

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

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

Tuesday 20 July | 09 Zil Hajj | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 169 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



P3 CITY

## DC URGES PEOPLE TO ADHERE TO COVID SOPS ON EID-UL-ADHA

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday urged the general public of Srinagar district to ensure strict adherence to Covid-19

P6

## COEXISTENCE, A UNIFYING FACTOR FOR INDIANS

For most political parties, sociologists and psephologists what a common Indian on the street thinks matters most. It is an insight into a common man's psyche, which allows them to strategise and formulate new...



P5 STATE

## BEAR ATTACK INJURES THREE IN SONAMARG

Three members of a Bakerwal family were injured when a Bear attack them at Thajiwas in Sonamarg on Monday triggering pain among the locals. An official of the wildlife department said that a bear appeared in Sonamarg and



**Quote!**  
The greater the difficulty, the more the glory in surmounting it.  
—Epicurus

## NEWS DIGEST

### Minor Girl Drowns In Stream

**SRINAGAR:** A minor girl on Monday drowned in a stream in Ashmuqam area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 3-year-old Toiba Jan, daughter of Nazir Ahmad Mir of drowned in a stream in Amad Ashmuqam area of the district, a police official said. He said that the family retrieved her immediately from the stream and shifted here to nearby hospital where doctors declared her brought dead. (GNS)

### Man Wounded In Bear Attack

**SRINAGAR:** A middle-aged man was attacked and injured on Monday by a bear in Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. 55-year-old Bashir Ahmad, a resident of Choulani Uri was attacked by a bear while at Baddi Behak forest area, reports said. The middle-aged man suffered critical wounds in the incident and was taken to PHC Mohra from where the doctors referred him to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment.

### Over Rs 4L Realized From SOP Violators

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday claimed to have realized a fine of over Rs four lakh from the people for violating coronavirus related rules and guidelines across the Kashmir Valley. In a statement issued here, a police spokesman said that during the last 24 hours, a fine to the tune of Rs 4,51,530 was realized from 3521 people throughout the Kashmir valley for violating the various guidelines, rules and SOPs regarding Covid-19. "Besides, four vehicles were also seized in Shopian for violating COVID-19 guidelines,"

### Ladakh Sees 11 New Corona Cases

**LEH:** Ladakh recorded 11 new Covid cases Monday while as many patients were discharged, pushing the respective overall tally to 20,257 infections and 19,948 recoveries, officials said. Out of the total cases, eight were reported from Leh and three from Kargil. Of the total 11 recoveries, five were from Leh and six from Kargil, they said. The number of active cases has come down to 103 – 84 in Leh and 19 are in Kargil, the officials said. No Covid-linked death has been reported from Ladakh for the past several days. The death toll currently stands at 206, with the worst-hit Leh accounting for 148 fatalities and Kargil 58, they said.

## PEGASUS REPORT

# Journalists, Ministers On Spyware Snoop List, Govt Rebuffs Report



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** While reports of opposition politicians and scores of journalists in India being targets of surveillance operations carried out with the help of Israeli Pegasus spyware stirred a storm in India on Monday, French newspaper Le Monde reported that several Delhi-based diplomats were also on the list of potential targets for phone hacking from 2017-2021.

An Israeli firm accused of supplying spyware to governments

has been linked to a list of tens of thousands of smartphone numbers, including those of activists, journalists, business executives and politicians around the world, according to reports.

The NSO Group and its Pegasus malware – capable of switching on a phone's camera or microphone, and harvesting its data – have been in the headlines since 2016.

Sunday's revelations – part of a collaborative investigation by The Washington Post, The Guardian, Le Monde and other media outlets – raise privacy

## Rahul, 2 Union Ministers; Ex-EC Among 'Targets'

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, BJP ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Prahlad Singh Patel, as also former election commissioner Ashok Lavasa and poll strategist Prashant Kishor were among those whose phone numbers were listed as potential targets for hacking through an Israeli spyware sold only to the government agencies, an international media consortium reported on Monday.

The Wire news portal, in the second part of its revelations from the international collaborative investigation called the Pegasus Project, reported that the phone number of West Bengal Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee's nephew and TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee and 11 phone numbers belonging to the Supreme Court staffer and her close relatives, who accused former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi of sexual harassment in April 2019, were selected as targets for surveillance.

The government dismissed the media reports on the use of Pegasus spyware to snoop on Indians, saying the allegations levelled just ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament are aimed at "malicious Indian democracy".

In a suo motu statement in Lok Sabha, IT and Communications Minister

## Oppn Parties Train Guns At Govt, Seek Probe

Opposition parties on Monday hit out at the government over the alleged phone-tapping of prominent personalities in the country using Israeli Pegasus spyware and demanded an independent judicial or parliamentary committee probe. An international media consortium reported Sunday that more than 300 verified mobile phone numbers, including of two serving ministers, over 40 journalists, three opposition leaders and one sitting judge besides scores of businesspersons and activists in India could have been targeted for hacking through an Israeli spyware sold only to government agencies. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the matter using the hashtag "Pegasus".

"We know what he's been reading- everything on your phone," Gandhi wrote Monday as a tweet-reply to his own post

## LeT Commander Killed In Shopian Encounter

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** A top Lashkar-e-Taiba commander was among two militants killed in an overnight encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district.

Ishfaq Dar alias Abu Akram, was not only responsible for attacks on security forces, but also for civilian killings, police said on Monday.

Acting on specific information about the presence of militants in the Check-i-Sidique Khan area of the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there at night, a police spokesman said.

During the operation, as the presence of militants got ascertained, they were given repeated opportunities to surrender, he said.

The militants, however, fired indiscriminately on security forces' personnel, which was

## LG Talks Tough Against Water Shortage Warns Officials Of Strong Action If Issue Not Resolved Quickly

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Taking strong note of water scarcity in several villages of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday warned of strong action against the officials if the issue of providing clean and safe drinking water to the people is not resolved as quickly as possible.

Chairing a meeting review the functioning of Jal Shakti Department here at Civil Secretariat, the LG on Monday passed important and strict directions to the department in order to improve water supply position in the Union Territory, an official



spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, took note of water scarcity in several villages in J&K and directed the officials of Jal Shakti Department to take immediate measures and address the issue.

"No individual, no village should be deprived of drinking water. The water crisis

issue must be dealt with the spirit of service because clean and safe water is a basic human need. Strong action will be taken against officials if they fail to resolve it as quickly as possible," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, also observed that the Jal Jeevan

## J&K Blessed With Unparalleled Cultural Heritage'

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** People's Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone has said he does not expect the BJP-led Centre to restore Jammu and Kashmir's special status. "I wouldn't expect them to give it back. But that doesn't stop us from going to the courts, which we have, or waiting for a liberal government at a future date to give it back," the People's Conference tweeted Lone's remarks on its official handle on Monday.

The Centre on August 5, 2019, had abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated it into Union Territories of Jammu and

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that Jammu and Kashmir is blessed with the unparalleled wealth of cultural heritage which is mostly unexplored and needs to be showcased to the world. The LG made these remarks while chairing a meeting to review the functioning of Culture & allied departments including Department of Libraries & Research; Archives, Archaeology

More On P10

## SOP Violation May Lead To Corona Spread: Expert

Advises Qurbani, Meat Distribution By Vaccinated Ones

**SRINAGAR:** Expressing apprehensions of increase in interactions, social and religious gatherings besides other activities in view of Eid-ul-Azha, a senior medical practitioner on Monday advised involvement of vaccinated people in slaughtering sacrificial animals and distributing their meat during the Muslim festival.

Dr M Salim Khan, Professor & Head Community Medicine, GMC, Srinagar said that only vaccinated butchers should slaughter sacrificial animals as unvaccinated butchers have every chance to get infected while visiting multiple houses to deliver their services and will thus act as a source to spread

infection among other families. Besides, he also said that only vaccinated family members should come in contact with the sacrificial animal and ensure that they follow SOPs like wear masks and maintain physical distance.

Dr Salim advised that children should be kept away at the time of performing sacrifice of animals as children are not vaccinated yet.

He also suggested that only vaccinated persons should handle the affairs of distribution of meat to other families in the neighborhood or in relationships. This, he said, shall help to contain the spread of infection.

The Professor

## J&K Logs 123 Cases, One Corona Death



**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported 123 new covid-19 cases while one person succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours, officials said on Monday. They said that 51 of the fresh cases were reported from Jammu division and 72 from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally to 320024.

Regarding the death due to the virus, they said, it was reported from Kashmir Valley, taking the fatal.

## 'Elected Govt's Failed to Curb Separatist Elements In Its Ranks'

**SRINAGAR:** Central probe agencies have accused the elected governments of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir of not taking any action against employees who were openly preaching secessionism.

"Four teachers, including two females, who were among 11 Government employees terminated from services recently were openly preaching terror and not books to the students and notwithstanding the fact that their activities were well known to previous elected Governments, no action was taken against them", investigating agencies have alleged.

"One of them had close ties with Hizbul Mujahideen supreme Syed Salahuddin while

another had openly been organizing crowds in funerals of militants in South Kashmir, encouraging stone pelting and radicalizing youngsters to joint militancy but continued to escape action due to "soft approach" of previous Governments towards supporters of the terrorism", they alleged.

One of the Lecturers Mohammad Jabbar Paray, posted in District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), who was among 11 employees fired by the Government, was commonly known as "Chhota Geelani" among Jamat-e-Islami cadres. He was openly organizing funerals of slain militants in Bijbehara in Anantnag district of South Kashmir and

## Will Wait For 'Liberal' Govt To Give Back JK's Spl Status: Lone

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** People's Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone has said he does not expect the BJP-led Centre to restore Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

"I wouldn't expect them to give it back. But that doesn't stop us from going to the courts, which we have, or waiting for a liberal government at a future date to give it back," the People's Conference tweeted Lone's remarks on its official handle on Monday.

The Centre on August 5, 2019, had abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated it into Union Territories of Jammu and



Kashmir, and Ladakh.

"Abrogating Article 370 was an ideological plank of this government for 70 years, Lone said.

The separatist-turned-mainstream politician said his party will not allow the restoration of special status come in the way of seeking other objectives like grant of statehood to one of the





To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER  
Tuesday| 20-07-2021

## 'Brains Process Taste Information Before Factoring In Health Information'

### Agencies

Our brains process taste information first, before factoring in health information, according to a new research from Duke University. The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Nature Human Behaviour'. "We spend billions of dollars every year on diet products, yet most people fail when they attempt to diet," said study co-author Scott Huettel, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Duke. Huettel added, "Taste seems to have an advantage that sets us up for failure. For many individuals, health information enters the decision process too late (relative to taste information) to drive choices toward the healthier option." The new paper described the advantage taste has over healthfulness in the decision-making process. "We've always assumed people make unhealthy choices because that's their preference or because they aren't good at self-control," said study co-author Nicolette Sullivan. "It turns out it's not just a matter of self-control. Health is slower for your brain to estimate - it takes longer for you to include that information into the process of choosing between options," added Sullivan. The research was undertaken when Sullivan was a postdoctoral associate at Duke. She is now an

assistant professor of marketing at the London School of Economics and Political Science. For the study, Sullivan and Huettel recruited 79 young adults of a median age of 24.4 years. Study participants were asked to fast for four hours before the experiment to ensure they arrived hungry. Participants were asked to rate snack foods on their tastiness, healthfulness and desirability.



They were then presented with pairs of foods and asked to choose between them - and the researchers timed their choices. At the end of the experiment, participants were offered one of the foods they had chosen. Study participants registered taste information early in their decision process - taking about 400 milliseconds on average to incorporate taste information. Participants took twice as long to incorporate

information about a snack's healthfulness into their decisions. That may not sound like much time. In many cases though, it's enough to alter the choice we make. "Not every decision is made quickly - house purchases, going to college - people take time to make those choices," Huettel said. "But many decisions we make in the world are fast - people reach for something in the grocery store or click on something online," Huettel added. The authors said their findings could apply to other choices, and not just food. For instance, some financial decisions, such as saving and spending choices, may also be affected by how - and when - the brain processes different types of information. Meanwhile, all is not lost in the war against junk food cravings. Half of the study participants received a blurb before the experiment, stressing the importance of eating healthy. Those participants were less likely to choose an unhealthy snack. The authors also identified something simple that can help people with their food choices: slowing down the decision-making process. When study participants took longer to consider their options, they tended to pick healthier ones. "There may be ways to set up environments so people have an easier time making healthy choices," Huettel said.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name from Issa Sami Punjabi to Issa Sami Rather in school records and all other documents . If anyboy has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tyndale Biscoe & Mallinson School and Other concerned offices within aperiod of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name from Aaminah Sami Punjabi to Aaminah Sami Rather in school records and all other documents . If anyboy has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tyndale Biscoe & Mallinson School and Other concerned offices within aperiod of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

ازنیابت قلم اباد  
مضمون کاغذات درخواست مخائب  
تاثر سے ساکنہ مادر پازین برادعطا گی RBA تحت 294  
اشتهار بمراود آگاہی ہرخاص وعام  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست ساکنہ بخت پازین برادعطا گی RBA تحت 294  
رہنما شمولہ پکارا طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیال سے کہ ساکنہ بخت پازین برادعطا گی RBA تحت 294  
سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کر کے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض پہم اندر دفتر  
ڈاٹن چوٹن کر کے معیا کر کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا  
sult  
نائب تحصیلدار

ازنیابت قلم اباد  
مضمون کاغذات درخواست مخائب  
ساکنہ بیہامہ برادعطا گی بیکوارڈ ایما سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 294  
اشتهار بمراود آگاہی ہرخاص وعام  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست ساکنہ بخت پازین برادعطا گی RBA تحت 294  
رہنما شمولہ پکارا طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیال سے کہ ساکنہ بخت پازین برادعطا گی RBA تحت 294  
سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کر کے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض پہم اندر دفتر  
ڈاٹن چوٹن کر کے معیا کر کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا  
sult  
نائب تحصیلدار

## J&K Services Selection Board

(www.jkssb.nic.in)

Advertisement No.04 of 2021

Dated: 17-07-2021

Subject:- Advertisement for District/Divisional/UT Cadre posts of Indenting Department under provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services – Decentralization and Recruitment Act, 2010 and rules made thereunder read with other relevant rules governing the subject.

Reference:- Requisition of Posts/Vacancies received from Indenting Department as per the details given below:

S.No.	Reference of Indent	Department	No. of posts received
1	i) Ash/Coord/24/2014 Dated 29-09-2020 ii) Ash/SH/65/2015-1 Dated 19-10-2020	Animal / Sheep husbandry and Fisheries Department	329
	Total Posts		329

- Date of Commencement for submission of online applications= 04-08-2021.
- Last Date for submission of online applications = 06-09-2021.
- Annexure "A" = Name of the Post, Cadre, Pay Level, Category wise break up of posts, Qualification and Criteria for selection.
- Annexure "B" = Certificate regarding physical limitation.
- Annexure "C" = Letter of undertaking for using own Scribe.

Total Number of Posts Advertised = 329

The J&K Services Selection Board invites online application from eligible candidates for participation in the selection process for District/Divisional/UT Cadre posts. The detailed notification is available on official website of J&K Services Selection Board i.e [www.jkssb.nic.in](http://www.jkssb.nic.in)

Sd/-  
(Sachin Jmalwal) KAS,  
SECRETARY,  
J&K Services Selection Board

DIPK-4957/21

No. SSB/Secy/Advt.No./04/5015-31

Dated: 17/07/2021

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Industrial Training Institute, Budgam ( KMR )

Email Id: itibudgam@yahoo.com

Web: itibudgam.org

itibudgam123@gmail.com

Subject:- Admission Notice for the academic session 2021-22-23 in Govt ITI  
Admission Notice

Budgam

Online applications are invited from the desirous candidates for seeking Admission in Government ITI Budgam 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 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2021.

Candidates having minimum age of 14 years, as on 1st June 2021, with no upper age bar can apply. The desirous candidates have to fill up the admission forms online available at ITI admission link (<http://itiadmissions.jkdsd.org>) present on the official website of Directorate of Skill Development J&K UT i.e. [www.jkdsd.org](http://www.jkdsd.org).

The last date for applying online is up to 5th of August 2021. The details pertaining to trades functioning in the Institute for which admissions are to be made for the session 2021-22-23 for Free and Self Financing seat are also available on the portal & also can be seen in Annexure "A" of this admission notice and this office website: [itibudgam.org](http://itibudgam.org)

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:-

1. Marks Certificate of Qualifying Examination.
2. Date of Birth Certificate.
3. Category Certificate (SC/ST/Ex-serviceman/Physically Handicapped/EWS) if any.
4. Aadhar Card.

