSC's)

Sealed quotations are invited from the authorised Dealers/Distributors/Firms (having GST Registration and Experience Certificate for Supplying and Renewal of DSC's) for supply/renewal of Digital Signature Certificates(DSC's) to Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura Srinagar and SKIMS Medical College/Hospital Bemina Srinagar.

#### Terms & Conditions:

- 1/- The Bidder(s) are required to offer their rates separately for supply of New DSC and Renewal of existing Digital Signature Certificate's.
- 2/- Quotations should contain the complete specifications of Digital Signature Certificate.
- 3/- The rate(s) offered must be for SKIMS Soura and SKIMS MCH Bemina inclusive of all levies, GST and all other charges. The rates shall be valid for a period of one year to be reckoned from the date of issue of formal supply order.
- 4/- The delivery of the Digital Signature Certificate for both New and Renewal should be within 3 days after receiving of all requisite documents of the Officers in whose favour the DSC's are issued/renewed.

The offer with all requisite documents (in sealed cover) should reach the office of the Chief Engineer, SKIMS Soura Srinagar within a period of 11days from the date of issue of this Notice. Quotations if any received after the due date shall not be entertained.

Superintending Engineer (E&C/IT) SKIMS

NO: SIMS 217/DSC-48/2021-699-705  
Dated: 12 .07.2021

DIPIK-NB-1772/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

## Office of the Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K Cooperative

Complex SDA Colony, Bemina, Sriangar - 190018

Subject: Filling of Annual Returns by the Cooperatives registered under the Jammu and Kashmir Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999

### NOTICE

Whereas, Sub Section (1) & (2) Section 46 of the Jammu and Kashmir Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999 casts a statutory responsibility upon the Cooperatives registered there under to file Annual Returns along with other information contained in the Act with the office of the Registrar Cooperative Societies within 30 days from the date of convening of the Annual General Body Meeting; and

Whereas, attention of all such Cooperatives has time and again been drawn through the medium of Notices published in leading daily local news papers towards the legal obligation regarding filing of Annual Returns along with the connected information; and

Whereas, in response to the Notices, a few Cooperatives have submitted their Annual Returns though not as per the requirement of the Act; and

Whereas, in the absence of Annual Returns and other information of the Cooperatives, the Department is not able to compile the Annual Report of statistical information of Cooperatives for submitting the same to the Government on 31st of March each year, for which, responsibility has otherwise been cast upon the Registrar Cooperatives under sub section 4 of section 46 of the Act; and

Whereas, failure to file the Annual Returns is an offence under sub section 3 of section 46 of the Act, besides such Cooperatives have cultivated such a work culture which is not in tandem with the Cooperative Principles and ethics; and

Whereas, it has further been given to understand that some of the Cooperative registered under the Act have been managing/ enjoying various exemptions including the payment of stamp duty etc. in the name of Cooperative and showing reluctance in being amenable to the provisions of the Act; and

Whereas, failure of such Cooperatives to file the Annual Returns and other information is enough to believe that they have not commenced the business from the date of their registration or are simply using the name of the Cooperative to sustain illegally their commercial interests; and

Whereas, it has now been again felt expedient to afford an opportunity to such Cooperatives who have not filed their Annual Returns as mandated under Sub Section(1) & (2) of Section 46 of the J&K Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999.

Now therefore, it is enjoined upon all such Cooperatives registered under the J&K Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999 who have defaulted in the submission of the Annual Returns along with other information to file the same through respective Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies of respective divisions within one month from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which, necessary action as per provisions of the J&K Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999 including dissolution shall be initiated against the defaulter Cooperatives.

DIPIK-4683/21

No. Rcs/SS/G-57-I/613-30

Dated 09-07-2021

Shafqat Iqbal (KAS)  
Registrar, Cooperative Societies,  
J&K



## First Real-time Air-monitoring Station Inaugurated At Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K got its first real-time air-quality monitoring station with inauguration of first ever Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) at JKPC headquarter's Rajbagh, Srinagar by Chairman J&K Pollution Control Committee, Suresh Chugh, here Wednesday.

The inauguration was followed by a detailed presentation by Subrat K. Kant, DGM of M/s Environment SA, which has provided the equipment and is looking after the operation and maintenance.

Terming it as a major achievement of J&K PCC, Chairman thanked all the officers and the entire team for putting in their best efforts in successful installation and commissioning of the station which saw many hiccups and delays due to Covid19 pandemic.

The CAAQMS, which was put on trial run for two months before its inaugura-

tion, is a highly sophisticated equipment that gives real time air quality data of a particular area especially the key parameters like PM10, PM 2.5, NOX, SOX, Ozone which determine the air quality of that area. The installation of CAAQMS has been mandated in all the non-attainment cities across India including Jammu and Srinagar.

Chairman informed the gathering that the air quality monitoring network shall be established and later extended to all district headquarters of J&K in due course of time. Further, two similar stations are going to be established in Jammu province.

During the presentation, it was informed that the air quality data generated by CAAQMS has been linked with CPCB portal ([https://app.cpcbcr.com/AQI\\_India/](https://app.cpcbcr.com/AQI_India/)) and the Air Quality Index has been made public enabling any person sitting in any corner of the world to access the Air Quality of Srinagar city.

## Div Com Stresses On Plantation, Tree Guard Installation To Beautify Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers to review the progress on beautification work of Srinagar roads and other important locations.

Div Com stressed on speedy completion of beautification work on Batamalo-Tengpora, Parimpora-Narbal, Boulevard Airport road and other important locations.

The Div Com instructed concerned to expedite work on footpath constructions, road medians, plantation including Austrian poplars, installation of tree guards, grills, colour-

ing of grills and other works at all identified locations in Srinagar.

He also instructed on removal of grass, damaged tree guards and iron grills besides bush cutting at all required places.

The Div Com called for black topping of all roads and immediate fixing of potholes and pits and smooth surface levelling at all identified locations.

Stressing on making roads look presentable, he said flower pots with variety of flowers be placed along the IG Airport Road, Zero Bridge, Foot Bridge and other locations on priority and instructed concerned to ensure proper upkeep and maintenance.

# Asad Stresses On Result Oriented Implementation Of BBBP Scheme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Wednesday held deliberation on various issues of concern like Child sex ratio, Infant mortality rate, Literacy rate, Gender ratio, implementation of PC&PNDT Act in the district besides other related issues.

He was speaking during a meeting of concerned officers to review the implementation of Beti Bachao Beti Pado (BBBP) scheme in the district.

Sub Judge, District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar, Justice Noor Mohammad Mir; Chief Planning Officer Srinagar; ACD, Srinagar, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Chief Medical Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, District Panchayat Officer and other concerned were present in the meeting.

The DC stressed on result oriented implementation of the scheme and asked the concerned to take appropriate measures to achieve the goal of the scheme aimed at to prevent gender-biased sex-selective elimination.

He also laid stress on ensuring Survival, Protection and Education of Girl child in the district and said no laxity will be



tolerated in this regard.

The DC urged all the officers to contribute towards effective implementation of programmes being conducted under BBBP. He sought coordinated efforts by all the concerned departments to achieve the desired objective of protection and empowerment of women as well as girl-child.

He asked the officers of the concerned departments to prepare an event calendar of the activities to be conducted under Beti Bachao Beti Pado scheme in the district.

The DC directed the Health authorities to strictly enforce the provisions of PC&PNDT Act in the district. He further directed for conducting a day long sensitization workshop on BBBP

scheme for mass awareness in the district in which best practitioners and expert human resource persons will be involved to share their experiences for better implementation of BBBP.

He further directed for preparing a list of women role models, women entrepreneurs, having contributed towards BBBP so that they are felicitated. He said the role of Asha works is pivotal in effective implementation of BBBP scheme on ground.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised by CDPO about the activities carried out in the district during the current financial year, besides action plan of activities to be undertaken in next fiscal.

## Faculty Development Programme On Cyber Security Begins At KU

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A five-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Cyber Security started at the University of Kashmir.

The online programme titled "Cyber Security, Ethical Hacking and Cyber Crime" has been organised by the varsity's Department of Computer Sciences in collaboration with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE ATAL Academy).

200 participants from 19 states/UTs are participating in the FDP, where 14 eminent speakers from diverse backgrounds and industry will deliver their lectures.

A total of 14 sessions, divided into theory and hands-on practical sessions, will be held to acquaint the participants with various aspects of Cyber Security, Ethical Hacking and Cyber Crime.

KU Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir inaugurated the FDP, which, he said, will help the participants to interact with top-notch experts in the fields of Cyber Security, Ethical Hacking and Cyber Crime.

"It is one of the prime objec-



tives of the AICTE ATAL Academy to impart quality technical education across the country and this FDP is one of the ways to achieve that goal," Dr Mir said, assuring the university administration's full support to such programmes while appreciating the Department of Computer Sciences for organising the FDP on an important theme.

Deputy Director AICTE Training And Learning (ATAL) Academy Dr Amit Dutta and Head, Department of Computer Sciences Prof Arif Wani, were also present on the occasion. In his special remarks, Dr Dutta said it's heartening to see such a

huge participation in the FDP.

"I congratulate the organizers for this and I am sure this FDP is going to benefit all of them in their academic and industry endeavors," he said.

Prof Wani, convener of the FDP, briefed the participants about the importance of cyber security and ethical hacking.

Dr Faheem Masoodi, programme coordinator gave an overview about various topics chosen for discussion, including Proactive Security, Ethical Hacking, Cyber Bullying, Cyber Attacks, Digital Forensics, Cyber Laws and Cryptocurrency.

## Mirwaiz Condoles Demise Of Dr Ahmad Din Kanth

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Hurriyat Conference (M) chairperson Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Wednesday expressed grief on the demise of Dr Ahmed Din Kanth, a resident of Nigeen, and paid rich tributes to him for his selfless services as a renowned doctor.

In a statement, Mirwaiz said that Dr Kanth was a kind and gentle soul and a competent and compassionate doctor, always ready to serve people.

"Kanth sahab's family had close relations with the Mirwaiz family, and living in the neighbourhood Kanth sahab was the family physician, who was always available and kind enough to help all members of the family."

Terming his death as a personal loss, Mirwaiz expressed condolences and solidarity with the bereaved family including the deceased's son Dr Aijaz Ahmad Kanth and brother Ghulam Muhammad Kanth; and prayed for Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul.

