

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

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

Friday 30 July | 19 Zil Hajj | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 176 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

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



P3 CITY

### GOVT TO UPGRADE INFRASTRUCTURE OF OLD CITY LIBRARIES

The Director, Libraries & Research, Mohammad Rafi Thursday visited various Public Libraries in Old City of Srinagar to personally take stock of the infrastructure

P6 THINK

### WHY DENY MINING RIGHTS TO PRIS IN J&K ?

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), India is signatory to an agreement also known as Paris agreement. India has three quantitative climate change goals as part



P5 STATE

### UPSC PANEL GIVES NOD TO 12 JKPS OFFICERS FOR INDUCTION INTO IPS

A high-level panel headed by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) member Dr. T.C.A Anant on Thursday selected 12 officers of 1999-batch of Jammu & Kashmir



### Quote!

Whatever you do, do with all your might  
—Marcus Tullius Cicero

### NEWS DIGEST

#### Cop Injured In Accidental Fire

**SRINAGAR:** A policeman was injured on Thursday when his service rifle went off accidentally in posh Gandhi Nagar locality of Jammu City Constable Rangil Singh from Haveli Poonch received gunshot injuries when his AK-47 rifle went off accidentally at a camp inside the district police lines (DPL) Gandhi Nagar on Thursday afternoon, reports said. Singh was reportedly cleaning his rifle when the misfire happened. Reports said that Singh received injuries in left leg and was removed to Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu for treatment. His condition is said to be stable.

#### Soldier Injured In Mine Blast Along LoC

**SRINAGAR:** A soldier sustained injuries after a mine exploded in Krishna Ghati (KG) sector along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Sepoy Mukesh Kumar was seriously injured when a landmine exploded in a forward area of KG sector along the LoC, officials said Thursday. The injured soldier, they said was airlifted to Command hospital Udhampur for specialised treatment. Last week, a soldier from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur district was killed in the KG sector 27-year-old Sepoy Kamal Dev Vaidya • More On P10

#### Elderly Man Slips To Death

**SRINAGAR:** An octogenarian man died on Thursday after slipping from the roof-top of his house in Hajin area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. 85-year-old identified as Ghulam Qadir Paray son of Ghulam Muhammad Paray was on the roof top of his house in Vijapur village of Hajin, when he slipped and fell down, reports said. He was shifted to Community Health Centre (CHC) Hajin where doctors declared him brought dead. (KNT)

#### Two Gamblers Held In Ganderbal

**SRINAGAR:** Two alleged gamblers were arrested by police in an input driven raid in a forest area in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat of Saloor and Ghulam Hassan Bhat of Reshipora were nabbed by a team of cops from Police Post Shadipora in a raid at a gambling site in forest area of Authkhuroo, a police spokesperson said Thursday. He said playing cards and an amount of Rs 2800 were recovered from the accused. • More On P10

### KISHTWAR CLOUDBURST

## Fate Of 20 Missing Persons Unknown, Rescue Ops On



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Rescue operations were underway on Thursday to trace 20 people missing after a cloudburst hit Honzar village in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir with authorities pressing more teams into action. Seven persons were found dead and 17 others were rescued in an

injured condition after the remote village was struck by the cloudburst in the early hours of Wednesday, damaging 21 houses, cow sheds, a ration depot, a bridge and a mosque.

The officials said the joint rescue operation by police, Army and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) is going on in full swing to locate the missing people, including • More On P10

### MeT Predicts Light To Moderate Rainfall

#### Agencies

The weather department on Thursday forecast wide-spread light to moderate rain and thundershowers in Jammu divisions and light rain in Kashmir division during the next 24 hours.

For the subsequent two days, the meteorological department in a statement said that there would be no large change. Meanwhile, a meteorological department

official here said that Srinagar received 4.0 mm of rain in 24 hours till 0830 hours while the summer capital of J&K recorded a minimum temperature of 20.3 degrees Celsius which is 1.6 degrees Celsius above the normal for the season.

Jammu, the winter capital of J&K, received 6.6mm of rain during the time and recorded a minimum of 23.8 degrees Celsius against normal of 25.2 degrees • More On P10

### IAF Joins Rescue Operation

Despite the prevailing bad weather, the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Thursday made eight helicopter sorties with rescuers and relief material to cloudburst-hit Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir where a rescue operation gained momentum to trace 20 missing people, officials said. Seven people were found dead while 17 others were rescued • More On P10

### LG Assures All Possible Help To Affected

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that his administration will extend every possible support to the families affected by the deadly cloudburst in Kishtwar district of the Union Territory. "We cannot bring back the lives lost in the unfortunate incident. However, we will ensure the best possible assistance to the affected families. • More On P10

### BJP Sees China Hand In Drone Attacks

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Ravinder Raina on Thursday accused China of helping Pakistan in sending arms and ammunition into Jammu and Kashmir to help militants carry out attacks.

Talking to reporters after presiding party convention in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Thursday, the senior BJP leader said that on the one side there's an agreement of maintaining truce along the Line of Control (LoC) and International border in Jammu and Kashmir whether it is Uri, Baramulla, Rajouri, Poonch, Samba, RS Pura, Jammu or Kathua, but on the other side, Pakistan was conspiring to push arms and ammunitions and IEDs into Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistan is aiming to carry out a big terror strike using drones." "And in this conspiracy Pakistan is not alone. From where would Pakistan get drones? These drones are coming to Pakistan with China's help. The drones • More On P10

### ...Amshipura Fake Encounter

## Father Waits For Justice, Army Says Proceedings Soon



Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** A little over a year has passed but an anxious father is still awaiting justice for his son and two others who were killed in a fake encounter by an Army officer in South Kashmir's Shopian district.

And the wait gets longer as the Army is still finishing legal work six months after completion of its internal inquiry. The Army had completed its

Summary of Evidence against two of its soldiers involved in the Amshipura encounter in which three youths were killed and indications were that a court martial proceeding against one officer would be initiated.

In a parallel inquiry, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Jammu and Kashmir Police had filed charge sheet against three persons • More On P10

**I HAVE LOST MY SON. I WAS VERY SATISFIED EARLIER with the pace of the probe but now it seems that my hope has started diminishing as nothing is moving since last December."**

### J&K Logs 181 New Cases, 1 Covid Death

Firdaus Ali

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir recorded on Thursday 181 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while one person succumbed to the virus in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Of the 181 new cases, the officials said 114 were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 67 from Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 321207.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 37, Baramulla 19, Budgam 11, Pulwama 12, Kupwara 7, Anantnag 8, Ganderbal 11, Kulgam 8, Shopian 1, Jammu 3, Udhampur 2, Rajouri 13, Doda 24, Kathua 3, Samba 1, Kishtwar 10, Poonch 3, Ramban 1 and Reasi 7 new cases of coronavirus. No fresh case was reported from north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Also, the • More On P10

## India Slams Pak For Holding Kashmir Polls

### Objects To Reference To Kashmir In China-Pak Statement



Photo Courtesy: Reuters

#### Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India on Thursday rejected the recent elections in Pakistan-controlled -Kashmir (PcK) which were won by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's party, saying the "cosmetic exercise" was nothing but an attempt by Pakistan to "camouflage its illegal occupation" and that it has lodged a

strong protest over the issue. Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi also strongly objected to references made to Jammu and Kashmir in a recent joint press statement by Pakistan and China, asserting that the union territories of J&K and Ladakh have been and will remain an integral and inalienable part of India. Reacting strongly • More On P10

**AS IN THE PAST, INDIA** categorically rejects any reference to J&K. The union territory of J&K and the union territory of Ladakh has been and will remain an integral and inalienable part of India."

### ....Violation Of Norms

## Govt To Take Over Tiny Harts School

#### Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC) on Thursday asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to take over the management of a private school for grave violations of norms. "From the record available with FFRC, it prima facie appears that the school has not been set up and is not being

run to impart education to the children but has been created as a source of money making," FFRC chairman Justice (retired) Muzaffar Hussain Attar said in his 18-page order.

The judge was disposing off complaints by parents against Tiny Harts School Tengpora in Srinagar.

According to the order, the principal secretary of the Education • More On P10

### Illegal Export of Shawls

## CBI Files Cases Against Two Private Firms

#### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday claimed to have registered two separate cases against two private firms and others on the allegations of

illegal export of shawls.

According to a statement issued here, two separate cases have been registered on the complaints from customs departments against two private firms based at Srinagar and Delhi and others • More On P10

## No Leisure This: Mountain Trips Turning Toxic In Kashmir

Aaqid Andrabi

MIDNIGHT, May 9, 2021...

Blood-curdling shrieks pierce the engulfing pitch-black night in a small, obscure hamlet of Ashpora in Central Kashmir. A few kerosene lamps come alive, and a flurry of hurtling silhouettes scurry towards the house of Abdul Majeed Gojri. His home and its compound are filled with wails of its inhabitants. There lies the limp, lifeless body of Asif, thick foam around his mouth.

"He was just eleven years old! I wouldn't wish on anyone such a horrible and gruesome death. He was weeping and writhing in pain; there was froth coming out his mouth," laments Mahjabeen, the mother of Asif who drank from a local spring and died a few days later. The spring was septic.

Over the past few years,

remote hilly places in Kashmir have witnessed an upward tick of picnickers, campers, trekkers, off-road enthusiasts, to name a few. The rush undoubtedly brings significant economic value and well-being for the locals and the region.

Still, it brings with it issues that the valley is either too ill-equipped to deal with or not at all. It has led to situations where the ecological balance of sensitive zones gets disturbed because of the lack of comprehension of the environment.

Asif fell prey to the poisoned waters of a spring feeding his family and his community for generations. What changed within the water body that killed Asif?

The boy belonged to a remote area of district Budgam that has received overwhelming attention in the past few years. A cursory



look at the place shows it littered. Plastic wrappers and discarded bottles cover a good part of the area, thus leading to the inevitable seepage of toxins into the soil and underground water.

"It's an issue with significant

and terrifying consequences that will leave its impact on our environment and our lives," says Abdul Hameed, a conservationist.

"Take the example of young Asif; he lost his life because



someone was callous enough to leave behind their trash, without even thinking twice what ramifications it shall have on the place and the people who call it their home."

Hameed lobbies for stricter

regulations and better upkeep of ecologically sensitive areas in the valley.

"Take the holy Amarnath yatra as an instance. It's a source of massive human influx into incredibly fragile geographical

areas, ecologically speaking. During the yatra, colossal amounts of plastic waste are generated, and the same is either dumped into nallah Sindh or is left lying around the track or in meadows, not to mention the defecation in the waters of Sindh. The administration puts in little to no effort to clean the affected areas after the conclusion of the yatra. We have established a group of volunteers, and every year we visit Pahalgam and Sonamarg and other affected areas and clean the place to the best of our abilities. But we are a small group with minimal resources. We cannot do it all on our own. There is always the option to do more," he adds.

Another aspect of the excessive and unregulated human presence at the ecologically sensitive zones lends another facet to the • More On P10





To place an advertisement

**CALL +91-194 2502327**

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

**KASHMIR  
OBSERVER**

**Friday| 30-07-2021**

**2**

# Older people are worse at learning to self-help, but just as good learning to help others

Agencies

**O**lder adults may be slower to learn actions and behaviours that benefit themselves, but a new research shows they are just as capable as younger people of learning behaviours that benefit others.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Nature Communications'.

Researchers at the Universities of Birmingham and Oxford found that youngsters, in contrast, tend to learn much faster when they are making choices that benefit themselves.

The study focused on reinforcement learning - a fundamental type of learning in which we make decisions based on the positive outcomes from earlier choices. It allows us to adapt our choices to our environment by learning the associations between choices and their outcomes.

Dr Patricia Lockwood is the senior author on the paper at the University of Birmingham's School of Psychology and Centre for Human Brain Health. She said: "Reinforcement learning is one of the key ways in which humans - as well as animals and even plants - learn from and adapt to their environment."

"We need to make decisions and learn all the time based on the positive or negative feedback we receive. This allows us to optimise our choices to choose the best course of action in the future from many possible alternatives. We find that older adults are worse than younger adults at learning from positive feedback on their own behaviour. However, surprisingly, when making choices that give positive feedback - money - to another person, older adults are just as good as younger adults".

In the study, the team worked with 80 younger and 80 older participants. They were each asked to make a series of choices between two symbols on a computer screen. After each selection, they received feedback on whether they got reward points from the selection they had made.



On some rounds, points translated into increased money for the participant, in others they translated into money for someone else. In a third, control condition, participants could get points but these weren't worth money for anyone.

The results revealed that, on average, the older group learned to choose the most advantageous option

more slowly than the younger group when their selections would only benefit themselves.

However, when making choices on behalf of another person, older people learned equally as fast as the younger group. Across all age groups, the researchers found that learning was slowest when the points weren't worth anything.

**“We need to make decisions and learn all the time based on the positive or negative feedback we receive. This allows us to optimise our choices to choose the best course of action in the future from many possible alternatives. We find that older adults are worse than younger adults at learning from positive feedback on their own behaviour. However, surprisingly, when making choices that give positive feedback - money - to another person, older adults are just as good as younger adults”**

Dr Jo Cutler, lead author and also at the University of Birmingham, said: "We recognise that in general, cognitive processes and learning ability tend to get worse as people get older. So it's really interesting to see that when making choices that will benefit others, older adults' learning ability is preserved. By better understanding what motivates older people in this way, we can contribute to strategies that promote healthy ageing."

The research programme also yielded some surprising findings in terms of differences between the young and older adults in psychopathic traits, including lack of empathy and concern for others.

The team found that these characteristics were lower in older adults, suggesting psychopathic traits are not fixed across a person's lifespan but may tail off as we age. In older adults, their level of psychopathic traits explained differences in learning speed specifically when they were learning to benefit others.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir  
Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) LANDSCAPING DIVISION**  
**KMR. ENGINEERING COMPLEX, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR**

TENDER NOTICE  
FRESH OF NIT 24, S.NO. 5 & NIT 25, S.NO. 1 & 3  
NIT NO. E-28/2021-22/LSD/SRINAGAR/JAMMU  
DATED: -29/07/2021

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, E-TENDERS (IN SINGLE COVER SYSTEM) ARE INVITED ON PERCENTAGE BASIS FROM APPROVED AND ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS REGISTERED WITH J&K STATE GOVT., CPWD, RAILWAYS AND OTHER STATE/CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Amt in Rs.)	Earnest Money/ Bid Security (Amt in Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1	Construction of central verge near housing colony bemina (Balance Portion) (Phase I)	Rs. 10.00Lacs	Rs. 600/-	Bid Declaration Certificate	50days	07.08.2021 at 11.00AM	"CEE" & "DEE"	State Sector 4059
2	Raising of central verge from SMS chowk to Darish Kadal	Rs. 5.00Lacs	Rs. 200/-	Bid Declaration Certificate	30days	07.08.2021 at 11.00AM	"DEE"	State Sector 4059
4	Development of central verge from Shamshan Bhoomi towards Qamarwari by way of grill fencing and removing of tree guards from well grown trees. (Phase I)	Rs. 10.00Lacs	Rs. 600/-	Bid Declaration Certificate	50days	07.08.2021 at 11.00AM	CEE & "DEE"	State Sector 4059

Position of Funds: -Available.  
Administrative approval: -Accorded.  
Note:- The above mentioned work shall be mandatorily completed during the current financial year 2021-22.  
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 date given below:

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	29.07.2021	
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	29.07.2021	04.30 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	29.07.2021	from 04.30 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	06.08.2021	up to 06.00 PM
5.	Deadline for receiving the Hard copy (Original e-challan or Treasury challan/receipt and EMD)	Hard copy to be submitted by the successful bidder (LI) only within seven days after financial evaluation.	
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07.08.2021 at 11.00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar	

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan or Treasury challan/receipt (Non-refundable) along with bid security declaration certificate as per format (Annexure A), failure to do so shall render the bidder as non-Responsive.
- First lowest bidder has to submit Performance security Deposit 3% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG/BG validity should be 45days more than bid validity days i.e. 120+45=165Days pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority).
- 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 Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
  - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Additional performance security required as per NIT conditions shall be released after virtual completion of the work.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

- 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.
- 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.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, Original/Photocopies of documents related to bid be submitted physically /by registered post / through courier before date specified in Para - 1.

48.The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.  
49.All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)  
50.The Employer can cancel the NIT/LOI/ALLOTMENT at any stage without any reason.

No:- 2137-46  
Dated:- 29-07-2021.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Landscaping Division,  
Rajbagh, Srinagar

**DIPK-5479/21**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**(R&B) PROJECT CIRCLE DIVISIONIST, SRINAGAR**  
Opposite Masjid Ibrahim, Hyderpora Srinagar PIN No. 190014  
E-mail:- [pcd.bypass@gmail.com](mailto:pcd.bypass@gmail.com), [pcd.bypass@jk.gov.in](mailto:pcd.bypass@jk.gov.in) Phone-FAX:- 0194-2435218

FRESH TENDER NOTICE  
**FRESH E-NIT No PCD-RnB-23 of 2021-22 Dated:-26 /07/2021**

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

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.(Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	M.H
1	Construction fixing of boundary Pillars for New High Court Complex at village Rakh-i-Gund Aksha in Bemina Srinagar (Balance work)	Rs. 9.13 Lacs	Rs. 600/-	25 Days	"CEE" & "DEE"	4059 Capital Outlay
2	Providing Polycarbonate sheeting including MS frame work to the damaged broken skylights including repair work to Hi-Rib roof sheeting of north courts and allied buildings at district court complex Moominabad Srinagar Stage work.	Rs. 3.50 Lacs	Rs. 200/-	15 Days	"DEE"	2059 M&R
3	Supply of various furniture items for Courts at district court Complex Srinagar at Mominabad (Year 2021-2022)	Rs. 2.50 Lacs	Rs. 200/-	10 Days	SICOP Unit Holder/ "DEE"	2059 M&R
4	AMC for various water purifiers installed inside High Court Complex Srinagar for the year 2021-2022.	Rs. 1.60 Lacs	Rs. 200/-	10 Days	"DEE"	2059 M&R
5	Scientific cleaning and sterilization of water storage Tanks at high court complex (2 stages), Srinagar	Rs. 1.18 Lacs	Rs. 200/-	10 Days	Authorized/ Experienced Tank cleaner	2059 M&R
6	Annual maintenance for public address system for a period of one year at District Court Complex Srinagar at Mominabad	Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Rs. 200/-	15 Days	Registered Electronic Dealers	2059 M&R
7	Sanitary/Civil repairs of Shah-i-Hamdaan Community Centre at Chalpan Kocha Zaina Kadal Srinagar.	Rs. 0.48 Lacs	Rs. 200/-	08 Days	"DEE"	2059 M&R

**Position of AAA = S.No.1=Accorded vide Govt. order No.3456-JK(LD)of 2021 did: 04/05/2021**  
**= S.No.2 to 7=Accorded vide No.BS/4908-09 did: 15/05/2021**  
**Position of TS = Accorded Position of funds: Available/Committed**  
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-07-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 27-07-2021 01.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	27-07-2021 from 03.00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	02-08-2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	03-08-2021 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Project Circle Division 1 <sup>st</sup>
	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7 days of receipt of LOA. (The bidder has to provide 3% of advertized Cost as Performance Security within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid)

All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria /qualification information with their bids:- (Photostat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink Signed and Seal):-

- Valid original Treasury Challan/Receipt (MH 0059) and BID Securing Declaration On Stamp Paper Duly notarized (Format Enclosed with the NIT uploaded)
- Valid Registration Card with self attested and Valid GSTIN/ PAN Card No.
- "The Latest Self Attested return GST-3/GSTR-3B and Certificate by the bidder to the effect that he has no sales tax liability/arrears"
- Completion certificate of similar nature of work issued by not less than the rank of Ex. Engineer (Only for S.No.4 & 5)
- Bidder shall furnish proof of latest returns in GST-3/GSTR-3B, i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST - 3B of the preceding Month/Quarter to the issue of NIT. Illustration: - For the NIT issued in July 2021, the bidder has to upload the latest clearance certificate FORM GST - 3B, of the preceding month i.e. of June-2021/Preceding Quarter (April-June-2021)

No: PCD-1st/NIT/2794-2804  
Dtd:-26-07-2021

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Project Circle Division 1st,  
Srinagar

**DIPK-5366/21**

**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.  
Tel: 01933-247954/247955 Website: [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in)

**Admission to Three Year Diploma  
in Engineering Programmes**

The last date for submission of online application forms for admission to following programmes in Engineering for the academic session 2021-22 stands extended upto **21-06-2021** 09-08-2021.

