



P5 STATE

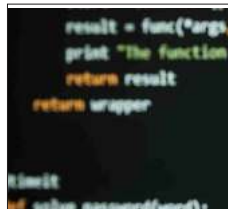
**REGION AT THE CROSSROADS, NEED TO SECURE A PROMISING FUTURE FOR US: DR FAROOQ**

A family of five had a miraculous escape during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday after their houseboat sank into river Jhelum in Srinagar.

P6 THINK

**PEGASUS: INSIDE THE PANOPTICON**

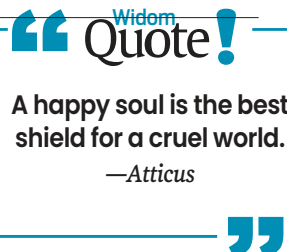
The allegations of governments spying on their citizens with Pegasus, a spyware developed by an Israeli firm, is an unwitting revelation of the bigotry of some of these nations. India's prime minister has claimed that democracy is an ancient tradition



P3 CITY

**DC SRINAGAR ORDERS MASSIVE RESHUFFLE OF PATWARIS**

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad has ordered transfer of 88 Patwaris and 5 other officials of district Srinagar.



## NEWS DIGEST

**J&K Sees 181 New Cases, 2 Deaths**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir recorded 118 fresh cases of the coronavirus on Monday, which took the tally to 3,21,725, while two more deaths pushed the toll to 4,381, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 72 were from the Jammu division and 46 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, they said. The officials said that Reasi district in the Jammu division recorded the highest number of **More On P10**

**Police Releases List Of 10 Wanted Militants**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday released a list of ten wanted militants, including seven old ones and three new recruits. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar told a local news agency KNO that a list of ten wanted militants is out. "They include Salim Paray, Yousuf Kantroo, Abbas Sheikh, Reyaz Shetargund, Farooq Nali, Zubair Wani and Ashraf Molvi who are all old ones while news ones are Saqib Manzoor, Umer Mustaq Khandey **More On P10**

**Rice Cookers Cause Bomb Scare**

**SRINAGAR:** Four unclaimed rice cookers triggered a bomb scare on Monday along the Gulmarg road in central Kashmir's Budgam district. According to reports, panic gripped Agrikalan locality of Magam along the Gulmarg resort road on Monday morning after four rice cookers were found lying unattended. The abandoned rice cookers triggered a security alert prompting police to call a Bomb Disposal **More On P10**

**Teen Drowns In Under Construction Pond**

**SRINAGAR:** A teenager on Monday slipped to death in an under construction pond in Sogam area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 16-year-old Abdul Rehman son of Zahoor Ahmad Lone fell into an under-construction pond in vicinity of GDC Sogam, reports said. A rescue operation was accordingly launched and after nearly an hour of strenuous efforts **More On P10**

**Pakistani Teen Held At Border**

**BHUJ:** A 15-year-old Pakistani boy was apprehended by the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel from near the international border at Khavda in Gujarat's Kutch district, officials said on Monday. The boy was detained around 11 am on Sunday after he crossed the fencing near the border pillar number 1099, they said. The boy hails from Sindh Sahichok in **More On P10**

## 4 Drones Spotted Over Jammu, Alert Sounded

Manhunt Launched To Nab Two Suspects In Army Fatigues

## Agencies

**JAMMU:** Four flying objects suspected to be drones were spotted in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, said police. The objects, one near an Army Camp were noticed on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday

Police sources said the four flying objects were spotted in the Bari Brahmana area of Samba district. "Police personnel did not fire at these as they were out of range, but the army was immediately alerted", sources said.

After confirmation from police about spotting these



Representation Photo

objects, security forces have been out on high alert in and around the area.

Meanwhile, two unidentified persons donning army fatigues fled the scene after

being intercepted by an army man in Jammu, official sources said Monday.

They said that around 3 PM two persons appeared at a barber shop in **More On P10**

## Civil, Military Officials Review Situation

## Press Trust Of India

## Kashmiris 'Considered Guilty Until Proven Innocent': Mehbooba

## Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday alleged that former Jammu and Kashmir police officer Davinder Singh, who was caught ferrying militants in a vehicle last year, was let off the hook by the Centre while innocent Kashmiris rot in jails for years under anti-terror laws.

Accusing the government of having double standards, Mehbooba Mufti said Kashmiris are "considered

guilty until proven innocent".

Mehbooba's remarks came after a copy of a government order dated May 20 dismissing Davinder Singh, a deputy superintendent of police, from service went viral on social media.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had ordered Davinder Singh's dismissal from service with "immediate effect" under Article 311 of the Constitution, according to the official order. This provision enables the government to withdraw presidential **More On P10**

## ....Muharram Processions

## J&K Govt Modifies Order, Ask DC's To Take Call

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The administration on Monday modified the earlier directions issued regarding the Muharram processions / gatherings stating that appropriate decisions for suitable action will be taken by the District Magistrates' in consultation with police, health and other stakeholders.

In a fresh directions issued by

the Divisional Administration Kashmir, which reads that a meeting regarding the commencement of Muharram was held on 14-07-2021 with regard to arrangements to be put in place by various departments—water supply, power facility, health, sanitation etc.

"According to the earlier review meeting held earlier on 14-07-2021, which also added that the meeting **More On P10**

## MPs Panel To Discuss Srinagar Metro Project

## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The parliamentary panel on urban development will discuss the proposed metro rail projects for Srinagar and Jammu with officials during its five-day visit to J&K Union Territory.

Sources said that the panel headed by former UP Chief Minister and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal will discuss implementation of much-talked about metro rail projects for both capital cities of the Union Territory during its visit to J&K between August 20 to 25.

The committee of MPs will discuss the ambitious projects at a time when J&K is pushing for their approval and funding from the Government **More On P10**



A girl student crosses a wooden pathway to attend her tuition classes in the interiors of Dal Lake on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Slips In Sindh Create Cry For Water Guards In Ganderbal



## Sayima Dar

**GANDERBAL:** Inside a Kashmir-Kargil Highway tea shop packed with local talkers and non-local travellers, lecturer Nazir Mir, 38, is avoiding discussion on the "changing course" of Sindh, the

roaring canal flowing through his hometown.

With its fountain head lying in the Machoi Glacier, the 108-kilometer-long Sindh canal flows through Ganderbal and joins river Jhelum at Shadipora. **More On P10**

## Apni Party Mulls Resignation By Its DDC Members

JK Admin Failing To Empower Local Bodies: Bukhari

## Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, which was formed after the abrogation of Article 370 provisions in 2019, on Monday threatened that its District Development Council members will submit their resignations alleging that their work to assist people in remote areas was being hindered by the union territory administration.

Reminding the union territory administration of the promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on empowering local bodies, JKAP chief Altaf Bukhari said his council members were either not allowed to

function or their movement had been completely restricted.

"We are left with no other option but to resign because the UT administration is time and again failing us and not allowing us to deliver on the ground and provide relief to the people in remote villages. I do not wish to show false dreams to the people," Bukhari told PTI here.

The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party had won 15 seats on its symbol and independents supported by it bagged another 21 seats, taking its total to 36 out of the 280 across the union territory. Two more members from other parties had crossed over to it later. **More On P10**

## HC Seeks Govt's Response On Mushroom Growth Of News Portals

## Auqib Javeed

**SRINAGAR:** The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has sought response from the government over the mushroom growth of news agencies on social media especially the news portals which are involved in "circulating fake news".

The court of Chief Justice Pankaj Mishra and Justice Sanjay Dhar while hearing public interest litigation on the matter directed the respondents to file response specifically pointing out to provisions of law under such news portals if at all are required to be registered or licensed.

"And if so, whether the news portals are running with due

permission in accordance with law and whether any agency is examining the contents of the news circulated by these news portals," Court recorded.

The litigation filed through Counsel Shafkat Nazir by Jammu and Kashmir People's Forum-a non-governmental organization which works for the public cause submitted before court that there is a mushrooming growth of news agencies on social media especially the news portals which are involved in circulating fake news.

Advocate Nazir told Kashmir

Observer that a registered media house always does their job with utmost responsibility because they know they will have to answer for any wrongdoing.

"However, these portals aren't registered anywhere and aren't answerable to anyone, those with no ethics and morality have given a bad name to journalism," he told Kashmir Observer.

While pointing to the few incidents in which some "Facebook Journalist" showed the height of unprofessionalism, he said "Everyone know what happened in Chest Disease, hospital or in Kupwara, were **More On P10**

## J&K Among Top Performers In PMGSY: LG



## Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** Maintaining that Jammu and Kashmir was amongst the top performers in terms of achievements made under PMGSY, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday said that his administration was reaching out to unconnected habitations with road connectivity, besides augmenting the Power and water supply to connect every household in

the rural areas.

Sinha made these remarks during a meeting with Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh here on Monday, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said, discussed with the Union Minister important issues related to PMGSY for strengthening rural connectivity in J&K and various initiatives taken by the UT Government to improve **More On P10**

## Discusses NEP-2020 Implementation With Pradhan

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday discussed implementation of NEP-2020 and educational transformation happening in the Union Territory with Union Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan. According to an official spokesperson **More On P10**

**J&K IS AMONGST THE TOP PERFORMERS** in terms of achievements made under PMGSY. We are reaching out to unconnected habitations with road connectivity, besides augmenting the Power & water supply to connect every household in the rural areas."

## Education Dept Asks Vaccinated Staff To Attend Office

## Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday ordered all the vaccinated staff of the school education department to attend office.

The order has been issued by B K Singh, Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Department, following a detailed review on overall assessment of the situation pertaining to the spread of COVID-19 across J&K by the administration.

"There is significant improvement in the situation and need of further improvement in the interest of public health especially for students," reads the order.

While all schools including coaching centre(s) shall continue to remain closed for onsite or in-person teaching till further orders, all vaccinated staff shall attend Office, reads the order.

"Digital Education Programme(s) 'e-Vidyalaya-e-Gash' & (e-resources) of Ministry of Education, GoI, "anytime anywhere learning" in addition to Tele & Radio classes shall continue. A detailed survey report on impact of these classes shall be submitted weekly," the order reads, adding, "Community classes shall be taken regularly by academic staff including teachers as per prescribed guidelines in all feasible areas including Jammu and Kashmir Division." **More On P10**







To place an advertisement

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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

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**KASHMIR  
OBSERVER**

**Tuesday| 03-08-2021**

# Facebook developing AI, new ways to detect users under age 13

Agencies

Admitting that it is not easy to detect and remove accounts belonging to people under the age of 13, Facebook has said that it is looking at ways to convince people under age 13 to not lie about their age, including using the artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

Facebook and Instagram weren't designed for people under the age of 13, so the company is now creating new ways to stop those who are underage from signing up.

"We're developing AI to find and remove underage accounts, and new solutions to verify people's ages. We're also building new experiences designed specifically for those under 13," said Pavni Diwanji, VP of Youth Products at Facebook.

Facebook is also working with operating system (OS) providers, internet browsers and other providers so they can share information to help apps establish whether someone is of an appropriate age.

"Many argue that collecting ID is the answer to this industry problem, but there are significant limitations to this approach: many young people don't have an ID, ID collection isn't a fair or equitable solution, nor is it foolproof," the company said.

It said that access to government IDs varies depending on where you live in the world, as does the information contained in an ID such as a birthday.

"Some have access to IDs but don't get them unless they choose to travel, and some simply can't afford one. Indeed, lack of ID access disproportionately impacts underserved communities around the world, particularly young women," Facebook



mentioned. Currently, when people open Facebook apps to sign up for an account, they are asked for their birthday. This is called an age screen. But verifying someone's age is not as simple as it might sound. While age screens are common in our industry, young people can—and often do—get around them by misrepresenting their age.

"The reality is that they're already online, and with no foolproof way to stop people from misrepresenting their age, we want to build experiences designed specifically for them, managed by parents and guardians," Diwanji said in a statement.

This includes a new Instagram experience for tweens.

"We believe that encouraging them to use an experience that is age appropriate and managed by parents is the right path. It's going to take a village to make this experience compelling enough so that this age group wants to use it, but we're determined

to get it right," the company emphasised. Facebook has already developed a technology that allows it to estimate people's ages, like if someone is below or above 18.

"We look at things like people wishing you a happy birthday and the age written in those messages. We also look at the age you shared with us on Facebook and apply it to our other apps where you have linked your accounts and vice versa. So if you share your birthday with us on Facebook, we'll use the same for your linked account on Instagram," Diwanji explained.

The social network said that it is focused on using existing data to inform its artificial intelligence technology.

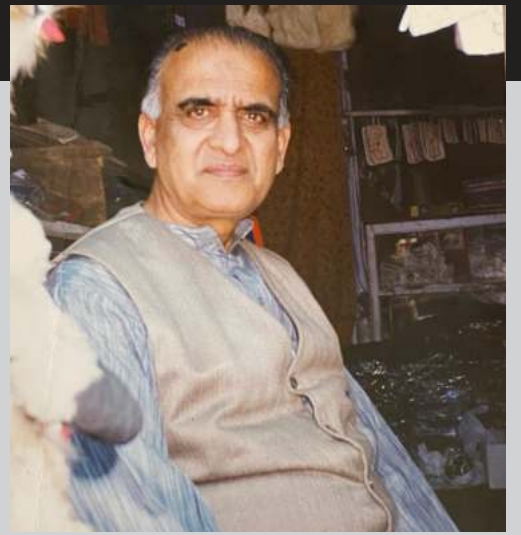
"Where we do feel we need more information, we're developing a menu of options for someone to prove their age. This is a work in progress and we'll have more to share in time," said Facebook.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

All we are and all we can ever be, will always be because of your irrevocable love. It has been a year since you left us but your warm smile has never left our sight. Your kindness and humanity continues to inspire each one of us .

May your soul rest in peace and may Allah grant you the highest place in Jannah.

**Parvez Ahmad Shah  
Imtiyaz Ahmad Shah**



## SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RIGHT RIVER WORKS DIVISION NOTICE

Following is the list of contractors who have either not started or left midway the works allotted to them despite repeated directions. As such these contractors are hereby debarred from participation in future tendering in Right River Works Division

SNO	NAME OF WORK	Allotted Cost in lacs	Name of the Contractor	Physical status of Work	Remarks
1	Construction of drain by way of laying of pipes from h/o M.Sidiq Balki to h/o Late Peer Hafizullah Balki at Dawood colony Souara behind SKIMS	2.20	Adil Amin Bhat S/o Mohammad Amin Bhat R/o Tujgari Mohalla Srinagar	(yet to start) 14TH F.C	Defaulter/Debarred
2	Construction of Mausoleum at Asthan Aliya Khajri Sahab Chandpora Jamia Masjid	3.48	Amir Bashir S/O Bashir Ahmad R/O Rainawari	Yet to Start (MY TOWN MY PRIDE)	Defaulter/Debarred
3	Reconstruction of L/D near the h/o M. Ismail Motta and Gh. M. Bhat near Govt Girls School Budgir Aailkadal	1.58	Bilal Surkha s/o Habib ullah surkha R/o Rainawari Srinagar	Left halfway (CAPEX - Rs25.00)	Defaulter/Debarred
4	Construction of R-Wall near the h/o Ab. Aziz Mir & Kerosene Depo. At Mallapora Kawdara	4.95	Bilal Surkha s/o Habib ullah surkha r/o Rainawari	(yet to start) Capex 25.00 lacs	Defaulter/Debarred
5	Construction of link lane from main road via h/o Ab. Majid Rather upto h/o Mohd Shamim Rather at Kreshbal	0.59	Bilal Surkha s/o Habib ullah surkha r/o Rainawari	(Left halfway) Capex 25.00 lacs	Defaulter/Debarred
6	Construction of lane from Masjid Sharief to h/o Muhammad Sidiq Bagwan at Bagwan Mohalla Jogilanker	2.90	Farooq Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Rehman Bhat R/o Gorpura Rainawari Srinagar	(Yet to start) 14TH F.C	Defaulter/Debarred
7	Development of Graveyard at Hazar Bazar Kaka Sahib Roz-bal belongs to Ali Mohd. Teli and others near Tanga House.	3.62	Farooq Ahmad Bhat S/O Abdul Rehman Bhat R/O Gorpura Rainawari Srinagar	Left halfway (MY TOWN MY PRIDE)	Defaulter/Debarred
8	Construction of lane drain from Manzoor Ahmad Qadri to M. Abdullah at Umar Colony B near Rehmania Masjid	2.44	Ishfaq Shafi S/o Mohammad Shafi Bakhroo R/o Rainawari Srinagar	Yet to start (25.00 lacs out of CAPEX)	Defaulter/Debarred
9	Construction of pipe drain near the h/o Nisar Ali, Syed Rafiq and others at Madeen Sahib	1.21	Mohammad Shahid Malla S/o Gh. Mohammad Malla R/o Safa Kadal	(yet to start) Capex 25.00 lacs	Defaulter/Debarred
10	Constt. Of washroom near Haft Sadat Masjid at Ziyarat Mukhdoom Sahib RA Shrine	3.22	Mohd.Mushtaq s/o Abdul gani R/o motiyar rainawari	Left halfway (14th F.C)	Defaulter/Debarred
11	Constt. Of allied works at Ziyarat Mukhdoom Sahib RA shrine to check all dog entry points.	7.14	Mudasir Ahmad Pahloo s/o Mohd. Ismail Pahloo R/O Basant Bagh	Left halfway (14th F.C)	Defaulter/Debarred
12	Constt. Of spetic tank, soakage pit and retaining wall near h/o Shabir Ahmad Qazi Noor Mohd Shaikh late BM Baangla and Nazir Ahmad at Gulshan Mohalla Bachi Darwaza Mukhdoom Sahib.	6.21	Mudasir Ahmad Pahloo s/o Mohd. Ismail Pahloo R/O Basant Bagh	Left halfway (14th F.C)	Defaulter/Debarred
13	Const. of tile path from H/o M.maqbool,Fida Husain and others at Gunchoo Mohalla locut dal	1.83	nadeem bashir S/o Bashir Ahmad Batkoo R/o KokerBazar Srinagar	(Yet to start) 25.00 LACS OUT OF CAPEX	Defaulter/Debarred
14	Development of Qadir Shah Graveyard at New Colony Arampora Nawa Kadal	5.50	Naseer Ahmad Dar S/o Mohd Abbas Dar R/o Peerbagh Srinagar	(Yet to start) Capex 25.00 lacs	Defaulter/Debarred
15	Construction of protection bund to the graveyard of Kukuloo Mohalla at Wantpora near School Gousia	2.92	Parveez Ahmad Raina S/o Late Ab. Aziz Raina R/o Zaindar Mohalla	(yet to start) 14th F.C	Defaulter/Debarred
16	Const. of waza shed at Tabardar Mohalla Khanyar with park development main road Baba Demb near Furniture Shop.	0.76	Shahnawaz Gul S/O Ghulam Mohd. R/O Rawalpura	left halfway (MY TOWN MY PRIDE)	Defaulter/Debarred
17	WARD NO 53 Tarbal Construction of lane drain near the H/o Zahoor Ahmad Mir and Nazir Ahmad Kumar at Mirjam Pora Nawakadal	1.85	Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad S/o Ab. Gani Sheikh R/o Green view colony Alochi Bagh	(Yet to start) 14th F.C	Defaulter/Debarred
18	Construction of retaining wall near Ali Mohammad Baba and others at Zaripora Zoonimar	3.55	Showkat Ahmad Baghwan S/o Gh. Hassan R/o Gousia Colony Babademb Khanyar	(yet to start) Capex 25.00 lacs	Defaulter/Debarred
19	Raising of 1st floor & renovation of old structure of Imambara Sheeshgari Mohalla Khanyar	32.90	M/s Bhat Constructions Prop. Aijaz Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Salam Bhat R/o Batamaloo Srinagar.	Dispute Resolved (14th F.C)	Defaulter/Debarred
20	Construction of lane at Mughal Imambara to Pump station Ganie Doori Hawal	2.93	Mohammad Ayoob Ganie S/o Mohammad Sultan R/o Dadi Kadal Srinagar	(yet to start) My Town My pride	Defaulter/Debarred
21	Construction of lane drain from h/o Nazir Ahmad Dar via h/o Ghulam Qadir Thakur at Doulatabad Khanyar	2.45	Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie S/o Mohammad Sultan Ganie R/o Habba Kadal Srinagar	(yet to start) My Town My pride	Defaulter/Debarred

NO. SMC/EEERRWD/1101-05.  
Dated: 29.07.2021

**DIPK-NB-2190/21**

Executive Engineer,  
Right River Works Division  
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

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

website:<http://jkpsc.nic.in>  
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**Subject :- Interview Notice for the post of Consultant, Gynae & Obsts in Health & Medical Education Department, notified vide Notification No. 12-PSC of 2019 dated 01-10-2019.**

**NOTICE  
Dated: 31-7-2021**

In continuation to the Notice dated 20-07-2021 regarding interview for the post of Consultant, Gynae & Obsts in Health & Medical Education Department, notified vide Notification No. 12-PSC of 2019 dated 01-10-2019, the following candidates have also been found eligible and accordingly called for interview on 11-08-2021 at 09:00 AM, at J&K Public Service Commission Office, Solina, Srinagar.

