



**P12 OUTPOST**

**RISE IN COVID CASES WORRYING, BUT PREMATURE TO DECLARE THIRD WAVE: SCIENTISTS**

The rise in fresh Covid cases and the effective reproduction number indication of how fast an infection spreads -- in many states is worrying but don't panic...

**P6 KASHMIR IN THE REARVIEW**

According to South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP), 283 persons were killed in 2019, and there were 321 deaths in 2020 over 140 conflict-related incidents, including 33 civilians, 56 Indian security forces, and 232 militants. By mid-2021, 138 persons have



**P5 STATE**

**RAHUL GANDHI TO VISIT J&K ON AUG 9**

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will visit Jammu and Kashmir on August 9. According to news agency ANI, the Congress leader is expected to meet the party workers. This is Rahul Gandhi's first visit to Jammu



**Quote!**  
Happiness depends upon ourselves.  
—Aristotle

**NEWS DIGEST**

**630 Militants Killed In 3 Years: Govt**

**NEW DELHI:** A total of 630 militants were killed in 400 encounters in Jammu and Kashmir in the last three years, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanada Rai said 85 security personnel were also killed in these encounters from May 2018 to June 2021. "Jammu and Kashmir has been affected by terrorist violence that is sponsored and supported from" [More On P10](#)

**J&K Sees 149 New Cases, 1 Death**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported 149 new covid-19 cases while one more person succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours, officials said on Thursday. They said 49 of the cases were reported from Jammu Division and 100 from Kashmir Valley, taking the infection tally to 322014 in J&K, they said. Regarding the death, they said, it has been reported from Kashmir. With this, 4385 people have fallen victim to the pathogen in J&K—2147 in Jammu [More On P10](#)

**Earthquake Joits Kashmir**

**SRINAGAR:** Earthquake tremors were felt across parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday afternoon. The tremors lasting for several seconds were reportedly felt at around 4:02 PM. Citing an independent source GFZ (German Research Centre for Geosciences), Kashmir Weather reported that an earthquake of 5.2 magnitude with epicenter in Afghanistan (69.97°E, 36.31°N) at a depth of 132 kilometers [More On P10](#)

**Ladakh Logs 20 New Coronavirus Cases**

**LEH:** Ladakh has recorded a sudden increase in coronavirus cases with 20 fresh infections being reported in a day, officials said. All the 20 cases, reported on Tuesday, were from Leh. The fresh infections took the case tally in the union territory to 20,365 and the number of active cases stood at 71 -- four in Kargil and 67 in Leh -- officials said. Ladakh has registered 207 [More On P10](#)

**Qazigund-Banihal Tunnel Opens For Trial**

**NEW DELHI:** The 8.5 km tunnel between Qazigund and Banihal, which will reduce travel time between Jammu and Srinagar by about 1.5 hours and 16 km, has been opened to traffic for trial, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday. The Road Transport and Highways Minister in a tweet said that, built at 5,800 feet above sea level, the tunnel will replace [More On P10](#)

## Police Warns Traders Against Observing Strike



Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** Claiming that the shutdowns were boosting morale of militant organisations, the Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday warned traders against observing a strike in this capital city on the second anniversary of special status revocation. According to reports, police on

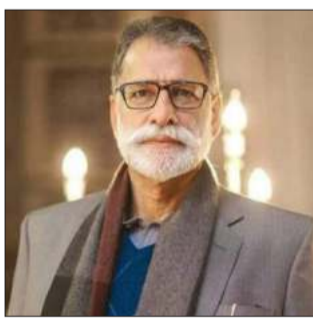
Wednesday held a meeting with local shopkeepers, traders and manufacturers of the city centre Lal Chowk at the Kothi Bagh police station and directed them not to observe any shutdown on the second anniversary of special status revocation and to run their businesses as usual. The meeting came at a time when police warned of serious action against the people [More On P10](#)

**Police Files Case Over Shutdown Tweet**

Police on Wednesday warned action against those circulating "fake tweet attributed to Syed Ali Shah Geelani, calling for strike on August 5 and 15," in Jammu and Kashmir. "As per family sources of SAS Geelani, the tweet is fake and issued by someone from Pakistan. Police are taking action" [More On P10](#)

**EVERYTHING'S NORMAL IN KASHMIR,** so why to observe hartal on August 5th. If businesses can run normally on other days then they can remain open on August 5th also."

**Imran Picks Niazi As Premier Of Pak Kashmir**



**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party's Abdul Qayyum Niazi was on Wednesday elected as the new premier of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, hours after Prime Minister Imran Khan nominated him for the top post following extensive consultations. Niazi received 33 votes in the 53-member newly formed legislative assembly of Pck, whereas joint opposition's candidate Chaudhry Latif Akbar secured just 15 votes, according to the official result. He succeeds Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Raja Farooq Haider, whose [More On P10](#)

**Day 2: No Trace Of Pilot, Co-Pilot Of Crashed Chopper**

**Press Trust Of India**  
**JAMMU:** The search operation to trace the missing pilots of an Army helicopter that crashed into the Ranjit Sagar dam lake in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua resumed on Wednesday, officials said. The crash occurred on Tuesday morning. The rescue operation was suspended at night. The dam is located about 30 kilometers from Pathankot in Punjab and the lake in which the helicopter crashed is shared by Punjab and J-K governments. Deep sea divers of the Navy are also part of the operation, the officials said. The depth of the crash site has been measured to be over 200 feet. Some pieces of the helicopter were found on Tuesday after forces and boats were mobilised for the search operation, Kathua Senior Superintendent [More On P10](#)

**Militancy Victim's Kin Get Ex-Gratia Relief 21 Years After Death**

**Press Trust Of India**  
**JAMMU:** The LG administration has released an ex-gratia relief to the family of a civilian shot dead by militants in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir 21 years ago. Deputy Commissioner Reasi Charandeep Singh released ex gratia relief totalling Rs 4.82 lakh, approved by a district-level screening-cum-coordination committee, in favour of the six militancy victims. A sum of Rs 1 lakh was given to the next of kin of Nazir Ahmed of HariWalla Thuroo who was killed by militants in 2000, officials said. Besides it, Rs 0.75 lakh [More On P10](#)

**PM Building Quality Infra In J&K: LG**

**Press Trust Of India**  
**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his vision of building quality infrastructure in the union territory for the coming generations. "I am deeply grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji for his vision of building quality infrastructure in J&K for the coming generations. The UT has recently witnessed a phase of unprecedented progress in Road connectivity projects among others," the LG said on his official Twitter handle. He also expressed gratitude to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. "The completion of the new 8.5 km tunnel between Qazigund & Banihal shall ensure all-weather connectivity between Jammu-Srinagar, besides giving a major fillip to economic activity in the region. I am also thankful to Union Minister [More On P10](#)

**Jamia Masjid To Reopen For Friday Prayers**

**Observer News Service**  
**SRINAGAR:** The historic Jamia Masjid in the Old City here will reopen for Friday prayers after remaining closed for over three months due to coronavirus imposed lockdown, the management of central mosque said Wednesday. According to a spokesperson of Anjuman Auqaf, Jamia Masjid Friday prayers will be offered this week as all central

**NIA Detains Father, Son Duo For Questioning**

**Agencies**  
**SRINAGAR:** The sleuths of National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday carried out raids in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Official sources said that NIA along with a police team raided residences of Muzamil Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Hassan

mosques, shrines, Imambaras across Jammu and Kashmir have resumed congregational prayers since the coronavirus cases have slowed down. However, the Anjuman spokesperson added that as per the guidelines of medical experts, the worshippers will take precautionary measures and strictly adhere to Covid SOPs during the Friday and daily prayers. [More On P10](#)

## Sonum Lotus On Hot Summer, Cloudbursts: 'Weather Extremes Increasing'

By Auqib Javeed

After extreme winter, as summer is becoming unbearable in Kashmir, weatherman Sonum Lotus blames the rising average temperature across the globe for the soaring mercury in mountains. At the same time, the erratic rainfall and cloudbursts have posed added weather challenges in the valley. However, delinking frequent cloudbursts from climate change, the weatherman said, "Today, people report every intense shower as a cloudburst without verification. This is sad. All cloudbursts don't cause damage. The impact of all extreme weather events depends on vulnerability."

Accurate weather forecasts are of utmost importance today, he said, "So that no severe weather goes undetected and becomes pernicious for the precious life." In an interview with Kashmir Observer, Sonum Lotus talks about the increasing weather extremes and how people have to learn to live with it. Kashmir is witnessing unusual weather changes since the last few years. Is climatic change in full swing? Yes, climate is changing due to increased emission of toxic greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by various human activities like automobiles, burning of fossil fuel, big industries, etc. But Kashmir weather behaves erratically compared to Ladakh and Jammu now. What can be



the reason? See, weather behaves erratically, especially from April-August, not only in Kashmir, but in entire J&K and Ladakh. The reason for erratic behaviour of weather in these months is due to high temperature, which suddenly helps in development of localised thunderstorms, rain, wind, etc at a particular place.



Is rising temperature in the valley more vulnerable to climate change? And what will be its direct effect? Yes, rising temperature is the main reason behind global warming which modifies climate across the world because the atmosphere is free and weather sees no boundaries. While its impacts are both positive and negative, the latter

is more alarming and needs urgent action at policy level. After extreme winter this year, Kashmir is now witnessing hot summer. This heat accelerates faster melting of glaciers leading to mudslides and flashfloods with a brief spell of shower. Weather extremes are increasing. It's real and we've to learn to live with it and build the capacity of our people, especially the poor and the vulnerable ones. With Srinagar lately recording its hottest July day in the last 8 years, do we have to brace up for hotter seasons in coming years? See, the average temperature is rising across the globe, not only in Kashmir. That's why there's so much debate, concerns shown by all countries, developed or [More On P10](#)



# Covid not linked to increased preterm births, stillbirths: Study

Agencies

Canadian researchers have found no increase in preterm births or stillbirths during the first year of the pandemic, alleviating concerns about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on pregnancy. During the pandemic, the UK, Italy, India and others reported increases in stillbirths and some variability in preterm birth rates. However, most studies were small. A team, led by researchers in the University of Toronto, conducted a large study of more than 2.4 million births in Ontario over an 18-year period and compared trends in the pre-pandemic period (2002-2019) with the pandemic period (January to December 2020). "We found no unusual changes in rates of preterm birth or stillbirth during the pandemic, which is reassuring," said Dr. Prakesh Shah, a pediatrician-in-chief at Sinai Health and professor at University of Toronto. The results are published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. Pandemic-related measures and compliance with them could affect preterm birth rates in different



settings. Thus, the researchers looked at birth outcomes in the public health units where positivity rates for SARS-CoV-2 were higher (Toronto, Peel Region, York Region and Ottawa) as well as comparing urban and rural births and those in neighbourhoods with different average income levels. "In some areas and in certain people, the restrictions could be beneficial, and in other settings or individuals, restrictions could have the opposite effect," Shah said. International studies are now underway to help understand the impact of Covid-19 on pregnancy and child-birth around the globe. Infection, inflammation, stress, medical or pregnancy-induced disorders, genetic predisposition, and environmental factors can contribute to stillbirth and preterm birth, although in many instances the cause remains unknown.