## Bhagat Chairs Valedictory Function Of Training Programme On RTI Act

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director General J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD), Saurabh Bhagat, Wednesday stressed on the importance of Right to Information Act and presently the Central RTI Act is implemented in the whole UT of Jammu and Kashmir. He praised the contribution of Wajahat Habibullah who was appointed as the first Information Commissioner of the India and who belongs to J&K cadre.

He chaired the valedictory function of training programme on RTI Act.

The training programme titled "Best practices in implementation of RTI Act" which started on Monday (July 12).

18 officers including PIOs/APIOs and First Appellate Authority from

the Health Department and Associated Hospitals attended the training programme.

Dr JA Jabeen, Associate Professor coordinated the training programme.

Former Information Commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir, G R Sofi also delivered a lecture on the RTI Act and discussed the important cases with the trainees.

Saurabh Bhagat called upon the trainees to gain maximum benefit from the training courses so that the expertise imparted through these modules would be used to further to streamline the administrative skills.

He further informed that the Government is trying to give exposure to two thousand officers at National and International level in various fields through training programmes.

## NIT Hosts Webinar On Higher Education Opportunities In US

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Training and Placement, National Institute of Technology (NIT) on Wednesday hosted a webinar on Overview of the Higher Education Opportunities in the US in collaboration with United States - India Educational Foundation (USIEF).

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Rakesh Sehgal said the objective of such webinars is aimed to bridge the gap between industry and academia, through mutually exploring the opportunities for professional students towards better growth and development.

He said the placement cell of NIT Srinagar is committed to developing quality leadership qualities in our students. The main function of this cell is to accomplish the basic needs of the corporate world, Prof Sehgal said.

In his message, Registrar NIT, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari said the primary aim of this lecture was that students would be updated with current opportunities in higher education and such sessions will be held in the future also.

Advisor EducationUSA, New Delhi, Rupali Verma provided in-

depth details about the opportunities for the students in the U.S. She also provided a comprehensive overview of the U.S. admissions and application processes of various institutions.

Rupali also spoke about reasons to choose U.S. as a study destination (myths versus reality) while shortlisting universities. Financing studies through different sources of funding and discussed how to cut costs.

She also described components of the application process - standardized tests for undergraduate students including the GRE/GMAT and English proficiency test.

Rupali further said EducationUSA is a worldwide network of more than 400 Advising Centers in 170+ countries. There are eight EducationUSA Centers in India. Each year USIEF holds dozens of academic or professional workshops," she said.

Head Training and Placement officer and Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering Department, Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar said the webinar was attended by around 200 participants and in future, placement cell will be hosting such sessions to bridge the gap between students and industries.

### DIAL-EMMA

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- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
03 Zil Haj  
1442

### PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 48
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:47
ISHA	9:25

## This Day In History

- 982- King Otto II and his Frankish army defeated in pitched battle with Muslim army of al-Qasim at Cape Colonna, Southern Italy
- 1223- Louis VIII becomes King of France upon the death of his father, Philip II
- 1420- Battle at Vitkov Zizka's hill (Prague): Taborites beat Bohemia
- 1714- Battle of Aland, Russian fleet overpowers larger Swedish naval force
- 1789- Bastille Day - the French Revolution begins with the storming of the Bastille Prison in Paris (now celebrated as France's national day)
- 1853- New Zealand holds its first general election
- 1863- Battle of Falling Waters, Maryland (Beaver Creek)
- 1864 - Gold is discovered in Helena, Montana
- 1865 - English mountaineer Edward Whymper leads first expedition to climb the Matterhorn (four die on the descent)
- 1891 - John T Smith patents corkboard
- 1914 - Robert Goddard is granted the first patent for liquid-fueled rocket design
- 1933 - All non-Nazi parties are banned in Germany
- 1938 - Benito Mussolini publishes anti-Jewish/African manifesto
- 1945 - Battleship USS South Dakota is 1st US ship to bombard Japan
- 1957 - Soviet steamer "Eshghbad" sinks in Caspian Sea, drowning 270
- 1958 - General Abdul K Kassem forms a military government in Iraq overthrowing the monarchy.
- 1959 - USS Long Beach, first nuclear powered cruiser launched at Quincy, Mass
- 1965 - Israeli/Jordanian border fights
- 1965 - US Mariner IV, 1st Mars probe, passes at 6,100 miles (9,800 km)
- 1967 - Surveyor 4 launched to Moon; explodes just before landing
- 1969 - The United States \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 bills are officially withdrawn from circulation.
- 1972 - USSR performs underground nuclear Test
- 1976 - USSR banishes dissident Andrei Amalrik to Netherlands
- 1977 - US House establishes permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
- 1983 - Mario Bros. is first released by Nintendo in Japan as an arcade game about an Italian-American plumber
- 1984 - STS 41-D vehicle moves to Vandenberg AFB for remanifest of payloads
- 1984 - USSR performs nuclear Test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1986 - NASA's plan to implement recommendations of Rogers commission
- 1987 - Taiwan ends 37 years of martial law
- 1988 - 200,000 demonstrate in Soviet Armenia for incorporation of Nagorno-Karabak
- 1991 - Failed military coup in Mali
- 2012 - Suicide bomber attacks a wedding reception and kills 22 people and injures 22 in northern Afghanistan
- 2014- The death toll from the West African Ebola outbreak passes 500
- 2014- The Egyptian government propose a cease fire in the Israel-Gaza conflict
- 2014 - After 7 days, Israel has struck Gaza 1320 times, while Gaza has fired 940 rockets at Israel
- 2015 - Scientists from the Large Hadron Collider announce the discovery of a new particle called the pentaquark
- 2015 - Arms deal agreed between 6 world powers and Iran limiting Iranian nuclear arms but ending sanctions

*From KO Archives*

## Patil Says No Fresh Invitation; Hurriyat calls for emergency meeting

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR : A day after Home Minister Shivraj Patil ruled out fresh invitation to the Hurriyat Conference for resumption of talks on Kashmir issue, moderate faction of the conglomerate has convened an emergency meeting here on Tuesday to discuss the issue.

Chairman of the Hurriyat Mirwaiz Umer Farooq has convened an emergency meeting of all its three bodies including the Executive Working Committee and General Council on Tuesday, sources in the conglomerate said.

Patil, who was here to review the security scenario in the state especially for the ongoing Amarnath yatra, told reporters that no fresh invitation would be extended to Hurriyat Conference for talks but those who are willing to talk were always welcome.

I don't know what you mean by fresh invitation. Hurriyat has already had two rounds of talks with the centre and New Delhi is ready to talk to all those people and groups who come forward," he had said in response to queries by reporters.

"Our doors are open for all those who want to talk but invitation will be extended to none. Restoration of peace was New Delhi's top most priority and for that doors of dialogue are open for all," he had said.

(Kashmir Observer, 14 July, 2005)



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### K O V I E W

## Uncertain Situation

One more drone was spotted along the international border in Jammu's Arnia sector on Tuesday night. It returned after the BSF personnel opened fire at it. Later, the security personnel launched the search of the area but found nothing. Ever since the explosives-laden drone was used to attack the Air Force Base in Jammu in June and which mercifully didn't cause any big damage, more such unmanned aerial vehicles have been spotted near the security installations. The objects haven't hit their targets because the alert security personnel have been able to pre-empt the attack. But the regular sighting of these objects has not only become a headache for the security forces but has also contributed to further deterioration of the security situation in Jammu province. The situation in the Kashmir Valley is already uneasy, although there has so far been no incident of drone spotting.

What is particularly of concern is that the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir is taking shape amid the shifting geopolitics of the region following the exit of the US from Afghanistan. Over the last two weeks, Afghanistan has plunged into a civil war. Taliban is marching from one district to another, almost unresisted by the Afghan forces. In the process, not only the ground situation is shifting in the war-scarred country but also in South Asia. It seems but a matter of time before the Taliban could be ruling the entire Afghanistan. This has huge security implications for the region including Kashmir. Many experts in India see a potential for replication of the situation of the mid-nineties when there was some spillover of the battle-hardened mujahideen into Kashmir. Could this history replicate? As the situation is unfolding, it is difficult to rule this out.

The challenge posed by recent drone attacks has a wider dimension. It underlines a sudden re-emergence of the challenge of militancy, which otherwise has been showing signs of being on the wane over the last year. And just when we were rushing to write the epitaph of militancy, the drone attacks show that a new phase may be about to start - and this time in a new form.

Could this be pre-empted? Unlikely, if the two countries take no steps to address the issues and factors that underpin the long troubled situation. The hope that the ceasefire agreement along the LoC would be followed by a resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan has not materialised. But one expects that India and Pakistan do return to a serious and meaningful dialogue. This alone has the potential to avert what look like to be very uncertain times ahead.

### OTHER OPINION

## The Inflation Challenge

India has an inflation problem. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), India's benchmark inflation measure, grew at 6.26% in June 2021. This is the second consecutive month that CPI has landed above the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s upper tolerance limit of 6%. Wholesale Price Index (WPI) grew at 12.07% in June, the third consecutive month of double-digit wholesale inflation. And the prices of fuel, largely a tax-driven phenomena currently, are at a record high. An overwhelming share of Indian workers are employed in the unorganised sector. This means that their earnings are not indexed to prices. Any sharp inflationary spike, therefore, puts a squeeze on purchasing power and demand. The rise in diesel prices will have a particularly adverse effect on farm incomes for the kharif season. The minimum support prices announced by the government were based on cost estimates, which would have escalated significantly now.

Hindustan Times



# Lessons Against Prejudice

Krishna Kumar writes: By critically engaging with the perceptual histories children have internalised, education can counter caste and religious discrimination

Krishna Kumar

Like race, religion remains an important axis of prejudice in all parts of the world. Attitudes towards religious groups other than one's own, often reflect deep prejudice internalised in childhood. The process whereby this absorption of a prejudice prevailing in society occurs is not open to analysis, partly because it happens in extremely subtle interactions between the adults and the child inside the home space

The conviction and sentencing of a policeman for the murder of George Floyd signifies a major success for the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States. However, the question of why racism persists in America, despite a prolonged and serious effort made in the education system to address the issue, remains. The usual response among people who work in the field of education is that education never got a real chance to succeed. Their argument is based on the premise that for education to be successful in its social goals, there must be a consensus among political, economic and cultural policies. This may be asking for the moon, but there is some truth in the contention that education cannot work in isolation. If discrimination against a certain group is rife in the economic and political spheres, schools alone cannot remedy it. Thus far, the case is well-made, but a deeper look is necessary to appreciate the kind of effort that those involved in education make to mitigate prejudice and also to recognise the limitations within which they function.