S. No	Name of the candidate
01	Dr. Isha Sunil
02	Dr. Shivani Goswami

**Note:**

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

NO: PSC/DR/Consultant/Gynae& Obsts/2019  
DATED 31-07-2021

**DIPK-5685/21**

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

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KATRA SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 24 of 2021-22 Dated 30-07-2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (in lacs)	Cost of document (in )	Earnest Money (in )	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Link Road from Dhirti to Kheral via NIA in Km 1st RD (0-600) taking off from Panthal Jhajjar Road in Km 11th RD (50-75) Under State Plan 2021-22.	PWD (R&B) Division Katra	9.64	600/-	Bid Security Declaration on notarized affidavit	60 Days	14-08-2021	C & D
2	Construction of approach Road to Railway Station Katra L=1.675 KM (by way of construction of 1.50 mtr span box type culvert at Sarswati Chowk RD 750-775 (Under State Capex Budget 2021-22)	PWD (R&B) Division Katra	11.52	600/-	Bid Security Declaration on notarized affidavit	60 Days	14-08-2021	B, C & D
3	Construction of road from main road to Sherpur Gunni S.C Mohalla. (Under State Plan 2021-22)	PWD (R&B) Division Katra	14.55	600/-	Bid Security Declaration on notarized affidavit	60 Days	14-08-2021	B, C & D

Position of AAA :- Accorded  
Position of T.S :- Accorded  
Position of funds :- Available  
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 <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :

1. Date of publishing of Tender Notice	30-07-2021
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 31-07-2021: 0900 Hrs. to 13-08-2021, 1800 Hrs
4. Bid submission Start Date	31-07-2021 : 0900 Hrs.
5. Bid Submission End Date	13-08-2021 up to 1800 Hrs
6. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	14-08-2021 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Katra.
7. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Katra uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt. Bid Security Declaration as mentioned in the bid documents. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, Bid Security Declaration on the notarized affidavit and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Katra at the time of award of contract.

2. The date and time of opening of Financial-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 Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Katra. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.  
4. The bidder shall be disqualified from bidding for any contract with this office for a period of 03 Years from the date of notification, if :-  
a) 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.  
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.  
c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

5. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.  
6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) into acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

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

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.  
8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Katra uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt and Bid Security Declaration on the notarized affidavit as per the format mentioned in the e-NIT/SBD must be uploaded with the technical documents of the bid.

9. Bidders may contact office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department, Jammu or concerned Executive Engineer for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

11. The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work unless otherwise, specified.

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

No:- 2246-53  
Dated :-30-07-2021

**DIPK-5633/21**

SD/  
(Er. Arvind Gupta)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Katra



## JKHARA Appreciates JKTDc On Launch Of Floating Restaurant In Dal Lake

Srinagar: Jammu Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Association (JKHARA) President Showkat Chowdhary Monday lauded Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC) on the launch of floating restaurant in Dal lake.

Nestled on the foothills of the Zabarwan Range of the Himalayas, the lake offers some breath-taking views and draws visitors from all over the world.

Apart from Shikara ride and houseboat stay, tourists will therefore, take an instant liking to a relatively new concept the float-

ing restaurant.

Appreciating Nisar Ahmad Wani MD JKTDC and his team, for equipping this restaurant with all kinds of hi-tech modern gadgetry including safety gear like rescue boats, ambulance, two washrooms and a scientifically managed kitchen to provide hygienically prepared food and beverages.

"The floating restaurant is going to be the first of its kind in Kashmir and will give a feel of cruise experience to the guests onboard, added Chowdhary"

## Hashmat Khan Leads Cleanliness Drive From Circuit House

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A special cleanliness drive was launched at Hospitality & Protocol under the guidance and active participation of Director General Hospitality & Protocol Hashmat Ali Khan, KAS.

The drive which is a prelude to 76th Independence Day began from the Circuit House, Church Lane culminating in State Guest Houses witnessed

nessed the participation of Joint Director Hospitality & Protocol Kashmir Reyaz Malik, KAS who informed that a fortnightly calendar has been charted out for carrying out the Swachhta Pakhwada in all the houses and properties of Hospitality & Protocol viz Circuit House, State Guest Houses, Joint director Office, DG's Office, Hari Niwas Guest House, Chashma Shahi Guest House etc as per the government directions



participation of a large number of officials in addition to the sanitation staff of the department.

Speaking on the occasion, Khan who led the drive with a broom in hand motivated all the staff of the department to inculcate cleanliness and raise the aesthetic value of premises, thereby leading to increased comfort and satisfaction of all the guests. He further explained that such drills also imbibe the notion of calling and better coordination between staff and better work atmosphere. He encouraged them to present the best possible services and image of the department to the guests as it is the first and last impression that the guests carry with them.

The event also wit-

which will witness the participation of all the officials and imbibe in them the spirit of cleanliness which is of paramount importance especially in times of pandemic like Covid. He exhorted all the staff to improve cleanliness not only in the official premises but also in and around their houses and localities.

Others who participated in the drive included Assistant Director Central Muneeb Umar, Accounts Officer Dr Anand Thakur Sen, Assistant Director Kashmir Saadat Iqbal and all the officials of Hospitality & Protocol. The drive ended with commitment to follow carry out with same zeal and enthusiasm in all the premises for the whole year.

**The drive which is a prelude to 76th Independence Day began from the Circuit House, Church Lane culminating in State Guest Houses witnessed participation of a large number of officials in addition to the sanitation staff of the department.**

## DSEK Organises Daylong 'Professional Development Programme' For Teachers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of School Education Kashmir in collaboration with Chinara International Srinagar Monday organised a day long 'Professional Development Programme' for teachers.

As many as 30 teachers from 30 Model Schools of district Ganderbal, Budgam and Srinagar participated in the programme.

The Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. Tassaduq Husain Mir who was also the Chief Guest on the occasion said that continuous professional development of teachers is an indispensable exercise which enables the teachers to upgrade their professional skills.

He said that Covid-19 has posed several challenges before teachers and such programmes will surely help the them to bridge the teaching-learning gaps developed due to prolonged Covid-19 lockdown.

Rubina Majid, the CEO of Learning Resource Centre Hyderabad (Teacher Trainer) in her hour long presentation said that continuous professional development of teachers in present times works as catalyst for achieving desired learning outcomes in the class room.

She gave a detailed presentation on teaching learning techniques and also attended to the queries raised by teachers during the programme.

Earlier Chief Education Officer, Manzoor Ahmad welcomed the guest speakers and the participants for being the part of the programme.

Deputy Chief Education Officer Srinagar, Raja Anjum reiterated the importance of implementation of new trends and techniques in classrooms.

The Programme ended with the vote of thanks presented by Nusrat Bukhari Principal Girls Higher Secondary School Kothibagh.

The programme was also attended by OSD Cultural Education Wing DSEK Syed Mansoor Ahmad Qadri and Qaiser Ahmad Educational Consultant Chinara International Srinagar.



A girl uses a bucket as sunshield while passing through a wooden bridge in the interiors of Dal Lake on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## DC Srinagar Orders Massive Reshuffle Of Patwaris

### 93 Officials Transferred

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad has ordered transfer of 88 Patwaris and 5 other officials of district Srinagar.

An order vide No. 21-DCS of 2021 has been issued Monday in this regard. All the transferred

Patwaris had a mature stay. Some of the transferred officials were serving at their present places of posting for the last 8-10 years.

According to the office of district administration Srinagar the step has been taken to revamp the revenue administration at cut-

ting edge level in the district.

Pertinently, the DC has already asked all the revenue functionaries to work with utmost commitment with a people friendly approach. He has further instructed the revenue staff that the performance of all the employees

## Illahi Bagh Residents Demand Macadamisation Of Roads

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The residents of Sheesh Bagh area of Illahi Bagh Srinagar accused the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) of ignoring their plight and demanded immediate redressal of their grievances.

The residents said the lanes in their area are in dilapidated

conditions and are giving tough time to the residents.

"The lanes in our locality have developed potholes and have not been macadamised from the last seven years. Whenever it rains, the muddy water adds to the miseries of the commuters as well as the pedestrians," they said.

According to officials from SMC, the estimation for the renovation of the lane has already been finalised, but the work has not been started yet, thus leaving the local residents to lurch.

The locals appealed the concerned authorities to look into the matter and ensure that the lanes are macadamised at an earliest.

## Cleanliness Drive Initiated At Agriculture Complex Lalmandi

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Monday inaugurated Cleanliness drive (Swachhta Pakhwada) at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi.

The Pakhwada is being celebrated from 1st of August to 15th of August 2021. During this 15 days drive the cleanliness campaign will be conducted in all the departmental offices throughout the Valley.

During today's event while participating in the cleanliness drive the Director highlighted the importance of cleanliness amid Covid-19 scenario. He impressed upon the employees working in Directorate of Agriculture and its subordinate offices to promote cleanliness to keep the environment clean.



He said that cleanliness is the best service to mankind and 'Swachhta hi Sewa' should be the driving force while performing the day to day professional duties. He asked the employees of the department to maximise the benefit of Swachta Pakhwada so that a clean hygienic working atmosphere could be

created.

Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Joint Director Inputs, Joint Director Marketing, Joint Director Farms, Joint Director Mushroom and Apiculture, Deputy Director Agriculture Central besides all officers and officials participated in the campaign.

## Musical Evening At Kashmir Haat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an ongoing Craft Mela at Kashmir Haat, Artists from Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information and Public Relation and some young folk music groups mesmerised a huge gathering present at Kashmir Haat (Numaish Gah) Srinagar.

Locals and visitors while enjoying the traditional Kashmiri music thanked Handicrafts and Handloom Department and DIPR's Cultural Unit for organising the daily musical programs. The musical evening besides entertaining the people has provided a platform to upcoming folk singers of Kashmir.

Director Handicrafts and Handlooms, Mehmood Ahmed Shah applauded the artists of Cultural Unit Srinagar, especially Cultural Officer Tawheed Ahmad Mir and AECO Syed Shakeel Shan for arranging the melodious musical evenings which has been an impressive tool for increasing footfall.

### DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
23 Zil Haj  
1442

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 04
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:30
Magrib	7:34
ISHA	9:06

## This Day In History

- 1940 - Lithuanian SSR is accepted into USSR
- 1941 - German troops conquer Rostov USSR
- 1944 - Allied troops under Lt-Gen Joseph Stilwell take Myitkyina, Burma
- 1960 - Niger gains independence from France
- 1967 - 45,000 US soldiers sent to Vietnam
- 1970 - Hurricane "Celia" becomes most expensive Gulf storm in history
- 1972 - British premier Edward Heath proclaims emergency crisis due to dock strike
- 1972 - U.S. Senate ratifies the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.
- 1973 - Flash fire kills 51 at amusement park (Isle of Man, UK)
- 1975 - 500 drown when 2 river boats collide & sink in China's West River
- 1975 - Louisiana Superdome is dedicated
- 1981 - 13,000 Air Traffic Controllers (PATCO) begin their strike; US President Ronald Reagan offers ultimatum to workers: 'if they do not report for work within 48 hours, they have forfeited their jobs and will be terminated'
- 1984 - Bomb attack on Madras India airport, 32 killed
- 1985 - Train crash at Flaujac, France: 35 killed
- 1987 - Discovery in Orbital Processing Facility is powered up for STS-26
- 1990 - Radio Kuwait resigns air, due to Iraqi invasion
- 1990 - US announces commitment of Naval forces to Gulf regions
- 1994 - 1st Jordanian plane to fly over Israeli airspace (King Hussein pilot)
- 2001 - US President George W. Bush signs into law the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) Extension Act of 2001
- 2004 - The pedestal of the Statue of Liberty reopens after being closed since the September 11, 2001 attacks.
- 2005 - President Maouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya of Mauritania is overthrown in a military coup while attending the funeral of King Fahd in Saudi Arabia.
- 2012 - United Nations General Assembly reproaches The United Nations Security Council over its lack of action in Syria
- 2013 - 9 children are killed by a suicide bombing in Jalalabad, Afghanistan
- 2013 - 80 people are killed in a wave of insurgency across Iraq
- 2014 - At least 13 Palestinians reported killed in ongoing air raids and tank shelling by Israel
- 2015 - US President Obama unveils his Clean Power Plan to cut greenhouse gases

*From KO Archives*

## Leave constitution, talk humanitarian: PM

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - The prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, today asked all the militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir to come forward for talks with the Centre. While rejecting the possibility of Pakistan's involvement in the peace process initiated with the Hizbul Mujahideen, he, however, made a significant departure from the oft-imposed rider of holding talks within the, frame work of Indian constitution.

"Our doors are open. I appeal to all militant groups and organisations, which believe in peace, to join the centre's efforts for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue," Vajpayee told media persons here after leading a delegation of major political parties at Pahalgam.

Asked whether Pakistan would be invited to form part of the peace process, Vajpayee said, there is no question of Pakistan's involvement." Holding Islamabad responsible for the killings, he said the absence of unequivocal condemnation by Pakistan makes it all the more a suspect Pakistan must come clean as its silence on the massacres would further affect the bilateral dialogue process.

Asked whether the talks would be strictly within the framework of the constitution, Vajpayee said, "Leave the constitution. Talks should be held on humanitarian considerations that violence is stopped and no more blood is shed."

To a question whether lapses insecurity led to the killings, he said the government would order an internal inquiry to find out the reasons behind the orgy of violence. Vajpayee was accompanied by union ministers George Fernandes and Mamata Banerjee, Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her party colleague Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mulyam Singh Yadav (Samajwadi Party), Somnath Chatterjee (CPI-M), K Yerran Naidu (TDP) and Kanshi Ram (BSP). Vajpayee, who was accompanied by Jammu and Kashmir governor G.C. Saxena and chief minister Farooq Abdullah, termed as ridiculous allegation by Pakistan about the involvement of Indian security forces in the killing and rejected the possibility of instituting a judicial inquiry on the issue. The involvement of Pakistan-based Lashker-e-Taiba have been proved beyond doubt other than Hizb-ul-Mujahideen being unhappy over the peace process initiated by the centre.

Maintaining that Islamabad must unequivocally condemn the massacres, Vajpayee made it clear that violence and peace talks cannot go together. Nothing can be achieved through killings. He said if General Musharraf continued to maintain silence, then the future of resumption of bilateral parleys would become even more difficult. To a question on the issue of autonomy, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, who was present the Vajpayee's press conference, said we are talking with the centre on the issue.

(Kashmir Observer, August 03, 2000)



## Afghanistan: Ghani Blames ‘Abrupt’ US Exit for Worsening Security



Agenceis

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani has blamed the country's deteriorating security on the United States deciding "abruptly" to withdraw its troops.

Presenting his security plan before Parliament on Monday, Ghani said the situation in the war-torn nation will be "under control within six months", adding that the US has pledged its full support.

"The reason for our current situation is that the decision was taken abruptly," he told Parliament, adding he had warned Washington the withdrawal would have "consequences".

The president added that "protection of the people" is a duty he will maintain.

"His time is over, God willing" In response, the Taliban group released a statement to the media, calling Ghani's statements "nonsense" and saying "his time is over".

"He was trying to control his own bad [mental] state and mis-

takes," said the statement.

"The nation has decided to prosecute the national traitors and bring them to justice. Declarations of war, making accusations and providing false information cannot prolong Ghani's life," it said.

"His time is over, God willing." For months, the Taliban's rapid territorial gains during the final stages of the US military withdrawal have largely been in sparsely populated rural areas.

But in recent weeks, it has brought increasing pressure on provincial capitals and seized key border crossings. The capture of any major urban centre would take their current offensive to another level and fuel concerns that the army is incapable of resisting the Taliban's advances.

The government has repeatedly dismissed the group's steady gains over the summer as lacking strategic value but has largely failed to reverse their momentum on the battlefield. The Taliban has seized Afghan cities in the past but has managed to retain them only briefly.

## Iran: Any Adventurism Will Be Met With Immediate, Crushing Response



Iran on Monday vowed to respond to any "adventurism" after the US and Britain joined Israel in blaming Tehran for a deadly tanker attack on an Israeli owned ship in Oman Sea.