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## فاتحہ خوانی

پیرزادہ شہزادہ محمد رفیق نے گورنمنٹ ہائی اسکول ڈال لیک میں اپنے والدین کی مدد سے ایک نیا کتب خانہ کھولا۔ اس موقع پر ان کے والدین نے ان کی تعریف کی اور ان کی اس کامیابی پر مبارکبادیں پیش کیں۔

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سوگواراں  
 بلاول احمد، ماسٹر (فرزین)  
 6005577508  
 نوٹ: دستاویزات سے گواہی دینی ہے کہ وہ اپنے ماں باپ کی تمنا کو پورا کرنے کے لیے اس کام کو کر رہے ہیں۔

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR



**NOTICE**  
 Where an application for transfer of ownership has been received from one, Shri : Mrs. Fareeda Bano W/o: Nisar Ahmad Shah R/o: Khansahib Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Honda WR-V . Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F-0957. Chassis number 41783 Engine no. 48396 Model 2019. in favour of Shri. Ishrat Ahmad S/o. Ghulam Nabi Zargar R/o Botashah Colony Lal Bazar Srinagar (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Alawpora Khansahib. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2090  
 Dated 04/08/2021 Assistant Regional Transport officer  
 mcb Budgam Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B SUB-DIVISION MAGAM

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
**NIT No: - 48/ R&B of 2021-22 DATED:- 02/08/2021.**  
 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money	Time of Completion (In days)	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Construction of 3.00m box type Culvert in Km 1st of Chandilora Chanpora road	9.00	600/-	3% of quoted cost within 03 days after opening of financial bid	30	11/08/2021	D/C	S/Sector
2	Construction of R/Wall near Hotel Payam on Narbal Tangmarg road	7.10	300/-	--do--	30	11/08/2021	D/C	S/Sector
3	Development of link road at Waniloo from House of Ali Mohammad Mir to the H/O Ab. Jabbar Dar	5.00	200/-	--do--	20	11/08/2021	D/C	S/Sector
4	Up-gradation / Restoration of road surface by way of P/L GSB in patches / Stretches, WBM G-II in full, construction of CC Drain and P/L of RCC pipes to inner links of village Sheerabad	15.00	600/-	--do--	35	11/08/2021	D/C/B	S/Sector
5	Construction of 1 x 3 Mtr. Culvert on Ziran Hajjibad road Km 2nd	6.00	300/-	--do--	25	11/08/2021	D/C	S/Sector

Position of AAA/TS : 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 [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-
- The cost of tender documents should be collected by introducing e-challan or simple uploading a copy of necessary Treasury challan / receipt (M.H 0059) only as per enclosed format.
- Actual Treasury challan / receipt be submitted to the concerned authority as per the order principal secretary to Govt. Finance Department No. A/24 (2017) / 651 Dated: 07-06-2018 duly endorsed by Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Baramulla / Kupwara vide his No. SE (R&B)/3741-46 Dated: 25-06-2018.
- All bidders has to submit bid security declaration form instead of earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of finance department (Bid security form is as per Annexure "A" below).
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount of equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The Successful bidders have to start the work within 07 days, otherwise action shall be taken as per the norms.

S.No.	Date of issue of tender Notice	02/08/2021
1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	02/08/2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 03/08/2021 10.00 A.M to 10/08/2021 4.00 P.M
3	Bid submission start date	03/08/2021 from 10.00 AM
4	Bid submission end date	10/08/2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	11/08/2021 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam (tender inviting authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The bidder has to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- 1.1. All 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.
- 1.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- 1.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- 1.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1 on any other convene day
- 1.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original / photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically / by registered post / through courier before the date specified in Para-1.
- 1.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents tender document fee in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and submit the Hard Copies of all the uploaded documents duly attested under the hand and seal of the tenderer. No document(s) which has / have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hardcopy. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of Soft copies if need arises.
- 1.7. Retention Money:- 10% shall be deducted from each running bill of the successful contractor which shall be released after virtual completion of work in all respects for Civil works only.
- 1.8. The bidders should record their contact numbers in the Divisional Office.
- 1.9. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).
- 1.10. In case any new circular / instructions / order is issued by the competent authorities during the current financial year, the same shall be implemented / treated in force on all the tenders floated from time to time.

No:-R&B/Divn/Magam/2518-28  
 Dated: 02-08-2021  
 DPK-5852/21  
 Executive Engineer, R&B Sub-Division Magam

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION-IIIIRD, SHEREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR.

Notice Inviting Tender.

e-NIT No.:- ED-III / 31 of 2021-22

Dated:- 31-07-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from reputed companies Registered with ROC of INDIA, Original Manufacturers or relevant class A registered electrical contractors/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency of JKPD, for "Creation of dedicated 100 KVA Substation along with HT/LT line for Women's Development Corporation, Bemina under the jurisdiction of ESD Watalakadal, ED-3rd (Turkey Basis) as per details mentioned below:

Name of the work.	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	Completion Period	Status of funds
Creation of dedicated 100 KVA Substation along with HT/LT line for Women's Development Corporation, Bemina under the jurisdiction of ESD Watalakadal, ED-3rd (Turkey Basis)	5.90	Rs. 1000/-	15 days	Available

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> from 02-08-2021: 03.30 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	02-08-2021: 03.30 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	21-08-2021: 02:00PM
D	Clarification start date	03-08-2021: 10:00AM
E	Clarification end date	21-08-2021: 02:00PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	05-08-2021: 10:00AM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	21-08-2021: 04:00PM.
H	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid. 23-08-2021: 02:00PM
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-III, Sgr.
L	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender), DD also acceptable, (however Original DD to be submitted on end date of e-Bid submission).	Rs.1000/- (Rupees One thousand only).

No:- ED-III/TS/  
 Dated:- 31-07-2021  
 DPK-NB-2278/21  
 Executive Engineer Electric Division 3rd.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION GANDERBAL

Tel No.:- 0194-2416178 Email:- xen-stdgbal@nic.in, exengineer12@gmail.com

### NOTICE INVITING BIDDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDC, Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from OEM's, Authorized Dealers & Service providers, Registered (A- Class) Electric Contractors registered with J&K Government, Central Public Works Department, Railways and other state/central governments for "e-NIT No.:- STD/GBL/16 of 2021-22, Dated: 31-07-2021 for "Improvement of (HT/LT Network) 33KV Badampora- Safaporaline under Capex Budget.

### Important Dates and Events

e-NIT No	STD/GBL/16 of 2021-22, Dated: 31-07-2021
The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> as per schedule given below:	
A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document 02/08/2021: 14:00 Hours
B	Clarifications start date 03/08/2021: 10:00 Hours
C	Clarifications end date 25/08/2021: 14:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-bidder fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS) 03/08/2021: 14:00 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time 26/08/2021: 14:00 Hours
F	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time 27/08/2021: 12:00 Hours
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified bidders) Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids Office of The Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal
I	Cost of e-Bid document INR 1000.00 (Rupees Two thousand only) Should be in Shape of Treasury Receipt in favor of Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit Earnest money Declaration in lieu of Earnest money deposit.
K	Estimated amount Rs.(309317) Three lakh nine thousand three hundred seventeen.
L	Status of Funds Under Capex Budget
M	Validity offer 180 days from the date of opening of price tender.

The tender document can be downloaded from website [jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in) "Corrigendum, if any, would appear only on the [jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in) website. Sale of physical tender document is not applicable. No price shall be submitted offline in any form. Bidder can modify his bid before last date of submission of online bid. After the last date of submission of online bid, no claim of bidder shall be entertained.

No: STD / GBL/TS/1047-55  
 Date: 31-07-2021  
 DPK-NB-2255/21  
 Executive Engineer, STD Ganderbal

## Health & Medical Education Department Government Medical College, Srinagar

e-tender NOTICE 35 OF 2021

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, online tenders (in two cover system: Technical Bid and Financial Bid) are invited from those firm (s) who are having Valid Registration Certified with J&K Pollution Control Board for fixing/allotment of contract for Outsourcing of LIFTING / TRANSPORTATION / TREATMENT & DISPOSAL OF BIO MEDICAL WASTE generated in Govt. Medical College & Its Associated Hospital, Srinagar as per Technical / Bill of Quantity (BOQ) on the terms and conditions given in Tender Document.

S.No	Particular of the Tender	Cost of Tender Fee	Earnest Money	Date of Opening of Bid
1	Outsourcing of Lifting/ Transportation / Treatment & Disposal of BMW	Rs.1000/=For General	Rs.2,00,000/=for General	01-09-2021 (14.00 Hrs.)

- The tender document for the above job can be seen from 03-08-2021 (13:00: 00 hrs.) on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 03-08-2021 (13:00 hrs) to 30-08-2021 (16:00 hrs).
- Any clarification will be entertained from 03-08-2021 (13:00 Hrs) to 20-08-2021 (16:00 Hrs).
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 20-08-2021 (16: 00 hrs) up to 31-08-2021 (16:00 hrs) only.
- The uploaded bids on the website will be opened on 01-09-2021 (14:00hrs) in Office of the Convener, Rate Contract Committee, Govt. Medical College Srinagar in presence of bidders who wish to attend. In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Cost of tender document (in shape of DD) favoring FA/CAO Government Medical College Srinagar & earnest money (in shape of CDR/FDR) in original favoring FA/CAO Government Medical College Srinagar along with requisite documents in shape of Hard copy should reach in office of Member Secretary State Level Purchase Committee, Govt. Medical College Srinagar through by person/speed post/Regd. Post/Courier only before due date of submission of bid. State Level Committee shall not be responsible for any delay due to any reason.
- Original copy affidavit on Rs.50/- stamp paper duly attested by Executive Magistrate to the effect that:-  
 a. The documents/catalogues etc enclosed with the Tender are original & genuine and have not been tampered or fabricated.  
 b. The firm has not been blacklisted in the past by any Govt. / Private institution of the country and there is no vigilance/any other investigating agency, case pending against the firm/supplier.  
 c. Complete bidding process will be on-line. (Price bid shall not be submitted in physical form)

No: NIT/E -BMW/ 35 OF 2021  
 DPK-5849/21  
 Dated:-03-08-2021  
 Convener Rate Contract Committee Government Medical College Srinagar

## DDC Srinagar Conducts Tour Of Khanmoh Block

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of Public Outreach Program, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday undertook an extensive tour of various remote/hilly areas of Srinagar district including Sangri and Chak basti in Khonmoh Block to bring administration to door steps of people for on spot resolution of public issues. He also inspected ongoing works at PHC Zewan.

During the visit, the District Development Commissioner interacted with the people of the areas and received first hand appraisal about the public issues and demands.

On the occasion, the people projected various

demands and submitted a charter of demands including establishing Ration Depot at habitations of Sangri and Chak, Regulation of Electricity tariff by revision of electricity agreement, cleaning of

drain along with Sangri under MGNREGA, regulation of water supply, boundary wall for Middle School Sangri, requirement of Anganwadi Centre at Poshpathri and Sangri, requirement of Dispensary and setting up of Mobile Tower at Sangri.

The locals also demanded for construction of Environmental Parks in the areas to explore and promote tourism potential in these remote and far-flung areas for upliftment of socio-economic conditions of locals, besides

The DDC along with other officers gave patient hearing to the people and passed on the spot instructions to the concerned departments.

The DDC also visited Primary Health Center (PHC) Zewan which has been recently



completed. The PHC has a 25 bed oxygen facility as well to have in house Covid Care infrastructure. The DDC was informed that all people residing in the area have been administered with Covid-19 vaccines.

completed. The PHC has a 25 bed oxygen facility as well to have in house Covid Care infrastructure. The DDC was informed that all people residing in the area have been administered with Covid-19 vaccines.



Government forces checking pedestrians in capital city Srinagar on Wednesday as security was beefed ahead of the anniversary of 'abrogation of special status'. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## 'Vegetable Cultivation Important To Preserve Ecological Balance'

Two Days Workshop On Promoting Organic Farming Concludes At SKUAST (K)

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The two days workshop on promoting Organic farming in Jammu and Kashmir concluded today at SKUAST (K).

Speaking on the concluding function of the workshop, Director Research SKUAST, Kashmir, Dr Sarfaraz Wani said to preserve the biodiversity and ecological balance in the region the organic cultivation of vegetables and other crops would play a key role.

He said organic farming is an eco-friendly form of farming and is also economically sustainable.

Through organic farming we can preserve our land resources for generations to come, he said.

He added that Organic farming while on one hand involves

producing crops without using pesticides, chemical fertilizers, antibiotics and synthetic growth hormones and supporting, the use of natural fertilizers like animal manure, green manure, legumes, compost, bio fertilizers on the other hand nurtures food that grows naturally by little efforts.

He said that the sole purpose of organising the program was to address, focus, discuss and deliberate upon some of the surrounding core issues and understanding the need for a change in the Agri eco-system besides reach to some of the logical conclusion which will pave a way forward in diversifying from trivial cropping system to a sustainable Cropping Pattern.

Dr. Waseem Ahmad Shah

Joint Director Farms AP&FWD and Joint Director AP&FWD Farooq Ahmad Shah thanked the participants to take this program seriously which will prove to be very beneficial in the long run.

Scientists from the different departments, resource person from SKUAST (K) and scientists from other states delivered lectures on different topics on Organic farming which include prospectus of organic farming in mountain agro ecosystems, Organic farming potential and government initiatives, technological innovations in organic farming, organic livestock farming, organic farming Kashmir Perspective, Organic Certification National and international and other related topics.