Someone without any prejudice whatsoever must be a remarkable person indeed. Does such a person represent an ideal educated society? This question promises to take us to the deeper meanings of prejudice and other such mental states that look similar, but are, in fact, quite different. Being a partisan is one such candidate. Prima facie, it looks as bad to be partisan as it is to be prejudiced. Both terms suggest that they obstruct impartial treatment and come in the way of justice. However, being partisan also suggests being wedded to a cause, while retaining the awareness that there are people who are opposed to this cause. The much respected American journal, The Partisan Review, symbolised this approach. In India, Ashok Vajpayee, a former administrator and major poet, started a magazine called Poorvagraha. It was a bold title to choose as many thought that it conveyed the editor's prejudiced view towards certain camps in Hindi literature. For Vajpayee, however, the title indicated his commitment to a wider defini-

tion of literature and its role in society. This kind of partisanship has found appreciation in many spheres of public action, including diplomacy, economic policy and education. Basically, it means taking a stand rather than holding a bias against something.

Of late, racial and religious prejudices have dominated public attention in different countries. My main point is that the term "racism" is much too general to accommodate different kinds of prejudices, and even the term prejudice or bias does not accommodate the different kinds of dislikes people may have towards certain other groups or causes. Certain Western countries, which were believed to have overcome impulses to settle historical grievances in a dramatic fashion, have recently witnessed riotous toppling of statues. From Bristol to Charlottesville to Toronto, statues of historically significant individuals have been vandalised in various degrees of expression of violent revenge. The sudden discovery that these statues marked official recognition of people who were racists by our current standards is apparently responsible for these assaults on stone and metal. The satisfaction that such acts provide is undoubtedly greater than that which corrective commentaries on plaques or in textbooks might give. However, this kind of satisfaction has diminishing returns. This is also true when it comes to changing names of old cities, towns and railway stations. On the day it is accomplished, it seems a feat of decisive governance, but then the hunger for change shifts to other things.

Like race, religion remains an important axis of prejudice in all parts of the world. Attitudes towards religious groups other than one's own, often reflect deep prejudice internalised in childhood. The process whereby this absorption of a prejudice prevailing in society occurs is not open to analysis, partly because it happens in extremely subtle interactions between the adults and the child inside the home space. In fact, when such processes are pointed out during teacher training, students find it difficult to believe

that such a thing is possible. The attempt demonstrates the popular hope that teachers can counter prejudices prevalent among the young. A considerable effort has been made to turn this hope into reality, and by all accounts, some success has been achieved, especially in the context of gender bias. Negative attitudes based on religion and caste, however, are rather different. These categories of prejudice are rooted in collective identities formed over long periods of history. These are transferred to each new generation by means of what can best be termed perceptual history. It is a simplified version of the knowledge of the past that a community holds and transmits through religious activities and different cultural media.

Teachers do not usually acknowledge the social predispositions that children acquire from the religious and cultural life around them. It is these predispositions that turn into long-term prejudices, encouraging the stereotypes that teachers are exhorted to combat. Their task would have a better chance of success if they recognised and, critically engaged with the perceptual histories the children have internalised. This is easier said than done. Any engaged pedagogic effort creates local ripples, which can turn hostile in an environment charged with polarities and sensitivities.

Schools do require some appreciative understanding from society if they are to pursue child-centred learning, wherein the learner does not just acquire a readiness to regurgitate but rather makes some personal sense of what is taught. There may not be total consensus between the goals of education and those of political and other social institutions, but a certain scope for freedom to function with intellectual acumen is necessary for dealing with entrenched prejudices.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published in the Indian Express*



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## Sustainable Remote Education

The debate about reopening schools still needs to be put on hold. One mustn't jump the gun on it too soon. While it is imperative to proactively find ways to fill the gaps that have been left in our shift from physical to digital, it need not be done through opening up schools. We need to find sus-

tainable alternatives.

Digital remote education needs to be taken as a norm for a while and schools must come up with ways students can be engaged in activities that they are missing out on due to remote classes.

The virus is still here. This constant vacillation from one mode to the

next is only going to keep students in anticipation. This will be counter-productive. We need to come up with ways to provide children with a conducive and safe environment to grow. This can only be done by minimising the effects of uncertainty as much as possible.

Socialising and physical activi-

ties have been the areas where we need to focus. Parents and schools can collaborate to provide kids to socialise safely and get involved in physical activities like sports as well.

Asim Rouf  
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# Winds of Change: Update Digital Knowledge

Vijay Garg

Learning new skills shouldn't be boring. Companies can spice up the process using creative games and rewards. Gamification has long been noted as an effective tool to motivate learners in a healthy and competitive way. It's also good to encourage your employees to put their newly acquired skills into practice and to acknowledge their achievements

How many of you wake up only to grab your phone and switch on Facebook to check its news feed to see what you're missing while you're sleeping? The advancement of technology has allowed us to constantly connect with the rest of the world and stay updated with the current trends, news, and other parts of our social life. Now, let's put the same idea to your digital and marketing knowledge. Shouldn't they also be checked regularly?

Digital literacy is the ability to effectively and critically navigate, evaluate, and create information using a range of digital technologies.

Like it or not, the reality today is that the digital market and social media ecosystem would only become more crowded and more competitive. Every marketer knows that the digital world is a constant and fast-paced changing environment.

As such digital marketing is never going to be a set-it and forget-it solution. What you knew working today might not be relevant tomorrow. That's why digital marketing needs constant attention and regular maintenance, including fresh knowledge.

#### What Does it Mean for Companies?

The Report showed that the demand for technological skills will only keep increasing from 2016 to 2030. Companies and talent developers are well aware of this and hence, are putting employee development as their priorities.

As businesses are getting digitized at a faster rate, upskilling employees regularly is important to avoid a gap between the skills and the needs of the companies. 54% of the companies acknowledged that the digital talent gap is hampering their digital transformation programs and that their organization has lost competitive advantage because of a shortage of digital talent.

#### Here are some obvious benefits for companies to up-skill their workforce.

Upskilling employees who already fit with your brand and culture allows them to keep up with industry advancements while putting their skills back into your company. An up-skilled workforce is up-to-date on the latest technology and industry trends, which will improve the overall productivity and reinforce your company's position as industry leader.

#### Employee Retention

Employee turnover is costly for companies. Give your employees another reason to stay by investing in up-skilling their skills to increase employee allegiance and to strengthen team bonding.

#### Employee Engagement



Employees are in a way your brand advocates. Up-skilling is a great way to engage them and let them know that the company cares for their well-being. Happy employees will lead to better customer service and satisfied customers.

How do you start? So, you're on board to up-skill your workforce? Here are some tips on where to start.

#### Develop Personalized Learning Path

Personally, I don't like being told what to do. And I often do the same to my employees. So, rather than giving them specific instructions, I suggest you get your employees involved from the get go. Give them the opportunity to identify their existing skills and ask what they like to improve as well as what new skills they like to develop.

#### Mobile and Online Learning

With the development of mobile technology nowadays, you can give your employees the choice of learning on any mobile devices at any time as per their convenience. As such, your employees have access to seamless training content while also having the option to seek performance support at specific times when needed.

You can also invest in online learning platforms to give your employees full learning flexibility at a time and place that is best for them.

Learning new skills shouldn't be boring. Companies can spice up the process using creative games and rewards. Gamification has long been noted as an effective tool to motivate learners in a healthy and competitive way. It's also good to encourage your employees to put their newly acquired skills into practice and to acknowledge their achievements.

#### Make it part of company culture.

Up-skilling your knowledge shouldn't be an extracurricular activity. So make sure it's engraved in your company's culture. You can set aside time during the workweek for your employees to focus on refining their skills, design a room in the office specifically for training classes, setting up workshops, releasing short tutorial videos, holding seminars, etc. to encourage continuous learning culture in your company.

With so much digital disruption happening today, up-skilling is more important than ever now for the success of organizations. And the best place to start a startup program is with the resources that you already have at your disposal: your existing employees.

*The author is the Retired Principal Government Girls Senior Secondary school MHR Malout Punjab*

## Racist abuse of players: England loses more than just the Euro 2020 final

Pride in the new found British identity didn't last too long when push came to shove

Jyotsna Mohan

The irony. Just before their final against Italy, the England football team took a knee on the field, a symbolic gesture that many other teams had also earlier replicated during the tournament to take a stand against racism.

But barely hours after England lost, three of its young players were the target of the most vicious racist attacks, both on social media — there are reports that almost 2000 abusive tweets were posted after the game, and offline.

The mural of Marcus Rashford, one of the players to have missed a penalty in the final was defaced and an MP had to apologise after her message saying the player should have focused on perfecting his game rather than playing politics — she was referring to Rashford's high-profile campaign for free meals for poor students in schools last year, was leaked.

"My penalty was not good enough, it should have gone in, but I will never apologise for who I am and where I come from," the 23-year-old Rashford was forced to tweet, adding that the missed penalty was playing over and over, in his head.

#### Defending your identity

Here is a young man who has tirelessly worked for the upliftment of children from low-income families, fighting his own demons and yet having to come out and tragically defend his identity.

Along with Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka also missed penalties and their fate has been equally abusive. Just a couple of days before the final, Gareth Southgate's squad was being hailed as a 'celebration of diversity' with parents or grandparents of seven of the eleven players who started against Denmark in the semis, born overseas.

The nimble footed Raheem Sterling too moved from Jamaica when he was a child and became an MBE for campaigning against racial injustice.

But this pride in a new British identity didn't last long because when push came to shove, it disintegrated into violence and abuse.

The signs were already there- some would say the signs have always been festering and not necessarily beneath the surface- when fans at Wembley Stadium booed the national anthem of the Danish team in the semi-final and shone a laser on goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel's face just before Harry Kane took a penalty.



Former England player Gary Neville had then defended the crowd booing saying it was simply fans trying to unsettle the opponents and whether it was "really bad and disrespectful?"

#### Enabling racist behaviour

In the final, there was more of the same when the national anthem of Italy was played out. Incidentally Neville immediately spoke out against the racism attacks, admitting that issues exist but his dismissal of the crowd behaviour earlier is also an enabler of where the British society finds itself today.