The MT Mercer Street, managed by prominent Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer, was attacked on Thursday off Oman reportedly by a sophisticated kamikaze drone.

A security guard and a crew member were killed.

Israel blamed Iran for the attack, accusations rejected by Tehran.

The US and Britain later blamed Iran for the attack, with Washington vowing an "appropriate response".

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman said Monday that Israel "must stop such baseless accusations".

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will not hesitate, even for a moment, to defend its security and national interests, and will answer any possible adventurism with immediate, powerful and serious action," he told reporters.

Noting that Iran is always ready to work with regional countries to provide maritime security, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said,

"Tehran considers the presence and interventions by trans-regional forces in the Persian Gulf waters and its littoral countries as detrimental to regional stability and security."

He dismissed US and Britain's statements as "contradictory", and said "if they have any evidence to support their baseless claims they should provide them".

Iran also accused them of effectively supporting "terrorist attacks against and sabotage of Iran's commercial ships" through their "silence".

There have been several recent reported attacks on Iranian ships that Tehran has linked to Israel.

In March, Iran said it was "considering all options" after an attack on a cargo ship in the Mediterranean, that it blamed on Israel.

In April, Tehran said its freighter Saviz was hit by an "explosion" in the Red Sea, after media reports said Israel had targeted the ship.

The New York Times reported at the time that this was an Israeli "retaliatory" attack, after "Iran's earlier strikes on Israeli ships".

Iran has also accused Israel of sabotaging its nuclear sites and killing a number of its scientists.

## Delta Spreads 'Like Wildfire' As Doctors Study Whether It Makes Patients Sicker



Agenceis

With a new wave of Covid-19 infections fuelled by the Delta variant striking countries worldwide, disease experts are scrambling to learn whether the latest version of coronavirus is making people - mainly the unvaccinated - sicker than before.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention warned that Delta, first identified in India and now dominant worldwide, is "likely more severe" than earlier versions of the virus, according to an internal report made public on Friday.

The agency cited research in Canada, Singapore and Scotland showing that people infected with the Delta variant were more likely to be hospitalized than patients earlier in the pandemic.

In interviews with Reuters, disease experts said the three papers suggest a greater risk from the variant, but the study populations are limited, and the findings have not yet been reviewed by outside experts. Doctors treating patients infected with Delta described a more rapid onset of Covid-19 symptoms, and in many regions an overall increase serious case.

But the experts said more work is needed to compare outcomes among larger numbers of individuals in epidemiologic studies to sort out whether one variant causes more severe disease than another.

"It's difficult to pin down increase in severity and population bias," said Lawrence Young, a virologist at the UK's Warwick Medical School.

In addition, it is likely that the extraordinary rate of Delta transmission is also contributing to a greater number of severe cases arriving at hospitals, the experts said.

Delta is as contagious as chickenpox and far more contagious than the common cold or flu, according to the CDC report.

Shane Crotty, a virologist at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology in San Diego, said the clearest indication that the variant may cause more severe disease comes from the Scotland study, which found that Delta roughly doubled the risk of hospitalization compared to an earlier version.

The majority of hospitalizations and deaths from coronavirus in the United States are occurring in people who have not been vaccinated. But there is evidence that the shots are less effective in people with compromised immune systems, including the elderly. For vaccinated, otherwise healthy individuals, the odds are that if they contract COVID-19 they will only experience asymptomatic or mild disease, said Dr Gregory Poland, infectious disease expert at the Mayo Clinic.

"But they can pass it on to family members and others who may not be so lucky," Poland said. "We have to be vaccinated and masked or we will, for the fourth time now, endure another surge and out of that will come worse variants."

### 'Full-on flames'

The rate of severe illness, especially in regions where vaccination rates are low, is again straining

healthcare workers on the front lines of the pandemic.

"This is like a wildfire; this is not a smouldering campfire. It is full-on flames right now," said Dr Michelle Barron, senior medical director of infection prevention and control at Colorado's UHealth.

Research from China suggesting that the Delta variant replicates much faster and generates 1,000 times more virus in the body compared to the original strain highlights the biggest danger of this new wave, Barron said.

"It is hard to tell if they are more sick because of the Delta variant or if they would have been more sick anyway," she said.

Other doctors said patients infected with Delta appear to become ill more quickly, and in some cases with more severe symptoms, than those they treated earlier in the pandemic.

"We are seeing more patients requiring oxygen sooner," said Dr Benjamin Barlow, chief medical officer at American Family Care, a 28-state chain of urgent care clinics.

At his clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, Barlow said that around 20% of patients are testing positive for Covid-19, compared with 2-3% a few weeks ago. Patients are assessed at that time for potential hospital admission and oxygen support.

David Montefiori, director of the Laboratory for AIDS Vaccine Research and Development at Duke University Medical Centre, said the Delta variant is more infectious and leads to faster onset of illness - particularly for the unvaccinated.

## Millions Under COVID-19 Lockdown As China Battles Delta Variant Outbreak

Agenceis

BEIJING: Millions of people were confined to their homes in China Monday as the country tried to contain its largest coronavirus outbreak in months including seven positive tests found in Wuhan, where the virus first emerged in late 2019.

China reported 55 new locally transmitted cases on Monday as an outbreak of the fast-spreading Delta variant reached over 20 cities in more than a dozen provinces.

The Wuhan cluster came after the official daily tally was released, but it was confirmed by state media which said the infections had been traced to a train station.

"The seven were identified as migrant workers," Xinhua reported, citing Covid-19 prevention and control officials.

Major cities including Beijing have now tested millions of residents while cordoning off residential compounds and placing close contacts under quarantine.

Authorities in the capital met and agreed on the need to "raise vigilance, take strict precautions and defend (the city) to the death, sparing no expense," in comments put out by the Beijing government.

Elsewhere, over 1.2 million residents were placed under strict lockdown for the next three days in the central city of Zhuzhou in Hunan province Monday, as authorities roll out a citywide testing and vaccination campaign, according to an official statement.

"The situation is still grim and complicated," the Zhuzhou government said.

China had previously boasted

of its success in bringing domestic cases down to virtually zero after the coronavirus first emerged in Wuhan, allowing the economy to rebound.

But the latest outbreak, linked to a cluster in the city of Nanjing where nine cleaners at an international airport tested positive on July 20, is threatening that success with more than 360 domestic cases reported in the past two weeks.

In the tourist destination of Zhangjiajie, famed for its national forest park, an outbreak spread last month among theatre patrons who then brought the virus back to their homes around the country.

Zhangjiajie locked down all 1.5 million residents on Friday.

Officials are urgently seeking people who have recently travelled from Nanjing or Zhangjiajie, and have urged tourists not to travel to areas where cases have been found.

Meanwhile, Beijing has blocked tourists from entering the capital during the peak summer holiday travel season.

Only "essential travellers" with negative nucleic acid tests will be allowed to enter after the discovery of a handful of cases among residents who had returned from Zhangjiajie.

Top city officials on Sunday called for residents "not to leave Beijing unless necessary".

The capital's Changping district locked down 41,000 people in nine housing communities last week. Fresh cases were also reported on Monday in the popular tourist destination of Hainan as well as in flood-ravaged Henan province, national health authorities said.

## Wildfires Cause Further Devastation In Turkey, Greece

Agenceis

The death toll from six straight days of wildfires in Turkey has risen to eight, while in neighbouring Greece, firefighters were attempting to contain a blaze that has destroyed houses and hospitalised more than a dozen people.

The Turkish fires have been fuelled by a southern European heatwave fed by hot air from North Africa, which has also seen chaos grip other parts of the Mediterranean in recent days.

Experts have warned that climate change is increasing both the frequency and intensity of wildfires.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis warned on Monday that Greece is suffering its worst heatwave since 1987 as forecasters said temperatures could reach 45 degrees in the coming days.

The intense heat has helped fan wildfires that have destroyed more than 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) of pine and olive groves in the country's west since Saturday.

Elsewhere in Europe, more than 800 flare-ups were recorded over the weekend in Italy, mainly in the south, the country's fire brigade said. A second straight day of wildfires in Sicily on Saturday forced people to leave their homes and saw the local Catania airport temporarily shut down.

In Spain, firefighters backed by waterbomber aircraft battled a wildfire that broke out Saturday near the San Juan reservoir, about 70km (40 miles) east of Madrid. That blaze was stabilised overnight but authorities urged people to stay away from the reservoir, a popular bathing spot for residents of the Spanish capital.

Chandra Bhushan, chief ex-

ecutive officer of the non-profit International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST) research organisation, said the wildfires were linked with extreme temperatures, a longer drought period, a low level of humidity and high wind speeds.

"There are climatic conditions being created which are so favourable for wildfires, that is why you are seeing all these incidents happening in the Mediterranean region," Bhushan told Al Jazeera.

"And all of them can be linked to climate change."

Turkey

In Turkey, two people died on Sunday in the Mediterranean coastal city of Manavgat, raising the town's death toll to at least seven, Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca said.

In recent days, at least one person has also died in Marmaris.

Twenty-seven people were still being treated in hospitals in impacted areas, while thousands have been evacuated from their homes.

Scores of fires across several provinces on Turkey's Aegean and Mediterranean coasts broke out last Wednesday, fanned by strong winds and scorching temperatures.

While the majority have been extinguished, responders were still tackling seven blazes in the coastal provinces of Antalya and Mugla - popular tourist areas, and in Tunceli, southeast Turkey.

Many villagers have lost properties and farm animals, while locals and tourists have fled vacation resorts in boats.

The wildfires are the worst of their kind in at least a decade, with nearly 95,000 hectares (235,000 acres) burned so far this year, compared with an average of 13,516 at the same point in the years between 2008 and 2020.

## Petraeus: US Has Abandoned Afghanistan To Civil War

Agenceis

LONDON: America has deserted its responsibility to protect rights and freedoms in Afghanistan, Gen. David Petraeus, the former US commander in the country, has told The Times.

With the Taliban rapidly sweeping up territories that were until recently defended by US-led coalition troops, Petraeus warned that a "medieval Islamist regime" and the return of terror-training safe havens are a realistic possibility. Tens of thousands of Afghans have already started fleeing their homes as the Taliban start to take ground around Kandahar, the country's second city.

"The rest of the world will see that we are not supporting democracy or maintaining the values that we promote around the world - human rights, particularly women's rights, the right to education and freedom of speech and press - all very imperfect in Afghanistan, to be sure, but vastly better than if the Taliban reinstates a medieval Islamist regime," Petraeus said.

"The worst-case scenario is we could see a bloody, brutal civil war similar to that of the 1990s when the Taliban prevailed," he added.

"If that were to happen we would likely see the return of an Al-Qaeda sanctuary, although I don't think Al-Qaeda would be able to threaten the homeland and Europe in the near-term. And certainly, our intelligence services and military will be watching for that."

"But it would be easier for Al-Qaeda if the Taliban seize control. We would see millions of refugees flooding into Pakistan and other neighboring countries. If the Taliban do take control we will see dramatic reductions in freedoms for Afghan citizens, particularly women. I don't think this is what the world wants to see."

Petraeus said he is shocked by how Washington is closing down its military operations in Afghanistan.

"If we had shown the determination and will to stay, we would have been in a much stronger negotiating position with the Taliban. But if we tell the enemy we are going to leave, why would

they give up anything?

"I am a little bit unclear why we didn't think we could maintain 3,500 troops to stop the Taliban from bringing back an ultraconservative Islamist theocracy, which is not in anyone's interest."

Petraeus added: "The war will go on and will get much worse. Ryan Crocker (Washington's envoy to Kabul between 2011 and 2012) once said you can get tired of a movie and leave the theater but the movie continues to roll on. We forced the Afghan government to release thousands of Taliban prisoners, and got little or nothing for it. But if we had 3,500 troops there to maintain situational awareness and help our Afghan partners, we would have been in a position to prevent the Taliban from bringing civil war to the country."

Petraeus contrasted the Afghanistan policy with the US approach to Iraq, where Washington has retained a small deployment of some 2,500 troops in an advisory role.

"But they can at least help the Iraqi security forces keep an eye on the in-

urgent and terrorist cell remnants of the Islamic State (Daesh)," he said.

The continued presence of US forces in Iraq is undergoing examination by military planners in Washington.

The US has been launching airstrikes via fast jets and unmanned Reaper drones in support of Afghan forces. The drones take eight hours to travel to their targets from their airstrip in the Gulf.

Fighter jets launching sorties originate from Qatar, the UAE, and an aircraft carrier off the coast of Pakistan.

"The US may try to continue providing air support. But, to do that, it would have been wiser to keep Bagram and Kandahar air bases. Now, we have to fly from the Gulf, we can't fly over Iran, so we have to go over southwest Pakistan. We're not going to get a base in Pakistan," Petraeus said.

"What will happen next depends most importantly on what the US will do to enable the Afghan air force to continue flying. The Afghan air force requires highly trained mechanics and supply chains and logistical support or they will not be operationally capable,"

## Ismail Haniyeh Re-Elected As Leader Of Palestinian Islamist Group Hamas

Agenceis

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh has been re-elected unopposed, officials confirmed Monday, furthering his grip over the Palestinian Islamist group that controls the Gaza Strip after recent clashes with Israel.

In a statement, Hamas said that its electoral process had concluded with his reappointment as political chief after "tens of thousands" of members took part in the internal poll.

The contest included no known opponent to Haniyeh.

Considered a pragmatist, Haniyeh has been head of Hamas' political bureau since 2017, though he lives in exile, splitting his time between Turkey and Qatar. He was recently involved in talks aimed at bolstering the Cairo-brokered ceasefire that ended the latest deadly violence between the Jewish state and Hamas. The 11-day conflict in May



killed 13 Israelis and 260 Palestinians, including some fighters.

Hamas won the last legislative elections in Gaza, an impoverished Palestinian enclave of nearly two million, in 2006, delivering a surprise defeat to rivals Fatah.

A virtual civil war the following year led to the division of Palestine, with Fatah dominating the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas ruling the Gaza Strip.

Israel has blockaded Gaza since then, citing repeated attacks, while Hamas has been internationally shunned and declared a terrorist group by the European Union and the United States.

Haniyeh's victory finalises a poll process that began last March with the re-election of Hamas' local Gaza chief Yahya Shihwar. Further voting was postponed due to May's clashes with Israel.



## Frame Need Based Dev Plans: LG’s Adv Directs Officers Reviews Developmental Projects In Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Khan, Monday took stock of tourism activities, electricity scenario and ongoing rural development works around tourist destinations in the district.

Advisor was accompanied

vation and upgradation of facilities in their respective areas to give further boost to tourism sector. He said that these areas are important tourist destinations which should have robust telecom and internet connectivity. He asked the officers to identify the facilities already available



by Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza, Director Tourism Kashmir, Director Rural Development Kashmir, Director Floriculture Kashmir, Chief Engineer KPDC, ADC, ACD, SDM besides other concerned officers and officials.

Advisor reviewed the functioning of Yousmarg, Doodhpathri and Tosamaidan Development Authorities.

Advisor instructed the officers to frame need based development plans for reno-

in these areas that could be outsourced and come up with a plan in this regard.

Advisor gave on spot directions to have long-term and short-term plans in place.

Advisor inspected power grid station at Nowbugh, Chadoora and receiving station at Char Sharief which will augment the electricity supply in the district.

He directed the officers to accord priority to timely payment of wages to workers engaged in rural development activities.

### Covid SOP’s...

## CS Directs Enforcement Agencies To Adopt Graded Penalty Mechanism

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta Monday directed the rollout of a dedicated IEC campaign for awareness generation towards prevention of subsequent COVID waves in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary observed that the number of COVID cases in the Union territory has stagnated around 130 per day over a fortnight, despite ongoing efforts of the Health & Medical Education Department to further lower it. He attributed absence of COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) as the primary cause for such stagnation.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Department to enforce location-specific

restrictions in districts reporting higher cases and positivity. It was directed that COVID SOPs and protocols must be strictly enforced in micro-containment zones through manpower reinforcement at all critical junctures by deputing additional government employees on COVID duty.

Dr. Mehta directed the enforcement agencies to adopt a graded penalty mechanism to penalise repetitive defaulters and offenders. It was directed that the Department in collaboration with various market associations, trade associations, and employee associations implement the graded-penalty mechanism by taking collective action against the delinquents.

## Region At The Crossroads, Need To Secure A Promising Future For Us: Dr Farooq

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah Monday said that the region is on a tipping point of history that demands us to work unitedly to secure a promising future for our future generations.

He said irrespective of our linguistic, regional, religious affiliations we have to protect the unique constitutional position and individuality of our socio-cultural and political system.

He also asked the people to remain cautious about the nefarious communal designs of anti J&K forces, saying that communal, and the regional harmony is key to development.

Dr Farooq while addressing a delegation of noted personalities, politicians and socio-political activists from Jammu at his residence in Srinagar said J&K is suffering from political, developmental, economic maladies, which have been compounded by the ongoing pandemic. He said the communal forces



of the country are taking the region towards a dangerous situation by perusing narrow and divisive brand of politics.

“There has been no effort to leverage J&K’s potential to widen its prosperity and social security of its populace. Every single opportunity has been left unutilized to alleviate people’s sufferings. The administration is living in denial,” he said.

“With such a bleak record on economy, development, job creation, justice, equality, equity, and respecting federalism, it is no wonder that the communal forces will unleash the spectre of

communalism. We all have to pose this question to us as to what that ugly communal politics foretells for Jammu and Kashmir. While the macro picture of JK is alarming, that of Jammu region is no different,” he said.

“We have had enough of it. Now is the time to join our efforts to put the country, particularly JK on the path of progress. NC has long been advocating joining of diverse streams of thoughts to form a mighty river of progress and advancement. Our vision is not blinkered; we see our people irrespective of their caste, creed and religion,” he added.

## ACB Books Ex-Executive Engineer, 8 Others For Criminal Misconduct

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Anti-Corruption Bureau Monday produced a chargesheet against the then Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara and 8 others in Anti Corruption Court Baramulla for criminal misconduct.

A spokesperson of ACB said that Anti Corruption Bureau produced charge sheet in Anti Corruption Court Baramulla in case FIR No. 04/2017 of PS VOK (now ACB) against Mohammad Sultan Sheikh (then Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara) & office staff Abdul Gani Bhat (then Head Draftsman), Mohammad Anwar Untoo (then Draftsman), Mohammad Maqbool Dar (then Draftsman), Noor Mohammad Ganie (then Camp Clerk), Ghulam Rasool Dar (then Store Keeper) and Contractors Mohammad Yaseen, Mohammad Yousuf Mir & Shabir Ahmad Mir.