## Info Dept Condolences Demise Of Mother AIO

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Joint Director Information, Kashmir Division, Inam Ul Haq Siddiqui Wednesday condoled the demise of Mother of Bilal Ahmad Bhat Assistant Information officer (AIO) who passed away on today morning.

In this regard, a condolence meeting was held in the

office chamber of Joint Director Information Kashmir at Drabu House, Rambagh.

Expressing solidarity, Inamul Haq extended his deepest condolences to Bilal Ahmad Bhat on the demise of his mother. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Besides the officials of the divisional office, Assistant Director (PR), Mohammad Aslam Khan; Incharge Assistant Director (AdvT), Javed Ahmad; Culture Officer, Tawheed Ahmad; Youth Information Officer, Sachin Bali also offered condolence to the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

## Training Programme On Mental Health Begins At GMC

Div Com Asks Doctors To Make Best Use Of Training For Best Psychiatry Patient Management

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Wednesday inaugurated 15-day training on mental health at Psychiatry Hospital, GMC Srinagar.

The Div Com said that as the number of mental illness patients are rising due to various reasons in Kashmir, holding Psychiatry related training programme for medical officers had become imperative to maintain proper Psychiatry patient management at primary health level system in all districts.

He said that during the training programme senior faculty from the Psychiatry department of GMC shall impart trainings about basic psychiatry treatment to tackle the rising number of patients having mental health related issues in their respective districts.

Div Com asked doctors to make best use of the trainings oriented to develop and enhance the capacity of medical officers to treat such patients more effectively.

He said that both physical illness and mental illness are co-related and doctors need to connect with the patients for better results.

He said with the increase in mental illness cases, the drug addiction and suicidal tendencies were

also going up. To tackle such patients both psychologically and medically, he said, it is imperative to hold capacity building training of our doctors with basics on mental illness treatment at primary level.

After the completion of training of the first batch of trainees, they shall be deputed as master trainers to further train other medical officers in all districts of Kashmir.

Also on the occasion Principal GMC Srinagar Prof. Samiya Rashid spoke about the various initiatives taken by their college to address mental health issues in their institutions. She also advised the trainees to learn the skills of early identification and management of mental health issues during these two week period so that the fruits of their training can have a better outcome in their districts where they are working in these testing times of Covid 19 pandemic. DHS Kashmir Dr. Mustaq Ahmad Rather also briefed the trainees about the various initiatives led by his department for increasing access to the quality mental health care in every district for these needful patients at their doorstep. Later on HOD Psychiatry Dr. Mohammad Maqbool Dar outlined the various topics which shall be covered during these training sessions.

## DIRECTORATE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORTS

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR  
(NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE "A+")  
HAZRATBAL SRINAGAR, KASHMIR- 190006  
Email:- [directorsports@uok.edu.in](mailto:directorsports@uok.edu.in)

## NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all interested Faculty members and students (Men/Women) of University of Kashmir (Departments/Centres/Campuses) and affiliated colleges that the Directorate of Physical Education & Sports, University of Kashmir is going to organise Padh Yatra on 20-08-2021 at 6:00 am from Nishat Garden to Rumi Gate University of Kashmir to Celebrate "AZADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV".

The interested faculty members and Students of University of Kashmir and affiliated colleges are informed to register for the event on official mail Id of the Directorate of Physical Education & Sports ([directorsports@uok.edu.in](mailto:directorsports@uok.edu.in)) by or before 13-08-2021.

No.F(Padh Yatra-DPE&S)KU/21  
Dated:- 03-08-2021  
DIPK-NB-2289/21

Sd/-  
Dr. Nisar Ahmad Khan  
COORDINATOR  
Physical Education & Sports

## Office of the Principal Regional Extension Training Centre Kashmir (Budgam)

Training Wing of Rural Development Department Kashmir  
Email: - [principal-etcbudgam@jk.gov.in](mailto:principal-etcbudgam@jk.gov.in)

## TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations affixed with revenue stamp Rs.10/- and with CDR of Rs 10000 (Ten Thousand only) pledged to Principal Regional Extension Training Centre Kashmir (Budgam) are invited from registered Hoteliers / Restaurants for providing Lunch/refreshment during the training programmes for the year 2021-2022 at district headquarter Budgam, details of which are shown as under:-

- > Chicken Biryani Full
- > Chicken Biryani half 1/2
- > Mutton Biryani Full
- > Mutton Biryani half 1/2
- > Rice with Meat
- > Rice with Dal/Sabzi
- > Rice With Paneer
- > Tea with Biscuit
- > Mini Water Bottle

The quotation should reach to the office of undersigned within three days positively from the date of publication of the notice.

DIPK-5892/21

RETC/Kmr/Bud/2021-22-51-53

Dated: 03/08/2021

Sd/-  
Principal  
Regional Extension Training Centre  
Kashmir (Budgam)

## 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

SHEIK 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 - (Closed)  
Mughal Road - (Open)  
Srinagar- Leh - (Open)



HIJRI  
CALENDAR  
25 Zil Haj  
1442

## PRAYERS

FAJR 4:10  
ZUHR 12:37  
ASR 5:30  
Magrib 7:32  
ISHA 9:03

## This Day In History

- 1943 - World War II: at around 11 A.M during the Battle of Troina, Mount
- Etna erupts sending ash and lava miles into the sky.
- 1944 - US troops occupy Vannes, Brittany
- 1947 - Netherlands ceases political action in Indonesia, due to UN pressure
- 1963 - Britain, USA & USSR sign nuclear test ban treaty
- 1973 - USSR launches Mars 6
- 1974 - US President Richard Nixon admits he withheld information about Watergate break-in
- 1989 - NASA Venus probe Magellan launched from Space Shuttle, 1st to do so
- 1991 - Sergei Bubka of USSR sets pole vault world record (6.10m) in Malmö Sweden
- 1994 - Antonov-12 crashes at Boda, Eastern Siberia, 47 killed
- 1997 - Korean Air 747 with 331 aboard crashes in Guam, 29 survive
- 1997 - Soyuz TM-26 crew of Anatoly Solovoyov & Pavel Vinogradov, launched
- 2011 - NASA launches its Juno spaceprobe from Cape Canaveral to orbit and study Jupiter
- 2013 - 160 people are killed by flash floods across Afghanistan and Pakistan
- 2014 - Obama signs The Iron Dome Bill providing \$225 million in additional funding for Israel's Iron Dome defense
- 2015 - Torrential rains and flooding leave at least 178 people dead in India, in the wake of Cyclone Komen.

## From KO Archives

## Yatris flee Pahalgam after massacre

observer news service

PAHALGAM: Hundreds of panic-stricken Hindu pilgrims were today fleeing this picturesque tourist resort, which has been converted into the base camp for the annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave up in the mountains, a day after suspected militants killed 33 devotees on their way to the holy cave.

Pahalgam witnessed the worst of a series of overnight massacres by suspected militants across the state which claimed a total of 100 lives, mostly Hindu civilians.

Officials said two suspected militants swooped down from forests overlooking Pahalgam, some 100 km south of Srinagar, and shot dead 31 people. They

Were killed in the retaliatory fire by the security forces. The incident took place at a community kitchen (langar) on a road in the close vicinity of a security camp with an army camp just at a stone's throw.

"I could hear gunmen firing at the tents for at least 10 minutes without interruption," said Sanjeev Parishar of New Delhi, who added that local Muslims had helped the wounded in Pahalgam to go to hospital.

Nissa Shah, a local Muslim shawl-vendor, said "I was doing brisk business when all of a sudden firing started from two points. At least a dozen people were hit by bullets and three died on the spot."

Ashok Kumar, a surviving pilgrim, was in a state, of shock. "The shooting started at around 6:4/5 p.m. I rushed towards my burs but a bullet hit me in the leg: "It is due to God that I am still alive," he said. Speaking of the attackers, Kumar said: "They were firing at will and they looked visibly relaxed."

Though the officials claimed the attackers to be foreign militants, police sources, on condition of anonymity, said the two persons were local youth from Anantnag, one of them a student of Aligarh Muslim University. The other youth was identified as Shabbir Ahmad Shah. One of rifles with a Lashker-e-Taiba sticker put on it, had been placed by the side of a slain youth.

Hundreds of pilgrim-packed cars, buses, trucks and jeeps were seen leaving this town, even as the sky was overcast. "This is a valley of destruction," said Akash Chaud, a Chandigarh yatri.

Atma Ram, a Bihari pilgrim said he did not visit the Amarnath shrine. "I had come for darshan, But I am totally scared and have decided to return home without having it" Witnesses said blood-soaked clothes, caps and foot-wear still littered the camp where the gunmen struck. Police brought in sniffer dogs to the site today to look for concealed explosives.

Meanwhile, scores of Kashmiri Muslims were flocking to Pahalgam on Wednesday to check on the condition of friends and relatives who ran shops or businesses in the resort town I have failed to trace my two sons," worried Srinagar housewife Farida Banu said.

(Kashmir Observer, August 05, 2000)

## Israeli Artillery Shells Lebanon After Rockets Fired Over Border

Agenceis

The Israeli army says it has fired artillery shells into Lebanon after rocket fire was launched from Lebanon into Israel amid rising tensions in the region. "Three rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israeli territory," the army said in a statement on Wednesday, adding that one had fallen short of the border. "In response ... artillery forces fired into Lebanese territory."

Israeli broadcaster Channel 12 reported that one rocket exploded in an open area and another was intercepted by Israel's defence system, known as the Iron Dome.

Witnesses in Lebanon also reported that several rockets were fired at Israel. Israeli medics distributed images of a brush fire and

behind an apparent drone attack on an Israeli-linked tanker off Oman, which killed two crew members, and hinted at possible retaliation.

Iran denied the allegation and warned it would "respond to any possible adventurism".

On July 20, two rockets were launched from Lebanon into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. That incident came hours after a Syrian military official said Israel carried out air attacks near the northern Syrian city of Aleppo.

In May, rockets were fired from southern Lebanon several times in one week - Israel's army said the rockets landed in the sea.

On May 14, a Lebanese man was shot and killed by Israeli troops after he and others tried to cross a security fence on the bor-



said they treated four people suffering "stress symptoms". It was not immediately clear whether Lebanon had any casualties.

Sirens warning of a rocket attack sounded in several Israeli communities, including the town of Kiryat Shmona, near the Lebanese border.

The Israeli military said it had imposed no restrictions on civilians in northern areas.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said he and defence minister Benny Gantz had been "briefed" on developments and were overseeing the response.

The exchange of fire comes days after Israel joined other states in accusing Iran of being

der with Israel while protesting in support of Palestinians marking the 73rd anniversary of the Nakba, what Palestinians call "the catastrophe" that befell them in the war against Israel in 1948.

Israel fought a 2006 war against Iran-backed Hezbollah, which is the dominant force in southern Lebanon and possesses advanced rockets. The border has been mostly quiet since then.

Lebanon has been run by a caretaker administration for nearly a year while its currency has collapsed, jobs have vanished and banks have frozen accounts in what lenders have called one of the most severe financial crises of modern times.

## Attack Targeting Acting Afghan Defense Minister Left 8 Dead

Agenceis

A bombing attack that targeted Afghanistan's acting defense minister, Bismillah Khan Mohammadi, killed at least eight people and wounded 20, authorities said Wednesday. The deputy minister was not hurt in the attack claimed by Taliban insurgents.

The blast went off late Tuesday in a heavily guarded upscale neighborhood of the capital of Kabul. It was followed by a gun battle that also left four militants dead, authorities said. The casualty toll could rise, Interior Ministry spokesperson Mirwais Stanekzai said Wednesday.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid in a statement Wednesday claimed responsibility for the attack. It came as the insurgent group presses ahead with an offensive that is putting pressure on provincial capitals in the south and west of the country.

Mujahid said the attack was revenge for recent attacks by Afghan national forces in various provinces that he said caused civilian casualties and displacement.

Stanekzai said it appeared the guesthouse of acting Defense Minister Bismillah Khan Mohammadi was targeted in the attack but he was not hurt.

Mohammadi's Jamiat-e-Islami party was told the minister was in the guesthouse at the time and his family had been safely evacuated.