1) Diploma in Civil Engineering 2) Diploma in Electrical Engineering 3) Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

The other terms and conditions notified vide No. IUST/Acad/Admissions/Notification\_2/21/160 Dated: 04-06-2021 shall remain same. Queries, if any, can be made on Email: [admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in](mailto:admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in) Phone: 01933-247252 Mobile: 9858306455, 9906400789.  
No. IUST/Acad/Admissions/21/210 Sd/-  
Dated: 29-07-2021 Assistant Registrar, Academics

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار گلشنہ  
درخواست مخاطب نسبتہ بنیم زمرہ مرحوم غلام حسن گنائی ساکنہ سالورہ  
نسبتہ حصول Certificate Dependent

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے عہد ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ کا خاندان غلام حسن گنائی جو کہ 2006-21 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ سائل کمنبرہ ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

- نسبتہ بنیم 50 گھریلو کام
- انعام آسن 27 زیر تعلیم
- عشامہ بن حسن 22 زیر تعلیم

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمنبرہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے نسبتہ زمرہ متوفی بضرر حصول پیش بضرر ملازمت تحت 43 SRO بحق پسر خود عشاءہ بن حسن ڈپنڈنٹ سرٹیفیکٹ حاصل کرنے کی خواہ ہے اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معاذ گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحصیلدار  
ajj R



## DDC Stresses On Community Participation In Preservation Of Water Bodies

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to re-view the pace of ongoing process of rejuvenation and restoration work on historical water bodies in Srinagar, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad along with Director Tourism, Dr G N Itoo today visited under restoration Gilsar, Khushalsar and Vicharnag water bodies.

The DDC inspected the restoration works undertaken for cleaning of these water bodies to revive their decades old glory.

The DDC instructed the concerned authorities to speed up the pace of ongoing works to expedite them in set timelines. He also asked them to ensure all springs are made functional in the area at the earliest.

At Vicharnag, the DDC directed the officers to undertake measures for dewatering to clear the Vicharnag water body junction which connects River Sind of Ganderbal with Gilsar Lake. He directed the concerned to submit a DPR in this regard within two days so that work is started at an earliest.

While interacting with local people, the DDC said that these wetlands had been a rich belt of birds of local and of migratory origin. He said all possible measures

are being taken to restore historical Water bodies in Srinagar to achieve visible impact on ground.

He urged them to play an active role in ongoing rejuvenation and restoration process undertaken by the district administration for historical water channels.

The DDC stressed on Community participation in restoration, preservation and maintenance of water bodies.

He said restoration of these water bodies will not only enhance the scenic beauty and environment of the areas but also generate vast opportunities of employment for local population.

He also appealed people to desist from littering and throwing garbage in water-bodies leading to their degradation. He also asked the concerned officers to gear up the surveillance teams and intensify the anti encroachment drive along all water bodies and take strict action as per law against the persons indulging in littering and dumping garbage into these natural resources.

Pertinent to mention that Water channel of Nala-e-Amir Khan has been fully restored and has been made navigable.

The Director Tourism said that a jetty will be constructed at the junction of Khushal Sar and Gilsar to enhance the scenic beauty to the water bodies.

## Muharram Arrangements Reviewed In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In connection with forthcoming holy month of Muharram-Al- Haram, the Deputy Commissioner(DC), Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad Thursday chaired a meeting of officers to review arrangements for its smooth celebration.

Stressing on making adequate arrangements, the DC instructed the officers to ensure all necessary preparations are made well before commencement of the holy month of Muharram. He urged that all arrangements are put in place to ensure all religious gatherings and processions are held smoothly and peacefully.

The DC instructed authorities of PHE to ensure uninterrupted water supply

to all areas and deploy water tankers as per the requirement at all Imam Baras. Similarly, KPDCL authorities were directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply and no curtailment during the holy month.

The DC emphasized on installation of street lights at all required places and ensure immediate restoration of all defunct street lights in all urban and rural areas.

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

## Govt To Upgrade Infrastructure Of Old City Libraries

### Reading Zone To Be Established At Habbakadal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director, Libraries & Research, Mohammad Rafi Thursday visited various Public Libraries in Old City of Srinagar to personally take stock of the infrastructure requirement for upgrading these libraries as e-Learning-cum-Career Counselling hubs for the local youth.

The Director, Libraries & Research, said that the Old City areas of Srinagar will be given special focus in setting up of e-Learning-cum-Career Counselling hubs as the youth of these areas lack such facilities.

During his visit to the Ghani Memorial Library at Rajouri Kadal, the Director Libraries called for renovation of the building and landscaping of its

lawn to create the right ambience, in and around the library, for its users.

At M M Library, Fateh Kadal, the Director asked the incharge of the library to keep available newspapers and reference material for various competitive examinations.

At Ganj Baksh Library, Nowhatta, the Director called for construction of additional accommodation to provide spacious separate Reading Rooms for boys, girls and senior citizens alongwith separate washrooms. He said the R&B Department would be asked to prepare the DPR for construction of additional accommodation.

At Naqashband Sahab Library, the Director said that the Wakf Board would be asked to arrange additional accommoda-

tion for the library to facilitate the users.

Responding to the overwhelming demand from the residents of Habbakadal area, the Director Libraries said that the Reading Room of the City Central Library would be immediately made functional at the space offered by the local Auqaf Committee.

He said all these libraries would be provided with requisite IT and other infrastructure to turn them into e-learning hubs. "These Libraries will also make available quality free study and reference material, both hard-copy and in e-format to the students to help them prepare for competitive examinations like NEET/JEE/CAT/IAS/JKAS etc," he said.

## Hurriyat Conference Executive Members Denied Meeting With Mirwaiz: Spokesperson

Srinagar: All Parties Hurriyat conference executive members Prof Abdul Ghai Bhat, Bilal Lone and Masroor Abaas Ansari on Thursday held a meeting at Lone's residence, after they were denied permission to meet Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a spokesperson of APMC said in a statement.

"APMC executive members strongly condemned their chairman's continued and arbitrary house detention since August 2019. The members said that outside Mirwaiz's residence mobile bunkers and armed vehicles have been stationed, manned by CRPF and state police personnel and the road partially blocked from both sides and no one is allowed to go inside."

The members, according to the statement, said that when they went to meet the chairman to inquire about his health post his covid recovery, the armed personnel stationed outside stopped them and send them away.

The statement said this "despotic attitude" of the ruling class towards APMC chairman is highly regrettable. They "lamented" that all his human and fundamental rights and civil liberties stand completely curbed for the last two years. "He has been caged inside his home arbitrarily at the will of the rulers, for firmly standing by Hurriyat's principled stand of peaceful reso-

## Mirwaiz Pays Tributes To Hazrat Usman

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Thursday paid tributes to the "Rightly Guided" Third Caliph of Islam, Ameer-ul-Moomineen Hazrat Uthman Ghani (RA) on his martyrdom anniversary, terming him "the figure of knowledge and action, patience and modesty, trust and honesty and courage and generosity".

Mirwaiz in a statement said the great services of Hazrat Usman Ghani (RA) to Islam, the Messenger of Allah (SAW) and the holy Qur'an are unforgettable.

Mirwaiz said that the Caliph was not only an individual among all the Companions of the Prophet (SAW) due to his position, grace and perfection and outstanding services to

Islam but he also had the honour and distinction of being referred by the Prophet (SAW) as Dhu'l-Nurayn, Dhu'l-Hijratayn and Dhu al-Basharatayn at the same time.

Mirwaiz urged the Muslims to renew their commitment on the day of martyrdom of Hazrat Uthman Baa Haya (RA) to pledge to adopt the lives of the Rightly Guided Caliphs (RA) as their model and to adopt their great teachings in their practical lives.

Mirwaiz stressed that there is a need to accelerate positive efforts, individually and collectively, in order to reform the society which is facing serious problems and to overcome the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah.

"This will be the greatest tribute to the Righteous Caliph

lution of Kashmir conflict in accordance with the people's aspirations."

APMC executive members said that they seek his immediate release from "illegal arbi-

trary house detention" by the state authorities, and appealed to all rights activists and organisations and democracies of the world to ensure his release and restoration of his human rights.

## Trekking Equipment Hire Shop Inaugurated At TRC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary Tourism and Culture Department, Sarmad Hafeez Thursday inaugurated Trekking Equipment Hire Shop established by Directorate of Tourism Kashmir here at Tourist Reception Center (TRC).

MD JKTDC, Nisar Ahmad Wani, Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr GN Itoo and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The shop will offer good quality trekking equipment where tourists or trekkers, mountaineers and adventure enthusiasts can hire all trekking and mountaineering equipment for the adventure sports.

Besides, it offers the best camping, climbing, hiking, trekking equipment available at nominal rates with equipment like rucksacks, sleeping bags, mats, tents and other equipment for trekking.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary commended Director Tourism Kashmir and his team for creating such a facility where trek gears are available

at promotional rates for adventure sports.

"People can come and hire adventure equipment as there are many people who come here and want to go trekking or other adventure sports. They can get the

Saying that J&K has tremendous potential in terms of adventure tourism, he hoped that the opening up of trekking gears hire shop will further help in boosting adventure tourism which in turn will give fillip to



trek items here and can go up in the mountains," Sarmad Hafeez said.

While terming Jammu & Kashmir as the best trekking destination for adventure enthusiasts, he said it is known for wonderful high-altitude treks, lakes, meadows and other tracks besides new treks have also been opened for trekking and mountaineering expeditions.

UT's tourism sector.

"People from all over the country, especially youngsters are adventure enthusiastic, besides local people can also hire such trek gears at nominal rates and can enjoy nature and beauty of Kashmir. I am hopeful that this initiative will further boost tourism here and a lot of people will come and enjoy in J&K," he added.

Gvernment of Jammu and Kashmir

## Directorate of School Education Kashmir

**Subject: Regularization of I/C Principals whose whereabouts are not known.**

### NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all concerned that the Education Department has recently issued regularization orders in favour of I/C Principals except the following ones whose whereabouts are not known to the Department as per reports obtained from field offices.

S. No	Srty No. as per Govt. order No. 126-Edu of 2020 dated:26.05.2020	Name of the Sr. Lecturer	Subject	Place of posting	Date of Birth
1	13	Mohd. Yousuf	Math	HSS Y.K.Pora	03.04.53
2	39	Ab. Ahad Wani	Education	HSS Shalimar	
3	110	Mohd Maqbool Bhat	History	HSS Kulgam	13.04.57
4	228	Bashir Ahmad Mufti	History	HSS Pampore	18.10.60
5	300	Ali Bahadur		HSS Sopore	
6	319	Fayaz Ahmad Ahanger	Physics	HSS Zoolhama	07.03.61
7	326	Shakeela Bano (ST)	Education	GHSS Leh	02.06.66
8	385	Manzoor Ahmad Shah	Pol-Science	HSS Wadwan	01.05.56
9	434	Mehmooda Akhter	Chemistry	HSS Khanda	31.03.60
10	503	Mohd Tahir Khan	Commerce	HSS Kupwara	20.02.63
11	725	Ayaz Ahmad Banday	Chemistry	HSS Pattan	09.08.58
12	763	Abdul Ali Mir	Botany	HSS Uttersoo	24.05.55
13	769	Kouser Hassan	Chemistry	HSS Hazratbal	13.03.63
14	948	Shafiq Ahmad Showkat	Chemistry	HSS Kangan	
15	1050	Musheer Ahmad	Physics	HSS Bijbehara	15.04.68
16	1059	Aijaz Hussain Dar	Chemistry	HSS Nobra	08.08.66
17	1134	Nazir Ahmad Shah	Psychology	DIET Anantnag	01.09.59
18	1137	Abida Ahasan	Economics	HSS Soura	14.04.68
19	1179	Yasmeen Jan	Pol-Science	HSS B.K.Pora	03.02.62
20	1180	Firdous Qazi	Philosophy	GHSS Pampore	01.06.61
21	1190	Gh. Nabi Shah	Education	HSS Budgam	
22	1278	Effiat Yasmeen	Economics	DSEK	
23	1329	Abdul Jabbar Magray	Zoology	DIET Kargil	03.10.59
24	1332	Narinder Kour		GHSS Baramulla	
25	1348	Abdul Rehman Shagoo	Economics	HSS Kupwara	
26	1368	Bashir Ahmad Bazaz	Commerce	HSS Budgam	15.05.60

Now the above named I/C Principals through the medium of this notice are hereby directed to submit their academic credentials, service particulars, work and conduct certificates and service history sheets on the devised formats through their respective Chief Education Officers in this Directorate, within 21 days from the date of issuance of this notice so that further course of action is taken in the matter on merits and standing rules governing the subject.

DIPK-5468/21

No:DSEK/92/149

Director School Education  
Kashmir  
Dated: 30.07.2021

### DIAL-EMMA

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



### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI  
CALENDAR**  
19 Zil Haj  
1442

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 03
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:32
Magrib	7:37
ISHA	9:10

## This Day In History

- 1946 - 1st rocket attains 100 mi (167 km) altitude, White Sands, NM
- 1949 - British warship HMS Amethyst escapes down Yangtze River, having been refused a safe passage by Chinese Communists after 3-month standoff
- 1966 - US airplanes bombs demilitarized zone in Vietnam
- 1971 - Japanese Boeing 727 collides with an F-86 fighter killing 162
- 1971 - US Apollo 15 (Scott & Irwin) lands on Mare Imbrium on the Moon
- 1975 - Murtala Mohammed overthrows General Gowon to become Nigerian Head of State
- 1980 - Vanuatu (New Hebrides) gains independence from Britain & France
- 1985 - Discovery moves to Vandenberg AFB for mating of STS 51-L mission
- 1990 - The first Saturn automobile rolls off the assembly line.
- 2006 - World's longest running music show Top of the Pops is broadcast for the last time on BBC Two. The show had aired for 42 years.
- 2012 - Train fire kills 32 and injures 27 people in Andhra Pradesh, India
- 2012 - Indian power grid failure leaves over 300 million without electricity
- 2013 - 28 people are killed in a series of bombings in Kano, Nigeria
- 2013 - 134 people are killed in tribal conflicts in Darfur, Sudan
- 2013 - 9 children are killed and 20 are injured after a school bus collides with a truck in Hanumanagar, India
- 2013 - Mamnoon Hussain is elected President of Pakistan
- 2014 - Death toll in Gaza reaches 1,346, while 56 Israeli soldiers and 3 civilians have been killed
- 2014 - The EU and US extend sanctions on Russia to include banks, energy, and defense firms; Moscow denies the allegation that Russia is arming rebels in Eastern Ukraine
- 2015 - In Bandar Mahshahr, Iran, the temperature reaches 46C (109F), humidity makes it feel like 73C
- 2016 - Air balloon crashes into power lines near Lockhart, Texas, killing all 16 on board

## From KO Archives

## Dramatic Encounter Rattles City Centre

*1 Killed, scores hurt as militants target security forces in Budshah chowk*

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - Militants struck the busy business hub of the capital city this evening setting off a fierce gunbattle with security forces in which an unspecified number of people, including five mediapersons and half a dozen security personnel, were injured.

The militants hurled a grenade at a Maruti Gypsy of BSF (JKO1E-3803) setting it on fire and later opened fire at a BSF armoured vehicle at the KMD bus stand in the close vicinity of Akhara building at around 5 pm, official sources said adding the militants then barged into the Bengal-Gujarati hotel and began firing at security personnel outside. The security forces hit back triggering an exchange of fire and the gunbattle continued till late hours Friday.

Six mediapersons—four cameramen and two press photographers—were injured in the incident while performing. Three BSF personnel, a police constable and five civilians were also injured in the initial exchange of fire which erupted when the area was teeming with people most of them heading homes after office hours and some busy shopping. The injured civilians included a woman and son of a Congress worker.

At least two militants remained holed up in Auqaf building and an adjacent one. The buildings are located near the Aknara building which houses the hol mace of Hindu diety Shiva besides large number of BSF troopers.

Later both the buildings were surrounded by security forces and intermittent firing between the two sides continued as the troops were making efforts to neutralize militants till late in this evening. Al-Mansoorian and Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen militant outfits claimed responsibility for the dramatic attack in separate statements to a local news agency but gave no further details about the intended target or about the number of militants involved in the strike.

A police vehicle which was passing the area at the time of the firing was hit by a stray bullet in the petrol tank setting it on fire. The vehicle was gutted in the fire but the driver managed to jump out of it in the nick of time, the sources said. Fire brigade personnel rushed to the scene immediately to douse the flames.

The heavy exchange of fire led to the closure of all shops and business establishments in the area and adjacent busy business centres of Lai Chowk, Koker Bazar, Gawkadad, Red Cross Road and Amirakadal.

The busy roads wore a deserted look with only security personnel moving the scene of the gunbattle as reinforcements were called in. Movement of traffic came to a standstill in the area. "This was a fidayeen attack. A group of militants fired at the paramilitary pickets in Akhara building and simultaneously a grenade was launched at a police jeep in the same area," Inspector General of Police Javaid Makhdoomi said.

"It was a coordinated terror act. The security forces foiled the attempt of the militants to enter the Akhara building, which houses a temple of Lord Shiva called Chhari Mubarak."

(Kashmir Observer, 30 July, 2005)



## COVID-19 CURBS

## No Quarantine For Vaccinated EU And US Travellers To UK But India, France Still On Red List



## Agenceis

**New Delhi:** Fully vaccinated travellers from the US and European Union (EU) countries will be able to avoid a 10-day compulsory quarantine when they arrive in England, however, travellers from India still remain on the red list.

Travellers from France and India will have to stick to the 10-day quarantine rules even if they are fully vaccinated upon arrival in the UK.

Currently, only people who received their Covid-19 vaccine in the UK can avoid quarantine when arriving from these "amber list" countries under the government's traffic list travel system.

"We've taken great strides on our journey to reopen international travel and today is another important step forward. Whether you are a family reuniting for the first time since the start of the pandemic or a business benefiting from increased trade this is progress we can all enjoy," said UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps.

"We will of course continue to be guided by the latest scientific data but thanks to our world-leading domestic vaccination programme, we're able to look to the future and start to rebuild key transatlantic routes with the

US while further cementing ties with our European neighbours," he said.

India remains on the red list under the international traffic system, which bans travel and imposes a compulsory 10-day hotel quarantine for returning British residents. The next review of that status is expected by the middle of next week.

However, with the Delta variant first detected in India continuing to be the dominant variant in the UK, India's status on the travel advisory remains uncertain.

Meanwhile, from 4 am local time on August 2, passengers who are fully vaccinated in the EU with vaccines authorised by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) or in the US with vaccines authorised by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or in the Swiss vaccination programme, will be able to travel to England without having to quarantine or take a Day 8 COVID test on arrival.

These amber list arrivals who have been fully vaccinated in the US and EU countries will still be required to complete a pre-departure test before arrival into England, alongside a PCR test on or before Day 2 after arrival. France continues to remain outside this ambit amid a surge in Beta variant cases in the country.

## Cocaine Worth Over \$1 Million Washes Up On Tonga Beach



## Agenceis

**Nuku'alofa, Tonga:** Cocaine worth more than \$1 million has washed up on a Tongan beach, with police scouring nearby shores for similar illicit packages on Thursday.

Residents discovered the drugs in the Pacific nation's northern Vava'u group of islands and handed them over to the authorities.

Acting deputy police commissioner Halatoa Taufa said the police were working with the navy to scour areas of interest after the discovery.

"There is a possibility that more packages may turn up on the beach and we ask any members of the public to immediately contact police if they found or knew anyone to have found further drugs," he said.

Taufa said the packages were similar to those found in Vava'u in the past. The wreck of the drug yacht JeReVe was discovered on a remote atoll in 2012, with blocks of cocaine worth up to \$120 million.

In 2017, the French navy intercepted a yacht carrying \$100 million worth of cocaine near Tongan waters. The following year, police found cocaine worth \$13 million on an outlying island.

PromotedListen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

Tonga has been listed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as "geographically disadvantaged" because it is on the route used by illicit drug manufacturers in Asia and South America to reach prime markets in Australia and New Zealand.

## Taliban Surge An 'Existential Crisis' For Afghan Gov't: Watchdog



## Agenceis

The Afghan government faces an "existential crisis" after the Taliban doubled its attacks following the February 2020 deal with the United States, a watchdog report says.

The report (PDF), published on Thursday, said Taliban attacks on Afghan targets surged from 6,700 in the three months up to the Doha agreement to 13,242 in the September-November 2020 period.