“Investigation of the case has established that Mohammad Sultan Sheikh (then Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara) & office staff namely Noor Mohammad

Ganie (then Camp Clerk), Mohammad Maqbool Dar (then Draftsman) and Ghulam Rasool Dar (then Store Keeper) in league with the Contractor Mohammad Yaseen purchased Crate Mesh from the Contractor without tendering on manipulated dasti quotations on highly exorbitant rates. It caused

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a loss of Rs 3,30,752/- to the State Exchequer.

The statement said that the investigation has further revealed that same Executive Engineer Mohammad Sultan Sheikh and Abdul Gani Bhat, Mohammad Anwar Untoo and Noor Mohammad Ganie in league with Contractors Mohammad Yousuf Mir & Shabir Ahmad Mir resident of Regipora Kupwara have procured Sign Boards from accused contractors on manipulated dasti quotations on highly exorbitant rates and thereby caused loss of Rs 1,41,360/- to the State Exchequer. By doing so, accused public servants have abused their official positions to confer pecuniary advantage to the accused Contractors with corresponding loss to the State Exchequer. This constitutes an offence of criminal misconduct u/s 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and criminal conspiracy u/s 120-B RPC.

“After obtaining prosecution sanction from Government chargesheet was produced before Anti Corruption Court Baramulla.

“The Court has fixed next date of hearing on 03.09.2021.”

## Dr Samoon Asks Officers To Upgrade Training Modules For Robust Skill Oriented Ecosystem

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon, Monday impressed upon the concerned for the convergence of different departments in order to provide skill developments and market driven trainings and programmes to the youth in the ITIs.

While discussing the plans of respective districts, Dr Samoon instructed the con-

cerned to incorporate skills

the skill gap in these districts. He further asked the officers to upgrade the training modules under schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) in order to make a robust skill oriented ecosystem where youth will be trained for better employability.

While asking the concerned district heads to target the filling of all seats in their respective ITIs, he said that no seats should remain vacant in



cerned to incorporate skills and training courses in their plans according to the regional requirement with a focus on the local industry needs to fill

all these ITIs while providing course modules of different time durations as per the district and local requirements.

## Entries Open For Applying Into National Anthem Singing Competition Till Aug 7

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Six days have remained to apply and make entry for National Anthem Singing Competition-2021, initiated by the Jammu and Kashmir Government to celebrate 75 years of independence and commemorate it as ‘Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav’.

Under this initiative, Government has called upon all the individuals and groups, who are domicile(s) of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, to take part in the national anthem singing competition.

The government has invited entries under individual category and group category. Under the individual category, people in two subcategories, 13-18 years and above 18 years of age can take part in the competition. The minimum age to participate in the completion has been kept at 13 years.

The entries have been made open from 1st August, 2021 and will end on 7th

August, 2021.

Further, the winners of the competition will get cash awards as well as chance to sing National Anthem at their respective district/ division level Independence Day, 2021 celebrations.

The government has kept the prize money of Rs 25,000, Rs 11,000 and Rs 5,000 for first, second and third prize winners of the competition respectively.

The district-level winners would compete for division level in the competition while as all the participants will get certificate of participation from the J&K government.

It is once again informed that all the eligible individuals and groups can submit their entries through the link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1WuQ7X1d3bTdzEYU13TcTs7hDzqOP-enHZUqc-IEt8s/edit?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1WuQ7X1d3bTdzEYU13TcTs7hDzqOP-enHZUqc-IEt8s/edit?edit_requested=true) with a video file (preferably HD) of the National Anthem Singing Competition to be uploaded by 07/08/21.

**The government has kept the prize money of Rs 25,000, Rs 11,000 and Rs 5,000 for first, second and third prize winners of the competition respectively.**

## IUST Organises Awareness Programme At Pakharpora

Observer News Service

Awantipora: Pursuant to the directives of Ministry of Education, GoI and as per National Educational Policy 2020 guidelines, Alamdar Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology-Chrar-e-Sharief, a constituent college of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised an Awareness Programme at Nagbal, Pakharpora Village on Friday.

The main aim of the programme was to sensitise the people about basic health issues, hygiene and garbage disposal, using toilet and hand-washing under the theme ‘Basic Health & Hygiene’.

The programme was initiated by Principal of the said college Prof. (Dr) Mehmooda Regu during which faculty members of the college guided & trained the student of the said college and local villagers.

Prof. Regu elaborated the main aim, objectives and the benefits to the villagers under the programme. The faculty members and students of the said college provided door to door health education and hygiene awareness in the said village.

Medical officer Pakharpora, Village Sarpanch, and Lambar-dar of village were also present on the said occasion.

## Showcase Good Work Of Admin On I-Day: ADC Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh Monday said this year's Independence Day marks a special occasion in the country's history as the nation is celebrating 75 years of freedom. He elaborated a detailed schedule under which multiple programmes will be held across the district as part of the celebrations.

On the occasion, explicit directions were passed to the concerned officers for ensuring smooth conduct of their respective tasks ahead of Independence Day.

He directed the concerned officers to submit lists of Covid



warriors, who have done exemplary work during the pandemic, adding that sportspersons and budding artists who have earned name and fame for the district be also recommended for awards of citations.

Stressing on showcasing good work of the administration, the ADC enjoined upon the

officers to get at least one freshly completed work inaugurated on the eve of Independence Day. He said the government has brought revolutionary changes in e-governance with a host of services available online. Such public friendly initiatives need to be properly propagated, he maintained.

## Commissioner Secretary FEED Assesses Preservation Measures At Hokersar Wetland

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, Sanjeev Verma, today visited Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve and took stock of conservation measures being taken up there.

Commissioner Secretary asked the department of Wildlife Protection to ensure completion of demarcation process of all the wetlands besides

directing the Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmad, to assist the department in this regard.

Commissioner Secretary also asked the concerned to seek community support for conservation activities in the wetlands for effective results.

Chief Wildlife Warden, Suresh Kumar Gupta, informed that Hokersar is Wetland Conservation Reserve notified under Wildlife Protection Act with an area of 1354 hectare. He said that Hokersar is a Ramsar Site and is an abode to variety of

migratory birds during winter season.

Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir, Rashid Yahya Naqash, made a detailed power point presentation highlighting the characteristics of Hokersar, challenges to the wetland and mitigation measures being taken up. He also gave brief account of other Wetland Conservation Reserves like Shallabugh, Hygam, Mirgund, Chatlam, Krenchoo and Freshkhori. He informed that formulation of comprehensive Integrated Management Action Plan for all the wetlands of Kashmir region is in

advanced stage.

Shahbaz Ahmad informed the Commissioner Secretary that the main issue with regard to construction of gates by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department is in advanced stage. These gates shall be immensely helpful towards retaining water level of the wetland.

Wildlife Warden (Wetlands), Assistant Commissioner (R) Budgam, ACD, ACP, Tehsildar besides staff of Department of Wildlife Protection accompanied the Commissioner Secretary.

## DC Gbl Urges For Strict Adherence To Covid SOPs

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Krittika Jyotsna Monday urged for strict adherence to Covid SOPs to overcome the resurgence of COVID-19 pandemic in the district.

The DC said that the positivity rate has slightly increased as compared to last week. She said last week positivity rate was 0.38 percent which



is now 0.44 percent besides positive cases were 44 in the last week which have increased to 60 in this week.

She said that in the entire Kashmir division, the positivity rate has slightly increased in a few districts and Ganderbal is one among such districts, which indicates that people are not following SOPs seriously.

While briefing on importance of adhering to Covid Appropriate Behaviour, the DC said that the Covid infection cannot be completely mitigated unless every individual do not understand his responsibility adding that it is collective responsibility of all to follow CAB strictly to mitigate the COVID infection in the district.



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### K O V I E W

## Denial of security clearance

Thousands of youth are likely to be impacted by the J&K police move to deny security clearance to those “involved in crimes prejudicial to the security of the state, including stone-pelting.” According to an estimate, the number of street protesters in Kashmir has swelled to around 20,000.

The fresh order has directed all CID SB-Kashmir “to ensure that during verification related to passport service and any other verification related to government services, schemes, the subject’s involvement in law and order, stone pelting cases and other crime prejudicial to the security of the State be specifically looked into.” The police has also called for collecting digital evidence like the CCTV footage, photographs, videos, audio-clips and quadcopter images available in the records of the police, security forces and agencies as references.

The move rather than being a deterrent to protests and stone pelting will adversely impact the future of so many youth who may have been involved in stone pelting or protests in the past. Denial of security clearance would make it impossible for them to get jobs in the government or for that matter even in private sector. Similarly, lack of passport would also make it difficult for them to leave the country for employment.

As for the move’s deterrent value, such steps in the past have done have made no redeeming difference to the situation. What has done is the outreach to the youth. And the administration could have done so by extending amnesty to the people who have had stone pelting cases against them.

In past, the then J&K state governments have adopted this approach. For example, in 2017, the then Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti had embarked on a series of measures to woo back the deeply alienated people in the Valley. And among these was the amnesty to the youth booked for participating in protests and throwing stones in 2016 and the promise of their rehabilitation. Her government had also taken up review of the cases of ‘second-time offenders’ – the youth who had been booked more than once for anti-government protests or on charges of alleged stone pelting. The amnesty at the time had covered around 10,000 people, a significant number of them in the age group of 15-20. Many of them were boys in their adolescence or barely out of it.

Over the last two years, the administration has adopted a hardline approach to quell the militancy and dissent in Kashmir. The result has been mixed. But fundamentally the situation remains largely unchanged. This is where the need for an outreach comes in. It is time that the government goes back to winning hearts and minds. Effort to address alienation would create more goodwill for the government and a genuine peace on the ground.

### OTHER OPINION

## Elusive gold: On India’s Olympic quest

India at the Olympics has always been about feverish hopes, bruising anguish and a few medals. Since its debut at the Games in 1900, the world’s second most populous nation has ended up with either a single-digit tally or none at all. That familiar tale is being repeated a week after the Tokyo Olympics commenced and India is currently assured of three medals. One, a silver claimed by weight-lifter Mirabai Chanu in the 49kg category. And second, a minimum of a bronze guaranteed as boxer Lovlina Borgohain qualified for the semifinal in the welter-weight segment. The bout will be held on Wednesday. Badminton star P.V. Sindhu too joined the party, seizing her bronze after defeating China’s He Bingjiao 21-13, 21-15 during Sunday’s third-place play-off. Through their exploits Mirabai and Lovlina, hailing from Manipur and Assam, respectively, have revealed the rich sporting ability shimmering in the North-eastern States linked to the mainland through the chicken’s neck above Bangladesh. Mirabai and Lovlina owe their triumphs to their innate strength and hard work besides the obvious support from family and the Sports Authority of India. With Sindhu, they have also reiterated women-power. Sindhu, who won the silver at the previous Olympics at Rio de Janeiro, had an exceptional run till she ran into Chinese Taipei’s Tai Tzu-Ying in the semifinal and then made amends with a bronze.

India had a moment to savour when its women’s hockey team entered the quarterfinals. While a strong Australian outfit awaits in the knockout on Monday, the women will add to India’s ever-green hockey-hopes that gained a fillip after the men defeated Great Britain 3-1 during Sunday’s quarterfinal. After the 1980 gold, the men’s quest to win another Olympic medal has gained impetus and the road ahead is tough but interesting. In the limited chronicle of good tidings, Kamalpreet Kaur’s excellent throw of 64 metres in the discus throw event was a spark. Kamalpreet qualified for Monday’s final and a lot is resting on her shoulders. While these stirring events kept India afloat, there is also the litany of heart-breaks that included Mary Kom’s loss in boxing, a fact the 38-year-old failed to initially admit following her adrenaline rush. The travails in shooting and archery did not add up to the original template of good form and resultant expectations. Shooters Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker had their moments but they were not enough. The Games exert immense pressure as it is always about the athlete combining individual excellence with national pride. Tennis champion Novak Djokovic failed to even win a bronze while gymnast Simone Biles withdrew from events citing mental fatigue. It is never easy and the Indian contingent would vouch for that going into the second week

The Hindu

# Pegasus: Inside the panopticon

Complete political domination can only be predicated upon the distrust of critics and citizens alike



Samir Nazareth

Should it not announce a commission to determine the identities of those targeting Indians and the reasons for the use of surveillance? This is a major breach in security and the Indian government should reassess the measures that failed to prevent senior officials from becoming potential targets

The allegations of governments spying on their citizens with Pegasus, a spyware developed by an Israeli firm, is an unwitting revelation of the bigotry of some of these nations. India’s prime minister has claimed that democracy is an ancient tradition in this country. However, the charges of snooping, if they are true, would force India to share space with autocratic countries. That some Islamic nation states are keeping tabs on Muslim citizens with an Israeli product shows that traditional enmity can be swept aside for the sake of power. Unsurprisingly, countries suspected of using the spyware are at the bottom of the 2021 World Press Freedom Index.

The NSO Group, Pegasus’s manufacturer, claims that it only works with governments and that the clients have to be approved by the Israeli State. This may not give the Indian government much room to extricate itself from the charge of using what is described as a weapon against its citizens. Significantly, the government has not used the bogey of China or Pakistan as a fig leaf. The statement released by India does not rebut the allegations but expounds on its commitment to free speech as a fundamental right while also explaining the checks and balances to prevent the misuse of phone-tapping. Spokespersons of the Bharatiya Janata Party and its government have been casting doubts on the report by the media collective and the timing of its release — the eve of the monsoon session of Parliament — while also

aggressively suggesting that it is a conspiracy to discredit the nation.

In 2019, a lawsuit filed by WhatsApp in the United States of America had revealed the use of Pegasus against Indian citizens. In a written response to Parliament, the then minister of state for home affairs, G. Kishan Reddy, had explained the laws that govern interception and monitoring of communication. Even then, the government had not provided clarity on its role in the matter.

The BJP government has observed that the disclosures of Pegasus usage do not specifically mention the party. Even then, does it not behove the government to be concerned about the well-being of citizens? Should it not announce a commission to determine the identities of those targeting Indians and the reasons for the use of surveillance? This is a major breach in security and the Indian government should reassess the measures that failed to prevent senior officials from becoming potential targets. Instead, the BJP is suggesting that the aggrieved parties should file police complaints. Moreover, what can one deduce from the government’s claim that there has been no ‘unauthorized interceptions’? That the use of Pegasus has been sanctioned by the Indian State?

Autocratic countries like China do not need to use foreign spyware to keep a tab on their citizens. Not only have they developed similar technology but the idea of Big Brother watching is integral to the notion of statecraft. The Hong Kong police has a hotline open for neigh-

bours and families to snitch on each other. Such a system, the government claims, apprehends criminals. What happens instead is that the voicing of opinion becomes a potential crime, intimidating people into consuming and regurgitating official lines.

Information and its conversion into knowledge have always been a source of power and control. However, when governments target citizens, it creates a state of fear and people begin to self-regulate. Governments spying on their populace serves two purposes. The first is active coercion — finding critics and punishing them. The second is passive coercion — the chilling effect on citizens stemming from the knowledge that the government is watching them.

The BJP has a brute electoral majority in India. With the near absence of a counter-narrative and the alleged subversion of democracy’s sentinels in this country, does the BJP government have any need for intrusive technology?

But then Shakespeare’s Henry IV had bemoaned, “Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.” This is true not only for individuals but also for political parties. Complete political domination can only be predicated upon the distrust of critics and citizens alike.

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

Telegraph India



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## Robust Use of Technical Education

The use of technical education has given a new encouragement to the education of children in India during the epidemic. The education system of the country has now become as online as possible. Educational institutions across the country have been closed for the last one and half years. The epidemic has profoundly affected the economy and lives of school administrators, coaching center operators, temporary private school teachers and staff. On the other hand, the future of millions of students is still hanging in the balance. Anxiety about the future makes them feel depressed and stressed. The multi-faceted development of the educational institutions that have shaped the future of the students has been affected due to their long tenure! However, in the difficult times of the epidemic, it has established itself as a useful and effective education system as an alternative to online education.

It has proved to be a unique medium of teaching and learning by staying in one place and protecting oneself from the epidemic while maintaining the continuity of education. This has not only reduced the stress on teachers and students and parents, but also saved everyone’s life and time. While many private and public educational institutions have rapidly embraced the virtual education medium, adapting to this form has been challenging for many institutions struggling with lack of resources and support. The epidemic

has disrupted schooling around the world. More than one hundred and ninety countries around the world had to close their schools to escape the corona. According to UNESCO, the education of 137 billion students in six countries has been suspended since the launch of COVID-19. The prevalence of online education as an alternative to the disruption of schooling has grown exponentially, but it is a matter of concern that this type of education has not reached everyone.

A report by the Economist Intelligence Unit states that the closure of schools has disrupted the education of only 100 million of the world’s 16 billion schoolchildren, meaning that such children continue to study at home despite the closure. Due to lack of technology at home, their education is continuous. For these children, technology has bridged the gap between home and school. Through technology, children are also solving their own problems by participating in daily classes. But on the other hand, the future of millions of rural children far from access to online education is in jeopardy. The problem of smartphones, poor power supply, inability to buy electronic gadgets and slow internet has taken over the future of those children! In an epidemic, children are witnessing their own future being destroyed right in front of their eyes! Due to Covid-19, even in the full and current education session of 2020-21, classes are being conducted with different methods of technology.

Through smartphones, computers and laptops, WhatsApp, Zoom, Email, etc., some children have been able to overcome the lack of schooling, but the worry is that homes in the country that do not have access to these technologies. The children there are deprived of the essential syllabus of the class. But the real situation of power and power supply in the country is not hidden from anyone. A survey conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2017-18 shows that 16 per cent households in the state get less than one to eight hours a day, 33 per cent households get 12 hours of electricity and only 45 per cent households get more than 12 hours of electricity. The reality is that the state of technical education and online education in government schools is worse.

Most of the children attending these schools belong to low-income families. They have neither the facility of a smartphone nor the status to buy an internet pack. Poverty, awareness and lack of technical knowledge in such families do not give much importance to the need for technology based education. Millions of children in the country are not taking advantage of online education even if they want to. In fact, the problem of electricity and internet is the main obstacle in the way of universal access to online education and its success. The internet has become a basic need of almost every conscious person today. The Internet has played a significant role in making life easier. It has also

become a means of radical change in society. But on the other hand, it is surprising that a large portion of the country’s population is far from accessing information on the Internet. It is also difficult for a large section of the population to afford two meals a day, so it is very wrong for them to think of getting electricity and internet connection.