Critics say those at the top have to shoulder a lot of the blame for this outpouring of racism. They are referring to Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Home Secretary Priti Patel — both of whom have been accused of not supporting the team's gesture of taking a knee before matches.

Patel who was herself born to a Ugandan-Indian family had earlier dismissed the action as nothing but 'gesture politics' saying England fans had a choice to jeer players doing it.

"You don't get to stoke the fire at the beginning of the tournament by labelling our antiracism message as 'Gesture Politics' and then pretend to be disgusted when the very thing we're campaigning against, happens," lambasted footballer Tyrone Mings.

#### Normalising vandalism, hooliganism

The racist abuse came after the world had already witnessed images of ticketless British fans attempting to break their way into Wembley, most of those who booed the national anthem, though likely had tickets. Then came visuals of men drunk on much more than alcohol, vandalising whatever came in their way and reportedly even jumping off

street lamps.

What is it about England football fans that has normalised such hooliganism, there are some comments on social media dismissing the violence as just a part and parcel of the game. No, it isn't and should never have been allowed to reach this point.

Many British women have spoken out on Twitter about how English football is but a patriarchal drunk fest where any big game allows the men to lose control of which, their own women are sometimes the target.

I shudder to think what it would have been like if the team had actually won. On the other hand, it is dystopian to think that in the same country a Wimbledon tournament was also taking place.

So, it didn't come home but what it did bring home to the world was that there is something rotten in the state of England and that the country needs to dig in deeper especially its politicians with their casual enabling of racism.

In the aftermath of George Floyd's killing and the sensitivities, their behaviour at the start of Euro seems an arrogant dismissal of the #BlackLivesMatter movement. No tweet in support of the players can change what they allowed to happen.

#### Tokenism, not inclusion

Football is a beautiful game and its strength also lies in the diversity on the field at any given time. Unfortunately the behaviour of some British fans has discarded that inclusion and replaced it with mere tokenism.

The support for the players though has been heartening but unless the country clamps down hard on racism and hooliganism, everything will seem a mere pretence — just an advertisement before the game.

England's wonderful quest for its first major title since the 1966 World Cup has unfortunately been overshadowed by events outside the field. Will this impact the UK-Ireland bid to host the 2030 World Cup?

Perhaps it is time to think if the country really deserves to hold international football matches till it sets its house in order, the action of some have unfortunately tarnished the innocent many. But perhaps that's the only language racism and violence will understand.

Gulf News



## CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

## Pakistani Militant

During the search operation, he said, the civilians were evacuated to safer places and as the presence of militants got ascertained they were given an opportunity to surrender.

“However they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which retaliated leading to an encounter. Due to darkness the operation was suspended, while the cordon remained intact,” the police spokesperson said.

He said the militants also made a failed attempt to flee from the cordon taking advantage of the darkness.

“In the wee hours, repeated announcements were again made to hiding terrorists to surrender, but the terrorists again fired on joint search party and the fire was retaliated,” he said.

As per the police spokesperson, three militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed in the ensuing encounter and their bodies were retrieved from the gunfight spot. He identified the killed militants as LeT commander Aijaz alias Abu Huraira of Pakistan, Javed Ahmad Rather of Tahab Pulwama and Shah Nawaz Nazir Ganie of Samboora in Awantipora.

As per police records, he said, all the killed militants were part of a group involved in various “terror crimes” regarding which several cases stand registered against them.

“The killed foreign terrorist Aijaz had a history of terror crime cases. He was also instrumental in recruiting innocent youth into terror folds besides, planning and executing several terror attacks in the area including attacks on Police and security establishments,” the police spokesperson said.

“Incriminating materials arms and ammunition including 2 AK rifles and a pistol were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes,” he added.

He quoted IGP Kashmir as congratulating police and central forces for conducting a successful operation without any collateral damage.

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

Meanwhile, the authorities imposed curfew and snapped internet services across the district after the killing of the three militants, reports said. Sporadic protests were also reported from the area.

## Ex-Militant Arrested

Kishtwar was arrested by a special team of police station Chatroo on the basis of information provided by reliable sources, officials said. The official said that the team led by Inspector. Sandeep Singh under supervision of DySP Headquarters Devinder Singh Bandral raided the suspected locations and arrested the absconder.

Chopan, according to the official, was wanted in case FIR No. 17/2006 U/Sec 302/364 RPC 4/25 IA Act registered at Police Station Chatroo. (KNS)

## 2 Militant Associates

53 RR during a joint naka at Railway Bridge Mohanpora, a police spokesperson said. He said incriminating materials and live ammunition were recovered from the duo associated with LeT.

“Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested terrorist associates were providing shelter, logistics and other material support including transportation of arms and ammunition to the terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT in various areas of Budgam,” the police spokesperson said.

He said that the arrested militant associates have been in touch with the militant commanders in PCK through various social media platforms and were also in constant touch with LeT self styled commanders in Kashmir.

The police spokesperson claimed recovery of incriminating material, including posters of LeT and live ammunition, 30 rounds of AK-47 and 7 rounds of Chinese pistol from the possession of the arrested militant associates.

“Accordingly, a case FIR number 207/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Budgam and investigation into the matter has been initiated,” he added.

## BSF Opens Fire

so far, he added.

On July 2, a quadcopter from Pakistan tried to enter Indian territory along the international border from Arnia sector but retreated after it was fired at by the personnel of the BSF.

In what was the first instance of militants deploying drones to strike vital installations, two bombs were dropped at the IAF station in Jammu city in the early hours of June 27, causing minor injuries to two personnel.

Authorities in various districts, mostly in border districts in Jammu and Kashmir, have banned the storage, sale or possession of drones and other unmanned aerial

vehicles.

## Army Vehicle Mows

A police team reached the spot immediately, they said.

Local residents in the area assembled at the spot and demanded action against the erring driver.

Meanwhile, police in a statement said that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and the vehicle has also been seized.

“Further investigation of the case

was going on,” it said.

## PLA Has Not

by the Indian Army,” the Army said.

India and China have been locked in a military standoff at multiple friction points in eastern Ladakh since early May last year.

The two sides completed the 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 engaged in talks to extend the disengagement process to the remaining friction points.

There was no visible forward movement in disengagement of troops in the remaining friction points as the Chinese side did not show flexibility in their approach on it at the 11th round of military talks.

## ‘Reverse’ Kashmir

internal matter of the country.

India has made it clear to Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

Pakistan had downgraded ties with India and suspended trade after the Indian government revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking about ties with the US, Yusuf said a broad-based road-map is being developed for Pak-American relations which includes cooperation in commerce and trade, investment including vaccine manufacturing, climate change and military-to-military relations as well as promoting regional economic connectivity.

Regarding Afghanistan, he said Pakistan’s perspective is very clear in promoting an inclusive political settlement with a view to ensure that Afghan territory is not used against Pakistan and Pakistan to ensure his commitment that its territory will not be used against any country.

“The international community is also being informed about Pakistan’s concerns about the potential fallout of the Afghan crisis particularly in the new influx of refugees,” he said.

## Srinagar Family’s

who was present at the spot. “Two persons were rescued and they were alive but the two girls were dead when retrieved from the water.”

Two families—both close relations—one from Nawabazar and another from Bemina area of Srinagar had left for Drang, a picturesque spot for a picnic trip but little did they know that they would be with the bodies of their daughters in the afternoon. The two deceased girls were identified as 17-year-old Utba, daughter of Muhammad Ashraf Khan, and 19-year-old Insha daughter of Bilal Ahmed Khan, aged 19.

“It was my daughter Utbas’ birthday today. She insisted on a picnic trip and I couldn’t say no. We decided to go to Drang,” said her father Muhammad Ashraf Khan.

“She was my only child. My daughter and her cousin sister Insha requested us to allow them to take a few photographs in a nearby canal. I told them to go ahead but be careful. They were clicking pictures and all of a sudden huge discharge of water took them away. I tried to save them, I too was swept away by the water and I got stuck on a rock.”

With tears in his eyes, Ashraf said that he was pulled out by locals and taken to a nearby medical facility where he gained consciousness after some time.

“When I enquired about my daughter and her cousin sister, I was told they were retrieved out dead,” said Ashraf. He said locals had pulled out two cousin sisters out of the water after hectic efforts.

Locals of Drang said that today’s incident was the second of its kind since July this year.

“We had requested the authorities including SDM Tangmarg to close the canal given the fact the area is a tourist spot, but our pleas went to deaf ears,” said Aijaz Ahmed, a local resident.

He said a timely siren and the announcement could have prevented today’s tragic incident. “There is an announcement system but that is for employees only. The employees handling this power project are callous and least bothered about human lives.”

Sub District Magistrate Tangmarg Sameer Jan said that he was aware of the incident at Drang.

“It’s very unfortunate that two lives were lost. We have taken note of the incident and the allegations by parents of the two deceased girls. We are investigating the incident thoroughly,” he said.

“There are two survivors of the incident. We will talk to them also and get their feedback as to what actually happened and who is at the fault. Action will be taken if any employee is found guilty.”

A police official at Tangmarg police station said that they have registered a case and investigations have been taken up.

A pall of gloom descended on the entire locality at Nawabazar where two cousin sisters were kept together.

“They are maternal cousins and it was decided by their relatives to mourn their death together at one place only—Nawabazar,” said a relative of a deceased girl amid tears.

## LG Opens First

be a boon for the people seeking Ayurvedic treatment,” he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG said that the newly inaugurated Ayurvedic Medical College will also have a great impact on the social, economic, and health system of this area.

“The most important responsibility of the administration is to protect the health of its citizens, and we are trying our best to develop the best infrastructure, besides making policy interventions needed for the good health of the people of J&K,” Sinha said.

Highlighting the need for comprehensive healthcare, including oral health, and addressing the issue of unemployment raised by trained Dental Surgeons, the LG, as per the official spokesperson reiterated that the government is going to provide financial assistance to 400 dental surgeons and 800 paramedics to facilitate them in starting their own clinics through a specially tailored self-employment scheme under the ‘Mission Youth’ programme.

The LG, he said, termed Ayurveda as an important pillar of the medical system and said that the timeless knowledge gathered by our ancient practitioners and propagated across centuries has to be developed in Jammu and Kashmir into a large ecosystem of alternative medicine through modern infrastructure.