Attacks have stayed above 10,000 in each subsequent three-month period, according to the report by the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR).

While the rise in attacks has long been clear, data was previously available to demonstrate how intense the rebels' offensive had become.

The US agreed to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan with the expectation that the Taliban would negotiate a peace deal with the Kabul government.

Since then, the Taliban-government talks have stalled but the US has steadily pulled out troops to a level of only several hundred now, with an August 31 deadline for full withdrawal.

The SIGAR report makes clear that the Doha agreement, instead

of propelling Taliban-Kabul talks, unleashed a Taliban offensive that caught government forces unprepared and increased the number of civilian deaths.

Over the period of January to March of 2020, there were 510 civilian deaths and 799 injuries, the report said, quoting data from the US-NATO joint force in Afghanistan.

After that the numbers surged, hitting a high of 1,058 deaths and 1,959 injured in the third quarter of 2020 and continuing at high levels.

The latest data, for April and May this year, showed 705 civilian deaths and 1,330 casualties, the SIGAR report said.

"The overall trend is clearly unfavourable to the Afghan government, which could face an existential crisis if it isn't addressed and reversed," said the inspector general, John Sopko.

He said the report offered a sobering picture that contrasted with "the pervasiveness of 'overoptimism'" that characterised US-led efforts to rebuild and strengthen Afghanistan and the cost of hundreds of billions of dollars to the US government.

"The news coming out of Afghanistan this quarter has been bleak," the report said.

Afghan air force overstretched Faced by a new Taliban offensive,

the report said, the Afghan government security force "appeared surprised and unready, and is now on its backfoot".

"Particularly concerning was the speed and ease with which the Taliban seemingly wrested control of districts in Afghanistan's northern provinces, once a bastion of anti-Taliban sentiment."

The Afghan air force, considered to be one of the few remaining advantages the government in Kabul has in the fight against the Taliban, is increasingly overstretched, said the watchdog.

All Afghan aircraft were operating at 25 percent over their recommended scheduled maintenance intervals, with five out of seven aircraft experiencing decreases in readiness in June alone, says the SIGAR report.

The agency said that, for example, the fleet of AC-208 light attack combat aircraft had maintained 93-per-cent readiness between April and May, but that the indicator decreased to 63 percent in June.

SIGAR added that all Afghan aircraft and crew were "overtasked" due to increased requests for air support, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and resupply missions.

The decrease in readiness coincides with an increase in offensives by the Taliban and a near-complete US exit from the war-torn country.

## Pakistan To Ban Public Sector, Education, Malls, Air Travel For Unvaccinated



## Agenceis

**Islamabad:** Pakistan will ban air travel for anyone without a Covid-19 vaccine certificate from August 1 and will require all public sector workers to get vaccinated by August 31, the government announced on Thursday, along with a host of other restrictions.

From August 1, unvaccinated people will no longer be allowed to enter government offices, schools, restaurants and shopping malls, said Asad Umar, who heads National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), a military-run body that oversees the pandemic response, at a joint news conference with the health minister in Islamabad.

Teachers and students above 18, public transport and retail staff will also be required to get vaccinated by the end of August, they said.

Pakistan has seen coronavirus infections soar, dominated by Delta variant, and its poor health infrastructure is under extreme pressure.

The national positive test rate for Covid stands at 7.53%, according to the NCOC. The rate in

the southern port city of Karachi touched 23% in recent weeks. [nL3N2OL3NF] "If you're not vaccinated you can't go to teach at schools and colleges from August 1," Umar said.

"We can't put our children's lives at risk just because that you're not ready to get the vaccine."

The NCOC has said the Delta, Beta, and Alpha variants of the virus have all been detected in Pakistan since May.

After a sluggish start, the government ramped up its national vaccination drive, especially in the heartland Punjab province, with 850,000 doses administered on Wednesday across the country.

Umar said the target is to touch one million doses a day.

According to the NCOC, over 27.8 million have now received at least one vaccine shot, while only 5.9 million have been fully vaccinated out of a population of 220 million.

It said Pakistan registered 4,497 new cases and 76 deaths in the last 24 hours, with over 3,000 people in critical condition.

So far 23,209 people have died of Covid-19 in Pakistan.

## Nigerian Court Acquits Shia Leader El-Zakzaky Of All Charges



## Agenceis

A Nigerian court has acquitted the leader of a banned Shia group Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) of all eight criminal charges against him, defence and prosecution lawyers said.

Ibrahim el-Zakzaky had been in detention since 2015 when he was arrested after a clash in which the army killed an estimated 350 people at an IMN compound and a nearby mosque and burial ground in northern Kaduna state.

El-Zakzaky and his wife, who was also arrested in 2015, had been facing a range of charges filed by the state government in 2018, including aiding and abetting homicide, unlawful assembly and disruption of public peace.

"None of the 15 prosecution witnesses proved they committed the offence," lawyer Sadau Garba told the AFP news agency after Wednesday's hearing, adding that the couple had been acquitted and "regained their freedom today".

Lead prosecutor Dari Bayero confirmed that the pair had been freed but said the state was planning to appeal.

"The court ruled that none of the witnesses we presented in court gave convincing proof that

the duo were guilty," Bayero said. "This doesn't mean they can't be re-arraigned ... we are certainly going to file charges against the duo at appeal."

Justice Gideon Kurada ruled there were no charges to answer and acquitted the pair.

Shias are a small minority in Nigeria, where about half the population is Muslim and overwhelmingly Sunni.

"Victory for perseverance" IMN spokesperson Ibrahim Musa said the ruling was "a victory for perseverance in the face of extreme persecution".

El-Zakzaky's supporters at the court said they feared police would arrest him again following his release. The police and Nigeria's attorney general have not commented on the court ruling.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International urged the Nigerian authorities to "immediately comply" with the court order.

In December 2015, troops launched a ferocious clampdown on the IMN when its members blocked the convoy of the army chief of staff during a religious procession.

Human rights groups said at the time that some 350 IMN members were killed during two days of clashes and later buried in mass graves.

PASSPORTS PLEASE  
Afghans Queue Up For Escape Lifeline

## Agenceis

**KABUL:** Like thousands of his compatriots, Abdel Khalid Nabyar waited outside Afghanistan's main passport office to apply for the precious travel document that would allow him to leave the war-torn nation.

With the Taliban making huge advances in the countryside as foreign forces wind up their withdrawal, many Afghans — those with the means, at least — are looking for a way out.

"If the situation worsens, we might have to leave," said Nabyar, 52, who feels particularly vulnerable because he once ran a shop on a Nato military base. Not everyone will make an immediate exit, but most want the safety net — knowing they can leave at short notice.

"People want to be prepared in advance in case things go wrong," added Nabyar.

Dozens begin lining up at the passport office in Kabul before dawn most days, and by eight in the morning the queue already stretches for a good hundred metres.

Applicants slowly shuffle forward, clutching see-through plastic folders containing their docu-



ments. Occasionally a police officer is needed to collar queue-jumpers trying their luck. One official appeared irritated by the interest shown by journalists at the throng.

"Getting a passport is a normal request for any Afghan," she said.

But in recent weeks the numbers applying have been anything but usual. "We are getting about 10,000 people a day against 2,000 normally," said one police officer.

Khalilullah, a 36-year-old engineer, arrived at 5:00 am with his wife and three children.

"There were already 300 people in line," he said, more than three hours after joining the queue.

Applicants need to have their picture taken, eyes biometrically recorded and fingerprints taken as part of the process, with a thorough security frisk thrown in for good measure.

## NEWSMAKERS

## Bodies Of Three Missing Mountaineers Spotted On Mount K2

## Agenceis

**Islamabad:** The bodies of three mountaineers who died during a winter expedition on Mount K2 have been found months after they went missing while scaling the world's second-highest peak, officials said Tuesday.

The remains of Pakistani mountaineering legend Muhammad Ali Sadpara, Iceland's John Snorri and Juan Pablo Mohr from Chile were spotted Monday near "the bottleneck" -- a narrow gully just hundreds of metres from the summit.

"We are now focusing on a strategy to bring the bodies to a point from where they could be airlifted," Ayaz Shaghi, an official with the Alpine Club of Pakistan, told AFP.

"The bodies of the mountaineers are intact and frozen," Shaghi added, saying the climbers' remains were at an altitude of 7,800 metres



(25,600 feet).

"It is very difficult to bring the dead bodies down from this high altitude," said Karrar Haidri, also from the Alpine Club, adding that the military was helping with the operation.

The trio lost contact with K2's base camp in early February, sparking a massive rescue effort that included military helicopters and planes.

Sadpara's son Sajid is in the team coordinating the recovery effort,

Shaghi added.

The discovery of the bodies followed the death on Sunday of Scottish climber Rick Allen, who was killed after being hit by an avalanche.

With Pakistan's borders open and few other places to go due to the coronavirus pandemic, the country's summer climbing season is attracting a large number of alpinists.

Known as "the savage mountain", K2 has harsh conditions -- winds can blow at more than 200 kilometres per hour (124 miles per hour) and temperatures can drop to minus 60 degrees Celsius (minus 76 Fahrenheit).

PromotedListen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

Unlike the world's highest peak Mount Everest, which has been scaled by thousands of climbers young and old, K2 is much less travelled.

## Helicopter Rice Dish Delivery Amid Covid Curbs Sparks Probe In Malaysia

## Agenceis

**Kuala Lumpur:** With Malaysians stuck at home due to a coronavirus outbreak, food delivery services are increasingly popular -- but one customer has sparked an outcry by sending a helicopter across the country to collect a rice dish.

Police are investigating an alleged breach of virus rules after the aircraft landed in Ipoh city to pick up 36 portions of the rice dish and returned to Kuala Lumpur, 180 kilometres (110 miles) away.

Authorities have imposed a lockdown to battle a widespread Covid-19 outbreak, with people largely staying at home and travel between states banned except in exceptional circumstances.

Social media lit up with anger



after images circulated online of the helicopter landing in a field at the weekend to pick up the takeaway from a well-known Ipoh eatery.

"What kind of nonsense is this?" one user posted on Twitter.

"There are people who can't travel back home to attend... funerals or to see their loved ones for one last time, because it's not a valid enough reason to get them a travel permit."

The dish, which usually contains fish, meat, vegetables and curry sauce, is popularly known as "nasi ganja" due to its supposedly addictive nature -- although it does not contain any drugs.

Police say the red helicopter had been granted permission to fly outside the capital but only for maintenance, not to collect food.

They have taken statements from several people, including the owners of the restaurant and the helicopter, and prosecutors will decide whether to take further action.

The identity of the customer is not clear, but the helicopter owner has defended the unusual delivery.

"All papers were in order... it was a quick pick-up," Mohamed Raffie Chekku told local media outlet Free Malaysia Today.



## 7 Drug Sale Establishments Sealed

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Drugs and Food Control Organisation (D&FCO) during a special drive conducted at Srinagar and Budgam inspected 50 drug sale establishments and issued show cause notices to 24 Retail/Wholesale establishments of which 7 were closed on spot for various violations.

The action was taken against the erring drug establishments for contravening certain clauses of Drug and Cosmetics Act including maintenance of sale and purchase records, not storing drugs properly, unhygienic conditions of premises and non-issuance of bills/cash memos.

Meanwhile, the inspection was carried out by D&FCO on the directions of Divisional

Commissioner Kashmir to curb the Psychotropic/ Habit forming. And in this regard various teams have been constituted to carry out comprehensive market checking of drug sale establishments of district Srinagar and Budgam.

The teams comprise 3-4 Drug Control Officers and Inspectors from Legal and Meteorological Department.

During the drive thorough inspections were conducted and on spot instructions were issued to the license holder's for strict adherence to the conditions of the license. The Chemists were asked to maintain sale and purchase records of various drugs properly, to maintain storage conditions of the drugs as per their requirement and issue bills/ cash memos regularly.

## NC Dismayed Over DC Budgam's Inaction On No-confidence Motion

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Thursday expressed dismay over the inaction of the DC Budgam to act on the no-confidence motion proposed by the 10 of its members against the incumbent DDC Chairman Budgam, calling the prejudiced conduct of the concerned official undemocratic.

In a statement issued to Kashmir News Service, party spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said, "Resolution of vote of no confidence was proposed by incumbent vice Chairman which was supported by 10 duly elected DDC members of Budgam. The resolution was presented to DDC Budgam on 16 July with physical appearance of all the members apprising the DC about the misconduct and non-seriousness of the DDC Chairman. Unfor-

tunately, no action was taken on our legitimate demands."

While accusing the administration playing favorites with the incumbent DDC Nazir Ahmed Khan, he said, "The incumbent chairman has a backing of 2-3 DDC members while a no confidence motion against him by 10 DDC members is gathering dust in DC office," adding, "Ideally the concerned competent authority should have immediately admitted the motion pushed by the members on valid reasons, as the concerned officer is duty bound to set the whole process in motion immediately upon receiving notice of the said motion."

Appealing to the LG to ensure that DC Budgam should live up to his constitutional duty, Imran said, "Administration should stop playing favorites to few and safeguard democracy in Budgam."

## Dir RDD Reviews Progress On Flagship Schemes In Kulgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: Director, Rural Development Department, Kashmir, Tariq Ahmad Zargar, Thursday visited district to review progress on different flagship schemes under implementation in the district.

Director visited various project sites in Pahloo block and took stock of pace of progress on various vital rural development works being executed in the area.

Later, Director chaired a review meeting which was attended by Project Officer Wage Employment (ACD), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, District Panchayat Officer, Executive Engineer REW, Block Development Of-

ficers and other officers of the district administration.

Under RGSA, 9 Panchayat Bhawans have been taken up for construction in the district and two BDC office buildings



and one DDC office building has been approved for construction under Capex 2021.

Director enjoined upon the concerned officers to achieve the targets within stipulated timeframe besides ensuring timely payments to the beneficiaries under MGNREGA.

## UPSC Panel Gives Nod To 12 JKPS Officers For Induction Into IPS

Agencies

Srinagar: A high-level panel headed by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) member Dr. T.C.A Anant on Thursday selected 12 officers of 1999-batch of Jammu & Kashmir Police Service (JKPS) for their induction in the prestigious Indian Police Service (IPS).

Sources said that the panel which met Thursday gave its go-ahead for induction of 12 serving officers of JKPS in IPS.

The selection committee meeting (SCM) was attended by representatives of Union Home Ministry, Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh and Principal Secretary Home Shaleen Kabra.

The SCM was convened by the Commission to fill 28 vacancies of promotion quota of IPS in J&K.

According to sources, the panel selected Shakti Kumar Pathak, Dr. Muhammad Has-eeb Mughal, Sheikh Junaid Mehmood, Shahid Mehrhaj Rather, Dr. Ajeet Singh , Altat Ahmed Khan, Haseeb-Ur-Rehman, Vikas Gupta , Ab-

dul Qayoom, Nisha Nathyal , Maqsood-ul-Zaman and Javid Iqbal Matoo for their induction in IPS.

Among them, Dr. Has-eeb Mughal, Sheikh Junaid Mehmood, Altaf Ahmad Khan, Abdul Qayoom and Maqsood-ul-Zaman have held challenging assignments during their service career.

The others selected for induction have already retired from service, sources disclosed.

They also disclosed that one of the officers of 1999-batch had voluntarily opted out from being considered for the induction while another was not considered due to certain issues.

According to IPS promotion rules, the committee records its recommendations in the shape of 'Minutes' which are signed by each member and the chairperson.

These minutes are first sent to the State government concerned which in turn forward these to the central Government after its concurrence. The central Government also examines the minutes and conveys its concurrence to

## JKLSA, LLSA Order Constitution Of Core Groups For Cloudburst Victims

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Responding swiftly to the reports of cloud bursts in some districts of Jammu and Kashmir besides Ladakh Union Territories, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority and Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Executive Chairman, Ladakh Legal Services Authority ordered constitution of Core Groups by the DLSAs of Kishtwar, Bandipora and Kargil respectively under "NALSA (Legal Services To Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authorities) Scheme, 2010.

The group will ensure immediate relief by government and NGOs besides coordinating with different departments with regard to supervision of distribution of relief materials among the victims. The core group would also supervise construction of temporary shelters for victims at safer places, monitoring of availability of food, medicine and drinking water. It would also conduct legal awareness programme in relief camps besides establishing Village Legal Care and Support Center in affected areas on temporary basis for the victims.

The core group would

provide assistance for rehabilitation, care and future education of orphaned children, mitigation of problems relating to insurance policies, assistance in bank loans for restarting the lost business and avocations, arrangement of Psychiatrist counseling for victims who have been subjected to psychological shock and depression.

The authorities have been directed to submit a comprehensive compliance report with regard to constitution of core groups and opening of legal care and support center besides measures taken up for providing help to the victims of cloud bursts.

## Workshop On Snow Leopard Population Assessment Inaugurated

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chairman Pollution Control Committee, Suresh Chugh, today inaugurated one day workshop on Snow Leopard Population Assessment in Jammu and Kashmir organised by Wildlife Protection Department at Manda here.

Snow Leopard, a threat-

ened species which has resemblance with common leopard, is an apex predator of high altitude cold mountain eco-system whose population is declining due to poaching, habitat destruction, grazing, retaliatory killing, global warming etc. The UT of J&K has 10,000

sq.km of potential snow leopard habitat which is in continuity with adjoining Ladakh UT and Himachal Pradesh State. J&K is expected to have significant number of snow leopard population whose conservation and management are critical to the population stabilization and revival of this threatened species.

During the workshop, the experts imparted crucial training to field staff of Wildlife Department and Associated Research Teams regarding survey, sampling and documentation as per Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India protocol. The field staff and re-

search teams were also provided hands on training on use of modern tools like GPS, Camera Traps, Smart Phone, Spotting Scope, Range Finder etc.

The collected samples in the form of scats and droppings will be subjected to genetic analysis for species identification and population assessment. This training exercise shall familiarize field staff on coordinated field survey and sampling which ultimately results in snow leopard population assessment, extent of their occurrence and area of occupancy in the overall potential area of snow leopard habitat of J&K.

## Rape Accused Arrested In Baramulla

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police in Baramulla Thursday arrested a person accused of rape within hours after complaint was received.

A police spokesperson said that on 28/07/2021, Police Station Uri received a written complaint from a person stating that his minor daughter (name withheld), 13, was raped by Imtiyaz Ahmad Khan, son of Mohammad Saleem, a resident of Paranjeel Uri in forest area

after giving life threat to her.

A case under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Uri and investigation was set into motion.

During the course of investigation, a Police team arrested the accused person within hours. He has been shifted to the police station where he remains in custody.

As a part of investigation, necessary medico-legal formalities have been carried out. Further investigation in the matter is going on.

## Covid Situation Improves In Shopian: DC

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya Thursday said that the Covid-19 situation has significantly improved in the district with recovery rate increasing on daily basis and positive rate decreasing constantly.

The DC, however, cautioned against any laxity and added that District Administration appreciates the people of Shopian for their cooperation who by themselves came forward and got themselves vaccinated in due course of

time and cautioned of 3rd wave, adding the Vaccination and Covid Appropriate Behavior are vital to avert the same.

Vaishya appealed to the people, Imams, Lumberdars and other representatives to strictly follow the SOPs and other guidelines and raise awareness among the fellow citizens to avoid the spread of the disease.

He exhorted for continuing the ongoing vaccination process with full swing so that maximum people of 18 plus years of age group gets vaccinated well in time.

## GMC Professor Awarded Prestigious Fellowship In Craniomaxillofacial Surgery

Srinagar: Prof (Dr) Ajaz Ahmad Shah, HoD Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Government Dental College Srinagar has been awarded for his enormous contribution in the field of Maxillofacial surgery.

According to a statement, Dr Ajaz has been awarded by craniofacial research academy.

He became the first Maxillofacial surgeon from Jammu and Kashmir to receive this highly distinguished award.

Pertinently, Dr Ajaz has numerous national and international publications to his name and heads the JK chapter of AOMSI.



From last two decades, Dr Shah has been doing exemplary work in uplifting the speciality of Maxillofacial Surgery in Jammu and Kashmir.