According to the first round of the Annual Education Status Report 2020 , 39 out of every 100 students are deprived of online education because they do not have a smartphone. Only 67 per cent of the country’s urban population has access to the internet, compared to just 31 per cent in rural India. According to Internet and Mobile SC Bun of India, the number of Internet subscribers in the country by 2020 was 622 million.

Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka are the only three states in terms of internet subscribers, while Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are the three most backward states. It is estimated that the number of Internet subscribers in India could increase by 45% by 2025. However, the importance of the Internet in the country as well as its speed is also in question. It is customary for housewives to have cheaper mobile phones than men and to give their sons ahead of time and more expensive smartphones than their daughters expect. It also needs to change

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Qur'an always hosts an integrated vision that contains belief in Allah and Allah's revelation (Iman) and righteous action (amal), or regular remembrance of Allah (Salah) and discharge of one's financial and moral obligations to Allah's creatures (Zakah). Thus, to be a Muslim means in a fundamental way to be both Allah-conscious and conscious of his fellow human beings, and to understand the interconnectedness of all aspects of one's life, of the life of all creation and of our life in this momentary world to life eternal .

# Islam Between Privilege and Responsibility

Dr. Ashraf Amin

**A Kashmiri Muslim anticipates his salvation in his respective sect assessing its conformity more with the Prophetic Era. He reduces the cosmopolitan outlook and universal appeal of Islam to a parochial outlook of his particular sect. He hardly tolerates the religious views of others. He is ready to knock out his fellow Muslim in a sectarian religious debate (Munazarah), but remains ignorant of the Islamophobia, the world is garnering against him. It really is high time for Muslims to come out of delusion and ensure their living presence is felt in the world**

The great Mufasssirs (Exegetes) have found that man is the main focus of the Qur'an, the 'Final Revealed Book'. They contend that if one ponders upon the multifaceted discourses incorporated in the Qur'an, one can safely reach to the conclusion that the central theme and aim pursued by the Qur'an is the 'training of the human being', as a being conscious of the reason of his existence. The main aim of the Qur'an, if simplified is therefore to reinforce and accelerate the spiritual ascension, together with all the qualities of human being, towards a state of true loftiness and the dignity of which the human being is worthy for he is created in the best of the moulds (Ashraf al Makhluqat). In other words, we can say that the main purpose of Qur'an is to expound truths that are relevant to the 'life of a human being' and the exaltation of his being conducive to attain a life of true happiness. Comprehending the essence of Qur'an, it was the Prophet himself first who shaped his life on the Qura'anic precepts so much so that 'Ayesha (wife of the Prophet) symbolises his morals with the teachings of Qur'an. Imbibing the characteristics of their Prophet, the Companions (Sahaba) strived hard to actualise their life in conformity with the Qur'an. Ali bin Abi Talib is reported to supplicate that reveals how the Holy Qur'an forms 'the chart of life for man'. He prayed: "O Allah! expand my breast with Qur'an, actuate my body with Qur'an, enlighten my sight with Qur'an, liberate my tongue by Qur'an, and help me to mould my life according to Qur'an, so long as You make me live".

Believers are expected to refer to the Quran and the Sunnah of Messenger of Allah in order to learn the secrets of the life in the world and the hereafter; they also refer to it whenever issues remain unsolved through other means. In such respect Qur'an says in Surah al-Nahl (16: 89) "We have sent down to thee the Book explaining all things, a Guide, Mercy and Glad Tidings to Muslims." However, one should not conclude from this verse that the Quran is an almanac or a book of science. It is not a book that mentions provisional scientific theories; it may furnish the clues regarding science but in essence, it is a life guide. It is a manual sent by Allah, Who created us and who knows our nature better than us; it shows us how to use our temporary body in this transient world. "This Quran is not a tale invented, but a confirmation of what went before it, a detailed exposition of all things, and a Guide and a Mercy to any such as believe", says Qur'an in Surah al-Yusuf (12:111). It is the most distinctive feature of the Quran, whose unique aim is the guidance and happiness of human beings, to use a style in compliance with this aim: "to address sometimes the mind, sometimes the feelings, sometimes the conscience and sometimes the heart of its readers, to attract attention to the previous nations, the sky and the earth, the kingdom of plants and animals, the psychological, sociological, philosophical and ethical realities and to ask its readers to think on these issues", as Said Nursi puts it. The Quran informs man of his responsibilities toward himself, his Lord, the other people and nature. It teaches those who are not aware of their responsibilities and reminds those who forget about their responsibilities.

Qur'an has a unique feature of portrayal of preceding nations. One of such communities described is that of Banu Israel. The community was honoured with the endowment of several Prophets. God bestowed them with multiple favours that were unknown to others. Qur'an abounds in ayahs with respect to the favours done to the said Nation. Thus says the Qur'an: "O Children of Israel! call to mind the (special) favour which I bestowed upon you, and fulfil your covenant with Me as I fulfil My Covenant with you, and fear none but Me. (2:40). "Children of Israel! Call to mind the (special) favour which I bestowed upon you, and that I preferred you to all other nations (for My Message) (2:47).

In fact Banu Israel turns out to be the first nation

who received the maximum number of Prophets, a fully detailed and comprehensive Law, and a comprehensive revealed scripture in the form of Torah. "And We gave Moses the Scripture, complete with the best commandments, detailing everything, and a beacon and mercy, that they may believe in meeting their" (Qur'an, 6:154). All such favours deserved obedience to God and service towards mankind. However Banu Israel ended up with Jews and Christians. The former got so intoxicated with the phrase Chosen People that they became racial (Making Yahweh Only their God) and the later held salvation as their exclusive right. They abandoned the spirit of servitude to God, instead developed the fantasies of good life here and hereafter. God had sent them constant reminders recorded in Torah and as endorsed by Qur'an: We [Allah] made a covenant with you [Children of Israel] and raised the Mount [Sinai] above you, saying: 'Grasp fervently [the Torah] what We [Allah] have given you, and bear in minds its precepts, that you may guard yourselves against evil'(Qur'an, 2:65). Stressing upon the moral and social duties God had revealed: And remember We [Allah] made a covenant with the Children of Israel (to this effect): Worship none but Allah; treat with kindness your parents and kindred, and orphans and those in need; speak fair to the people; be steadfast in prayer; and practise regular charity. Then did ye turn back, except a few among you, and ye backslide (even now) (Qur'an, 2:83). But being carried away by the shower of favours, Banu Israel (contemporary Jews and Christians) remained oblivious of the criteria of being good in the sight of their Lord. As Karen Armstrong puts it nicely, "The title of 'Chosen People' given to Banu Israel spoke more of responsibility than of privilege."

Failing in the fulfilment of Covenants made with Allah, Jews and Christians were succeeded by Muslims as Allah makes it a rule to substitute the irresponsible and insensitive with the responsible and susceptible. Muhammad as a Prophet and his immediate followers (Sahaba) lived up to the spirit that was altogether missing in Banu Israel. According to Qur'anic teaching, service of Allah cannot be separated from service to humankind, or in Islamic terms, believers in Allah must honour both Haquq Allah (rights of Allah) and Haquq al-'ibad (rights of creatures). Fulfilment of one's duties to Allah and humankind constitutes righteousness, as comprehensively stated in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:177), which reads as: Righteousness does not consist in turning your faces towards the east or towards the west; true righteousness consists in believing in Allah and the Last Day, the angels, the Book and the Prophets, and in giving away one's property in love of Him to one's kinsmen, the orphans, the poor and the wayfarer, and to those who ask for help, and in freeing the necks of slaves, and in establishing Prayer and dispensing the Zakah. True righteousness is attained by those who are faithful to their promise once they have made it and by those who remain steadfast in adversity and affliction and at the time of battle (between Truth and falsehood). Such are the truthful ones; such are the God-fearing. Setting themselves right in the colour of above cited teachings of Qur'an, Prophet and his comrades in the full light of history displayed to the world that they represented the group of "chosen people" in the true sense of the word. The successors of Prophet's Companions termed as Tabiin and their successors known as Tabatabiin did their best to preserve the legacy left by the Prophet and his followers.

However as time passed, Muslims developed signs of negligence towards the ways set by their Prophet under the all wise guidance of God (Allah). The rot deepened to such an extent that Muslims like Jews and Christians felt contended with the title of Khayr-i-Ummat (The Best Community) and Ummat-i-Wasata (The Middle Ummah) at the cost of obligations that the titles brought with them.

In the words of Muhammad Azizan: "It must be

made clear that although the Ummat-i-Wasat of the Prophet is recognized by a specific name, they are neither a chosen group nor a saved community of faith. By virtue of exercising the final, concrete and universal form of Islam, they belong to a single community of believers. Thus the model community of the Prophet stands as the final community of the final al-Millat al Hanaffiyah (the absolute monotheistic religion). To be a Muslim today or any day as Rifat Hassan puts it is to live in accordance with the will and pleasure of Allah." She comments: Muslims often say, with joy and pride, that it is easy to be a Muslim since Islam is 'the straight path' leading to paradise. What this means, in other words, is that the principles of Islam are simple and straightforward, free of ambiguities, confusions, inconsistencies or mysteries, and that comprehending them or living in accordance with them is not difficult. The assumption here is that if one somehow comes to "the straight path" by accepting Islam, which is Allah's last and final revelation to humanity, one will fairly effortlessly arrive at the destination which is a state of eternal blessedness in the presence of Allah.

Qur'an always hosts an integrated vision that contains belief in Allah and Allah's revelation (Iman) and righteous action (amal), or regular remembrance of Allah (Salah) and discharge of one's financial and moral obligations to Allah's creatures (Zakah). Thus, to be a Muslim means in a fundamental way to be both Allah-conscious and conscious of his fellow human beings, and to understand the interconnectedness of all aspects of one's life, of the life of all creation and of our life in this momentary world to life eternal. Qur'an beautifully summarises this as: "Those who remember God (always, and in prayers) standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and think deeply about the creation of the heavens and the earth, (saying), "Our Lord! You have not created (all) this without purpose, glory to You! (Exalted are You above all that they associate with You as partners); give us salvation from the torment of the Fire" (3:191).

It is really unfortunate that today Muslims all over the world fail to uphold the ideas of Islam. They are in-serious towards the affairs within their own societies and the global crisis of justice, order, leadership, harmony and peace. Instead of realizing their responsibilities they appease themselves with ideas that they are the favourite Ummah of the Prophet and witness over all Ummam. They don't pay heed towards when Prophet Muhammad will say, "O my Lord! Surely my people have treated this Qur'an as a forsaken thing"( Qur'an, 25:30) or the Hadith of the Prophet like "All are entitled to Jannah except those who deny. Upon asking who will deny going Jannah, the Prophet replied those who cast his Sunnah aside (Bukhari). Instead of applying what Iqbal calls "The Principle of Movement", Ijtihad, (The greatest gift offered by Prophet to the Ummah), Muslims still live in the past mesmerizing themselves with Ideal Madinan society, Khilafat-i-Rashidah, Golden Period of Abbasids, Conquest of Jerusalem, etc. In the context of Kashmir such things turn more interesting. A Kashmiri Muslim anticipates his salvation in his respective sect assessing its conformity more with the Prophetic Era. He reduces the cosmopolitan outlook and universal appeal of Islam to a parochial outlook of his particular sect. He hardly tolerates the religious views of others. He is ready to knock out his fellow Muslim in a sectarian religious debate (Munazarah), but remains ignorant of the Islamophobia, the world is garnering against him. It really is high time for Muslims to come out of delusion and ensure their living presence is felt in the world.

The author is the Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri. Views expressed are the author's own.



# Past climate change ‘tipping points’ can help us prepare for future: Study

Agencies

Of all the creatures on Earth, humans manipulate their environments the most. But, how far can we push it before something drastic happens? Scientists are calling for a better understanding of past extreme climate change events in an attempt to anticipate future changes.

Enter geoaarchaeologist and anthropologist C. Michael Barton at Arizona State University. The School of Human Evolution and Social Change researcher, along with Foundation Professor Sander van der Leeuw and an international and interdisciplinary team, published their analysis this week in the journal Nature Geoscience.

The paper describes past abrupt climate changes, what led up to the "tipping points" for those events, and what followed.

"We've been putting a lot of chemicals into the atmosphere and changing the heat of the atmosphere for a long time, and really intensively for 150 years," Barton said. "And, things are still chugging along. Temperatures are slowly going up globally, but we haven't seen a huge, dramatic shift. However, complex systems are potentially vulnerable if you push too much."

Barton studies Earth's many systems - specifically the water cycle and landscapes - and how humans alter these systems.

"People tend to look at how far you can push things before suddenly everything changes," Barton said. "And that's what's considered the tipping point."

For a complex systems specialist like Barton, almost everything can be viewed as systems or cycles. A tree grows and dies, and the decay returns nutrients to the soil. Water cycles through the Earth in different

forms like rain, runoff, and evaporation.

Some of Earth's major systems include the hydrosphere (water), the atmosphere (air), and the cryosphere (ice). All these systems are connected. This research on tipping points looks at the history of these systems to quantify small changes that can lead up to an abrupt, massive change, while also measuring how one abrupt change can trigger abrupt changes in other systems.

The paper explores prior research with sediment cores in the Gulf of Alaska, dust records in North Africa and ice cores from Greenland. All of this pre-historic data gives Earth system modelers and scientists a better idea of what Earth was really like hundreds of thousands of years ago.

Scientists have also been extensively studying Earth's oceans. This includes the current levels of salt and oxygen, changes in circulation patterns, and influxes of fresh water from melting ice sheets. Current ocean conditions can be compared to historic data gathered from the composition of the ocean floor, to make inferences about past ocean currents.

The authors note past instances of extreme climate events happening so quickly that humans either had difficulties adapting, or were unable to adapt, to the new environment.

For example, about 1,500 years ago, abrupt cooling occurred in Europe, leading to changes in the vegetation. The authors note the cooling may have been caused by a natural phenomenon - volcanic eruptions. The vegetation and farming changes were so extreme that people experienced famine and societal reorganization. This timing correlates with the transformation of the Eastern Roman Empire.



The authors note how climate events centuries ago triggered drastic changes or even collapse in ancient civilizations due to unforeseen societal vulnerabilities.

One example is the ancient city of Angkor, which was located in present-day Southeast Asia. The people living in Angkor altered the natural water cycle by diverting water to grow crops. As the city grew, the water system in that region became so strained that it passed a tipping point. The system couldn't handle more intense droughts and floods, and the city of Angkor collapsed.

Arizonans know that the last few years have been drier and hotter than usual. Barton said it's not yet clear whether we've passed a tipping point in the Southwest region.

It's normal to see slight fluctuations in precipitation and temperature year to year.

But recent studies of ancient climate make Barton wonder if the drier weather patterns have become the new normal for our lifetimes.

Barton also noted that researchers still don't know why some weather systems change. For example, past monsoon rains have shifted without warning and for unknown reasons. This can be catastrophic for human populations, as those who depend on the monsoon experience intense drought, while others do not have the infrastructure to handle the influx of water.

There are still gaps in this field of research. More raw data needs to be collected and quantified, and some existing data lacks the precision and quality needed to create test models and simulate future abrupt changes.

The researchers also call for more analysis on the interactions between environ-

mental systems and human societies during periods of climate change.

Lastly, improvements in Earth system models will help scientists be able to simulate possible abrupt changes humans may see in the near future. Current models are very good at simulating more gradual climate change, but are not yet able to simulate well-documented past abrupt changes.

The authors hope this paper raises awareness of the field, and that more people will understand how analyzing the long-term past could help us in the near future.

For example, one component of tipping points research is identifying early warning signals. These are smaller fluctuations in a system before an abrupt change. The authors say these warning signals exist, but when the entire world is the focus, it can be challenging to trace how small changes in one system can warn of an abrupt change in another.

There is evidence of past warning signals. For example, there were abnormal shifts in the climates of the North Pacific Ocean region and around Greenland before the major melting of Earth's last ice age.

"All the components can change really, really fast," Barton said. "The whole system can drop into a different state... How do we know when we're getting too close?"

The authors leave the reader with this final thought: "As humans, we try to anticipate the future. We are now well aware that complex systems, including the coupled social and ecological systems that now dominate our planet, can undergo abrupt changes.... If we cannot model abrupt change in the past, we cannot hope to predict them in the future."

## People show more leniency towards loved ones when they misbehave

The findings of a recent study suggest that when people behave badly or unethically, their loved ones might judge them less harshly compared to a stranger who committed the same transgressions. However, this leniency may come at the cost of own sense of self-worth.

The findings of the study were published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

"How do we react when our romantic partners, friends or family members behave unethically? Past research tells us a lot about how we respond to a stranger's unethical behaviour, but very little about how we respond when the perpetrator is someone we care deeply about," said lead author Rachel Forbes, MA, a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto.

"When someone close to us behaves unethically, we face a conflict between upholding our moral values and maintaining our relationship. We conducted this research to better understand this conflict," added Rachel.

Researchers conducted a series of four experiments involving more than 1,100 participants. In one experiment, participants read about

a hypothetical situation in which a romantic partner, a close friend or a stranger committed an unethical or immoral act, such as stealing money from a charity collection jar.

In another experiment, participants were asked to recall a moment when they had witnessed a romantic partner, close friend or stranger commit an unethical or immoral act. In a third experiment, participants kept a log of moral transgressions they witnessed each day for 15 days.

In each experiment, participants answered a series of questions about the person who committed the act, the severity of the act and how harshly the transgressor should be punished. Participants also answered questions about how they felt about themselves, including any negative emotions they experienced and their own sense of morality.

In all three experiments, researchers found participants felt less anger, contempt and disgust toward family and close friends who behaved badly. They rated them as more moral and wanted to punish or criticize them less than strangers.

However, participants also felt more shame, guilt and embarrassment and reported somewhat more negative evaluations of their own morality when someone close to them committed a moral or ethical violation.

In the fourth experiment, participants were physically paired with a romantic partner, a close friend or a relative stranger. They were then taken to separate rooms and asked to respond in writing to a series of questions about themselves. The pairs then swapped answers (via a research assistant) and were told to transcribe them into a book.

In the first round, the partners received genuine answers, but in the second round, participants were given fake responses indicating their partner had behaved unethically, by lying, plagiarizing or acting selfishly.

As in previous experiments, participants then answered a series of questions about their partner, the transgression, how harsh the punishment should be and their feelings about themselves. The results were similar to the first three experiments, but the effect was not as strong.

## Longer study breaks lead to more stable activation patterns in brain: Study

Agencies

Many of us have experienced the following: the day before an exam, we try to cram a huge amount of information into our brain. But just as quickly as we acquired it, the knowledge we have painstakingly gained is gone again.