“Various disciplines of Ayurveda have to be made accessible to the people, because only a healthy society can contribute to the development,” the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

Outlining the reforms taken by the Government to develop Ayurveda system in the UT, he said, the LG stated that the Ministry of AYUSH has approved the upgradation of 571 Indian Systems of Medicine dispensaries in the Union Territory of J&K in a phased manner by 2023-24.

“Including 73 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres inaugurated in March this year and 21 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres inaugurated in September last year, a total of 94 AYUSH health and wellness centres have been started in Phase-I,” Sinha said.

The LG as per official spokesperson also said that all these centres are running smoothly and from yoga instructors to every type of infrastructure, all have been made available there. In the second phase, the Directorate of Indian Systems of Medicine, J&K is working on 100 more AYUSH health and wellness centres.

“These centres would prove to be a milestone in creating a robust health infrastructure across J&K in the future, he added.

The LG, as per official spokesperson noted that the role of Ayurvedic College and AYUSH Centres has become imperative in maintaining the health of the people because there are so many diseases in the world for which it is difficult to find treatment and preventive care in one method alone to keep the body healthy.

“The aim of this Ayurvedic College and other wellness centres is not only to take care of overall health but also to ensure that people do not fall ill and stay healthy,” the LG said.

In the last few years, under the guidance of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the public health sector in Jammu and Kashmir has

got a new direction, new momentum for extending healthcare facilities to all the people. It was his vision, under which the Indian System of Medicine was brought into the mainstream through the National Health Policy enabling people to avoid diseases through ‘Self-Care’ and providing an alternate option of treatment to the needy people,” he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the LG elucidated the two main objectives behind the decision of central government to develop 12,500 Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness centres across the country under the National AYUSH Mission for providing low cost general health cover to maximum people and extending primary health care facilities while spreading awareness among people living in remote areas and said that there is also a third aspect of it, that is for the first time a policy was worked out on the preventive care of the public.

“J&K stands out as a leader in the entire country in terms of arrangement of medicines and establishment of Covid Care Centres in Panchayats to provide ample capacity of oxygen beds to the people,” Sinha said.

He also saluted the indomitable spirit of all the doctors and paramedics of J&K with which they worked together combating Corona, have been conducting extensive vaccination campaign, and how they have set the best example in the whole country.

“It is because of the determined efforts of doctors, paramedics, officers and other healthcare workers working day and night in the field that the Covid management and vaccination model of Jammu and Kashmir is being discussed all over the country,” Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, also requested people to follow the Covid Appropriate Behaviour as the threat of corona virus has not been completely averted.

The official spokesperson said that it was informed that a well-experienced faculty in 14 Ayurvedic specialties is there in this new Ayurveda Teaching Institute for imparting quality teaching, Clinical education and research based on the practices and principles of Ayurveda, with intake capacity of 63 Students for BAMS course through NEET Examination.

“60 Bedded Associated Teaching Hospital; well-equipped laboratories and departmental museums; facilities of Panchakarma and Kshar-sutra; Computer enabled interactive classroom with multimedia projectors and screens has been established for the better teaching-learning experience,” he said.

The new facility, he said, will cater to the patients in need of Out-Patient and In-Patient services in clinical specialties, First-aid, Emergency care with permissible drugs.

## ED Serves Over

“Adjudication Order No.ADJ/02/SRZO/2019/AD-NG dated 20.03.2019 passed by Assistant Director, a penalty of Rs. 14,40,000 was imposed upon you under section 13(1) of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. And where, the penalty of Rs. 14,40,000/- has not been deposited by you, till date, as per records of this office,” the notice reads

“Now therefore, you are hereby given notice to deposit the aforesaid penalty amount within 10 days of receipt of this Demand Notice by means of Demand Draft in favor of the “The Pay and Accounts Officer, Pay & Accounts Office, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi”, failing which action contemplated u/s 14 and 14A of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 is liable to be initiated against you, as per law,” it adds

As per the notice the Demand Draft should be sent to the Joint Director, Directorate of Enforcement, having office at Durrani House, Near Rajbagh Police Station, Rajbagh, Srinagar AND

It also reads that in case any ‘Stay Order’ has been passed by any Court/ Tribunal/ Authority, in respect of the aforementioned penalty imposed upon you, a copy thereof be provided to ED office within 10 days of receipt of this Demand Notice.

## Delhi HC To Hear

them but the agency is yet to file a short note of submission on the facts of a money laundering case, as per the court’s earlier direction.

She sought that the court ask the ED to file the submissions.

To this, the bench said the Solicitor General was present in the hearing and he was well aware of the court order and he will do the needful, to which Mehta nodded and stated it will be filed.

During the hearing, the court asked Mufti’s counsel as to what happened on March 22, when she

was summoned by the ED to appear before it.

Her counsel said Mufti had appeared before the ED on that day since there was no interim protection granted to her by the court.

Mufti, in her plea filed in March, has also challenged issuance of summons to her by the ED in a money laundering case. She has sought to stay the summons, however, the court had refused to grant the relief at this stage.

The 61-year-old leader, who was released last year after more than a year in detention following the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir’s special status, was served notice to appear at the ED headquarters in the national capital.

Initially, the ED summoned Mufti for March 15 but it did not insist for her personal appearance at that time. Thereafter, she was summoned for March 22.

Mufti has sought quashing of summons issued to her by the ED in a money laundering case.

She has also sought to declare section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act as void and inoperative, being unfairly discriminatory, bereft of safeguards, and violative of Article 20(3) of the Constitution.

Section 50 of the Act empowers the authority, that is, officers of ED, to summon any person to give evidence or produce records. All persons summoned are bound to answer the questions put to them and to produce the documents as required by the ED officers, failing which they can be penalized under the Act.

She has also sought an interim stay on the summons until the question of law in relation to constitutionality of Section 50 of the Act is decided.

Earlier, Mehta had said there was no need to issue formal notice to them as they are already appearing before the court and said they will file a short note on the issue of question of law.

Mufti, in her petition, said she has received summons from the ED under the provisions of the PMLA, purporting to call for ‘evidence’ on pain of punishment, whereas she is, to all intents and purposes, a subject of investigation.

“She has not been informed if she is being summoned as an accused or as a witness. She has also not been informed of what she is being summoned in connection with and the scheduled offence under the PMLA which gave rise to the proceedings in respect of which impugned summons has been issued to her. The petitioner is not the subject of investigation, nor is she an accused, in any of the scheduled offences to the best of her knowledge, the plea said.

The plea claimed that ever since Mufti was released from the preventive detention following the formal abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, there have been a series of hostile acts by the State, against her, acquaintances and old family friends, who have all been summoned by the ED and a roving inquiry about her personal, political and financial affairs was made, in the course of which their personal devices have been seized.

## Mehbooba’s Mother

“She (Gulshan Nazir) did not appear before the ED as the agency has not responded to a letter seeking details of the case in which she was to be questioned,” the sources said.

They said the mother of the PDP chief has only been told that her appearance before the ED is required in a case lodged under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

“Details like the case FIR or the specific allegations of transactions that she needs to answer have not been communicated so far,” the sources added.

Nazir was summoned on July 6 by the ED to appear before it, hours after the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) decided not to meet the members of the Delimitation Commission, who were on a four-day visit to the Union Territory.

“On the day PDP chose not to meet the Delimitation Commission, ED sent a summons to my mother to appear in person for unknown charges. In its attempts to intimidate political opponents, GOI doesn’t even spare senior citizens. Agencies like NIA & ED are now its tools to settle scores,” Mehbooba had tweeted soon after her mother got the ED notice.

## Despite Court Campaign

by the pollution board as being the main sources of pollution to Doodh Ganga.

Furthermore, to the dismay of common masses, the upgraded versions shall again have no provisions for the sewage treatment plants.

While SMC has been over several occasions trying to false front the blacklisted stations as “storm

water pump stations”, the bare fact remains there that the pumping stations are very much traditional ones, which emit all the sewage into the river Doodh Ganga.

One of the drainage ejection points on the adjacent end of the Bund at the doorstep of Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla, is a great hazard—especially for the patients, as it stinks round the year.

In the context of river Doodh Ganga, upgradation clearly conveys more and more drainage effluent going into the water source.

“Most of the pollution takes place in Chadoora where large quantities of liquid waste get drained into Doodh Ganga,” said Raja Muzaffar, an activist.

In the Barzulla belt, which the pollution board has established to be the most polluted stretch of Doodh Ganga on the basis of its water analysis report, the quantum of liquid pollutants going into the river shall increase from around 1.0 million litres per hour to staggering 10.5 million litres per hour once upgraded versions drainage stations are operated.

Amid this free flow of pollutants, the situation is shaping up as a death writ for River Doodh Ganga. And the consequences could be tragic.

“The government must take necessary steps and the SMC needs to be reined in before an environmental disaster strikes the water body,” said Nadeem Qadri, a noted environmental advocate from Kashmir.

“Doodh Ganga being a very important part of ecosystem needs to be protected. We launched an on-line campaign, Save Doodh Ganga Canal, to create awareness. Also, the de-filtration of the river has not taken place from quite long. Hence, it has become a victim of government’s apathy. Court has passed detailed orders related to conservation, protection and preservation of Doodh Ganga.”

But irrespective of the court order, Qadri said, the government seems very much non-serious about eco-restoration of Doodh Ganga canal which is very critical when it comes to flood mitigation and other ecological services.

“One of the core arguments of Public Interest Litigation is also throwing the drainage water directly into Doodh Ganga. It’s not only going to change the ecological character of the river but equally contributing to the harm to the aquatic life.”

## 161 Cases, 2 Corona

was reported from two districts, while the remaining 13 districts had fresh cases in single digits, they added.

The number of active cases has dropped to 2,236 in the union territory, while 3,12,556 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

The death toll in the union territory rose to 4,360 as two fresh fatalities were reported in the past 24 hours, they said.

The officials said there were 32 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory as one fresh case was reported since Tuesday evening. (PTI)

## Weekend Restrictions

Sonamarg and no day picnickers shall be allowed to visit the tourist resort on 17th, 18th and 24th, 25th July, 2021 (Saturday-Sunday)

The order has been issued in view of a large number of local tourists thronging to Sonamarg tourist destination especially on weekends which poses danger of resurgence of COVID-19 pandemic in view of possible violation of COVID appropriate behavior.