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار واگورہ

درخواست منجانب دادستہ خورشید و محمد عمران اولاد اور خورشید احمد صوفی ساکنہ وزیر نسبت حصول RBA

اشہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

مجاہد مندرجہ عنوان العدر میں درخواست سال پتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پڑاری ملتے سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالت ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سالانہ مویش ویزکا سکونت دار ہے کہہو کی سالانہ آمدنی 4000 روپے تک ہے۔ کہہو پڑیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

1: مسماہ تشکیل 45 گھریلو کام

2: دادستہ خورشید 25 زیر تعلیم

3: محمد عمران 22 زیر تعلیم

انکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہو نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے

مشتعلیت زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انکس کو کوئی ضرر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا ضرر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے کہہو پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزارنے کے بعد کوئی ضرر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

AJJ

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL)

Sher-i- Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences,

Soura Srinagar.

Notice Inviting E- Tenders

NIT NO : SIMS/HEC/ET/19 of 2021-22 Dated: 27-07-2021.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor U.T Jammu & Kashmir, E – tenders are invited from class of contract “CEE & DEE” of contractors registered with PWD/CPWD/MES/RAILWAYS.

S.No	Name of work	Adv. Cost	Cost of T/Docu-ment	Earnest Money	Class of contractor	Time of completion
02.	Repair/Renovation of central hospital kitchen by way of plastering applying wall putty painting etc for walls, ceiling at SKIMS.	Rs. 6,76,891/=	Rs. 500/=	Rs. 13,538/=	“CEE & DEE”	20 working days

1. Major Head of Account

M&R 2210

2. Position of AA

Accorded

3. Technical Sanction

Accorded

4. Position of funds

Committed

5. Downloading/uploading of bidding documents

31-07-2021 to 09-08-2021 upto 3 PM

6. Submission of hard copy end date

10-08-2021 to 11-08-2021 upto 3PM

7. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)

12-08-2021 at 11.30 AM (in the office of Chief Engineer SKIMS)

8. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)

14-08-2021 at 11.30 AM (in the office of Chief Engineer SKIMS)

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, and bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

2. Bids must be uploaded with scanned copy of cost/fee of tender document & earnest money (Bid Security) in the shape of DD & CDR/FDR respectively pledged to Director Finance, SKIMS Soura Srinagar.

3. Qualification criteria for the work and other terms & conditions are contained in the bidding documents, available on skims website

Sd/-

Executive Engineer (Civil)

Hospital Engineering Department

SKIMS, Soura

No: SIMS 139/ 87 /2021-22-802-10

Dated: 27 -07-2021

DIPK-NB-2100/21

بسم اللہ الرحمن الرحیم

غدر غم عید اور سنی شیعہ مسلمانوں کی یکجہتی کی تسکین ہے۔ فتنہ گر میں علماء کا بیان

آج مورخہ 18 ذی الحجہ 1442 مطابق 29 جولائی 2021 کو نواب خورشید احمد صاحب (ق ر ا) سے والدہ کا تم ہوئے والدہ کا تذکرہ ”قرآن پندرہ تفسیر“ کے انتہام سے عید غدیر کی مناسبت سے سماج میں موجود اصلاحی مشنوں کی یکجہتی کے ساتھ انجام دینے کی تہذیب و ثقافت کو فروغ دینے کے لئے تفسیر کے چند نامور مفسرین عالمی شہرت یافتہ ساجی مقام فتنہ گر میں ملاقات کی جس میں عید غدیر کی تقریب منانے کا انتہام کرنے کے ساتھ انھوں نے باکرہ و نادرین کا مقابلہ کرنے کے لئے صحت عامہ سے متعلق ضوابط و نیکسل طور پر عاید کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ سیر و فتنہ گر اور مذہبی سماجی تقریب کا انتہام دینے کا عملی مظاہر کیا۔ تقریب کا آغاز امام اللہ مجید قرآن کے پیلے جڑ سے پہلے حزب کے پیلے کوع سے کی گئی جس کی تلاوت کا شرف سنی عالم مولوی منظور صاحب نے اور سنی اپنا تفسیری ترجمہ شیعہ عالم ڈاکٹر سعید الحسن بڑگامی (آغا سبب) بیان کیا جس کے بعد آغا سبب نے حدیث غدیر کا اپنا اردو ترجمہ چڑھ کر سنایا اور پھر گفتگو کا سلسلہ جاری رہا۔ واقعہ غدیر غم کے سلسلے میں علماء کا کہنا تھا کہ غدیر غم کا واقعہ ایسا تاریخی واقعہ ہے کہ جس کے بارے میں عالم اسلام کے تمام محققین، راویوں، محدثوں، مفسروں، منکھوں، خطیبوں، شاعروں، مورخوں، اور سیرت نگاروں نے خاصی اہمیت کے ساتھ بیان کیا ہے اور غدیر غم کے حدیث کے جاودانی ہونے کی ایک علت یہ ہے کہ اس واقعہ سے متعلق دو آیتیں (سورہ نعدہ کی تیسری اور ۶ ویں آیت) قرآن کریم میں موجود ہیں، اور جب تک قرآن ہے تب تک حدیث غدیر بھی ہے۔

علماء نے مزید بتایا کہ تاریخ کے مطالعہ سے ایک بڑی دلچسپ بات سامنے آتی ہے اور وہ یہ کہ اٹھارویں ذی الحجہ الحرام کو مسلمان باجموع عید کے طور پر مناتے تھے۔ ان خلفائے اور راویوں نے بحال بیرونی سے لیکر عالم اسلام کے معروف عالم ائمہ نے بھی عید کو امت مسلمہ کے درمیان مشترک شہروں میں منایا ہے۔ اس اسلامی عید کی بنیاد پیغمبر اسلام ﷺ کے زمانے میں ہی پڑی تھی کیونکہ آپ نے اس دن تمام ہاجر، انصار اور اپنی ازواج کو کھم، دیا کھلی علیہ السلام کے پاس جاؤ اور امامت و ولایت کے سلسلہ میں ان کو مبارکباد دو۔

حدیث غدیر کو چڑھ کر سنایا گیا کہ جس کو ایک مودس ۱۱۱۰ اصحاب رسول نے نقل کیا ہے اور دوسری صدی میں جس کو تابعین کا دور کیا ہے ان میں سے اناسی ۱۸۹ افراد نے اس حدیث کو نقل کیا ہے۔ اور بعد کی صدیوں میں بھی ان سنت کے قیمن کو ساتھ علماء نے اس حدیث کو اپنی کتابوں میں بیان کیا ہے اور علماء کی ایک بڑی تعداد نے اس حدیث کی سند کو جمع کیا ہے۔ اس گروہ نے صرف یہ کہ اس حدیث کو بیان کیا بلکہ اس حدیث کی سند اور اہمیت کے بارے میں مستقل طور پر کتابیں بھی لکھی ہیں۔ اور عالم اسلام کے سب سے بڑے مورخ طبری نے الایات فی طرق حدیث نامی کتاب لکھی اور اس حدیث کو مختصر ۸۵ طریقوں سے پیغمبر اسلام ﷺ سے نقل کیا ہے۔ اور ان مقدمہ کو کافی نے اپنے رسالہ ولایت میں اس حدیث کو ایک سو پانچ افراد سے نقل کیا ہے۔ اور ابوبکر محمد بن عمر بغدادی جو کہ جعفری کے نام سے مشہور ہے، انہوں نے اس حدیث کو پچیس طریقوں سے بیان کیا ہے۔ حضرت احمد بن حنبل شیبانی، ابن جریر عسقلانی، ابن جریر شافعی، ابوسعید جستانی، امیر محمد بنی سنی ابوالاعلا عطاء، ہمدانی اور ابوالاعراف بنان نے اس حدیث کو بہت سی سندوں کے ساتھ نقل کیا ہے۔

تقریب میں حضرت مولوی سید فاروق بخاری، مولوی سلیم جاوید، راجہ معراج الدین، مولوی محمد یاسین بٹ، مولوی منظور، مولوی محمد لطیف، مولوی غلام قادر، مولوی محمد عرفان، مولوی سید جاوید، مولوی محمد اشرف لون، مولوی محمد عمر، مولوی قیصر اور ڈاکٹر سعید احمد موسوی نے نماز اور طہارت کی اوصاف و مشنوں کی یکجہتی کے ساتھ انجام دینے کی تہذیب و ثقافت کو فروغ دینے کے لئے اس کو کوشش کو جاری رکھنے کی تاکید کی۔

آخر میں ڈاکٹر سعید الحسن بڑگامی نے اعلان کیا کہ اللہ جل جلالہ کی یکجہتی تہذیبی ثقافت کو ایک تحریک بنانے کے سلسلے میں ۲۳ ذی الحجہ عید میلادِ مطہر ۱۳ گشت 2021 کے دن دھچکری بڑگام کے ساجی مقام پر ایک اور نشست کا انتہام کیا جائے گا جہاں پر ”نو یکجہتی تحریک“ (نسبت) نامی تحریک کا قیام عمل میں لایا جائے گا۔



## 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@kashmirobsrver.net

### K O V I E W

## A long wait

The centre reiterated on Wednesday that Jammu and Kashmir would be granted statehood at an "appropriate" time after normalcy is restored there. Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai stated this in a written reply to Rajya Sabha. He was replying to a question on whether the government had any proposal to "reinstate" the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir and whether some efforts have been made to end the year-long ban on different means of communication.

If anything, this means the centre has no immediate plan to restore statehood. This was also obvious from the recent meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the J&K political parties. He stressed expediting the delimitation exercise that is expected to enhance the seats of J&K assembly. More of these are believed to go to the former state's Jammu division. To this end a delimitation commission has already been in place since the last over a year and it may complete its exercise in the near future.

The enhancement of the Assembly seats, the PM's statement soon after the meeting indicated, will be followed by holding of the elections within the union territory framework. Though the PM's statement did not say it, the statehood is hoped to be followed by the elections. And it is not clear whether this statehood would be full or a truncated one where the real power would vest with the governor.

So actually the centre has more or less stayed true to its ideological course on Kashmir and ironically wants now Kashmiri leaders to be its partners in this pursuit.

The BJP has highlighted the absence of protests in Kashmir as a sign of normalcy in the UT. The fact, however, remains that while the situation in Kashmir has remained largely calm, the government hasn't been commensurate with the relaxation of restrictions and extension of rights. Also, New Delhi has been delaying the restoration of statehood to J&K.

Truth is that Kashmir has come a long way since the withdrawal of its autonomous status and the situation has held largely peaceful. This should have qualified J&K for the grant of statehood. But the centre has so far given no timeframe for it. It is hoped that since the calm has held in Kashmir for close to two years, the government will take firm steps to make J&K once again a state.

In February too, the home minister Amit Shah had given an assurance to parliament that the Centre will grant full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at "an appropriate time". And this appropriate time is now.

### OTHER OPINION

## The Supreme Court is Right on Begging

The Supreme Court (SC), on Tuesday, refused to ban begging and issued a notice to the Centre and Delhi government, seeking their responses within two weeks on a petition requesting Covid-19 vaccination and rehabilitation of beggars. The SC bench observed that it is a socio-economic problem and people are forced to beg to eke out their livelihood due to the absence of education and employment. The court's observations are in line with past judicial observations. In 2018, the Delhi High Court struck down a law that made begging in the Capital a crime, saying that criminalising begging "violates the fundamental rights of some of the most vulnerable people".

India has no federal law on begging and destitution. About 20 states have adopted the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, which carries a penalty of detention of three to 10 years in beggar homes. Activists argue that it is an oppressive law, and allows the police to detain or arrest anyone who is poor, including nomadic communities, street performers and migrant workers.

While traditionally, seeking alms was an accepted way of life in India, a shift in mindset towards the criminalisation of begging occurred during colonial rule. To the Victorians, beggars represented laziness, moral degeneration and a threat to public health. Independent India absorbed this colonial attitude. This approach lacks empathy and absolves the welfare State of failing to provide citizens with their basic minimum requirements — food, housing, education and health. Let the SC's observations mark a new conversation on begging, and how to improve the lives of India's destitute.

Hindustan Times

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

The Government of Jammu & Kashmir instead of respecting India's commitments on climate change is facilitating the creation of more pollution causing industrial units. This needs to stop. By giving mining contracts in J&K to big contactors and concessionaires, Govt's own commitment towards strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) gets punctured

# Why Deny Mining Rights to PRIs in J&K ?

Don't encourage setting up of Bitumen based hot & wet mix plants

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), India is signatory to an agreement also known as Paris agreement. India has three quantitative climate change goals as part of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). These goals are listed as under:

Reduction in the emissions intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level

Achieving about 40 % cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030

Creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Around 190 countries are party to the Paris agreement which was signed on 4th November 2016 at Le Bourget Paris. The United States had earlier withdrawn from the agreement in 2020 but after Joe Biden was elected US President, it again joined back officially on 19th February 2021. As per the official data provided by World Resources Institute (WRI), India's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions accounted for 6.5 % of total global emissions in 2014. This made US the fourth-largest carbon emitter after China, United States and the European Union (EU). To make significant reduction in carbon emissions by 2030, India needs to work a lot. The state and UT Governments too have an important role in this regard so that international commitments are fulfilled.

#### New Rules for Stone Crushers

The J&K Government in February this year came up with a new set of rules known as Jammu & Kashmir Stone crushers / Hot & Wet Mixing Plants Regulation Rules 2021. These rules are formulated under the section 15 and section 23 C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957. The new rules say that a stone crushing unit or a hot or wet-mix plant is not a mining unit but a processor of minerals obtained from a source with a valid mineral concession. Such units shall be regulated by laws, rules and other provisions applicable to industrial units.

Instead of promoting industrial units with very less carbon emissions, the Government has given a free hand to pollution causing industries. Rule 3 (2) says that no permission or license is needed to set up new stone crushing factories and hot / wet mix plants in J&K. The Rule 3 (2) reads as :

" No Permission or license would be needed by a stone crusher/ hot and wet mixing plant from the mining department except where it also engages in mining , which activity shall be regulated by laws and rules applicable to mining"

#### Setting Up New Hot & Wet Mix Plants

On one hand, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkare is planning to make all the highways concrete in the upcoming years. One wonders as to why the J & K Government is facilitating and encouraging setting up of more Hot and Wet-mix plants ? The demand for Bitumen will be very less in the years to come as more and more concrete roads would be set up across J&K. One fails to understand why we need more bitumen based hot and wet mix plants in J&K ?

This is a visionless policy that will have serious environmental implications in the future. More and more bitumen based plants



will lead to increased carbon emissions in J&K in the years to come plus this will ultimately destroy the streams and rivers of J&K including the aquatic life in it. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari is the biggest proponent of concrete roads, but this seems to have no takers in J&K where bitumen roads get damaged every year after snowfall. The Government must instead put a moratorium of setting up new hot and wet-mix plants in J&K. It seems that builders and road developers from outside J&K are being invited to set up these pollution causing industries across J&K and Govt is facilitating all this and bypassing the international commitments made in this regard.

#### Minerals Foundation

J&K Government on March 13th 2016 had issued a notification vide SRO 105 wherein exhaustive regulations were made to regulate the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation Act) of 1957. After this, Minor Minerals Exploitation and Processing Rules were formulated in 2017. Both of them have been repealed now. Under SRO 105 of 2016, there was a provision of setting up State and District Minerals Foundation as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Mining, Government of India. The Foundation acts like a trust set up as a non-profit body, in those districts affected by the mining works. The foundation will work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining related operations. It is funded through the contributions from miners. There is a provision of setting up of District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) in all districts of India affected by mining related operations.

Unfortunately, the new rules do not throw any light on all this. Rule 73 of 2016 rules had a provision of creating a fund known as the Mines and Minerals Development, Restoration and Rehabilitation Fund (MMDRRF). This fund was to be established under public account in the state with the objectives of funding the restoration or rehabilitation works in the sites affected by mining operations and provision of common facilities for the benefit of the community in and around areas where mining activities are undertaken and much more. Nobody knows what happened to this fund and the new rules are also mum on this.

#### Why Deny Mining Rights to PRIs ?

Administrative Council (AC), that met in Srinagar on July 18th last year under the chairmanship of the then Lieutenant Governor, G C Murmu, approved the amendment of J&K Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016. Through

that amendment, the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) were supposed to get mining permits on land up to 1 hectare (20 kanals), till 30th September, 2021. It also exempted PRIs from payment of advance royalty to the Geology and Mining Department before commencing mining. The decision was aimed at empowering PRIs to raise funds through mining surpluses and address shortage of key construction material in the local market, besides keeping a check on their prices. The new rules do not discuss the role of PRIs but instead directs stone crushing and hot and wet-mix plant owners to obtain material from valid Concessionaires ? Pertinently, these concessionaires have been giving contracts to extract sand and gravel from our rivers and streams which has had a tremendous impact on the water ecosystem and aquatic life especially impacting Trout fish.

On the other hand, the Govt claims to be giving more rights to Panchayats in J&K ? Some months back, Chairman Block Development Council (BDC) Bafliaz in Poonch Shafiq Mir raised this issue with Advisor to Governor Farooq Khan during a meeting at Surankote as the mining contract on a local river was given to some firm bypassing local Panchayats. Advisor assured to intervene but nothing has happened.

The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand or even Ladakh need to be cautious and adopt stringent climate action policies in view of fragile climatic conditions and mountain ecosystem. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir instead of respecting India's commitments on climate change is facilitating the creation of more pollution causing industrial units. This needs to stop. By giving mining contracts in J&K to big contactors and concessionaires, Govt's own commitment towards strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) gets punctured. J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC) earlier known as J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB) has a great role to play in this regard but unfortunately the newly constituted PCC hardly has any member from Kashmir valley. Government needs to look into this aspect as well.

*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 Acumen Fellow. He is Founder & Chairman of J&K RTI Movement and Anant fellow for Climate Action. Feedback: bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com*



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

## Conduct Exams Online for Kashmiri Students of Kerala Technical University

I am Navaid Ahmed from District Ramban. I am doing B-Tech from Kerala Technical University (KTU). Our exam has been scheduled on the 10th of August but due to the current situation in

Kerala via a vis Covid-19, our university is unwilling to conduct our exams online. UGC and AICTE have issued circulars to conduct exams online or to promote students based on their performance in the last semester.

But our university is not ready to follow it and wants to conduct exams in offline mode. They have kept an option for students based in Kerala to change exam centres and choose any nearby colleges which come under

that particular university. But the same is not an option for us, as none of the colleges here in Kashmir come under Kerala Technical University.

Navaid Ahmed  
runyalnavaid@gmail.com



MINDFUL FRIDAYS

# Mental Health First Aid: Anxiety Disorders

Wasim Kakroo

Approximately 1 million adults (26%) in Kashmir Valley were exhibiting signs of a probable anxiety-related disorder as per reports published by MSF back in 2015 and since then there has been a further increase in the number of cases owing to continuous political turmoil as well as distress created by COVID-19 pandemic situation. Anxiety disorders are not the same as transient nervous sensations or random attacks of worry and fear. Anxiety disorders are diagnosable mental diseases that cause a person's everyday life to be severely disrupted by acute, recurring symptoms. Anxiety sufferers may experience unpleasant physical, behavioral, and psychological symptoms such as excessive irrational fear, rapid heart rate, digestive problems, and may feel distressed in ordinary circumstances. To cope with overwhelming thoughts and sensations, people with anxiety disorders are more inclined to abuse drugs or alcohol, but this just worsens their condition. Anxiety disorder symptoms might continue in someone's life eternally if not treated properly.

Anxiety disorders are associated with mental health crises such as panic attacks, suicide ideation, and self-injury. However, if a person receives mental health first aid, a crisis may be managed, and this kind of compassionate action can be the first step toward proper treatment for an anxiety problem.

Mental health first aid is a form of immediate help that you may learn to give to someone who is going through a mental health crisis such as an anxiety spell. Although it cannot replace immediate medical treatment or long-term counselling, as a first aider, you may assist someone in regaining control after an anxiety episode.

## RISK FACTORS FOR ANXIETY DISORDER

Anxiety can be triggered by perceived risks in the environment, although anxiety disorders are seldom caused by a single factor. Many different forms of long-term anxiety disorders are caused by a complex collection of risk factors, such as:

- Anxiety and extreme shyness throughout adolescence
- Traumatic life events or experiences
- A sensitive emotional nature
- Seeing the world as threatening
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Medical problems that are difficult to manage, such as heart and respiratory illnesses

People who are most likely to acquire an anxiety disorder are those who:

- Have a family history of mental illness especially any sort of anxiety disorder and/or mood disorder
- Have a family history of drug or alcohol abuse
- Struggle with drug or alcohol misuse
- Are female (Women are twice as likely as males to suffer from anxiety problems.)