All four attackers were shot and killed after five hours of fighting, Stanekzai said. Stanekzai said the attack took place in the posh Sherpur neighborhood, located in a section of the capital known as the Green Zone, where security is tight. It is home to several senior government officials.

Hours after Tuesday night's attack, the Defense Ministry released a video in which Mohammadi said his guards had been wounded in a suicide attack. "I assure my beloved countrymen that such attacks cannot have any impact on my willingness to defend my countrymen and my country," he said.

Hundreds of residents in the area were moved to safety as security personnel carried out house-to-house searches, officials said.

## Pakistan's Security Adviser Complains Joe Biden Has Not Called Imran Khan



Agenceis

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf has said that Pakistan has other options if US President Joe Biden continues to ignore the country's leadership.

"The president of the United States hasn't spoken to the prime minister of such an important country who the US itself says is make-or-break in some cases, in some ways, in Afghanistan -- we struggle to understand the signal, right?" Yusuf told The Financial Times in an interview.

"We've been told every time that ... [the phone call] will happen, it's technical reasons or whatever. But frankly, people don't believe it," he said. "If a phone call is a concession, if a security relationship is a concession, Pakistan has options," he added, refusing to elaborate.

Pakistan has cultivated deep ties with its "iron brother" China, which has invested billions in infrastructure projects as part of its Belt and Road Initiative.

The perceived diplomatic af-

front marks the latest setback to US-Pakistan relations after their co-operation during the war on terror following the 9/11 attacks in the US.

The cold shoulder from Washington comes as the Taliban has captured swathes of territory across Afghanistan in a ruthless offensive emboldened by the US pullout. The government of Afghan president Ashraf Ghani has openly accused Pakistan of supporting the Taliban to secure its strategic interests in the region.

Washington has leaned on Pakistan in recent years to help bring senior Taliban leadership to the negotiating table and secure a deal to exit the country with few attacks on US soldiers. But despite calls from Khan to broaden US-Pakistan relations beyond Afghanistan, Biden has yet to call him since taking office this year, the FT report said.

The US State Department, however, has assured Islamabad that Washington recognizes Pakistan's vital role in restoring peace in Afghanistan and wants the country to play that role. "Pakistan has much to gain and will continue to have a

critical role, be well-positioned to have a role in supporting the outcome" in Afghanistan, said US State Department's spokesman Ned Price.

Briefing journalists in Washington on Monday, Price said that "not only the United States seeks, but that many of our international partners, many of the countries in the region also seek" this supporting role for Pakistan. "So, we'll continue to work and to communicate closely with our Pakistani partners on this," he added.

In 2004, the US named Pakistan an official major non-Nato ally, spurred by Washington's need for support to fight in Afghanistan. But US administrations have since regularly accused their ally of harbouring Taliban insurgents, claims denied by Pakistan.

Under the Trump administration, the US severed \$2 billion in security assistance to Pakistan after Donald Trump accused his ally of "nothing but lies & deceit". After Trump made a deal with the Taliban that relied on help from Pakistan, however, he invited Imran Khan to the White House.

## New Eviction Moratorium In Much Of US As Delta Variant Spreads

Agenceis

WASHINGTON: Under pressure from progressive Democrats, US health authorities on Tuesday declared a new moratorium on tenant evictions until October in much of the country, citing public health risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The emergence of the Delta variant has led to a rapid acceleration of community transmission in the United States, putting more Americans at increased risk, especially if they are unvaccinated," Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in a statement.

The moratorium applies to "counties experiencing substantial and high levels of community transmission" of COVID-19, according to a CDC statement, and is set to expire on October 3.

"This moratorium is the right thing to do to keep people in their homes and out of settings where COVID-19 spreads," Walensky said.

Although likely to be challenged in court, the measure will allow tenants extra time to access funds previously issued by Congress to help people pay rent, President Joe Biden said from the White House.

For bureaucratic reasons, these payments were incredibly slow in reaching the US population -- only



\$3 billion has thus far been distributed to households out of \$25 billion allotted to states and localities in early February.

Another \$21.5 billion is available in a second round of funding, but it will not go out until the first tranche is spent.

"This brand new moratorium will provide time for the money allocated by Congress to flow, as it helps stop the spread of the virus which is worsening due to the Delta variant and protects families and landlords," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a statement.

A previous moratorium put in place in September 2020 by the CDC expired after a Supreme Court ruling in June stipulated that it could

not continue beyond July 31 without authorization from Congress.

The Democratic Party's left wing had been raging for days against Biden, whom it held accountable for not having found a solution in time.

House lawmaker Cori Bush, who has herself experienced homelessness, had been camping in front of the Capitol since Friday, calling on Congress and the White House to act without further delay on behalf of the 11 million people threatened with eviction.

"Today, our movement moved mountains," Bush wrote on Twitter, welcoming news of the new moratorium on the steps of the Capitol, accompanied by progressive lawmaker Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, among others.

## Wildfires Burn For A 7Th Day In Coastal Areas Of Turkey



Agenceis

Wildfires burned for a seventh day in Turkey's Mediterranean region Wednesday, prompting the evacuation of at least one more neighborhood.

Scorching heat, low humidity and strong winds have fed the fires, which so far have killed eight people and countless animals and destroyed forests. Villagers have had to evacuate their homes and livestock, while tourists have fled in boats and cars.

Observers worry that fires in the seaside province of Mugla could jump to two thermal power plants. Flames came within a kilometer of the Kemerkoym thermal power in the district of Milas late Tuesday before the wind changed direction, helping avert a crisis there for the moment.

Firefighters and police water cannons, usually used during political protests, fought back the flames at night as other rescue officials dug ditches around the plant, according to reporters at the scene. Milas Mayor Muhammet Tokat said Wednesday that the fire was under partial control and efforts to put out the flames in the thermal plant area continued. Tokat added that the much needed air support had finally arrived. He said he hoped their assistance would continue throughout the day to bring the fire under full control.

Videos from an adjacent neighborhood in Milas showed charred, decimated trees while firefighters continued dousing the area with water hoping to prevent another spark from reigniting the fire.

The defense ministry said it had sent two ships to the area to be used for sea evacuations, if needed.

Fires continued on in six locations in Mugla, local forestry officials said. Another neighborhood in Antalya province was evacuated as of Wednesday morning.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government is under criticism for its inability to put down the fires but the minister of agriculture and forestry, Bekir Pakdemirli

tweeted that 160 fires in 34 provinces had been brought under control as 14 continued in five provinces.

Thousands of firefighters and civilians are trying to douse the flames. Turkey's foreign minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu, said late Tuesday that Turkey had hired four new helicopters that would be able to firefight after dark. They would be arriving from Ukraine. Planes sent from Spain and Croatia joined aircraft from Russia, Iran, Ukraine and Azerbaijan on Tuesday.

Authorities have launched investigations into the cause of the fires, including possible sabotage by Kurdish militants. Experts, however, mostly point to climate change as the culprit, along with accidents caused by people.

A heat wave across southern Europe, fed by hot air from North Africa, has led to wildfires across the Mediterranean, including in Italy and Greece. Temperatures in Marmaris, in Mugla, reached an all-time high of 45.5 deg.C (114 F) on Tuesday.

The Turkish meteorology authority warned that temperatures would rise between 4 and 8 degrees Celsius above seasonal norms around the country's Aegean and Mediterranean coasts.

Across the sea, in neighboring Greece, firefighting planes resumed operations at first light to tackle a major forest fire on the northern outskirts of Athens that forced thousands to flee their homes the previous day amid the country's worst heat wave in decades.

The fire in two suburbs of the Greek capital was the worst of 81 wildfires that broke out around the country in 24 hours from late Monday to late Tuesday. There were no reports of deaths or serious injuries. The fire burned homes, businesses and vehicles, and sent a large cloud of smoke over Athens on Tuesday night.

Two more major forest fires were still burning on the Greek island of Evia and one in the southwestern Peloponnese.

The heatwave is forecast to continue in Turkey and Greece until the end of the week.

## Lightning Strikes Wedding Party In Bangladesh, 17 Dead

Agenceis

DHAKA: At least 17 members of a wedding party travelling on a boat were killed on Wednesday during a massive lightning strike in Bangladesh's Chapainawabganj district, some 302 km northwest of capital Dhaka, a senior official said. Sakib Al Rabbi, head of Chapainawabganj's Shibanj sub-district administration, told Xinhua over the phone that "17 people were killed on the spot after lightning struck wedding party boat".

The incident took place at a boat terminal on the bank of the river

Padma on Wednesday noon.

The boat carrying dozens of people of the wedding party was crossing the river amid a heavy downpour. After the boat anchored at a terminal on the riverbank, it was struck by a massive lightning, killing 17 people and injuring 6 others.

Lightning strikes over the past couple of months have killed scores and has been on the rise over the past few years.

Experts here blame the rise in lightning strike deaths directly on climate change that made Bangladesh more vulnerable to the impacts.

## Pak Replaces Lt. Gen Bajwa As Chief of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

Agenceis

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan government on Tuesday replaced Lieutenant General (ret) Asim Saleem Bajwa as chief of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority, in an effort to expedite the implementation of key infrastructure projects undertaken by Beijing in the country.

A notification issued by the Prime Minister's Office said Khalid Mansoor has been appointed as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs with immediate effect. The appointment will be in an honorary capacity, it added.

Mansoor with over four decades of corporate experience replaced Bajwa, who was appointed in November 2019 after his retirement from the Pakistan Army.

"I bow my head before Allah Almighty for giving me an opportunity to raise and steer the important institution of CPEC Authority as



one window for all CPEC projects, charting the future direction," Bajwa, a former he said.

Bajwa termed the USD 60 billion CPEC as a "lifeline for Pakistan", saying it would "transform us into a progressive and fully developed country".

Bajwa had served as Commander Southern Command before his retirement from the Army.

He remained director general of the Inter-Services Public Relations, the media wing of the military, from 2012 to 2016.

Pakistani media earlier reported that China was not happy with the slow progress in some of the CPEC projects in the country.

Moreover, many Chinese nationals working for CPEC projects in Pak-

istan have been attacked recently.

The latest incident happened in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on July 14, killing 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals.

China rushed a special team to Pakistan to probe the blast that hit a bus carrying Chinese engineers and construction workers helping Pakistan build a dam in the province.

A joint investigation concluded that it was a terror attack that killed 13 people. Mansoor, the new chief of the CPEC Authority has more than 32 years of experience in energy and petrochemical sectors in leading roles for mega-size projects' development, execution, management and operations, the Dawn newspaper reported.

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

## Iran's Relationship With India Has 'Far More Potential' Than China: Ex-President Ahmadinejad

Agenceis

TEHRAN: Iran's relationship with India has "far more potential" than China, former Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Tuesday as he asserted that Tehran and New Delhi need to do their best to ensure that they utilise the maximum available capacity.

Ahmadinejad, who was Iran's president for two successive terms from 2005 to 2013, also said that there has been a lot of debate in Iran over the recently signed 25-year Cooperation agreement with China.

"The potential of cooperation between Iran and India is far much more than what the capacity between Iran and China is," Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying by the WION news channel.

In March, Iran and China signed an agreement worth USD 400 billion, defining the roadmap of future bilateral relations for the next 25 years.

Outgoing Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has hailed the agreement signed under his administra-



ensure that we utilise the maximum available capacity," he said.

During his presidency, Ahmadinejad visited India in 2008 and also hosted the 16th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Tehran in 2012, which was attended by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Ahmadinejad also criticised the US decision to withdraw troops from war-torn Afghanistan.

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

US President Joe Biden has announced that American troops will be out of the country by August 31.

Ahmadinejad said he believes that "the Americans have in practice not gone out of the region and in fact, they have new plots designed and they are supporting the Taliban."

When asked who was meddling in Afghanistan, he said, "All neighbours are".

## J&K's Public Libraries To Provide E-Learning, Career Counselling Services

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director, Libraries & Research, Mohammad Rafi Wednesday took stock of the infrastructure requirement in Public Libraries for upgrading these institutions as productive e-Learning-cum-Career Counselling Centers for dissemination of career and occupational information.

Chairing a meeting of the Incharges of Public Libraries at SPS Library Complex here, the Director Libraries said that in pursuance to the instructions issued by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha for digitally transforming the public libraries in J&K, the Department of Libraries has embarked on the mission to reposition these important institutions as multipurpose facilities, providing varied services considering the needs of users, especially the youth, in the modern digital era.

