

## District Wise Assessment of Covid Situation

# People Must Be Educated About Danger of 3rd Wave: LG

- J&K's Positivity Rate Reduced To 0.3 %
- 18 Districts In Green Zone As Per New Stringent Benchmarks
- 99% Targeted Population Of 45 And Above Age Group Inoculated With 1st Dose

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today interacted with Senior Officials, Deputy Commissioners and SPs to discuss Covid related situation in the UT.

During the Covid Task Force meeting, the Lt Governor took an assessment of health infrastructure, Oxygen plants and measures being taken to contain the spread of Coronavirus.

In the meeting with DCs and SPs, Lt Governor reviewed the progress of vaccination, positive cases in the districts, Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and steps taken to further strengthen the measures during post-unlock period.

Test-Track-Treat and now, Teeka are long term solutions to mitigate the spread of CoronaVirus. Panchayats with a large number of positive cases should be paid special attention to set up Micro Containment Zones, observed the Lt Governor.

He also passed specific directions for increasing RT-PCR tests in areas with high positivity rate.

The Lt Governor directed the officials to be well-prepared in advance to deal with the possible 3rd Wave of Corona Virus or any future health emergencies.

Health experts have cautioned the world against the third wave



of covid. We need to be vigilant and put our all-out efforts to save precious lives by intensifying vaccination drives, increasing testing, improving contact tracing, ensuring Covid Appropriate Behaviour being followed by the people, besides focusing improvements in all critical factors of Preventive care, effective Clinical and Patient Care management, maintained the Lt Governor.

On being informed about the 13 Districts now completed the 100% vaccination of 1st dose in 45 and above age group, the Lt Governor congratulated the DCs, Health functionaries, Frontline health workers of the respective districts for achieving the milestone and asked the remaining districts to put some extra effort to ensure

that the target population would be vaccinated at the earliest.

Speaking on the efforts being made by the UT Government for the advancement and development of the health sector, the Lt Governor observed that J&K has recorded significant improvements in different health indicators.

Taking strict note of the people flaunting Covid protocols, the Lt Governor directed the DCs and SPs to ensure adherence of Covid Appropriate Behaviour, following of covid protocols like wearing face masks, and implementation of restrictions & guidelines in their respective districts, especially in tourist places.

Explore innovative ways to restrict crowding in dense areas, besides putting more focus on

religious places, market & public places, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor called for devising a Responsive Information mechanism so that correct and timely information shall reach the people from authoritative sources. Publicize the availability of vaccination in centres in advance for the convenience of the people, he added.

While taking stock of the functionality of Oxygen generation plants, the Lt Governor advised for utilizing available oxygen capacity for effective functioning of ICUs at District Hospitals. This will also reduce the referrals of patients to the GMCs, he added.

Discussion was also held on prioritizing vaccination in Colleges and Universities. ● More On P10



## UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

NAAC Accredited Grade "A+"  
Hazratbal, Srinagar (J&K)-190006



### NOTICE

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation of the University of Kashmir is being held in the last week of July, 2021 at SKICC, Srinagar followed by a Special Convocation in the month of August, 2021 at the Convocation Complex, University of Kashmir. All the students who have been declared qualified for the award of Ph.D, M.Phil, MD/MS Diploma in Anesthesiology/Ophthalmology and Gynecology since the last Convocation held on 27th September, 2012 will be admitted to the Convocation for the conferment of Degrees. Besides, all the meritorious candidates who have secured 1st Class 1st Position in the following examinations held since September 2012 will also be admitted to the Convocation for the award of Gold/Silver Medals and Cash Prizes:

**BA/ B.Sc/ B.Com/ BBA/ BCA/ IMBA/B.Tech/M.Tech/B.Sc. IT/ MBBS/ BDS/BUMS/BE, BA.LLB, LLB/M.Pharm/B.Pharmacy/B. ED/ B.P.Ed/MA/ M.Sc/ M.Com/ MBA/ MCA/MFC/ MLIS/ M.ED/ M.P.ED, LLM/ Hon's exam in (Kamil) Kashmiri.**



The candidates falling under above categories shall be required to get themselves registered for attending the ensuing Convocation. The candidates will have to submit the online form, available on University Website:- <http://kashmiruniversity.net/> alongwith registration fees of **Rs 200/-** by or before **23rd of July, 2021**, so that the Special Identity cards are prepared well in time for allowing entry of to the venue. No unregistered candidate shall be admitted to the Convocation.

Further instructions to registered students shall be notified separately.

No :- F (19th -Convocation)Gen/KU/21  
Dated:- 16th July, 2021.


Sd/- (Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Zarri)  
Joint Registrar (GENERAL)




## SHRI MANOJ SINHA

### LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, J&K



# Awaam Ki Awaaz

## LT. GOVERNOR ECHOES VOICE OF PUBLIC ON GOOD GOVERNANCE





# EPISODE-4

## JULY 18 - 11 AM

### PRIMARY & LOCAL CHANNELS OF 'AIR' STATIONS -J&K

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24<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION

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P3 CITY

## NON-LOCAL BEGGARS BECOMING A COMMON SIGHT IN SRINAGAR, DESPITE BAN

Despite a ban on begging in capital city Srinagar, the non-local beggars have created a nuisance in the city particularly in uptown areas and around traffic signals.

P6 THINK STRIP THE SHROUD

STRIP the shroud off Afghanistan. You will not find the bodies of 14,500 Soviet soldiers who died during their government's obsessive nine-year occupation (1979-1989) of that war-savaged country. Nor will you see the body-bags containing the remains



P5 STATE

## CUK OFFICIALS, PRIVATE FIRM BOOKED IN CORRUPTION CASE

Anti Corruption Bureau Friday registered a case against the officials of Central University of Kashmir for malpractices in the execution of works at Central



**Quote!**  
Keep a little fire burning; however small, however hidden.  
—Cormac McCarthy

### NEWS DIGEST

#### KPDCL Refutes Tariff Revision Reports

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on Friday contested reports appearing in a section of media about revision in the electricity tariff in Jammu and Kashmir saying that no revision of tariff, whatsoever, has been carried out in the Union Territory. In a statement issued to the media here, a KPDCL spokesperson said that no revision in electricity tariff has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir during the **More On P10**

#### Arms Cache Recovered In Tral: Police

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Friday claimed to have recovered a huge cache of explosive material and ammunition in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Police, army's 42RR and the personnel of CRPF 180 battalion launched a search operation in Nawdal village of Tral on the basis of a credible input, a police spokesperson said Friday. During search **More On P10**

#### Cooker Explosion Injures Four

**SRINAGAR:** Three sons and wife of a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) trooper sustained injuries after a rice cooker exploded in their home in Maitra village of Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir. Police sources said that the wife and three children of a CRPF constable of 84 Battalion Rajesh Singh, a resident of Garhi Ramban were injured in the explosion. "The cooker exploded **More On P10**

#### Bomb Scare Along Poonch Highway

**SRINAGAR:** An empty bag triggered a bomb scare along Bhimber Gali on Poonch highway on Friday forcing the suspension of vehicular traffic. Official sources said that a bag was found lying along Bhimber Gali – Poonch Highway near Tota Gali following which a Bomb disposal Squad (BDS) was called in and the vehicular traffic movement was suspended on the **More On P10**

#### 13 Injured As Vehicle Falls Into Gorge

**SRINAGAR:** At least 13 persons were on Friday injured after a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in Rajouri district. Officials said that a road accident took place on Behrote Gambhir Mughlan road in Thanamandi tehsil of Rajouri district. A mini goods carrier vehicle was plying on link road when it skidded off the road and fell into a gorge, they said, adding that 13 persons got injured in **More On P10**

## 2 Militants Killed In Srinagar Encounter



Locals gather around the house damaged during Friday's gunfight between militants and government forces in Eidgah area of Srinagar. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** Two local militants, who according to police were involved in a series of grenade attacks and the killings of at least five security personnel, were killed in an encounter with government forces in Eidgah area of the city on Friday.

According to a police spokesperson, police and CRPF personnel launched a joint cordon and search

operation (CASO) in Alamdar Colony, Danmar area of Eidgah on the basis of specific information about the presence of militants. During the search operation, he said, as the presence of militants got ascertained they were given repeated opportunities to surrender.

"However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter in the wee hours," the police

spokesperson said.

In the ensuing encounter, he said, two militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. They have been identified as Irfan Ahmad Sofi and Bilal Ahmad Bhat, both residents of Natipora, Srinagar and active since Dec last year.

The police spokesperson said that recently self claimed outfit TRF shared on social media **More On P10**

**INCRIMINATING MATERIALS, ARMS AND AMMUNITION** including 01 AK-47 rifle, 01 pistol and 04 grenades were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes."

## Stick To Timelines, Govt Tells Recruiting Agencies

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Government on Friday asked all the recruiting agencies authorities to bring the selection processes to their logical conclusion within the fixed timelines.

"Attention of recruiting agencies and indenting departments/appointing authorities is invited towards the Circular No. 38-JK(GAD) of 2020 dated 24.12.2020, wherein instructions were issued for ensuring timely processing of the Selection/Waiting lists as per the timelines prescribed in the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralization & Recruitment) Rules, 2010, to avoid delay and seeking unwarranted relaxation in rules," reads a circular issued by the government here.

Rule 14 (5) & (7) of the Jammu and **More On P10**

## Sword Hangs On 'Inefficient' Employees

## Govt To Fire Employees Found 'Ineffective' In Work Or 48 Years Old

Agencies

Srinagar: The Government has asked administrative secretaries to initiate a process to identify employees who are "ineffective in work or not fit to continue" after completion of 22 years of service or have attained 48 years of age.

In October last year, the J&K government had amended Article 226 (2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations for a provision to retire at any time any government servant after he has completed 22 years of service or attained 48 years of age.

The appropriate authority have to give either three months prior notice or three months of allowance to retire



any employee, according to a notification issued by then Financial Commissioner.

Setting the Time Schedule to be followed, the notification states that "the exercise of review of performance of the Government Servants will be initiated for each Government Servant for the first time after

her/his completion of 22 years of Government Service or attaining 48 years of age and any time subsequently, as may be required."

On July 15, a fresh circular was issued by the incumbent Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, stating: "It has been observed that the departments have not initiated **More On P10**

....ROSHNI SCAM

## CBI Raids Premises Of 3 IAS Officers In J&K



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI on Friday conducted searches at nine locations in Srinagar and Jammu at the premises of three IAS officers, a politician and other officials in connection with the Roshni scam, officials said here.

The searches were spread across the premises of former divisional commissioner, Kashmir Basharat Ahmad Dar (a 1989-batch IAS officer), Mehboob Iqbal (a 1990-batch IAS officer), (former??) Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Ejaz Iqbal (a 1995-batch IAS officer) and politician Sajjad Parvez, they added.

The case pertains to ownership rights given to alleged encroachers on government land,

which is also known as the Roshni scam, the officials said.

Premises linked to other officials, including former assistant commissioner, Nazool, Srinagar and former tehsildar, Nazool, Srinagar were also searched.

"During the searches conducted so far, incriminating documents including conferment of ownership rights, documents pertaining to several immovable properties located at Srinagar, Jammu, New Delhi, fixed deposits of more than Rs 25 lakh, cash of Rs 2 lakh (approximately), keys of six bank lockers and a number of bank accounts have been unearthed," CBI Spokesperson Joshi said.

The central agency had taken over the investigation into the Roshni **More On P10**

## Drones Again Spotted Over Jammu, Samba Skies

Agencies

**JAMMU:** A day after a drone was spotted in Jammu in the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, four suspected drones were spotted at different locations in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba and Jammu. Further details are awaited.

This comes days

after militants used armed drones to attack the Air Force Station (AIF) in Jammu. Over the last few weeks, drone activity has been spotted in a few other parts of the union territory.

Srinagar, Kupwara, Rajouri and Baramulla have imposed bans on the storage, sale, possession, use and transport of drones and **More On P10**



## 81K Paramilitary Men Took VRS Since 2010

15,904 Personnel Also Resigned In 10 Years Period

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** More than 81,000 personnel of the paramilitary forces such as the CRPF and the BSF have taken voluntary retirement in the last decade, the maximum of over 11,000 in 2017 alone.

According to the Union Home Ministry data, 15,904 personnel also resigned from

their respective organisations between 2011 and 2020 -- the highest 2,332 in 2013.

No specific study for ascertaining the reasons for such retirements or resignations has been conducted by the Home Ministry so far, but an analysis carried out by the forces themselves indicates that personal and family issues, health **More On P10**

## Urs-e-Shah e Hamadan

## Following the Sufi Master In Letter Not In Spirit

KO Web Desk

The Urs of Mir Sayyid Ali Hussayni Hamadani (RA), popularly known in Kashmir as Shah-e-Hamadan, is being observed with fervor and intensity at Khanqah-e-Maula in Srinagar. Urs usually refers to a death anniversary of a Sufi Saint and means union (visaal) of the saint with the beloved (God).

Shah-e-Hamadan- an itinerant wanderer (wanderings are typical of Sufis) was instrumental in bringing and spreading Islam in Kashmir and shaping the culture peculiar to Kashmir. Not only did he define Kashmiris faith



**SHAH-E-HAMADAN DID NOT TEACH AND ADVOCATE AN ISLAM** made people forego worldly affairs. While he made Islam central and pivotal to Kashmiri consciousness, he, by imparting livelihood training to Kashmiris, did not make them oblivious to worldly concerns. In this sense, besides giving us our religion, he also made dignified living a centre piece of his efforts. This corresponds and corresponded to the spirit of Islam.

making and cloth weaving. In essence, Shah-e-Hamadan (RA), revolutionised Kashmir; he engineered a paradigm shift in the vail, and rendered Kashmiri consciousness as it evolved over the years and as it perhaps is now. **More On P10**

and culture but he also re-defined the political economy of Kashmir by altering the socio-economic landscape of Kashmir. He, with the help of

his acolytes did this by imparting craftsmanship training to Kashmiris in as varied domains as carpet making, papier mache, calligraphy, shawl

## Ropeway Connecting 3 Temples In Jammu Inaugurated

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday inaugurated the much-awaited 1.18 km long Peerkho-Mahamaya section of Jammu ropeway, completing the religious tourism circuit by connecting three major temples of the Jammu city.

Speaking on the impact of the prestigious project on tourism, the LG observed that the complete operationalization of the Jammu Ropeway would give a further boost to the tourism

sector in J&K, besides giving a fillip to the socio-economic development of the region by generating direct and indirect livelihood opportunities to the locals.

"Jammu ropeway will be a major tourist attraction in the region. It will instill new enthusiasm in the tourism sector in Jammu & Kashmir and add to aesthetics of Jammu city," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

"With the opening of the Peerkho-Mahamaya section of the ropeway to the public, the religious **More On P10**

## LG Inaugurates JMC's Material Recovery Facility

In a step aimed at better Solid Waste Management processes and environmental sustainability in the UT, and to facilitate easy segregation, disposal and processing of waste **More On P10**

## 221 Covid Cases, 1 More Death In J&K

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir recorded 221 new COVID-19 cases on Friday, taking the infection tally to 3,19,576, while one more fatality took the death toll to 4,362, officials said.

Of the new cases, 103 were from the Jammu division and 118 from the Kashmir division, they said.

Srinagar district recorded the highest 40 cases followed by 19 each in Jammu and Pulwama districts. While 10 districts had cases in double digits, the remaining 10 had new cases in single digits, it said.

The number of active cases rose to 2,116, while 3,13,098 people have recovered so far, officials said. The death toll in the union **More On P10**



## PHC Batamaloo Gets Hospital Management Information System

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Friday visited Primary Health Centre Batamaloo and took stock of its functioning.

During the visit, the DC inspected various units of the Health Centre including General Ward, Registration Counter, Diagnostic Units, newly established Covid ward.

The DC said that Oxygen beds and Hospital Management Information System has come up at the Health Centre to augment the present needs in line with latest technology.

On the occasion, the DC held interaction with the

Staff and directed them to ensure better healthcare facilities to the patients.

He asked the concerned to install Oxygen supply at PHC and ensure availability of bulk Oxygen Cylinders at an earliest.

Pertinent, to mention that PHC Batamaloo is being upgraded as Model PHC in the district.

Later, the DC also visited Zonal Medical Store and checked the stocks inventory and quality of Medical supplies.

He directed the CMO Srinagar to take up the necessary work for fencing around the premises of PHC on priority basis.

## Director Agriculture Reviews Achievements Of Srinagar Under CAPEX, CSSs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To discuss the performance, achievements under CAPEX and CSSs, the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Friday highlighted the need for area expansion under exotic vegetables crops. He stressed upon the officers of Srinagar district to introduce new exotic vegetables like: Broccoli, lettuce and Parsley, which will significantly enhance the real income of farming community.