(\*\*Domicile Certificate should be produced at the time of admission in the 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 office of the undersigned along with self attested photo copies of above mentioned required documents .

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 office of the undersigned .

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). Or contact on mobile numbers : 9622426330, 7006409601, 8082044100, 7006049446

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

1. 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).
2. On successful completion of training in trades running under NCVT/SCVT Scheme, certificate will be awarded by National / State Council for Vocational Training.
3. 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.

( Tawheeda Habib )  
Principal

DIPK-4955/21

No.ITI/Bdg/2021/205-10

Dated: 16-07-2020

Annexure -\*A\* to admission notice No. ITI Bud/2021/205-10 dated:16-07-2021

Scheme-wise list of Trades of Govt. ITI Budgam for admission for the  
Academic Session 2021-22-23

S.No.	Name of trade	Intake capacity	Duration of course	Qty	Trade under	No. of units	Scheme
1	Stenographer Secretarial Assistant (English)	24	01 Year	10th	NCVT	01	Normal
2	Welder	20	01 Year	8th	NCVT	01	Normal
3	COMPUTER OPERATOR AND PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT	24	01 Year	10th	NCVT	01	Normal
4	COMPUTER OPERATOR AND PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT	24	01 Year	10th	NCVT	01	Normal (Women Wing)
5	FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT	24	01 Year	10th	NCVT	01	Normal
6	Dress Making	20	01 Year	8th	NCVT	01	Normal
7	REFRIGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN	24	02 Year	10th	NCVT	01	PPP
8	Data Entry Operator	24	01 Year	10th	NCVT	01	PPP
9	Plumber	24	01 Year	8th	SCVT	01	PPP
10	Network Technician (two Shifts )	40	06 Months	10th	NCVT	01	Self Finance

( Tawheeda Habib )  
Principal

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam

NIT SL No: 39/2021-22/RnB/Kul/e-tendering/3203-23 dated 19-07-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Providing/Laying of RCC Spun Pipes on various roads of R&B Sub Division Kulgam	3.00	200	07 days	3054 M&R	Dee

Position of AAA= Accorded vide No C.E's No: BS/6495-96 dated 03-06-2021

Technical Sanction: Under Process

Position of fund = Available

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

S.No.	Particulars	Dated	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice .	17-07-2021	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 19-07-2021 To 24-07-2021	(1:00 PM) (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 19-07-2021 To 24-07-2021	(1:00 PM) (4:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	From 24-07-2021 To 24-07-2021	(4:30 AM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam (Major Head 0059-Rev:Misc) [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam (Tender receiving Authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

4. The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

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

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

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

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

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

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

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

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

13. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

No: 3224-26

Dtd 19-07-2021

DIPK-5013/21

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
(R&B) Division Kulgam

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/ CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT



## SCERT's Five-day E-Workshop On SBA Concludes

SBA Will Focus On Competency Development: Prof Indrani

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The first of its kind five day online training workshop on School Based Assessment (SBA) for teachers and teacher educators, organized by the State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT), Jammu and Kashmir, concluded here today.

The purpose of the workshop was to make the teachers understand the concept of school based assessment as enshrined in the National Education Policy (NEP) announced by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in 2020. The policy, whose implementing agency is the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT), is referred to as NEP-2020.

The workshop was, earlier, e-inaugurated by the Principal Secretary, School Education Department, B K Singh, which was attended by more than 100 teachers from all districts of J&K.

Professor Indrani Bhaduri, who heads the Educational Survey Division at the NCERT, joined the workshop from New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Director SCERT, Prof Veena Pandita said that the traditional form of examination suffered from a variety of flaws putting students under a lot of pressure.

"The SBA encompasses a set of tools and techniques to assess a child's performance while moving beyond marks and grades," she maintained. She added that the assessment would be used to benchmark students' learning against criteria—process skills/learning indicators and learning outcomes—based on identified curricular aims and objectives.

Prof Pandita said the SBA

has been so thought out that it provides a comprehensive information regarding the extent of student learning vis-à-vis curricular objectives including performance in different subject areas because different children exhibit different skill sets.

Professor Indrani Bhaduri, while underlining the importance of introducing the concept of SBA, said that the National Achievement Survey (NAS) conducted in 2017 highlighted some grave issues in our education system that needed to be mitigated. She added that NEP 2020 has also made recommendations which need to be understood and implemented.

She said the SBA is aimed at facilitating the attainment of competencies of the students in order to assess efficiency of the teaching-learning process within the broader educational philosophy of assessment for learning. It is child centered and activity based pedagogy that will focus on competency development rather than content memorization, she maintained.

"It invariably puts an end to the monopoly of examination system on the education system and to think about a better practice that will make the student more interactive and expressive," she remarked. "Because the teacher is at the heart of the teaching-learning process, it's important that they undergo rigorous training to fully understand the concept and then implement it on the ground," Prof Indrani asserted.

The first of its kind workshop on SBA was organised by the Educational Research and Assessment Survey (ERAS) Division of SCERT.

## Mayor SMC Greets People On Eid-ul-Adha

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mayor of Srinagar Junaid Azim Mattu on Monday extended heartfelt felicitations and warm wishes to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. Praying for peace and prosperity for the people, Mayor Srinagar Junaid Mattu said Eid-ul-Azha signifies the spirit and selflessness of sacrifice as a virtue to be embodied and emulated in our day-to-day lives.

"May this Eid usher us into an era of peace, dignity and prosperity and may we be guided by the Almighty to take care of the

destitute, the orphans and the less fortunate on this joyous occasion," the Srinagar Mayor added. The fact that this Eid comes amidst a pandemic invites our attention to abide by laid down standard operating procedures, above all wearing masks and maintaining social distance, the Mayor further added.

Directions have also been passed to the staff of the SMC to carry out market checking, decongest roadsides for easy movement of vehicles and pedestrians on the occasion and ensure the uninterrupted provision of public services, he said.



Srinagar markets Monday witnessed a huge rush of customers two days ahead of Eid-ul-Adha. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## DC Urges People To Adhere To Covid SOPs On Eid-ul-Adha

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday urged the general public of Srinagar district to ensure strict adherence to Covid-19 SOPs ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha festival.

The DC said though the situation with regard to Covid-19 is improving day by day, wearing Masks, maintaining Physical/Social distancing, hand hygiene and avoiding mass gatherings are imperative to protect/safeguard our family and fellow citizens from infection of deadly pandemic.

The DC said that pace of ongoing Vaccination drive has been intensified and till date above 5 lakh vaccine doses have been administered which is the highest number of Covid-19 vaccines inoculated in Kashmir Division.

He informed that about 90 percent of the population under the age group of 45-60 have been administered anti Covid-19 vaccine shots and left out persons will be administered vaccine doses in coming days to achieve



the 100 percent target.

He also added that presently we have about 450 active positive cases in the district so we have to strictly adhere to Covid safety precautions to tackle the emergence of 3rd wave of Covid-19 as predicted by Health Experts.

The DC appealed to the people of Srinagar to adhere to all guidelines and follow Covid-19 Appropriate Behavior to ensure safety of themselves, family and fellow citizens. He also urged the left out population to inoculate anti Covid-19 vaccine at the earliest to get protected against infection of Covid-19.

Regarding Eid rush amid the pandemic, the DC said that there is a need to understand that virus does not go for holidays, presuming it and doing away with the Covid guidelines will prove harmful.

Whenever we take the virus lightly, we get trapped, it was observed that after the first wave, people presumed that the virus was over, but suddenly an explosion took place across the globe, the DC said adding that as experts are predicting a third Covid wave, the SOPs have to be followed in spirit as the virus is in working mode 24\*7, so we need to be more cautious.

The DC said self-enforcement is the biggest thing and everywhere across the Globe the people at Holy places have been following Covid appropriate behavior and similarly, we also need to follow the suit here, he added.

The DC said Covid Appropriate behavior is must every day and Nobody will afford any violation in Covid Appropriate Behavior whether on festivals or on normal days.

## Srinagar Markets Witness Huge Rush Ahead Of Eid-ul-Azha

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid relaxation in Covid-19 lockdown, Srinagar witnessed huge rush of people on Monday to shop for Eid-ul-Azha, to be celebrated on July 21.

Bakeries, Confectioneries witnessed huge rush of customers. However, outlets dealing with clothing including footwear saw a moderate flow of buyers.

"Even though we can see rush all around, not many are

buying as compared to the previous Eid's before the pandemic," a shopkeeper said.

A large folk of women were seen busy shopping for groceries to cook delicious food to celebrate Eid. The roadside vendors had also set up stalls in the city, but were not satisfied with the sales as per their expectations.

"However, this year, the demand for sacrificial animals is down as compared to previous years due Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing general trade depression," an animal seller said.

Meanwhile, Kashmir Retailers Association (KRA) has hailed Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for giving "humanitarian relaxation" for Eid shopping in the Valley amid Covid restrictions.

In a statement, KRA President Farhan Kitab said, "the retail sector has been trying hard to cope with the slings and arrows of the Covid19 pandemic, which caused irreparable damage to business."

## FCS&CA Conducts Market Checking Across Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To crack whip on the hoarders and illegal profiteers in wake of upcoming Eid-ul-Adha, a team of officials headed by Director Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Dr Abdul Salam Mir conducted the market checking across district Srinagar.

On the occasion, the team inspected the rates of sacrificial animals and visited various food establishments including chicken, mutton, fruit and vegetable shops. The team sealed four establishments, filed one FIR and recovered a fine of Rs 14200 from the erring shopkeepers.

The rotten fruits and vegetables were also destroyed on the spot in the presence of

the public.

The team interacted with many people on the spot wherein they have been told not to pay more money than the price fixed by the Government. However the black marketers as well as hoarders have been asked to refrain from such nefarious designs during the EID period otherwise strict action shall follow against them.

The public in general has been asked to lodge their complaint on toll free number 18001807011 in case of any violation of rates in the market.

Assistant Director Enforcement Kashmir and Assistant Director Srinagar North besides other officers and officials accompanied the Director during the inspection of various establishments.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TLMD-VI (6),BEMINA, SRINAGAR

Tele No: 0194-2492429 Fax: 0194-2492429.  
Email: tlcdistpdd@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: TLMD-VI/12 of 2021-22

Dated: 16/07/2021

Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, Bemina Srinagar on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UV invites e-tenders (In Two Cover System) valid for 180 days from reputed, experienced and financially sound Contractors and Executors fulfilling the eligibility criteria specified in the standard bidding documents for the work detailed below. As per Govt Circular No: A/Misc(2018)-III-895/I Dt:22.12.2020.Bids need not to be accompanied by EMD however the bidder has to submit declaration as per format given in standard bidding document.

The complete bidding process is online. However, hardcopies are to be submitted only by the Lowest Bidder in the office of Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI Bemina Srinagar, on the day which will be communicated to lowest bidder. Financial bids must be submitted online only as per prescribed format.

The Standard Bidding Document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

S.No	Scope of work	Qty	Estimated Cost	Time of Completion
1	Renovation Bathroom and allied works/repairs of Divisional Office building of TLMD-VI, Bemina Srinagar.	Refer BOQ for details	Rs. 93715/-	01 Week

The information regarding schedule of downloading of the tender document and submission dates thereof is as per the table below:

CRITICAL DATES:-

1.	Issue of NIT.	16-07-2021
2.	Downloading of bidding documents (Start).	17-07-2021 (10 am)
3.	Downloading of bidding documents (End).	29-07-2021 (4pm)
4.	e-Bid submission (Start) date & time (Submission).	17-07-2021 (10am)
5.	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission supporting documents in PDF formats).	29-07-2021 (6pm)
6.	Online Techno-Commercial e-Bid opening date and time.	30-07-2021 (2pm)
7.	Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids.	Office of the Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, Bemina, Srinagar
8.	Cost of e-Bid document (to be submitted in the form of DD Pledged to executive engineer TLMD-VI, JKTPL Srinagar).	Rs 500/-

- Only the bidders possessing the qualifying criteria as mentioned in the SBD should participate in the bidding process.
- Clarifications can also be sought from the office of the under signed on E-mail [tlcdistpdd@gmail.com](mailto:tlcdistpdd@gmail.com) or fax 0194 – 2492429.
- Before participating in the bids, the bidder shall acquaint himself with the site of work and local conditions.
- The department reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

No: TLMD-VI/929-32  
Dated:- 16.07.2021

DIPK-NB-1875/21

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
TLMD-VI, Bemina Sgr.

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI  
CALENDAR  
09 Zil Haj  
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 54  
ZUHR 12:37  
ASR 5:34  
Magrib 7:43  
ISHA 9:19

## This Day In History

- 1933 - In London, 500,000 march against anti-Semitism
- 1943 - US Joint Chiefs of Staff question Admiral Chester Nimitz over the landing on Gilbert Island
- 1944 - US invades Japanese-occupied Guam
- 1944 - Adolf Hitler survives an assassination attempt led by German army officer Claus Von Stauffenberg
- 1947 - 1st political action of Netherlands Army on Java and Sumatra
- 1949 - Israel's 19 month war of independence ends
- 1953 - USSR/Israel recover diplomatic relations
- 1953 - The United Nations Economic and Social Council votes to make UNICEF a permanent agency
- 1954 - Armistice for Indo-China signed, Vietnam separates into North and South
- 1956 - France recognizes Tunisian independence
- 1956 - Great Britain refuses to lend Egypt money to build Aswan Dam
- 1958 - King Hussein of Jordan breaks off diplomatic relations with UAR
- 1960 - Sirima Bandaranaike becomes 1st female premier of Ceylon
- 1960 - USSR recovered 2 dogs; 1st living organisms to return from space
- 1962 - France & Tunisia recover diplomatic relations
- 1969 - 1st Moon Landing: Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin from Apollo 11, 530 million watch live global broadcast
- 1975 - India expels three reporters from The Times, The Daily Telegraph, and Newsweek because they refused to sign a pledge to abide by government censorship.
- 1976 - US Viking 1 lands on Mars at Chryse Planitia, 1st Martian landing
- 1976 - Vietnam War: The US military completes its troop withdrawal from Thailand.
- 1977 - The Central Intelligence Agency releases documents under the Freedom of Information Act revealing it had engaged in mind control experiments.
- 1982 - Hyde Park and Regent's Park bombings: 11 British soldiers and 7 military horses killed in Provisional Irish Republican Army bomb attacks during military ceremonies in London
- 1989 - Burma government puts author Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest
- 1992 - Václav Havel resigns as President of Czechoslovakia after Slovakia declares independence
- 1994 - Supreme Leader of North-Korea, Kim Il-sung is placed in a public Mausoleum at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun
- 1996 - In Spain an ETA bomb at an airport kills 35
- 1998 - Two hundred aid workers from CARE International, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) and other aid groups leave Afghanistan on orders of the Taliban.
- 1999 - Falun Gong is banned in the People's Republic of China, and a large scale crackdown of the practice is launched.
- 2005 - Canada becomes the fourth country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage, after the bill C-38 receives its Royal Assent.
- 2012 - 12 people are killed and 59 injured after a gunman opens fire at a Dark Knight movie premier in Aurora, Colorado.
- 2012 - 21 people are killed and 29 injured in a bus accident in Nayarit, Mexico
- 2014 - The Israeli Defence Force enter Shuja'iyya, a populous neighbourhood of Gaza City, as part of their ground offensive focused on destroying tunnels crossing the Israel border
- 2015 - Suicide bomber kills 30 in Turkish town of Suruc near Syrian border

*From KO Archives*

JKAP man on killing spree

Kills SHO, driver; wounds DSP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - A station house officer (SHO) of the Kashmir police and an SRTC driver were killed and a deputy superintendent of police injured when a member of the J&K Armed Police opened indiscriminate fire on his superiors near, the Deshnam Akhara building on the Budshah Chowk here this morning.

A member of the J&K Armed Police (JKAP) opened unprovoked fire on his officers who were overseeing security arrangements for the departure of the Chari Mubarak (Holy Mac-o) from the Deshnam Akhara at around 8 this morning, the ONS said.

The station house officer of the Maisuma police station, Ghulam Nabi Parry, and an SRTC driver, Basheer Ahmad Khan, were killed on the spot, and the deputy superintendent of police (DSP) for security, Ghulam Jeelani Baba, was injured. The driver was present at the scene in connection with yatra duty.

The injured DSP was rushed to the SMHS hospital where doctors referred him to the SKIMS. His condition was reported to be serious.

The attacker, Kabeer Singh of the 9 Bn JKAP, hailing from Udhampur, was immediately taken into custody. He had fired 23 rounds from his service carbine, and only five bullets were found in the magazine after the attack. The attack was deliberate, and the DSP was the actual target, the CNS quoted sources as having said. A criminal case has been registered by the police.