The good news is that we can counteract this forgetting. With expanded time intervals between individual learning events, we retain the knowledge for a longer time.

But what happens in the brain during the spacing effect, and why is taking breaks so beneficial for our memory? It is generally thought that during learning, neurons are activated and form new connections. In this way, the learned knowledge is stored and can be retrieved by reactivating the

same set of neurons.

However, we still know very little about how pauses positively influence this process- even though the spacing effect was described more than a century ago and occurs in almost all animals.

Annet Glas and Pieter Goltstein, neurobiologists in the team of Mark Hubener and Tobias Bonhoeffer, investigated this phenomenon in mice. To do this, the animals had to remember the position of a hidden chocolate piece in a maze.

On three consecutive opportunities, they were allowed to explore the maze and find their reward - including pauses of varying lengths. "Mice that were trained with the longer intervals between learning phases were not able to remember the position of the chocolate as quickly," explains Annet Glas. "But on the next

day, the longer the pauses, the better was the mice's memory."

During the maze test, the researchers additionally measured the activity of neurons in the prefrontal cortex. This brain region is of particular interest for learning processes, as it is known for its role in complex thinking tasks. Accordingly, the scientists showed that inactivation of the prefrontal cortex impaired the mice's performance in the maze.

"If three learning phases follow each other very quickly, we intuitively expected the same neurons to be activated," Pieter Goltstein said. "After all, it is the same experiment with the same information. However, after a long break, it would be conceivable that the brain interprets the following learning phase as a new event and processes it with different neurons."

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Construction Division Kashmir, J & K SPORTS COUNCIL, SRINAGAR

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender Notice: e-NIT No: 26 of 2021-22

Dated: 29.07.2021.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Companies or their Authorized / Registered Dealers, Suppliers dealing with furniture and registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Class of contractor	Technical vet No: & date	Cost of Tender Documents	Time of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Procurement of Furniture for newly constructed building at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar.	362.00	Companies or their Authorized / Registered Dealers	T.V. No. 55 of 2021-22 dt: 29.07.2021	Rs. 8500/- (Bids without Tender Fee shall not be entertained).	20 days

Position of AAA = Accorded  
Position of funds = Under JKIDFC

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

#### 2. Critical Dates Table

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice.	29.07.2021 from 06.30 PM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents.	29.07.2021 from 06.30 PM
3.	Bid Submission Start Date.	02.08.2021 from 10.00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date.	07.08.2021 upto 04.00 PM
5.	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online)	10.08.2021 at 11.00 A.M. in the office of Ex. Engineer, Const. Division Kashmir, J&K Sports Council through the constituted committee at Administrative Block Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into the bank account by the bidder for which the following information can be used by the bidder.

1)	Name of Bank	=	J&K Bank Ltd.
2)	Account Title	=	Executive Engineer, Construction Div. Kmr, JKSSC
3)	Account No	=	CDG-0365010200000842
4)	Branch	=	Lal Mandi
5)	IFSC Code	=	JAKAOSBOARD

The bidders must upload the scanned copy of bank payment acknowledgment slip.

3. Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (L1) after opening of Financial Bids.

Sd/-  
Ex. Engineer, CDK  
J&K Sports Council Srinagar

DIPK-NB-2194/21

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL

FRESH NIT NO 93 OF R&B/Khanabal/2021-22 /E-TENDERING/6335-45 DATED 31-07-2021

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Position of T.S	Position of AA	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Cement Concrete drain from house of Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat to Gh Nabi Bhat Ward no 9 MC Pahalgam	2.00	200	10 Days	UDS	Accorded Vide No. 01/RnB/ Kbl/MC- PGM/ 2021-22 Dated 19.06.2021	Accorded Vide No. MC/PGM/21 /1163-65 Dated 14.06.2021	DEE Class Only

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31-07-2021
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 31-07-2021 (01:00PM) To 16-08-2021 (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 31-07-2021 (01:00PM) To 16-08-2021 (04:30PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	16-08-2021 (04:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	17-08-2021 (10:30AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal

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

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

4. The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender Receiving Authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after DLP is over successfully.

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

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DIPK-5722/21

Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Khanabal



## Renovate At Least One LNG Plant In Each Division: Navin To Officers



KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Principal Secretary Animal and Sheep Husbandry & Fisheries departments, Navin Kumar Choudhary on Monday directed the officers to renovate and upgrade at least one Liquified Nitrogen Gas (LNG) plant in both the divisions of the J&K to enhance local production here. These directions were given by him in the 32nd State Implementation Agency (SIA) meeting of the Livestock Board of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Directors of Animal Husbandry of both the divisions, Dean Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, SKUAST Kashmir and Jammu, CEOs of Livestock Development Boards of both the divisions and many other officers of the department. Jammu based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The Principal Secretary asked the officers to at least reserve 10% LNG at each station for meeting out any eventuality. He also directed for constitution of a committee with members from the Agricultural Universities to study the demand and production of LNG here besides the scope of the possibility of renovation of old LNG plants here.

Navin further asked the officers to look for the possibility of introduction of 'sexed semen' for insemination so that people do not have to go to far off places for the same. He instructed that the service should be made available by the department on cost to cost basis only. He urged them to make the Pashudhan Melas a regular feature in which both buyers and sellers are aided in doing the business by the department.

The Principal Secretary asked the SKUAST administration to reorient their research programmes in consonance with the requirements of the department so that a firm policy is made on the authentic data provided by these universities. He asked the

HODs to provide research requirements of the department at the onset of the academic year to the Agricultural Universities so that the relevant data is received at an appropriate time. He advised them to conduct joint meetings regularly for ironing out the issues and meeting each others demands.

The meeting decided to carryout research projects to determine the success of new cow varieties introduced here. It was also said that the viability and economic position of big dairy farms established during the past 5 years should also be studied for the better planning and policy making for future.

The universities were also asked to introduce the short term certificate courses of the duration of 5-6 weeks on the analogy of different national institutions to provide specialization to the seekers. They were encouraged to send the students for field surveys during vacations besides introducing mandatory field training for the completion of the course.

The meeting was informed that artificial insemination helps in increasing the milk production vertically and department is performing the same without charging the farmers. It was given out that more than 8.5 lakh artificial inseminations (AIs) have been done in the previous year and this year an aspirational target of 13 lakh AIs has been set for the department.

The meeting was apprised that there are several CSS in progress here which would help department to achieve the target. These include Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), Nation wide AI Program (NAIP), Kri-shi Kalyan Abhiyan (KKA), and National Mission on Bovine Productivity (NMBP). All of the schemes focus on upgrading and strengthening the bovine breeding infrastructure here and bring services to the doorsteps of farmers free of cost, as was informed in the meeting.

## New ATM Rules Take Effect; Interchange Fee Increased By Rs 2



Agenceis

The Reserve Bank of India's new directions on raising interchange fee and making available the facility of bulk clearing round the clock have become effective from Sunday onwards.

The RBI in June raised the interchange fee for financial transactions from Rs 15 to Rs 17, while for non-financial transactions the increase was done from Rs 5 to Rs 6. These new rates have become applicable from August 1, 2021, as per the RBI's direction.

An interchange fee is a fee charged by banks to the merchant who processes a credit card or debit card payment. Besides, National Automated Clearing House (NACH) has been made available on all days of the week, effective August 1, 2021.

NACH, a bulk payment system operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) facilitates one-to-many credit transfers such as payment of dividend, interest, salary and pension.

It also facilitates collection of

payments pertaining to electricity, gas, telephone, water, periodic instalments towards loans, investments in mutual funds and insurance premium.

During the bi-monthly monetary policy review in June, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had announced that in order to further enhance the convenience of customers, the NACH will be available on all days of the week.

The facility was available only when banks were open, usually between Monday to Friday. Auto-debit instructions given by the bank account holder were not processed on days the bank were closed like Sundays, bank holidays and even gazetted holidays. Further, since most companies use NACH for salary credits these also did not happen on bank holidays.

Meanwhile, ICICI Bank has revised charges for cash withdrawals from ATMs, cheque books and other financial transactions from August 1. The revised charges will be applicable for domestic savings account holders including salary accounts.

## New Central Scheme for Industrial Development of J&K To Be Launched Soon:Govt



KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday attended a meeting with the Union Home Secretary and Union Secretary, Ministry of Roads, Transport & Highways to discuss the modalities of the New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development for Jammu and Kashmir.

Principal Secretary of Industries and Commerce Department

was also present in the meeting.

It was informed that to give impetus to the industrial development of the Union territory, the Central Government will soon be launching a dedicated industrial scheme for Jammu and Kashmir.

The scheme is being designed to benefit both MSMEs and larger industries. It will not only encourage new investments but will also nurture existing industries.

The new scheme will provide incentives for capital investment, capital interest subvention, capital investment loan, GST linked incentives for plant and machinery, and working capital interest subvention.

It may be mentioned that industrial development in J&K is one of the foremost priorities of the Government and is expected to create significant employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Avail Benefits Under Newly Launched Scheme: DG Horticulture To Farmers

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** In pursuance to the efforts to reach out to the farming community, the Director General (DG) Horticulture Kashmir, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat today visited Tangmarg Sub-division of district Baramulla, where he attended a training/awareness camp.

The camp was attended by a good number of progressive orchardists, particularly those involved in High Density farming.

The main focus of the training camp was summer care of HD Apple orchards. During the training different aspects of summer care like summer pruning, fertigation, thinning out, mulching etc. were discussed and demonstrated.

While addressing the farmers, the DG Horticulture highlighted the importance of capacity building of farmers by holding such training camps.

He also elaborated the different



departmental scheme and advised the farmers to keep close liaison with the field functionaries of the department.

Bhat appealed to the farmers to avail benefits under newly launched Modified High Density Plantation (MHDP) scheme.

Later, the DG thanked all the participants and directed the concerned officers of the department to organize such programmes periodically.

The DG during the visit was accompanied by various officers of the Department.

## J&K Bank holds DLRC Meeting at B'la

**SRINAGAR:** To review the achievements of district Baramulla under Annual District Credit Plan 2020-21 and 2021-22, J&K Bank today conducted a District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the quarters ending March and June 2021 at Dak Bungalow here. The meeting was organised by the Lead Bank Office Baramulla, and chaired by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Mohammad Ahsan Mir.

Among others the meeting was attended by LDM Baramulla, DDM



NABARD, participants from the Cluster Office Cluster-I J&K Bank

and representatives of Banks and Line Departments.

## K M Birla Offers To Hand Over Vodafone Idea Stake To Government



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Aditya Birla group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla has offered to hand over his stake in debt-laden Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) to the government or any other entity that the government may consider worthy to keep the company operational.

The billionaire businessman made the offer in June in a letter to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba.

According to official data, VIL had an adjusted gross revenue (AGR) liability of Rs 58,254 crore out of which the company has paid Rs 7,854.37 crore and Rs 50,399.63 crore is outstanding.

VIL along with Bharti Airtel had approached the Supreme Court for correction in the government calculations but their plea was rejected.

In the letter, Birla, who holds around a 27 per cent stake in VIL, said investors are not willing to invest in the company in the absence of clarity on AGR liability, adequate moratorium on spectrum payments and most importantly floor pricing regime above the cost of service.

Without immediate active support from the government on the three issues by July, the financial situation of VIL will come to an "irretrievable point of collapse," Birla said in the letter dated June 7.

"It is with a sense of duty towards the 27 crore Indians connected by VIL, I am more than willing to hand over my stake in the company to any entity- public sector/government /domestic financial entity or any other that the government may consider worthy of keeping the company as a going concern," Birla said in the letter.

There were no immediate comments from either Aditya Birla group or VIL on the issue.

Further, it could not be ascertained whether there were any other communications between Birla and the government after the June 7 letter.

In September 2020, VIL had received approval from its board to raise up to Rs 25,000 crore.

However, the company has not been able to raise the funds so far. According to Birla's letter, VIL has not yet approached any Chinese investors.

Foreign investors, mostly non-Chinese, are hesitating in making investments in the company for understandable reasons, he added.

VIL's gross debt, excluding lease liabilities, stood at Rs 1,80,310 crore as of March 31, 2021.

The amount included deferred spectrum payment obligations of Rs 96,270 crore and debt from banks and financial institutions of Rs 23,080 crore apart from the AGR liability.

## Kashmiri Wazwan Food Court 'Bhandari Wazwan' Thrown Open At Kashmir Haat

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir Haat exhibits a colourful ambience with the increasing number of visitors due to presence of amusement for children, musical evenings, Kashmiri craft stalls, food courts attracting more and more visitors day by day.

Director Handicrafts and Handlooms Mehmood Ahmed Shah on Monday inaugurated Kashmiri cuisine under the name and style of "Bhandari Wazwan" a centuries old traditional blend of Kashmiri cuisine.

On the occasion an impressive farewell was accorded in honor of Fayaz Shabnum, Manager Kash-

mir Haat (president EJAC) who attained his superannuation after putting in forty years of service in H&H department.

Director H&H presided over the function, while applauding the outgoing officer and recalling his services, Director H&H said that Fayaz Shabnam left no stone unturned in promoting and reviving the centuries old Kashmiri crafts. He managed well the exhibitions held at Kashmir Haat during his tenure and received laurels from authorities for his dedication.

Besides officers of H&H department, some prominent businessmen men and officers from Information department were also present on the occasion.

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# Cloudburst Hits Ganderbal, Houses; Roads Damaged

Agencies

Srinagar: Scores of houses and other structures were damaged due to cloudburst in central Kashmir district of Ganderbal, official sources said on Monday.

Traffic on Srinagar-Leh national highway was also disrupted for several hours due to land and mudslide, triggered by heavy rain, they said.

Cloudburst late Sunday night resulted in major increase in the water level in local nallah at surfraw- Bula in Kangan in Ganderbal last night.

However, police parties headed by Station House Officer (SHO) Kangan and Ganderbal besides personnel from SDRF immediately swung into action and rescued large number of people, including women, children and elderly persons living in the houses on both sides of the nallah.

Several houses were damaged, they said adding the affected families were taken to safer places. The rescue operation continued throughout the night.

Exact details about the damage to property were being ascertained, they said adding there

was no report of any loss of life.

There was also land and mudslide on the highway connecting Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh with Kashmir. However, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) immediately swung into action and cleared the road for one-way traffic, they said adding work to allow two-way traffic was going on when the reports last came in.

A traffic police official said that traffic on the highway has been restored. Today vehicles will ply from Ladakh to Srinagar, he said.

## Fate Of 19 Missing Persons Unknown

**JAMMU:** Rescuers continued searches at Honzar village in Kishtwar district on Monday but success eluded them in finding any of the 19 persons including eight women who are missing following a cloudburst in the remote village on intervening night of July 27 and 28.

Officials said that Director General of Police Dilbag Singh also had an aerial survey of the Honzar Dachan village. He also chaired a high-level meeting during which, among others, he stressed the need for intensifying the rescue operation to trace the missing persons.

"He directed the officers to provide all necessary support and help to the affected people of

the village," a police official said.

While seeking reports regarding the loss and damage in the village, the top police officer of J&K emphasized upon the officers that besides, the efforts of administration, involve the local community members for rehabilitation of the affected families.

Success has been eluding the search teams after seven bodies were recovered and seventeen persons rescued in injured condition after the calamity on Wednesday last.

Authorities have pressed additional rescue teams of NDRF and SDRF for carrying out the rescue operation. Several teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National

Disaster Response Force (NDRF) with "sophisticated equipment" were earlier involved in the operation along with other rescuers from police, Army and local volunteers, the officials said.

The missing persons include Saja Begum (60) wife of Ghulam Mohidin, Khursheed Ahmed (31) son of Mohammad Iqbal, Fida Hussain (26) son of Mohammad Ramzan, Mohammad Sharif (40) son of Ghulam Rasool, Almina Tasbassum (22) daughter of Mohammad Iqbal, Mata Begum (45) wife of Lala Tantry, Ghulam Mohammad (70) son of Ghulam Rasool, Fazal Hussain (18) son of Rustum Ali Chopan, Tariq Hussain (50) son of Nazir Ahmed, Zarina Begum (40) wife

of Tariq Hussain, Mata Begum (45) wife of Ghulam Rasool, Fatima Begum (56) wife of Ghulam Ahmed, Bashir Ahmed (45) son of Rustum Ali, Begum (45) wife of Abdul Rehman, Sharifa Begum (38) wife of Ghulam Mohammad, Shakir Hussain (22) son of Ghulam Ahmed, Ghulam Ahmed (65) son of Abdul Aziz, Zubaida Banoo (25) daughter of Ghulam Ahmed and Khalid son of Haji Gami.

The police on Saturday have also started a community kitchen to provide meals to affected people of village Hounzar. The police said to have erected tents to provide the temporary shelter at the site. (GNS)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 4 Drones Spotted

Mangal Market in vicinity to Railway Station Jammu, seemingly to get their hair trimmed. On drawing suspicion about their appearance, an army person present at the shop, asked the duo to show their identity cards.

The duo however fled the scene soon after, they said.

A manhunt has been subsequently launched in and around the peripheries of Mangal Market to nab the suspected duo, they further said.

### Civil, Military

headquarters in Nagrota, a defence spokesman said.

The meeting sought to achieve enhanced coordination between security, administration and intelligence agencies, he said.

The meeting is significant in the wake of the increasing use of drones by Pakistan to ferry weapons and explosives along the Line of Control and carry out attacks on security establishments in the region.

Lt Gen Kumar appreciated the coordination between the army, security forces and civil administration to maintain peace in the region. (PTI)

### Pak Clears Decks

newspaper that the draft of the bill titled '26th Constitutional Amendment Bill' had been prepared and submitted to Prime Minister Imran Khan.

In the first week of July, the prime minister had assigned the task of preparing the law to federal Law Minister Barrister Farogh Naseem.

According to the sources, the draft bill has been prepared after careful reading of the Constitution of Pakistan, international laws, the United Nations' resolutions especially those related to a plebiscite on Kashmir, comparative constitutional laws and local legislation.

The stakeholders, including the governments of Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, had been consulted on the proposed constitutional amendment, the report quoted sources as saying.

The proposed law suggests that due to sensitivity attached to the region, it could be given provisional provincial status by amending Article 1 of the Constitution that related to the provinces and territories, the sources said.

They added that a set of amendments would be introduced to give the region representation in Parliament, besides the establishment of the provincial assembly in the territory.

The sources are confident that the constitutional amendment is in accordance with the international practice of merger of territories and it will not adversely affect the Kashmir cause in any manner, the report said.