He took a review meeting of district Srinagar at Lalmandi.

Director instructed the officers to take steps for boosting cultivation of Kashmiri Lal Mirch on a large scale so that the socio economic status of the farming community is increased.

He informed Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar that an incentive of Rs. 0.25 Lac per Ha has already been earmarked by the Government for the growers, in order to

flourish this local variety for gaining maximum attraction for cultivation.

Chief Agriculture Officer Mohammad Younis Chowdhary informed the meeting that during the year 2017-2019, 20 Hectares of Shunglipora village has been covered under organic vegetable clusters whereas in the year 2021-2022, 40 hectares of village Tengpora A&B are brought under organic vegetable cultivation covering 223 beneficiaries.

He further informed that 60 Qtl of SR-III Paddy was procured from 3.33 hectares area under Seed Village during 2020 and a target of 320 Qtl Paddy SR-IV is targeted to be procured during Kharif-2021 out of 16.5 hectares area.

He also added that during the year 2020-21, 1514 Soil Health Cards have been distributed among the farmers of district Srinagar while as the target of 1500 Soil Health Cards for the year 2021-22 will be distributed among the beneficiaries within stipulated time.

## SWV at War Memorial in Badami Bagh Cantonment

Srinagar: Srinagar based Chinara Corps observed 50th Anniversary of Vijay Diwas, which is being celebrated as "Swarnim Vijay Varsh" by paying tributes to soldiers of the armed forces.

To pay homage to the Swarnim Vijay Mashaal (Victory Flame), a solemn wreath laying ceremony was held at war memorial Badami Bagh Cantonment.

The event commenced with recitations of prayers for the

departed Martyrs by Dharm gurus of all religions. Thereafter, the wreath laying ceremony was started by junior most Sepoy and Subedar Major of Headquarters Chinara Corps, followed by 1971 war Veterans, General Officer Commanding 31 Sub Area, Chief of Staff, Headquarters Chinara Corps, General Officer Commanding, Chinara Corps. The year 2021 has been named "Swarnim Vijay Varsh" by the Government of India.



Non-local beggars hide their faces as they pose for a picture outside Hazratbal mosque in Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Non-Local Beggars Becoming A Common Sight In Srinagar, Despite Ban

Observer News Service

**Srinagar: Despite a ban on begging in capital city Srinagar, the non-local beggars have created a nuisance in the city particularly in up-town areas and around traffic signals.**

Invoking the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Beggary Act, 1960, the government imposed a ban on begging in 2018.

An order issued in this regard by the Deputy Commis-

sioner Srinagar directed police to arrest any person found soliciting alms in public and at religious places or other private premises.

The SSP Srinagar and Budgam were also asked to implement the order and report the number of such arrests on a daily basis.

But despite the ban, beggars, particularly, non-locals, are seen asking for alms in and outside Srinagar.

The residents of the city said that the beggars have created a

mess on the city streets. "It is almost impossible to keep the wind-downs down near a traffic signal in Hyderpora crossing," a resident of the area said, adding, "at least four beggars, mostly children, come around and ask for alms."

Hyderpora and its adjoining areas have become a hub of such non-local beggars, he said.

"This has become a nuisance," another resident said, adding that the people are compelled to give them money so that they can get rid of them."

## DIPR Artists Mesmerise Audiences At Kashmir Haat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR's), Cultural Unit Kashmir Friday organised a variety of cultural programme at Kashmir Haat (Exhibition ground Srinagar) on the seventh day of the ongoing Craft Mela-2021 here.

The 15-day craft fair is organised by the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handlooms, while daily cultural programs at the fair are being organised in collaboration with the Cultural Unit of DIPR.

The aim of the event is to increase the number of people visiting Kashmir Haat and promote

local products.

To make the exhibition multi-faceted and colourful during the ongoing handicraft festival, artists from Cultural Unit Kashmir presented colourful

The audience were seen enjoying the melodious and mesmerising folk songs and light music at the event.

Cultural Officer Kashmir, Tawheed Ahmad Mir said that



programs and attracted a large crowd of spectators. In addition, young artists from the valley also performed various musical programs.

the Unit is soon going to provide virtual platform to the youth to showcase their hidden talent through a Talent Hunt programme.

## Midnight Blaze Guts J&K Bank's Zainakote Branch

Agencies

Srinagar: A partially operational branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank at Zainakote was gutted in a midnight blaze on Friday.

Witnesses said that the fire broke out in the first floor of the complex, where the Branch of J&K Bank Zainakote is partially operational.

Another witness, who owns a shop in the complex said, the fire has damaged the entire floor of J&K Bank.

However, an official from the bank told KNO that the records are safe and

intact.

"We want to assure our clients that all the records are safe, however some of the older records have got damaged, which the bank ideally discards after sometime," he said.

Moreover, there was no report of any loss of life or injury in the incident, officials said.


Notably, J&K Bank branch Zainakote has shifted most of its operations from this Branch to another location in the area in Industrial area of HMT Zainakote, however, some of the operations were still active in the branch.

## SAD DEMISE

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of Haji Abdul Gani Rather S/o Late Haji Assadullah Rather R/o Kursu Ghat Padshahi Bagh, Srinagar who left for heavenly abode on 15th July 2021 (Thursday). May Allah Almighty grant him highest place in Jannah, Aameen. Mourning will be observed for 3 days only.

BEREAVED FAMILY





**SKUAST KASHMIR**  
EXAMINATION CENTRE  
SHALIMAR SRINAGAR - 190025

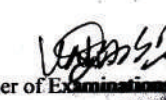
**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited for the supply of necessary items for Examination Centers under COVID-19 SOP's as per the specifications and quantity mentioned below. The cost of each individual item must be specified along with the GST, if any, separately. **The Tenders should accompany a CDR (Refundable) for Rs 20,000/= in favour of Controller of Examinations, SKUAST-K, Shalimar along with a valid GST registration certificate and PAN. The sealed Tenders must reach to the Examination Cell SKUAST-K Shalimar on or before 4:00 PM, 29.07.2021. (Tenders should be with samples)**

S.No.	Particulars/Specification	Quantity
01.	Surgical Masks with nose Pin (Superior)	25000 No's
02.	Sanitizer (Veritas/Detol/Lifebuoy/Himalaya)	3000 No's (100 ml)
03.	PP Kits	100 No's
04.	Surgical Gloves	600 No's
05.	Paper Cutter	1250 No's
06.	Face shield (poly sheet with forehead cushion and elastic belt)	100 No's

**Note: The University has right to increase or decrease the quantity of the items as per the requirement.**

**The tenders shall be opened on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2021 at 11:00 a.m in the office of the undersigned in presence of purchase committee and representatives of the firms filed the tenders.**

  
 Controller of Examinations

No.AU/EC/U-1/2021/824-26  
 Dated: 16 /07/2021

### DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 245222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
05 Zil Haj  
1442

### PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 49
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:46
ISHA	9:24

## This Day In History

- 1942 - French police arrest 13,152 Jews in Paris
- 1945 - Cruiser Indianapolis leaves SF with atom bomb
- 1956 - Karelo-Finnish SSR becomes part of Russian SFSR
- 1956 - King Faisal of Iraq begins visit to England
- 1966 - Nigeria becomes the first Anglophone independent state in Africa to become an associate member of European Economic Community
- 1969 - Apollo 11 launched, carrying 1st men to land on Moon
- 1971 - Franco appoints prince Juan Carlos as deputy in Spain
- 1979 - Premier/pres al-Bakr of Iraq is succeeded by Saddam Hussein
- 1980 - Polish railway workers block railway to Russia
- 1981 - India performs nuclear Test
- 1982 - NASA launches Landsat 4 to thematic map the Earth
- 1982 CDC report on AIDS symptoms in three hemophiliacs
- 1983 - 20 killed in Britain's worst helicopter accident
- 1983 - Sikorsky S-61 disaster: A helicopter crashes off the Isles of Scilly, causing 20 fatalities
- 1985 - Bill to abolish Greater London Council receives royal assent
- 1987 - Great Britain performs nuclear Test at Nevada Test Site
- 1989 - South Africa's largest labour federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, holds its third annual congress and intensifies its campaign against apartheid
- 1990 - 400 die in a (7.7) earthquake in Philippines
- 1990 - Ukraine declares independence
- 1999 - John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and sister-in-law Lauren Bessette are killed in a plane crash off the coast of Martha's Vineyard. The Piper Saratoga aircraft was piloted by Kennedy.
- 2004 - Millennium Park, considered the first and most ambitious architectural project in the early 21st century for Chicago, is opened to the public by Mayor Richard M. Daley.
- 2007 - An earthquake of magnitude 6.8 and aftershock of 6.6 occurs off the Niigata coast, Japan, killing 8 people with at least 800 injured and damaging a nuclear power plant. See 2007 Chetsu off-shore earthquake.
- 2013 - 27 children are killed and 25 are hospitalized after eating lunch contaminated with insecticide in India
- 2014 - Death toll within Gaza surpasses 200 people following air strikes by Israel
- 2014 - Hamas and Islamic Jihad offer Israel a 10-year truce with 10 conditions, including lifting the blockade and the release of prisoners; it is rejected
- 2014 - Israel intensifies strikes on Gaza
- 2015 - Scientists reveal 1st close-up pictures of Pluto, sent by the New Horizons probe
- 2016 - Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump announces Indiana governor Mike Pence as his Vice Presidential running mate

## From KO Archives

## Soldier killed by CRPF men

*Mistaken for a militant after girl's murder*

Observer News Service

**S**SRINAGAR - A soldier was shot dead by CRPF personnel in an Anantnag village on Wednesday night minutes after he killed a local girl.

The soldier from the 49th RR was shot dead by a patrol party who mistook him for a militant on account of his plain clothes and furtive movements while fleeing from the scene of his crime.

Outraged by the killing of the girl, thousands of people came out into the streets today holding protests against the security forces and demanding that the body of the RR man be handed over to them.

The soldier had sneaked into the house of Muhammad Akbar Dar in village Changoo

in Doom area through a window after climbing over a walnut tree, and demanded food and a place for the night.

Enraged when the family refused his demand, the soldier had shot and injured Dar's 19-year-old daughter, Zahida, who fell down in a pool of blood?

The family tried to catch hold of him, but he pumped a fatal shot into the girl and managed to escape from the scene. A CRPF patrol outside the village ordered the fleeing Soldier to stop, and opened fire taking him to be a militant, the KNS, quoting police sources as having said. He died on the spot after identifying the soldier, the CRPF left his body and weapons lying in the field.

The defence spokesman, Col V.K. Batra, however, told the KNS that the soldier had committed suicide after killing the girl. The local population surged into the streets in a huge demonstration against the security forces, sitting on a dharna and disrupting traffic.

Demanding that the soldier's body be handed over to them, the villagers said he had entered Dar's house with evil intentions and had molested his daughter before shooting her dead.

The senior superintendent of police in Anantnag, Aashiq Hussain Bukhari, however said, that no molestation had taken place.

(Kashmir Observer, 16 July, 2005)



## Sumbal Village Residents Without Drinking Water For Past Three Months

Agencies

**BANDIPORA:** The residents of Anderkoot village of Sumbal in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday said that there is no drinking water supply in the village for the last three months.

The residents said that they have brought the matter into the notice of the administration but nothing has been done so far. They said that they are forced to take unsafe drinking water from nearby streams.

The locals said that the low capacity water supply scheme in their area should have been upgraded as the entire population of the village is dependent on it.

"Our kids complain of different ailments and we are forced to drink the impure water everyday. Our health has deteriorated. To whom should we complain," Ishfaq Khan, a local resident said.

He said that the concerned department should address the issue urgently to end the suffering of the people.

Repeated attempts to reach officials of Jal Shak-ti department did not materialise.



People douse the flames at a house that caught fire following a gunfight in Eidgah area of Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Positivity Rate Declines To Less Than One Percent In Kupwara



Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din Friday appealed to the people of Kupwara district to continue the usage of masks and maintenance of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) besides other SOPs to overcome the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Giving details, the DC said that the positivity rate has declined to 0.4 percent, while, Recovery rate has gone up to 98.2 percent which is a good sign of satisfaction for the district. He said that out of 13980 positive cases, 13732 cases have recovered till date.

He said the district has currently 83 active cases, adding that only 9 patients are admitted in SDH Kupwara, 66 are under home isolation.

Regarding vaccination, the DC said that 71.39 percent of the target population of above 45 years age has been vaccinated till date. While, 19.10 percent of 18-44 years age group has been vaccinated so far in the district, he added.

The DC said that holding Covid appropriate behaviour and other SOPs should be taken as a social responsibility, adding that all stakeholders need to adopt it as part of their lifestyle.

## Mirwaiz Pays Tributes To Ameer-e-Kabeer

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Mohammad Umar Farooq Friday paid tributes to the revered saint and the founder of Islam in Kashmir Hazrat Ameer-e-Kabeer Meer Syed Ali Hamadani (RA) popularly known as Shah-e-Hamdan on annual Urs.

In a statement, Mirwaiz said that Shah-e-Hamdan (RA) was not only a great scholar and a religious leader but also a philosopher, writer and traveller.

He said that Shah-e-Hamdan was an intellectual of high repute who contributed much for mobilisation of Islamic faith through his teachings, publications, and personal propagation.

Mirwaiz said that Ameer-e-Kabeer spent his life in propagating Islam and undertook several ex-

tensive tours through difficult terrains and over hazardous routes to persuaded thousands of people to embrace Islam.

He said it was because of the efforts of the Ameer-e-Kabeer that people of Kashmir embraced the greatest religion of Islam forever.

Mirwaiz said the teachings of Mir Syed Ali Hamdani did not spread only the word of Allah, but he also brought with his art, craft, skills and industry which boosted the economy of Kashmir and brought economic revolution. He said due to those skills and crafts Kashmiris earned global fame for hundreds of years.

Mirwaiz urged people of Kashmir to follow the footsteps of the great saint to get closer to the Almighty Allah and his beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as that's the best way to show our affiliation and respect to the great scholar.

**PEOPLE OF KASHMIR SHOULD follow the footsteps of the Ameer-e-Kabeer to get closer to the Almighty Allah and his beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW).**

## Five Arrested In Budgam For Selling Bricks At Exorbitant Prices

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam Friday along with officials of Revenue, Municipality, Police and Geology & Mining conducted a surprise visit of various brick kiln units operating in the district which were allegedly selling bricks at exorbitant rates.

Pertinent to mention here that DC Budgam vide his office order dated 21 August, 2020 had fixed rate of bricks as 21000 per 3000 bricks including all taxes except transportation.

The ADC instructed to arrest 05 guilty persons associated with various brick kilns Gh. Hussain Wani 71-T, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat 105, Mohammad Jaffer 71-P, Ali Mohammad Rather 70S, Shabir Ahmad 71-P. The ADC imposed a spot penalty against the violators, seized 3 vehicles and said that strict action as per law



shall follow.

An FIR No. 211/2021 dated 15 July, 2021 under section 188 of IPC and 15, 21 of Brick Kiln Act was also registered in the police station Budgam against the violators.

Meanwhile, DC Budgam has once again warned the erring brick kiln owners to refrain from overcharging and sale of sub standard material. The DC categorically said that no brick kiln owner shall be permitted to overcharge at exorbitant rates.

## CUK Officials, Private Firm Booked In Corruption Case

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Anti Corruption Bureau Friday registered a case against the officials of Central University of Kashmir for malpractices in the execution of works at Central University of Kashmir, Ganderbal.

"The instant case was registered on the basis of a verification conducted which revealed that e-tender having NIT No. ET/01 of 2017-CUKMR/CD/F/N0.44/16/31 dated 09.06.2017 was floated by Central University of Kashmir authorities for construction of Academic Block adjacent to site office at Central University of Kashmir Campus Tulmulla, Ganderbal with an advertising cost of Rs. 4,40,41,780.00," an ACB statement.

The statement said the work was allotted to M/S Granco Industries Ltd as being L-1. The item of work of RCC bored piling forming part of foundation for executed building work under the title, "Construction of Mini Academic Block" through above said NIT was shown as 600 mm diameter, while as per spot inspection con-



ducted by ACB in association with concerned experts, the same has been found 450mm in gross violation to NIT. The specification was found altered under the garb of a corrigendum which was neither issued nor published in the official website.

The ACB said that during the probe it surfaced that despite alteration in diameter of RCC bored piling, the rates quoted for 600mm diameter were wilfully kept intact and subsequently paid.