Besides, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Kangan has also reported that unrestricted and unabated influx of tourists and day picnickers to Sonamarg may seriously undermine COVID-19 mitigation effort put in place by the administration.

Furthermore, the order reads that SSP Ganderbal, SDM, Kangan and SDPO Kangan shall ensure implementation of order in letter and spirit and any violation of the above directions will, therefore, lead to prosecution under section 51 of the Disaster Management Act-2005.

## Missing Employee

under mysterious circumstances. The deceased person had gone missing from his home on Monday last. Inquest proceedings into the death have been initiated into the matter by the police, the officials said.

A police official confirming the recovery of the body said that a case has been registered in this regard and the body was handed over to the family after completion of legal and medical formalities. (GNS)

## Leopard Kills

should catch the leopard immediately. “We appeal to the Wildlife Department to catch the roaming leopard immediately so as to avert any human or livestock loss”, he said. (GNS)



## FSSAI Awards Hygiene Rating Certificate To Five Sweets Shops In Kashmir

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Five Sweets Shops in Kashmir Division have been awarded Hygiene Rating Certificates by Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The rating of these Food Business Operators (FBOs) was awarded after Third Party Audit was conducted by FSSAI approved Food Safety Audit Agency, in collaboration with Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, in the year 2020.

Four Sweets Shops, AAR GEE Sweets, M/s Taj Bakers, M/s New Janta Bakery and M/s Shakti Sweets have been awarded with Excellent Compliance Rating, while as M/s New Mughal Darbar has been awarded with very Good Compliance Rating.

Speaking on this occasion, Commissioner, FDA, J&K, Shakeel Ur Rehman, said that the assessment of 30 more Food Business Establishments which include 20



meat shops is under process. He said that it is the privilege of the consumer to demand safe and hygienic food. He further said that the department is collaborating with FSSAI under MOU for 2021-22, to initiate the special awareness drives on this program across all the districts.

Hygiene Rating is a voluntary scheme that encourages food businesses to ensure high standards of hygiene and sanitation and allows consumers to make informed food choices. This scheme is currently applicable to restaurants, cafes, fine diners, restaurants and other eating-places, sweet shops, bakeries and meat shops.

## 'Covid Not Over, Vaccination, CAB Paramount For Effective Control'



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Wednesday reviewed enforcement of Covid SOPs, progress in vaccination, and developmental works of PDD, RDD, Floriculture. The Advisor also interacted with DDCs BDCs, Auqaf members and other civil society members. He also attended to grievances from various public delegations and individuals.

Advisor Baseer Khan on his visit to Dooru subdivision inspected the Receiving Station Pulia where the officers informed him that the project has been completed and put to public use.

Khan also passed directions for putting more efforts to enhance the pace of developmental works especially the wage employment and agriculture works. He, however, laid stress on adherence to Covid SOPs so that a balance is maintained to earn livelihood along with measures to protect

public health.

Advisor impressed upon the officers to continue the vaccination drives with full momentum till everyone is vaccinated for our collective health and safety. He directed all concerned officers associated with Covid duty, especially doctors to make people aware about the importance of vaccination and strive hard to dispel rumors which vitiate the Covid containment measures.

The Advisor said all the stakeholders must act responsibly to avert the possible 3rd Covid Wave and the SOPs like mask wearing, appropriate physical distancing etc be given paramount importance during the unlock period when the chances of exposure to the virus are more. He impressed upon the people and officers to ensure the Covid Appropriate Behavior at all places during the ensuing Eid days and other religious and social gatherings is maintained adding that the PRIs and Imams have a big role to ensure the same.

## DC Shopian Asks Officers To Ensure Essential Services On Eid

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Wednesday exhorted upon the officers of KDCL and Jal Shakti departments to ensure and provide uninterrupted power and drinking water supply to the people on the Eid.

He instructed the Chief Executive Officer of Municipal Committee Shopian to ensure proper cleanliness, sanitation and illumination around the centrally located Masjids, Eid Gahs and Ziyarat Shareefs besides ensuring cleanliness and installation of lights at the places of congregation.

Emergency Services Departments were asked to keep Fire tenders ready at vulnerable places

## Efforts On To Promote Self Employment Opportunities: DC Baramulla



Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Bhupinder Kumar Wednesday chaired District Level Task Force Committee meeting here to discuss various cases for grant of self employment loans under Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) sponsored by Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) Baramulla.

On the occasion, a threadbare discussion was held during which 156 cases out of 157 received ap-

plications, were sanctioned for grant of loans for self employment programme. These cases were approved keeping in view various parameters necessary for the approval of such loans.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said that such an initiative will enable the youth to earn their sustainable livelihoods by means of several self employment opportunities. He said that various efforts are being taken to promote self employment opportunities and urged upon the youth to come forward and avail benefits of several welfare schemes.



Local enjoying in Mughal garden, Night in Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Selected In 2018, 41 Pharmacists Await Appointment Letters

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Around 41 candidates are awaiting appointment orders even as they have been selected as junior pharmacists in the Health and Medical Education Department.

The aggrieved candidates said despite the fact that the selection list was published in 2018, they are still waiting for the appointment letters and have been moving from pillar to post to get their issue resolved.

The candidates said that J&K Service Selection Board (SSB) in 2015 invited applications from eligible candidates for selection of 41 posts of junior pharmacists in the Health and Medical Education Department.

The candidates having science subject in 10+2 and diploma in Pharmacy as per the requirement submitted the application form and subsequently selection process was started and after conducting written and viva test, provisional selection list was issued in December 2017, they said.

They said that the final list was also published in 2018 and SSB recommended the Principal Secretary Health and Medical Education to appoint the selected candidates. They further added that the Prin-

cipal Secretary wrote to the Director Health to issue formal appointment orders in favour of the selected candidates, "however, since then we have been waiting for appointment orders but we are yet to get it."

In 2019, the candidates contacted the Governor's Grievance cell.

"In its response the concerned department said that they have asked selected candidates to submit original documents and their verification is going on and once formalities will be completed, the former order of appointment shall be issued," they said.

The candidates said that after no positive response on the ground, they again approached the Governor's Grievance cell.

"However, in response to our second communication, the department made a u-turn on the issue and said that junior pharmacists' posts were referred to SSB under fast track recruitment process. But actually no such posts were vacant in the department," they said.

"The Under Secretary to government in Health and Medical Education wrote to Secretary SSB to withdraw its recommendation regarding the selected junior phar-

macists and the department is not in a position to accept the recommendation due to non availability of posts," the candidates said.

However, details received through RTI reveals that more than 41 posts of junior pharmacists are vacant in just few districts but department has adjusted Health and Family Welfare Assistants in the posts of junior pharmacists when the qualification prescribed for health and family welfare assistants is matric with diploma in medical assistance while as for junior pharmacists it is 10+2 in science stream with diploma in Pharmacy.

Candidates alleged that the department has played with their career as some after getting selected had left their jobs and now even some have crossed the upper age limit.

"We request LG to look into the matter and take action against the erring officials whose trickery have jeopardized our career and snatched everything from us," the candidates said.

A top health official said that the matter is now sub-judice and let justice prevail. Despite repeated attempts, Commissioner Secretary Health Atal Dullo wasn't available to comment on the issue.

## 27000 Kanals Of Forest Land Retrieved In Three Years: Govt

### 'Illegal Entries Of 47934 Kanals Cancelled'

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir's Forest department has retrieved more than 27000 kanals of forestland from "illegal occupants" in the past three years.

Documents reveal that the department has got 27513.6 ka-

nals evicted from encroachers since 2018-19.

In 2018-19, 8416 kanals have been retrieved from illegal occupants, 4912.1 kanals in 2019-20 and 14184.16 in 2020-21.

Apart from retrieving 27000 kanals in the past three years, the department has also evicted encroachments from 2837 kanals of forestland from April 1, 2021 to June 10, 2021.

The document also claims that illegal entries of 47934 kanals of forestland have been

cancelled till June 1, 2021.

According to the documents, the cancellation of the illegal entries of forestland in the Revenue records has been taken up by the department with the concerned deputy commissioners.

"With the concerted and joint efforts of the functionaries of the Forest department and the Revenue authorities, the illegal entries of about 47934 kanals and 12 marlas of forestland have been cancelled as on June 1, 2021," reads the document.

## IUST Conducts Weeklong Health Campaign In Awantipora Village

Observer News Service

**Awantipora:** To fulfil the objective of Community Health Nursing as well as a part of Village Adoption Programme, Syed Mantaqui Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMCNMT), a constituent college of Islamic University of Science and Technology organised a weeklong Health Campaign at village Angazpora Awantipora during which more than 200 adolescent girls and women were sensitised about the PCOD disease.

Principal SMMCNMT, Asmat Parveen initiated the programme during which faculty members from the said college guided and trained the nursing students of the college. The programme was organised in coordination with Medical Officer IUST, Dr. Zahida Rasool. During the campaign, awareness about the polycystic ovarian disease was given by the nursing students with the main aim to sensitize the women and adolescent girls regarding PCOD disease, risk factors, diet, lifestyle modi-



fication and proper management of psychological impact of PCOD.

The students also participated in different health related activities that included Health Assessment, Mass-de-worming of children below aged below 5 years as well as adults, identification of chronic disease and making proper referrals. During the campaign medicines that included iron and folic acid tablets were also distributed.

## Crime Branch Books 22 In Loan Fraud

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The crime branch Kashmir Wednesday produced a challan against 22 accused persons before the court of chief judicial magistrate Budgam for obtaining loans to purchase vehicles by depositing fake registration certificates with the respective banks.

"The case owes its origin to a written complaint received by Police Station Budgam, wherein the complainant had alleged that some persons approached and lured him into purchasing a tipper for which demand draft amounting to Rs. 1187000/- was issued by J&K Bank Branch Unit Ompora Budgam," a CBK statement said.

The statement reads that the initial investigation into the matter carried out by Police Station Budgam, later Investigation of the instant case was transferred to Crime Branch Kashmir Vide PHQ Order No. 2074/2013 Dated 23.07.2013.

"During the investigation, evidence so collected in the form of original documents was badly damaged due to September 2014 floods. However, the records were reconstructed due to the strenuous

efforts of the investigating agency. It further revealed that accused persons in league with each other under a conspired plan had initially opened their accounts at different branches of J&K Bank and other banks, later on requested the concerned banks for sanctioning of vehicle loans and in this context submitted the Performa bills purported to be of M/s National Garage, B.C Road Jammu (Authorized dealers of TATA Motors) and also deposited the margin money."