## SYMPTOMS OF ANXIETY DISORDER

Anxiety disorders are mental diseases that may impact every part of a person's body and every aspect of a person's life. The various symptoms of anxiety disorders include:

- **Physical symptoms:** Chest discomfort, hyperventilation, stomach pains, muscular aches, and tremors.
- **Psychological Symptoms:** Excessive or irrational fear and worry, racing thoughts, poor attention and memory, disorientation, restlessness, and sleep difficulties.
- **Behavioral symptoms:** Avoiding people or social settings, compulsive behaviors such as checking/re-checking, fear of specific objects/situations.

## Symptoms of a Panic Attack

As a person who provides mental health first aid, you should be aware of the signs and symptoms of panic attacks, which are brief bouts of intense fear that can appear in any anxiety disorder. Symptoms of panic attack are as:

- Headache
- Shortness of breath, or hyperventilation
- Excessive sweating
- Trembling, shaking or rocking back and forth

- Nausea or vomiting
- Lightheadedness, dizziness, or fainting
- Hot or cold flashes
- Crying
- Rapid heart rate
- Feeling of numbness
- Chest discomfort
- Abdominal pain
- Feelings of detachment from reality
- Fear of losing control
- Fear of dying

## ANXIETY DISORDERS: EARLY INTERVENTION

Many anxiety problems start in childhood or adolescence but aren't diagnosed or treated until later in life. Anxiety disorders aggravate if left untreated, and they can even lead to the development of other mental diseases, substance abuse disorders, or suicidal ideations.

Mental health first aid may be the only compassionate assistance a person receives if their worry goes undetected or ignored by close ones. You may offer support and comfort as a first aider, but you can also persuade someone to get professional help before their illness worsens.

## HOW TO TREAT ANXIETY DISORDERS WITH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

If someone you know is facing an anxiety spell, you may help them by following the five-step ALGEE method, which stands for:

- Assess for suicide or harm risk
- Listen without judgment
- Give reassurance and information
- Encourage appropriate professional help
- Encourage self-help and other support measures

Although these worries are frequently baseless, they are still invasive and damaging. As a mental health first aider, don't try to reason with the individual or persuade them that their feelings are unfounded. Do not dismiss their worries as irrational or insignificant as this is harmful, might make them feel guilty, and may discourage them from explaining their anxiety with others

## ASSESS FOR SUICIDE OR HARM RISK

You can soothe someone who is having a panic or anxiety attack using the ALGEE plan until proper help comes or can be asked for.

There are numerous forms of mental health crises associated with anxiety disorders. If the person you're helping is having a panic attack, thinking about suicide, or purposefully harming themselves, you can offer first-aid for

- panic attacks
- Suicide thoughts and behaviours
- Non-suicidal self-injury
- Traumatic experiences

However, if the individual possesses a weapon and threatens to hurt himself or others in any of these situations, contact police or ask for online professional mental health assistance. You can start a conversation with the person and follow the rest of the stages in the ALGEE plan if they are not in an urgent crisis and there is no danger to anyone's safety.

## LISTEN WITHOUT JUDGEMENT

Empathetic listening is one of the most essential aspects of mental health first aid. This reassures the individual that speaking out about their condition is appropriate and encouraged, and that others care about their problems.

Approach the person in a private place and communicate your worries about their anxiety in a polite manner to begin mental health first aid. Asking open ended questions such as, "How have you been feeling lately?" and "How long have you been this way?" can help to strike the conversation in healthy way. If they agree to talk with you, be prepared to listen calmly and patiently to what they have to say.

It's critical that you listen actively and offer compassion and understanding at this point. The follow-

ing are some suggestions for being a more engaged listener:

- Maintaining comfortable eye contact and open body language
- Restating what the other person has said
- Using minimum verbal prompts, such as "I see," and "Ah"
- Asking clarifying questions, which indicates that you want to understand
- Allowing silence and pauses in the discussion
- Practicing patience
- Be conscious of how you think and act throughout this talk.
- Don't judge the person or their emotions
- Don't try to correct or persuade them that their views are incorrect
- Don't provide useless advice like "You'll get over it"
- Don't fidget with and/or look at your smartphone while talking to them

## GIVE REASSURANCE AND INFORMATION

An anxiety disorder can make a person feel afraid in unusual ways. They may feel out of touch with reality and may turn mad, fearing that their loved ones dislike them, fearing that they are unlovable, or fearing that they are a failure.

Although these worries are frequently baseless, they are still invasive and damaging. As a mental health first aider, don't try to reason with the individual or persuade them that their feelings are unfounded. Do not dismiss their worries as irrational

or insignificant as this is harmful, might make them feel guilty, and may discourage them from explaining their anxiety with others. Instead, show empathy for the person's worries. Reassure them that:

- They need not to blame themselves for their mental illness;
- Their anxiety does not make them less lovable;
- Their anxiety is a disease that requires treatment;
- Recovery from anxiety is achievable;
- You are there to listen if they need to talk again.

## ENCOURAGE APPROPRIATE PROFESSIONAL HELP

Many people are unaware of the seriousness of anxiety disorders, and they may assume that anxiety will go away with time. People who suffer from anxiety disorders, on the other hand, do not have to suffer in silence or wait for their symptoms to go away. Individuals suffering from anxiety can seek professional help.

It's critical that you know when to persuade the person to get professional help. When anxiety lasts for weeks and interferes with a person's ability to function in everyday life, professional treatment is required. Do not assume that the person's anxiety will go away on its own. Keep in mind that early treatment of anxiety is critical for the greatest results.

Discuss with the anxious individual and their caregivers how seeking professional help can be beneficial and ask the individual and his family members whether they believe it would be beneficial to them. Discuss getting professional help in a way that normalises it, such as by describing it as a natural activity to do and explaining that mental health issues are common and treatable.

If they believe they need assistance, talk to them about the professional help that is available in their area and urge them to use them. If the person requires assistance, volunteer to assist them.

Encourage the individual to prepare a list of questions to share with the health professional at their initial session if they decide to seek professional treatment. If the individual wishes for you to accompany them to a doctor's visit, you must not fully take over since a person suffering from depression needs to make their own decisions as much as possible.

As a first aider, you can refer such individuals to mental health professionals such as psychiatrists (medical doctors who prescribe medicines for various mental disorders) and clinical psychologists (mental health professionals who treat various mental health issues using various non-pharmacological modes of treatment such as CBT, family therapy, couple therapy etc.) available at various district hospitals or working in private at various clinics across Kashmir. Counseling if done by a clinical psychologist has been found to be very effective mode of treatment for various types of anxiety disorders. While approaching someone for counseling, try to see if the person claiming to be a professional clinical psychologist has RCI license to work as a clinical psychologist.

## What if the person refuses to accept professional help?

If the person refuses to seek professional help, ask whether they have any specific reservations about obtaining professional help. They may have a misunderstanding of how treatment works or be afraid to express their thoughts to others. Reassure them that they have the right to recover from their anxiety problem, and that if they don't seek expert assistance, it may aggravate.

At the same time, keep in mind that it isn't your responsibility to resolve their anxiety, and you can't make them seek treatment. If they're still unsure after this talk, let them know you're willing to assist them if they change their minds. All you can do is offer encouragement and treatment suggestions. After obtaining your advice and first aid, it is up to the individual experiencing anxiety to determine how to proceed.

## ENCOURAGE SELF-HELP AND OTHER SUPPORT MEASURES

People who suffer from anxiety disorders, fortunately, have a variety of self-help options available to them. Seeking out the help of others is one of the most helpful strategies. Although your assistance as a first aider is essential, urge the person to discuss their anxiety problem with friends, family members, or other people they trust.

You may also suggest that they try to use self-care activities and self-help methods that will help them develop good coping mechanisms, such as:

- Daily physical exercise
- Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables
- Reading self-help books on how to manage stress in life
- Practicing mindfulness meditation
- Practicing attitude of gratitude on a daily basis

The author is a clinical psychologist and works as a Child and adolescent mental health counselor at IMHANS-K and can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com





# Disagreement may be a way to make online content spread faster, further: Study

## Agencies

Disagreement seems to spread online posts faster and further than agreement, according to a new study from the University of Central Florida. The findings were published recently in the Journal of Computational Social Science. The results come from an examination of posts labelled controversial on social news aggregation site Reddit. To perform the study, the researchers analysed more than 47,000 posts about cybersecurity in a Reddit dataset that was collected by the Computational Simulation of Online Social Behavior (SocialSim) program of the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The researchers found that these posts were seen by nearly twice the number of people and travelled nearly twice as fast when compared to posts not labelled controversial. Reddit is one of the most visited websites in the US. A post is labelled controversial by a Reddit algorithm if it receives a certain number of polarized views, or a moderator can label a post with any number of comments as controversial. The posts analysed in the study included topics that wouldn't be considered traditionally controversial but were labelled as so by Reddit, such as a personal computer giveaway offer. The research is important because it shows that disagreement may be a powerful way to get people to pay attention to messages, said study co-author Ivan Garibay, an associate professor in UCF's Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Systems. However, he advised caution to those inducing disagreement in their social media posts. "There may be an incentive in



terms of influence and audience size for a social media user to consistently include controversial and provocative topics on their posts," Garibay said. "This benefits the person posting the messages. However, controversial comments can be divisive, which could contribute to a polarized audience and society," Garibay added. Reddit's definition of a controversial post, which tends to depend on increasing numbers of both likes and dislikes, is different from the traditional advertiser's definition of a controversial post, which would contain truly provocative or taboo messaging, said Yael Zemack-Rugar, an associate professor in UCF's Department of Marketing. "To give this idea life, you may like a recent ad for Toyota, and I may not," Zemack-Rugar said. "This will not make it controversial. But if the ad featured Colin Kaepernick, as the Nike ad did in 2018, after he recently refused to recite the national anthem during his games, now we are talking controversial. There is an underlying tone that is much deeper and more meaningful." Reddit posts are also more akin to word-of-mouth communication since they are user-generated and not paid to advertise, she said.

# Scientists detect light from behind black hole

## Agencies

Scientists have for the first time directly observed light from behind a black hole—a scenario that was predicted by Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity but never confirmed, until now. The team at Stanford University noticed an intriguing pattern while watching X-rays flung out into the universe by the supermassive black hole at the center of a galaxy 800 million light-years away. They observed a series of bright flares of X-rays exciting, but not unprecedented and then, the telescopes recorded something unexpected: additional flashes of X-rays that were smaller, later and of different "colours" than the bright flares. According to theory, these luminous echoes were consistent with X-rays reflected from behind the black hole but even a basic understanding of black holes tells us that is a strange place for light to come from. "Any light that goes into that black hole doesn't come out, so we shouldn't be able to see anything that's behind the black hole. The reason we can see that is because that black hole is warping space, bending light and twisting magnetic fields around itself," said Dan Wilkins, astrophysicist at the University. "Fifty years ago, when astrophysicists starting speculating about how the magnetic field might behave close to a black hole, they had no idea that one day we might have the techniques to observe this directly and see Einstein's general theory of relativity in action," said Roger Blandford, Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences and Stanford. The team detailed the findings in the journal Nature. The original motivation behind this research was to learn more about a mysterious feature of certain black holes, called a corona. Material falling into a supermassive black hole powers the brightest continuous sources of light in the universe, and as it does so, forms a corona around the black hole. This light—which is X-ray light—can be analysed to map and characterise a black hole. As Wilkins took a closer look to investigate the origin of the flares, he saw a series of smaller flashes. These, the researchers determined, are the same X-ray flares but reflected from the back of the disk—a first glimpse at the far side of a black hole. "I've been building theoretical predictions of how these echoes appear to us for a few years," said Wilkins. "I'd already seen them in the theory I've been developing, so once I saw them in the telescope observations, I could figure out the connection." The mission to characterise and understand coronas continues with the European Space Agency's X-ray observatory, Athena (Advanced Telescope for High-ENergy Astrophysics). Athena's Wide Field Imager detector is expected to make new and much clearer observations.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FEROPZPORA BASIN  
IRRIGATION DIVISION ( FBI ) DIVISION TANGMARG.  
Office Phone No.01954-254611  
Email Address: fbdivisiontangmarg@gmail.com  
FRESH E-TENDER NOTICE No.21 of 2021-22 FBI Division Tangmarg  
For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (One cover System) on Item Rate Basis including the main tenance cost for a period of Three years which includes 12months of DL Pareinvited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD /Railway sand other state Governments for the following works, which hold be uploaded on the Procurement webportalhttp:// jktenders.gov.in for the subjected work(s)referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti FBI Division Tangmarg and as per the details mention dinghies-tender notification and to who mall the terms and condition so detailed-NIT/Tender Documents/ PWD Form No:- 25double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal http://jktenders.gov.in.The cost of tender documents(Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challanor Treasury Challan/ Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Jal Shakti FBI Division Tangmarg.

S.No	Name of work	Estt. Cost of Work (In Lacs)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Amount in Rupee)	M.H. of Account	Position Of Funds
1	Providing water supply to various left over Health center Panchayat Ghar under the jurisdiction of PHE Sub Division Tangmarg of FBI Division Tangmarg District Baramulla Budgam	46.42 Lacs	20 days	AYY/ BEE	1000/-	JJM	Assured

1 Publishing date: 28-07-2021 05:00 PM

2 Download date start: 28-07-2021 06:00 PM

3 Bid Submission date start: 29-07-2021 10:00 AM

4 Bid Submission date Ends: 03-08-2021 04:00 PM

5 Bid opening date 04-08-2021 11:00 AM

1. REFER TO AA NO:-SE/Hyd/Spr/138 of 2021-22 Dated:- 24-07-2021  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-  
1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document non-refundable /non-transferable ) to be deposited under M.H0215 Rev Misc in the shape of Treasury challan /e-challan (mentioning therein NIT No.S.No of work and Adv. Cost of work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti FBI Division Tangmarg and date on it must be prior to date of issuance of this tender notice, and Bid security declaration form duly Notarized/ self-attested instead of bid security(EMD) as per finance department J&K Civil Secretariat Jammu/Srinagar circular issued vide No.A/Misc(2018-111-895/J. However, is case of compelling circumstances the same shall be obtained from the success for bidder by this department.  
2. No tender document will qualify if the tendered cost of the works, works out below 35% of advst. cost the said tender will be rejected out rightly.  
3. The Pipe material for Should conform to the relevant ISI Code with the latest amendments made if any.  
Laying of GI /DI Pipes The pipe material ISI marked Galvanized Mild Steel tubes should confirm to IS:1239 (pt.I)/2004 6th revision read with up-to-date amendments in random length of 4 to 7 mtrs, screwed on both ends as per IS: 554/1990, socketed at one end & other end protected with plastic protector in various sizes of nominal bore & classes. The socket conforming to IS:1239 (pt.II/1992) (4th revision)with amendment No.1 to 3 spigot ends as per IS: 8329/2000 read with latest amendments in standard lengths of 4,5,5.5 & 6 mtrs for classification K7 & K9 ranging nominal diameters as indicated here under suitable for push on joint ( Rubber Gasket-D joining) with cement mortar lining inside the pipes Without side Zinc coating with Bituminous finish coat as per IS 8329/2000 read with amendment NO.1, hydrostatic tests as per clause-II of IS :8329 with latest amendments each pipe to be supplied with EPDM Rubber Gasket conforming to IS: 5382 Of 1985. The class of pipe is specified a slight "A". All GI/DI pipes should be entrenched especially in hilly areas with a trench depth as per estimate and were same is not technically possible the Pipes so kept naked will have to be insulated with PUF using Chicken mesh & tin foil of approved thickness & specifications against the proposed earthwork and nothing extra shall be paid to the contractor on this account.  
The quality of the pipe material shall be supported by manufacturers quality and test certificates. The Party inspection/testing at the manufactures works is mandatory to ensure that standard of quality of the material is being maintained by the department. The third part-party inspection agencies whose services are being utilized by the PHE Kashmir Department till date are:- M/SCEIL 4th Floor-I-Bhikaji-Camaplace R.K Puram NewDelhi110066/M/ SRITES(RitesBhawanNo.01Sector19Gurgaon122001India)The inspection agencies shall be intimated well in advance after the placement of the allotment order with any firm/agency so that they remain aware about the inspection which they have to carry on behalf of Department.  
Last but not least, the above specifications are being circulated keeping in view the broad concept of the requirement of the department. However, any changes in technical specifications if required this by the concerned territorial Division may be incorporated and keeping the Division intimated well in time. Further vide Govt. Order No.460-PWD(Hyd) of 2019, Dated:- 06-12-2019. The NIT shall deem to include / incorporate all the conditions/ specifications/norms etc. of Jal Jeevan Mission Programme whether mentioned herein or not. Therefore, the tenderer /agency is advised to read carefully the same and tender rates accordingly.  
4. This NIT shall deemed to be covered by the Govt. order No. 460-PW(Hyd) of 2019,dated:-06-12-2019 regarding the reform of the tendering process in the PHE /I&FC department .  
5. The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings /topography, nature of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility To satisfy himself before Tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute part each of the work i.e. Civil/Electro-Mechanical part under the close supervision of the respective Engineer- in Charges of Civil & Mechanical Wings In-charge of the Scheme.  
6. The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings /topography, nature Of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility To satisfy himself before Tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute part each of the work i.e. Civil/Electro-Mechanical part under the close supervision of the respective Engineer- in Charges of Civil & Mechanical Wings In-charge of the Scheme.  
If LI fails to start the work within 15 days of the issuance of letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the department shall Allot the work to the other willing Lowest bidder like L2,L3,L4 and EMD additional Security Performance (IFANY Under compelling circumstances) of the lowest bidder shall be forfeited, besides debarring the Contractor for a period of two years for participating in the e-NIT's issued by the kmr. PHE Department Srinagar.  
23. The contractor has to arrange all key construction and any other material required for the repair/restoration /maintenances and successful completion of the works, as per orders of Asstt. Executive Engineer /JE in charge, on his own. However, if any such material is available in the divisional stores, the same shall be supplied on stock issue rates prevailing at the time of the supply of such material.  
The funds will be released as and when made available in phase's which spread over minimum of two calendar years.  
24. The date of start of the work shall be reckoned as communicated by concerned Asstt. Executive Engineer.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
(JSD)FBI Division Tangmarg

Dated:-28-07-2021

DIPK-5442/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
J&K Pollution Control Committee Jammu  
Winter office: November-April  
Parivesh Bhawan, Gladni,  
Transport Nagar, Narwal,  
Jammu. (J&K) 180006.  
Ph./Fax. 0191-2476925  
Summer Office: May-October  
Sheikh-ul-Alam Campus,  
Behind Govt. Silk Factory, Rajbagh, Srinagar (J&K)  
190008 Ph./Fax. 0194-2311165.  
email: membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com

Public Notice

Sub.: Public Hearing for Minor Mineral (River Bed Mineral) Blocks scheduled on 26.08.2021 for i) Block-5, ii) Block 6, iii) Block 08 and iv) Block 11 of District Shopian (J&K).