"This resulted into loss to the tune of Rs. 71.61 lakhs to Central University of Kashmir against corresponding wrongful gain to officials of Central University of Kashmir who remained associated with the work in question as well as beneficiary firm M/S Granco Industries Limited Rajbagh,

Srinagar."

The statement said that the facts constitute commission of offences punishable under section 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) of PC Act, Svt. 2006 and section 120-B RPC against Reyaz Ahmad Jeelani, then Executive Engineer (now retired), Syed Ahmad Gurrkhoo, then JE, CUK, Ganderbal, Suhail Bashir, then JE CUK Ganderbal, proprietor of beneficiary firm M/S Granco Industries Limited Rajbagh, Srinagar and others. Consequently, a case FIR No. 16 has been registered in P/S ACB Srinagar.

"As part of investigation searches were conducted after obtaining search warrant from Court. During the course of search, incriminating documents were found and seized. Further investigation of the case is **going on.**"

## No-Confidence Motion Moved Against Budgam DDC Chairperson

Agencies

**BUDGAM:** Ten elected members of District Development Council Friday moved a no-confidence motion against the incumbent chairperson.

The motion was moved during a meeting of ten elected members of District Development Council, Budgam.

As per a resolution, the members said that there is already a dispute with respect to the election of the chairperson of the council, which has been put

to challenge before a competent forum.

"However, the members felt it necessary that the chairman has failed to deliver any kind of developmental work on the ground and has failed to deliver the things."

The resolution reads that the members unanimously acknowledged that the DDC Chairperson from the date of assuming the charge of the office has not held any program for the development within the district and has even failed to maintain

social connections with people and address their day-to-day problems.

"The members of the District Development Council have resolved to move a no-confidence motion against the said DDC Chairperson in the larger interests of the public of District Budgam."

It reads that in this regard, all the elected members present today have signed this resolution without any force, coercion or undue influence for removing the chairman.

## Six Trading Units Fined For Violating FS&SA In Shopian

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** The Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani Friday imposed a fine of Rs 16,500 on 06 Food Business Operators (FBOs) for violating prescribed norms under Food Safety and Standard Act (FS&SA).

The concerned were found providing substandard services and misbranded consumables to the consumers/customers.

Consequently, the FBOs were booked and summoned before the ADC, who is also the adjudicating officer and a fine was imposed in five misbranded/substandard cases pertaining to different FBOs under various sections of FS&SA.

The ADC stressed upon the concerned to keep the premises neat and clean and procure registration immediately without any delay.

## LG's Adv Advocates Maximising Contribution Of Polytechnics, ITIs

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Friday asserted that the contribution of Polytechnic Colleges and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) should be maximised and their linkages with industrial establishments be strengthened by introducing new trades and courses which are viable in today's industrial world.

Advisor made these comments while chairing a meet to review the performance of Skill Development Department (SDD) at Civil Secretariat here.

Advisor Bhatnagar directed the officers to provide quality education and training to the aspirants at these institutes so that they imbibe better skills and get placed in best industrial establishments. He observed that the Skill Development Department has a pivotal role to play in providing requisite skills to young people and make them self sustainable to



overcome the problem of unemployment in J&K.

Asserting that the education and skill building are the core means for empowering youth, Advisor Bhatnagar directed the concerned officers to work with utmost efforts to ensure youth emancipation by way of imparting requisite proficiency. He asked them to facilitate the youth of Jammu and Kashmir at all levels in order to make them skilled and coherent with the modern industrial standards.

Advisor delved upon the officers to introduce those courses and trades which are market driven and are in high demand in the industrial sector.

Highlighting the need for upgrading the infrastructure at these training institutes, Advisor Bhatnagar directed the officers to carry out performance audit of all institutes in terms of infrastructure, facilities, trades and courses offered, so that better outcomes and desired results are achieved. He asked the officers

to form expert groups of all trades and review the facilities and trades offered in all ITIs within 15 days so that they can be upgraded as per requirements.

Remarking that there is a dire need to study linkages of SDD with other departments, Advisor stressed upon the officers to work on linkages between Skill Development, School Education department and Higher Education department as per the National Education Policy-2020.

He impressed upon the officers to start orientation in schools and colleges regarding Skill Development courses offered by the department in ITIs and Polytechnic colleges so that maximum students are attracted towards these courses. He further asked the officers to prepare the students for making innovations in the traditional handicrafts and handloom products so that they get refurbished in consonance with modern trends in fashion industry.

## Govt To Construct Transit Facilities, Livelihood Projects For Tribal Population



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The government has initiated a slew of measures towards providing facilities to the tribal migratory population with focus on infrastructure development, healthcare, livestock improvement, income generation and skill development based on ongoing survey.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said that the plan includes income generating units, milk villages, sheep villages, livelihood programmes, establishment of transit facilities, support system for transhumant population, strengthening of veterinary healthcare, mobile clinics/ hospitals and related initiatives.

Directors Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry departments, Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer and District Sheep Husbandry Officers besides others were present in the meeting.

Dr Shahid asked the departments to work in a coordinated manner towards finalisation of locations being identified for construction of pre-fabricated transit accommodation on migratory routes, notification for selection of beneficiaries for income generating units and finalisation of estimates.

He discussed about flagship schemes, construction of veterinary healthcare infrastructure, mobile veterinary hospitals and other initiatives being launched by the tribal affairs department this year. He stressed on formulating project proposals for establishment of more than 2000 income generation units apart from livestock product management.

Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Kashmir, Purnima Mittal, proposed a common DPR for milk villages, requirement of mobile veterinary vans, inclusion of poultry farms under Milk Village Scheme apart from support for strengthening machinery and equipment in tribal areas.

Director, Sheep Husbandry Department, Kashmir, Bashir Ahmed Khan, emphasised projects including provision of tents at transhumant hamlets, mobile veterinary clinics, sheep villages, quality and value addition product support to tribal youth.

Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Jammu, Vivek Sharma, proposed 50% beneficiary share for IGUs to be supported by the department, addressing variation in costs, repair and up-gradation of veterinary healthcare infrastructure in tribal areas among other projects.

## Muharram-ul-Haram...

## DC B'gam Stresses For Smooth Water Supply, Ration And Electricity

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza Friday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review arrangements to be put in place for ensuing Muharram-ul-Haram starting from 10th August.

The meeting was attended by the J&K Shia Association and other representatives of the Shia community.

During the meeting threadbare discussion was held on arrangements like electricity, water supply, roads, ration, firewood, sanitation, Street lighting, medical facilities and fire tenders.

The DC directed the PDD authorities to ensure high mast lights, halogen bulbs and LEDs are in place at all important locations besides that street lights are fully functional.

The PHE authorities were directed to ensure that water tanks are made available at identified locations besides uninterrupted supply of drinking water is also ensured during these auspicious days.

Similarly R&B authorities were directed to repair the dilapidated roads if any at an earliest and the Food Civil Supplies and Con-

sumer Affairs Department was also directed to ensure timely, adequate and prompt supply & distribution of ration.

It was given out that Sugar supply shall be made available at all shia dominated areas by the Cooperative Department in the district. While sanitation drives shall be carried out by municipal committees in urban areas and by Rural Development Department in imambaras in rural areas.

Regarding firewood, the SFC department has been directed to dump the required quantity of firewood at already identified locations as per past practice.

The DC emphasized upon strict adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour during Muharram-ul-Haram besides aggressive sampling at imambaras. The Health department shall circulate an advisory related to do's and don'ts of Covid-19, the DC instructed.

The procession schedule shall be shared in advance by all shia associations with the health department, the DC said.

The DC also directed all SDMs and Tehsildars to hold meetings within their Jurisdiction and discuss and resolve issues if any pertaining to Muharram-ul-Haram at their level.



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED

JUST LIKE THAT AJIT NINAN



Fuel hike car pools

They died so that 70,000  
Afghan troops could sacrifice their lives  
defending a US-backed regime. They died so  
that 47,000-plus Afghan civilians could  
become grist to the Pentagon's iron  
treadmill. They died so that over three  
million would be forced to escape into  
Pakistan and 2m more into Iran and Europe.  
They died so that another 4m Afghans could  
be displaced from their insubstantial homes

STRIP the shroud off Afghanistan. You will not find the bodies of 14,500 Soviet soldiers who died during their government's obsessive nine-year occupation (1979-1989) of that war-savaged country.

Nor will you see the body-bags containing the remains of 2,442 US troops killed, nor over 3,800 US private security contractors ("The Pentagon does not track their deaths").

Do not expect to see the corpses of 1,144 personnel from the 36-nation Nato coalition that supported the US retaliation for 9/11, nor a memorial to 72 journalists and 444 aid workers. These collateral casualties were shipped home for a dignified burial.

They died so that 70,000 Afghan troops could sacrifice their lives defending a US-backed regime. They died so that 47,000-plus Afghan civilians could become grist to the Pentagon's iron treadmill. They died so that over three million would be forced to escape into Pakistan and 2m more into Iran and Europe. They died so that another 4m Afghans could be displaced from their insubstantial homes. To date, which means up to the date of the US's precipitate, ignominious departure, the US has expended over \$2.26 trillion in a stillborn attempt to modernise Afghanistan's archaic tribal society. It leaves behind 5,000 troops as 'caretakers' in a war cemetery without tombstones.

Despite an almost 200-year-long, unequal association between Afghanistan and Great Britain, Afghanistan escaped becoming a British colony and therefore a member of the Commonwealth. It cannot benefit therefore from the assiduous attention of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, whose mission is to "honour and care for the men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the First and Second World Wars". The CWGC maintains 23,000 graveyards of World War casualties across the globe, including one at Rawalpindi. It was deemed important enough to be visited in 1991 by Diana, Princess of Wales.

Since the conflict in Afghanistan began, the country has endured four US presidents, three Afghan presidential puppets, and three heads of the 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan'. It has survived Pakistan's gratuitous appropriation (for its own security purposes) of inhospitable territory under the doctrine of 'strategic depth'. If its history is any measure, Afghanistan will remain sovereign without a sovereign, a state but no nation, unstable, never free, never at peace.

Afghanistan will never experience the post-war renaissance that post-1945 Germany and Japan did.

# Strip The Shroud

F.S. Aijazuddin



It will not become the post-1975 tourist haunt that Vietnam is, nor can it aspire to become another Lebanese phoenix. The West has left it to scavenge for its future amongst its ruins, just as ragged Iraq, Libya and Yemen are being forced to do.

Days after its troops fled their showpiece airbase at Bagram, the US government, in an act of posthumous generosity, delivered 1.4m Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccines under the Covax Facility's dose-sharing scheme. Another 1.9m doses are in transit. How a rump Afghani government, besieged within its beleaguered capital Kabul, will vaccinate so many Afghans across the country no one knows, or cares.

Covid-19 is a scourge of biblical proportions. It has ravaged mankind, disturbed social orders, wrecked economies, and exposed luxurious vanities such as wedding extravaganzas and the Olympic Games.

One can understand why, in 1964, the Japanese were keen on hosting the Summer Olympic Games. They wanted to demonstrate that, within 20 years of being defeated in the Second World War, they had 'arrived', were at par with the victors. The same ambition motivated the Chinese to host the Summer Olympic Games in 2008. (Being an underdog can be a powerful, painful spur.) The Chinese are now determined to repeat their summer success at Beijing in 2022 by hosting the 2022 Winter Olympics. The Chinese should anticipate a boycott. In 1980, a sanctimonious US and 65 of its acolytes boycotted the Summer Olympics in Moscow. They condemned the Soviets for invading — guess where? — Afghanistan.

The Japanese are determined to hold the belated 2020 Olympics, whatever the Covid-19 cost.

They have spent a decade planning it, expended \$15.4 billion already, but must expect only the ignominy of empty stadiums, the sulk of disappointed ticket-holders, and the chagrin of toned athletes who see years of training reduced to a virtual spectator-less spectacle.

Fortunately, Covid-19 bypassed Wimbledon 2021. A mask-less crowd watched the Gentleman's Finals on Sunday, July 11 between the seasoned Serb Novak Djokovic and a younger Italian Matteo Berrettini. Wimbledon is known for its genteel so-

Afghanistan will never experience the post-war renaissance that post-1945 Germany and Japan did. It will not become the post-1975 tourist haunt that Vietnam is, nor can it aspire to become another Lebanese phoenix. The West has left it to scavenge for its future amongst its ruins, just as ragged Iraq, Libya and Yemen are being forced to do

briety. This year's crowd, though, behaved like the raucous overflow from the Euro Soccer Cup 2021, where the Italians vanquished England on penalty shoot-outs. Shouldn't wars be fought the same way? In ancient days, one champion represented each side. More than 38m harried Afghans would have welcomed such life-saving simplicity.

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

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## Fighting the Covid Crises Innovatively

Aabid Gulzar & Azhar Mehmoed

Interestingly, it has been more than a year since the virus outbreak, yet there has been no effort by the government to improve the data collecting technique. Death estimates based on statistical assumptions are creating confusion. For example, a consumer pyramid household survey based on 2,34,000 households, conducted in May-August 2020 by the center for monitoring the Indian Economy showed the covid toll could be more than twice the official reported figure

The havoc that Covid-19 induced Pandemic caused globally is known to us all. Whether the virus resulted from the lab leak in Wuhan or emerged from natural selection is a debate for specialists, however, what concerns the public is the widespread crises in health infrastructure and the (mis)management of the situation. It is in this context that we propose a few points that would help us mitigate effectively the impact of any possible pandemic in the future and improve the condition of health infrastructure. These concern the use of innovation and technology, improving basic amenities, and democratizing the social fabric of society.

Since the recent past, we have been compelled to anticipate a third wave to come and bring the entire machinery to a halt. However, conversations over the management and questions over efficacy should never stop. Thus, the policy advocates should primarily take note of the management of data and figure out ways to improve it from the current situation. First, better data collecting mechanisms should be established and coherent figures presented with highly sophisticated data-collecting technology. Currently in India, the mortality rate of covid 19 is collected by two major data collecting systems one (CRS) Civil Registration System and second (SRC) Sample Registration System, which collects monthly demise data for all population and sample population respectively. Monthly mortality rates are available in many urban municipal offices where death data is covered through civil registration. The sample registration system of India collects monthly mortality data for urban and rural areas, unfortunately, both the systems do not publish this data monthly. Moreover, annual reports are published only after two or three years of collection. The need is to publish this data either weekly or monthly so that

scientific estimates are available for intervention. It is equally necessary to release the data on covid 19 patients collected by the Indian council for medical research (ICMR). In 2020, the ICMR had continuously been collecting hospital-based data. The release of this quality hospital-based data will allow researchers to investigate over covid 19 as well as to study it from a social science perspective.

Interestingly, it has been more than a year since the virus outbreak, yet there

The complicacy doesn't even end here, groups who experience stigma may also experience discrimination. This discrimination can take the form of either othering people, avoiding or rejecting them, or lead to problems in getting healthcare, education, housing, or employment, and so on.

has been no effort by the government to improve the data collecting technique. Death estimates based on statistical assumptions are creating confusion. For example, a consumer pyramid household survey based on 2,34,000 households, conducted in May-August 2020 by the center for monitoring the Indian Economy showed the covid toll could be more than twice the official reported figure. The Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation, USA shows the estimated covid deaths in India are around nine lakhs, three times higher than the current report figure. This happens due to the lack of actual reports of covid victims. From this, we have to improve the data collecting strategies and program by developing technology to separate the covid patients as done by England, when covid started spreading there, they legally self-isolated 7 million people in which 5 million people were not infected which were released after testing. Similar efforts were made by many other countries to overcome this unprecedented situation.

The role of technology and innovation in any crisis management is plenty, however, no system can achieve better efficiency if it doesn't enjoy wider social legitimacy and political support. During the pandemic situation, Stigma associated with the disease and now the vaccine has complicated the process of addressing the crises efficiently. Social Stigma is discrimination against a particular group of people, a place, or a nation in the form of a negative attitude. Public health emergen-

cies (such as the COVID-19 pandemic) are stressful situations for people and communities. Fear and anxiety with a lack of knowledge about the disease can lead to social stigma. The stigma associated with COVID-19 is perceived because of the following factors- It is a new disease for which lots of things are unknown and justly, people are often afraid of the unknown. There is also confusion, anxiety, and fear among the public leading to a negative attitude. However, stigma under pandemic situations can interfere with social coherence contributing to situations that might favour the spread of the disease.