Heartrending scenes were witnessed as the body of the slain driver arrived home in Gurgari Mohalla, Nawab Bazaar. The driver was a father of five children, four of them girls, and the sole earning hand of the family.

(Kashmir Observer, 20 July, 2005)



## Pilgrims Flock To Mount Arafat In High Point Of Pandemic-Era Hajj



### Agenceis

Just 60,000 people, all citizens or residents of Saudi Arabia, have been selected to take part in this year's hajj, with foreign pilgrims again barred

Muslim pilgrims gathered at Saudi Arabia's Mount Arafat on Monday in the high point of this year's hajj, being held in downsized form and under coronavirus restrictions for the second year running.

Just 60,000 people, all citizens or residents of Saudi Arabia, have been selected to take part in this year's hajj, with foreign pilgrims again barred.

The mask-clad faithful, who had spent the night in camps in the Valley of Mina, converged on Mount Arafat where it is believed the Prophet Mohammed delivered his final sermon, for the most important of the hajj rituals.

After noon prayers, worshippers traditionally ascend the 70-metre high hill and its surrounding plain for hours of prayers and Koran recitals to atone for their sins, staying there until the evening.

After sunset they head to Muzdalifah, halfway between Arafat and Mina, where they will sleep under the stars before performing the symbolic "stoning of the devil."

The scene was dramatically different to past pilgrimages, which have drawn up to 2.5 million people, and this year the mountain was free of the huge crowds that descend on it in normal years.

Being one of the lucky few "gives you a feeling that our God is forgiving and has chosen us to be in this place," said Selma Mohamed Hegazi, a 45-year-old Egyptian. "God willing, our prayers will be accepted."

"My whole body is shivering," she told AFP as she stood among the other emotional pilgrims, wearing the ihram, the traditional seamless white garment worn during the hajj.

Worshippers described a sense of tranquillity descending on the mountain, also known as the "Mount of Mercy."

"To be one of only 60,000 doing hajj ...I feel like I am part of a (privileged) group that was able to reach this place," said Baref Siraj, a 58-year-old Saudi national. The hajj, one of the five pillars

of Islam and a must for able-bodied Muslims with the means to travel at least once in their lifetime, is usually one of the world's largest religious gatherings.

Hosting the hajj is a matter of prestige for Saudi rulers, for whom the custodianship of Islam's holiest sites is their most powerful source of political legitimacy.

But barring overseas pilgrims has caused deep disappointment among Muslims worldwide, who typically save for years to take part.

Participants were chosen from more than 558,000 applicants through an online vetting system, with the event confined to fully vaccinated adults aged 18-65 with no chronic illnesses.

Safety first Authorities are seeking to repeat last year's successful event which took place on the smallest scale in modern history with just 10,000 participants, but which saw no virus outbreak.

Saudi health authorities said Sunday that not a single Covid case had been reported amongst the pilgrims this year.

The kingdom has so far recorded more than 509,000 coronavirus infections, including over 8,000 deaths. Some 20 million vaccine doses have been administered in the country of over 34 million people.

The hajj, which typically packs large crowds into congested religious sites, could have been a super-spreader event for the virus.

But Saudi Arabia has said it is deploying the "highest levels of health precautions" in light of the pandemic and the emergence of new variants.

Pilgrims are being divided into groups of just 20 to restrict potential exposure, and a "smart hajj card" has been introduced to allow contact-free access to camps, hotels and the buses to ferry pilgrims around religious sites.

Black-and-white robots have been deployed to dispense bottles of sacred water from the Zamzam spring in Mecca's Grand Mosque, built around the Kaaba, the black cubic structure towards which Muslims around the world pray.

Ibrahim Siam, a 64-year-old Egyptian pilgrim who comes from Dammam in the east of the country, said that high-tech procedures introduced to manage the hajj "have made things a lot easier."

## Hospitals Have Become Like Real Estate Industries Instead Of Serving Humanity: SC

### Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday said hospitals have become like huge real estate industries instead of serving humanity in the face of Covid-19 tragedy while directing that 'nursing homes' running from 2-3 room flats in residential colonies which pay little attention to fire and building safety norms should be closed.

The apex court also pulled up the Gujarat government for extending the deadline till July next year for hospitals to rectify the building by-laws violations, and said the "carte blanche" notification was in teeth of its order of December 18 last year and people will continue to die in fire incidents.

"These hospitals have become like a huge real estate industry instead of serving the cause of humanity in the face of human tragedy.

"You (Gujarat government) have been extending the deadline, which cannot be done in view of our December 18, last year order. Hospitals are meant to provide succour to the patients in distress but instead they become money minting machines," said a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah.

Hospitals have become huge industries at the time of this tragedy and "these kinds of nursing homes, running from two-three room flats in a residential colony, should not be allowed to work", it added.

"It is better that these hospitals are closed and the state should provide necessary infrastructure. We cannot allow these hospitals and nursing homes to continue working. This is a human tragedy which is taking place," the bench said while referring to a fire incident in Nashik, Maharashtra, where some nurses and patients were killed last year.

The top court indicated that the Gujarat government will have to withdraw the notification, saying it appears to be in the teeth of its last year's order and sought explanation on issuance of the notification within a week.

It said that once a direction has been issued by the top court, "it cannot be overridden by an executive order and now you (Gujarat government) have issued a carte blanche saying the hospitals don't have to adhere to rectifying the violations till



July, 2022", and people will continue dying and getting burnt till then.

It also took exception to the report filed in a sealed cover by a commission on the issue of fire safety in hospitals saying that "it is not a nuclear secret but just a report. Why in a sealed cover".

It asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to look into the issue of notification and take it up with the Gujarat authorities and asked the state to file a comprehensive statement explaining the notification and details of fire safety audits which were conducted pursuant to the top court's order of last year.

The top court listed the suo motu case on proper treatment of COVID patients after two weeks.

On December 18 last year, the top court had directed all the states to constitute a committee in each district to conduct fire audit of COVID-19 hospitals at least once a month, inform the management of medical establishments about any deficiency and report to the government for taking follow up action.

It had said that Covid-19 hospitals, which have not obtained no objection certificate from the fire department concerned, should be asked to immediately apply for NOC and after carrying necessary inspection, a decision shall be taken in this regard.

"Those Covid hospitals who have not renewed their NOC should immediately take steps for renewal on which appropriate inspection is taken and decisions be taken. In event, Covid hospital is found not having NOC or not having obtained

renewal, appropriate action be taken by the state," it had said.

The top court had directed that all states and Union Territories should appoint one nodal officer for each Covid hospital, if not already appointed, who shall be made responsible for ensuring compliance of all fire safety measures.

The apex court had last year taken cognisance of the fire incident at a Covid hospital in Gujarat's Rajkot in which five patients had died.

It had also taken note of similar incidents which had happened earlier in other Covid hospitals.

It had taken note that Gujarat government has appointed Justice D A Mehta led commission to undertake enquiry with regard to fire in Shrey Hospital, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad, in addition to enquiry into the incident of fire in Uday Shivanand Hospital, Rajkot.

It had said that the state would extend all co-operations to the enquiry commission so that enquiry report is submitted at an early date and the appropriate remedial action be taken by the state. The top court noted that the Centre has also directed the states and UTs to update their respective local building bye laws/fire services, synchronising them in line with the 'Model Bill on maintenance of fire and emergency service, 2019', circulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs on September 16 last year.

The issue of Rajkot fire incident had cropped up in the top court which was hearing a suo motu case on proper treatment of Covid-19 patients and dignified handling of bodies in hospitals. PTI

## Muslims Must Beat Scientific Backwardness, Political Dependence:Khamenei



### Agenceis

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader has said, successive American setbacks in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan stem from America's "deep ignorance" about regional nations and remarked that "continued resistance is what can prevent America and other international aggressors from interfering in the affairs of the Islamic countries".

Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei in his annual Hajj message released on Monday, also stressed on a "great duty and an untiring endeavor" by Muslims worldwide to bolster hope and build up determination to defeat scientific backwardness, political dependence, and economic and social problems besetting the world of Islam.

"This is the second year that the season of happiness and spiritual exaltation associated with Hajj has turned into a season of separation and regret. The tribulation of the pandemic and perhaps that of the policies dominating over the Holy Ka'bah have deprived the eyes of the eager believers from seeing the Islamic nation's symbol of unity, greatness and spirituality. Thus, this glorious, honorable summit has been covered with clouds and dust", he said.

"Hajj is an act of worship that is filled with mysteries and secrets. The exquisite formation and combination of movement and quietude in it builds the identity of the Muslims and the Muslim community and displays its beauties for the people of the world", Khamenei said.

"We who are the followers of Islam – and who enjoy a large population, vast lands, countless natural resources and nations that are aware and awake – must build the future with our assets and resources", Khamenei said.

Iran leader rued that over the last 150 years, Muslim nations have not had any role in deciding the fate of their countries and their governments. "Apart from a few exceptions, they have all been led and governed by transgressing western governments while being subject to their greed, interference and malevolence. Scientific backwardness and political dependence in many coun-

tries is the product of that passivity and incompetence."

"Today, our nations, our youth, our scientists, our religious scholars, our civic intellectuals, our politicians, our political parties and our people must make up for that dishonorable, embarrassing past. They must stand firm and resist the aggression, interference and wickedness of western powers", Iran leader said in his address to pilgrims.

"All that the Islamic Republic of Iran is saying that has caused the world of Arrogance to become despondent and infuriated is actually an invitation to this kind of resistance. This is a resistance in the face of the interference and evil of America and other transgressing countries so as to take the fate of the world of Islam in one's own hands by relying on Islamic teachings" Ayatollah remarked.

According to Khamenei, America and its "cohorts" are sensitive about the word "resistance" and have decided to show "all kinds of hostility to the Islamic Resistance Front."

"The truth of the realities in the Islamic region bolsters this hope and builds up this determination. From another perspective, the bitter events in the world of Islam, scientific backwardness, political dependence, and economic and social problems direct us toward a great duty and an untiring endeavor", Iran leader said.

Turning to what he described as resistance front, Khamenei said, "Usurped Palestine is calling for our help. Innocent, bloodied Yemen torments every heart. The plight of Afghanistan concerns everyone. The bitter events in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and some other countries – where the interfering, malevolent hand of the US and its cohorts is completely visible – is stimulating the zeal and determination of all the young people."

He drew satisfaction at what he called, the emergence of the resistance forces throughout this sensitive region, the awakening of nations, and the motivation of the young, enthusiastic generation.

According to Iran leader, the recent American setbacks in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan stems from America's "deep ignorance" about regional nations.

## 30 Killed, 74 Injured As Bus And Truck Collide In Pakistan

### Agenceis

LAHORE: Thirty people were killed and 74 injured when a passenger bus and truck collided in Punjab province early on Monday morning, rescue and hospital officials said.

Rescue officials said the accident occurred when a bus was in collision with a container truck at about 5.40 am (0040 GMT) in Dera Ghazi Khan district 466 km (289 miles) south east of Lahore.

The injured and dead were taken to a nearby hospital by the rescue service.

"As many as 30 people have died and 74 have been wounded," Dr Najeeb ur Rehman, Medical Su-

perintendent of Dera Ghazi Khan Teaching Hospital, told Reuters, adding the toll might rise as several injured are in serious condition.

Fatal road accidents are common in Pakistan, where traffic rules are rarely followed and roads in many rural areas are in poor condition.

Last month, a train crash killed 56 people in Sindh province and left dozens wounded.

PromotedListen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

Pakistan information minister Fawad Chaudhry expressed sorrow over the loss of life in Monday's accident.

## Climate Change Sees Swiss Alps Add Over 1,000 Lakes: Study



### Agenceis

GENEVA: Climate change has dramatically altered the Swiss Alp landscape -- at a quicker pace than expected -- as melting glaciers have created more than 1,000 new lakes across in the mountains, a study published Monday showed. The inventory of Swiss Glacial lakes showed that almost 1,200 new lakes have formed in formerly glaciated regions of the Swiss Alps since the end of the Little Ice Age around 1850.

Around 1,000 of them still exist today, according to the study published by the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag). That is far more than the few hundreds the researchers had expected to find at the beginning of the project.

"We were surprised by the sheer numbers," Daniel Odermatt, head of the Eawag Remote Sensing Group that carried out the study, said in a statement.

He said the "marked acceleration in formation" was also surprising, pointing out that "180 have been added in the last decade alone".

Glaciers in the Swiss Alps are in steady decline, losing a full two percent of their volume last year alone, according to an annual study published by the Swiss

Academies of Science.

And even if the world were to fully implement the 2015 Paris Agreement -- which calls for capping global warming at at least two degrees Celsius -- two-thirds of the Alpine glaciers will likely be lost, according to a 2019 study by the ETH technical university in Zurich.

The Eawag assessment showed that there was an initial peak in glacial lake formation in the Swiss Alps between 1946 and 1973, when nearly eight new lakes appeared on average each year.

After a brief decline, the lake formation rate surged between 2006 and 2016, with 18 new lakes appearing each year on average, while the water surface swelled by over 400 square metres (4,300 square feet) annually. This, Eawag said, is "visible evidence of climate change in the Alps".

The comprehensive inventory was made possible by large troves of data gathered from the Switzerland's glaciers since the mid-19th century.

In total, the researchers were able to draw on data from seven periods between 1850 and 2016.

For each of the 1,200 lakes formed since 1850, the scientists recorded the location, elevation, shape and area of the lake at the different times, as well as the type of material of the dam and surface drainage.

## Pegasus Spyware Scandal "Completely Unacceptable" If True: EU Chief

### Agenceis

PRAGUE: European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said Monday the spyware scandal involving an Israeli software firm and up to 50,000 smartphone numbers was "completely unacceptable" if true.

"This has to be verified, but if it is the case, it is completely unacceptable," she told reporters in Prague.

Media outlets including The Washington Post, The Guardian and Le Monde drew links Sunday between the Israel-based NSO Group, accused of supplying spyware to governments, and a list of tens of thousands of smartphone numbers, including those of activists, journalists, business executives and politicians around the world.

Von der Leyen, who was in Prague to present a Czech post-Covid recovery plan worth 7 billion euros (\$8.2 billion) approved by the EU, slammed the alleged



attack on journalists' phones.

"Free press is one of the core values of the European Union," she said after meeting Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis. The NSO Group and its Pegasus malware -- capable of switching on a phone's camera or microphone, and harvesting its data -- have been in the headlines since 2016, when researchers accused it of helping spy on a dissident in the United Arab Emirates.

The leak consists of more than

50,000 smartphone numbers believed to have been identified as connected to people of interest by NSO clients since 2016, the news organizations said, although it was unclear how many devices were actually targeted or surveilled. NSO has denied any wrongdoing.

PromotedListen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

Founded in 2010 by Israelis Shalev Hulio and Omri Lavie, NSO Group is based in the Israeli hi-tech hub of Herzliya, near Tel Aviv.

### NEWSMAKERS

## All Aboard The Hyperloop: How Your Commute Could Be Changing

### Agenceis

NEW YORK: Think about the future of transportation, and you might envision the old animated show "The Jetsons," with everyone flying around in personal spacecrafts.

Not only did that never happen, but we are still piling into creaky old subways and buses.

Josh Giegel wants to start from scratch. The chief executive and co-founder of Virgin Hyperloop foresees us zipping between cities in minutes, a future not as far off as you may think.

Giegel sat down with Reuters to talk about how this budding technology could change the way we live and work.

Q: Humanity is facing all sorts of transportation challenges, so why do you think hyperloop is the right solution?

A: We're looking at moving massive amounts of people, at the speed of an aircraft, giving them the opportunity to live where they want to live

and work where they want to work. A hyperloop would move as many people and goods as a 30-lane highway.

Q: How does the hyperloop work?

A: We take you inside a tube, which gives you lots of advantages. It's impervious to weather, and you avoid lots of things that cause accidents, like crossings.

Inside the tube we take almost all the air out, allowing you to go at high speeds with very little energy consumption. We use magnetic levitation technology, so there is no grinding, and everything is contactless and smooth. With electromagnetic propulsion, and 20-30 passengers per pod, we could move tens of thousands of passengers per hour.

Q: You actually rode in one at your Nevada test facility, so what was it like?

A: From starting this in a garage seven years ago, to drawing it up on a whiteboard, to sitting inside it, it was

all very surreal.

The acceleration was similar to a sports car, and we were giddy. The biggest piece of that test was that the world saw two people get on a hyperloop, and saw two people get off.

Until that moment, everyone wondered "Could it be safe for people?" Now we know that it is.