The Director Libraries said that initially the facility of e-Learning-cum-Career Counselling would be provided in the Central Libraries and District Libraries of J&K. "As a part of this initiative, state-of-the-art IT Hubs are being set up at SRS Library Jammu and SPS Library Srinagar in convergence with the Smart City Mission while the digital transformation of the District Libraries shall be undertaken in convergence with the Mission Youth, J&K," he said.

He said the primary requirement for Public Libraries to come up as fitting e-Learning-cum-Career Counselling Centers is to have spacious and well furnished Reading Rooms to offer the most conducive reading atmosphere to the users. He said these libraries

will be having Computer Hubs with internet and interactive video-conferencing facility for online learning and counseling. Besides, these Libraries he said shall be provided with potable water supply and separate washrooms for ladies and gents so that more girls use these facilities without any hindrance.

The Director Libraries said that once the requisite infrastructure is in place these Libraries will be linked with the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) through the institutional gateway to facilitate access of the users to around 3.5 crore academic resources including e-books, audio-books, lecture materials, thesis, reports, articles, journals, question papers etc.

He said the Department is also in touch with some prestigious Coaching Academies in the country to arrange free online coaching for J&K youth for IAS/JKAS/NEET/JEE/CAT/CLAT/SSB and other competitive examinations. "The Department has this year made available a large number of reference books for such competitive examinations," he said.

The Director Libraries said that the Digital Libraries concept is a part of the project on how to reposition the public libraries in an environment of new social and technological challenges. "This novel project is aimed at rediscovering how the public libraries move forward and adapt to new technologies, new communities, new user-needs and information behaviours," he said and added that these libraries will be different from the traditional public libraries by offering both formal and informal spaces for the users with a variety of IT-enabled services.

## 'Education System Needs A Thoughtful Change'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Wednesday inaugurated two day workshop on Content Enrichment of Textbooks developed by Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) at SKICC.

Addressing the workshop, Bhatnagar highlighted that the education system needs a thoughtful change with the advent of National Education Policy (NEP)-2020. He added that the NEP-2020 aims at the reconfiguration of Primary and Secondary school education in all aspects from foundational stage to secondary stage with focus on Equitable and inclusive education for all and therefore it's effective implementation will refurbish the whole education sector across J&K.

Remarking that the educa-

tion system is the main pillar of progress and development of nation, Advisor Bhatnagar remarked that education and training are part of the society from times immemorial and with the evolving society and world, there is dire need for the upgradation of educational system also.

The Advisor also said that our country has maximum percentage of young population and we need to nurture them for the progressive development of our nation and we need to build our educational curriculum as per that requirement.

Highlighting on the importance of the workshop, Advisor Bhatnagar asked all the participants to utilise their academic expertise, knowledge and other available resources in order to achieve the right outcome of the workshop.



## J&K DGP Stresses On 'Counter Propaganda' Measures To Tackle Rogue Elements

Reviews Security Situation In North, South Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director General of Police J&K Dilbag Singh Wednesday directed the police officers to keep strict watch on all the "rogue elements" and stressed for tracing and tracking the "anti national" elements on social media.

He said that propagandamongers are spreading misinformation through social media platforms to instigate the youth and create disturbance here. He stressed for counter propaganda measures at different levels.

He asked the officers to plug all communication gaps so that the detailed security arrangements made and directions passed to all the districts and formations are implemented in letter and spirit. He directed for enhanced security through coordination between

all the forces on ground as "terrorists" and their masters are desperate to do any mischief.

Stressing for strengthening the security grid, the DGP said "our efforts should be resolute and specific giving no room to any complacency". Proactive measures have to be taken to ensure peace and order, DGP added.

He visited North Kashmir Range, Baramulla and South Kashmir Range Anantnag and had back to back meetings with the top officers of Army, CRPF and Police. He reviewed the security scenario in both the ranges.

Stressing for increased patrolling, the DGP said all the OGWs and "anti-national elements" should be kept under check to foil their nefarious attempts.

He directed the officers to be extra cautious and alert to thwart any "anti national"

activity. He said that CCTV cameras be installed at all Naka points and also on police vehicles to keep surveillance on all the crimes and violent acts. He directed preparations of contingency plans to meet any challenge or situation. He emphasised upon the officers to increase Naka checking and night domination to foil all ill intentions of the terrorists and their masters.

The DGP said that any requirement to improve the efficiency of the forces on ground would be provided as quickly as possible. He directed the officers of Armed and IRP to be proactive in policing as well as in law and order and be well knit in the security grid of the districts with district police. He directed the officers to increase police presence in the market places to boost the confidence of the public.

## DGP stressed on keeping strict watch on all 'rogue elements' and stressed for tracing and tracking the 'anti national' elements on social media.

## Govt Committed To Provide Basic Services To People In Rural Areas: LGs Adv

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

Speaking during the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar stressed upon the officials that to carry out testing of all water sources for checking chemical parameters besides sedimentation problems or any other problems should be checked before hand for successful implementation of the scheme.

The Advisor exhorted upon the officials that there

should be no scope for laxity in implementation of JJM as it is a very prestigious project and the government is committed to provide assured basic services to the people living in rural areas and JJM is part of that.

Taking strong note of delay in completion of works, Advisor Bhatnagar directed them to maintain quality of work while implementing the scheme and exhorted upon them to complete the mission within the fixed timeline.

The Advisor stressed upon the officers to ensure that the progress of providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in all Schools and Anganwadi centres should be completed by 12th August

besides the data should be regularly updated on Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) portal.

Advisor Bhatnagar also impressed upon the officers at ground level to maintain the quality of water as per BIS standards with regular quality check at the source. He further asked the officers to establish testing labs under National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) in all districts at the earliest so that the clean potable water is provided to the people.

During the meeting, Mission Director, JJM gave a detailed presentation on implementation of JJM in Jammu and Kashmir.

## ACB Books J&K Bank Official In Kehwa Group Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau Wednesday produced a supplementary charge-sheet against bank officials in Kehwa Group case.

The main Chargesheet in the case was filed on August 31, 2020 against Sheikh Imran (Ex-Deputy Mayor Srinagar) Director M/S Kehwah Square Pvt. Ltd. and other bank officials before the Court of special Judge Anti Corruption Pulwama for conspiracy and misappropriation of bank funds.

The ACB produced Supplementary Charge Sheet U/S 173 (8) CrPC against the in-service bank official Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh, the then Incharge Credit, J&K Bank, Business Unit Hari Singh High Street, Srinagar before the Court of special Judge, Anti Corruption, Pulwama. The supplementary chargesheet was produced after sanction for launching prosecution against

the said bank official Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh was accorded by the competent Authority.

The case was registered in the police station ACB Anantnag for offences of Fraud, Cheating, illegal appropriation of bank loan for unrelated business activities and misappropriation of back ended subsidy against Sheikh Imran Director M/S Kehwah Square Pvt. Ltd and the bank officials for misuse of official position as public servants.

During investigation it was established that for the establishment of integrated CA storage project with a total capacity of 5000 MT eligible for the cost of Rs. 3300.00 lakhs under erstwhile Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) Scheme on the basis of certificate given by the Bank, Rs. 1650.00 lakhs @ 50 % eligible project cost (EPC) was sanctioned in favour of the accused company.

## Dogri Poetess Padma Sachdev Passes Away, Demise Condoled

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Noted author and 'Padma Shri' awardee Padma Sachdev, the first modern woman poet of Dogri language, passed away at a Mumbai hospital on Wednesday, an official of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages said.

Sachdev (81), who was born in Purmandal area of Jammu in 1940 in the house of Sanskrit Scholar Prof Jai Dev Badu, was hospitalised after she developed some complications on Tuesday evening, the official told PTI.

She authored many books in Dogri and Hindi, and her poetry collections, including 'Meri Kavita Mere Geet', won her the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1971. She received the Padma Shri, the country's fourth-highest civilian award, in 2001 and was awarded the Kabir Samman for poetry for 2007-08 by the Madhya Pradesh government.

Sachdev also wrote the lyrics for the song 'Mera Chhota Sa Ghar Baar' from the 1973 Hindi film 'Prem Parbat'. She also penned the lyrics for two songs for the 1978 Hindi film 'Aankhin Dekhi', including the famous duet "Sonare, tujhe kaise milun" sung by Mohd Rafi and Sulakshana Pandit. She worked with All India Radio, Jammu and Mumbai and shifted base to New Delhi and Mumbai after marrying singer Surinder Singh.

Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) has condoled the demise of Padma Sachdev. In this regard, a condolence meeting was held which was telephonically addressed by Secretary Academy, Rahul

Pandey who termed the death of Padma Sachdev a big loss to Dogri literature in particular and Indian literature in general.

While expressing his deep condolences to the bereaved family, he prayed for the eternal peace to the departed soul, and said Sachdev's absence will be long felt in Jammu and Kashmir.

Paying rich tributes to the late Padma Sachdev, Additional Secretary Academy, Dr A S Amn recalled her contribution to Dogri and Hindi literature.

Dr A S Amn who recalled his long personal association with Padma Sachdev said that she was the member of various high power committees of the Academy from time to time. She was a regular contributor to its Dogri and Hindi publications of Academy.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President, Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah expressed profound grief over the demise of Sachdeva.

In his condolence message, Dr Farooq said "The news of Padma Ji's passing away marks an end to an era; she was a renaissance figure in the field of Dogri literature. The versatile personality of Padma Ji will be remembered for her immense contribution to Dogri literature. She wrote as she saw, as she felt without dilution and with rare sensitivity and empathy for her characters. Her story telling magic, her couplets have immortalized her. On her demise, I pay my tributes to her and pray for peace to her departed soul. I express my union with the bereaved family members and numerous followers and admirers of her at this difficult time," he said.

## SRINAGAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

TENDER NOTICE NO: 01/EE of 2021-22

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Development Authority, the Executive Engineer, Srinagar Development Authority invites tenders by e-tendering system on item rate basis from registered PWD contractors of J&K UT for below mentioned works:

S No	Name of work	Amount of work	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Doc.	Time of completion
01	Development of periphery roads of Plaza and jhelum shopping complex's at Batmallo, by way of WBM Graded.I, II ft 50mm thick Macadam and 25mm thick semidense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine mixed laid with paver)	Rs.36.14 lacs	Regd. Hot Mix "Plant Holder"	Rs 2000/-	40 Days
02	Macadamization of inner roads around SDA office complex by way of wet mix with 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 25mm thick semidense at Bernina Srinagar.	Rs.23.24 lacs	Regd. Hot Mix "Plant 1 folder"	Rs 1500/-	40 Days

- A) . Position of funds Available)  
B) . Administratively approved.

1 The Bidding documents 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 as per schedule of dates given below -

01	date of publishing of tender Notice	3rd of August 2021 at (6 00 PM)
02	Peru id of downloading of bidding documents.	From 4 <sup>th</sup> of August (10.00 AM) to 24 <sup>th</sup> August, 2021 upto 4.00PM
03	Bid submission start date	10th of August, 2021 from (10.00 AM)
04	Bid submission end date	24th of August, 2021 upto (4.00 Phi)
05.	Date ft time of opening of technical bids.	26th of August, 2021 at 12.00 Noon in the office of the Executive Engineer
06	Date ft time of opening of financial bid (on line).	To be notified after Technical bid evaluation

No SDA/EE/382-90  
Dated 03/08/2021

Executive Engineer  
Srinagar Development Authority

.DIPK-NB-2275/21

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 66 of RnB-Sopore of 2021-2022 e-tendering DATED- 04 .08.2021 .

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of AOA
01	Construction of approach from National Highway to Foot bridge over Nallah Hamal connecting ward No.04,06 and 07 at MC Waterigam	10.00 lacs	600/-	20 days	6 14.08. 2021	DEE/CEE	8	Accorded 14 <sup>th</sup> FC

Position of funds: Available

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

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	04 .08.2021
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04.08.2021 (10.00 A.M) to 13 .08.2021 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	04.08.2021 from (04.00P.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	13.08.2021 upto (4.00 P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	14.08.2021 at (04.10 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) and Bid security Declaration as per format given in SBD. The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (3% of quoted cost) within the period as specified in SBD.