It reads that it also revealed that after sanction and disbursement of vehicle loans in respect of the borrowers by way of issuance of demand drafts in favour of National Garage, the accused borrowers in connivance with Bilal Ahmad Pattoo son of Mohammad Sultan Pattoo of Veer Chattabal, Ashiq Hussain Lehrwal son Abdul Ahad of Nawabazar (actual resident of Kondabal Ganderbal) and Showkat Ahmad Jhat son of Gulam Hassan Jhat of Veer Chattabal deposited these demand drafts in the accounts of Bilal Ahmad Pattoo, Ashiq Hussain Lehrwal and Showkat Ahmad Jhat and later on the amounts so deposited were withdrawn in cash.

## Avoid Large Gatherings, Religious Congregations During Muharram: Div Com

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Wednesday urged people to adopt Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB), including social distancing protocol and use of face masks while holding mourning processions and religious congregations.

He chaired a meeting of officers to review arrangements for the ensuing holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

street lights in all urban and rural areas.

Stressing on maintaining proper hygiene and cleanliness, the Div Com instructed the concerned to launch special sanitation drives around Imam Baras and procession sites. He instructed that medical teams along with ambulances shall be deployed to ensure proper medical facilities to mourners.

PWD authorities were asked to



Stressing on making fool-proof arrangements, Div Com instructed officers to ensure all pending works including macadamisation of roads, lanes, smooth supply of potable water and electricity to all unconnected residential areas.

He urged that all arrangements are put in place to ensure all religious gatherings and processions are held smoothly and peacefully.

Div Com emphasised on installation of street lights at all required places and ensure immediate restoration of all defunct

ensure level surfacing and attend all lanes, streets and main roads that need repairing for smooth passage of processions.

The Div Com instructed concerned authorities to ensure advance distribution of ration, firewood in all Shia dominated areas.

He directed Director FCS&CA to carry out aggressive market checking across all markets and ensure all essentials and required items are available in the market, besides, there is no violation of the official rate list of essentials.

**DIV COM INSTRUCTED THE CONCERNED** to launch special sanitation drives around Imam Baras and procession sites. He instructed that medical teams along with ambulances shall be deployed to ensure proper medical facilities to mourners.

## DC Gbl Urges People To Avoid Swimming In Sindh Nallah



Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** In view of the rising water levels in Sindh Nallah, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Krittika Jyotsna Wednesday urged the general public to avoid picnic, swimming and bathing in Sindh Nallah for the safety of their own lives.

She said that the district administration has also issued an advisory in this regard.

The DC said this during a routine press briefing to present an overall situation of the Covid-19 in the district, besides the covid containment and mitigation measures employed so far in the

district.

Regarding active positive cases in the district, the DC said that 131 cases are active in the district and only 4 persons are admitted in District Hospital besides, no death has been reported in the past two weeks.

Furthermore, the DC said that about 25 percent population of 18-44 years of age are given first dose of vaccination and urged the people of above 45 years of age who are eligible for second dose to get the same and if they face any inconvenience with regard to availability of vaccination, she urged them to contact on Covid District Control Room.

## Missing Govt Employees' Body Found In A'nag

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The body of a 52-year-old employee of Jal Shakti department, who was missing for the past three days, was found in Harnag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday evening, officials said. An official said that some locals spotted the body lying at Harnag area of Anantnag and informed the police.

"Immediately, after receiving the information, a police team of Khanabal Police Post reached the spot and took the body to a nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities," he said.

The official said that the deceased was identified as Farooq Ahmad Shah son of Gulam Rasool Shah, a resident of Parigam Kulgam.

## Teenager hangs Self To Death In Bala

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** A 16-year-old girl allegedly ended her life by hanging self at her home in Lalpora Kunzar area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday.

Reports said that the family of the girl found the girl hanging inside her room following which police team reached the spot and registered a case and started investigation into the matter. A police official said that a case has been registered into the incident.



## Mission Youth Announces LG's Rolling Trophy Competition In 4 Sports



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Mission Youth, J&K on Wednesday announced that it has initiated process for inviting players to various competitions under Lt Governor's Rolling Trophy in four sports divisions including Cricket, Volleyball, Basketball and Football.

The competitions will be organised at block level, district, provincial and UT level in leagues spread over a period of three months. The biggest talent hunt programme includes sports events, personality development, and a host of other events

Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth J&K, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary finalised modalities in a meeting with officers from the Department of Youth Services and Sports. Director General, Youth Services & Sports, Dr Saleem ur Rehman, OSD Mission Youth, Tabish Saleem, District Youth Services & Sports Officers and sportspersons discussed various aspects of the mega sports exercises.

Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, Shahbaz Mirza and Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, Rajesh Shavan, as special invitees, shared a number of youth centric engagement initiatives planned in the district covering various sports and other activities including efficient planning for youth clubs.

CEO Mission Youth briefed the participants about LG's Rolling Trophy under which competitions will be organised in 4 sports for Junior and Senior level.

Mission Youth, a special program for the overall development of youth in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir aims to come up with a sports initiative across 20 districts of Jammu Division and Kashmir Division. The LG's Rolling Trophy is planned to be the biggest talent hunt across the Union Territory attempted so far that shall not just identify and train the talent further in cricket, football, basketball and volleyball disciplines but also groom the youngsters into soft skills required for overall personality development.

Talent across all four disciplines – cricket, football, basketball and volleyball shall be identified at two levels as per the age group – Under 19 years (Junior) and Above 19 years (Senior). Under 19 years (Junior) would comprise of youth from age 14 years to 19 years and Above 19 years (Senior) would comprise of youth from age 19 years to 29 years. Separate tournaments may be arranged for boys and girls respectively to select senior and junior teams for both. Three-day selection camps starting from Block level shall be held across all 20 districts of Jammu Division and Kashmir Division for each of the 4 disciplines.

Candidates shortlisted from block level tournaments will be called to play district level tournaments. Sports veterans and senior players in these disciplines may be invited as selectors for identifying the talent at Junior as well as Senior level. Honorarium for these special invitees may be covered under the overall budget allotted to a district. During the selection camps, besides the sports training, soft skills training into different aspects like resilience, time management, stress management, communication skills, teamwork, sports ethics and leadership skills (which would help participants evolve into better players as well as human beings) shall also be imparted by expert trainers of YSS Department and expert coaches.

Two teams (Junior & Senior) across the 4 sports disciplines from 20 districts shall then participate in a league in Srinagar/Jammu wherein the winners and star performers will be rewarded at the end of the league. Three matches across all 4 sports disciplines and 2 levels (Junior and Senior) will be played every day across 2 different venues/stadiums in both the cities to achieve the target of 720 league matches excluding the semi-finals and the final.

Modalities for unique identity of teams, brand, logo, refreshment, sports logistics, involving sports personalities, outreach and other aspects were also finalised.

## JKFA PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE

# Shaheen FC, Downtown Heroes FC Win Respective Matches



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Two matches of the JKFA Professional League 2021 were played on Wednesday at the Synthetic Turf, TRC in Srinagar.

In the first match, a 4:00 pm kick off, Shaheen FC Jammu took on Kashmir Avengers FC.

"Right from the start both the teams played offensive football trying to create goal scoring opportunities. It was in the 10th minute that Macdonald of Shaheen Sports FC took the advantage of a mistake from Kashmir Avengers' defenders and managed to score an easy goal. Shaheen FC was then awarded a penalty kick for the rough tackle inside the penalty area by an Avengers' defender. Macdonald made no mistake in converting the penalty kick," the JKFA said in

a statement.

"At half time Shaheen FC was leading by two goals to nil. After the break, the Kashmir Avengers tried hard but could not penetrate the solid defence line of Shaheen FC. The match ended with Shaheen FC Jammu defeating Kashmir Avengers FC by 2 goals to 0. Macdonald of Shaheen FC was declared as the man of the match.

The second match of the day Lonestar Kashmir FC locked horns with Downtown Heroes FC. A 6:15 pm kick off, the match was played under the flood lights.

In what proved to be a high voltage match which attracted a lot of spectators the first and only goal was scored by Sessay of Downtown Heroes in the 15th minute. Downtown Heroes maintained the 1:0 lead till the final whistle,

expertly neutralizing Kashmir FC's attacking threat through out the match. Ifham Tariq of Downtown Hero's FC was declared man of the match.

A two minute silence was observed before the two matches in honour of Gulzar Ahmad Khan, an ace football player of JKSPDC who passed away due to brief illness.

The JKFA Professional League is an 8 team qualifier tournament with top two teams slated to play in the prestigious I-League 2nd Division 2021-22 Season.

The League is organised by the JKFA in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council.

The League is set to continue today with J&K Bank XI vs Real Kashmir FC (R) at 4:00 pm and Hyderya Sports vs SCFA at 6:30 pm under flood lights.

## Football Fraternity Condoloes Demise Of Footballer Gulzar Ahmad

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir Valley's football fraternity including various associations, football clubs as well as departmental teams on Wednesday condoled the demise of young football player Gulzar Ahmad Khan.

According to various reports, the well-known footballer in Srinagar's footballing circles died after battling a brief illness. A resident of Rainawari, Gulzar played for Iqbal Sports Club, Court Road FC, YMCA, PDC among other clubs and was well reputed for his sound character and love for the game.

"J&K Football Association (JKFA) deeply mourns the sad demise of Gulzar Ahmad who left for heavenly abode on July 14, 2021. Gulzar was a



young football player and a member of JKSPDC Football Club. A polite gentleman full of virtues always helping others. He was an ace footballer and a good human being. JKFA shares the grief with the bereaved family at this sad hour," J&K's premier footballing authority the JKFA said in a statement.

National & International Footballers Forum (NIFF) J&K also re-

leased a statement to condole the passing away of the young footballer.

"May his soul rest in peace and may Allah Almighty grant him highest place in Jannat. He was a reputed footballer with sound character who played for Iqbal Sports, YMCA, PDC and many other clubs. He will be always remembered for his contribution," NIFF said.

Valley's grassroots football clubs like Court Road FC, Iqbal Sports, Gung Bugh FC as well as departmental teams like Food & Supply and JKPDC FC also condoled the demise and prayed for the departed soul. The Court Road FC management held a special condolence meeting at its head office in Malik Angan, Fateh Kadal. The management prayed for the pious soul and remembered Gulzar as an excellent footballer.