Q: How will this speed up travel between cities?

A: It transforms the math. Look at how long it takes you right now to get across Manhattan. Maybe 40 minutes. You could go from NYC to Washington, D.C., in less time. You could go from LA to Las Vegas in 40 minutes.

What we're doing is similar to what Roman roads, and Spanish ships, and airplanes did - shrinking the time associated with distance.

Q: What is the timeline to have it up and running?

A: This is not 10 or 20 years away.

Cities can start incorporating this into their planning right now.

I couldn't put my finger on who will be the very first, but in addition to America, we are also looking at places like India, Europe and the Middle East.

We are probably looking at a time-frame of 2025-27.

Q: Since you are a Virgin company, what has your interaction with Sir Richard Branson been like?

A: He is a consummate dreamer who believes in what we are trying to do. What I enjoy about Richard is that he not only started his own business from nothing, but he's an adventurer.

We are not only building a new type of transportation system, but we are trying to attract passengers to something new - and that's what he has done, from Virgin Atlantic to Virgin Cruises to Virgin Galactic. He knows how to build customer acceptance and loyalty.

Q: If this tech catches on, will it change how people live and work?

A: One hundred percent. I have a two-year-old son, and the way he will be able to live is unlike anything we can imagine.

If you look at the cities of the future, people might want to live in one area, and work in other areas. We're already seeing that with the pandemic. My dream is to live near Yosemite and then work with my team in LA. A hyperloop would give you the potential to do both.

Q: What do you want people to know about this technology?

A: Big ideas don't have to take long periods of time. You can go from a garage to a moonshot idea in a couple of years.

This decade could end with hundreds of millions of people riding hyperloop. For people who think this technology is many years away, I rode on one. It's right now.



## Dir Edu Asked To Ensure Online Competitions Of Students On Independence Day

Observer News Service

Navin asked the officers to extend all possible support to the unit holders who suffer losses due to disease or wild animal attacks. He also asked them to provide assistance to poultry dealers in securing the pollution control equipments. He further enjoined upon them to give proper publicity to insurance scheme being extended to poultry farm dealers by the department.

Meanwhile SIT completed the investigation of the case within eighty six (86) days during which the statement of near about Fifty one witnesses was recorded and on Monday 19 July 2021 the Challan was presented against the both accused persons and they are in Judicial Custody.

While as the Health department was instructed to deploy a team of doctors and paramedics for thermal checking of participants from the beginning of rehearsal activities of function.

He visited several areas and inspected various development works including construction of road at PTL Tulail, construction of block hut at Sheikhpura Tulail, construction of Playground at Khandayal and construction of CC path at Chorwan besides other vital works.

He once again appealed to Ulemas to sensitise the public to offer Eid prayers at their respective homes instead of Masjids and Eidgahs and also make announcements in masjids for the same for information of the general public.

While briefing the clerics about the measures to be taken for peaceful celebration of festivity, the DC said though district administration has taken all strict measures in efforts to break the chain of its transmission but it is responsibility of the people to cooperate with the district administration and assist it in its efforts as they show cooperation by way of adhering to the related advisories as usual.

**Eid prayers shall** be allowed only in local mosques of the district and no congregational prayers shall be allowed in major mosques/Eidgah of the district on forthcoming Eid-ul-Adha as a precautionary measure to overcome the resurgence of COVID-19 pandemic.

**DIPK-NB-1890/21**

No:-e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2021-22/3386-91  
Dated: 16-07-2021.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
PCD (PHO) J&K Srinagar.



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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

### K O V I E W

## Flood warning

**T**he Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning for flash floods in Jammu and Kashmir as a result of the fresh wet spell from July 19. The department also predicted water-logging and minor floods over low-lying areas. This is troubling considering that the two days of rain shouldn't be such a cause of concern in the Valley. But that the IMD warns of flash floods in the wake of short-duration summer rain underlines the continuing vulnerability in the Valley to the calamity even seven years after the September deluge that sank Srinagar and large swathes of the Valley and Jammu. Ever since J&K, particularly the Valley has lived in dread of a repeat of yet another big flood. In Srinagar, people fear that an extended uninterrupted spell of rain might yet again lead to Jhelum spilling over its banks.

This has created a deeply disturbing situation in the Valley. We are, time and again, reminded of our hapless vulnerability to flooding whenever there are two or more days of uninterrupted rain in a warmer season. More so, in Srinagar whose new-found susceptibility to flood threatens to put a question mark on its viability as a summer capital. That is, unless we conceive and execute a course of action that drastically reduces this vulnerability.

If anything, it highlights how little has been done by way of infrastructure building to protect the Valley from flooding. Less than two days of rain creates flood-like conditions. What it means is that in the past seven years, we have not been able to increase the capacity to brave one more day of rain. The legitimate question to ask is what were the previous governments doing in these years. Or what has the dredging of Jhelum and the repairing of its embankments done in terms of enhancing our capability to resist the flood.

Now, what if the Valley once again experiences the uninterrupted two to three-day rainfall? Considering the Valley's erratic weather, such a prospect isn't unlikely. What is doubtful is the administration's ability to face up to this. And largely because the previous governments have built little defense against an extended incessant rainfall. Could Jhelum carry now more water than it did a few years earlier? Not at all. Similarly, could the spill channel carry the excess discharge than it did in 2014? The answer is again no. This is a dangerous state of affairs to be in. One can only hope that the current administration understands the enormity of the challenge and sets about in right earnest building our defences against a repeat of the 2014 scenario, which could be sooner than we are prepared for.

### OTHER OPINON

## Don't Look Away

**I**want to expose you to the raw truth — and make you a witness to it. You can look away, or stand up and ask for change," Danish Siddiqui had said in a talk last year. And till his death in a Taliban attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan on Friday, the Pulitzer-winning photojournalist was on the field doing just that — bearing witness to some of the sub-continent's most fraught conflicts, and making it hard for his audience to look away. For every crisis in the last tumultuous years in Indian political life, whether it was Delhi burning in the February 2020 riots or the long walk home of migrant workers from metropolises placed under a sudden lockdown, or the Covid-19 pandemic's brutal second wave, there is an iconic Danish Siddiqui frame telling the story.

In the best pictures that he made, the velocity of breaking news and the punishing march of history slowed down to yield the human story. A boy in a yellow-checked shirt sits atop his father's shoulders, his eyes bewildered, as a group of migrant workers walk out of Delhi, the lights of the city about to fade behind them. A young man whips out a gun and aims at anti-CAA/NRC protestors in Delhi, as policemen look on. A brother and sister break down outside a Delhi mortuary, their faces hidden, a sorrow both public and private. Siddiqui's images of exhausted Rohingya refugees, or of the silent homes of the victims of the Easter Sunday bombings in Colombo, or the mass pyres of coronavirus victims all convey a devastating grief — for people caught up in dehumanising forces beyond their control. In the image of a Muslim man covering before a crazed mob during the Delhi riots, Siddiqui makes a chilling portrait of collective derangement.

Like the best of journalism, Siddiqui's work came about by turning up and being there — by pitching his body into the unforeseen moment, despite all the attendant risks. At a time of organised untruths and digital manipulation of media, the photojournalist's work has a powerful authenticity — and heart. In conflict zones — and indeed, in the hyper-partisan echo chambers of social media — the journalist walks a fine line, dodging black- and-white answers, to bring the reader face to face with a complicated, grey truth. The tragedy of Danish Siddiqui's death in one of the world's oldest conflict zones deprives us all of more such riveting, humanising encounters with the world.

*The Indian Express*



# Research Ruins

Mohammad Tahir

**“It seems that once they become APs, they stop reading. That is to say that they stop caring about research. But, is research a primary job of an AP? We cannot be sure, because we don't know what roles and responsibilities are delineated in the employment contract of an AP**

**I**n the absence of platforms that channelise, highlight and vocalise their concerns, Kashmiris have taken to “democratic” online platforms to flag issues that concern them. Recently, on a Club House discussion on social science research in Kashmir, speakers were of the view that Kashmir, as a society, lacks research culture and hence Kashmiris are not producing good scholarship in social sciences. Only a handful of Kashmiri social science researchers have produced books and published in international journals, and many of them are based in American and European universities, and some in mainland India. One speaker, a PhD scholar based in Jamia Millia Islamia, was of the view that while these scholars have done a good job, they have not moved beyond the theme of the ‘Kashmir conflict’. And even then, they have not built theories that could challenge the euro-centric paradigms and, more importantly, counter the statist theories/perspectives that some Indian scholars have propagated on the Kashmir situation. Another speaker, also a research scholar, raised an equally important issue: that Kashmiri researchers must remain cautious while publishing their findings because their research might end up being (mis) used.

Consensus of the Club House room discussants was that universities have the primary role and responsibility of coming up with socially relevant research that could serve as the guide for public policy and critique of the policies. How our universities have failed in their primary responsibilities were highlighted by citing how they did not care to respond to the economic crisis brought by the back-to-back lockdowns in Kashmir since August 2019. It was not publicly-funded institutions Kashmir University, IUST or CUK but a banker, Ejaz Ayoub, whose research helped the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) to come up

with a loss assessment report in 2019 and 2020. Ayoub also wrote a series of articles on the state of Kashmir economy (between August 2020 and May 2021) for Kashmir Observer.

I think conversations like these, where constructive criticism is shared, are a must for things to improve. Because when we acknowledge a problem, that is the first crucial step towards the redressal of the problem. But while Kashmiri scholars in general understand and have tried to highlight where the problem lies as far as the social science research in Kashmir is concerned, those at the leadership positions have shied away from taking necessary measures. Those who have power to do something have sometimes tried to impose their own policies without consultation with the larger academic community. A senior academic once told me that a bureaucrat who was holding the charge of higher education asked them to implement the existing research and bring out a monthly journal where all college lecturers would publish their latest research. What the bureaucrat did not understand was that things do not work that way in academia. How possibly can college academic staff implement the existing research? They don't have autonomy to even design the syllabus of the modules they are supposed to teach. They can hardly implement the academic calendar. Teaching load on academic staff (especially contractual college lecturers and assistant professors) is huge, and they can barely spare any time for a rigorous and time-consuming process of academic publication.

One speaker in the Club House discussion shared an interesting anecdote. He talked about how his friend (a historian by training) joined a university in Kashmir as an assistant professor but finding that he was not able to produce any research work in the university's suffocating environment he decided to leave the

job. This tells us how the problem is actually systemic. Only when the system gets reformed can we expect better performance and results in social science research from individuals.

Yet, there is another issue. Once getting a permanent position in higher education, most assistant professors tend to take it easy. Job security leads to disinterest in research. It seems that once they become APs, they stop reading. That is to say that they stop caring about research. But, is research a primary job of an AP? We cannot be sure, because we don't know what roles and responsibilities are delineated in the employment contract of an AP. In Europe or the US, when you join a university (whether tenure-track or contractual) you sign a contract which runs over several pages. There are different components in the contract which clearly spell out your duties and responsibilities. And, they usually balance between teaching and research, and some administrative work. But in Kashmir, things are different, rather unprofessionally run. Those who joined the Cluster University Srinagar in 2020 as contractual lecturers were not even asked to sign the contract. They were in limbo. Can we expect them to know what they were supposed to do except for being an ‘academic arrangement’ (a rather denigrating term). An employee usually molds himself/herself into the culture of a workplace to fit in. That culture will determine how the employee will behave. If the culture of a workplace is bereft of work ethic, can we expect the employees to be any different?

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

*The author is an independent researcher*



OBSERVER  
MAIL

**All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR**

### MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

## Welcome Eid not a Spike

**E**id is just round the corner and it is more welcome than ever as a lesser number of covid cases may allow us to spend it better. However, we must not get complacent. Experts have raised an alarm regarding an inevitable third wave of covid-19. If we do not follow SOPs, eid may make things

take an ugly turn. To ensure that we do not pay a heavy cost of complacency, we must ensure that we celebrate with caution.

Following rules is pivotal to saving lives. Choose to celebrate responsibly. Wear masks around people. Sit in gardens or ventilated spaces. Maintain good hand hygiene. Main-

tain social distancing while distributing qurbani and during congregational prayers, if and where they're allowed.

Remember, prevention is key. We can avert the worst. Third wave can easily be prevented from getting worse by staying alert, vigilant and responsible. As muslims, we must

also ensure that we keep an eye open for those in need and ensure that they too have the means to celebrate a better eid.

*Shah Kafeel  
shkafeel@rediffmail.com*



# Coexistence, a unifying factor for Indians

Asad Mirza

**Nearly two-thirds of Hindus (64%) say it is very important to be Hindu to be “truly” Indian. Most Hindus (59%) also link Indian identity with being able to speak Hindi. And these two dimensions of national identity – being able to speak Hindi and being a Hindu – are closely connected**

For most political parties, sociologists and psephologists what a common Indian on the street thinks matters most. It is an insight into a common man's psyche, which allows them to strategise and formulate new plans and narratives. Though the political parties are able to set the narrative for their own narrow agendas yet they are unable to control the common perceptions and thinking among the populace.

Studies like a recent one by the US-based Pew Research Centre's Survey of Religion across India, helps not just the narrative formulators but also offers a peep into the common man's psyche. The recent Pew study based on nearly 30,000 face-to-face interviews of adults conducted in 17 languages between late 2019 and early 2020 (pre-COVID-19), finds that Indians of all religious backgrounds overwhelmingly say they are very free to practice their faiths.

#### Religious Tolerance

Indians see religious tolerance as a central part of who they are as a nation. Across the major religious groups, most people say it is very important to respect all religions to be “truly Indian.” And tolerance is a religious as well as a civic value: Indians are united in the view that respecting other religions is a very important part of what it means to be a member of their own religious community.

Yet, despite sharing certain values and religious beliefs – as well as living in the same country, under the same constitution – members of India's major religious communities often don't feel they have much in common with one another. The majority of Hindus see themselves as very different from Muslims (66%), and most Muslims return the sentiment, saying they are very different from Hindus (64%).

#### Tolerance

Indians, then, simultaneously express enthusiasm for religious tolerance and a consistent preference for keeping their religious communities in segregated spheres meaning they live together yet separately. These two sentiments may seem paradoxical, but for many Indians they are not.

Indeed, many take both positions, saying it is important to be tolerant of others and expressing a desire to limit personal connections across religious lines. Indians who favour a religiously segregated society also overwhelmingly emphasise religious tolerance as a core value.

In other words, Indians' concept of religious tolerance does not necessarily involve the mixing of religious communities. While people in some countries may aspire to create a “melting pot” of different religious identities, many Indians seem to prefer a country more like a patchwork fabric, with clear lines between groups.

This is what I ascribe to the syncretic Indian values, which you'll not be able to see in any western society. The Indians in spite of all differences and antagonisms try to view themselves as colours of a rainbow, which India is and this is what makes India, united.

#### Dimensions of Hindu Nationalism in India

The survey reports that Hindus tend to see their religious identity and Indian national identity as closely intertwined: Nearly two-thirds of Hindus (64%) say it is very important to be Hindu to be “truly” Indian.



Most Hindus (59%) also link Indian identity with being able to speak Hindi. And these two dimensions of national identity – being able to speak Hindi and being a Hindu – are closely connected. Among Hindus who say it is very important to be Hindu to be truly Indian, almost 80% also say it is very important to speak Hindi to be truly Indian.

Overall, among those who voted in the 2019 elections, three-in-ten Hindus take all three positions: saying it is very important to be Hindu to be truly Indian; saying the same about speaking Hindi; and casting their ballot for the BJP.

#### Indian Muslims

Vast majority of India's Muslims say Indian culture is superior. Today, India's Muslims almost unanimously say they are very proud to be Indian (95%), and they express great enthusiasm for Indian culture: 85% agree with the statement that “Indian people are not perfect, but Indian culture is superior to others”.

Overall, one-in-five Muslims say they have personally faced religious discrimination recently, but views vary by region. Relatively few Muslims say their community faces “a lot” of discrimination in India (24%). In fact, the share is similar to the share of Hindus who say Hindus face widespread religious discrimination in India (21%).

In addition, most Muslims across the country (65%), along with an identical share of Hindus (65%), see communal violence as a very big national problem.

Muslims' desire for religious segregation does not preclude tolerance of other groups – again similar to the pattern seen among Hindus. Indeed, a majority of Muslims who favour separate religious courts for their community say religious diversity benefits India.

#### South v/s North

The survey consistently found that people in the South (the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, and the union territory of Puducherry) differ from Indians elsewhere in the country in their views on religion, politics and identity.

For example, by a variety of measures, people in the South are somewhat less religious than those in other regions – 69% say religion is very

important in their lives, versus 92% in the Central part of the country.