The Pakistan government and the Opposition had reportedly discussed the move prior to last year's meeting of the political leadership with the Pakistan Army chief.

According to an Opposition leader, Gilgit-Baltistan has acquired great significance in the region due to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that is now a jugular vein for the country.

The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of Beijing's ambitious multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

India has protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

### J&K Among

quality of life in rural areas.

The meeting, official spokesperson said, went fruitful and the Union Minister has assured full support to the UT Government in its endeavours for the development and prosperity of rural J&K.

He said that the LG and the Union Minister also discussed about the empowerment of three-tier Panchayati Raj system in J&K, which has strengthened the governance at the grass root level. He added that the LG further shared the various reformative measures taken by the UT Government to bridge the gap between rural and urban J&K.

"J&K is amongst the top performers in terms of achievements made under PMGSY. We are reaching out to unconnected habitations with road connectivity, besides augmenting the Power & water supply to connect every household in the rural areas," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

"The UT Government has already approved a historic Rs. 12,600 Crore District Capex Budget 2021-22 for equitable development of J&K with active involvement of Panchayats, BDCs, and DDCs. Moreover, new opportunities are being created for rural employment; digital interventions have been made by establishing Digital Village Centres to bring the working of the PRI institutions close to the Government's functioning. Panchayat offices are being digitally integrated with higher offices for extension of government services to rural population," he

added.

The LG also referred to the recent release of an e-Compendium of 2177 projects completed under Back to Village Programme during 2020-21 which depicts the success of the ambitious initiative of the J&K Government.

According to the official spokesperson, discussion was also held on the UT Government's action plan for creating more livelihood opportunities for the rural population, besides extending the financial assistance to 50,000 youth as per the target set by the Government for this year's Back to Village program. Pertinently, during the B2V3, around 20,000 young budding entrepreneurs have been empowered financially to start their own enterprise.

The meeting, he said, was also attended by senior officials of Ministry of Rural Development.

### Discusses NEP-2020

, the LG shared with the Union Education Minister various initiatives taken by the J&K Government for implementation of National Education Policy-2020, besides strengthening industry-academia partnerships, setting up CIIT Centres, skill development of students at higher secondary level & catalyzing quality academic research in all fields.

He said the LG informed Pradhan that the J&K Government has initiated a UT wide campaign to lay a strong foundation for transforming the education system by revising and revamping various aspects of the education structure to meet the aspirational goals envisioned under NEP-2020.

"Holistic & multidisciplinary education; Optimal learning environment & support for students; Competency-based learning; regular training of teachers; students' feedback system; Promotion of Languages, Art and Culture are now the integral part of the reforms being taken by the Government for improving the quality of education and enhancing learning outcomes," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

"J&K Government is focusing more on re-skilling and up-skilling of youth for their all-round development. Working in this direction, we are planning to set up more Centres for Invention, Innovation, Incubation, and Training (CIITs) across the UT. The Government has set the target to impart skill training to 5000 students in various degree colleges in 25 different courses," he added.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson also said that the government is also giving the much-needed impetus to bridge the Social and Gender Gaps in School Education by ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels for improving the Literacy Rate of the UT of J&K.

"A robust mechanism has been laid down for ensuring that the benefits under Prime Minister's 'PM CARES for Children' and J&K Government's 'SASCM' scheme, reached every child affected due to Covid pandemic," Sinha said.

As per the official spokesperson, discussions were also held on the inclusion of Foundational literacy and numeracy, Critical life skills, vocational skills development, Basic education and Continuing education in the educational

framework.

### Kashmiris 'Considered

pleasure without holding an inquiry and the decision can only be contested in the high court.

"Innocent Kashmiris arrested under anti-terror laws rot in jails for years. For them the trial becomes the punishment. But GOI (Government of India) doesn't want an enquiry against a cop caught red-handed with militants. Is it because he colluded with the system to orchestrate certain dodgy incidents?" Mehbooba asked in a tweet.

She said Kashmiris are "considered guilty until proven innocent".

"Whether for governments job or even a passport, they (Kashmiris) are subjected to the worst kind of scrutiny. But when a policeman is known to have facilitated militants he is let off the hook. The double standards & dirty games is obvious," she added.

Davinder Singh was arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in January last year when he was ferrying Hizbul Mujahideen militants to Jammu from Kashmir. The case was investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and it filed a charge sheet against Davinder Singh and others.

According to the NIA charge sheet, Singh was tasked by his Pakistani handler with establishing a "contact" in the Ministry of External Affairs for carrying out espionage activities. Davinder Singh used his own vehicle for the movement of the Hizbul Mujahideen militants and also assured them help in procuring weapons, the NIA alleged.

### J&K Govt Modifies

was held almost three weeks prior to commencement of Muharram. The religious functions are being held by the Shia community

for two to three weeks during Muharram. Directions were passed in the said meeting, which contained in the minutes that all religious processions / gatherings will be held as per the Covid -19 SOPs / guidelines issued by the Government from time to time. The Covid-19 situation is changing and the number of positive cases are still reported from all districts in Kashmir," the order reads.

It further states that as such, the earlier directions issued vide above referred minutes with regard to conducting processions / gatherings and management of law and Order etc are modified and appropriate decisions for suitable action will be taken by the Districts Magistrate concerned in consultation with police, health and other stakeholders so as to comply with the Covid norms and maintain the smooth law and order.

An official said that as per Covid -19 Guidelines issued by the State Executive Committee (SEC), there is a cap on the gatherings given the prevailing Covid-19 situation in the valley.

"Since the Programs of Muharram processions fall on different dates, and at different places in the valley, in view of that the concerned DCs will take the appropriate calls", he said.

### MPs Panel To

of India.

The DPRs of these projects were submitted to the Government of India by the J&K administration last year after the administrative council headed by the then Lieutenant Governor, GC Murmu approved the proposal of Housing & Urban Development Department's for setting up elevated light rail system in both the capital cities.

The DPRs of these projects were prepared by the Rail India Technical and Economic Service Limited.

The J&K government has pushed for funding from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for these projects.

The investment cost is supposed to be Rs 4,825 crore for Jammu light metro and Rs 5,734 crore for Srinagar light metro.

The light rail transit system in Jammu will have its one corridor from Bantalbal to Bari Brahmana with an entire length of 23 kilometres whereas in Srinagar it will have two corridors, the first one is from Indira Nagar to HMT Junction and the second is from Usmanabad to Hazuri Bagh, with an entire length of 25 kilometres.

The projects were conceived to facilitate easy and quick movement of people in both the capitals—(KNO)

### Education Dept

The government has ordered that planting of plants by students and teachers wherever possible should be promoted.

The government has also ordered daily reporting of academic work including community classes and Homework for Online Classes by Director(s) of School Education regularly.

### Slips In Sindh

17 kilometres northwest of Srinagar.

Amid the distressed wave of suicides in the valley, the canal has witnessed many drowning cases and rescue bids in its roaring waters this summer.

The talkers inside the teashop are expressing anguish over the "fatal consequences", making Mir melancholic over "unchecked slips" into Sindh.

"The meditative calm of this place is being shattered by these repeated drowning incidents," Mir, sipping his third teacup, says. "This has to stop for good."

Mir refers to the recent incident wherein three boys were caught in the furious waves of the swelled Sindh. The timely dive of one daredevil did save the situation but once again raised the safety concerns.

"Such incidents are unlikely to stop," Mir continues. "But that doesn't mean the government should stay quiet about it. If a treacherous Maharaja before 1947 would depute water police to check any violation or mishap in rivers, why can't present day administration post water guards in Sindh to avert these incidents?"

This demand is now gaining traction in Ganderbal as locals believe such unchecked incidents are likely to give a bad name to the captivating canal in the long run.

On June 23, 2021, Mohammad Salim Khan of Srinagar drowned in Sindh. The teenager drowned in the Kangan area, where such incidents aren't uncommon—especially in the canal tied with the Upper Sindh Hydroelectric Project (USHP), one of three government projects set up on Sindh in 2001.

"This power canal has devoured many lives due to its immense depth," says Abdul Samad, a Kangan resident. "It originates from Sumbal USHP-I, and passes through Kulan areas but the drowning prone area is USHP-II."

Since 2018, the canal has devoured five teenagers—between the age of 14 and 19.

In August 2018, Nadeem Mir, 14, drowned

while bathing in the canal at Kijpora. Next year, in April, Tariq Awah, 16, drowned at Gund, while Zahid Umar and Faisal Ahmad—aged 17 and 18—drowned at Kijpora in July 2020.

This summer, Salim Khan, 19, lost his life in the same canal at the Rayil area of Kangan.

In the Kangan marketplace, Abdul Karim has been rushing towards the canal whenever din over drowning disturbs the mood of the town.

"Local drivers often cooperate with the State Disaster Response Force, Police and CRPF in rescue operations," Karim, who runs a fruitcart in the main market, says.

"But despite such reactionary responses, proactive preventive measures remain missing."

Since the banks are bereft of guards, picnickers in a bid to take Selfies slip into the canal.

Recently, when three boys from Srinagar drowned in this canal, authorities banned swimming in or taking Selfies there.

At the teashop, Nazir Mir says people don't follow those instructions.

"These slips won't stop unless there's proper fencing," he says. "This water body makes rescue operations very tough due to its frozen and in-depth water. People pleaded with authorities for fencing and lighting along the river banks. But it seems guarding these slippery bunds has become some Herculean task."

### Apni Party Mulls

Bukhari said there is a huge gap between the administration and the common people.

"Nobody is listening to the woes of the common man. Panchayat leaders were congratulated by Home Minister Amit Shah but unfortunately on ground they have not been empowered.

"And the result is people feel disillusioned and those who were elected feel cheated. And if remedial measures are not taken, people will lose faith in the system of Panchayati Raj. Therefore, before that happens, it is better that our council members sit at home rather than making fake promises to the people," he said.

Bukhari, a businessman-turned-politician, said that when the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 was abrogated in August 2019, the prime minister had assured all-round development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I am sorry to say I did not see on ground the development which was committed by the prime minister on the day Article 370 was abrogated," he said.

He said it was committed "to us that we will see huge scale investment and development in this area. I am sure the prime minister has intentions to see the people of Jammu and Kashmir high on development and investments but I am sorry to say that the local administration here seems not to do anything about it."

Bukhari agreed that the job of politicians was to make mass contact with the civilian population despite threats from terror groups.

"Since 1990, mainstream politicians have been targeted by various terror groups. We cannot wait for the last gun to fall silent and rather we can make our voice more important than that of the gunshot through our mass contact. But at the end we need to deliver to them," he said, adding "that is where we fail because the administration is not listening at all".

"We are swimming in the sea of democracy but the present administration in the union territory is tying our hands," he added, while trying to explain the plight of his council members.

Referring to the abrogation of special status, Bukhari said the matter is before the Supreme Court and "let me tell you honestly I pray to God that the top court decides as per the aspiration of my people."

However, he said, that has not stopped his party for fighting for the rights of people. "I am thankful to the prime minister that he addressed the issue of protecting jobs and land when I had called on him in March last year."

### HC Seeks Govt's

a alleged doctor was dragged out in the market or when a video of the dead body of four-year-old girl who was mauled to death by leopard went viral on social media. So we filed this PIL to regulate them," Advocate Nazir told Kashmir Observer.

Adding that they have appealed to the competent authorities to make them accountable "like they do with registered newspapers".

It was alleged that in the region, several such news portals like Kashmir News, Kashmir Voice, Kashmir Breaking News, News Kashmir 24/7, Kashmir Business Hub and Bol Kashmir etc are operating freely without any registration or license from any authority and these news portals are not under supervision and control of any authority whatsoever.

The petitioner organization stated that on one hand people across the valley have been severely disturbed by the pandemic while on the other hand, fake journalists running Facebook, Whatsapp and Twitter pages have become a new virus that has spread everywhere in Kashmir.

"The human dignity is at the cost because of these portals. So we want the Govt to regulate them. We aren't against any Facebook page,"

Syed Nasarullah Shah, Chairman of the NGO told Kashmir Observer.

It was submitted that the pseudo journalists are carrying mics and mobile phones in their hands and harassing the employees whether government or private.

"Some people walk around government offices carrying mobile phones, mics in their hands and keep asking various nonsensical questions to the officials of various government offices," petitioner says.

It was submitted that there are multiple news agencies and whatsapp / facebook/ YouTube news channels and other electronic news agencies operating in both the regions which are actively engaged in the transmission of various types of news bulletins and reports. It is also known fact that every person with a hanging camera and holding a mic poses himself as a journalist irrespective of the fact whether s/he is authorized and

The PIL noted, that in the absence of any permission having been granted by the competent authority for running a news portal it is sufficient to infer that there is no proper, legal and regulatory mechanism in place at present with the result a state of confusion prevails on the subject as to the genuineness of any news transmitted by such channels/portals.

"The Facebook and WhatsApp journalists have now moved a step ahead by blackmailing the government as well as private officials, civil contractors etc. on a daily basis. Such pseudo-journalists not only reveal the names of juvenile offenders/victims but in one instance they revealed the names of some girls allegedly caught as a part of sex racket in Srinagar," the PIL noted.

The petitioner noted that, last year some persons holding camera and a mike publicly humiliated a person posing himself a doctor in North Kashmir's Kupwara and the accused person and virtually made him to take a round in the market, thus disrespected and humiliating him while ignoring all norms of human dignity and respect.

"The episode became a subject matter of debate on social media for several days engaging the attention of the public at large with serious condemnation," the PIL noted.

It was pointed out that real professional journalists from major newspapers, news channels and news agencies follow a strict code of ethics but fake journalist bunkers continue to harass officials to create viral videos and sensational news stories.

It was further submitted that such steps also tend to tarnish the image of real journalists and media persons and therefore such vagrants need to be discouraged.

The court while hearing the averments observed that the issue needs attention from authorities and a reply in this regard be filed within one month. Court listed the case for next hearing on 1 September.

### J&K Sees 181 New

42 cases, followed by 18 in Srinagar district. The number of active cases rose slightly to 1,254 in the union territory, while 3,16,090 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

They said, there were 35 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory and no fresh case was reported since last evening.

### Police Releases List

and Wakeel Shah," he said.

Pertinently, this year so far, 89 militants were killed in JK majority of whom were commanders of various outfits.

### Rice Cookers

Squad to the spot.

Reports said traffic was also stopped on the highway till the BDS arrived.

"The rice cookers were checked by the Bomb Disposal Squad of Police Budgam but all the four rice cookers were found empty. Apparently the rice cookers seem to be stolen property abandoned by thieves," police said

They said that the traffic movement along the road was resumed after it was halted for about an hour.

### Teen Drowns

by police, army, fire and emergency services personnel alongside locals he was rescued and removed to SDH Sogam. However, the doctors at the medical facility declared him dead.

Confirming the death of the teenager, a medical officer at SDH Sogam said that they received a boy in unconscious state and in the course of overall assessment, he was found dead.

### Pakistani Teen

the Tharparkar district of Pakistan,

"As per a preliminary inquiry by the BSF, the boy mentioned that he had quarrelled with his family members and ran away from his home," the officials said.

After conducting his medical check-up at the Khavda community health centre, the boy was handed over to local police, they added.



ENG VS IND, 1ST TEST

## Virat Kohli Says For India It's Just Pursuit Of Excellence



Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** India captain Virat Kohli on Monday said it takes "relentless madness" and single-minded pursuit of excellence to win a Test series in England.

Led by Kohli, India will take on Joe Root's England in a gruelling five-match Test series, beginning here from Wednesday.

"I will answer your second question first, it takes relentless madness and pursuit of excellence every day over a five-Test series, to tell yourself I want to do the hard work and I want to get into situations, which are tough in every Test match on every day.

"And you are going to be ready for that kind of workload, and that kind of mental load," Kohli told 'Sky Sports' when asked by former India wicket-keeper Dinesh Karthik on what it takes to win a Test series in England.

For Kohli personally, winning in England is nothing more than winning anywhere else and it is all about the team culture of going for a win.

"To answer your first question, for

me personally, it means nothing more than winning a Test match or a Test series anywhere else in the world.

"As I said, for me, these things are not anecdotes in my career or milestones in my career.

"We step on the field and we compete and we are looking to win every Test match, that is what matters more to me, because again that is a culture, these are results," added Kohli, one of the finest batsmen of the modern era.

"For Indian cricket it will be a huge thing and we have done it before and we can do it again, but this culture is what is more dear to me and I will do everything in my ability, even if you lose a Test match.

"I want us to go for the win and not surrender and try to save a test match on day three or day four, that for me is just not acceptable."

"So, for me as I said, milestones don't matter at all. If I had played for milestones in my career, I probably would not have half of what I have right now. My mindset is pretty clear and for us it is just pursuit of excellence," he signed off.

# ICC Responds To BCCI Request To Not Recognise Kashmir Premier League



Agencies

**KARACHI:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday responded to a Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) plea regarding Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) organised first edition Kashmir Premier League (KPL).

The ICC issued the statement after reports suggested that BCCI had its basis in the "disputed status" of the region. A number of former cricketers like Herschelle Gibbs, Tillekerate Dilshan are due to take part in the competition.

An ICC spokesperson told Geo News, "The tournament is not under ICC's jurisdiction as it is not an international cricket tournament."

ICC regulation for the sanctioning of an

event, clause 2.1.3, states that each national cricket federation shall have the sole and exclusive right to sanction the staging of domestic matches within its territory.

The ICC can interfere only, according to clause 2.1.4, if matches are to be held in the territory of an associate member's territory.

According to a report by a Cricinfo, the letter sent by BCCI had its basis in the "disputed status" of the region. A number of former cricketers like Herschelle Gibbs, Tillekerate Dilshan are due to take part in the competition.

Former England spinner, Monty Panesar however on Monday pulled out of the tournament. He took to Twitter to reveal

the news:

"I have decided not to participate in the KPL because of the political tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir issues. I don't want to be in the middle of this, it would make me feel uncomfortable."

The final of the tournament is set to be played on August 16. The PCB has maintained that KPL will serve as a launching pad for budding cricketers on the other side of Kashmir.

Meanwhile, former Pakistan pacer Shoaib Akhtar has announced his decision to become a "peace ambassador" for the controversial six-team tournament.

"Why such a fuss between [Kashmir Premier League] & BCCI. It's about building bridges and promoting peace," he said.

## Mayank Agarwal Concussed By Siraj Bouncer, Likely To Undergo Tests



Press Trust of India

**NOTTINGHAM:** India's opening batsman Mayank Agarwal was on Monday ruled out of the first Test against England after being concussed by a short ball from teammate Mohammed Siraj during a training session in Nottingham.