Discriminatory behaviours can negatively affect those with the disease, as well as their caregivers, family, friends, and communities. People who don't have the disease but share other characteristics with this group may also suffer from stigma. It is in this regard the social stigma can- Prevent people from seeking health care immediately, which can lead to disease spread among the population; drive people to hide the

illness to avoid discrimination; discourage people from adopting healthy behaviours; demotivate frontline personnel from carrying out responsibilities etc. The complicacy doesn't even end here, groups who experience stigma may also experience discrimination. This discrimination can take the form of either othering people, avoiding or rejecting them, or lead to problems in getting healthcare, education, housing, or employment, and so on.

Suggestions concerning eradicating stigma are aimed at enhancing positive public response. Everyone can help stop the stigma related to COVID-19 by knowing the facts and sharing them with others in their community or share only the authentic information available related to COVID-19 from reliable sources before forwarding any messages on social media.

The way we communicate can affect the attitudes of others, hence choosing words carefully and getting our vocabulary right with respect to the disease, its victims, and the consequences it leads to. Building psychological support and social mechanisms to establish vibrant social structures can help not only deal with the disease efficiently but also garner efforts to fight this collectively.

While appreciating the efforts of people providing essential services and being supportive of them and their families, we need to work together to promote the importance of preventive measures, early screening, testing, and treatment and to help those who are most vulnerable by keeping them safe.

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

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# Language and Literary Interest

Vijay Garg

**In order to connect the students with literature, periodic book exhibitions, literary conventions, face-to-face meetings of eminent writers should be organized in the educational institutions to achieve the objective of literary awakening in a planned manner with language, literature and writers. Celebrating special days, weeks, fortnights and months in a practical way is an effective tool to engage children with literature**

It is very important for every educational institution to have a library full of books. If students spend at least two periods a week in the library in the presence of language teachers then the idea of Sahage on gold can be true. Different books from the library, Magazines, dictionaries, encyclopedias, dissertations, dissertations, reference materials, etc. Literary interests are nurtured and nurtured. Establishment of Reading Corners in schools and proper use of Literary Corners for Children is the source.

Language teachers can play an important role in inculcating inclusive interests in the students. Literary understanding of the language teacher, fluent language teaching and interest in creating literature is a source of inspiration for all the students. The details of structure, tendencies and literary chronology make it easy to connect the disciplines with the literary world if the poems in the language curriculum are woven into the melodious music and the characters are created from the drama class. Teaching in a dramatic way not only makes the text clear but also lays a solid foundation for inculcating literary habits in the children. The language teachers themselves are constantly engaged in the study and from time to time tell their students good books and magazines to read. Power, motivate to read and issue necessary guidelines after getting feedback from students about the book read. Linking to dictionaries, great dictionaries and encyclopedias should be a language teacher's initiative.

In order to connect the students with literature, periodic book exhibitions, literary conventions, face-to-face meetings of eminent writers should be organized in the educational institutions to achieve the objective of literary awakening in a planned manner with language, literature and writers. Celebrating special days, weeks, fortnights and months in a practical way is an effective tool to engage children with literature. Teachers should encourage students to use radio and TV. Also. By making great efforts to connect the students with the literature through the standard literary series of the University, the students get detailed information not only about the class of drama, monologue, nook drama, but also



knowledge about various subjects, acting skills and drama-monologue reading. And the interest in creation is also strong. Literary students have a strong grip on the language. The richness of words helps to read non-literary subjects in depth through their medium, while the spoken language is also more. Deals with being sustainable, robust, effective and efficient.

Nowadays in every newspaper you can read many literary genres like story, mini story, novel, drama, monologue, song, ghazal, poem, poem, rhyme, satire, essay, article, sketch, travelogue excerpt, review, satire etc. If students get in the habit of reading newspapers then they get acquainted with various literary forms and topics. The sole purpose of many literary magazines and book series is to create interest in the field of literature with various literary genres.

Such literary journals can be helpful in terms of literary understanding for the youth. Standard works of students can also be sent for publication in various newspapers and magazines. Self-created works of students interested in writing. / Good work can be done to increase enthusiasm by pub-

lishing in college magazines Morning meetings in schools are a powerful means of self-expression for talented literary thinking children

If students give gifts of books or dictionaries to each other, relatives and close ones on special occasions then a good literary atmosphere can be created. Undoubtedly in today's age we are going through a dynamic phase of information revolution computers, internet, laptops. The youth are abusing many scientific gifts instead of using them. On the contrary, there are many softwares, websites and apps available which aim to satisfy the intellectual and artistic appetite of the consumers associated with literature, language and art.

Teachers themselves are aware of such modern information-world and to make their students aware of its proper use, their typing can be strengthened by teaching typing according to the interest of the students. The student's mind becomes happy, where his empty pocket is filled with knowledge of the concerns of human society.

*The author is a retired School principal*

## India's Wicked Problem How To Loosen Its Grip On Coal While Not Abandoning The Millions Who Depend On It

Vigya Sharma  
Chris Greig | Paul Lant

India is the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases, and its transition to a low-carbon economy is crucial to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. But unfortunately, the nation is still clinging firmly to coal.

Our new research considered this problem, drawing on a case study in the Angul district, India's largest coal reserve in the eastern state of Odisha.

We found three main factors slowing the energy transition: strong political and community support for coal, a lack of alternative economic activities, and deep ties between coal and other industries such as rail.

India must step away from coal, while maintaining economic growth and not leaving millions of people in coal-mining regions worse off. Our research probes this wicked problem in detail and suggests ways forward.

### Why India matters

India's population will soon reach 1.4 billion and this decade it is expected to overtake China as the world's most populous nation. This, combined with a young population, growing economy and rapid urbanisation, means energy consumption in India has doubled since 2000.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates India will have the largest increase in energy demand of any country between now and 2040.

An affordable, reliable supply of energy is central to raising the nation's living standards. A recent World Bank analysis found up to 150 million people in India are poor.

Alongside its massive reliance on coal, India has one of the world's most ambitious renewable energy plans, including an aim to quadruple renewable electricity capacity by 2030.

The IEA says coal accounts for about 70% of India's electricity generation. And as the nation rebounds from the coronavirus pandemic this year, the rise in coal-fired electricity production is expected to be three times that from cleaner sources.

Coal-powered generation is anticipated to grow annually by 4.6% to 2024, and coal is expected to remain a major emitter of greenhouse gases to 2040.



While India's energy trajectory remains aligned with its commitments under the Paris Agreement, the speed and readiness of its transition remains a complex, divisive issue. The World Economic Forum's 2021 Energy Transition Index ranks India 87th out of 115 countries analysed.

### Bottlenecks in the transition

Our research involved visits to the Angul district in Odisha in 2018 and 2019, where we conducted focus groups and interviews. Angul is home to 11 coal mines.

We found three crucial bottlenecks to the energy transition, which arguably exist in India's other coal belts and could derail the nation's decarbonisation efforts.

First, the Odisha government has historically been very pro-business. Politicians across the spectrum support coal mining and seek to position it as the region's primary economic lifeline.

The official pro-coal position receives little pushback from Angul residents, who are largely unaware of

**While India's energy trajectory remains aligned with its commitments under the Paris Agreement, the speed and readiness of its transition remains a complex, divisive issue. The World Economic Forum's 2021 Energy Transition Index ranks India 87th out of 115 countries analysed**

Odisha's contribution to national greenhouse gas emissions. Any local opposition to coal usually stems from concern about environmental degradation such as air, water and land pollution.

Most of Angul's residents felt a deep connection to coal because their livelihood depends on it. One participant told us:

even if all the water is polluted and five inches of dust settles on our well, we would prefer mining to continue as my family's survival depends on (the contract with the mining company).

Most participants considered their farming land as an asset to be sold to the mining companies for a significant sum. The money would, in turn, allow them to start a business, buy a car or arrange a marriage in the family.

Second, the heavy reliance on coal means efforts to diversify the region's economy have been grossly neglected.

In Angul, mining zones and coal-dedicated railway lines passing through paddy fields mean agricultural productivity has declined over

time. Rural development agendas have been short-lived, often set within six months of an election deadline then changed or abandoned.

Skill-development programs in non-coal vocations have also been limited. This lack of viable alternatives implicitly generates local support for coal.

And third, a suite of industries in Odisha – such as steel, cement, fertiliser and bauxite – depend on cheap coal for power. This is reflected across India, where coal has deep ties with other industries in ways not seen elsewhere.

For example, in 2016 Indian Railways earned 44% of its freight revenue from transporting coal. Indian Railways is India's largest employer and coal revenue helps keep passenger fares low. So in this way, a potential coal phaseout in India would have far-reaching effects.

### The way forward

We offer these pathways to ensure a steady, just energy transition in India:

- India must help its coal regions diversify their economic activities
- bipartisan support for a coal-free India is needed. Transition champions such as Germany can show India's leaders the way
- a national taskforce for energy transition should be established. It should include representatives from across industry and academia, as well as climate policymakers and grassroots organisations
- India's coal regions are endowed with metals needed in the energy transition, including iron ore, bauxite and manganese. With improved regulatory standards, these offer economic alternatives to coal
- concerns about the coal phase-out from communities in coal regions should be addressed fairly and in a timely way.

The world's emerging economies are responsible for two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions. The energy transition in India, if done well, could show the way for other developing nations.

But as new industrial sectors emerge and clean energy jobs grow, India must ensure those in coal-dependent regions are not left behind.

*By arrangements with the Conversation*



# Idea sharing increases online learner engagement: Study

## Agencies

According to a new study, sharing ideas in an online learning environment has a distinct advantage over sharing personal details in driving learner engagement in massive open online courses, more commonly known as MOOCs.

The findings of the study appeared in the 'Journal of Marketing Research'.

Online learning engagement can be increased by nearly one-third by simply prompting students to share course ideas in a discussion forum rather than having them share information about their identity or personal motivations for enrolling, said Unnati Narang, a professor of business administration at the Gies College of Business.

With less than 10 per cent of online learners completing courses, and less than 5 per cent participating in course discussions, there's a stark need for online learning platforms to identify and employ strategies that can enhance student engagement, Narang said.

"Engagement levels have tended to be really low in online classrooms simply because students may not ever get the chance to get to know each other in the way they do in an in-person, face-to-face classroom," she said.

She added, "A lot of those elements are, quite obviously, lacking in the online learning environment."

Initially, online platforms placed a lot of emphasis on having discussion forums to engage students. But over time, those efforts tended to fizzle out.



"Even if a student is posting something, it may never be read by a classmate or by the instructor, which can really demotivate students who are trying to engage in the material," Narang said.

To determine how to increase learner engagement, Narang and her co-authors analysed more than 12,000 discussion forum postings during an 18-month period and conducted a field experiment involving more than 2,000 learners in a popular online course offered by a large US university.

"We randomly nudged students to either share something personal about themselves or ideas related to the course," she said.

She added, "We thought we were going to see an increase in engagement thanks to the social aspects of identity sharing because there's so much emphasis on it in face-to-face classes for icebreakers and social introductions."

The results indicated that asking learners to share ideas related to the course had a stronger effect on their video consumption and assessment completion.

"We found that the idea of sharing knowledge outperforms identity sharing as well as the control condition of not sharing anything," Narang said.

She added, "Across diverse

metrics of learner engagement and performance, we found that what learners share plays a big role in enhancing the online learning environment, and they tended to perform 30 per cent better in terms of how many videos they consumed, how many assessments they completed and how they scored on assessments. So there's a distinct advantage to idea sharing in online pedagogy."

For educators, the implications of what the researchers dubbed the "idea advantage" in an era of increased online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic suggests that identity sharing tends to be superficial and brief, so it's better to push students to engage more in the course content and their ideas about what they're studying.

"Just very basic getting-to-know-you introductions that instructors make in a physical classroom - who are you, where you're from, etc. - doesn't really translate into the online learning environment," she said.

"There's just too much anonymity to successfully do that when you're in a virtual classroom. The idea posts, on the other hand, tend to be much more elaborate and well-articulated. Students put more time and effort into crafting their answers. On average, an idea-sharing post was 66 words long. But an identity-sharing post tended to be roughly half as long," she added.

"Students were clearly more invested in ideas than trying to make friends in the online learning environment, thus why the idea advantage is so strong," Narang concluded.

## ‘Air pollution exposure associated with poor academics in childhood’

### Agencies

Parents, take note! Children exposed to elevated levels of air pollution may be more likely to have poor inhibitory control during late childhood and poor academic skills in early adolescence, including spelling, reading comprehension, and math skills, a new study suggested.

Difficulty with inhibition in late childhood was found to be a precursor to later air pollution-related academic problems.

Interventions that target inhibitory control might improve outcomes.

The results of the study by researchers at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (CCCEH) at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and Columbia University Irving Medical Center are published in the journal 'Environmental Research'.

"Children with poor inhibitory control are less able to override a common response in favor of a more

unusual one—such as the natural response to say 'up' when an arrow is facing up or 'go' when a light is green—and instead say 'down' or 'stop,'" said first author Amy Margolis, PhD, associate professor of medical psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

"By compromising childhood inhibitory control, prenatal exposure to air pollution may alter the foundation upon which later academic skills are built," added Margolis.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITAL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Electric) Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura Srinagar

Notice inviting E-tenders

NIT NO: SIMS/HEE/E/ET/08of 2021-22 Dated: 15-07-2021

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor Union Territory of J&K, E-tenders in two covers are invited from Registered Electrical contractors registered with competent Authority for following work:-

Name of the Work	Advertised Amount	CDR Amount	Cost of tender document	Qualifying Criteria
Electrification which includes providing & fixing of LED luminaries / Fans & Safety Devices etc. in newly constructed Four rooms including washrooms in second floor of old CSSD building to be converted into SR rooms at SKIMS MCH Bemina.	Rs 1.85/- Lacs		Rs 500/=	As envisaged in bidding document

1.	Major Head of Accounts	Capex (4210)
2.	Position of AA	Accorded
3.	Technical Sanction	Accorded
4.	Position of Funds	Committed
5.	Start date of downloading Tender documents from website (www.jktenders.gov.in)	16/07/2021 (4.00PM)
6.	Period for Receiving Bids online	From 17/07/2021(4.00PM) To 02/08/2021 (4.00 PM)
7.	Deadline for receiving original instruments of EMD & tender fee in the office of the "Chief Engineer" SKIMS Soura Srinagar – 190011 J&K.	03/08/2021 (2.00 PM)
8.	Time and date for opening of pre-qualification bids	04/08/2021 (12.00 PM)
9.	Time of Completion	30 Days

Sd/

Executive Engineer Electric  
SKIMS Soura

SIMS 139/XEN/E/TN-08/2021-22-1162-68  
Dated: 15-07-2021

DIPK-NB-1857/21



## JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Solina Srinagar, Kashmir - 190001

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>  
email: [jkpscsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:jkpscsecretary@gmail.com)

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530  
Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

Subject :- Revised interview Notice for the post of Consultant, Pediatrics in Health & Medical Education Department, notified vide Notification No. 12-PSC of 2019 dated 01-10-2019.

### NOTICE

Dated: -14-07-2021

The interview of the following eligible candidates for the post of Consultant, Pediatrics in Health & Medical Education Department, notified vide Notification No. 12-PSC of 2019 dated 01-10-2019, shall now be held at J&K Public Service Commission Office, Solina, Srinagar as per the following schedule.