3. All Bidders have to submit Bid security Declaration form instead of Earnest money as per 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 shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site 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 the Tender receiving authority ).

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7.1 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 acquire bid submission process.

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

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

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

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

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per NIT No: 2 of 2020-21 issued under No: 641-61 dated: 22.4.2020 PWD form 25 (Double agreement form)

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outrightly.

For and on behalf of the,  
Lt. Governor of J&K UT,  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Sopore

No:- 5700-20

Dated:- 04 .08.2021

DIPK-5881/21

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

## Change the tack

About 90 militants have been killed in Kashmir this year so far in encounters with security forces, half of them belonging to Lashkar-e-Toiba. 73 more youth are believed to have picked up gun in the period. These figures, revealed by the Inspector General of Police for Kashmir Vijay Kumar on Tuesday, once again reflect an abiding reality of Kashmir for the past three decades: the simultaneous recruitment of new youth into militant ranks replenishes the depleted militant ranks. And in the end, the number of active militants more or less stays the same.

There has, no doubt, been some visible improvement in the security situation as the data provided by the IGP underlines: for example, the Valley also witnessed over a 72 percent drop in the incidents of law and order from August 2017-July 2019 to August 2019 to July 2021.

Similarly, while 1,394 law and order incidents from August 2017-July 2019 occurred in which 27 civilians and four police or forces personnel were killed, there were only 382 such incidents from August 2019 to July 2021, and there were no killings of civilians or security personnel.

As for militant incidents, these have risen to 680 from August 2019 to July 2021 up from 350 from August 2017 to July 2019.

Over the last two and a half year, the frequent killings of the militants has created an impression that there will be a substantial decrease in their number. But such expectations of security agencies have often been belied. Militancy remains very much alive and kicking. And as the history of the past thirty years proves, while the number of militants has occasionally declined, it hasn't reduced the challenge of militancy. And that too, when the Valley had no more than a hundred militants (2012-13) and South Kashmir which now boasts of over a hundred militants had just 15 of them.

One reason for this is the overwhelming public support that the militancy continues to enjoy in the region. And no magic bullet would reduce this support. It would need a sustained political engagement to address the issues that fuel the militancy in the region.

Going forward, there is little indication that the situation would change. The simultaneous recruitment of the local youth in the militant ranks and the infiltration from across the border invariably replenishes the shortfall created by the killings of the militants. And it will continue to do so unless the dynamic that animates the militancy is addressed. And this redressal is not in the killing of the militants but in a meaningful political outreach to the people of J&K. And this outreach has been more or less absent over the past seven years. The rationale for such an approach was that a hardline security centric approach will quell the militancy, something that has not happened. It is therefore time that the union government changes tack.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

## The cusp: on disconcerting note of coronavirus story

August has begun on a disconcerting note in India's coronavirus story. The seven-day weekly average of cases hovers around the psychologically important 40,000 mark and there is an uptick in daily new cases with the latest numbers a little over 41,000. A major concern that has assumed national proportions is the trajectory of cases in Kerala. With nearly 20,000 fresh cases being added every day, it is of concern that if a State with an admirable track record during the earlier wave is under siege now, then many other States could be particularly vulnerable against new variants at the start of a third wave. In Kerala, the rise in cases is concomitant with a rise in testing that has increased from 130,000 a day on July 25 to 162,000 as of Monday, indicating that the infection may be rapidly spreading. Nearly 11 States are now showing a weekly increase in cases. Kerala is not the only point of concern. The national situation has prompted the Health Secretary to write to States that all districts reporting a positivity rate of more than 10% in the last few weeks ought to consider strict restrictions to curtail the movement of people and formation of crowds to prevent the spread of infection. Apart from Kerala these include Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Manipur. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has also expressed concern that 46 districts are showing more than 10% positivity while another 53 districts are showing a positivity between 5%-10%. India's positivity rate is around 5%, that could well descend into a runaway climb in serious infections if unchecked.

The Hindu

# Since August 5, 2019 Kashmir in the Rearview

On August 5, 2019, New Delhi revoked Article 370 of Indian Constitution which enshrined the semi-autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir. Following is a brief analysis of the changing realities on ground written by KO columnists.

## Violence, Conflict Fatalities and Ceasefire

Muhammad Tahir

According to South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP), 283 persons were killed in 2019, and there were 321 deaths in 2020 over 140 conflict-related incidents, including 33 civilians, 56 Indian security forces, and 232 militants. By mid-2021, 138 persons have been killed in 68 incidents, including 13 civilians, 20 Indian security forces personnel and 105 insurgents. Therefore, conflict-related deaths in Kashmir have remained at the 2016 level (i.e., above 200 deaths/year) even after August 5 abrogation. That means, a low-intensity armed conflict persists even when cataclysmic political changes have occurred in the background.

Violence across the Line of Control (LOC) also spiked after the abrogation of Article 370. According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), 2020 was "the most violent year for conflict between India and Pakistan." Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the year affecting civilian populations across the LOC. In February 2021, India's Minister of State for Home said that in the cases of 5133 ceasefire violations by Pakistan, 22 civilians and 24 India security personnel were killed. Pakistan Foreign Office claimed 3012 ceasefire violations by

India because of which, reportedly, 28 civilians were killed and further 253 were injured. These heightened border clashes further deteriorated India-Pakistan relations with both governments (in November and December, respectively) summoning the Charge d'Affaires of each other's High Commissions to register protest over continuous ceasefire violations.

Violence on the LOC ended only after 25 February 2021, when the Director General Military Operations (DGMO) of India and Pakistan made a joint statement and agreed "for strict observance of all agreements, understandings and cease firing along the LoC and all other sectors, with effect from midnight 24/25 February 2021." Some analysts have attributed cessation of hostilities on the LOC to the pressures brought by the escalating military tensions between China and India along the 3,488 km poorly demarcated Line of Actual Control (LAC) that divides Chinese and Indian controlled territories in the Ladakh region.

China-India border showdown started on 5 May 2020 at Pangong Tso Lake in Ladakh, and escalated into a bloody clash on the night of 15-16 June in the Galwan Valley in which India lost 20 soldiers, while four Chinese soldiers were also killed and a regimental commander of PLA Xinjiang Military Command sustained serious head injury. Although on 11 February 2021 China and India announced disengagement from the friction points along the LAC, tensions remain.

Chinese military posturing at the LAC is

believed to be the fallout of the August 5 decision wherein New Delhi had declared Ladakh (with pre-1947 borders) as a union territory. Chinese had objected strongly, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying saying:

"China is always opposed to India's inclusion of the Chinese territory in the western sector of the China-India boundary into its administrative jurisdiction. This firm and consistent position remains unchanged. Recently India has continued to undermine China's territorial sovereignty by unilaterally changing its domestic law. Such practice is unacceptable and will not come into force."

The border clashes forced massive troop deployments and relocations to the inhospitable terrains. India, effectively, faced a two-front confrontation with its nuclear-armed rivals, overstretching its troops. And, this is what Indian security establishment has always feared and wanted to avoid at all cost. Because, as Sushant Singh, a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research (New Delhi) argues, "India does not have the economic wherewithal to resource its military to fight a two-front war." Reengaging with Pakistan in the backchannel talks which, reportedly, the United Arab Emirates facilitated, helped calm the rising military tensions. The February ceasefire was followed by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan exchanging letters, thus indicating thawing in the bilateral relationship.

## Changing Face of Kashmir Politics

Riyaz Wani

Very little that we thought and understood about Kashmir before August 5, 2019 applies now. And if we continue to look at the situation through the same prism, there's no way we can understand what is happening in 'Naya Kashmir'. The new Kashmir needs rethinking our decades old understandings and narratives to make a sense of it.

It is clear that the Modi government has changed the game in Kashmir internally and as a consequence externally too. A static thinking rooted in the early nineties will get us nowhere in sorting the fraught situation confronting us.

The choice for the mainstream leaders is stark: between being rejected by the centre in favour of the pliable alternatives or falling in line with its expectations. They have little space to fight back. In the new scheme of things where the dissent has been made inherently in-fertile and the resistance redundant. There is little that is happening in terms of resistance in Kashmir that could bring the centre to terms or, at least, persuade it to engage with Kashmiris to dole out concessions.

Going forward, the current situation is likely to linger on for a while. There is little chance that the Assembly election will be held



anytime soon. At least, not until the delimitation commission enhances the seats for Jammu making it politically at par with Kashmir. Until that time, the DDCs will serve as a replacement for the Assembly.

Similarly, the Centre is unlikely to restore the statehood of J&K. This also appears to be subservient to the completion of the delimitation exercise. The centre, as seems clear,

doesn't want its Article 370 decision to be in any way challenged by an Assembly dominated by the parties which have Kashmir as their core base.

*This is an extract from the author's article "Time to Rethink Kashmir" and "Marginalised Mainstream" published on Kashmir Observer*

## Three Economic Winters

Ejaz Ayoub

For the rest of the world the health and economic emergency witnessed is something which occurs once in a century. For J&K, the added prequel of August 2019 made the twin pandemic lock downs even more excruciating and absolutely unaffordable. Sustaining this shock without a magnanimous Govt. support is therefore beyond imagination. The Govt, both UT as well as the Union, therefore needs to come up with an immediate economic response which caters to the eco-

nomic vulnerable sections, impoverished households and dying businesses of Jammu and Kashmir.

Businesses in J&K can no longer be rescued with meager support like credit facilities, interest remissions and moratoriums. That phase is long gone. It's not a liquidity issue any longer. They are facing insolvency now. The inflexible debt contracts with banks on the other hand is a total mismatch with the volatile income shocks. The Government will have to come up with a major business revival response. The scale of expenditure might demand Govt approaching the union Govt for funds as well as issuing long term bonds in the markets. Taxes which the Govt. survival will only come if businesses sur-

vive, people find employment and the economy survives the shock of the century. Therefore rescuing businesses is a win-win situation for both the Govt as well as the people.

Another effective route of pushing low cost liquidity in the system to spur demand will be to pay three months salaries & pensions of the Govt. Employees in advance.

*This is an extract from the author's article, "Sustaining Lockdown 3.0" published on Kashmir Observer*

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



## OBSERVER MAIL

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

## MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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## Collectively Combat Drug Abuse

If we see, drug abuse is something which is on the high rate of increase in many parts of the world and it isn't surprising that Kashmir is also among those parts. It may be because Kashmir has went through two decades of turmoil that resulted in an increase in psychiatric illness and psychological disturbances.

This the cause of the rise of drug abuse at an alarming rate in

the Kashmir which is seriously damaging the growth of our next generation and seriously destroying their future. One reason for the drug abuse is the easy availability of drugs and if we want to get this problem out of our society then we have to remove the "reason" and then the "cause" can be tackled easily. The United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) reported that around

70000 people in the valley take drugs alone and among them 4000 are females.

The cure for this disease is difficult but not impossible. Drug victims have to be dealt with sympathy and good behaviour rather than showing cruelty and pseudo supremacy to them.

This issue is not an individual one and cannot be thwarted on the family of the drug abusers only. It

is a collective failure and a collective responsibility to fix it. It is very easy to have a moral high ground and consider these things outside of one's concerns but in reality, it is the reflection of a threat that is really close. Therefore, we need to address it urgently and be alert.

Maheen Zehra  
maheenazehra786@gmail.com

# Rearview in Vignettes

Defining moments in the politics of J&K since the Abrogation of Article 370 on 5th August 2019

Photos by Aabid Bhat for KO and PTI



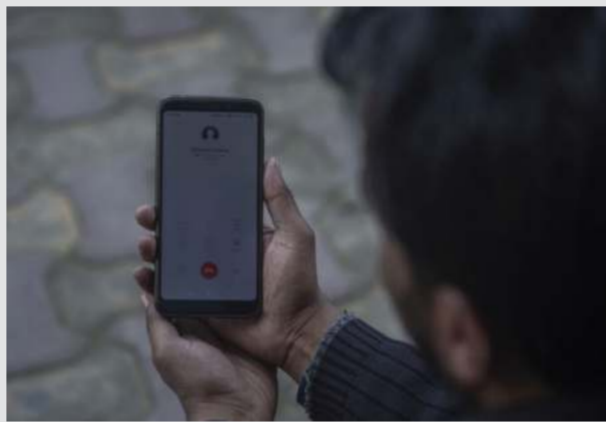
Tourists and Amarnath pilgrims were asked to leave Kashmir Valley on 3rd August, Saturday in the wake of J&K authorities issuing an advisory, asking them to cut short their stay citing security threats.