Hindu nationalist sentiments also appear to have less of a foothold in the South. Among Hindus, those in the South (42%) are far less likely than those in Central states (83%) or the North (69%) to say being Hindu is very important to be truly Indian. And in the 2019 parliamentary elections, the BJP's lowest vote share came from the South. In the survey, just 19% of Hindus in the region say they voted for the BJP, compared with roughly two-thirds in the Northern (68%) and Central (65%) parts of the country who say they voted for the ruling party.

#### Other Contentious Issues

Most Indian Muslims opposed triple talaq. 56% said Muslim men should not be allowed to divorce this way. Still, 37% of Indian Muslims say they support triple talaq, with Muslim men (42%) more likely than Muslim women (32%) to take this position. A majority of Muslim women (61%) opposed triple talaq.

Similarly many Indians, across a range of religious groups, say it is very important to stop people in their community from marrying into other religious groups. Roughly two-thirds of Hindus in India want to prevent interreligious marriages of Hindu women (67%) or Hindu men (65%). Even larger shares of Muslims feel similarly: 80% say it is very important to stop Muslim women from marrying outside their religion, and 76% say it is very important to stop Muslim men from doing so.

The survey throws up many findings which may sound contradictory and unbelievable, yet they represent the true feelings of Indians, however convoluted they may be. And this contradictory yet assimilating feeling is what makes India what it is.

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi.

He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. @asad-mirza.blogspot.com

## How the economics of Haj links millions across the globe

Ehtesham Shahid



In the best of times, Haj is a mammoth management of crowds. But in times of Covid, only vaccinated Saudi residents aged between 18 and 65 have been allowed to perform the pilgrimage. Leaving piety and religious components aside, the cycle of Haj goes beyond the rigmarole of crowd management, advance planning, heavy-duty logistics, and technology use.

The annual pilgrimage connects the lives and livelihoods of millions worldwide in more ways than we imagine. So, it is not just about smart cards linking operations and services, electronic bracelets containing pilgrims' identities, or apps organising group dispatch. With another curtailed Haj around the corner this year, for obvious reasons, it is probably time to relive stories that make Haj global and unique.

Some of the most human and fascinating stories related to Haj unfold in faraway lands, thousands of miles away from the pilgrimage's centres in Saudi Arabia. Let's look at Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim population and also one of the largest Haj contingents in normal times. Much before they land for Haj, thousands of Indonesians, especially the low-income pilgrims have to plan their finances in advance.

As the trend to perform Haj at a young age catches up in Indonesia, a mobile app has been launched to help the country's 80 million millennials start their savings early. Remember, an Indonesian has to spend around US\$ 1,700 to pay for the Haj expenses, and the country has a growing middle-class population.

Another Haj-linked story takes us to faraway Malaysia and literally reaches most doorsteps in that country. Soon after a child is born in Malaysia, he/she is registered in the country's Haj Saving Scheme. The Management and Fund Board of Malaysia – also called Tabung Haji – runs like a corporation with the

sole objective to enable Muslims to save for their Haj costs. The fund also facilitates participation in investment in industry, commerce, plantation, and real estate for “the protection and welfare of Muslims on pilgrimage.”

#### Economics of management

Tabung Haji believes that the economics of management of Haj is linked to

religious duty and can be seen in terms of a wide range of financial and economic activities. “It can act as a powerful institution for the mobilisation of savings and investment, thereby creating an opportunity to perform Haj at the least cost possible,” says a research paper produced on Malaysia's Haj management.

“Chinese light rail delivers 2.4 million trips in Makkah for Haj pilgrims.”

That was a headline in 2019, describing the Makkah light rail, built and operated by the China Railway Construction Corporation. According to a Xinhua report, the CRCC won the project bid in 2009, and between 2010 and 2014, it provided service for over 15 million trips.

Just imagine the hundreds and thousands of engineers, construction workers, and other staff coming together to

build infrastructure to ease travel during the Haj season. One could argue that for them, this is just another project that could have unfolded anywhere in the world. But the fact remains it's the annual congregation that brings all these expertise, skills, and enterprise.

If a full-fledged Haj means millions for businesses, a limited number of pilgrims is bound to cause heavy loss on a large scale. Somalia, for instance, used to make millions by selling cattle to Saudi Arabia for feeding pilgrims and the ritual of sacrifice. However, drastically curtailed Haj for two consecutive years has left them with all cattle and little income.

**Tabung Haji believes that the economics of management of Haj is linked to religious duty and can be seen in terms of a wide range of financial and economic activities. “It can act as a powerful institution for the mobilisation of savings and investment, thereby creating an opportunity to perform Haj at the least cost possible,” says a research paper produced on Malaysia's Haj management**

Aside from the widely-reported stories of large-scale Haj preparations and organisation, numerous tales of triumph, trials, and tribulations in the buildup to the annual Haj season catch our collective imagination. It could be a group of friends cycling 3,500km from Kenya or Macedonians crossing six countries in six weeks to perform Haj: they have all become part of the inspiring stories of Haj pilgrims.

Khaleej Times



# Research shows handwriting has certain benefits over watching videos, typing

“

The main lesson is that even though they were all good at recognizing letters, the writing training was the best at every other measure. And they required less time to get there



## Agencies

A new study has found that handwriting helps people learn certain skills surprisingly faster and significantly better than learning the same material by watching videos or typing.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Psychological Science'.

"The question out there for parents and educators is why should our kids spend any time doing handwriting," said senior author Brenda Rapp, a Johns Hopkins University professor of cognitive science.

Rapp added, "Obviously, you're going to be a better hand-writer if you practice it. But since people are handwriting less than maybe who cares? The real question is: Are there other benefits to handwriting that have to do with reading and spelling and understanding? We find there most definitely are."

Rapp and lead author Robert Wiley, a former Johns Hopkins University Ph.D. student who is now a professor at the University of North Carolina, Greens-

boro, conducted an experiment in which 42 people were taught the Arabic alphabet, split into three groups of learners: writers, typers and video watchers.

Everyone learned the letters one at a time by watching videos of them being written along with hearing names and sounds. After being introduced to each letter, the three groups would attempt to learn what they just saw and heard in different ways.

The video group got an on-screen flash of a letter and had to say if it was the same letter they'd just seen. The typers would have to find the letter on the keyboard. The writers had to copy the letter with pen and paper.

In the end, after as many as six sessions, everyone could recognise the letters and made few mistakes when tested. But the writing group reached this level of proficiency faster than the other groups - a few of them in just two sessions.

Next, the researchers wanted to determine to what extent, if at all, the groups could generalize this new knowledge. In other words, they could all recognise

the letters, but could anyone really use them like a pro, by writing with them, using them to spell new words, and using them to read unfamiliar words?

The writing group was better - decisively - in all of those things.

"The main lesson is that even though they were all good at recognizing letters, the writing training was the best at every other measure. And they required less time to get there," Wiley said.

The writing group ended up with more of the skills needed for expert adult-level reading and spelling. Wiley and Rapp said it's because handwriting reinforces the visual and aural lessons.

The advantage has nothing to do with penmanship - it's that the simple act of writing by hand provides a perceptual-motor experience that unifies what is being learned about the letters (their shapes, their sounds, and their motor plans), which in turn creates richer knowledge and fuller, true learning, the team said.

"With writing, you're get-

ting a stronger representation in your mind that lets you scaffold toward these other types of tasks that don't in any way involve handwriting," Wiley said.

Although the participants in the study were adults, Wiley and Rapp expect they'd see the same results in children. The findings have implications for classrooms, where pencils and notebooks have taken a backseat in recent years to tablets and laptops, and teaching cursive handwriting is all but extinct.

The findings also suggested that adults trying to learn a language with a different alphabet should supplement what they're learning through apps or tapes with good old-fashioned paperwork.

Wiley, for one, is making sure the kids in his life are stocked up on writing supplies.

"I have three nieces and a nephew right now and my siblings ask me should we get them crayons and pens? I say yes, let them just play with the letters and start writing them and write them all the time. I bought them all finger paint for Christmas and told them let's do letters," Wiley concluded.

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATION / IT)

### SHER – I – KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOURA SRINAGAR

Sub:- Ist. Extension Notice.  
Ref:- eNIT NO: SIMS 03 of 2021 Dated: 21.06.2021.

The tender invited for SITC of a) CCTV Surveillance System, b) Fire Detection/Alarm System & Public Address System for newly constructed State Cancer Institute Block at SKIMSSoura, vide eNIT NO: SIMS 03 of 2021 dated: 21.06.2021, is hereby extended as per following for healthy competition:-

i) Online Bid submission end date: 30.07.2021 upto 3pm.  
ii) Hardcopy submission end date: 04.08.2021 upto 4pm  
iii) Technical Bid opening date: 06.08.2021 at 11.30am

All other terms & conditions shall remain unaltered.

Sd/-  
**DIPK-NB-1900/21**  
Superintending Engineer  
(E&C / IT) SKIMS  
NO: SIMS 217/ eNIT-03/2021-741-43  
Dated: 16.07.2021

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

## SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL

Sub:- Cancellation of e-NIT.  
Ref:- e- NIT NO. 55 OF 2020-21 Dated.24.12.2020

The above referred NIT for the work "Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Inspecting and Commissioning of Goods lift (01 No) in new Drug & Pharmacy Block with CMC for 03-years at SKIMS," Srinagar. invited vide this office No:-SIMS 139 EX.520/20-5856-5859 DT.24.12.2020 is hereby cancelled due to poor response.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical, SKIMS

No:-SIMS 139 EX.520/20-783-89  
Dated:-16.07.2021

**DIPK-NB-1909/21**

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

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

Subject: Provisional Select List of eligible candidates for admission to 10<sup>th</sup> based Paramedical(FMPHW/MMPHW) courses-2021 (physical Counselling).  
Reference:- Notification No.069-BOPEE of 2021 dated 05-07-2021.

**NOTIFICATION No: 071-BOPEE of 2021  
DATED: 17-07-2021.**

Pursuant to Notification No. 069-BOPEE of 2021 dated 05-07-2021, the physical round of counselling of eligible candidates who had applied for 10<sup>th</sup> based Paramedical (FMPHW/MMPHW) courses 2021 was conducted w.e.f. 12-07-2021 to 17-07-2021 at BOPEE Office, Srinagar/ Jammu simultaneously. The candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been allotted seats as per their merit-cum preferences are hereby provisionally selected for admission to 10<sup>th</sup> based Paramedical(FMPHW/MMPHW) Courses-2021 in various Colleges of Union Territory of J&K as per the Annexure "A" to this notification which is available on website of the Board www.jkbopee.gov.in only. The candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted Colleges/ Institutions w.e.f.19-07-2021 to 30-07-2021 (03.00 PM) along with following documents:-

1. Marks Card of 10<sup>th</sup> class.
2. Date of birth Certificate of 10<sup>th</sup> Class.
3. Domicile Certificate
4. Category Certificate, if any
5. Medical fitness certificate,
6. Any other certificates/ documents as required by the College Authorities.

The candidates are advised to report to the allotted Colleges/Institutions up to 30<sup>th</sup> July-2021 positively.

It shall be sole responsibility of the colleges / Institutions concerned to ensure proper check and verification of documents/ eligibility as per guidelines issued by J&K Paramedical Council before the candidate is allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents the same shall be reported to the Board for further course of action under rules.

In order to complete admission process within the prescribed cut-off date (30-07-2021) the Colleges/ Institutions shall keep their admission counters open even on holidays / off days and designate Nodal Officers to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission process well in time. However, the candidates should in their own interest avoid waiting for the last day to complete admission formalities since delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.

The Heads of the Colleges/ Institutions are advised to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail [helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com) / [jakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:jakbopee@gmail.com) / [coejakbopee@gmail.com](mailto:coejakbopee@gmail.com) on 31<sup>st</sup> of July-2021 (02.00 PM).

**Note:**

1. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false/ fabricated, and action as warranted under Law shall be initiated against such candidate(s).
2. The Concerned Colleges/Institutions shall ensure that, any person with disability, if selected in open merit or some reserved category, fulfills the eligibility bench marks, as provided in

MCI/INC Regulations, constitute a special Medical Board to assess such candidates and make recommendations based on which colleges shall take further necessary action. In case any such candidate does not fulfill the bench marks of eligibility, he/she shall not be admitted to the course/ college and the matter shall be reported to the BOPEE. Such a seat shall be deemed to be vacant and filled up out of the waiting list to be maintained by the Board in order of merit during the process of counselling to be held later on.

3. The Principals of Colleges/ Institutions are advised to download the copy of Annexure "A" from the official website of the BOPEE [www.jkbopee.gov.in](http://www.jkbopee.gov.in) for reference and record.

4. The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in e- Information Brochure/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time.

E & OE  
NO: BOPEE/EXAM-11/2021  
Dated: 17-07-2021

**DIPK-NB-1902/21**

(Dr Sunil Gupta)  
Controller Of Examinations J&K Bopee

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

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

Address: Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal Ph.01942951904

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**NIT No. 65 of 2021-22 under endorsement No. 6250-60**

**Dated: 16-07-2021.**

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

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Technical Sanction No. & Date	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Widening of Dumail sansanipit Track b.w.o Hard Rock cutting/ Removal of Protruding Boulders along the Track in km-4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> b.w.o hot and cold method (Manual means).	10.82 Lacs	600/=	10 Days	EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/CS/31 of 13.07.2021	Yatra	DEE/CEE/BEE

Position of AAA: Authorization conveyed by Finance Deptt. Vide No.FD-VII-20(8)3452/98-99-V Dt:07.04.2021.

Position of funds: Committed

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16-07-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	19.07.2021 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid Submission Start Date	19.07.2021 from 10.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	26.07.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	26.07.2021 at 4:05 PM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

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

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

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

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

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

5. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

12.1. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-

a. All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.

b. All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan

c. All bidders shall upload Bid Security Declaration Form

d. All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.

e. All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B for the Month of April-2021

13. The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

14. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.

15. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which has /have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises

No. 6250-60  
Dated: 16.07.2021

**DIPK-4956/21**

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Ganderbal



## Covid Has Pushed Back World Economy By 5-10 Years, Says Bata Global CEO



### Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The Covid-19 pandemic is probably the "most significant" world event of our lifetime and has inarguably pushed back the world economy and people by 5-10 years, said Bata Corporation Global CEO Sandeep Kataria.

Though the pandemic has impacted almost every sphere of life over the last 15 months, he expressed hope of leaving medical worries behind soon given the "innovativeness and ingenuity" shown by the human race during this period.

While delivering the convocation address at XLRI virtually, Kataria said there would also be an inevitable rise of the new order, a new normal.

Kataria was conferred the prestigious 'Sir Jehangir Ghandy Medal for Social and Industrial Peace' this year by XLRI.

"When I look at the future with optimism - I am referring to the inevitable rise of the new order, a new normal - an opportunity to recast many of the notions that we have taken for granted over the last 50 years and provide an opportunity like never before," he said.

Combined with the continuing changes in the geopolitical map of the world and tech disruptions,

global warming and markets that have been gathering pace over the last decade, significant changes will be seen in the workplace, Kataria added.

"India with its demography, stable democracy and the famed Indian resilience and jugaad puts it and all Indians in a great position to gain from these changes," he said.

Addressing the graduating students, Kataria said they are graduating at an "amazing moment" in time for the global economy and especially India.

Kataria also suggested critical abilities, which will be needed to thrive in the next 30 years and said, "We will need more leaders and less managers."

He suggested the students to have "curiosity and the ability to learn and relearn" and stretch targets and said, "Be a javelin thrower not an archer."

The virtual convocation ceremony was held to bid a final farewell to the 2019-21 batch.

Kataria was the chief guest of 65th Annual Convocation of XLRI. Besides, Tata Steel India and South East Asia MD and Chairman, Board of Governors at XLRI T V Narendran was also present along with Fr. Paul Fernandes SJ, Director of XLRI.

## Five IT Companies In India Planning To Add 96,000 Employees

### Agenceis

**Hyderabad:** The IT industry body in its recent report mentioned that the top 5 IT companies in India are planning to add 96,000 employees and the industry continues to be net hirer of skilled talent, adding 1,38,000 people in FY21. However, even as automation is set to make some job roles redundant, there are still some skills and jobs that are going to be high in demand in the IT industry.

A report by Xpheno points out that full stack engineers, data engineers/analysts, backend engineers, machine learning professionals and DevOps are some of the top skills in demand.

These skill sets have seen an increase during the pandemic period

even as many sectors that depend on the IT sector have made the shift towards digitisation with everything going online. The report also pointed that these roles are being offered with a salary hike of 50-60 per cent.