S. No	Name of the candidate	Interview Date	Time	Subject to production of:
1.	Jehangir Allam Bhat	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	MD Registration
2.	Feroz Ahmad wani	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Registration of MD
3.	Tafazzul Ahmad Meer	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	State Registration of diploma
4.	Syed Muneeb ur rehman qadri	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result Notification, State Registration of Diploma/DNB
5.	Sheetal Ganjoo	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
6.	Audil Mateen	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result Notification
7.	Raman Sharma	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	All MBBS Marks Card
8.	Alok Raina	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
9.	Sandeep Raina	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result Notification
10.	Pallavi Sharma	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification
11.	Sanjanasharma	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
12.	Prabjot Singh	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result Notification, Diploma Certificate
13.	Priyanka Sharma	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
14.	Rais Ahmad Bhat	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
15.	Junaid Manzoor	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
16.	Ishtiaq Qadir	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	All Marks Cards of MBBS
17.	ZulEldain Hassan	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
18.	Ehsanul Haq Malik	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
19.	Nisar Ahmad Bhat	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notify
20.	Irfan Ahmad bhat	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	State Registration of MD
21.	Mudasir Nazir Wani	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	MD degree & State Registration of MD
22.	Saaneet Singh	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Provisionally - PG diploma awaited.
23.	Wani Shahid Hussain	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
24.	Ghazi Shakeel Ahmad	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification
25.	Iqbal Mushatq	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification, State Registration of MD
26.	Wasim Qadir	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result Notification
27.	Khalid Mohi udin Kawoosa	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
28.	Basim Aslam	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification
29.	Mohd Rayees Khanday	12-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification
30.	Tanveer Bashir	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification, State Registration of DNB
31.	Mohammad Saleem Chisti	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
32.	Haris Nazir Khan	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	All Marks Cards of MBBS
33.	Rashid Rasool Malla	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	MD Registration
34.	Mumta Chauhan	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result Notification
35.	Najmus Saqib	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
36.	Jasmin Shafi	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification
37.	Sajad Jehan	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	MBBS Marks Card
38.	Javiad Maqbool	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	MD Registration
39.	Tasleem Arif Bhat	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	MD Result Notification
40.	Nisar Ahmad	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
41.	Mohsin Rashid	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	State Registration of MD
42.	Vaqqim Rasool	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
43.	Armer Bashir	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result Notification
44.	Abdul Mateen	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
45.	Syed Kiaser Jan	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result Notification
46.	Assiya Unjum	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification
47.	Wasim Ahmad Wani	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	State Registration of MD
48.	Nuksheeba Aziz Bhat	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification
49.	Mudasir Ahmad Wani	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification
50.	Irfan Qayoom	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification
51.	Iram Ali	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
52.	Zubair Ahmad Wani	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result Notification, Diploma, state registration of Diploma
53.	Javaid Ahmad Bhat	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	-
54.	Nisar Hussain	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification, Diploma certificate and all marks cards of MBBS.
55.	Stazen Chakdour	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	Result notification
56.	Mohd Rafiq Lone	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	MD Degree
57.	Sanjit Singh	13-08-2021	09:00 AM	-

Note:

- The candidature of all the candidates is purely provisional. The documents of the candidates will be again verified at the time of interview. In case, any discrepancy with regard to age and other eligibility condition is noticed at the time of interview or thereafter, the candidate(s) shall not be allowed to appear in the interview or where the candidate has already appeared in interview, the candidature shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.
- The candidate shall produce their original certificates/testimonials along with hard copy of application forms on the date of interview.
- Experience Certificate, if any, or as applicable shall be submitted by the candidate as per the prescribed format either before the commencement of interview or at the time of interview.
- The candidates shall ensure that the publications/presentations/books/book chapter which they intend to place before the interview board for evaluation shall be properly bound and indexed with cover page in the format available on the website <http://www.jkpsc.nic.in>.

Sd/-

(R. K Katoch) KAS  
Secretary  
J&K Public Service Commission

DIPK-4821/21

No. PSC/DR/Consultant/ Pediatrics /2019

Dated: 14-07-2021

## UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Electrical Contractors registered with Union territory of J&K Govt., PDD/PW Departments, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following work:-

S. No:	Name of the work	Estimated Cost of the work (In Lacs)	Cost of tender document (In Rs.) In shape of E-Challan	Time allowed for completion of the work	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender	Time and Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contract
1.	2	3	5	6	7	9	10
	Electrification of 02 Storeyed Building for Health Centre at North Campus.	33.20	Rs.1100/-	06-Working Months	15-07-2021 To 26-07-2021 (6.00PM)	27-07-2021 (11.00AM)	"AA"

The bid forms and other details can be downloaded from the website [www.kashmiruniversity.net](http://www.kashmiruniversity.net) / [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

NIT No: - F (E.Tend) (UCD) KU/22/21  
DATED: -14-07-2021

Executive Engineer

DIPK-NB-1865/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

## Directorate of Skill Development, J&K, Srinagar

SRINAGAR : By-Pass Road, Bemina Srinagar, and 190018 Phone: 0194-2491613, Fax 0194-2491668  
JAMMU : Polytechnic Premises, Bikram Chowk, Jammu 180001 Phone: 0191-2435190, Fax 0191-2451345  
IDs: [jkdtel@gmail.com](mailto:jkdtel@gmail.com), [jkdtte@gmail.com](mailto:jkdtte@gmail.com)

### ADMISSION NOTICE

Online applications are invited from the desirous candidates for seeking admission in Government/Private ITIs of UT of J&K, for the academic session 2021-22-23 in various engineering/non engineering trades having duration of two years/one year/six months being run under NCVT/SCVT scheme and commencing from September 2021, for which the forms can be uploaded from 16th of July 2021. Candidates having minimum age of 14 years, as on 1st June 2021, with no upper age bar (except Driver cum Mechanic LMV trade, for which minimum age is 18 years) can apply. The desirous candidates have to fill up the admission forms online available at ITI admission like (<http://itiadmissions.ikdsd.org>) present on the official website of Directorate of Skill Development (erstwhile Technical Education) J&K i.e. [www.ikdsd.org](http://www.ikdsd.org).

The last date for applying online is upto 05th of August 2021. The details pertaining to trades functioning in various Government/Private ITIs, for which admissions are to be made for the session 2021-22-23 for free and self financing seat are available in the portal and can also be sought from the concerned ITIs.

The candidates have to fill up the complete details which include basic details of the student like name, parentage etc and qualification details online in the portal and have to upload the soft copy of the following documents online only:-

- Marks certificate of qualifying examination.
- Date of birth certificate.
- Category certificate (SC/ST/Ex-serviceman/Physically handicapped/EWS) if any.
- Aadhaar card.

(Domicile certificate should be produced at the time of admission in the respective ITI).

The candidates after finalizing the profile and application online will be required to deposit the print out of the system generated application in the concerned ITI in which the candidate is applying along with self attested photo copies of above mentioned required documents in the concerned institute. The detailed guidelines for verifying the application forms by the ITIs will be issued separately to the institutes.

The candidate has to pay a fee of Rs. 100/- (one hundred) per three trades in which he/she is seeking admission against cash receipt from the respective ITI.

The detailed guidelines for filling the application forms by the candidates is also available on ITI admission portal. In case of any technical issues kindly mail on [helpmesbte@gmail.com](mailto:helpmesbte@gmail.com)

### Important Note:

- Selection will be made purely on the basis of academic merit obtained by the applicants in their qualifying examination (both for free and self financing seats separately).
- On successful completion of training in trades running under NCVT/SCVT scheme, certificate will be awarded by National/State Council for Vocational Training.
- Candidates who have already undergone training in any of the trades in any ITI can apply for admissions in another trade after two years after completion of previous training course. However, for the ensuing academic session, their admission can be considered in any trade having poor response.

No. DSD/401/Trgs/2021/ 44-135  
Dated: 15/07/2021

DIPK-4852/21

(Sudreshan Kumar ) KAS  
Director



## Covid shatters Hajj dreams of older pilgrims

Agencies

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia has for a second consecutive year confined the annual Hajj to a limited number of residents

Samia Ahmed saved up for 16 years, but like many older Muslims she fears that renewed Covid-19 curbs will prevent her from ever making the Hajj pilgrimage.

Saudi Arabia has for a second consecutive year confined the annual Hajj to a limited number of residents, excluding the millions of foreigners who usually flock to Mecca for the rite that every able-bodied Muslim is obliged to perform at least once.

With her advancing age and declining health foremost in her mind, Ahmed, a 68-year-old Egyptian, cried for days when restrictions were announced last year, months

holiest sites.

Pilgrims will each walk round the Kaaba -- Islam's focal point -- seven times, spend a night on a plain between Mina and Arafat, and symbolically stone the devil by casting stones at three pillars, among other rites.

"I would so much like to make the Hajj before I die. I don't know if I'll be alive next year," she sobbed, clutching blue Muslim prayer beads.

'Going to meet God'

While the well-heeled can do the Hajj in style, lodging at luxury hotels in Mecca, in poor countries the faithful wait for years and make heavy sacrifices to become one of some 2.5 million pilgrims who take part in a normal year.

But in 2020, just months after the pandemic made large-scale events impos-



after the coronavirus pandemic hit.

"I had paid the travel agency and had really started to prepare everything," the retired civil servant said.

The hajj is widely seen as the high point in Muslim religious life, bringing the faithful together with millions of fellow believers to fulfil a spiritual obligation at Islam's

sible, only 10,000 residents of Saudi Arabia were able to make the journey to Islam's holiest city, in the west of the kingdom.

This year the Gulf kingdom has expanded the pilgrimage to 60,000 residents who must be aged 18 to 65 years, vaccinated against the coronavirus and not suffering from any chronic disease.

## Lebanon in freefall as France announces aid conference

Agencies

Beirut: The country's Prime Minister-designated Saad Hariri resigned from his position on Thursday after failed to form a government

Lebanon faced yet more misery on Friday after premier-designate Saad Hariri failed to form a government, and as France prepares to host an aid conference on the first anniversary of the country's port blast.

Hariri's exit on Thursday comes amid a financial collapse branded by the World Bank as one of the planet's worst since the 19th century.

His departure leaves the country rudderless as Lebanon faces soaring poverty, a plummeting currency, angry protests and shortages of basic items from medicine to fuel.

Caretaker health minister Hamad Hassan said on Friday the government would scrap subsidies on medicines costing less than \$8 at the official

rate to shore up foreign currency reserves.

Protests on Friday flared in the northern city of Tripoli over the deepening crisis, sparking clashes with the army that the Lebanese Red Cross said left at least 19 people wounded.

The army said young men had lobbed a hand grenade towards its forces, wounding five soldiers.

In a separate statement, it said another 10 soldiers were wounded by stones thrown by protestors.

Former colonial power France, which has spearheaded international efforts to lift Lebanon out of crisis, said on Friday it would host an aid conference on August 4 to "respond to the needs of the Lebanese, whose situation is deteriorating every day."

The date coincides with the first anniversary of a vast explosion at Beirut port that killed more than 200 people and levelled swathes of the capital.



## Delta Variant Engulfs These Asian Countries With Fastest-Growing Deaths

Michael S. Arnold, Jinshan Hong, Bloomberg

Washington: Southeast Asia is emerging as a battlefield for one of the world's worst COVID-19 outbreaks, due to the fast-spreading Delta variant and the slow rollout of vaccines.

With a population about twice that of the US, the momentum of the region's outbreak has now eclipsed previously hard-hit places like Latin America and India, with cases jumping 41% over the past week to more than a half-million, according to Bloomberg analysis of Johns Hopkins University data. Deaths rose 39% in the seven days through Wednesday, the quickest pace in the world, and will likely rise further as a spike in fatalities typically follows a surge in cases.

Meanwhile, Southeast Asia's overall vaccination rate of 9% lags developed regions like Western Europe and North America -- where more than half the population has received shots -- and outpaces only Africa and Central Asia.

As large parts of the developed world reopen for business, the worsening situation across most of Southeast Asia means they're re-imposing growth-sapping movement curbs. Singapore is the exception, where sealed borders and high vaccination rates are keeping the virus contained in the region's sole developed economy.

Equities and currencies across the region have sold off in recent weeks, while governments are forced to blow out their fiscal deficits and central banks run short of ammunition. That comes as the US Federal Reserve undertakes early discussions about tapering asset purchases, reducing room for policy makers in Asia to ease policy further without risking weaker currencies.

"Given the slow pace of vaccinations, with the exception of Singapore, we expect the recovery will be bumpy, and the risk of further periods of heightened restrictions remains," said Sian Fenner,

Singapore-based senior Asia economist at Oxford Economics Ltd. "The rise in uncertainty is also likely to lead to further economic scarring."

Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, surpassed India in new daily cases this week, cementing its position as a new Asian virus epicenter, while several of its neighbors are also seeing record case numbers.

Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines have already cut their gross domestic product forecasts for this year, and Malaysia says it will follow suit soon. Vietnam, one of the few economies in the world that continued growing strongly last year, under-shot forecasts for the first half of 2021 and is now struggling with an outbreak in areas that house major industrial parks.

Before the pandemic, Southeast Asia's largest economies combined would have been the world's fifth-biggest, behind Germany, according to World Bank data.

Dimmer Outlook

Southeast Asia has been buoyed by strong global demand for exports, particularly electronics, as the pandemic sapped traditional drivers such as consumption and tourism. That external demand could change, however, auguring further pain for the region.

"Now that advanced economies in the west are re-opening, their demand dynamics will likely shift from goods to services, which implies that Asian export growth will likely soften over the coming months," said Tuuli McCully, Singapore-based head of Asia-Pacific economics at Scotiabank. "For the economic recovery to remain on track, domestic demand would need to pick up, yet the concerning virus situation is dampening such prospects."

Led by shares in Vietnam, the MSCI Asean Index has lost 1.7% this month, extending its 3.4% slide in June. Thailand's baht, emerging Asia's worst performing currency this year, has lost about 5% since mid-June,

around the time the Delta variant emerged in the country, while the Philippine peso has lost 4.2%.

In a note Thursday, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. economists said they were lowering second-half growth forecasts by an average of 1.8 percentage points across Southeast Asia, with the largest cuts for Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand.

Renewed outbreaks and tighter restrictions are "likely to weigh significantly more on GDP growth in second half than we had previously estimated," the economists said.

That comes as policy interest rates across the region are at or near all-time lows and governments find themselves with limited space to spend more. Malaysia, which already has passed four stimulus packages this year, says it's considering raising the debt ceiling as it runs out of fiscal space. Indonesia recently hinted it may not get the budget deficit under control as quickly as planned, after raising the statutory limit last year. The Philippine government, which just paid off a \$40-billion (\$10.8 billion) loan from the central bank last week, immediately turned around and sought another one.

The need to increase stimulus spending, while simultaneously missing revenue means "a more difficult start to fiscal consolidation for these governments following high shortfalls in 2020, and in many cases a weaker fiscal performance this year than previously anticipated," said Andrew Wood, a Singapore-based analyst for S&P Global Ratings.

In its recent move to downgrade the Philippines' credit rating outlook to negative, Fitch Ratings noted that the pandemic creates potential "scarring effects" that could hold back medium-term growth. S&P issued a similar warning to Indonesia on Thursday, saying the COVID-19 surge and extended lockdown have material implications on the economy and would chip away at credit rating buffers.

## PM Khan: Afghan Taliban 'sensing victory', won't listen to Pakistan

Agencies

Islamabad: Pakistan's Imran Khan rejects Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's allegations about Islamabad's "negative role" in Afghanistan, saying no country has tried harder to get Taliban insurgents on the negotiation table.

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani and Pakistan's PM Imran Khan attend Central-South Asia trade Summit in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on July 16, 2021.

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani and Pakistan's PM Imran Khan attend Central-South Asia trade Summit in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on July 16, 2021. (Reuters)

Prime Minister Imran Khan has slammed Afghanistan's accusation of "playing negative role" in the war-torn country, saying Pakistan hosts some three million Afghan refugees and that no country has tried harder to get Taliban insurgents on the dialogue table.

Responding to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's allegations regarding Pakistan's role in the ongoing Afghan conflict, PM Khan said on Friday such comments disappointed him despite his country's "positive" role in the Afghan peace process.

"President Ghani, let me just say that the country that is



going to be most affected by turmoil in Afghanistan is Pakistan," Khan responded to Ghani while addressing an international conference in Uzbekistan.

"Pakistan suffered 70,000 casualties in the last 15 years. The last thing Pakistan wants is more conflict," Khan said.

"I can assure you that no country has tried harder to get the Taliban on the dialogue table than Pakistan. We have made every effort, short of taking a military action against the Taliban in Pakistan," Pakistani premier said, adding: "To blame Pakistan for what is going on in Afghanistan is extremely unfair."

## Pak -sponsored Afghan conference postponed on Ghani's request

Agencies

Islamabad: The Pakistan-sponsored three-day Afghanistan conference which was scheduled to be held tomorrow (Saturday) has been postponed following the request of deferment of the summit by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. Sources revealed that the Afghanistan conclave has been postponed on the request of Afghan President Ghani.

The three-day summit was to be hosted by Pakistan. President Ghani during his meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan in Tashkent requested to postpone the summit.

Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan requested Afghanistan to consider Pakistan as a 'partner of peace' rather than blaming it for the ongoing territorial war in Afghanistan, which he said was the 'outcome of using a military solution by the United States instead of a political one'.

"Blaming Pakistan for what is going on in Afghanistan is extremely unfair... Peace in Afghanistan is our

foremost priority," the prime minister added, in his counter narrative to the speech of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at the conference on 'Central and South Asia Regional Connectivity, challenges and opportunities' held at Congress Centre.

Rejecting the allegations put forward by President Ghani made against Pakistan for "not supporting peace", the prime minister clearly stated that Pakistan did not want any unrest in its neighbourhood because peace was in its own interest.

"Mr Ghani, I want to make it clear to you that Pakistan will be the last country to think about supporting turmoil and unrest in Afghanistan," he said.