On August 4, 2019, a day before the central government announced the abrogation of Article 370, political parties in Kashmir, except the BJP, met at the residence of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah at Gupkar Road in Srinagar and adopted a declaration to defend Article 370



Home Minister Amit Shah announcing the Government's decision to Abrogate Article 370 on August 5th 2019 following which J&K was locked down and all communication was snapped



Postpaid mobile services were restored in Kashmir Valley after more than two months since August 5 following Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370



After 550 Days, Govt Lifted 4G Ban in J&K on 5th February 2020



Diplomats' Day Out In Kashmir, Feb 12 2020. The second batch of diplomats on a conducted tour of strife torn Kashmir went for a Shikara ride on day one of their tour



Covid-19 visits Kashmir, prolonging an already halted life. Municipal workers seen in action in Srinagar in their bid to contain the spread of dreaded COVID-19 pandemic



Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah walked out of detention after nearly eight months on 24th March 2020



People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration met after the abrogation of Article 370 and released a statement that they will contest the DDC polls jointly. Abdullah was on October 15 elected PAGD's president while PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti was named as vice president and People's Conference chief Sajad Lone as spokesperson. The decision to contest the polls was announced by Lone at a press conference in Jammu after a meeting of PAGD leaders. However, Sajad Lone's People's Conference left the alliance soon after



13 leaders from J&K along with LG Manoj Sinha met Modi & Amit Shah on PM's All Party Meet in Delhi. However, PAGD released a statement soon after claiming they were dissatisfied with the outcome of the meet. On the 2nd Anniversary of Abrogation of Article 370, in a statement on Wednesday, PAGD spokesperson Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami has also said, "The hoax of BJP's Naya Kashmir is a joke now. People have started questioning those in authority as [to] what they have achieved by destroying Kashmir"

# 'About 70 pc professionals feel skill gaps hampering productivity at workplaces'

Press Trust Of India

About 70 per cent of employees feel there is a gap between the skills they have and the skills they actually need to best perform their job, according to a study by job site SCIKY Market Network.

The survey further revealed that 70 per cent professionals interviewed feel that their organisation is either already facing this issue of skill shortage or is expected to encounter this as a major challenge in the next 2-3 years.

Only 10 per cent of the respondents felt that the knowledge they acquired in their educational institutions has proved to be useful in what they do today, the study noted.

The study is based on an online survey with over 2,500 respondents from across industries including IT/IT services, finance, FMCG, and others.

According to the study 35 per cent employees felt that the skill shortage can lead to loss of revenue for businesses, while 45 per cent also said it leads to poor quality of work.

Employee growth and productivity has a direct correlation to organisational growth and productivity, it said.

Moreover, it found that 70 per cent of the respondents felt that this can severely hamper the productivity of the business and 40 per cent feel it can stagnate the business expansion.

With the transition to the virtual mode of working, 60 per cent respondents said there is an urgent need to address this issue in the field of IT and 33 per cent for Data Analytics, it stated.

The survey also revealed that sectors such as Data Analytics, Web Design and IT are currently facing or are likely to face skill shortage in the future, which contributed to

60 per cent, 38 per cent, 33 per cent, respectively.

Sectors such as Research and Development, Customer Service, Talent Management and Recruitment and Finance also recognised expected shortage of skills in the near future at 28 per cent, 20 per cent, 29 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively.

The survey revealed that the respondents felt that the skill gap resulted in major loss of productivity (70 per cent) followed by higher rate of staff turnover (33 per cent,

lower morale (40 per cent), inferior work quality (45 per cent), inability to expand business (40 per cent) and loss of revenue (35 per cent).

Addressing the situation is paramount for organisations and the survey highlighted that companies are taking several steps to curb this situation, including inhouse training academy (45 per cent), frequent workshops and sessions to impart skills (53 per cent) and providing resource library to provide employees with relevant material (23 per



**With the transition to the virtual mode of working, 60 per cent respondents said there is an urgent need to address this issue in the field of IT and 33 per cent for Data Analytics, it stated.**

cent) and many simply rely on employees self-learning (20 per cent).

The increased skill gap that plagued the job market has left a huge impact and brought in challenges for employers and employees both. This is a stumbling block that makes it difficult for organisations to run flawlessly and for the talent to grow. Employees are largely responsible for putting the company's broader goals and values into action. Hence, it is crucial to address this glaring issue on priority, SCIKY Market Network co-founder and CEO Karunjit Kumar Dhir added.

((Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir))

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

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS  
(Modified as per Circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dt.22-12-2020 Issued by Finance Department).  
NIT No.83/e-tendering /MDB/2021-22/6415-35 DATED. 02-08-2021

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of Completion (calendar days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Making of necessary arrangement for smooth conduct of 15 <sup>th</sup> August-2021 (Independence day) at Sports stadium Karewa Budgam (the arrangement shall have to be completed by 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2021)	2.93 lacs	200/-	05	DEE	3054_M&R

Name of the Project Authority:  
1. Reference of Authorization Letter: \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Arbitration Liability: \_\_\_\_\_ Nil  
3. Position of AAA/TS:- Accorded  
4. Position of Funds:- Available.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02.08.2021 4:00 PM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02.08.2021 4:00 P.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	02.08.2021 from 4:00 P.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	09.08.2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	09.08.2021 at 5.00 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-  
Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.  
Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under :-  
a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.  
b) The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing E-challan/ or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ in favour of Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam (tender inviting authority).  
1. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of Finance Department ( Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).  
2. The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.  
3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site 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 Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).  
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam.

No: 6415-35. DATED: 02.08.2021.  
DIPK-5801/21

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR MOTOR GARAGES DEPARTMENT KASHMIR

Subject:-Auction of all Condemned Government vehicles of Kashmir Division.

### NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all Government Departments of Kashmir Division who have got their old vehicle(s) condemned from the competent authority to approach this department with the following documents alongwith vehicle(s) to be auctioned, so that the said vehicle(s) are enlisted for auction being held soon. However, for any query please contact on 0194-2493310/9419005274:-  
01 Copy of Government sanction with regard to condemnation and subsequent auction of the vehicle(s).  
02. Registration Certificates (in Original) of condemned vehicle(s).  
03. Book Value (Cost of vehicle at the time of purchase)  
04. Un-laden weight of the vehicle(s).  
05. Details of Revenue Account Head/Account No. alongwith the name of the Treasury  
06. Name and designation of the Liaison Officer alongwith contact No. who shall remain in constant touch with this office till the time of auction.

(Syed Muarif Andrabi)  
Deputy Director  
Motor Garages Department  
Kashmir.  
Contact No. 9419017052

No. RK-191/ /MGDK Dated: - /08/2021  
DIPK-5878/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Sub-Division Magam.

### QUOTATION

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam invites sealed quotation for below mentioned item affixed with Four Rupees revenue Stamps from various Authorised / registered dealers which should reach the office of the Executive Engineer Gulmarg Development Authority Tangmarg on 07-08-2021 upto 2 PM. The quotation will be opened on the same date or any other date convenient to the opening Authority in presence of the quotationers or their authorised representatives who wish to be present there.

S.No.	Particulars	Unit	Quantity	Rate
1	Hiring of Shamiyana (water proof) incl. erection and all carriages	Sft	800	R.T.Q
	i) Shamiyana (1 x 40'-0" x 20'-0")			
	ii) Shamiyana (1 x 20'-0" x 24'-0")	Sft.	480	R.T.Q
	iii) Shamiyana (1 x 12'-0" x 10'-0")	Sft	120	R.T.Q
	iv) Tajeer for boundary around parade area	Rft	300	R.T.Q
2	Plastic chairs incl. all carriages	No.	150	R.T.Q

Terms and conditions:  
1. The Rate quoted should be inclusive of all taxes applicable presently as per norms.  
2. The offered rates should be covered with transparent tape; otherwise the tenders will be rejected.  
3. The rates quoted by the quotationer should be both in figures and words.  
4. The successful quotationer is bound to supply the items within stipulated time as directed after opening of quotation.  
5. Penalty upto the extent of 10% shall be imposed upon the supplier in case of delay.  
6. The successful dealer has to deposit 3% of contract cost plauged to Executive Engineer Gulmarg Dev. Authority Tangmarg/ R&B Sub-Division Magam before issuing the allotment.  
7. The payment will be made only after funds are available with the department.  
8. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation or a part thereof without assigning any reasons thereof.  
9. In case the supply is not found upto the required mark, the suppliers shall have to make his own arrangement for replacing the material at his own risk and cost.  
10. All other terms and conditions if any will remain the same as already issued vide this office NIT No. 01/R&B of 2021-22.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Sub-Division Magam.

No: Divn./2458-68  
Dated: 31-07-2021  
DIPK-5747/21

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No.II. SRINAGAR.

Phone/ Fax No. 0194-2950058  
email : exdrainage@gmail.com

### GIST OF TENDER NOTICE No.-05/e-Tendering OF 2021-22

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K State/ Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from the Registered PWD Civil Contractors whose Registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work incl. Depttl. materials (Amount in lacs)	Class of Contract	Time of completion.	Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (Rs.)	Head of Account
01.	Construction of 600/300 mm dia R.C.C pipe drain including manholes to form inner links of Nund Reshi Colony B near Masjid Zu-Norain Nund Reshi Colony, B/A, B/B Bemina.	99.00	AAY	90 days	1500/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)
02.	Re-Construction of cement concrete drain at Sheikh Bagh near 2nd Petrol Pump, Qammarwari, Srinagar.	07.00	CEE & DEE	20 days	300/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)
03.	Construction of R.C.C.600mm dia Sub-main drain including manholes from H/O Mr. Bashir Ahmad Kanu onwards and 300mm dia lateral drain from H/O Sameer Ahmad Dar to Abdul Majeed Najar and from Ghulam Mohammad Shagoo to Syed Qayoom Bukhari at Mustafa Abad 2, Kalunya Colony, HMT, Srinagar.	46.00	AAY & BEE	60 days	700/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)
04.	Construction of 600mm dia R.C.C. pipe drain from Bye Pass N.H.I.A (Land Mark, Fairdeal Motors) upto Unani Hospital, Bye Pass, H.M.T. Shalteng Srinagar.	153.26	AAY	90 days	2000/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)
05.	Construction of 600mm dia R.C.C. Sub-main drain including manholes from H/O Mr. Mohammad Yousuf Khardi to H/O Mr. Ghulam Nabi Zargar and 450mm dia lateral pipe drain including manholes from H/O Mohammad Shafi Mir upto Riyaz Ahmad Zargar at Mustafa Abad lane 3, Sector 2 HMT, Srinagar.	31.19	AAY & BEE	30 days	650/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)
06.	Introduction of 11 No. Silt Chambers and clearance of main drain including manholes from Patcha Kadal (Sheikh Ul Alam Colony) upto Khushalsar Outfall.	27.00	AAY & BEE	45 days	500/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)
07.	Construction of cement concrete drains including manholes from H/O Mr. Abdul Majeed Mir upto H/O Mr. Farooq Ahmad and from existing drain upto H/O Al-Mansoor in lane No. 03 of Mir Abad at Batamaloo Srinagar.	27.75	AAY & BEE	45 days	600/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)
08.	Upgradation/ Construction of 600 mm dia R.C.C pipe drain including Manholes from Karra Complex to old Kawji Adda at Batamaloo Srinagar.	70.00	AAY	60 days	1000/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)
09.	Construction of cement concrete drain at Sir Syed Colony near Masjid-e-Gull Haij at Firdous Abad, Batamaloo Srinagar.	25.00	BEE & CEE	30 days	500/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)
10.	Construction of 600mm dia main pipe drain including Manholes from existing drain upto H/O Mr. Ghulam Nabi Beigh at Beigh Mohalla, Allochi Bagh, Srinagar.	50.00	AAY & BEE	60 days	900/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)
11.	Construction of cement concrete drain including Manholes at Samoon Colony, Solina Srinagar.	36.64	AAY & BEE	60 days	700/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)
12.	Raising of drain abutments, providing and laying of steel trash at Sheikh Dawood (R&B) Colony, Batamaloo Srinagar.	53.00	AAY	60 days	900/-	Capex 21-22 (City Dev.)