Similarly, many tech companies are looking at upskilled workforce and a report by UpGrad points out that the highest paying IT jobs in India are in the space of data scientist, cloud architect, blockchain engineer, IoT solutions architect, Artificial Intelligence engineer, product manager and cybersecurity specialist.

So, if you are a young graduate or a mid-level techie, the future of work will be in these sectors and it is essential that people scouting for jobs in the IT field are well-versed with the above-mentioned skill sets.

# Craft Mela To Continue At Kashmir Haat, Exhibition Ground:Govt

### KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** In view of the positive response and on account of encouraging footfall of masses visiting the Kashmir Haat, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir has decided to continue the Craft Mela 2021.

However, on the insistence of the Stall Holders, the stalls shall remain closed on 21st & 22nd July, 2021 on the eve of the Eid-ul-Adha. The amusement section for the kids, however, will remain open during the festive times.

In view of the fact that a good number of people are visiting the Haat for witnessing the Cultural Programme, the same will also resume from 23rd July 2021. The Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir in association with the Department of Information has organized the Cultural Programmes in the Kashmir Haat from 10th July 2021 and the same has been attracting a huge number of visitors towards the Haat especially during the evening hours from 6.00 to 8.00 PM.

To make the Haat more vibrant, JKTCDC has also set up the food courts that are offering various cuisines to the masses visiting the Kashmir Haat.



It is encouraging to note that good sales of handicraft items have been witnessed. It is expected that with the increased tourist and local inflow to the Kashmir Haat the sales of the

stall holders will further go up.

The Department in coordination with the Information Department has lined up different artists to make evenings in the Haat more vibrant.

## Dr Samoon Discusses Skill Development Action Plans With DCs

### KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, today chaired a meeting to review progress on skill development action plans of the districts of Kashmir division.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs and Mission Director, Skill Development Mission, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary; Secretary in Skill Development Department, Nazim Zai Khan; Deputy Commissioners of several districts; State Engagement Officer, NSDC Kehkashan Anjum and other concerned attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

Dr Shahid Iqbal briefed the meeting about the status of implementation of skill development action plans in the districts of Kashmir division.

Mission Director SDM underscored the need for convergence of different departments wherein skill developments are required for placements of trainees from ITIs. He added that the districts have been asked to compile detailed data according to the regional requirement with focus on local industrial need



to fill the skill gap in these districts.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary highlighted the importance of skill development and upgrading the trainings under schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) for creating a robust ecosystem enabling youth to get maximum skill training for employability. He directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to focus on the set target of training youth with course modules of different time durations as per the district and local requirements. Principal Secretary also sought

feedback from all the concerned districts and enquired about the status of set targets and achievements with respect to trainings under PMKVY. He also asked DCs and ITI heads of the districts to prioritize the aspirants based on categories like pre-learners, drop-outs from colleges and higher secondary and other schools.

The meeting discussed in detail the operationalization of District Skill Committees and District Nodal Skill Centres besides human resource requirement mapping in remaining districts of JK.

## HDFC Bank Shares Tumble Over 3% After Q1 Earnings

Shares of HDFC Bank dipped over 3 per cent on Monday as the company's June quarter earnings failed to enthuse investors. The stock went lower by 3.34 per cent to close at ₹1,470.95 on the BSE. During the day, it tumbled 3.65 per cent to ₹1,466.15.

On the NSE, it dipped 3.37 per cent to close at ₹1,471.

In traded volume terms, 4.08 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and over 1.25 crore units at the NSE during the day.

HDFC Bank was the biggest drag on both the benchmark indices.

HDFC Bank's consolidated net profit for the June quarter increased 14 per cent to ₹7,922 crore, but the largest private sector lender reported reverses because of the second wave of the pandemic which compressed its growth.

When compared with the preceding March quarter's ₹8,434 crore, there was a decline in the consolidated profit. On a standalone basis, the bank reported a post-tax profit of ₹7,730 crore as against ₹6,659 crore in the year-ago period and ₹8,187 crore in the January-March period.

Its core net interest income grew 8.57 per cent to ₹17,009 crore on advances growth of 14.4 per cent and the net interest margin coming at 4.1 per cent, while the other income grew 54.3 per cent to ₹4,075 crore.

It can be noted that the year-ago quarter had a deep impact on the national lockdown and the ensuing impact on economic activity, whereas the reporting quarter had an impact due to localised lockdowns.

"These disruptions led to a decrease in retail loan originations, sale of third party products, card spends and efficiency in collection efforts. The lower business volumes, coupled with higher slippages, resulted in lower revenues, as well as an enhanced level of provisioning, the bank said in a statement.

## Govt Says Some Adani Group Cos Being Probed; Firm Denies Any Communication From SEBI



### Agenceis

**New Delhi:** Some of the companies belonging to Adani group are currently under the investigation of markets regulator Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Parliament was informed on Monday.

In a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha on the opening day of Monsoon Session, Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, said that SEBI is investigating some Adani group companies with regard to compliance with SEBI regulations while the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is also probing certain entities under the laws administered by it.

However, Chaudhary added that the Enforcement Directorate is not probing these companies.

In response, the Adani group denied having received any communication or information requests from the SEBI recently.

"We have always been transparent with all our regulators and have full faith in them. While we have always been fully compliant with the applicable SEBI regulations, we have made full disclosures to SEBI on specific information requests from them in the past. However, we have not received any communication or information requests recently," an Adani group spokesperson said.

"With regard to the DRI matter, it issued a show cause notice to Adani Power about five years back. Subsequently, the DRI passed an order in favour of Adani Power, confirming that there is no over-valuation of equipment.

"The department has approached the Tribunal and the matter stands sub judice now. Adani group is a responsible corporate citizen and strongly believes in compliance with applicable laws and adheres to prudent corporate governance framework," the spokesperson added.

## DG Horticulture Takes Stock Of Developmental Activities At Departmental Farms In Budgam



### KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** The Director General (DG) Horticulture Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today conducted an extensive tour of district Budgam to take stock of various developmental activities being carried out in departmental farms and nurseries. The DG on the occasion stressed for the timely completion of budding exercise and emphasized on judicious use of inputs, so as to propagate quality fruit plants.

He also met some progressive orchardists of the district and advised them to avail the benefits of different departmental Schemes, especially newly launched Modified High Density Plantation Scheme.

Later, the DG had an interaction with the field staff of the district and directed them to give wide publicity to different departmental Schemes. He further instructed the officers to make frequent visit to the field and involve the growers with latest technical knowhow

During the visit he was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Budgam and other officers of the department.

## Govt's Excise Collections On Petrol, Diesel Jumps 88% To Rs 3.35 Lakh Cr

### Agenceis

The Union government's tax collections on petrol and diesel jumped by 88 per cent to Rs 3.35 lakh crore in the year to March 31, after excise duty was raised to a record high, the Lok Sabha was informed on Monday.

Excise duty on petrol was hiked from Rs 19.98 per litre to Rs 32.9 last year to recoup gain arising from international oil prices plunging to multi-year low as pandemic gulped demand.

The same on diesel was raised to Rs 31.8 from Rs 15.83 a litre, according to a written reply to a question given by the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli in the Lok Sabha.

This led to excise collections on petrol and diesel jumping to Rs 3.35 lakh crore in 2020-21 (April 2020 to March 2021), from Rs 1.78 lakh crore a year back, he said.

Collections would have been higher but for fuel sales falling due to lockdown and other restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, which muted economic activity and stalled mobility.

In 2018-19, excise collections on petrol and diesel were Rs 2.13 lakh crore.

To a separate question, the Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said excise collections in April-June this year totalled Rs 1.01 lakh crore. This number includes excise on not just petrol and diesel but also ATF, natural gas and crude oil. The total excise collection in FY21 was Rs 3.89 lakh crore.

"Prices of petrol and diesel are market-determined with effect from June 26, 2010 and October 19, 2014 respectively," Teli said.

Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been taking appropriate decisions

on the pricing of petrol and diesel on the basis of international product prices and other market conditions.

"The OMCs have increased and decreased the prices of petrol and diesel according to changes in international prices and rupee-dollar exchange rate," he said adding "effective June 16, 2017, daily pricing of petrol and diesel has been implemented in the entire country."

The hike in taxes last year did not result in any revision in retail prices as they got adjusted against the reduction that was warranted because of fall in international oil prices. But with the demand returning, international oil prices have soared, which have translated to record high petrol and diesel prices across the country. More than one-and-a-half dozen states and union territories have petrol at over Rs 100-a-litre mark and diesel is above that level in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

Teli said prices vary from state to state due to freight rates and VAT/local levies.

"The impact of the increase in prices of petrol and diesel can be seen in their impact on inflationary trend measured by Wholesale Price Index (WPI)," he said. "The weightage of petrol, diesel and LPG in the WPI index is 1.60 per cent, 3.10 per cent and 0.64 per cent respectively."

He said so far during the year, petrol price has been increased on 63 occasions and diesel on 61. The price of petrol has been cut on one occasion during this period and that of diesel on two occasions.

There was no change in the remaining days.

In the previous 2020-21, petrol price was hiked on 76 occasions and cut on 10 while diesel rates went up 73 times and were reduced on 24 occasions, his reply showed.

## Centre Eases Stock Limits On Pulse Traders, Lifts Them Fully For Importers



### Agenceis

With traders and importers voicing strong opposition to the stringent stock limit on pulses imposed earlier this month, the Centre today relaxed some of the limits for wholesalers and retailers and lifted it completely for importers within days of imposing them.

There has been no change in stock holding limit for retailers which has been kept at 5 metric tonnes.

Smaller pulses such as kidney beans (rajma), kabuli chana, lobia (black-red eye beans), peas and moth have also been taken out of the purview of the stock holding limits.

As per revised order, wholesalers can now hold upto 500 tonnes of pulses provided one variety should not exceed 200 metric tonnes.

In the earlier order issued on July 2, wholesalers could hold only 200 tonnes of pulses. (see chart)

That apart, millers can now hold stocks which are equivalent to their last six months of production or 50 per cent of annual installed capacity whichever is higher.

Earlier, millers could hold stocks equivalent to three months of their production or 25 per cent of annual installed capacity whichever was higher.

"The relaxation for millers will have a down-streaming effect in terms of giving an assurance to the farmers at this crucial juncture of kharif sowing of urad and tur," an official statement said.

It added that due to the crackdown on pulses hoarders, in two

months around 8343 registrations of stocks have been made on the official portal while stocks of around 3 million tonnes have been declared.

The official statement also said that because of the various measures initiated by the government in the last few months, wholesale prices of all pulses except masur have fallen by 3-4 per cent in the last two months and retail prices over the same period have fallen by 2-4 months.

Earlier, this month, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey had said that pulses stocks limits have been imposed despite a cooling down of prices in the last two months as in the retail markets rates are still higher than last year.

"This is good news for the industry and a good decision taken by the government. The market may surge on account of increasing stock limits. But we must understand the government's initiative to control prices, which is a good cause. Since this news broke on Monday, which is the opening of the week, the market may improve but for a limited time, as they have to liquidate stocks within 30 days. Good news for Pea, Kabuli Chana, Moth, Lobia, Rajma," said Rahul Chauhan, of iGrain India, a commodity trading and research firm.

Bimal Kothari, vice chairman of Indian Pulses and Grains Association said that the move to relax the stock limits will smoothen supplies in the coming months and stabilize prices during the forthcoming festive period.

**EID-UL-ADHA MUBARAK 2021**

**Genuine Advertising & Marketing**

Admin Office : 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Dar Building, Red Cross Rd, Maisuma, Srinagar-190001  
Branch Office: Main Chowk Narbal Budgam-J&K  
Factory : Industrial Estate Rangreth Budgam J&K  
For Queries Contact: 9419031137, 7006063448



## Journalists, Ministers

concerns and reveal the far-reaching extent to which the private firm's software could be misused.

The leak consists of more than 50,000 smartphone numbers believed to have been identified as connected to people of interest by NSO clients since 2016, the news organisations said, although it was unclear how many devices were actually targeted or surveilled.

NSO has denied any wrongdoing, labelling the allegations "false".

Last week, the Indian government — which in 2019 denied using the malware to spy on its citizens, following a lawsuit — reiterated that "allegations regarding government surveillance on specific people has no concrete basis or truth associated with it whatsoever".

The Post said a forensic analysis of 37 of the smartphones on the list showed there had been "attempted and successful" hacks of the devices.

At least 40 Indian journalists from across media houses were on a list of potential targets for surveillance.

According to The Wire, which published the report added that along with the 40 journalists, "three major opposition figures, one constitutional authority, two serving ministers in the Narendra Modi government, current and former heads and officials of security organisations and scores of businesspersons" were part of the list of potential or past victims.

The report was published by The Wire news portal from India as also 16 other international publications including Washington Post, The Guardian and Le Monde, as media partners to an investigation conducted by Paris-based media non-profit organisation Forbidden Stories and rights group Amnesty International into a leaked list of more than 50,000 phone numbers from across the world that are believed to have been the target of surveillance through Pegasus software of Israeli surveillance company NSO Group.

The list of phone numbers in the Israeli spyware's database was one that belonged to a sitting Supreme Court judge, the report said.

According to The Hindu, apart from China and Pakistan whose diplomats often remain under close watch in India, diplomats from several countries that India has very friendly ties with were also snooped.

"The numbers of [Pakistan Prime Minister] Imran Khan and several of his ambassadors in India appear on the list as potential targets. Dozens of other Delhi-based diplomats and ambassadors are also included, from Iran, Afghanistan, China, Nepal and Saudi Arabia," the report published on Monday in Le Monde said.

Govt of India's response: 'Aap Chronology Samajhiye'

Under fire over media reports about the use of Pegasus spyware for surveillance of politicians and other personalities, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday asserted that such reports are aimed at humiliating India.

"Disruptors and obstructers will not be able to derail India's development trajectory through their conspiracies," Shah said.

He also hit out at the opposition for jumping on to the Pegasus bandwagon and asked them to understand the chronology of the scandal.

"People have often associated this phrase with me in a lighter vein but today I want to seriously say - the timing of the selective leaks, the disruptions...Aap Chronology Samajhiye!" the home minister said.

Shah's reaction came after the Congress demanded his sacking and a probe into the "role of Prime Minister" Narendra Modi in the matter.

## Oppn Parties

two days ago in which he had asked people, "I'm wondering what you guys are reading these days."

The government has, however, dismissed allegations of any kind of surveillance on its part, saying the accusation has no concrete basis or truth associated with it whatsoever.

IT and Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told Lok Sabha that with several checks and balances being in place, "any sort of illegal surveillance" by unauthorised persons is not possible in India.

Terming it a very serious issue concerning national security, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor demanded an independent judicial or parliamentary committee probe.

Since the government has said that it has not done any snooping, this should be probed, he said.

"I feel that there should be a thorough independent judicial inquiry or a joint parliamentary committee. We cannot just brush it under the carpet," he told reporters.

He raised the issue through social media too.

"Gol has denied resorting to unauthorised surveillance. The question this raises is, if #Pegasus is

only sold to governments, which other govts (China/Pak?) are using it to snoop on prominent Indian citizens? Shouldn't the authorities call for an independent investigation," he tweeted referring to the Government of India.

The CPIM said that two years ago, the party had raised in Parliament that this "dangerous spyware" was being used in India as revealed by WhatsApp.

"The Modi government's response had not categorically denied that it engaged the services of NSO (the Israeli tech firm that created the spyware) but claimed that there is no "unauthorized surveillance". With these revelations, it is clear that this government has engaged NSO for such surveillance against its own citizens," the party said in a statement Monday.

"The Central government must come clean on what is its engagement with NSO, what are the terms and how much our public funds have been paid for this, the party demanded.

Under Indian laws, the use of cyber spy software to hack smartphones even by the government is prohibited, the party said, asking under what law the government has undertaken such "surveillance activities" over citizens.

"The right to privacy is a fundamental right as laid down by the Supreme Court, but this BJP government is prevaricating on legislating the privacy law," the party said.

The CPIM also said there have been earlier instances of hacking smartphones and computers of human rights activists and they have been exposed. It alleged that the spying toll is digitally planted on their devices.

"It is then used for their arrests under draconian laws. The 'snoop, plant, arrest' formula employed by this BJP government is a violation of the fundamental rights of Indian citizens, the CPIM said.

The TMC said it will raise the issue in parliament.

"It is a serious issue and the minister in his statement in the House does not deny that the government was using the software. We will raise this issue in Parliament," said TMC Rajya Sabha MP Derek O' Brien.

## Rahul, 2 Union

Vaishnaw said that with several checks and balances being in place, "any sort of illegal surveillance" by unauthorised persons is not possible in India.