"The Afghan Peace Conference scheduled to be held in Islamabad from 17-19 July 2021 has been postponed until after Eid Al-Adha. The new dates of the conference will be announced later," Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said on Friday.

## All passengers survive after plane makes hard landing in Siberia

All 19 people on board a Russian Antonov An-28 passenger plane that vanished from radars in Siberia survived after the aircraft made a hard landing on Friday, the emergencies ministry said.

The aircraft -- operated by SILA, a small airline offering regional flights in Siberia -- went missing while flying from the town of Kedrovoy to the city of Tomsk.

However, the aircraft was located after helicopters were dispatched to search for it.

The ministry said all 19 people on board had survived and were now being evacuated from the site.

The incident comes less than two weeks after a similar aircraft, an Antonov An-26, crashed into a cliff in poor



visibility conditions on the remote Kamchatka peninsula in Russia's far east, killing all 28 people on board.

An Antonov-28, the same type of plane that went missing over Tomsk, crashed in a Kamchatka forest in 2012, killing 10 people. Investigators

said both pilots were drunk at the time of the crash.

Russian aviation safety standards have improved in recent years but accidents, especially involving ageing planes in far-flung regions, are not uncommon.

## Napoleon hat may fetch up to 600,000 euros at auction

A hat worn by Napoleon during his 1807 military campaign against Prussian and Russian forces could fetch 600,000 euros (\$710,000) when it goes on sale in September, auctioneers Sotheby's said Thursday.

The distinctive two-cornered black felt hat is one of 19 that historians have identified as having been worn by the emperor, Sotheby's said ahead of the auction of memorabilia to mark 200 years since the emperor's death.

The last bicorne hat to be auctioned, which was said to have been taken as a war trophy from the scene of Napoleon's ultimate defeat, the Battle of Waterloo, fetched 350,000 euros at auction in 2018.

The latest to go under



the hammer was acquired in 1814 by a Scottish politician, Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, whose family has owned it since.

It is believed to have been worn during Napoleon's battlefield victories against Prussian and Russian troops in 1807 as well as the signing

royal family.

The huge appetite for memorabilia led to a fragile gold laurel leaf from the crown made for his coronation in 1804 selling for 625,000 euros in 2017, while a jewelry set worn by his adopted daughter sold for 1.4 million euros in May.

As well as being one of the best-known and instantly recognisable French figures, usually depicted in his frock coat and sideways hat, Napoleon is also one of the most divisive characters in the country's history.

French President Emmanuel Macron led commemorations in May for Napoleon 200 years after his death, saying "few destinies have shaped so many lives beyond their own" and that the emperor was "part of us."



# Rajnath Singh Meets AK Antony And Sharad Pawar, Briefs Them On Ladakh Border Row With China

**NEW DELHI:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday met Congress leader AK Antony and NCP chief Sharad Pawar and is learnt to have briefed them about the border row with China in eastern Ladakh as well as the current situation in the region, people familiar with the development said.

The former defence ministers were also provided with some details about India's military preparedness in the region during the meeting, which was also attended by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and Army Chief

Gen MM Naravane, they said.

The meeting is seen as an effort by Singh to reach out to the Opposition ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament beginning July 19. However, there was no official comment about the meeting.

Earlier in the day, Leader of House in Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal also met opposition leaders, including Pawar and former prime minister Manmohan Singh.

Congress has already indicated that it will raise the border row with China in the Parliament. While Antony

served as India's defence minister from October 2006 to May 2014, Pawar held the post from June 1991 to March 1993.

On Wednesday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Dushanbe on the sidelines of a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

During the talks, Jaishankar firmly conveyed to Wang that prolongation of the existing situation in eastern Ladakh was visibly impacting the bilateral ties in a "negative manner" and rued that there

was no forward movement since the disengagement in Pangong lake areas in February. At the meeting, the two foreign ministers agreed to hold the next round of military dialogue at the earliest to discuss all the remaining issues.

There has been a stalemate in the disengagement process between the two militaries in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh after they withdrew troops and weapons from the Pangong lake areas in February following a series of military and diplomatic talks to resolve the standoff.

# HDFC Bank Adjudged Best For Wealth Transfer By Asiamoney

**MUMBAI:** HDFC Bank has been recognized for excellence in the Asiamoney Asia Private Banking Awards 2021. The bank has been adjudged Best for Wealth Transfer Succession Planning category in India in Asiamoney Asia Private Banking Awards 2021.

In the award citation, Asiamoney writes: "With a motto like "We Understand Your World," the pressure is on a bank to deliver, particularly during a once-in-a-century crisis. In 2020, HDFC Bank managed to do just that and more. Yet even after

the 58% increase in assets under management HDFC pulled off over the last year, private banking and investment banking group head Rakesh Singh is circumspect. That's particularly so of how digitally ready his unit was as Covid-19 upended 2020."

Asiamoney's Asia Private Banking Awards aims to identify the best entities in private banking business, by region and by areas of service, over the past 12 months.

The award decisions were made by a judging panel comprising its senior editors and chaired by Asiamoney editor.

The magazine relies on the pitch submissions from the banks, independent research, and interviews to conclude the decisions.

The Hong Kong – based magazine further writes: "HDFC realized the long-term nature of trust and estate planning services, and put in place a very stringent process for choosing referral partners in this part of the market. The bank operates representative offices overseas, with off shore branches around the globe. That enabled the bank to make some solid investment calls in 2020."

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### People Must Be

Meanwhile, the Lt Governor also passed specific directions to the DCs and SPs pertaining to other issues of public importance. Taking festive season into consideration, the Lt Governor directed for keeping a strict check on the prices of the commodities. He further directed the DCs to identify accident-prone areas in their respective districts and take preventive measures.

The Lt Governor advised the DCs and SPs to use official media platforms to counter misinformation intended to disrupt peace or hurt religious sentiments.

Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed briefing on various critical factors of the Covid management.

He informed that the positivity rate in J&K has reduced to 0.3 %, besides 18 Districts are in Green Zone as per new set indicators with 99% population in 45 and above age group is now vaccinated with 1st dose.

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

## CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

### 2 Militants Killed

that the militants Irfan & Bilal had left TRF and joined ISJK.

The slain militants, he said, were involved in civilian "atrocities" and several attacks on police and security personnel, including the killing of PSO of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader at Natipora on December 14 last year, 2 CRPF men at Lawaypora in March this year, Constable Javid Ahmad near his Saidpora residence last month besides the killing of Inspector Parvez Ahmad at Manganwari, Nowgam while he was on his way to offer prayers at a local Masjid.

"They were also involved in the killing of a civilian Umer Nazir Bhat at his shop in Main Chowk Habba Kadal," he said.

Giving more details, the police spokesperson said that the killed militants were also involved in a series of grenade and petrol bomb attacks on police and security personnel in the City, including the attack on a joint party of CRPF and police in Barabarshah last month in which a civilian was killed and three others injured.

Both the killed militants, he said, have been instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join "terror folds" in Srinagar and its adjoining areas.

"Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 01 AK-47 rifle, 01 pistol and 04 grenades were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes," the police spokesperson said.

He also quoted IGP Kashmir as congratulating the joint forces for the big success that led to the elimination of "two most wanted terrorists" who were wanted by the law for their involvement in several "terror crime" cases.

IGP also said that during this year, 78 militants have been neutralized in Kashmir valley, including 39 from LeT and other outfits like HM, Al-Badr, JeM & AuGH.

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

### No Ban On

Animal Welfare Board of India every year issues advisory regarding animal slaughtering to be carried out while following laws and rules. The same advisory has been issued this year also

and has been forwarded to the concerned authorities," he said.

On Thursday, in a communication addressed to the divisional commissioners and IGPs of Jammu as well as Kashmir, the J&K Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries department had called for banning slaughter of cows, calves, and camels on the occasion of the Muslim festival during which sacrificing sheep, cows, calves and camels is an important ritual.

Director Planning, J-K Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Department, while citing an official letter dated June 25 from the Animal Welfare Board of India, Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, said a large numbers of sacrificial animals are likely to be slaughtered in the UT during Eid-ul Azha festival scheduled from July 21-23.

The Animal Welfare Board of India, in view of animal welfare has requested for implementation of all precautionary measures to strictly implement the Animal Welfare Laws viz. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; Transport of Animal Welfare Rules, 1978; Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001; Slaughter House Rules, 2001; Municipal Laws & Food Safety & Standards Authority of India directions for slaughtering of animals (under which camels cannot be slaughtered) during the festival, the communication reads.

The Director said he has been given directions to request you to take all preventive measures as per the provisions of acts & rules referred above for implementation of the animal welfare laws, to stop illegal killing of animals & to take stringent action against the offenders violating animal welfare laws.

The copies of the letter were also sent to the chairman of Animal Welfare Board of India for information and all District Magistrates; Commissioners, SMC/JMC; Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Jammu/Kashmir; Director Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu/Kashmir; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu/Kashmir, and all Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs).

The National Conference took strong exception to the communication seeking to ban illegal killing of cows and camels on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. It had called for the revocation of the order.

Expressing dismay over the order, party's spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said it is conceivable to flag that the measure is unjust and inexcusable.

Having such strictures on cow slaughter are well understood because of it being an object of veneration for a particular community but having such strictures in place for other bovines and draught animals is completely unfair, Dar said.

The blanket ban will give another vehicle of intimidation to various unscrupulous elements to bully and pose a threat to the lives of Muslims associated with the trade and transport of bovine animals, he said.

Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), an amalgam of several religious organisations in Jammu and Kashmir, had also expressed strong resentment against the ban, calling it a direct infringement of religious freedom.

### PSO's Misfire

police and army officials reached the spot. (GNS)

### CBI Raids Premises

scam on the orders of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

"It was alleged that the ownership rights of state land measuring around 7 Kanals 7 Marlas situated at a prime location in Srinagar were conferred arbitrarily on an ineligible applicant at a throwaway price, thereby causing a huge loss to the state exchequer. It was further alleged that the land category was also arbitrarily changed by the then public servants, who were members of the Price Fixation Committee (PFC)," Joshi said.

### Drones Again

other similar unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The Air Force Station sustained minor damage in the attack that took place last month. It is being probed by the National Investigative Agency.

### 81k Paramilitary

reasons and better career

opportunities are some of the main causes, a ministry official said.

The data pertains to six paramilitary forces namely the CRPF, BSF, ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police), SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal), CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) and Assam Rifles.

A total of 81,007 personnel of these forces have taken voluntary retirement since 2011, according to the data.

The highest among all forces -- 36,768 personnel -- have taken voluntary retirement from the BSF in the last decade, followed by the CRPF (26,164 personnel), the CISF (6,705), the Assam Rifles (4,947), the SSB (3,230) and the ITBP (3,193).

According to the data, of the 15,904 personnel who have resigned in the 10 years, the highest was in the CISF (5,848), followed by the BSF (3,837), the CRPF (3,366), the ITBP (1,648), the SSB (1,031) and the Assam Rifles (174).

Among those who have taken voluntary retirement, the highest 11,728 personnel made the move in 2017, followed by 11,260 personnel in 2011.

The number was 10,859 in 2012, as many as 9,355 in 2013, altogether 5,931 in 2014 and 1,686 in 2015, and altogether 6,981 in 2016.

In the last three years of the decade, 8,132 took VRS in 2018, a total of 7,611 in 2019, as many as 5,935 in 2020,

Among the total 15,904 personnel who have resigned in the 10 years, the highest 2,332 personnel took the step in 2013, 2,026 in 2015, 1,931 in 2014, 1,768 in 2012, 1,673 in 2018, 1,535 in 2017, 1,364 in 2019, 1,144 in 2016, 1,122 in 2011 and 877 in 2020.

The total strength of the six paramilitary forces is around 10 lakh.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is deployed for assisting in internal security, law and order, operations against militants in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast besides for anti-Naxal operations.

The Border Security Force (BSF) is primarily deployed for guarding the India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders besides in internal security duties.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is primarily deployed at vital installations like airports, metro services, atomic and key industrial plants and government buildings.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police is deployed for guarding the Sino-India border while the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) guards the India-Nepal and India-Bhutan borders.

The Assam Rifles guards the India-Myanmar border and is deployed in anti-insurgent operations in the Northeast.

### Govt To Fire

any exercise for reviewing the performance of Government servants."

"It impressed upon all the administrative Secretaries to initiate the process/ exercise of reviewing the performance of Government Servant who has completed 48 years of age/ 22 years of service for identifying such Government Servants who are ineffective in work and are not fit to continue in the post held and have no utility for the purpose for which they are employed," reads the circular.

"The departments shall follow the procedure laid down in Article 226(2) of Jammu & Kashmir Civil Service Regulations Volume I and place the cases of such identified employees before the review Committee for Consideration of Competent Authority," the circular adds.

### Stick To Timelines,

Kashmir Civil Services(Decentralization & Recruitment) Rules, 2010, read with SRO 533 of 2018 dated 29.11.2018, prescribe the validity of period of select list/wait list for a period of one year from the date the select list is sent to the requisitioning authority.

The rules also prescribe that the concerned Selection Committees of the Board shall also draw up a waiting list of 50% of the total number of posts advertised, which shall extend to 100% where the number of vacancies is 10 (ten) or less.

"The Selection Committees shall forward the waiting list, through the Board, to the requisitioning authority for consideration against dropout vacancies. The waiting list shall remain in force for a period of one year from the date the original selection list is sent to the requisitioning authority..."

However, the circular noted that

despite fixed timelines notified in the extant rules and various instructions issued from time to time for concluding the selection process and operating the Selection/Waiting list, it has been observed that either the recruiting agencies do not forward the waiting list along-with the selection list thereby violating the statutory provisions or the appointing authorities consume considerable time in operating upon their commendations out of the select or wait list which often results in expiry in their period of validity.

"Further, enormous time is consumed by the recruiting agencies to decide on the withheld recommendations which often denies the candidates figuring in the waiting list opportunity from being considered for appointment against such candidature," the circular reads, adding, "Timely conclusion of the withheld recommendations assumes more significance in light of the provisions contained in SRO 60 of 2018 dated 02.02.2018 by virtue of which such cases remain alive perpetually unless decided in a time bound manner."

The appointing authorities, on their part, are required to operate the recommendations out of the waiting list immediately upon the end of 21 days allotted as joining period for the appointees, it said. "Accordingly, it is impressed upon all the Recruiting Agencies/Appointing Authorities to adhere to the statutory provisions and bring the selection processes to their logical conclusion within the fixed timelines and refrain from recommending the cases laden with procedural delays for relaxation in the Rules which has to be done very judiciously and under extremely exceptional circumstances so as to withstand the scrutiny of law," it said, adding, "So, in future, the administrative Departments shall recommend such cases of relaxation only after fixing the responsibility on erring officials/officers/Offices/Departments or cause of delay is due to any extra-ordinary reasons beyond the control of any authority or under extremely exceptional circumstances."

### Following the Sufi

Shah-e-Hamadan was then not only a great Sufi mystic but also a veritable genius. His singular achievements have had social, political, and historical consequences and impacts that span centuries. Be it the Kashmir crafts that, besides the pristine beauty of the place have made Kashmir world famous, or the unique religio- cultural character and nature of Kashmir, the evolution and development of the Kashmiri psyche, and some of our healthy and salubrious social practices, Shah-e-Hamdan's imprimatur and strong influence is writ all over these.

We owe a debt to the great personality that is irrepayable. Such is the great and sublime legacy left by Shah e Hamadan (RA).

But, alas, as Kashmir and Kashmiris undergo multiple transitions- social, demographic, political and economic- we appear to be forgetting, or to be charitable, un-remindful of the great man and his legacy. This is a tragedy of great proportions and, among other things, reflects how self absorbed we have become as individuals and as a society.

To make a brief digression here, Shah-e-Hamadan (RA) did not teach and advocate an Islam made people forego worldly affairs. While he made Islam central and pivotal to Kashmiri consciousness, he, by imparting livelihood training to Kashmiris, did not make them oblivious to worldly concerns. In this sense, besides giving us our religion, he also made dignified living a centre piece of his efforts. This corresponds and corresponded to the spirit of Islam. The point I am making here is that Shah-e-Hamadan (RA) recognised human needs as well as frailties and tailored his instruction of Islam according to these. He made it easy for Kashmiris. The question is: why are we becoming distant from his legacy and his memory?

Essentially, we have become a self absorbed society. Self absorption is defined as preoccupation with one's own emotions, interests and situation. Self transcendence-one of the goals of religion and especially Sufi mysticism- is becoming a thing of the past. We are increasingly merely concerned

about ourselves, and selfish, egotistical goals- themes against which Shah-e-Hamadan (RA) crusaded against. All this has repercussions on both our private and public lives and morality. This general drift of our society is alarming and ominous. A morality and religious consciousness defined by Shah e Hamadan (RA) and evolved over centuries is in danger of being frayed. This can only have negative implications and consequences in various domains as society, polity, psyche, morality and ethics. The void that may be filled by the gradual erosion of the teachings of Shah e Hamadan will be filled by negative themes and ideas impinging negatively on every facet of our society.