While facing Siraj, possibly the fastest bowler in the current Indian line-up, Agarwal saw the ball thudding into his helmet when he took his eyes off a short delivery. The first Test starts here on Wednesday.

"Opening batsman Mayank Agarwal was hit on the helmet while batting during India's nets session at Trent Bridge in Nottingham on Monday," BCCI secretary Jay Shah was quoted as saying in a media release.

"The BCCI Medical Team assessed him, and a concussion test was conducted. He has shown signs of concussion and is ruled out of the opening Test against England. The 30-year-old is stable and will remain under close medical observation," Shah further stated.

When vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane was asked about the fitness of all players, he did say that Agarwal sustained a head injury.

"Mayank Agarwal got hit on the head. The medical team is looking after him. All others are fit," Rahane told mediapersons.

After being hit by Siraj's delivery, Agarwal was seen in some discomfort as he removed the helmet and sat on the ground with physio Nitin Patel attending to him.

He was then seen pressing the back of his head while leaving the nets, escorted by Patel.

KL Rahul, who has mostly opened in Test matches but prefers a middle-order slot these days, could be asked to face the new ball first up in the absence of Agarwal.

The other option is Bengal opener Abhimanyu Easwaran.

A left field selection could be Hanuma Vihari, opening the innings, like he did in Australia.

In case Vihari opens and bowls his off-spin, seamer all-rounder Shardul Thakur could also be considered for selection.

## Hyderya Sports FC Felicitated For I-League 2nd Division Qualification

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Hyderya Sports Kashmir FC was on Monday felicitated by JKFA officials for its I-League 2nd Division qualification.

The Mountain Lions earned their I-League nomination after a finishing 2nd in the recently concluded JKFA Professional League 2021.

A meeting took place between officials of JKFA and representatives of Hyderya Sports at JKFA head office in Abi Guzar, Srinagar. During the meeting the members discussed football development across Kashmir valley.

The officials of JKFA acquainted Hyderya Sports FC about their nomination and lauded their performance in the Professional League.

On the occasion Hyderya Sports was represented by its Chairman, Feroz Hussain while JKFA was represented by President Zameer Ahmad Thakur and General Secretary, Prof. BA Shah.

Chairman Hyderya Sports FC Kashmir thanked Jammu Kashmir Football Association and Jammu Kashmir Sports Council for their unconditional support in bringing the



team to such new heights.

Meanwhile he appealed LG Manoj Sinha to lend his support for Hyderya Sports Kashmir FC at the national level as in addition to Sports activities,

Hyderya Sports is dealing with drug de-addiction, youth empowerment, peace building and providing platform to Kashmiri youth at national and international level.

## 4th Edition Champions Cricket Trophy To Start From August 3

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The 4th Edition 'Champions Trophy Cricket Tournament' is scheduled to start from August 3 at TRC's cricket ground. Organised by Cricket Fraternity Dalgate (CFD), the 30-over knockout tournament will witness the participation of 32 teams from across Kashmir valley.

"We have been conducting sports activities at TRC ground for the last many years and as far as cricket is concerned we are conducting tournaments regularly and teams from all over the Valley are participating in our tournaments," President CFD Imtiyaz Ahmad Munshi said.

"Recently third edition of the event concluded and we are now going to conduct another edition from August 3," he added.

Imtiyaz Ahmad also said that such tournaments are helping the budding cricketers to showcase their cricketing talent.

He said the inaugural match will start at 10:00 am between Back Country Bashers and Kings XI Muran Pulwama.

The matches will be broadcasted live on CFD's official Youtube and Facebook channels.

## JKFA Announces Futsal Tournament, Invites Clubs To Register

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Monday invited entries to JKFA Futsal Football Tournament 2021, scheduled to begin from August 10.

"Entries are invited from Premier and Super Division clubs registered with DFA Srinagar for participation in the tournament," a JKFA statement said.

"The entries should reach the office of the Association in Abi Guzar, Srinagar upto August 6, 2021. Only 24 football clubs will be given entry in the tournament which will be based purely on first come first serve basis," the statement added.

"The registration forms are available at Association's office. For any query feel free to contact 9419090303, 7006673449, 9419001811."

## WHAT A RECOVERY! Hassan Falls, Gets Up And Wins 1,500 Heat

Agencies

**TOKYO:** Sifan Hassan's bid for a distance treble at the Olympics was nearly derailed Monday when the world champion tripped over another runner and fell at the final bell of her 1,500-meter heat.

Amazingly, she ended up winning the race.

Hassan tried, but failed, to hurdle over Kenya's Edinah Jebitok, who tumbled just in front of her as runners jostled for position at the start of the final lap.

Hassan also went crashing down but rolled, quickly got back to her feet and set about chasing down the pack in an astonishing comeback.

Staring at a shock elimination, the Dutch runner sped past a couple of runners down the back straight, had reached the leading pack by the last bend, and won from Australia's Jessica Hull and American Elinor Purrier St. Pierre after powering down the home straight.

Hassan finished in 4 minutes, 51.7 seconds to qualify for the semifinals,



although she nearly paid dearly for the decision to run at the back of the field in the early stages of the race and wait for the bell to make her move. She was third-from-last at the start of the final lap and just before she fell.

Her recovery kept alive her bid for the treble in Tokyo.

Hassan had already qualified to run in the 5,000-meter final later Monday at the Olympic Stadium, although the energy she expended on that last-lap

scramble in the 1,500 heats might catch up with her when she returns in the evening session to try for her first gold of the Games.

Hassan didn't stop to speak to reporters after the 1,500 race as she rushed away to recover and prepare for the 5,000 final.

Hassan, who was born in Ethiopia but moved to the Netherlands as a refugee, is expected to battle with two-time world champion Hellen Obiri of Kenya for the 5,000 gold, while there are three Ethiopians also challenging for a medal.

Hassan won a 1,500-10,000-meter double at the world championships in Doha, Qatar in 2019. She has said she will also run in the 10,000 meters at the Olympics. No athlete has won 1,500-, 5,000- and 10,000-meter golds at the same Olympics.

Hassan's grueling schedule means she will have to run six races in eight days in the Tokyo heat and humidity, including those two races on Monday and the 1,500 and 10,000 finals on back-to-back days on Friday and Saturday.

## India Beat Australia To Enter Maiden Women's Hockey Semi-Finals

**TOKYO:** A brave and determined Indian women's hockey team etched its name in the history books by entering the Olympic Games semifinals for the first time, stunning three-time champions and world no.2 Australia 1-0 in an intense last-eight tie here on Monday.

A day after the Indian men's team entered the Olympic semifinals following a 49-year gap, the world no. 9 women's side also produced a phenomenally gritty performance to make it way into the last four. Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur rose to the occasion when it mattered and converted India's lone penalty corner in the 22nd minute to surprise the Australians.

## Equestrian Fouaad Mirza Finishes 23rd In Individual Eventing

**TOKYO:** Equestrian Fouaad Mirza on Monday finished a creditable 23rd in eventing after he became the first Indian to reach the final of the event in Tokyo on Monday.

Mirza and his equine Seigneur Medicott sneaked into the top-25 in the morning to make the jumping finals and become the first Indian to do so. In the final, Mirza incurred 12.40 penalty points for an overall 59.60 that included the points from the three rounds of qualifying events – dressage, cross country and jumping.

It was a creditable performance for the 29-year-old Bengaluru rider Mirza, who was the first equestrian to qualify for the Olympics since Imtiaz Anees in Sydney 2000.

## Kamalpreet Kaur Finishes Sixth In Discus Throw Final

**TOKYO:** Discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur finished a creditable sixth in her first Olympics with a best throw of 63.70m in a rain-interrupted final in Tokyo on Monday.

The 25-year-old Kaur, who has qualified for the final as second best on Saturday, was never in the running for a medal in the eight rounds of competition which was interrupted by rain for more than an hour. American Valerie Allman took the gold with a first round throw of 68.98m while Kristin Pudenz (66.86m) of Germany and reigning world champion Yaime Perez (65.72m) of Cuba won the silver and bronze respectively.

## Dutee Chand Finishes Last, Fails To Qualify For 200m Semis

**TOKYO:** Sprinter Dutee Chand ran her season's best in 200m but that was not enough for a semifinals berth as she made a disappointing exit from the Olympics after finishing last in her heat race here on Monday.

The 25-year-old Dutee, who had also crashed out of her pet event 100m in the first round, clocked 23.85 seconds to finish seventh and last in Heat 4. Top three finishers from each of the seven heats and the next three fastest qualify for the semifinals.

## Indian Shooters Finish Without Medal

**TOKYO:** Indian shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Sanjeev Rajput failed to qualify for the finals of the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the Tokyo Olympics on Monday.

Tomar finished 21st in the qualification while Rajput was placed in 32nd position at the Asaka Shooting Range as the Indian shooting team returned without a medal for the second straight time at the Olympics.

Only the top 8 athletes qualify for the final. With this, Indian shooters failed to win a medal for a second successive Olympics.

## Wrestlers To Begin India's Campaign Today

**TOKYO:** Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat will have spotlight on them when India's seven wrestlers, beginning with Sonam Malik, open their campaigns here from Tuesday.

Apart from Bajrang (FS 65kg) and Vinesh (WW 53kg), Ravi Dahiya (FS 57kg) is expected to deliver at the biggest stage in the next few days.

The 19-year-old Sonam will be first to take mat in the 62kg category, pitted against Mongolia's Asian Championship silver medalist Bolortuya Khurelkhuu.

## Indian Men's Hockey Team To Face Belgium In Semis Today

**TOKYO:** Indian men's hockey team will take on world champion Belgium, with an aim to secure a place in the Olympic finals and with it, a medal for the first time in 41 years here on Tuesday.

The Indians achieved the semifinal slot by beating Great Britain 3-1 in the quarterfinals on Sunday, and are now in touching distance of a medal. India's last of the eight Olympic gold medals came way back in 1980 Moscow Games but there were no semifinals in that edition as only six teams participated in the event.



## Pak "Watchful" As India Assumes UN Security Council Presidency For August



Agenceis

**Islamabad:** As India assumed the rotating presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the month of August, Pakistan's envoy to the UN Munir Akram said they will be "watchful" during New Delhi's spell at the forum.

India on Sunday assumed the rotating presidency of the UNSC and is set to host signature events related to various issues on its agenda during August. During its presidency, India will be focusing on maritime security, peacekeeping, and counterterrorism.

Given India's monthly spell at UNSC, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Munir Akram was quoted as saying by The Express Tribune that, "We (Pakistan) will be watchful, but not concerned."

Back in June, India had said it desires "normal neighbourly relations" with Pakistan and the onus is on Islamabad to create a conducive atmosphere by taking "credible, verifiable" action to not allow any territory under its control to be used for cross terrorism.

During a debate on the annual report of the UNSC, India said that issues between the two countries should be resolved bilaterally. However, New Delhi also slammed Pakistan for raising the matters of Kashmir which is in-

ternal to India, during the debate.

Delivering India's statement on the report, R Madhu Sudan, Counselor at Permanent Mission of India to the UN, said Pakistan continued to indulge in theatrics not "befitting the dignity of this august Forum."

India's remarks came after Pakistan Ambassador to the UN raised the issue of Kashmir in the assembly during the debate.

India took over the presidency from France. Ambassador of India to the United Nations, TS Tirumurti thanked France Permanent Representative to the UN, Nicolas de Riviere, for steering the UN Security Council for the month of July.

This is India's first presidency in the UNSC during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. The two-year tenure of India as a non-permanent member of the UNSC began on January 1, 2021.

India will also be organizing a solemn event in memory of peacekeepers. Tirumurti apprised that the UN Security Council will also have on its agenda several important meetings including Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, and the Middle East.

UN Security Council will also be adopting important resolutions on Somalia, Mali, and UN Interim Force in Lebanon, he added.

## 24 Universities Declared Fake, Most From UP: Education Minister

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) has declared 24 "self-styled" institutes fake and found two more in violation of norms, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

Mr Pradhan made the statement in response to a written question in Lok Sabha.

"Based on the complaints received from the students, parents, general public and also through electronic print media, UGC has declared 24 self styled institutes as fake universities.

"Besides, two more institutes namely Bhartiya Shiksha Parishad, Lucknow, UP and Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM), Qutub Enclave, New Delhi are also found functioning in violation of the UGC Act, 1956. The matters of Bhartiya Shiksha Parishad, Lucknow and IIPM, New Delhi are sub-judice in the court," he added.

Uttar Pradesh has the highest eight such fake universities -- Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi; Mahila Gram Vidyapith, Allahabad; Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Allahabad; National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Kanpur; Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Open University, Aligarh; Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya, Mathura; Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh and Indraprastha Shiksha Parishad, Nojda.

Delhi has seven such fake universities - Commercial University Ltd, United Nations University, Vocational University, ADR Centric Judicial University, Indian Institution of Science and Engineering, Vishwakarma Open University for Self Employment and Adhyatmik Vish-



wavidyalaya (Spiritual University).

Odisha and West Bengal have two such universities each. These are: Indian Institute of Alternative Medicine, Kolkata and Institute of Alternative Medicine and Research, Kolkata as well as Nababharat Shiksha Parishad, Rourkela and North Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology.

Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Puducherry and Maharashtra have one fake university each.

They are - Sree Bodhi Academy of Higher Education, Puducherry; Christ New Testament Deemed University, Andhra Pradesh; Raja Arabic University, Nagpur; St John's University, Kerala and Badaganvi Sarkar World Open Univer-

sity Education Society, Karnataka.

Elaborating on the steps taking by the UGC against the fake or non-recognised universities, Pradhan said, "the UGC issues public notices about the list of fake universities/institutes in national Hindi and English newspapers."

He said, "The commission writes letters to state chief secretaries, Education secretaries and principal secretaries to take action against such universities located in their jurisdiction".

"Show cause and warning notices are issued to the unauthorized institutes awarding invalid degrees when any self-styled institution is found or noticed functioning in violation of the UGC Act, 1956."

## MP Govt Acts Against Online Game Firm After Teen Ends Life On Losing Rs 40k

**BHOPAL:** The Madhya Pradesh government has filed a police case against the developers of an online game after a 13-year-old boy killed himself in Chhatarpur district last week over the monetary loss, state home minister Narottam Mishra said on Monday.

The teen boy, a Class VI student who ended his life last Friday, had left behind a suicide note in which he stated that he was taking this extreme step after losing Rs 40,000 in an online game called 'Free Fire', police had said.

"A sad incident took place over the Free Fire game in Chhatarpur. An FIR has been registered against the company which developed this game. Superintendents of police across the state have been directed to take action against the developers of such addictive games, which are disorientating the young generation and playing with their lives. We have sought the state Law department's opinion to initiate legal action against such companies," Mishra told re-

porters.

Rajesh Banjare, in charge of Civil Lines police station in Chhatarpur, said on Monday that an FIR under section 305 (abetment of suicide of child) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered against the company that developed 'Free Fire' and the help of the cyber cell was being taken to zero in on monetary transactions in the case.

The child who ended his life, in his suicide note, had sought forgiveness from his mother for withdrawing Rs 40,000 from her UPI account and losing it in 'Free Fire' sessions, police had said.

Incidentally, a 12-year-old boy had ended his life in Dhana in the Sagar district in January after his father took away his mobile phone over the former's addiction to the 'Free Fire' game.

Free Fire is a shooter survival game based on the 'last man standing' concept in which players have to search for weapons to eliminate other participants. PTI

## A Dog Is Made Ferocious By Circumstances & Stray Ones Aren't Dangerous By Nature: Kerala HC

Agenceis

**KOCHI:** A dog is made ferocious by the circumstances and it is a myth that a stray canine is dangerous by nature, the Kerala High Court said on Monday while dealing with the issue of poisoning of street dogs in Thrikkakara municipality area of Ernakulam district. A bench of Justices A K Jayasankaran Nambiar and P Gopinath said killing or maiming the street dogs was not the way to make people safer and the better option was to capture the canines and rehabilitate them at animal shelters.

It also said, "This kind of dog catching using hammers cannot be done." The court said a balance has to be maintained between the interests of the residents of the area who feel threatened by the street dogs and the welfare of the animals. It was also skeptical with regard to the municipality's claims that one of its junior health inspectors paid for the poisoning of the canines from his own pocket.

The court directed the municipality to identify in its area any animal shelters run by private organisations who would be able to capture the street dogs and shelter them in their premises.

It issued the direction while observing that it understands that presently the municipality would not be able to spend funds for setting

up such shelters. The Kerala government was asked to give details of the animal shelters — run by the state and private ones — in all the districts. With these directions the court listed the matter for hearing on August 6.

The court had taken up the issue of the poisoning of the dogs after a video on the same was brought to its attention.

While seeking the stand of the municipality over its role in the entire matter, the bench had also directed the civic body to ensure no such incident takes place within its territorial limits in future and to put in place suitable machinery to ensure the same. On Monday, the municipality told the court that it had no role in the matter.

Last week, the junior health inspector — arrayed as an accused in the case with regard to killing of the canines — moved the High Court, seeking anticipatory bail and claimed that he was being falsely implicated in the case to divert the probe from the Chairperson and Secretary of the municipality and the chairperson of its standing committee on health.

He alleged in his plea that the Chairperson and Secretary of the municipality and the chairperson of its standing committee on health were the ones who allegedly hired the gang which had killed the street dogs.

## Top Bureaucrat From PMO Quits

Agenceis

A senior bureaucrat in the Prime Minister's Office, Amarjeet Sinha, has resigned from his post, sources said on Monday. A retired IAS officer, Sinha was an advisor in the PMO and handled projects related to the social sector.



A Bihar-cadre IAS officer of 1983 batch, Sinha had superannuated as the rural development secretary in 2019 and was then appointed to the PMO.

He is the second top officer to quit the PMO in recent months after former cabinet secretary PK Sinha, who worked there as principal advisor, resigned in March.

## No Proposal Under Consideration To Waive Farmer Loans, Parliament Told

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The government on Monday said there is no proposal under consideration to waive loans of farmers, including Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said the Centre has not implemented any farm loan waiver scheme since "Agricul-

ture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008".

"There is no proposal under consideration of the Government of India to waive off the loans of farmers including Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes farmers in the country," the Minister said.

Mr Karad also listed major initiatives taken by the government and the Reserve Bank of India to reduce the debt burden of farm-

ers and for welfare of the people engaged in agriculture, including those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

He cited schemes like interest subvention for short-term crop loans of up to 3 lakh, RBI's decision to raise the limit for collateral-free agriculture loan from 1 lakh to 1.6 lakh, and direct income support of 6,000 per year to farmers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.

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Inkishaf

# Troubled Waters of Doodhganga



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