The number of Vaishnav, who recently became a minister, was among the 300 verified Indian numbers listed as potential targets for surveillance during 2017-2019 by a client of the Israel-based NSO group, The Wire said.

While Parliament saw a stormy start to the Monsoon Session as Vaishnaw made the statement amid the din on the Pegasus affair, a political slugfest ensued outside Parliament with the Congress and the BJP trading barbs over the issue.

While the Congress demanded the sacking of Home Minister Amit Shah and a probe into the "role" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the matter, the BJP hit out at the Opposition party over its attack and claimed that there is not a "shred of evidence" to link either the ruling party or the Modi dispensation with the matter.

Reacting sharply to the report, Shah said, "disruptors and obstructers will not be able to derail India's development trajectory through their conspiracies" and asserted that it the report has been "amplified by few with only one aim - to humiliate India at world stage."

Releasing the fresh tranche of investigation, The Wire said at least two mobile phone accounts used by former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi were listed as potential targets by "an official Indian client of the Israeli surveillance technology vendor, NSO Group".

The forensic inspection of a cross-section of phones drawn from this list by Amnesty International's technical lab has confirmed the presence of Pegasus spyware in as many as 37 instruments, 10 of which are in India.

Gandhi's phones are not among those examined as he no longer has the handsets he used at the time that his numbers appear to have been selected for targeting - from mid-2018 to mid-2019, the report said. In the absence of forensics, it is not possible to conclusively establish whether Pegasus was deployed against Gandhi, it said.

In his remarks, Vaishnaw said, "A highly sensational story was published by a web portal yesterday night.... The press report appeared a day before the Monsoon session of the Parliament.

"This cannot be a coincidence. In the past similar claims were made regarding the use of Pegasus on WhatsApp. Those reports have no factual basis and were categorically denied by all parties.... The press report of July 18, 2021 also appeared to be an attempt to malign the Indian democracy and a well-established institution," the minister said.

The report has been published by The Wire news portal from India as also 16 other international publications including Washington Post, The Guardian and Le Monde, as media partners to an investigation conducted by Paris-based media non-profit organisation Forbidden Stories and rights group Amnesty International into a leaked list of more than 50,000 phone numbers from across the world that are believed to have been the target of surveillance through Pegasus software of Israeli surveillance company NSO Group.

Besides the numbers of Gandhi and Union ministers —Vaishnaw and Prahlad Singh Patel, other names whose number were listed as potential targets, includes founder of key election watchdog Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) Jagdeep Chhokhar and top virologist Gagandeep Kang, The Wire said.

Also on the list was the personal secretary to Vasundhara Raje Scindia, when she was the BJP's chief minister in Rajasthan, and Sanjay Kachroo, who worked as an officer on special duty (OSD) for Smriti Irani in her first years as a Union minister in the Modi government from 2014-2015, it said.

Other junior politicians linked to the Bharatiya Janata Party, and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's leader, Pravin Togadia are other individuals whose numbers figure in the database.

The news portal said the list reveals that several people associated with the functioning of elections were also selected for potential surveillance, including Lavasa, the only member of the 3-member Election Commission to rule that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had violated the Model Code of Conduct while campaigning for the 2019 general election.

The leaked data also includes Hari Menon, the India head of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and at least one other foundation employee, who were selected in mid 2019.

Gandhi told The Wire that he had received suspicious WhatsApp messages in the past one of the known vectors for a spyware hack and frequently changed numbers and instruments so as to make it a little harder for them to target him.

Asked for his reaction to the news that he had been placed on a list of potential targets for hacking, Gandhi told The Wire, "Targeted surveillance of the type you describe whether in regard to me, other leaders of the opposition or indeed any law-abiding citizen of India is illegal and deplorable."

"If your information is correct, the scale and nature of surveillance you describe goes beyond an attack on the privacy of individuals. It is an attack on the democratic foundations of our country. It must be thoroughly investigated and those responsible be identified and punished," the former Congress chief said.

Such was the apparent interest in Gandhi that the numbers of five of his social friends and acquaintances were also placed on the list of potential targets, the report said.

## 2 BJP Workers

of Awoora Kupwara and Mohammad Irfan of Haihama Kupwara in the FIR (no 251/2021, under section 307 IPC, 7/27A Act at police station Kupwara. All the arrested persons were produced before the Sub Judge Kupwara who remanded them to seven days police custody, officials said. Both the PSOs have been suspended.

In a related development, the BJP has placed under suspension District President Kupwara Mohammad Shafi.

"The incident which took in Kupwara on the night of 16 July in which Ishfaq Ahmad Mir son of Mohammad Shafi (District President Kupwara) was involved. Some reports received from different sources took us to think the credibility of our workers," Priya Sethi (UT state Office Prabhari), said in a letter to G M Mir, Spokesperson.

The copy of the letter has been sent to Mohammad Shafi Mir besides Ravinder Raina (State President BJP J&K), Ashok Boul (State General Secretary (Org), BJP J&K.

The party has nominated G M Mir, the spokesperson, to examine facts of the incident and report to the party by July 25. Till Then Shafi has been suspended and Anwar Khan 'District Prabhari' has been asked to look into affairs of district Kupwara.

## Tenders Floated

Navin Kumar Chowdhary. "I visited the area and took firsthand stock of the situation. I will submit the report to the government within two days," Director Agriculture, Choudhary Iqbal had told Kashmir Observer.

According to the villagers, a paddy field spread over 2000 kanals of land in the remote Batwudur area of Budgam used to be a major source of income for hundreds of families of Surasyar, Bonyen, Kathiyar and other adjoining villages till 2014. However, a landslide triggered by incessant rains in 2014 damaged the only water canal that villagers used

to irrigate their paddy fields, turning it barren.

## LG Talks Tough

Mission is the top priority of the Government of India and UT Government, and resolute efforts need to be made on the part of the Government functionaries and other stakeholders to turn this dream into reality.

"We are targeting to provide piped water supply to every household. Work on war-footing to achieve the ambitious goal of 100% piped water (Har Ghar Nal se Jal) in J&K by August, 2022," The LG directed the officials, as per the spokesperson.

He said that the discussion was also held for ensuring active involvement of Deputy Commissioners for complete implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in their respective districts.

Highlighting the need to make people-centric interventions for improving the water supply position in the UT, Sinha, he said, directed for preparing comprehensive strategies, besides involving stakeholders in the planning process of Water Supply Schemes and other projects to create a sense of belongingness amongst them for a better outcome.

"Explore all possibilities to ensure that the water supply shall reach the Panchayat Ghars in every village. There is also a need to maintain water source sustainability to provide a regular drinking water supply to the people," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

With an objective to make the water supply connection service more convenient to the people, the LG, he said, directed the department to develop a robust mechanism for making the said service available online.

"The Lt Governor asked the department to lay a dispute redressal system and maintain close synergy with other departments, besides working in convergence mode for effective execution of water supply augmentation works," the official spokesperson said, adding that the LG also took serious note of the delays in execution of works and said that the administration is not going to tolerate any laxity on the part of the government officers.

He said that the members of Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority (JKWRRRA) were asked to share expertise with Jal Shakti department for ensuring timely completion of works.

"Revenue generation is an important component of the working of any department. Jal Shakti Department also needs to put special focus on increasing revenue realization. Responsibilities shall be fixed for the officers of the divisions with low revenue generation," Sinha said, as per the official spokesperson.

Directions were also passed to the department for submitting the pending Utilization Certificates (UCs) to the Government of India within 15 days.

The LG, as per official spokesperson also directed for the completion of the ongoing water supply works to all the Hospitals, Anganwadi Centres, and Schools across J&K by 15th August this year.

"Ensure no hospital, Anganwadi Centres, and schools in all districts of the UT shall remain without water availability," he added.

Speaking on the Government's endeavour to develop Tawi riverfront on the lines of Sabarmati Riverfront, the LG said that the prestigious project will change the face of Jammu and open up new avenues for tourism development.

"We need to make committed efforts for the speedy completion of all the other important water projects which are connected with the development of Tawi Riverfront, the Lt Governor said. In this regard, the Lt Governor set a deadline of one year for the completion of Jammu Tawi Barrage," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

## J&K Blessed

and Museums, and J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages here at Civil Secretariat.

"This is the land of Sufis and Saints like Shankaracharya, Nund Reshi, Habba Khatoon, Lal Ded, Devi Rupa Bhawani and there is a need to develop heritage sites at their birthplaces in order to make their life history more accessible to the young generation," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

Laying special focus on promotion and development of shrines, monuments, and heritage sites to attract more tourist inflow to the UT, the LG, he said directed the department to integrate tourism and cultural promotion plans, besides holding traditional and cultural events on the backdrop of the historic significance of these important places so that the visiting tourists, as well as the locals, can get the first-hand experience of the rich cultural heritage of J&K.

He said that specific directions were passed for the development of Shri Shiv Khori and Baba Banda Singh ji Bahadur Shrines at Reasi.

While taking stock of the future

deliverables of the department, Sinha, as per the official spokesperson directed the concerned officials to prepare an annual activity calendar of Culture department so that people are able to know that what's in the offering for them and can plan accordingly.

He said that the LG suggested a host of measures to showcase the heritage and culture of the UT, and strengthen connect of the people with J&K.

"Increase the visibility of the UT's culturally and historically important places amongst the people. Publicize the tourism potential shrines and heritage sites to reach out to more tourists, besides highlighting the Places to Visit at all tourist's arrival points," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

"J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages shall organize programmes to celebrate all days of National Importance with the participation of the public," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, JKAACL was asked to take requisite measures to promote literature, art and culture through Theatre festivals, Music and Dance Programmes, Mushairas, Kavi Sammelan, seminars and literary conferences.

On being informed that the Academy is organizing 03 mega Sufi festivals in J&K, he said, the LG directed for involving Colleges and Universities and roping in local, national and internationally-acclaimed Sufi artists for the same.

He further said that the LG reviewed the working of Libraries & Research department and called for modernization of Public Libraries of the Department and upgrading the same as Digital Libraries.

"Work in convergence with Mission Youth, J&K and Smart City Mission to turn these Libraries into productive learning-cum-career counseling centres, the LG told the officers, as per official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, further asked the department to explore means to provide online access of the repositories of books available with the libraries to the students through online mode.

As per the official spokesperson, Sarmad Hafeez, Administrative Secretary, Culture Department gave a detailed overview of the ongoing projects, besides the activities to be taken up by the department for the promotion of culture and heritage of the UT.

"It was informed that the Academy has a collection of over 700 manuscripts and miniature paintings on Mysticism, Vedant, Islamiyat, Languages and Literature, History, Mathematics, Palmistry, Politics, Sociology and Music. The Academy also has as many 953 rare and rich collection of paintings of famous painters which are soon going to be put for public display," he said.

The official spokesperson said that the Academy is also planning to organize film festivals at Srinagar and Jammu in collaboration with Department of Tourism and Information, besides National School of Drama (NSD) is setting up one of its centres at Srinagar.

He further said that the meeting was also informed about the upcoming events and projects like Literature festival at Patnitop, Promotion of border Tourism activities, Cultural activities at heritage sites, Dastaan-go; School of Folk and Sufiyana Music etc.

Baseer Ahmed Khan, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Rahul Pandey, Secretary JKAACL and Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums, and other senior officers attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode.

## LeT Commander

retaliated, leading to an encounter, the spokesman said.

In the encounter, two militants of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter, he said.

One of the slain militants was identified as Ishfaq Dar alias Abu Akram, a top commander of the LeT, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said.

Dar was active since 2017 and responsible for a very large number of terror crimes, including attacks on and killings of police, security forces' personnel and civilians, Singh said.

He said the other militant has been identified as Majid Iqbal Bhat.

Dar was a resident of Hafshirmal in Shopian, while Bhat was a resident of Melibagh Imamsahab in Shopian.

The spokesman said according to police records, the killed militants were part of groups involved in various terror crime cases and several such cases were registered against them.

"Dar figured among the list of most wanted terrorists and besides being part of groups involved in several terror crime cases. He very instrumental in planning and executing terror attacks on security establishments, civilian killings and misleading the gullible youth by motivating

them to join terrorist folds," he said. Dar was also involved in killing of four police personnel at Zainapora in December 2018 and killing of two non-local drivers in Chittrigram in Shopian in October 2019, the spokesman said.

"At his behest, two youths namely Asif Lone, a resident of Khudwani in Kulgam and Ab Rashid Thoker, a resident of Hussanapora in Arwani, joined terrorist ranks," he added.

Incriminating material, arms and ammunition, including two AK-47 rifles and eight magazines, were seized from the site of the encounter, the spokesman said.

He said Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, congratulated the joint team of police and security forces for conducting a successful operation in a professional manner by neutralising the most wanted militant without any collateral damage.

## 'Elected Govt's

was instrumental in converting more than a dozen youth into militancy after brainwashing them, they said.

"Parray was instrumental in radicalizing youth in the classes by provoking them with his jihadi speeches. While drawing huge salary from the Government exchequer and living luxurious life, Parray helped the militants to execute their agenda," they said.

"Parray had the backing of political leadership which was the reason that despite being named by the Intelligence agencies for his support to militants he always escaped the action", they said.

Nisar Ahmad Tantray, another Government teacher posted at Government Middle School Hanji Mohalla Batengu in Anantnag district was recruited as temporary teacher in the school after his elder brother Abdul Gani Tantray joined Hizbul Mujahideen as its district chief.

Abdul Gani proceeded on temporary leave to become the militant but because of his writ in the district, his younger brother Nisar Ahmad was recruited as temporary teacher in the same school and subsequently his services were regularized.

Raziya Sultan posted as head teacher of Government School Khiram in Anantnag district who was among the terminated employees, was appointed as a teacher on compassionate grounds in the year 2000 after her father Sultan Bhat was killed by the militants in 1996.

"Raziya Sultan was a known sympathiser of Dukhtaran-e-Millat (DeM) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in the school and security agencies had repeatedly flagged concerns about this but the previous Governments took no action which encouraged her", they said.

Sakeen Akhter is another Government teacher sacked by the Government. She was posted in Government Primary School at Gorjan Khiram in Anantnag and was appointed as temporary teacher in 2002 and her services were regularized in 2008.

She was closely associated with Dukhtaran-e-Millat and was instrumental in organizing gatherings of women and even children to propagate secessionist activities.

LG administration, it bears mention, has launched a crackdown on employees it says are involved in anti-national activities and Intelligence agencies have zeroed-in on nearly two dozen more such officers/officials and were pursuing their cases before taking any action.

So far, 18 such employees have been terminated from the services, the latest being 11 including two sons of Hizbul Mujahideen supremo Syed Salahuddin.

## Will Wait For

youngest Union Territory of the country.

"We should not allow the issues of Articles 370 and 35 A to be an impediment in delivering other things which are more achievable in the short term like full statehood," Lone said, according to the tweet.

## SOP Violation

and Head of Community Medicine cautioned that violation of Covid guidelines by individuals who are directly related to sacrificing and distribution of meat may become the cause of the possible third Covid wave.

Moreover, he said that only vaccinated individuals should visit other families and only vaccinated persons should be invited to home.

He also appealed to the general public to follow Covid SOPs strictly for the greater interest of society and safety of everyone.

## Over Rs 4L Realized

the police spokesperson said.

He said that the special drive against the violators of Covid-19 guidelines and rules continued throughout all the districts of Kashmir Valley to ensure that people adhere to SOPs and guidelines envisaged by the government to curb COVID-19 pandemic.



## ACB Seeks Records Of Past Three Years From J&K Sports Council

### Agencies

**JAMMU:** The sleuths of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Jammu, have sought records of various construction works executed, purchases made, bills encashed and other details from the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council. The JKSC is the highest body catering sports across the Union Territory.

Reliable sources in the Anti-Corruption Bureau said that the Joint Surprise Check (JSC) team from the Jammu wing have recently paid a visit to the office of the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, Jammu.

"Acting on several anonymous complaints, the ACB in connection with the probe, have sought records of construction works executed besides purchases made by the Director General in the last three years," sources said.

They said that the record has been sought for the period of 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.

However, sources said that record of works executed without tenders and through open market, payments made in the mentioned period, tender notices of all purchases, firms participating in tenders, bids made, have also been sought.

"The details of supply orders with quality tests, receipts of material, works executed by district officers besides, bills, cash books and other documents (Xerox copies) have also been sought from the Council by the ACB."

The Surprise Check team also asked the Council to provide records for head wise and year wise budgetary Allocation for these three years.

It is pertinent to mention that pledging zero tolerance towards corruption in government-run offices, Jammu and Kashmir administration has recently directed the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council to display boards highlighting 'zero tolerance' for corruption at all the sub-units.