This needs to be pre-empted. The question is how?

Shah-e-Hamadan's great legacy can be revived by reclaiming the great mans ideas and beliefs and incorporating these into the fabric of our social and individual lives. This would naturally call for an introspection and catharsis. The starting point of this must be to collectively introspect on the nature and drift of our condition, and undergo a process of catharsis that rids us off our malaises like self absorption. This must be followed by reviving and reclaiming the spirit of the teachings of Shah e Hamadan (RA) and applying these to our condition. Such is the genius and import of the great man's teachings that they are beyond space and time; they will have a resonance and appeal in modern times too. It is then high time that we take recourse to course correction and remedy. Let us not restrict our veneration for the great Shah-e-Hamadan only to Urs(es) but incorporate his message and teachings in our lives.

### Ropeway Connecting

tourism circuit connecting three major temples of Jammu city viz. Peerkho, Mahamaya, and Bahu temple have also been completed. It will provide lifetime experience to the tourists," he added.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson directed the officers to devise a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the periodic inspection of the ropeway and maintain the highest safety standards and professionalism, besides keeping in view the ecology factor, while operating the facility in order to ensure the safety of visiting tourists looking forward to a joyful ride.

Sinha, he said, also directed the concerned officers to complete the pending auxiliary works immediately for easy access of tourists and make them operational at the earliest.

"The Jammu Ropeway project also offers a host of facilities including restaurant, walkways, lawns, public utilities, parking space, and other recreational facilities for the people," the official spokesperson said.

He said that the Jammu ropeway is a hybrid system, the critical components having been imported and integrated with the Indian system. Costing Rs. 75.83 crores, the project comprises of two sections: Section-I is between Peerkho (Below Mubarak Mandi) and Mahamaya, with a distance of 1.184 km, whereas Section-II is between Mahamaya temple and Bahu, with a distance of 0.485 km.

### LG Inaugurates JMC's

generated in Jammu city, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday inaugurated the Material Recovery facility at Bandurakh here.

The new facility has been equipped with latest-technology based machinery for better efficiency to achieve 100% recovery from the dry waste. It will ease the collection and segregation of all kinds of paper waste, cardboard and plastic etc from day to day waste generated in the city, an official spokesperson said.

He said that while speaking on the occasion, the LG said that the new facility will complement the government's efforts for effective Solid Waste Management, and will contribute towards the Swachh Bharat Mission of J&K.

"Government is giving focused attention towards Waste Management for a sustainable urban future in the UT. We are putting consistent efforts into formulation of creative Waste Management Strategies for environmental sustainability, besides making the protection and preservation of the environment an integral part of our

development plan," Sinha said, as per the official spokesperson.

"By adopting the 3Rs approach "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle", we are minimizing the waste in a scientific manner so that our cities become more sustainable and clean," he added.

The LG further said that the concept of reducing the amount of waste generated by reducing consumption is essential to waste management.

"The reuse of items, or repurposing them for a use different from what they are originally intended for is the next essential thing in the waste reduction hierarchy. The last stage of the waste hierarchy is to recycle. Recycling is the transformation of waste into raw material for manufacturing a new item. Thus, the 3Rs approach stands at the very top of the waste management hierarchy," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, underscored the key components of the Swachhta Kendra and observed that the new facility will maximize the quantity of recyclables to be processed, while segregating materials that will generate the highest possible revenues from the recycling market.

"It will also help in segregating combustible fraction, non-recyclables and inert from the dry waste stream," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, it was informed that the facility has been equipped with various features to make it an economically sustainable socio-technical model. Moreover, it will also act as a support system for capacity building of the waste pickers, waste aggregators, and associated recyclers.

"It is pertinent to mention that recently, the Lt Governor laid the e-foundation of Rs 80 Crore worth Integrated Solid Waste Management facility at Kot-Bhalwal, in collaboration with NAFED," he added.

### 221 Covid Cases

territory rose to 4,362 as one more fatality was reported in the past 24 hours, they said.

Meanwhile, officials said there were 33 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory as one more case was reported since last evening.

### KPDCL Refutes

last four years. He further clarified that the DISCOM on its own is not authorized to revise the tariff and the only authority vested with the powers to revise consumer tariff is the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh.

"It further clarified that even the JERC has neither revised tariffs nor has it notified any new tariff slabs," the KPDCL spokesperson added.

"Consumers are billed on the basis of existing tariff and load as per actual consumption," he added.

### Arms Cache

operation, he said, huge cache of explosive material and ammunition including seven 51-MM mortar shells, 260 Pika rounds were recovered by the joint team which were kept hidden underground by the militants

"Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 87/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Tral and further investigation is in progress," the police spokesperson added.

### Cooker Explosion

in the kitchen of a rented house on Friday morning. The injured were shifted to District Hospital Ramban for treatment," they said.

The injured were identified as 25-year-old Satya Devi and her three little sons Sahil Katoch, Sourab Katoch and Gaurav Katoch. (KNT)

### Bomb Scare Along

highway over safety fears.

On a careful assessment, the bag was however found to be empty by the visiting BDS team, they said.

SDPO Mendhar Z A Jaffri told a local news agency GNS that following the assurance of BDS officials, the movement along the road was resumed.

### 13 Injured As

the accident, who were rushed to a nearby hospital.

Meanwhile, police said that that an investigation has been taken up in this regard--(KNO)



## JKFA Professional League: Downtown Heroes, Lonestar KFC Win Matches

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In the ongoing JKFA Professional League 2021 two matches were played on Friday at the Synthetic Turf Ground, TRC in Srinagar.

In the first match, Downtown Heroes FC took on Shaheen FC Jammu in a 4:00 pm kick off. The Heroes dominated the match from the get-go and were rewarded in the 30th minute when



Ifham Tariq scored a magnificent goal. Ifham's goal received a lot of appreciation from the spectators. Downtown Heroes took the 1-0 lead in to the second half of the match but were faced by an aggressive Shaheen FC team who tried to create chances in order to equalize. However, it was Downtown Heroes who managed to double their lead in the 55th minute through its foreign recruit, Kwesi Sessy. Shaheen FC players tried their best to score to failed to find the back of the net. The match ended 2:0 in favour of Downtown Heroes FC. Ifham Tariq was awarded the game's man of the match.

In the second match, Kashmir Avengers FC locked horns with Lonestar Kashmir FC, in a 6:30

pm kick off. An evenly balanced match-up, both teams exhibited quality football, much to the delight of the spectators. And in the 20th minute of the first half Lonestar KFC opened the scoring via a fine goal by Talib Gulzar. LKFC then maintained its lead through to the end of the first half. The second half started with the Avengers utilising their energy and experience to find an equalizer. However it was in the 55th

minute of the match when LKFC was awarded a penalty kick and Raghav of LKFC made no mistake from the spot. In the dying moments of the match, Kashmir Avengers were awarded a penalty kick which Kelvin successfully converted. The club tried hard to equalize but could not succeed.

Thus Lonestar Kashmir FC defeated Kashmir Avengers FC by 2 goals to 1. The match was played under flood lights.

The Professional League 2021 will continue today with two matches set to be played. The first match at 3:00 pm will be played between J&K Bank XI & SCFA while the second match will be played between Real Kashmir FC & Hyderya Sports FC at 5:00 pm.

## India, Pakistan Placed In Same Group In T20 World Cup



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Arch-rivals India and Pakistan were on Friday placed in the same group for the T20 World Cup as the ICC announced the pools for its flagship event, set to be played in the UAE and Oman from October 17 to November 14.

India and Pakistan are placed in Group 2 along with World Test Championship winners New Zealand and Afghanistan.

The Group 1 has defending champions West Indies, former winners England, Australia and South Africa.

The Groups of Super 12s have been selected on the basis of team rankings as of 20 March 2021, according to the International Cricket Council.

Two teams will join each of the groups from the qualifying rounds.

Eight teams will contest the first round including automatic qualifiers Sri Lanka and Bangladesh with the remaining six who booked

their spot through the ICC men's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2019.

Ireland, Netherlands and Namibia join Sri Lanka in Group A, while Oman, PNG and Scotland will face Bangladesh in Group B.

The tournament was originally scheduled to be held in India but was moved out of the country due to an expected third wave of the coronavirus.

"There are some great match ups offered by the groups and it starts to bring the event to life for our fans as our first multi-team event since the onset of the global pandemic draws closer," ICC acting chief executive Geoff Allardice said in a release.

"Given the disruption caused by COVID-19, we selected the cut-off date as close as possible to the event to ensure we were able to include the maximum amount of cricket in the rankings which determine the groups.

"There is no doubt we will witness some highly competitive

cricket when the event gets underway in just three months."

Allardice unveiled the draws in Muscat hours after the BCCI top officials — president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah — arrived in the city.

Ganguly, said, "It is good to get Oman in the frame of world cricket with the hosting of the ICC men's T20 World Cup. It will help a lot of young players take an interest in the game. We know it will be a world class event in this part of the world."

Shah said, "There is nothing that separates the two groups as both are packed with sides that are highly competitive in the shortest format of the game."

This will be the first T20 World Cup since 2016 when West Indies beat England in the final in Kolkata.

"Oman Cricket has come a long way and today is a watershed moment for us to have ICC and BCCI here at Oman Cricket Academy to announce the ICC men's T20 World Cup groups!," Oman Cricket chairman, Pankaj Khimji, said.

## T20 World Cup Contest Against Pakistan Will Be High Intensity: Bhuvneshwar Kumar

Press Trust of India

**COLOMBO:** A clash between India and Pakistan is always a "high intensity" game but the team is not currently thinking about the T20 World Cup as there is a lot of cricket left before the marquee event, said experienced seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

"Look, it is always exciting to play against Pakistan and it is always a pressure match, so of course it is going to be, you know, a high intensity match," Bhuvneshwar, who is currently in Sri Lanka for the limited over series, said at a virtual press conference.

"But to be honest we haven't really thought about it, how it is going to be, because we have got a lot of cricket left, we have got matches in Sri Lanka, of course Test matches in England and then IPL and then World Cup."

India and Pakistan are placed in Group 2 along with World Test



Championship winners New Zealand and Afghanistan.

"But once of course the IPL gets over, we will start thinking about that (World Cup)," said the 31-year-old Meerut-born pacer.

Former India opener Gautam Gambhir, who has been part of many India-Pakistan games in his career, said senior players such as skipper Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will play a big role in the marquee clash.

"...it is the responsibility of the senior guys to probably keep the younger guys calm because ultimately it's not the emotion that will win you a game of cricket, it is the contest between the bat and the ball that will end up winning you a game of cricket," Gambhir said on Star Sports' show 'ICC T20 World Cup Special'.

"So people like Virat Kohli for example, or Rohit Sharma will have a huge responsibility when Indian takes on Pakistan."

## District Anantnag Soft Tennis Championship 2021-22 Concludes



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The District Soft Tennis Championship 2021-22 organized by District Anantnag Amateur Tennis Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council under the banner of J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association, on Friday concluded with awards distribution ceremony among the winners and runner ups of the championship.

"The sportspersons of various age categories (Sub Junior, Junior and Senior) from Anantnag district participated in the Championship. The competitions were held from 14th July 2021 up to 15th July 2021.

"Shaista Mughal, SHO South

Kashmir Women's Wing, was the chief guest on the concluded function, distributed medals among the winners and runners ups. Mr. Bashir Ahmad Manager Sports Stadium Anantnag was guest of honour. Ab Rashid, Sr. Vice President J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association and also Miss Fancy Jan, Secretary, District Anantnag Soft Tennis Association were also present during closing ceremony," the JKSC said in a statement.

"Appreciating the unique sports talent of budding players they exhibited in the tournament, Shaista Mughal encouraged them to accord focussed attention on their game and work hard towards bringing laurels for J&K," the statement added.

## Pakistan Made A Mistake By Removing Sarfaraz, Arthur In 2019: Rashid Latif

Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Former Test captain and wicketkeeper Rashid Latif believes Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has made a big mistake by removing Sarfaraz Ahmed and Mickey Arthur as skipper and coach of the national team after the 2019 World Cup.

"Why was Mickey Arthur removed... what was the reason for his sacking? The team had done well under him and it was progressing well. Check the records and you can see but he was removed because of politics," Latif said on the YouTube Cricket Baaz channel.

He said Sarfaraz also didn't deserve to be booted out.

PCB had sacked Arthur one month after Pakistan failed to reach the semi-finals of the World Cup because of their net run rate, while Sarfaraz was removed as captain of all three formats after the national team suffered a whitewash against a weak Sri Lankan side in a T20 series at home in October-November 2019.

Sarfaraz and Arthur had combined well to take Pakistan to the Champions Trophy title in 2017.

"I don't blame Misbah-ul Haq, perhaps he didn't want to be head coach. He was young and inexperienced as a coach so why appoint him? It is the PCB to be blamed for what has happened," Latif said.

He after Sarfaraz and Arthur's removal, the team had undergone changes which had not worked well for Pakistan cricket.

"Today we have lost to a second string England team badly in the One-Day series which means that our cricket is not good enough to even beat England's bench strength," Latif hoped Pakistan can

bounce back in the T20 series against England, starting on Friday, after being whitewashed 0-3 by the hosts in the ODI rubber.

"Let's just hope they can bounce back because we can't afford any more setbacks."

I see more wrestlers than cricketers in Pakistan T20I team, says Aaqib Javed

Former Pakistan seamer Aaqib Javed says he "sees more wrestlers than cricketers" in the current national team for T20 Internationals.

Aaqib, who has worked with the Pakistan under-19 outfit as head coach and bowling coach with the senior side in the past, slammed the team management and selectors for having no proper policy or plans.

"They don't know what they are doing or what is their direction. I see more wrestlers than players in the T20 team. There are question marks over the fitness of Sharjeel Khan, Azam Khan, Sohaib Maqsood for international level," Aaqib said on the Geo News channel.

The Pakistan team is currently touring England for a limited-overs series against the host nation.

He said the selectors pushed Sohaib into the national T20 squad on the basis of his performances in the Pakistan Super League (PSL), without realising which position he would play.

"If you look at the team they have several players of similar nature or for one position. Is this the way to move forward," he questioned.

Aaqib, who was head coach of the UAE side, praised the England team and management for having a clear vision about white-ball cricket and said their emphasis on maintaining a good run-rate in all circumstances had brought them much success.

## Messi Inches Closer To Signing New Contract With Barcelona

Agencies

**BARCELONA:** Lionel Messi and Barcelona are closer to signing a new deal that would keep the Argentina star at the Spanish club through the end of his playing career.

A person with knowledge of the negotiations between club and player told The Associated Press on Friday that Messi was prepared to accept Barcelona's offer of a five-year contract at 50% of his previous salary. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the negotiations.

In his previous contract, signed in 2017, Messi earned a massive 138 million euros (\$163 million) per season.

The person with knowledge of the negotiations did not indicate the other aspects of the contract still being worked out between the club and Messi's father, Jorge Messi, who acts as his agent.

Barcelona as a club has officially said nothing publicly about the details of the negotiations with the soccer great.

The 34-year-old Messi joined Barcelona two decades ago at age 13. Last August he stunned Barcelona by announcing that he wanted out after the 2019-2020 season ended without a title and his relationship with then club president Josep Bartomeu deteriorated.

The return of Joan Laporta to the

club's presidency in March has been key in bringing Messi back into the fold. Laporta ran Barcelona when Messi had his breakout as a teenager.

A significantly lower salary for Messi is critical to keeping him at the financially troubled club following the losses sustained by the pandemic and some questionable management. Laporta admitted that a lower salary cap for Barcelona due to reduced revenues complicated his task to make all the pieces fit.

Messi's previous contract with Barcelona expired on June 30, making many Barcelona fans nervous that he could be lured away to big spenders like Paris Saint-Germain or Manchester City.

Even Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman acknowledged last week that he was concerned.

"Messi? When things don't get resolved, you have to be worried," Koeman said. "Laporta told me to remain calm because we are working hard so that he remains with us for years to come. I have complete faith in our president to work this out."

The six-time Ballon d'Or winner is currently on vacation after leading Argentina to the Copa America title last weekend, ending a long wait for a major title for his nation.

Messi has enjoyed a glittering career at Barcelona. He has won 35 club titles in 17 seasons, including four Champions Leagues, and set club records for goals (672) and appearances (778).