## Misbah Says 0-3 Series Loss To Second String England Has 'Unsettled' Pakistan Team

Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Beleaguered Pakistan head coach Misbah-ul-Haq on Wednesday admitted that the 0-3 thrashing at the hands of a back-up England team in the ODIs has unsettled the team and left him "very worried".

Pakistan was whitewashed in the three-match series with the biggest blow coming on Tuesday when it lost after scoring 331.

"We were satisfied that we were on the right track after doing well in the recent series but this series has unsettled us. It looks like we are standing from where we started but we have to find a way to move forward," Misbah told a virtual press conference.

why Pakistani selectors and management were ready to try players based on performances from the Pakistan Super League or on the basis of one or two matches.

He said it was not an ideal situation to be in but the process to build a pool of reliable players was on.

Misbah also defended the performance of his team insisting this same outfit had done well in recent series.

"I don't understand but we just lost our momentum coming into this series. But I believe we can definitely compete against the top four teams and we have done well in the past against South Africa at home and away."

He also felt that blaming players or coaches for the poor results



"I don't know why the team was totally off-color in this series and lost its momentum but it is a very worrying sign for me as head coach.

"How can one defend such a performance. No one can defend our performance and I think as a team we are all responsible be it the players, coaches or support staff," he stated.

England announced an overhauled 16-member squad for the series after Covid-19 cases in its original squad forced the players into quarantine.

"We just couldn't handle the conditions in the first two matches and in the third match we had a total we should have defended but overall it is very disappointing from a bowling point of view and especially our fielding standards. We dropped simple chances," Misbah rued.

The head coach conceded that the series results showed that while England had the luxury of strong bench strength, Pakistan lacked in this area.

"First of all England has a great back up and the luxury of a strong pool of players we don't have. England had choices for this series and we have limitations at certain positions especially in the middle order spaces where no one has settled down for a while."

Misbah said this was one reason

was expected but if plans are not executed by a team on the field everyone is responsible.

He admitted that the bowling was disappointing and bowlers didn't bowl to lengths and plans given to them. To a question Misbah insisted that there was no favoritism in the team by the coaches and every player played on merit and according to team requirement and match conditions.

"We don't do favors with any player...this debate goes on...we play a combination which is best and also look at our bench strength. No matter what people think, no one wants to not do well in a match."

He also defended the continued selection of non performing all-rounders, Shahdab Khan and Faheem Ashraf insisting they brought balance to the side.

Misbah said the below strength England side had beaten Pakistan purely because of its players' discipline.

Asked if he felt the long quarantine and isolation had affected the players performances, Misbah said it could be a reason but he wouldn't give this as an excuse for the poor performances of the team.

"If we have one or two poor matches, if things go wrong we can't say everything is wrong...no one talks about wins...last year's series wins...we will address our loss as the failure of everyone."

## ICC Confirms New WTC Points System: 12 For Win, 4 For Draw, 6 For Tie

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** The ICC on Wednesday officially confirmed that teams will be awarded standardised 12 points for a win, four for a draw and six for a tie during the second World Test Championship cycle which kicks off with the five-match series between India and England in August.

The ICC further said that percentage of points won will be used to determine standings in the 2021-23 cycle.

Earlier, each Test series carried a value of 120 points which led to certain inequality in the table as a team winning a Test in a two-match series got 60 points compared to five-game series where a Test win is valued at 24 points.

PTI had last month reported that ICC was set to introduce the new standardised points system for the second WTC cycle soon.

ICC Acting Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said the changes were made to simplify the points system while taking learnings from the disruption last year.

"We received feedback that the previous points system needed to be simplified. The Cricket Committee took this into consideration when proposing a new, standardized points system for each match. It maintained the principle of ensuring that all matches in a WTC series count towards a team's standing, while accommodating series varying in length between two Tests and five Tests," Allardice said in an ICC statement.

"During the pandemic we had to change to ranking teams on the points table using the percentage of available points won by each team, since all series could not be completed.

"This helped us determine the finalists and we were able to complete the championship within the scheduled time frame. This method also allowed us to compare the relative performance of teams at any time, regardless of how many matches they had played."

Apart from the India-England series, the Ashes later this year will be the only other five-match affair in the second cycle which will end in June 2023. Australia's tour of India next year is the only four-Test series in the upcoming cycle. The nine Test teams will play a total of six series -- three home and three away just like the previous edition.

## My Idea As A Leader Is To Keep Everyone Together, Happy: Shikhar Dhawan



Press Trust of India

**COLOMBO:** Handed captaincy for the Sri Lanka tour, Shikhar Dhawan's idea of leadership is all about keeping the flock together and in a good state of mind.

The left-handed opener was given the reins of the team after Virat Kohli and other key players were sent to England for the WTC Final against New Zealand and the five-Test series against the hosts. Sri Lanka's limited-overs tour, comprising of three ODIs and as many T20s, will begin on July 18 in Colombo.

"It is a big achievement for me that I have become the captain of the Indian side. As a leader, my idea is to keep everyone together and happy that is the most important thing," Dhawan said on Star Sports show 'Follow the Blues'.

"We have got a lovely bunch of boys, great support staff, and we have worked earlier as well."

Dhawan says he shares a good chemistry with legendary Rahul Dravid, who is the head coach for the series. "I have a good relation with Rahul Bhai. When I started playing Ranji Trophy, I played against him, and I have known him since then. When I went to play India A match, I was the captain, and he was the coach, so

there was interaction.

"When he became the director of NCA, we used to go there for around 20 days, so we had a lot of interaction, and now we have good chemistry. And now that we have the chance to play six matches together, so it will be great fun, and I think we all sync nicely," he said.

The selectors have picked many uncapped players, including the likes of Rituraj Gaikwad and Chetan Sakariya, and Dhawan wants the youngsters to enjoy their journey.

"Happy to get the youngsters in the team and see their dreams come true. It's a big thing that these youngsters have come from their respective home towns with certain dreams, and their dreams are getting fulfilled.

"And now, they should enjoy the journey which landed them in team India, and they should know the value of their strength and how to improve it," he said.

Dhawan said that both the seniors and youngsters from the squad will learn from each other.

"There are seniors in the team, so the youngsters will learn from them, and we will get to learn from the youngsters. Whenever I meet the youngsters they often have new ways of thinking, and I try to learn things which will help us," Dhawan signed off.

## Of Olympic Medals And Their Evolution

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** From olive wreaths to recycled metals sourced from old cell phones and electronics, the reward for winning at the Olympics, the most sought-after achievement in an athlete's life, has come a long way, much like the Games itself.

Made of recycled electronic devices and pebble-like in appearance, the medals in the upcoming Tokyo Games will measure 8.5 centimeters in diameter, featuring the flying image of Nike, the Greek goddess of victory.

But, unlike previous years, these will be produced from gold, silver and bronze (in this case, copper and zinc) that has been stripped from over 79,000 tons of used cell phones and other small electronic devices donated by the Japanese population. During the ancient Olympic Games, athletes who emerged victorious were awarded 'Kotinos' or olive wreaths, which were considered a sacred prize in Greece, representing the highest honour.

In 1896, the long-lost tradition of ancient Greece, the Olympic Games was reborn in Athens.

With the rebirth, new practices made way for older ones and thus the custom of awarding medals began -- silver for the winners while the runners-up received a copper or bronze medal.

On the front of the medal was Zeus, father of the gods and in whose honour the Games were held, holding Nike, while the reverse side showed the Acropolis.

It wasn't until eight years later in the 1904 St. Louis Games, where the now standard gold, silver, and bronze medals, were first used.

The metals represent the first three ages of man in Greek mythology: the Golden Age -- when men lived among the gods, the Silver Age -- where youth lasted a hundred years, and the Bronze Age, or the age

of heroes.

Over the next century, the coveted awards would vary in shape, size, weight, composition, and in the image they carried. In 1923, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched a competition for sculptors to design the medals for the Summer Games.

The Italian artist Giuseppe Cassioli's design was chosen as the winner in 1928. The obverse of the medal was embossed with Nike holding a palm in her left hand and the crown for the winner in the right, with a depiction of the Colosseum in the background and the reverse featured a crowd of people carrying a triumphant athlete.

This design continued for a considerable time.

While host cities were allowed to rework the reverse of the medal starting from the 1972 Munich Games, the obverse only changed during the 2004 Athens Olympics.

A new depiction of Nike, flying into the 1896 Panathenaic Stadium to bestow victory on the strongest, highest and fastest, replaced the older one.

Until 1960, winners had medals pinned to them but the Rome Olympics had the necklace-like design allowing the athletes to wear the prized possession around their necks thanks to a chain.

Four years later, the chain made way for coloured ribbons.

Interestingly, the gold medals are not made of the yellow metal entirely. The 1912 Stockholm Games was the last time an Olympic medal was made entirely out of the metal. Now, they are just plated with it.

As per the IOC guidelines, a gold medal must contain a minimum of 6 grams of gold. In reality, silver forms the bulk of the medal.

China, which hosted the 2008 Beijing Olympics, for the first time, introduced medals made of a material other than metal -- jade.

## Messi To Sign New Five-Year Deal With Barcelona, Say Reports



Agencies

**BARCELONA:** Lionel Messi is set to extend his stay at Barcelona by signing a new five-year deal, with the Argentine talisman set to take a wage cut, La Vanguardia newspaper and ESPN reported on Wednesday.

Messi, Barca's all-time top scorer and appearance maker, technically ended his 21-year association with the club last month and is currently a free agent after his previous contract expired.

Since Joan Laporta took over as Barca president, the club has been trying to reduce their wage bill in order to keep Messi and stay within La Liga's strict financial control rules.

La Liga chief Javier Tebas said last week that Barcelona, which has a total debt of more than 1 billion euros (\$1.18 billion), would not be shown any leniency.

Messi's last contract, signed in 2017, was the most lucrative in world sport according to a January report in newspaper El Mundo.

The club have been trying to rebuild the squad with Junior Firpo, Jean-Clair Todibo and Carles Alena being sold to make way for free signings Sergio Aguero, Memphis Depay and Eric Garcia.

Messi, 34, won his first major international title with Argentina over the weekend when they beat rivals Brazil in the Copa America final. Messi was elected the tournament's joint best player along with Neymar after finishing as the tournament's joint top goalscorer with four goals while he also topped the assists charts with five.