As per the circular issued by the Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull last week with

regard to implementation of the decisions taken in the CoS meetings chaired by the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, read that various decisions were taken in the meetings to bring transparency in the working of the J&K Sports Council and they shall be implemented in letter and spirit.

However, concern over alleged corruption complaints in the department, prompted the government to issue directions to display boards at all sub-units highlighting 'zero tolerance' for corruption and installation of complaint boxes in the very first point of the circular issued.

Moreover, stern action is also to be initiated against the employees, who are indulging in Anti-National activities, the circular read.

Decisions like optimum utilization of funds in lieu of valuable outcomes, effective utilization of assets created by the Council, publication of the achievements in the leading local media platforms to ensure greater public outreach, closure of old cases which cannot be resolved after considerable delay on account of various aspects, filing appropriate responses for speedy clean up of audit para's, complete character/antecedents verification of fresh appointees in a time bound manner, were also taken in the meeting.

Besides, taking note of delay in time-bound promotions as per the fixed ladder, the government, according to the circular, has also asked the Council to convene Departmental Promotion Committees (DPC's) on regular basis to create employee friendly environment vis-vis, establishing a system for conduct of training programmes to the employees for capacity building, convening of regular governing council meetings, ensuring stable tenures on part of employees to facilitate responsibility and accountability, implementation of new guidelines for having Centrally Sponsored Schemes, adequate attention needs to be accorded to the genuine grievances raised by the general public.

## JKFA Professional League: Hyderya Sports Win, LKFC Draw 1:1 With RKFC



### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Two matches were played on Monday in the First Edition JKFA Professional League 2021 at the Synthetic Turf TRC in Srinagar.

The first match of the day was played between Lonestar Kashmir FC and Real Kashmir FC (Reserves). Both teams started on an aggressive note trying to create goal scoring chances. However it was Lonestar KFC in the 10th minute who scored a goal through Ivan Steven. Real Kashmir FC tried their best to equalize making good moves towards the opponents goal but to no avail. The first half ended with a 1:0 scoreline in favour of LKFC. The second half saw Real Kashmir FC leaving no stone unturned in

search of an equaliser. Their efforts bore fruit when RKFC succeeded in equalizing by a gifted goal from Lonestar KFC. Both the teams tried hard to take the lead but to no avail, and the match ended in a 1:1 draw. Hayat Handoo of LKFC was declared man of the match.

The second match was played between Hyderya Sports FC & Shaheen FC Jammu. Both the clubs exhibited their skill in the match and it was appreciated by the spectators present who applauded both the teams for their strenuous efforts to find the net. It was in 15th minute of the first half that Hyderya Sports was able to convert a goal through Immad. Though Hyderya Sports tried to dominate the show by the skill of their players they

were unable to find the net again. The youthful team of Jammu also played marvellous game of football and tried their best to find an equaliser but failed. Till the end Shaheen FC Jammu did not lose courage and fought to their maximum. In the dying moments Hyderya sports were awarded a penalty kick and Gagan of Hyderya Sports made no mistake in converting the penalty. Thus Hyderya Sports defeated Shaheen FC Jammu by 2 goals to nil. Immad of Hyderya Sports FC was declared as man of the match.

The remaining matches of the Professional League 2021 will be played from 24th July 2021.

The Tournament is organized by J&K Football Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

## ARCO FC To Hold Selection Trials For U13, 15 & 18 Boys In Srinagar & Sopore

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** ARCO FC, a leading professional football club of Kashmir Valley, is offering an excellent opportunity for the upcoming football players of the Valley by providing them a platform to play for the prestigious ARCO I-League football club.

"With an aim to play for the bigger leagues in the country, ARCO I-league football club believes in providing a platform and honing the football talent in Kashmir from a young age" said spokesman of ARCO FC in a statement issued to CNS.

ARCO FC has decided to announce selection trials for its ARCO I-league football club on July 25 and 26, 2021.

According to the statement issued by ARCO FC, the selection trials for its I-League version will be conducted for the players who come within the age group 13, 15 and 18.

"Under-13 players must be born after 2006 while under-15 players must be born after 2004 and Under-18 players must be born after 2002," the statement said.

"The players should fulfil these eligibility criteria before coming for



the trials" they added.

The statement further said that the players must have a photocopy of date of birth proof with 4 passport size photographs when they come for the trials and can contact on mobile number 91-7006061213, if they need any further query.

The statement clarified that the players belonging to North Kashmir should take part in the selection trials at Khushal Stadium, Sopore for the prestigious ARCO I-League Club.

"ARCO FC has already created a professional set-up for the senior club. Now this year management has decided to give opportunities to the young budding players to showcase their talent," the statement said.

ment said.

The ARCO FC believes in giving preference to the talented players so that they make a name for themselves.

The club is being managed by 'ARCO Cement', which is one of the leading cement brands of J&K. The organisation has been vocal in the upliftment of sports every now and then in J&K especially football.

The co-owners of ARCO Cement have themselves remained great footballers of their times and they wish to set a professional platform for the young talent of Kashmir under 'Corporate Social Responsibility.'

Chairman of ARCO FC Mr. Imran Anim said, "This initiative has been made to boost young professional talent of Kashmir and he hopes that it will develop a platform for emerging talented players to compete at National level."

Sohail Anim, who is also the former National footballer and Secretary of the club further added that the aim of providing the opportunity to the budding players was to ensure that football as a sport should be boosted in Kashmir.

## Moeen, Rashid Shine As England Level T20 Series



### Agencies

**LEEDS:** England's stand-in skipper Jos Buttler top-scored with 59 before their spinners Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali ripped through the Pakistan batting unit to seal a 45-run win in the second Twenty20 International and level the series at 1-1 on Sunday.

Chasing 201 runs to win at Headingley, Pakistan's openers made a bright start with the bat but lost their way after England fast bowler Saqib Mahmood dismissed captain Babar Azam (22) in the sixth over.

England tightened their grip in the middle overs as leg-spinner Rashid removed Mohammad Rizwan and Sohaib Maqsood in his second spell.

Off-spinner Moeen then dismissed the veteran Mohammad Hafeez and Fakhar Zaman cheaply as Pakistan were left tottering at 95-5.

Azam Khan was stumped off Matt Parkinson's leg-break, before Mahmood returned to rip through the lower order and restrict the tourists to 155-9 in 20 overs.

Earlier, Buttler marked his return to the national team with his 14th T20 International fifty as England were bowled out for 200 with a ball to spare. Buttler was declared fit after a calf

injury and took the captaincy as Eoin Morgan chose to rest himself in a bid to rotate his squad ahead of this year's T20 World Cup.

After the hosts lost Jason Roy and Dawid Malan in the opening three overs, Buttler and Ali restored order with a brisk 67-run partnership.

Moeen, the player-of-the-match, eventually fell for 36, scooping fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain to mid-off, but Buttler accelerated the England run rate alongside the hero of the last match Liam Livingstone.

Buttler picked out mid-off for Hasnain's second wicket of the innings, but Livingstone, fresh from scoring England's fastest ever hundred at Trent Bridge on Thursday evening, went on to produce another entertaining innings for the home supporters. Livingstone managed the biggest hit of the day, tonking Harris Rauf's delivery straight over the newly built Football Stand.

The right-handed batsman was run out for 38 off 23 balls before the lower order added another 35 off the last four overs to take England's score to 200 for the second consecutive game — this time to secure victory. Both teams now head to Manchester for the series decider at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

### SL VS IND, 2ND ODI, PREVIEW

## India Will Aim To Stamp Authority Over Sri Lanka By Securing Series



### Press Trust of India

**COLOMBO:** India's young guns will get another opportunity to flaunt their exceptional talent and secure a series win against a hapless Sri Lankan outfit in the second ODI in Colombo on Tuesday.

Skipper Shikhar Dhawan was left in complete awe at the other end as the likes of Prithvi Shaw, Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav made batting look ridiculously easy in the first ODI on Sunday night.

In the long run, India want to play more aggressively in the shorter formats and the performance of the trio served as a perfect template in that context.

Their sensational batting also reinforced the might of India's bench strength with ODI debutants Kishan and Yadav bossing the opposition from ball one.

Sri Lanka bowlers also made it easier for the marauding Indian batters who romped home to the win in the 37th over.

India are unlikely to make changes as they would like to pocket the series before giving chances to other youngsters in the squad.

The only one feeling the heat would be Manish Pandey, who laboured to a 40-ball 26 in the series opener when others were at their fluent best.

Shaw, in his comeback game, played breathtaking strokes on the off-side but missed out on a big score. It is something he would like to correct on Tuesday.

It was good to see Kuldeep Chahal and Yuzvendra Chahal bowl in tandem after a long time

and they proved once again that they perform better as a pair.

With spinners bowling the bulk of the overs, star all-rounder Hardik Pandya showed promise in the five overs he bowled.

Senior-most pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar did not have the best of days but trust him to be back in his elements in the next game. It will take a special effort from the struggling Sri Lankan side to pull one back against the rampaging visitors.

The inexperienced team showed it has the talent to compete with the opposition if not win. Most of the batsmen got starts but could not convert. It is something they will have to fix to test India.

Thanks to Chamika Karunaratne's 35-ball 43, Sri Lanka were able to cross 250. He feels his team can regularly score 300-plus if the batsmen don't squander starts.

"We were trying to play longer innings — even when I was batting with Dasun Shanaka in the 42nd or 43rd over I asked him if I should go for some big shots, but he told me to wait until the 45th over.

"If more of our batsmen had been able to bat longer, we could have attacked earlier and gone for a bigger score. We do have the ability to get to 300 or 350, and hopefully that will happen in the next games," said Karunaratne.

The bowlers too need to raise their game significantly to put pressure on the high-quality Indian batsmen.

Both teams might be interested in chasing with the slow pitch playing better in the evening.

## England Vs India: All Eyes On 'Opener' Mayank Agarwal Against County Select XI



### Press Trust of India

**DURHAM:** Mayank Agarwal's fight to reclaim his place in Indian Test eleven starts on Tuesday when he walks out to open in a three-day game against 'County Select XI', starting in Durham from Tuesday as best friend KL Rahul gears up to keep wickets in Rishabh Pant's absence.

The match has been accorded first-class status, a first for India in many years since Mahendra Singh Dhoni took over captain. The Jharkhand dasher believed that an "official match" robbed all players from getting some game time.

However, the team management wanted a proper first-class game to get into the groove before the start of the Test series next month.

According to BCCI sources, Pant, who had tested positive for COVID-19, has completed his stipulated 10-day isolation in an acquaintance's place in London and is "recovering well" but he is yet to join the team bubble in Durham.

"Even if Pant would have reached in time for the practice game, he would have been given adequate rest to get back in peak physical condition. He has been asymptomatic but would need to train well ahead of the first Test in Nottingham," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"In any case both Pant and Wriddhiman, who is isolated as

a precautionary measure will be available for first Test."

As it had been reported earlier, KL Rahul, who has been going keeping drills, will don the big gloves for the game.

However, it will be Mayank, whose form will be closely monitored by the team management as he is likely to partner Rohit Sharma in the first Test after Shubman Gill was ruled out of the series with shin splints.

Mayank hasn't been in best of forms in Australia and had lost his place to Rohit, who missed the first two Tests Down Under due to quarantine rules post hamstring injury break.

While Rahul has also scored bulk of his 2000 runs opening the innings, it is understood that he is being considered as a middle-order batsman and may be used later in the series in case one of the senior batters (read Ajinkya Rahane) don't get back to form.

Against a team comprising mostly of youngsters, with only James Bracey being a current England international, India might just try both Rahul and Mayank if they get a second innings. The match being a three-day affair, the probability of that isn't high.

In bowling department, Mohammed Siraj will like to give a good account of himself and Jasprit Bumrah wouldn't mind getting a few wickets under his belt just like Ravichandran Ashwin did last week for Surrey.

## Indian Athletes Start Training Ahead Of Tokyo Olympics

### Press Trust of India

**TOKYO:** Indian athletes hit the ground running as they started their pre-Olympic training a day after landing here, hoping to live up to massive expectations in the pandemic-hit Games.

The first batch of Indian athletes arrived on Sunday morning and checked in to the Games village after fulfilling the COVID-19 related protocol requirements. The likes of archers Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das, table tennis players G Sathiyan and A Sharath Kamal, ace shuttlers PV Sindhu and B Sai Praneeth and lone Indian gymnast

in fray, Pranati Nayak, started their training on Monday.

While archery couple Atanu and Deepika started sharpening their skills at the Yumenoshima Park this morning, paddlers Sathiyan and Sharath Kamal too began their preparations in search of an elusive Olympic medal in the sport.

Gymnasts Pranati Nayak also started her training this morning under the supervision of coach Laxman Manohar Sharma.

While shuttler Sindhu and Praneeth trained with singles coach Park Tae Sang, the men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy hit the courts along with their coach Mathias Boe.

## Olympic Athletes Test COVID Positive In Tokyo Days Before Games

### Agencies

**TOKYO:** A third athlete at the Olympic Village in Tokyo has tested positive for COVID-19, with the Czech Republic team reporting the case Monday of a beach volleyball player who could miss his first game.

The positive case of an American gymnast, who was not identified and is an alternate on the women's team, also was confirmed by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee. Olympic champion Simone Biles was not affected by the result, nor were any of the other gold medal favourites on the team.

Czech beach volleyball player Ondrej Peruski could miss his opening game on Monday after a PCR test confirmed his infection. Peruski and his playing partner are due to the begin their Olympic program against a team from Latvia.

Czech team leader Martin Doktor said in a statement they would ask to postpone the game until the infected player is cleared to play.

Peruski, who said he has been vaccinated, is the second member of the Czech delegation to test positive in Tokyo after a team official's case was reported Saturday.

He is the third athlete who was staying at the village to test positive. Two South African men's soccer players had their COVID-19 cases announced Sunday.

The players and a team video analyst who tested positive one day earlier were moved to the "isolation facility" managed by the Tokyo Olympic



pic organizing committee.

Their 21 close contacts around the South Africa team now face extra scrutiny before their first game Thursday against Japan in Tokyo. The monitoring regime includes daily testing, traveling in a dedicated vehicle, training separately from teammates not affected and being confined to their rooms for meals.

"Although you are a close contact, you are able to do the minimum that you need to do so that you can continue your preparation for the Games while you are being monitored," said Pierre Ducrey, the Olympic Games operations director.

Earlier Monday, before the Czech case was reported, Tokyo Olympic organizers confirmed three new COVID-19 cases, including a media worker arriving in Tokyo and a Games staffer or official in the Chiba prefecture.

Both people, who were not identified, went into a 14-day quarantine,

organizers said.

The Tokyo metropolitan authority reported 727 new COVID-19 cases Monday, which was the 30th straight day the tally was higher than the previous week. The count was 502 last Monday.

The games open Friday with no fans in nearly all event venues, including at the opening ceremony, amid a state of emergency in Tokyo, and a slower than hoped for vaccine rollout. Japanese authorities said Monday 21.6% of the nation's 126 million population is fully vaccinated.

The total of Games-related infections was officially 58 since July 1 before the two new cases were announced. They should be added to the official tally on Tuesday.

These resulted from 22,000 people arriving in Japan since July 1 with 4,000 of those staying in the village, Ducrey said. About 11,000 athletes are scheduled to compete at the Tokyo Olympics.





MAY YOUR HOMES AND HEARTS  
BE FILLED WITH JOYFUL SPIRIT

INTERNATIONAL ADS | 9419055540



**Shri Manoj Sinha**  
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

## INTEGRATED POULTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2021-22

### ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES

**INDIVIDUAL**      ♦ **GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS**      ♦ **SHG's**      ♦ **FPO's**  
**POULTRY FARM UNIT HOLDERS**   ♦ **POULTRY COOPERATIVES**   ♦ **POULTRY RETAIL UNITS**



DIPK-NB-1913/21

### MAIN COMPONENTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Establishment of commercial Broiler Farms	Insurance of Broiler Poultry Birds	Market Intervention	Establishment of Poultry Dressing & Processing Unit, Poultry Rendering Unit, Mini Incubators, Purchase of Machinery / Equipment.
100% incentive for 1st crop & 50% for 2nd crop with ceiling of Rs. 25 and Rs. 12.5 per chick, respectively.	50% Subsidy on premium with ceiling of Rs 1 per DOC.	50% Subsidy with ceiling on mobile poultry processing cum dressing unit & purchase of caged transport vehicle	50% Subsidy with ceiling on Establishment of Poultry Dressing & Processing Unit, Poultry Rendering Unit, Mini Incubators, Purchase of Machinery / Equipment.

**50%**  
subsidy on  
Pollution Control  
Equipment



Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir  
**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**