## Dhyan Chand In Berlin 1936: Captaincy Test In Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler Myth

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** When Adolf Hitler commissioned Nazi Germany's favourite film director Leni Reifanstahl to document the 1936 Berlin Olympics, he and his propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels couldn't have imagined that there would be another nation, apart from the USA, refusing to salute the Fuhrer.

The British India contingent comprised a bunch of inexperienced athletes with only shining glory being a two-time champion hockey team led by its resident magician Major Dhyan Chand.

The global media's focus was the United States of America refusing the traditional right-arm salute to Hitler during the opening ceremony but who would have thought that a contingent of amateur athletes wearing golden 'Kullahs' and light blue turban would do the unthinkable.

The contingent, with its flag-bearer Dhyan Chand, refused to salute and it was more of an emotional decision than political, taken by the team when the entire Third Reich sang the two national hymns 'Deutschland' and 'Horst Wessel Lied'.

In the book 'Olympic History: The India Story', co-authored by Boria Majumdar and Nalin Mehta, they have quoted Mirza Naseruddin Masood, a member of the gold winning team, narrating that opening ceremony.

"It made a strange impression upon the Indian contingent and not an eye was left dry. India rose before our imagination... Somehow the

spring of our national feelings was touched, and the unity and solidarity of the people in the 'Stadium' made us look with shame and regret at our poverty, destitution and discord."

Masood was an accomplished man beyond the field of hockey as he served the government of India in various capacities, which included being private secretary of independent India's first education minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

He was also UNESCO Mission Chief to Australia, Consul General responsible for Muscat, Oman and finally Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

However, one of Masood's biggest regrets was being denied India captaincy in 1936, despite being socially elite compared to Dhyan Chand. And very few people knew that Masood was actually also one of the five national selectors entrusted with the duty of picking the skipper.

Masood had, in fact, made his displeasure clear in a book he authored and published in 1937 'The World's Hockey Champions' — 1936.

For Dhyan Chand, what the scoreline of India matches in that Olympics won't reveal is the tremendous pressure that he faced as media reports suggested that the defending champions were no longer invincible.

Also the fact that the 1932 Olympics, without participation of major European nations due to the Great Depression, became a sort of a sham and those who know about hockey would tell that there wasn't a lot of fight that India faced while retaining

the yellow metal in Los Angeles.

The perception gained credence when India lost to a select Delhi XI 1-4 at Mori Gate ground in the national capital. It was the same Delhi XI that had been hammered 0-12 by the Indian team on its return from LA four years ago.

Dhyan Chand, in his autobiography 'Goal', which was first published in 1952 in weekly installments of the iconic 'Sport and Pastime' magazine published by 'The Hindu' group, wrote about that loss prior to the Berlin Games.

"... This particular defeat kept worrying me. For the first time I was captaining the Olympic team; will India lose the title under my charge?," Dhyan Chand's skepticism was evident in his autobiography.

**Hockey Federation only had Rs 6600 in its coffers**

According to the book, the Indian hockey federation needed Rs 40,000 to send the team and it required the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Gaekwads of Baroda to bail them out.

Nizam donated Rs 5000, the rulers of Baroda gave 200 GBP (Rs 3600 INR then) and, along with contributions from other princely states, ensured that the team boarded the ship. Another Rs 1700 was spent on flying Ishiaque Dara on SOS, who played a big role alongside Dhyan Chand in the business end of the tournament.

Interestingly, during the next Olympics in 1948, Dara had migrated

to Pakistan post partition and represented the new nation.

Training at Gulf of Aden

'The Statesman' sent a correspondent to cover the Games and old reports suggest that the first five days of their voyage was rough and the players, normally used to training on the deck, had to postpone their plans.

Finally when the ship stopped for four hours at the 'Gulf of Aden', the Indian contingent found a brick-layered sandy field for a quick training session.

Suddenly they would come to know that 5/14 Sikh Regiment posted in Aden used that field. Once the word spread that Dhyan Chand was there, the whole regiment came out to receive "one of theirs" and witness the training session.

**Autograph of Joseph Goebbels and Herman Goring**

Two of Hitler's trusted men — chief propagandist Goebbels and Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering — were there to ensure that no stone was left unturned in their quest to carry out the Fuhrer's image makeover along with the conduct of an unblemished event for which USD 30 million was being spent.

Call it a classical case of contradiction or irony but those who didn't want to accord Hitler with the arm salute were flocking to get autographs from two bonafide war criminals.

"One day while we were in the

dining hall, who should walk in but the burly Herman Goring, clad in his military attire! We were after him in a trice to get his autograph. Later some of us obtained Dr Goebbels' autograph," Dhyan Chand had mentioned.

**An eight-goal affair against Hitler's Germany**

Did Dhyan Chand face media scrutiny? Of course he did. After India won the opening match against Hungary 4-0, the 'Statesman' in their next day's report wrote, "Most disappointing was revelation that Dhyan Chand, world's greatest centre forward is past his best days..."

Just how dominant India were in that era could be understood by the fact that even after beating USA 7-0 and Japan 9-0, the media spoke about how "if Germany wins, it will be a lesson to India that she deserves."

Worst these observations were fed by the team's manager Pankaj Gupta. However, the tone and tenor changed once France were clobbered 10-0 and after Germany were crushed 8-1 in the final, Berlin's 'Morning Post' lauded India's effort.

Legend has it that Dhyan Chand wanted better speed and mobility, and hence, wore a rubber soled sneakers sacrificing the conventional spike boots on grass field. It helped him dribble at great speed. He scored a dozen and the 'Morning Post's match report had some unforgettable lines.



## Supreme Court Takes Sui Motu Note Of Delay In Release Of Prisoners After Bail

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognizance of delay on the part of Uttar Pradesh authorities in releasing 13 prisoners who were granted bail by it on July 8.

The convicts, who were juveniles at the time of offence have been lodged in Agra Central jail for periods ranging from around 14 to 22 years in a murder case.

The 13 convicts had approached the top court, claiming their detention to be "illegal" as there were clear orders passed by the Juvenile Justice Board with regard to each of them at various intervals between February 2017 and March 2021, declaring them to be juvenile at the time of murder.

The top court on July 8 had ordered their release on interim bail while granting time to the Uttar Pradesh government to verify the facts about their continued stay in jail despite orders establishing their juvenility.

Chief Justice N V Ramana took note of the reports that despite grant of bail to the convicts, whose juvenility at the time of the offence has been established, they have not been released so far.

A fresh suo motu case titled as "In re Delay in Release of Convicts after Grant of Bail" has been instituted on July 13 and would be taken up on Friday by a bench comprising the CJ and Justices L. Nageswara Rao and A S Bopanna.

The 13 prisoners had said in their plea that they are languishing in jail despite the fact that they have been declared to be below 18 years of age at the time of commission of offence by the Juvenile Justice Board.

"The miseries are further compounded by the fact that these petitioners who are languishing in Agra central jail have already undergone judicial incarceration for periods ranging from 14 years to 22 years," the plea had said.

It said the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act stipulates a maximum period of in-

carceration of three years and that too in juvenile homes.

"However, here is the case where the petitioners languish in hardcore jail amongst hardcore criminals thereby completely negating the purpose and objects of Juvenile Justice Act," it had said.

It had said that Juvenile Justice Board, in its orders from February 2017 to March this year, had categorically held that all these petitioners were below the age of 18 years on the date of commission of offences.

"It is unfortunate that despite a categorical order declaring these petitioners as juvenile, the petitioners are languishing in central jail, Agra having undergone custody ranging from 14 years to 22 years," it had said.

The top court on Friday would also take stock of the situation in relation to its May 8 order in another suo motu case of 2020 which was meant to decongest prisons in view of the spread of COVID-19 contagion in prisons.

Taking note of the "unprecedented surge" in COVID-19 cases, a CJ-led bench on May 8 had passed a slew of directions to decongest prisons and had ordered immediate release of prisoners who were granted bail or parole last year.

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Observing that the decongestion of prisons housing around four lakh inmates across the country is a matter concerning "health and right to life of" prisoners and police personnel, it had said said all those who were allowed to go out on bail in March last year by the high-powered committees of states and Union Territories (UTs) be granted the same relief without any reconsideration to avoid delay.

On March 16, 2020, the top court had taken suo motu cognizance of overcrowding of prisons across the country and said it is difficult for jail inmates to maintain social distancing to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

## Next 100 To 125 Days Are Critical In Fight Against Covid In India: Centre



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Union Health Ministry in its weekly press conference on Friday cautioned that the next 100 to 125 days are critical in the fight against COVID-19 in India.

"Fall in cases has slowed down. It's a warning signal. Next 100 to 125 days are critical for fight against COVID in India," says Dr VK Paul, Member-Health, Niti Aayog in a Health Ministry press conference.

Member Health, NITI Aayog shared a study conducted by ICMR that analyses the vaccine effectiveness in police personnel, a high-risk category

The study shows two doses of vaccine were successful in preventing 95 per cent of COVID-19 deaths in the Second Wave.

"One dose of vaccine was able to reduce the mortality rate by 82 per cent. Two doses of vaccine were successful in preventing 95 per cent of deaths due to COVID-19 during the second wave," he said.

"We are moving towards a set target to administer 50 crore doses before July. We are on the path to achieving it. Govt has ordered 66 crore doses of Covishield and Covaxin. Additionally, 22 crore doses will go to the private sector," he added.

Mr Paul also highlighted that

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given them a target that there should be no third wave.

Union Health Ministry, Joint Secretary Lav Agarwal said, "Analysis shows a projected decline in the use of face masks as we resume activities. We should incorporate the use of face masks in our lives as a new normal."

Mr Agarwal noted that daily new cases in the country continue to show a decline during the second wave.

"Average daily new cases declined from 3,87,029 cases between May 5-11 to 40,336 cases between July 14-July 16," the Joint Secretary said.

## Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian Photojournalist Danish Siddiqui Killed In Afghanistan

Agenceis

**BOLDKAI:** Reuters journalist Danish Siddiqui was killed on Friday while covering a clash between Afghan security forces and Taliban fighters near a border crossing with Pakistan, an Afghan commander said.

Afghan special forces had been fighting to retake the main market area of Spin Boldak when Siddiqui and a senior Afghan officer were killed in what they described as Taliban crossfire, the official told Reuters.

The Indian Embassy in Kabul is in touch with the Afghan authorities to bring back the mortal remains of Danish Siddiqui after his body was handed over by the Taliban to the ICRC.

"We are actively facilitating the return of the body in coordination with Afghan authorities and the ICRC. We are in regular touch with family members of Danish Siddiqui," said sources here.

Siddiqui had been embedded as a journalist since earlier this week with Afghan special forces based in the southern province of Kandahar and had been reporting on fighting between Afghan commandos and Taliban fighters.

"We are urgently seeking more



information, working with authorities in the region," Reuters President Michael Friedenberg and Editor-in-Chief Alessandra Galloni said in a statement.

"Danish was an outstanding journalist, a devoted husband and father, and a much-loved colleague. Our thoughts are with his family at this terrible time."

Siddiqui told Reuters he had been wounded in the arm by shrapnel earlier on Friday while reporting on the clash. He was treated and had been recovering when Taliban fighters retreated from the fighting in Spin Boldak.

Siddiqui had been talking to shopkeepers when the Taliban attacked again, the Afghan commander said.

Reuters was unable to independently verify the details of the renewed fighting described by the Afghan military official, who asked not to be identified before Afghanistan's Defence Ministry made a statement.

Siddiqui was part of the Reuters photography team to win the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography for documenting the Rohingya refugee crisis.

A Reuters photographer since 2010, Siddiqui's work spanned covering the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Rohingya refugees crisis, the Hong Kong protests and Nepal earthquakes.

Taliban fighters had captured the border area on Wednesday, the second-largest crossing on the border with Pakistan and one of the most important objectives they have achieved during a rapid advance across the country as U.S. forces pull out.—Reuters

Siddiqui had been posting updates from his courageous coverage in Afghanistan on his Twitter page, which was last updated on July 13.

## WhatsApp Blocks 2 Million India Users Over 'Spam Message Abuses'

Agenceis

WhatsApp has blocked more than two million users in India in just a month for violating its rules, the United States-based company has disclosed in its first compliance report under India's controversial new social media rules.

Most of the users were blocked for what the company called spam message abuses.

The Facebook-owned firm has put a limit on mass forward messaging in a bid to counter misinformation.

India implemented new rules in May to regulate social media companies, forcing them to disclose each month their efforts to police their platforms.

"We maintain advanced capabilities to identify these accounts sending a high or abnormal rate of messages and banned two million accounts in India alone from May 15 to June 15 attempting this kind of abuse," WhatsApp said in its report released late on Thursday.

The company said its "top fo-

cus" remains on preventing the spread of harmful and unwanted messages. WhatsApp has more than 400 million users in India, one of its top markets, but has often found itself facing criticism over the spread of misinformation.

Dozens of people were lynched in India in 2018 following rumours spread on WhatsApp about gangs stealing children.

The incidents prompted the messaging app to introduce a limit on bulk forward messaging in India.

WhatsApp and some Indian media firms have sought to challenge the new social media rules in court.

Critics say the government is seeking to crush dissent but the government says it is attempting to make social media safer.

Under the rules, social media platforms have to share details of the "first originator" of posts deemed to undermine India's sovereignty, state security or public order.

WhatsApp says the rules violate India's privacy laws.

## Plaques That Said Maharana Pratap's Forces Retreated From Battle Removed



Jajpur: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) today removed plaques at Rakta Talai in Rajasthan's Rajsamand district that said Maharana Pratap's forces retreated from the Haldi Ghati battle. This follows the demand by several Rajput outfits and public representatives.

Union Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal confirmed that orders were issued to the ASI to remove the plaques.

"Yes, orders have been issued. Whatever is right, it has to be written," Mr Meghwal told PTI when asked whether the ministry gave its approval to remove the plaques.

ASI Jodhpur Circle Superintendent Bipin Chandra Negi said the plaques were removed following departmental orders.

"The plaques were over 40 years old. Letters had worn out and the signages didn't belong to the ASI. They were put up by the state's Tourism Department and ASI started maintaining the sites in 2003. So, they were removed today," he said.

Earlier, Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari and Rajsamand MLA Deepthi Maheshwari had raised the demand for removal of plaques with former Union Tourism minister Prahlaad Singh Patel. Chetak Smarak Samiti, Haldi Ghati, had also lodged a complaint with the Jodhpur ASI in this regard.

Mr Negi said, "Be it the battle date or other controversies, the ASI will verify everything and put up certified information with a factual basis."

He said new plaques will be put up following a tendering process, which will take about 20 days.

Mr Negi said the purpose of putting up fresh plaques is to highlight the importance of the place and the event.

The plaques were installed by the state's Tourism Department during former prime minister Indira Gandhi's visit to the region in the early 1970s.

The Haldi Ghati battle was fought between Rana of Mewar Maharana Pratap and Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1576. While NCERT books mention the date of the battle as June 18, 1576, the date on the plaques is June 21, 1576.

Udaipur's Meera Government Girls' College history professor Chandra Shekhar Sharma said the "correct picture" will be provided to the generations to come.

"This was a misconception for over 40 years. Science and history are two subjects where old notions change when new facts arise. I had raised objection to the wrong information being provided to people. Now, it will be removed and facts will be provided to future generations," he said.

## Zyklus Cadila's COVID Vaccines For Children Aged 12 To 18 Years Will Be Available Soon: Centre Tells Delhi HC

Pharmaceutical major Zyklus Cadila's COVID-19 vaccine may be available in the near future for children in the age group of 12 to 18 years, the Centre in an affidavit told the Delhi High Court on Friday.

Zyklus Cadila has concluded its trial for children between the age group of 12 to 18 and is subject to statutory permissions, the Centre added.

The Ahmedabad-based pharmaceutical firm had on July 1, requested emergency use approval for ZyCoV-D, its three-dose Covid shot - the world's first Plasmid DNA vaccine.

It will, however, be a few more days before the country's drug regulator Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) gives it emergency use authorisation, sources told ANI on Monday.

The affidavit further submitted that vaccination is the Centre's topmost priority and all efforts are being made to achieve 100 per cent vaccination in the shortest time possible, keeping the availability of vaccine doses in mind.



It further submitted that on May 12, 2021, the Drug Controller General of India permitted Bharat Biotech to conduct clinical trials on healthy volunteers between 2 to 18 years of age, for its vaccine - Covaxin.

The affidavit was filed in the Delhi High Court by the Union Health Ministry on a plea filed by a minor, Tia Gupta, seeking immediate vaccination of minors between 12 to 17 years.

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