As per EIA Notification Rule7(1) Section (III) issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India vide S.O.1533 dated 14th September, 2006 (as amended till date), Public Hearing of the below mentioned mining blocks for minor mineral extraction is to be carried out. The Public Hearing is being conducted by J&K Pollution Control Committee as per requirement of EIA notification. The ToRs (Terms of Reference) have been forwarded by JKEIAA vide nos. i) JKEIAA/2021/393/210-14 dated 12.02.2021, ii) JKEIAA/2021/398/240-44 dated 12.02.2021, iii) JKEIAA/2021/400/235-39 dated 12.02.2021 and iv) JKEIAA/2021/395/220-24 dated 12.02.2021 for the said Public Hearing along with draft EIAs/EMPs, which is scheduled to be conducted as per below mentioned details in staggered manner:

Name of Agency	Area	Location of minor mineral area / Coordinates	Name of Village/ Tehsil / District	Location of public hearing Venue (Date and time)
Shri Karanvir Singh S/o Shri Surinder Singh R/o Lane No. 03, Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar, Pathankot, Punjab	9.98 Hect.	Block 05, having an area 9.98 ha Nagbal Hospital upstream Rambhara Nallah, District-Shopian, Coordinates: A 33°42'44.93" -N 74°49'03.42" -E to E 33°42'42.44" -N 74°49'14.56" -E	Vill.: Shopian Teh. & Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date : 26.08.2021. Time : 10.00 AM to 11.30 AM Village : Degam Nagbal, Tehsil : Shopian Distt. : Shopian (J&K)
Shri Amit Mahajan S/o Sh. Adarsh Mohan Mahajan, R/o near Kali Mandir Koluwali Gali, District Pathankot, Punjab	9.43 Hect.	Block 06, having an area 9.43 ha Nagbal Hospital to Power Grid downstream Rambhara nallah District-Shopian Coordinates: A 33°42'51.85" -N 74°49'02.92" -E to E 33°42'46.32" -N 74°49'16.45" -E	Vill.: Shopian Teh. & Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date : 26-08-2021. Time : 11.30 AM to 01.00 PM Village : Degam Nagbal, Tehsil : Shopian Distt. : Shopian (J&K)
Shri Kapil Aggarwal, S/o Shri Jugesh Aggarwal, R/o H.No. 179, Near Panjir Mandir, Anandpur District Pathankot, Punjab.	9.64 Hect.	Block 08, having an area 9.64 ha Batapora bridge downstream Rambhara nallah, District-Shopian, Coordinates: A 33°43'39.02" -N 74°49'27.01" -E to F 33°43'42.89" -N 74°49'19.43" -E	Vill. Batapora Teh. & Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date : 26.08.2021. Time : 01.30 PM to 3.00 PM Village : Degam Nagbal, Tehsil : Shopian Distt. : Shopian (J&K)
M/s Sai Mines, R/o Logate Kathua	9.42 Hect.	Block 11, having an area 9.42 ha Ziarat of Gunj Bhaksh Arhama upstream Rambhara nallah District-Shopian Coordinates: A 33°44'11.25" -N 74°49'45.00" -E to D 33°44'17.12" -N 74°49'30.43" -E	Vill: Arhama Teh. & Distt.: Shopian (J&K)	Date : 26-08-2021. Time : 03.00 PM to 4.30 PM Village : Degam Nagbal, Tehsil : Shopian Distt. : Shopian (J&K)

The Executive Summary of EIAs and draft EMPs in English and Urdu of the above proposed mining blocks are available in the website of JKPC i.e., [www.jkspcb.nic.in](http://www.jkspcb.nic.in) as well as in the following offices:-  
i) The Commissioner / Secretary to Govt. Forests, Ecology & Environment Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.  
ii) Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India Northern, Regional Office, Chandigarh.  
iii) Director, Ecology Environment & Remote Sensing / Member Secretary, JKEIAA Paryavaran Bhawan, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.  
iv) Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.  
v) Deputy Commissioner, District Shopian..  
vi) Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Sheikh-ul-Alam Campus, Behind Govt. Silk Factory, Rajbagh Srinagar. Kashmir.  
vii) Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Shopian.  
viii) District Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining Department, Shopian.  
All concerned are hereby informed through this notice to send their suggestions / written objections or comments on or before 26th of August, 2021 addressed to Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Parivesh Bhawan, Gladni, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu (09.30 AM to 05.30 PM) on any working day or by email membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com  
The panel for conducting Public Hearing shall be as under:-  
i) District Magistrate, Shopian, J&K or his representative not below the rank of Addl. District Magistrate.  
ii) Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Rajbagh Srinagar, or his authorized representative.  
iii) District Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining, Shopian.  
iv) Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Shopian  
All interested persons/organizations/groups/stake-holders are invited to participate in the above mentioned Public Hearing on the aforementioned date strictly observing all SOPs and guidelines of COVID-2019 issued in this behalf, at the venue and time and give their suggestions, views/comments and objections, if any, to the authorities conducting the Public Hearing.  
Any person having interest in this public hearing can also have access to the Executive Summary of EIA from Office of District Pollution Control Committee, Shopian.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
(JSD)FBI Division Tangmarg

Dated:-28-07-2021

DIPK-NB-2109/21



## Mission Youth To Partner With Wipro Foundation For Youth Engagement, Livelihood Initiatives



### KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: Secretary Tribal Affairs Department and CEO Mission Youth, J&K, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary on Thursday chaired an interactive meeting with senior representatives of Wipro Foundation to deliberate upon the way-forward for Youth engagement and outreach programmes in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Director Tribal Affairs, OSD Mission Youth, Deputy Director, Mission Youth J&K, senior representatives of Wipro Foundation and concerned officials of the Mission Youth and other allied departments.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Mission Youth, highlighted the significance of Mission Youth initiatives for realizing the dream of new Jammu and Kashmir through active participation of youth. He further added that Mission Youth is a specialized organization to bring synergy and efficacy in the efforts of various government and non-government organizations for empowerment and development of youth.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal remarked that the Mission envisions to develop a youth centric environment in J&K involving their constructive engagements and offering outcome based opportunities to the youth. He added that the Mission

will positively engage the youth through integrated and customized interventions in varied fields.

Priya Varada Rajan, on behalf of Wipro Foundation, on the occasion, expressed specific commitment to partner with Mission Youth for successful execution of the initiatives on ground. The organization expressed interest to complement the initiatives of Mission Youth through integrated and customized interventions in the fields of livelihood generation, education and skill development, financial assistance, sports activities and recreation.

The common areas of interest between Mission Youth and Wipro Foundation finalised for partnership and flagship interventions include education, culture, women empowerment, health-care, psycho-social counselling, livelihood and placement. A consultative committee has been constituted to finalise the modalities for cooperative interventions in J&K for youth empowerment.

Mission Youth will also collaborate with Wipro Foundation for capacity building of youth selected for various entrepreneurship and self-employment schemes and opportunities offered by it. This is aimed at enhancing the productive outcomes of youth centric initiatives.

## Dairy Company Increases Milk Price Without The Knowledge Of Administration

### Agencies

SRINAGAR: A Dairy company in Kashmir Valley has announced an arbitrary hike in milk price by Rs 2 for one litre, a move that the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department is unaware of.

The milk company in question is 'Snow Cap'. Interestingly, no other Dairy Company including Khyber, Zum Zum, Dairy Light, Kashmir Dairy, Haleeb have resorted to such a hike.

Sources told the news agency that 'Snow Cap' increased the price without taking the adminis-

tration into confidence.

"I was paying Rs 44 for a litre and Rs 22 for half a litre but now I have to pay Rs 46 and Rs 23 respectively," said a consumer.

Ironically, in March this year, this company had increased milk price by Rs 2 and merely after the expiry of 4 months it resorted to one more hike.

This Company sells thousands of litres of milk per day in the Valley.

The Enforcement wing of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs doesn't know anything about the price hike. An official said that they will ascertain facts. (KNT)

## Pandemic Pushes Digital Payments, RBI Index Up 30%

### Agencees

The Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions associated with it has pushed up digital transactions in the country.

An indicator to faster adoption of online payment medium is the Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payment Index. After moving at moderate pace over the years, the index has jumped sharply 30 per cent between March 2020 and March 2021.

The pandemic is one of the reason while people are increasingly preferring digital payment mechanism over physical mode. But improvement in the digital payment infrastructure has also pushed up this adoption.

The RBI had earlier announced construction of a composite Reserve Bank of India - Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) with March 2018 as base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.

The index for March 2021 stands



at 270.59 as against 207.84 for March 2020, announced while launching the index on January 1, 2021.

The RBI-DPI index has demonstrated significant growth in the index representing the rapid adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country in recent years, the apex bank said in a statement.

Starting from March 2018, the index stood at 153.47 in March 2019, 173.49 in September 2019. This improved to 207.84 in March 2020, 217.74 in September 2020 and further increased to 270.59 in March 2021.

# Govt Providing Single Platform For Sale/Purchase Of High-Quality Livestock Breeds: LG

### KO NEW DESK

KATHUA: The structural changes and consolidation of different programmes for farm and non-farm population in the rural areas is nothing short of a revolution for rural J&K. The UT has also re-defined the agriculture and horticulture business in the country with expanded operations and a strong supply chain system, which had never happened in the last 70 years.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks while attending the first-ever "Vishal Pashudhan Vyapar Mela" at Sports Stadium, Hiranagar in Kathua district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor welcomed the farmers from other states to the mega Livestock Trade Fair.

The first of its kind event in the UT will provide a major fillip to the Animal Husbandry sector with an additional source of income to the farmers. It is an effort on the part of the government towards providing a single platform for sale/purchase of high-quality livestock breeds that will strengthen J&K's Dairy sector, besides exploiting the full potential of J&K in milk, fodder & mutton production, to cut down imports and bridge the demand and supply gap in the poultry sector, and generating employment by attracting new entrepreneurs, observed the Lt Governor.

The Mela will facilitate doubling the income of farmers through the adoption of best practices, genetic up-gradation of milch animals, latest technical interventions and proper management of high-quality breeds of milch animals. Further, the hardships faced by farmers in the cumbersome purchase process of high-quality breeds from the adjoining states and their transportation to the destination district of UT of J&K will be eliminated as high-quality breeds of cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats, etc. from neighboring states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh etc. shall be displayed for sale & purchase, said the Lt Governor.

In addition, the related machinery of latest technology pertaining to Animal & Sheep Husbandry sectors including fodder management



shall also be displayed and made available for the farmers and dairy entrepreneurs. The insurance of animals after sale/purchase will also be facilitated by the department of Animal & Sheep Husbandry, he added.

Terming Agriculture sector as the backbone of J&K's economy, the Lt Governor stated that the government is making resolute efforts to develop this huge growth potential sector to double the income of the farmers and the other stakeholders involved in the Agriculture and allied sectors.

70% of our population is dependent on agriculture with around 76 lakh people being dependent on agriculture. This year, the budget of Rs 2008 crore has been earmarked for the Agriculture sector which is way more than the budget per capita as compared to many other states and UTs, he added.

The Government has made reformative interventions to bring a revolution in the agriculture sector, the record production registered in agriculture, and horticulture is the result of this change. The efforts of the last one year have put J&K on the map of big agriculture and horticulture powers, said the Lt Governor.

Quoting some instances of the exemplary work being done in the agriculture and horticulture production, the Lt Governor observed that a few years ago, a farmer produced roughly two kilograms of saffron from a hectare of the field; however, today 5 kg of saffron is being produced in one hectare.

In order to realize the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, the

Government has kept a budget of Rs. 338 crore for Animal, Sheep, Fisheries Department this year to connect the farmers with commercial animal husbandry to exploit the full potential of the sector and ensure the socio-economic development of all stakeholders, the Lt Governor maintained.

In an effort to cut down imports and bridge the demand and supply gap in dairy and poultry sectors, double the income of farmers, and generate employment, the Government has launched Integrated Dairy Development Scheme. Under this scheme, financial support is provided in the shape of 50% subsidy for the Establishment of dairy units, milk collection/chilling processing units, the establishment of market infrastructure and milk/milk-product transportation system, environment management of dairy farms. This year, the Government plans to establish 800 new dairy units, by induction of more than 4000 animals, and other milk processing units. This will enhance the milk production significantly, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor made some valuable suggestions in respect of animal husbandry. He advised the officials to get the census of animals done for better planning and execution of development schemes. Apart from farming, the biggest support for the farmers is their livestock. I sincerely hope that the farmers will benefit a lot from this Pashudhan Vyapar Mela. I am sure that by fulfilling the aspirations of the farmers, we will move forward in the direction of development, said the Lt Governor.

## Govt Focuses Youth Empowerment Through Diverse Opportunities:CS



### KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today launched the Website and Youth portal of Mission Youth which will serve as a one-stop platform for registration under several schemes under the Mission. The new portal will facilitate the consolidation of youth database for targeted interventions aimed at youth empowerment.

Underscoring the importance of the e-service portal in reaching out to the tech-savvy generation, Dr. Mehta said that the initiative will bring together youth from various regions seeking Government assistance and support available on one platform- which will offer diverse opportunities and linkages. "It will establish direct communication between the Government and youth on a real-time basis", he added.

The Mission's IT initiative encapsulates the Government's vision of a strong, developed, and empowered youth that actively engages in socio-economic development. It also reinforces the concept of Digital India and acknowledges the power of technology to communicate with youth and aims at providing a platform that offers opportunities to Listen, Learn and Share.

The Chief Secretary appealed to the youth to actively participate in all youth-centric initiatives for skill development and gainful employment through various initiatives being taken by Mission Youth. He said that the objective is to ensure that no

youth is left behind.

Regarding auto-consolidation of the youth data and their subsequent skill mapping, Dr. Mehta asked the Mission to undertake data-based planning for future interventions based on gap analysis. He directed the establishment of a dedicated response system to address individual and collective issues raised by youth on the portal.

It was informed that the Annual Action Plan of Mission Youth which was approved last month has been rolled out for expeditious implementation of various schemes related to self-employment, skill development, scholarships, fellowships, sports, and psycho-social counseling, among other initiatives.

Earlier, Secretary to Government, Tribal Affairs Department and Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary gave a detailed presentation about the Youth Portal giving details of various schemes and electronic delivery of services. He emphasized on the vision of Mission Youth to empower youth and involving them in decision making.

The website not only offers comprehensive information about various programmes of Mission Youth but also promises to be an interactive medium inviting feedback from youth. Besides capturing more than 75 important contours of youth population, it also provides a platform for youth to express their views for actualizing the dream of New Jammu & Kashmir.

## Masoodi Calls On Finance Min; Seeks Moratorium For MSMEs In JK



### Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Member of Parliament from Anantnag Hassanain Masoodi on Thursday called on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and demanded a moratorium on loan repayment for MSME and small businesses.

Masoodi brought to the notice of the Union Finance Minister the predicaments suffered by the MSME and small traders in Jammu and Kashmir and drew her attention towards the disruptions caused by the successive Clamdowns and Covid-19 induced lockdowns.

Masoodi held that most of the start-ups and MSMEs have landed up in uncertainty due to the problem on the demand side. The small scale businesses, Masoodi maintained, have no money to repay the loans amidst disruption in the income. He also told the concerned minister that six-month moratorium on terms loans announced by the RBI helped the MSMEs briefly but the reprieve, he stated, fell short in addressing their recovery concerns amid the demand slump.

"The much needed deferment in repaying of loans will provide oxygen mask for the survival of distressed MSMEs, and other small scale traders and businesses. The repaying of loans, I implored upon the concerned minister should be postponed until the demand side improves. I told her how MSMEs and other small businesses have taken extra hit due to the interruption in the economy activity since 2019," he as per a statement received by GNS said.

In his interaction with the concerned minister, he stated that nearly 3000 MSMEs in JK are staring at closure. The holders he said aren't able to pay wages to their workers as the entire supply chain network has broken creating liquidity crises. "I informed her situation got worse after

second wave of the pandemic and is bound to get compounded in wake of the imminent third wave," he added.

Party MP Hassanain Masoodi also brought to the notice of the concerned minister the unavailability of banking facilities in the remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir. "The role of commercial banks in rural settings is very important. The rural branches motivate people for savings, ensures availability of micro-credit for agriculturalists, capital formation, and sustain and developing cottage and small scale industries. I implored upon the concerned minister that the much needed establishment of banking services in these far-flung areas particularly Qamar, Verinag, Kapran, and Utarsoo in Shangus will go a long way in areas will give flip to whole lot of economic activities. While putting across the demand, I apprised the minister how people living in these far-flung areas are not able to benefit under various welfare schemes due to the dearth of banking facilities in their areas," he said.

Masoodi also brought to union minister's notice the trepidation suffered by the borrowers due to the practice followed by JK Bank, which requires for having government employees as guarantors at the time of granting loans. He called to union minister's attention how the bank coerces the guarantors in wake of the incapacity of the borrowers to pay off loans. "The practice followed by JK bank, I told the concerned minister, has made the lives of guarantors miserable. In some cases these tactics have, I told her, pushed both borrowers and guarantors to commit suicide. I impressed upon her that the practice should be disbanded and the withheld salaries of such guarantors released forthwith," he said. (GNS)

## Create Plenteous, Gainful Employment Opportunities For Women To Make Them Self Sufficient: Advisor Khan

### KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan today chaired the 26th Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Women's Development Corporation (JKWDC) at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda; Managing Director, JKWDC, Dr. Naheed Soz; representatives of Finance, Planning and other allied departments besides representatives of central government corporations like National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHDFC) and National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The BoDs discussed activities, Action Taken Reports and approval and adoption of financial accounts-cum-draft balance sheet for the year 2020-21 besides detailed deliberations were held on the progress and achievements of the corporation.

Advisor Farooq Khan, who is also the Chairman of the corporation while speaking during the meeting highlighted the role of JKWDC in uplifting the economic conditions



of the women folk and asked the management of the corporation to create plenteous and gainful employment opportunities for them and make them self sufficient.

The Chairman asked the management of JKWDC for identification and promotion of more women entrepreneurs, organizing awareness camps and identifying women for activities which make them more empowered.

Advisor Khan stressed upon the management of the corporation to give priority to remote and far-flung areas and make the populace of these areas aware about different schemes of the corporation so that they take due benefits of these schemes and become self reliable.

After detailed deliberations, several important decisions were taken by the Board for better management of the affairs of the Corporation.

The board decided to engage with the management of Shri

## No Revision In Fuel Prices For 12 Straight Days

### Agencees

The oil marketing companies (OMC) continued to pause fuel price revision for the twelfth consecutive day, the longest period in weeks, and decided to watch global developments and crude price for some more time before making any revisions in Petrol and diesel prices.

However, oil companies have stopped short of reducing the retail price of petrol and diesel during the week as more time will be required to study oil price movement be-



fore any downward revision. Already, crude has firmed up

a bit for last few days and this could prevent price cut by

OMCs.

With no change in prices on Thursday, in the national capital, petrol continues to be sold for Rs 101.84 per litre, while diesel is also being sold at the unchanged price of Rs 89.87 a litre.

The pump price of fuel has been static since July 18.

One of the main reasons for pause in fuel price rise is an over 10 per cent fall seen in global oil prices with benchmark crude sliding to \$69 a barrel from a high of over \$77 barrel just couple of weeks back. It had again risen close to over \$75 a barrel on strong

demand projections.

With OPEC reaching an agreement to raise crude production, oil prices are expected to remain soft. This could make way for fuel prices in India to actually fall after a long interval.

In the city of Mumbai, where petrol prices crossed Rs 100 mark for the first time on May 29, the fuel price is at Rs 107.83 per litre. Diesel in the city is also at Rs 97.45, the highest among metros.

Petrol prices in all metros have now crossed Rs 100 per litre mark.

The week long price

pause comes after fuel prices increased on 41 days and remained unchanged on 48 days since May 1. The 41 increases have taken up petrol prices by Rs 11.44 per litre in Delhi. Similarly, diesel price has increased by Rs 9.14 per litre in the national capital.

Since April 2020, petrol prices have increased by Rs 32.25 per litre from Rs 69.59 a litre to Rs 101.84 a litre now in Delhi. Similarly, diesel prices during the period has increased by Rs 27.58 per litre from Rs 62.29 to Rs 89.87 a litre in the national capital.



# All Energies Must Be Focused On Reaching An Inclusive, Broad-Based Political Settlement In Afghanistan: Pak

Press Trust of India

**Islamabad:** Pakistan said on Thursday that all energies must be focused on reaching an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan, amid raging violence in the war-torn neighbouring country.

Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri claimed that Pakistan, a close and brotherly neighbour of Afghanistan, is the only country that has consistently emphasised that there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict.

"Pakistan has been supporting and facilitating the peace process for achieving an inclusive intra-Afghan political settlement. All neighbours of Afghanistan including China have been supporting political

resolution of the Afghan conflict," he said during a press conference here, highlighting its all weather ally China's role in the war-torn nation.

Pakistan and China are committed to facilitate and support the "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" peace and reconciliation process, he said.

China on Wednesday hosted an Afghan Taliban delegation led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and praised the insurgent group as an "important military and political force" in Afghanistan. China also asked the Taliban to make a "clean break" with all terrorist groups, especially the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) - the Uyghur Muslim militant group from Xinjiang.

Chaudhri, however, accused India of playing a role of a

"spoiler" in the Afghan peace process.

Afghanistan has repeatedly accused Pakistan of providing sanctuaries to the Afghan Taliban on its soil.

Chaudhri said Pakistan consistently maintained that at this critical juncture in the Afghan peace process, all energies must be focused on reaching an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan and reduction in violence leading to ceasefire is particularly significant in this regard.

Under a deal with the Taliban, the US and its NATO allies agreed to withdraw all troops in return for a commitment by the militants that they would prevent extremist groups from operating in areas they control. US President Joe Biden has announced that American troops

will be out of the country by August 31.

"We believe that China being a neighbouring country to Afghanistan does have an important role to play in the Afghan peace process, Chaudhri said.

Talking about the reported abduction and torture of Afghan Ambassador's daughter, he said a thorough investigation was launched immediately after the incident was reported.

"While a significant progress has been made in this case, we believe that the cooperation of Afghan Ambassador and his daughter is critical in concluding the investigation," he said.

To a question about the possibility of the downgrading of diplomatic relations with Afghanistan, he said Pakistan believes in maintaining close, cooperative and brotherly

relations with Afghanistan. "There is no plan to downgrade our diplomatic relations with Afghanistan," he said.

To another question, Chaudhri said Pakistani Ambassador to Afghanistan is in Pakistan for his periodic visit, and to celebrate Eid with his family. "He has not been recalled and neither do we plan to downgrade our diplomatic relations with Afghanistan in any way," he said.

Talking about floods in India, he said Pakistan was deeply saddened by the loss of precious lives and injuries caused by floods and landslides to many in Kashmir and in parts of India including Maharashtra."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families and we wish speedy recovery to the injured," he added.

## Assam, Mizoram Trade Barbs Over Deployment Of Security Forces At Interstate Border

Agenceis

**SILCHAR:** Assam and Mizoram exchanged barbs over deployment of security forces along the interstate border on Thursday, days after both sides were locked in a fierce gun battle near the boundary that left six policemen and a civilian dead.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has ordered deployment of CRPF personnel at the Assam-Mizoram border following which Assam withdrew its forces from the post, Cachar Guardian Minister Ashok Singhal said.

He, however, alleged that Mizoram was yet to do so and it wanted to settle the dispute by arms and ammunitions, which is the wrong approach.

"Peace and harmony is yet to be established in the border area, but we want to make it clear that not an inch of Assam's land will be allowed to be taken away by Mizoram, Singhal asserted.

A defiant Mizoram

government, meanwhile, claimed that a large contingent of Assam Police personnel were being mobilised at the interstate border.

Mizoram Home Secretary Lalbiakangi, in a letter to the Additional Secretary in-charge of the Northeast on Thursday, said armed personnel of Assam Police were moving Dholai and Hawaithang areas in Cachar district, where violence had erupted on Monday.

In view of the tense situation at present, mobilisation of a large contingent of police at the interstate border by Assam is quite objectionable, and will lead to apprehensions and panic among the people on both sides, she said.

Lalbiakangi also urged the Union home ministry to issue instructions to the Assam government to refrain from such reinforcement.

The Cachar guardian minister said Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma wants the dispute to be resolved through dialogue.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Fate Of 20 Missing

nine women. Director General of Police-cum-Commandant General Home Guard, Civil Defence and SDRF, V K Singh said a team comprising SDRF and NDRF personnel left Jammu at 5:45 AM by road for Kishtwar, while another joint team is leaving Srinagar shortly to join the rescue operation.

Two more teams comprising SDRF and NDRF personnel are at the Jammu and Srinagar airports waiting for the weather to improve to get airlifted, he said.

He said three teams of the SDRF have already joined the rescue effort and efforts are on to locate the missing persons.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) made an attempt to airlift one of the teams on Wednesday but returned to the technical airport in Jammu due to inclement weather.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh rushed to Kishtwar by road on Wednesday night and visited the injured persons at district hospital, a police official said.

Singh along with divisional commissioner Jammu Raghav Langer was also on board the IAF chopper which attempted to take the SDRF team to the affected village.

The Jammu and Kashmir government had announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each for the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the incident and Rs 50,000 each and Rs 12,700 under SDRF to the grievously injured persons.

The J&K government would do everything possible to support and protect the affected families. In such trying times, it is our duty to care for those who have been unfortunately affected by these natural calamities," Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had said.

Director, Meteorological department, Sonum Lotus said no major rain occurred during the night across Jammu and Kashmir.

Right now weather is generally cloudy at most places and is likely to become partly cloudy towards afternoon. Occasional light rain possible at some places during the day, he said.

Most parts of Jammu region have been receiving incessant rains for the past few days and the Meteorological department has predicted widespread intermittent rain across Jammu and Kashmir till July 30.

Heavy to very heavy rain is possible at some places and may lead to flash floods, mudslide, landslide and water logging (in low lying areas). People are advised to remain alert as water level has risen in all rivers (owing to incessant rains), a spokesperson of the MET had said.

People have been advised to keep away from hilly, landslide and mudslide prone areas.

#### MeT Predicts

Celsius, he said. Katra recorded a downpour of 43.6mm of rain while Batote had 33.8 mm, Banihal 23.0mm and Baderwah 9.0mm, the official said.

Qazigund received 8.8 mm of rain and recorded a minimum temperature of 18.6 degrees Celsius, he said.

Pahalgam received 22.8mm of rain while the famous tourist resort recorded a low of 15.3 degrees Celsius. Kokernag had 6.4mm of rain even as it recorded a minimum of 17.0 degrees Celsius, the official said.

The border town Kupwara received 19.6mm of rain while it recorded minimum temperature of 18.7 degrees Celsius, he said.

World famous skiing and tourist resort Gulmarg in north Kashmir received 2.0mm of rain and was the coldest place in the Valley, recording a minimum of 13.5 degrees Celsius, he added.

Except for Kokernag (9.2mm) and Batote (4.6mm), there was no substantial rainfall recorded anywhere in Jammu and Kashmir divisions from 0830 hours to 1730 hours on Thursday, the official added.

#### IAF Joins Rescue

in an injured condition after the remote Honzar village in Dacchan tehsil was struck by the cloudburst in the early hours of Wednesday, damaging 21 houses, 21 cow sheds, a ration depot, a bridge and a mosque.

"Three IAF helicopters -- one each from Jammu, Udhampur and Srinagar -- were utilized for airlifting joint teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to Kishtwar,"

Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Devender Anand told PTI.

He said the helicopters flew a total of eight sorties, transferring relief load of 2,250 kg, 44 NDRF and SDRF personnel, four medical assistants and transported two patients who are in critical condition from Sondar to Kishtwar for specialised treatment.

The IAF also made an attempt to airlift the joint team of NDRF and SDRF from the Jammu technical airport on Wednesday but bad weather forced the crew to return. Jammu Divisional Commissioner Raghav Langer and Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh were also on board the helicopter.

With the induction of the specialists from the NDRF and SDRF personnel along with sophisticated equipment, the rescue operation has intensified and efforts are on to locate the missing people, including nine women, the officials said, adding the chances of their survival seem bleak as they are believed to have been washed away by the strong current or buried under debris.

The officials said the success eluded the rescuers comprising police, Army, SDRF, NDRF and local volunteers from the village and adjoining areas throughout the day.

DGP-cum-Commandant General Home Guard, Civil Defence and SDRF, V K Singh said five of his teams along with NDRF personnel joined the rescue operation on Thursday.

"Two of our teams reached the scene on Wednesday itself and were joined by another team this morning. Two more teams comprising both SDRF and NDRF personnel left Jammu and Srinagar by road for Kishtwar, while another two teams were airlifted by the IAF," he said.

The Jammu Divisional Commissioner and Additional DGP, Jammu zone, rushed to Kishtwar by road and supervised the rescue and relief operation along with Kishtwar District Development Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma.

The officials said the village, located on the banks of a stream and surrounded by mountains, can be reached by a three-hour trek from the last motorable road and is presenting a gloomy picture with wails of survivors filling the air.

"Shortly after the deafening sound of the cloudburst woke us up, we found ourselves caught in the flash floods," Mohammad Jabbar, a local resident said.

He said many of the structures along with the inhabitants were swept away by the gushing waters.

Fayaz Ahmad, another resident, hailed police for reaching the scene soon after getting information.

"A police party was the first to reach the village followed by Army and SDRF teams. We are thankful to them for a prompt response," he said, adding the Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Shafqat Hussain Batt is camping in the village to personally lead the rescue operation.

A police spokesman said camps have been set up at Dangadooru and Soundar for receipt and despatch of the relief and rescue materials for the flood-affected people.

Special teams for this purpose have been formed and deputed from the District Police Lines Kishtwar, the official said.

The Jammu and Kashmir government had announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each for the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the incident and Rs 50,000 each, and Rs 12,700 under the State Disaster Response Fund to the grievously injured. (PTI)

#### LG Assures All

Our heartfelt sympathies are with the bereaved families," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson. He made these remarks while attending the first-ever "Vishal Pashudhan Vyapar Mela" at Sports Stadium, Hiranagar in Kathua district on Thursday. According to the official spokesperson, the LG also reiterated that the government is committed to improving power infrastructure in the UT.

"Power transmission and distribution system is being improved substantially. Despite our efforts, some areas in Jammu division remained affected during the last couple of months due to outages. We have identified the gaps. In order to provide uninterrupted and reliable power supply to all, we are introducing strict and innovative measures to meet various challenges in fulfilling energy needs of the

people in future," he said.

Earlier, the Lt Governor inspected various stalls displayed by the Agriculture and allied departments and farmers. The Lt Governor also handed over the subsidy cheques to the beneficiaries under various schemes on the occasion.

#### India Slams Pak

on the elections in the Pakistan-controlled -Kashmir, the spokesperson said Pakistan has "no locus standi on these Indian territories" and it must vacate all Indian areas under its illegal occupation.

"The so-called elections in Indian territory under the illegal occupation of Pakistan are nothing but an attempt by Pakistan to camouflage its illegal occupation and the material changes undertaken by it in these territories," he said at an online media briefing.

His strong assertion came days after Pakistan conducted elections to the legislative Assembly in P&K. The elections were marred by allegations of irregularities and violence.

Asked about the polls, Bagchi said India has lodged a strong protest with the Pakistani authorities on this "cosmetic exercise", which has been protested and rejected by the local people.

"Such an exercise can neither hide the illegal occupation by Pakistan nor the grave human rights violations, exploitation, and denial of freedom to people in these occupied territories," he said.

According to media reports, the ruling party of Imran Khan, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, had won a majority of seats in the assembly elections in PoK.

On the recent China-Pakistan joint press statement which mentioned J&K, Bagchi said, "As in the past, India categorically rejects any reference to J&K. The union territory of J&K and the union territory of Ladakh has been and will remain an integral and inalienable part of India."

He also objected to the reference to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in the China-Pakistan joint press statement, saying India has consistently conveyed to both China and Pakistan that the so-called CPEC is in India's territory.

"We resolutely oppose any attempts by other countries to change the status quo in areas illegally occupied by Pakistan as also to Pakistan bringing up any material change in Indian territories under its illegal occupation. We call upon parties concerned to cease such actions," he said.

#### Govt To Take

Department was directed to appoint an administrator for the school to ensure that the education of the nearly 1,000 students enrolled there does not suffer.

The administrator has to ensure that only tuition fee is charged from the students while salaries of teaching and non-teaching staff is paid in time. The surplus amount realised as fee has to be deposited in a separate account.

Among the complaints against the school were charging admission fees which are banned by statute, inadequate teaching staff and shabby classrooms which the FFRC termed as "dungeons".

The school management was also accused of raising the annual fee from Rs 700 to Rs 6,000 in one go.

#### CBI Files Cases

including a proprietor of a private firm based at Srinagar.

"The cases have been registered on the allegations of illegal export of 32 (26+6) shawls containing Guard hair of Tibetan Antelope (Shahtoosh). The export of such wildlife material is prohibited under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972," the statement reads.

"Searches were conducted in the premises of both the firms in New Delhi and Srinagar which led to recovery of 4 shawls and incriminating documents," it said, adding that investigation of both the cases is in progress.

#### BJP Sees China

being sent by Pakistan into this side of the LoC are all Chinese drones," Raina said.

"Chinese nationals sitting in Pakistan are hatching conspiracy against our country. But our army, paramilitary force BSF, police and the courageous people of Jammu and Kashmir will defeat the nefarious designs of China and

Pakistan," he added.

The J&K BJP president further said that India has already developed an anti-drone system and every conspiracy of the enemies will be defeated.

"We will never let bloodshed happen," he said.

#### Father Waits

including Captain Bhoopendra Singh for "staging a fake encounter" in the higher reaches of Shopian district and killing three youths — Imtiyaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed and Mohammed Ibrar, hailing from Rajouri district of Jammu region — in Amshipura on July 18, 2020.

"I have lost my son. I was very satisfied earlier with the pace of the probe but now it seems that my hope has started diminishing as nothing is moving since last December. I have received Rs five lakh from the Jammu and Kashmir administration. Is that the price of my innocent son and others killed in cold blood," Mohammed Yusuf, father of Abrar Ahmed, told PTI from Rajouri over phone.

The Army, however, maintained that the process of Summary of Evidence had been completed and the papers for the beginning of the final process were likely to be initiated soon.

"We will be completing the process soon and the person concerned is still in close custody [jail] with the Army," a senior officer said on the condition of anonymity.

A sobbing Mr. Yusuf contended that the plight of a father who had lost his son needs to be understood. "God forbid, if my son would have been a militant, me and my entire family would have been behind bars. But now when everyone says they were killed in a cold blooded murder, what is taking it so long. Justice delayed is also justice denied," he said.

Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha had visited the families in Rajouri last year and conveyed to them Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message that the government stands with the aggrieved families, and they will be taken care of with all support from the government.

The Army had completed its Summary of Evidence in the last week of December 2020 and the Army had issued a statement at that time saying "the process of recording the 'Summary of Evidence' has been completed. The same is being examined by the concerned authorities in consultation with legal advisors for proceeding further." "The Indian Army is committed to ethical conduct of operations," it had said.

The Army had ordered a Court of Inquiry after reports appeared on social media that three youth, labelled as terrorists, had been gunned down by its personnel were innocent.

The Court of Inquiry, which completed its probe in September, had found 'prima facie' evidence that troops had 'exceeded' powers under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act during the July 18 encounter in which three men were killed. Officials in know of the development said an Army personnel may face court martial proceedings for violating the powers vested under AFSPA 1990 and not following the do's and don'ts of Chief of Army Staff as approved by the Supreme Court.

The identity of the three youths were subsequently confirmed through a DNA test. The bodies were handed over to their families in Baramulla in October and were later buried in their native village of Rajouri.

"By handing over the body of my son and two of his cousins, who had gone to Shopian for work in an apple orchard, I was assured of a speedy justice but nothing seems to be working," Mr. Yusuf said.

In the meantime, the charge sheet submitted by the SIT was pending before the court as time had been sought by the Army to finish with its internal probe and to hold trial of the Army official under the Army Act, the officials said.

The charge sheet had alleged that Capt. Singh had also provided wrong information to his superiors and the police about the recovery made during the staged encounter. Two others named by the police in its charge sheet are Tabish Nazir and Bilal Ahmed Lone, both civilians.

"By staging the encounter," the three accused "have purposefully destroyed evidence or real crime that they have committed and also have [been] purposefully projecting false information as part of a criminal conspiracy hatched between them with the motive to grab" cash rewards, it said.

The Army had, however, denied that its

captain staged the encounter for cash reward saying there was no such system for its personnel for any acts in combat situations or otherwise in the line of duty.

"The evidence was destroyed by accused Captain Singh," the charge sheet said, adding he along with the other two accused set fire to a shelter at the encounter site.

The SIT charge sheet gave details of forensic analysis of the crime scene which was photographed "from all possible perspectives". The FSL (Forensic and Scientific Laboratory) team recovered vital evidence that was seized.

The charge sheet listed 75 witnesses in support of its findings and has also provided technical evidence including call data records of the accused persons.

#### J&K Logs 181

officials said that 175 more patients in last 24 hours have recovered— 66 from Jammu Division and 109 from Kashmir, taking the number of people who have recovered in J&K to 315686.

The officials said that one more person succumbed to virus in Jammu division, taking the overall fatality count to 4377 in J&K—2141 in Jammu division and 2236 in Kashmir.

There was no new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today. So far 35 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials added.

#### No Leisure This

environmental predicament — man-animal conflict.

In the past two months, Kashmir valley has witnessed an alarming rise in the number of mauling cases. Several adults and, in some cases, a couple of young children too fell prey to wild animals. The advent of the beasts into human habitations isn't something new in Kashmir, but this alone has seen such occurrences quadruple. Often, the beasts had to be put down, which is a significant loss on its own.

The overwhelming human footprint at hill stations has opened up an alternative food supply for the animals, says Mansoor Nabi, an environmental activist and a conservationist who has worked with World Wildlife Fund.

"The wild animals forage for their food in their habitats, but with the man constantly going deeper and further into the woods has established an informal supply of food for the beasts," Mansoor says.

"If they get an easier food source, it's natural to expect the beast to look for more, leading to man-animal conflict. There're hotels in Sonamarg where you will find a brown bear at your window. The easy availability of food is one of the factors driving the upward spike of the said conflict and mauling of humans."

There's little to no ecological sensitisation when it comes to Kashmir, the eco-activist says. "We cannot and shouldn't make it the responsibility of the administration alone. As constituents of Kashmiri society and the world, we need to do better and more on our part."

Environmental awareness and associated responsible behaviours, he says, are highly crucial for people to manage the ever-growing man-animal conflict.

"We've been trying to inculcate an environmental sense of responsibility in our kids, and for that, we've conducted several campaigns and workshops in schools and colleges. The change certainly is visible on the ground, but we need to do significantly more."

An overwhelmingly unanimous agreement across the board is that there need to be stricter regulations of the hill stations, picnic spots, and camping sites. More stringent rules and a constant lookout for violations preserve the pristine nature and prevent further damage, which can be irreversible if not checked in time.

#### Soldier Injured

was on operational duty in KG sector on Friday last when he accidentally stepped on a mine and it exploded, injuring him critically. He later succumbed to injuries at the nearest medical facility.

#### Two Gamblers

"They have been shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 143/2021 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Ganderbal and investigation has been initiated," the police spokesperson said.



## Satish Kumar Sails Into Boxing Quarter-Finals On Games Debut



Press Trust of India

**TOKYO:** India's first super heavy-weight (+91kg) boxer to compete in the Olympics, Satish Kumar, eased into the quarterfinals of his debut Games, defeating Jamaica's Ricardo Brown in his opening bout here on Thursday.

In the battle of the debutants, the 32-year-old Satish prevailed 4-1, a comfortable win for him despite the split verdict.

The two-time Asian Championships bronze-winner Indian, who has been a multiple-time national champion, was helped by Brown's poor footwork throughout the bout though he did end up sustaining two cuts — one on his forehead and the other on his chin.

"He got cuts because of three head butts during the bout. But it was a very measured performance by Satish, he could have been in trouble had Brown connected because he was huge and powerful," Indian boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva told PTI.

Next up for Satish is Uzbekistan's Bakhtiyor Jalilov, the reigning world and Asian champion. Jalilov out-punched Azerbaijan's Mahammad Abdullayev 5-0 in his last-16 bout.

"He is not unbeatable. Although Satish has never won against him but the last time they fought in the India Open, it was split verdict. He ran him close," Nieva said.

Satish, also a 2018 Commonwealth Games silver-medallist, dominated with his right hand and allowed Brown to repeatedly make the mistake of lunging in with very little balance.

Brown seemed to be looking for that one big punch that could unsettle the Indian but failed miserably, owing to his inability to move quickly enough after launching into Satish.

The Indian, in comparison, was light on his feet and thereby sharper in responding to Brown's attacks. "The idea was to score and pull back because Brown's power could have been dangerous. Satish did well to tire him out by moving around the ring and it definitely helped that our boy had lighter feet," Nieva said.

The late bloomer from Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr is an Army man, who used to play kabaddi, and was introduced to the sport owing to his good physique by the Army coaches.

The 31-year-old Brown, who is the first boxer from his country to qualify for the Games since 1996, was Jamaica's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony.

He is the co-founder of 'Sensi Juice', an organic juice company based in Canada.

The juices that are produced by his company are infused with cannabis. Brown also worked as a chef in Jamaica till 2014.

## 'I Don't Know What Happened,' Says Mary Kom After Olympics Exit

Press Trust of India

**TOKYO:** How does one end up losing despite winning?

Sounds odd? This is what happened to one of India's greatest sportspersons in her final Olympic outing.

Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom's (51kg) pursuit of a second Olympic medal ended in the pre-quarterfinals of the Tokyo Games as she went down to 2016 edition's bronze-medallist Ingrit Valencia in a fiercely-fought showdown here on Thursday.

The funny part, Mary Kom had actually won two of the three rounds.

"I don't know what happened, I thought in the first round, we were both trying to figure out our strategies and I won the next two," said the perplexed legend after the bout.

The Indian trailed 4-1 in the opening round with four of the five judges scoring it 10-9 in favour of Valencia.

In the next two rounds, Mary Kom got three of the five judges to rule in her favour but the overall scoreline was still in favour of Valencia.

The Manipuri clinched the third round too but once again, it was 3-2 and not 4-1 which is what she needed to swing the final score in her favour.

The 38-year-old, who is a multiple-time Asian champion and a bronze-winner from the 2012 London Olympics, lost 2-3

to the Colombian, giving it her all in what would now be her final Olympic bout.

Mary Kom had tears in her eyes and a wide smile on her face when the referee raised Valencia's hand at the end of the bout, exhausted after the intense clash.

The way Valencia rushed in when the first bell rang, it was quite obvious that the bout would be high voltage and it was exactly how it turned out to be.

The two were attacking each other from word go and Valencia seemed determined to avenge her previous two losses to the icon.

The Manipuri veteran fought back to claim the second and the third round, landing her trademark right hooks to perfection. She also deserves credit for keeping the intensity consistently high despite the draining fight.

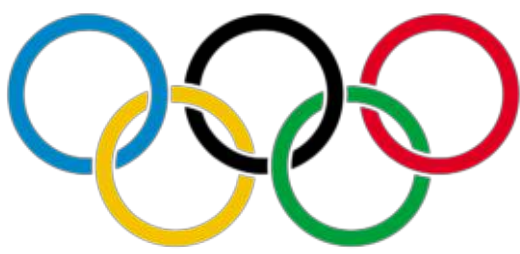
"I don't understand this scoring system, how did she lose the first round 1-4 when there was hardly anything separating these two," national assistant coach and Mary Kom's personal trainer Chhote Lal Yadav told PTI.

"It is a disappointment but that's luck I guess," he added.

The Indian had earlier beaten Valencia in the 2019 world championship quarterfinals.

Like Mary Kom, the 32-year-old Valencia is a trailblazer for her country.

She is the first female boxer to have represented Colombia at the Olympic Games, as well as the nation's first female boxer to win an Olympic medal.



OLYMPIC GAMES TOKYO 2020

## MEDALS TABLE TOP 10 NATIONS

Agenceis

United States dominates the Olympics' medals tally as the Games

enter Day 6. China, Japan, and Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) all remain within reach of each other. India is in the 46th position

with a silver medal to its name.

The Olympic Games began on July 23 and are set to conclude on August 8.

TEAM ▼	GOLD 🏆 ▼	SILVER 🥈 ▼	BRONZE 🥉 ▼	TOTAL ▼
United States	14	14	10	38
China	15	7	9	31
ROC	8	11	9	28
Japan	15	4	6	25
Australia	8	2	10	20
Italy	2	7	10	19
Great Britain	5	7	6	18
Germany	3	3	7	13
Netherlands	2	7	4	13
South Korea	4	3	5	12

## PV Sindhu Enters Badminton Quarter-Finals At Tokyo Olympics

Press Trust of India

**TOKYO:** Reigning badminton world champion P V Sindhu sailed into the women's singles quarter-finals at the Tokyo Olympics with a straight-game triumph over Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt on Thursday.

The 26-year-old Indian, who won a silver in the 2016 Rio Olympics, completed a 21-15 21-13 win over 13th seed Blichfeldt in a 41-minute match.

"I started off well in the first game but around 15-16 I gave a couple of points because I was rushing in my defence. My coach was telling me that I was playing the wrong way and I realised that and I immediately changed my tactics and completed the first game," Sindhu told media after the match.

"Second game I was fine, I was maintaining the lead and finished it off." Sindhu will next face Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, who defeated Korea's Kim Ga Eun 21-17 21-18 in another pre-quarter-finals.

The sixth seeded Indian has a 11-7 head-to-head count against the Japanese world no 5, whom she had last beaten at the All England Championship in March this year.

Sindhu mixed her strokes well, putting her attacking clears and drops to good use besides smashing her way to finish points whenever there was a chance.

She anticipated the shuttle better and showed good court coverage.

Blichfeldt did have her moments but she was too erratic to sustain



the pressure on the Indian, who was always a step ahead of her rival during the contest.

Blichfeldt had a 2-0 lead early on but Sindhu soon took back control at 6-4 and kept her nose ahead before unleashing a cross court smash to enter the interval with a healthy 11-6 lead.

The Danish shuttler scripted a mini comeback, winning six of the next seven points, riding on a few smashes and Sindhu's unforced errors.

An unlucky net chord broke the run of points but Blichfeldt sent down two straight smashes to again narrow it to 14-16 before succumbing to a series of unforced errors.

The Indian revved up the pace in the second game to zoom to 5-0 but a wrong line judgement from her ended the run of points.

Blichfeldt tried to find an opening but Sindhu was always a step ahead as she again held a five-point

advantage at the break.

After the interval, Sindhu lost a few points due to the occasional brilliance shown by her rival and sometimes, her own unforced error, but she was always in control and soon wrapped it up with a delicate shot near the net.

On Wednesday, Sindhu had defeated world No. 34 Hong Kong's NY Cheung 21-9 21-16 to top Group J.

Sindhu is the lone Indian badminton hope left in fray after B Sai Pranee's maiden Olympic campaign ended in agony in the men's competition.

He went down in straight games to Mark Caljouw of Netherlands on Tuesday, the men's doubles team of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy suffered a heartbreak after failing to make the quarterfinals despite winning two matches in their group.

## India Beat Argentina 3-1 To Enter Men's Hockey Quarter-Final



Press Trust of India

**TOKYO:** The Indian men's hockey team stormed into the quarterfinals of the Olympic Games with a comprehensive 3-1 victory over defending champions Argentina, scoring two goals in the final two minutes of its penultimate pool match here on Thursday.

After goalless first two quarters, India broke the deadlock in the 43rd minute through Varun Kumar before Vivek Sagar Prasad (58th) and Harmanpreet Singh (59th) struck in the closing minutes of the match to seal the contest.

It was India's third win in Pool A at the Oi Hockey Stadium.

Argentina's lone goal came from a penalty corner conversion by Schuth Casella in the 48th minute.

By virtue of this win, India have consolidated their position in the second spot of Pool A with three wins and one loss out of four games, behind Australia.

Argentina are struggling at the fifth spot in the six-team pool and need to beat New Zealand in their final preliminary match on Friday to stay in the hunt for a quarterfinal berth.

The top-four make the last-eight stage from each group.

India will play hosts Japan in their final pool match on Friday.

The Indians were aggressive and put pressure on the Argentine defence from the very beginning, attacking in numbers.

India completely dominated the first quarter, mounting attacks after attacks but the Argentines defended stoutly to frustrate their opponents.

The Indians nonetheless dominated possession and penetrated the Argentine circle on numerous occasions but the final pass was missing.

Manpreet Singh's men had their first shot at the goal in the third minute.

But Dilpreet Singh's hit from close range from a Simranjeet Singh pass was nicely saved by Argentina goalkeeper Juan Vivaldi.

The midfield, led by Manpreet, played a great game in the first quarter which was evident from the circle penetration statistics. India had 16 against Argentina's two.

India were almost rewarded in the 27th minute when a diving Simranjeet's effort sailed over the post.

Two minutes later, Argentina had the first real scoring opportunity but Nahuel Salis' powerful shot from right corner of the circle was padded away by Sreejesh's outstretched hands.

It was a frustrating first half as both the teams failed to secure a single penalty corner to head into the breather goalless.

The script was similar in the third quarter as India continued to waste chances.

First Gurjant Singh missed from close range in the 35th minute and then Rupiner Pal Singh wasted back-to-back penalty corners minutes later.

Soon the Indians had their hearts in their mouth when the defence was caught off guard by Argentina but Matias Rey couldn't beat Sreejesh from a one-on-one situation.

It took India 43 minutes to break the deadlock through Varun who scored from the team's third penalty corner.

Seconds from the end of third quarter, India wasted four consecutive penalty corners as Argentina defended bravely.

It was even in the 48th minute when Casella scored Argentina's first penalty corner.

They had two more chances — one from a field effort from Lucas Villa which was saved by Sreejesh and another from a penalty corner which Indians defended stoutly.

Two minutes from the hooter, Vivek restored India's lead tapping in from a rebound after Dilpreet's attempt was saved by Vivaldi and then in the nick of time Harmanpreet drew the final nail in Argentina's coffin by converting the team's eighth penalty corner.

## Juventus Senior Team In Isolation After Player Tests COVID Positive



Agencies

**TURIN:** The Juventus squad went into self-isolation on Thursday after a player tested positive for the coronavirus.

Midfielder Hamza Rafia was infected, Juventus announced following the latest round of tests.

"In compliance with the legislation and in agreement with the local health authority, the team group has entered into fiduciary isolation as of today," Juventus said in a statement.

"This procedure will allow all negative subjects to carry out regular training and match activities, but

will not allow contact with the outside of the group."

The squad will isolate at the J-Hotel, where they have been staying since starting preseason training on July 15.

Rafia joined Juventus from Lyon in 2019 and has played more than 50 games with the under-23 team in Italy's Serie C. He made one appearance for the senior team, coming off the bench to score the winner in the 3-2 Italian Cup victory over Genoa in January. Juventus went on to win the competition.

Rafia has also played 11 times for Tunisia.

## Real Kashmir Reserves, J&K Bank XI Register Wins

Observer News Service

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

In the first match played between Real Kashmir FC (Reserves) and Downton Heroes FC, the first goal was scored by Real Kashmir's Basit in the 6th minute. A penalty kick was awarded to RKFC soon after which was expertly converted by Basit to double his team's lead. The Snow Leopards took the 2:0 lead into the second half of the match. The Heroes on their part dominated the second half and were awarded a penalty which was successfully converted by Iham Tariq.

The match hung in balance as Real Kashmir stoutly defended their slender lead against Downton Heroes' attacks



till the very end. It ended 2:1 in favour of Real Kashmir (R) and Musaib of RKFC was awarded man of the match.

In the second match, the undefeated

and top of the table, J&K Bank XI took on Lonestar Kashmir FC. The highly anticipated fixture saw Lonestar miss couple of glorious opportunities from the get-

go. The Bank juggernaut however accepted the challenge and against the run of play took the lead through Akif Ahmad in the 25th minute. Player of the

tournament, thus far, Akif lunged on to a cross for the goal.

The first half ended with Lonestar Kashmir trying their best to overturn

the 1:0 deficit.

The second half of the match started on a similar note with the LKFC boys looking for an equalizer and crashing without success into J&K Bank's defensive wall. The Bank team also defied opportunities to double their lead but could not succeed.

A large number of spectators present at the TRC ground lauded both the teams for their efforts and footballing display. The match ended 1:0 in favour of J&K Bank XI. Inaam of Lonestar Kashmir FC was awarded man of the match.

Top two teams of the JKFA Professional League 2021 will get nominated to play in the 2021-22 season of Hero I-League 2nd Division. The tournament is organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Football Association in collaboration with JK Sports Council.



## 500 People, Groups Write to CJI Seeking SC Intervention In Pegasus Snooping Matter

Agenceis

Over 500 individuals and groups have written to Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana seeking immediate intervention of the Supreme Court in the alleged Pegasus snooping matter.

They have also sought a moratorium on the sale, transfer and use of Israeli firm NSO's Pegasus spyware in India.

They have expressed shock over media reports that the spyware was used for surveillance of women students, academics, journalists, human rights defenders, lawyers and victims of sexual violence.

Besides, the signatories to the letter have requested the top court to adopt a gender-neutral sexual harassment, data protection and privacy policy.

The letter also referred to the issue of alleged snooping on the apex court official who had raised allegations of sexual harassment against then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

For women, the Pegasus scandal is deeply concerning, for speaking out against the state and men in positions of state power has meant that their lives



are wrecked by such surveillance permanently.

Human rights defenders have been imprisoned, and victims of sexual harassment have also not been spared such shocking forms of state sponsored cyber-crimes, which are analogous to digital forms of state terror," the letter said.

The letter has been signed by various activists including Aruna Roy, Anjali Bhardwaj, Harsh Mander; scholars and eminent lawyers like Vrinda Grover, Jhuma Sen among others.

An international media consortium has reported that over 300 verified Indian mobile phone numbers were on a list of potential targets for surveillance using Pegasus spyware.

## Around 8.72 Lakh Vacant Posts In Central Govt Departments: MoS Jitendra Singh



Agenceis

There were around 8.72 lakh vacant posts in different central government departments as on March 1, 2020, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said on Thursday.

The sanctioned strength of all central government departments was 40,04,941 (as on March 1, 2020), of which 31,32,698 employees were in position then, he said in a written reply in the

Rajya Sabha.

The total number of vacant posts as on March 1, 2020 was 8,72,243, the minister noted.

Giving details of the recruitments done by the three major recruiting agencies for the last five years, he said the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) recruited 25,267 candidates, the Staff Selection Commission 2,14,601 candidates and the Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) recruited 2,04,945 candidates, from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

## 4 Arrested For Killing Man After Argument Over ₹ 20 In Uttar Pradesh

Agenceis

**BULANDSHAHR:** Four people were arrested after a man was shot dead in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district following a quarrel with a group of men over ₹ 20 last week, police said on Thursday.

Efforts are being made to nab five other accused involved in the attack, they said.

The arrested accused have been identified as Pankaj, Amit, Rikki and Abhi, all residents of UP's Gautam Budh Nagar district, the police said.

Senior Superintendent of Police

Santosh Kumar Singh said five men came to the stall of the victim, Nisar Ahmed, in Dariyapur village under Kotwali Dehat police station area around 8:40 am on July 22. They bought cigarettes from his stall and got into an argument with Ahmed over ₹ 20.

Nisar's son, Afsar, who works with the BSF, manhandled the men. The men left but returned later with others. The accused ransacked Ahmed's stall and shot him and his son, he said. Promoted Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

Nisar died at AIIMS, Delhi the next day, the police said.

## COVID-19 Lockdown Negatively Impacted Women's Nutrition In India: Study



Agenceis

**WASHINGTON:** The nationwide lockdown in India in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on women's nutrition in the country, according to a study conducted by a group of researchers in the US.

The study by Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition in four economically backward districts of Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj, Bihar's Munger, and Odisha's Kandhamal and Kalahandi indicate a decline in household food expenditures and women's dietary diversity in May 2020 compared to May 2019, particularly for non-staples like meats, eggs, vegetables, and fruits.

It occurred despite the special Public Distribution System (PDS), di-

rect benefit transfer and ration from aanganwadis reaching 80 per cent, 50 per cent and 30 per cent of the surveyed households, respectively, said the study published in the latest issue of *Economia Politica* journal.

"Our findings contribute to the growing body of evidence of women's disproportionate vulnerability to economic shocks, the impact of a staple grain focused safety net programme, and restricted markets on the access and availability of diverse nutritious foods," says the paper which makes a case for policy reforms towards PDS diversification to include nutrition-rich foods and market reforms to remove supply-side bottlenecks and expansion of direct benefit transfers for healthy food access.

"Women's diets were lacking in diverse foods even before the pan-

dem, but COVID-19 has further exacerbated the situation," said Soumya Gupta, a research economist at TCI who co-authored the study along with Prabhu Pingali, TCI director; Mathew Abraham, assistant director; and consultant Payal Seth.

"Any policies addressing the impact of the pandemic on nutritional outcomes must do so through a gendered lens that reflects the specific, and often persistent, vulnerabilities faced by women," she said in a statement issued by the Cornell University.

Researchers said that policymakers should recognise the disproportionate impact of the pandemic and other disruptive events on women's nutrition by bolstering safety-net programmes to ensure that they meet the needs of women and other marginalised groups.

## Active Covid Cases Register Increase In India For Second Consecutive Day

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** India logged 43,509 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid cases to 3,15,28,114, while the active cases registered an increase for the second consecutive day, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 4,22,662 with 640 fresh fatalities.

The active cases have increased to 4,03,840 and comprise 1.28 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid recovery rate was recorded at 97.38 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed.

An increase of 4,404 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.38 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,07,01,612, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.34 per cent, the data stated. Cumulative vaccine doses administered so far has reached 45.07 crore under the nationwide



vaccination drive.

The ministry said the 640 new fatalities include 286 from Maharashtra and 131 from Kerala.

A total of 4,22,662 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,32,145 from Maharashtra, 36,456 from Karnataka, 33,995 from Tamil Nadu, 25,049 from Delhi, 22,755 from Uttar Pradesh, 18,109 from West Bengal and 16,286 from Punjab. PTI

## All You Need To Know About Assam's Border Disputes With NE States

Agenceis

**GUWAHATI:** The division of Assam and creation of the predominantly tribal states of Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh left a residue of boundary problems, which continue to bedevil relations between the neighbours.

Each of Assam's border disputes has its own legacy of claims and counter-claims:

**Meghalaya:** The problem between Assam and Meghalaya started when the latter challenged the Assam Reorganisation Act of 1971, which gave Blocks I and II of the Mikir Hills or present-day Karbi Anglong district to Assam. Meghalaya contends that both these blocks formed part of the

Following recent violence in which seven people, including six policemen, were killed, Assam government has said that it will file a suit in the Supreme Court.

**Nagaland:** The longest-running border dispute in the North East is between Assam and Nagaland, which began soon after Nagaland became a state in 1963. The Nagaland State Act of 1962 had defined the state's borders according to a 1925 notification when Naga Hills and Tuensang Area (NHTA) were integrated into a new administrative unit. Nagaland, however, does not accept the boundary delineation and has demanded that the new state should also have all Naga-dominated area in North Cachar and Nagaon districts.



erstwhile United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district when it was notified in 1835. At present there are 12 points of dispute along the 733-km Assam-Meghalaya border.

Meghalaya bases its case on survey maps of 1872 and 1929 and certain notifications of 1878 and 1951 while Assam wants to go by the recommendations of the Churachand Committee which in turn has been rejected by Meghalaya. Joint surveys of the disputed border segments have been undertaken in part and the Chief Ministers of both the states are scheduled to meet again on August 6 at Guwahati to discuss ways to resolve the dispute.

**Arunachal Pradesh:** Arunachal's grievance is that the re-organisation of North Eastern states, unilaterally transferred several forested tracts in the plains that had traditionally belonged to hill tribal chiefs and communities to Assam. After Arunachal Pradesh achieved statehood in 1987, a tripartite committee was appointed which recommended that certain territories be transferred from Assam to Arunachal. Assam contested this and the matter is before the Supreme Court.

**Mizoram:** Prior to 2020, though a border dispute existed, the situation along the Assam-Mizoram border had remained relatively calm, barring a few instances in 1994 and in 2007. Following a border incident 2007, Mizoram declared that it does not accept the present boundary with Assam and that the inner line of the Inner Line Reserved Forest as described in the 1875 notification under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) of 1873 should be the basis for delineating the border and not the 1933 district boundary demarcation which Assam wants to be enforced.

Since Nagaland did not accept its notified borders, tensions between Assam and Nagaland flared up soon after the latter was formed, resulting in the first border clashes in 1965. This was followed by major clashes between the two states along the border in 1968, 1979, 1985, 2007 and 2014.

The Assam government had filed a case in the Supreme to resolve the border dispute and for a permanent injunction restraining Nagaland from encroaching areas within the constitutional boundary of Assam. In 2005, the Supreme Court instructed the Central government to constitute a boundary commission to settle various inter-state boundary problems in the North East.

The Centre had earlier constituted two commissions, the Sundaram Commission (1971) and the Shastri Commission (1985), to settle the Assam-Nagaland border dispute. These commissions, however, failed to resolve the matter as the concerned states did not accept their recommendations.

**Inter-state borders:** Assam-Arunachal Pradesh: 804.1 km bordering eight districts of Udalguri, Sonitpur, Biswanath, Lakhimpur, Dhemajai, Charaideo, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh.

**Assam-Mizoram:** The two states share a 164.6-km border between the Assam's districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj, and Mizoram's Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl districts.

**Assam-Nagaland:** The two states share 512.1 km bordering four districts of Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat and Golaghat.

**Assam-Meghalaya:** The two states share 884.9 km bordering West Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, Morigaon, Kamrup Metro, Kamrup Rural, Goalpara, Dhubri and South Salmara. PTI

### Inkishaf

## Why Public Service Guarantee Act Is In Deep Freezer In

People are deprived of on time services inspite of legislation guaranteeing time bound public services. Much of this has to do with the frozen status of Public

Watch to know more in this episode of Inkishaf on KASHMIR OBSERVER



**Wood Works**

**PERFECT PRODUCTS**  
BUILT TO LAST LONG...!

DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF FURNITURE BEDS, SOFA, CHAIRS, TABLES, DAY BEDS, WARDROBE AND MUCH MORE...

**FURNITURE** **COUCHES** **BED**

+91 9149606969 woodworksfurnituresrinagar wood\_works