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 as per the schedule of dates given hereunder:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	02-08-2021
02.	Period of down loading of bidding documents	03-08-2021 from 12.00 A.M. to 17-08-2021 upto 4.00 PM
03.	Bid Submission Start Date	03-08-2021 from 01.00 PM
04.	Bid Submission end Date	17-08-2021 upto 4.00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening of Bids on line	18-08-2021 at 1.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer, Sewerage & Drainage Division No.II, SMC, Daresh Kadal, Srinagar.
06.	List of soft copies to be uploaded	Scanned copy of Treasury challan (cost of tender document) with SLNo.of NIT/ work Scanned copy of Bid Security Declaration Scanned copy of GST Registration and PAN Card Scanned copy of Enlistment card with its validity, Cell No. & e-mail address BQQ

Note  
1. The successful bidder has to produce/ deposit 03% of the value of contract (Performance security) in shape of FDR/CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2<sup>nd</sup>. SMC Srinagar before issuance of formal Allotment Order and same shall be released after successful completion of work. The performance Security is implemented as per the Finance Department Circular No. A/Misc (2018)-III-895/J dt:- 22.12.2020.  
02. In case more than one bidder have quoted equal bid amounts or bids are found to a "Tie" these bids shall be rejected out rightly.  
03. The Successful Bidder has to produce Hard Copies within three days after opening of Bids.  
04. All the Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration form as per Annexure "A" enclosed.  
05. Bidders are advised to read the Bid Document (NIT) carefully before participate in the Bidding process.  
06. Treasury Challan (Tender Document Fee) should be a fresh i.e. between the date of issue of tender notice & bid submission end date mentioning NIT NO. with serial no. of work  
Any other information regarding the NIT can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
S&D Division IInd, Sgr.

DIPK-5862/21



## Rajya Sabha Passes Limited Liability Partnership Amendment Bill



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to encourage the start-up ecosystem and further boost ease of doing business, amid uproar by the opposition on Pegasus snooping row and other issues.

The bill, which was passed after a short debate, seeks to decriminalise 12 offences under the law and help to improve the ease of doing business by amending the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act, 2008.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the bill for consideration and passage. The bill was introduced in the House last week. While some MPs, including Ram Nath Thakur, Kanakmaddala Ravindra Kumar, M Thambidurai, and Sujeet Kumar, spoke on the bill, several opposition members were raising slogans against the government in the Well of the House.

The opposition has been protesting on Pegasus issue and three new farm laws, besides other matters, since the start of the monsoon session. Amid the uproar, Sitharaman made a brief reply following which the amendment bill was passed with voice vote.

The minister said it is a very timely bill and will bring positivity in the LLP eco-system. She stressed that the legislation will lead to ease of doing business. Some opposition members tried to raise their issues when called for speaking on the bill.

However, Deputy Chairman Harivansh did not allow them. The bill proposes to introduce the concept of "small limited liability partnership" in line with the concept of "small company" under the

Companies Act, 2013.

It will also amend certain sections of the Act so as to convert offences into civil defaults and to convert the nature of punishment provided in the said sections from fines to monetary penalties. Currently, there are 24 penal provisions and 21 are compoundable offences, while three are non-compoundable ones.

The proposed bill seeks to reduce the total number of penal provisions under the LLP Act to 22, compoundable offences to seven, non-compoundable offences to three and the number of defaults to be dealt with under the 'In-House Adjudication Mechanism' will be only 12. Compoundable offences are those which can be settled by paying a certain amount of money.

Offences that relate to minor/less serious compliance issues, involving predominantly objective determinations, are proposed to be shifted to the In-House Adjudication Mechanism (IAM) framework instead of being treated as criminal offences.

The bill also seeks to insert a new section 34A so as to empower the central government to prescribe "Accounting Standards" or "Auditing Standards" for a class or classes of limited liability partnerships. Earlier, this week, the Union Cabinet had approved amendments to the Act including decriminalising 12 offences under the law.

This is the first time that changes are being made to the Act since it came into effect in 2009. At present, there are relaxations for thresholds up to turnover size and partner's contribution of Rs 40 lakh and Rs 25 lakh, respectively.

Once the amendment is in place, the thresholds will be revised upwards.

## IndiGo Launches Special Fares On 15 Yr Anniversary



Agenceis

To celebrate its 15 years of operations, airline major IndiGo on Wednesday announced a three-day special sale offering all-inclusive fares starting from Rs 915 on its domestic and international connections.

Accordingly, the offer will be live from August 4-6, 2021 and will be applicable on travel between September 1, 2021 till March 26, 2022.

"Additionally, the '6E' add-ons including 'Fast Forward, 6E Flex, 6E Bagport' are being offered at Rs

315 while the 'Car Rental' service will start at Rs 315."

According to Ronojoy Dutta, Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo: "It is a momentous occasion for us as we celebrate 15 fulfilling years. We would like to express our gratitude towards our customers and employees for their confidence in us even during the worst times."

At present, IndiGo with its fleet of more than 270 aircraft, the airline is operating around 1,000 daily flights and connecting 67 domestic destinations and 24 international destinations.

## "Organic Farming Is Economically Sustainable"

### Two Days Workshop On Promoting Organic Farming Concluded At SKUAST (K)

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** The two days workshop on promoting Organic farming in Jammu and Kashmir concluded on Wednesday at SKUAST (K).

Speaking on the concluding function of the workshop, Director Research SKUAST, Kashmir, Dr Sarfaraz Wani said to preserve the biodiversity and ecological balance in the region the organic cultivation of vegetables and other crops would play a key role.

He said organic farming is an eco-friendly form of farming and is also economically sustainable.

Through organic farming we can preserve our land resources for generations to come, he said.

He added that Organic farm-

ing while on one hand involves producing crops without using pesticides, chemical fertilizers, antibiotics and synthetic growth hormones and supporting, the use of natural fertilizers like animal manure, green manure, legumes, compost, bio fertilizers on the other hand nurtures food that grows naturally by little efforts.

He said that the sole purpose of organising the program was to address, focus, discuss and deliberate upon some of the surrounding core issues and understanding the need for a change in the Agri ecosystem besides reach to some of the logical conclusion which will pave a way forward in diversifying from trivial cropping system to a sustainable Cropping Pattern.

Dr. Waseem Ahmad Shah Joint Director Farms AP&FWD and Joint Director AP&FWD Farooq Ahmad Shah thanked the participants to take this program seriously which will prove to be very beneficial in the long run.

Scientists from the different departments, resource person from SKUAST (K) and scientists from other states delivered lectures on different topics on Organic farming which include prospectus of organic farming in mountain agro ecosystems, Organic farming potential and government initiatives, technological innovations in organic farming, organic livestock farming, organic farming Kashmir Perspective, Organic Certification National and international and other related topics.

## RBI Cautions Against Fraudulent Offers Of Buying/Selling Old Notes

Agenceis

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank on Wednesday cautioned the public not to fall prey to fictitious offers of buying or selling of old banknotes and coins on commission basis by unauthorised entities.

In a statement, the RBI said it has come to its notice that certain elements are fraudulently using the name/logo of the Reserve Bank of India and seeking charges/ commission/ tax from public for transactions related to buying and selling of old banknotes and coins through various online/ offline platforms.

"It is clarified that Reserve Bank of India does not deal in such matters and never seeks



charges/ commissions of any

sort. Reserve Bank of India has also not authorised any institution/ firm/ person etc to collect charges/ commission on its behalf in such transac-

tions," it said.

RBI advised the public to remain cautious and not to fall prey to elements using its name to extract money through such fraudulent offers.

## India, World Bank Sign \$250 mn Project For Making Dams Safe

Agenceis

The Indian government, the Central Water Commission, representatives from 10 participating states, and the World Bank on Wednesday signed a \$250 million project for long-term dam safety programme and improving the safety and performance of existing dams across various states.

The Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-2) will strengthen dam safety by building dam safety guidelines, bringing in global experience, and introducing innovative technologies.

Another major innovation envisaged under the project, that is likely to transform dam safety management, is the introduction of a risk-based approach to dam asset management that will help to effectively allocate financial resources towards priority dam safety needs.

The project will be implemented in approximately 120 dams across Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu, and at the national level through the



CWC. Other states or agencies may be added to the project during project implementation.

The agreement was signed by Additional Secretary, Economic Affairs, on behalf of the Centre, representatives of the Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu governments, and the World Bank's Country Director Junaid Ahmad.

World Bank support to dam safety in India includes the recently closed DRIP-1 (\$279 million + \$62 million additional financing) that improved the safety

and sustainable performance of 223 dams in six states of India and one central agency.

Other important measures that DRIP-2 will support include flood forecasting systems and integrated reservoir operations that will contribute to building climate resilience, the preparation and implementation of Emergency Action Plans to enable vulnerable downstream communities to prepare for and enhance resilience against the possible negative impacts and risks of climate change, and the piloting of supplemental revenue generation schemes such as floating solar panels.

## WhatsApp Launches 'View Once' That Deletes Photos, Videos Once Seen



Agenceis

WhatsApp has rolled out a new feature called 'View Once', that deletes photos and videos from the chat after they have been opened, giving users even more control over their privacy.

For added privacy, you can now send photos and videos that disappear from your WhatsApp chat after the recipient has opened them once.

"Media will not be saved to the recipient's Photos or Gallery. Once you send a view once photo or video, you won't be able to view it again," WhatsApp said in a statement on Tuesday.

The feature has been rolled out to everyone starting this week, and WhatsApp is looking forward to "feedback on this new way to send private and disappearing media".

For example, you might send a View Once photo of some new clothes you're trying on at a store, a quick reaction to a moment in time, or something sensitive like a Wi-Fi password.

"As with all the personal messages you send on WhatsApp, View Once media is protected by end-to-end encryption so WhatsApp cannot see them," the company said.

They will also be clearly marked with a new "one-time" icon.

After the media has been viewed, the message will appear as "opened" to avoid any confusion about what was happening in the chat at the time.

You can't forward, save, star, or share photos or videos that were sent or received with view once media enabled.

## Kumar Mangalam Birla Steps Down As Non-Executive Chairman Of Vodafone Idea

Agenceis

Vodafone Idea on Wednesday said its board accepted the request of Aditya Birla group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla to step down as non-executive director and non-executive chairman of the Board.

Himanshu Kapania, currently a non-executive director, has been appointed as non-executive chairman.

"The Board of Directors of Vodafone Idea Limited, at its meeting held today, have accepted the request of Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla to step down as Non-Executive Director and Non-Executive Chairman of the Board with effect from close of business hours on 4th August, 2021," the telco said in a stock exchange filing.

Kapania, a nominee of the Aditya Birla Group, is a telecom industry veteran with 25 years of experience. He has also served on the Global GSMA Board for two years and was also the Chairman of the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) for two years. He is presently the Chairman of the FICCI Council on Telecom, Electronics and Digital Economy.

Further, the Board has appointed Sushil Agarwal, a nominee of Aditya Birla Group, as an Additional Director (Non-Executive and Non Independent) with effect from August 4, 2021.

Earlier this week, Birla had 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 alongwith Bharti Airtel had approached the Supreme Court for correction in the government calcu-



lations but their plea was rejected.

In the letter, Birla, who holds around 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.

Shares of Vodafone Idea slipped 18.5 per cent at Rs 6.03, hitting a fresh 52-week low on the BSE in the intra-day trade on Wednesday, after reports suggested that Vodafone Group Plc has ruled out any further equity infusion in its debt-ridden telecom joint venture in India.

With today's fall, the stock of the telecom services provider has tanked 26 per cent in two days after reports emerged of Birla telling the government that he is willing to give up promoter stake in the company.

The stock was trading at the lowest level since June 2020. It had hit a record low of Rs 2.61 in November 2019.

## RBI Extends Deadline For Shifting Of Current Accounts Till Oct 31

Agenceis

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday gave banks time till October 31 to comply with its guidelines on current account and overdraft facilities, by which time banks must come to a resolution on the issue.

The central bank again reiterated its stance on the issue, indicating that it was in no mood to change the proposed rules, but only would allow for stretching the timeline for smoother implementation.

The deadline had ended on July 31st, leading to thousands of current accounts being closed or frozen by banks. The lenders had requested the RBI for some more time to resolve the operational issues for implementing the provisions of the August 2020 circular in letter and spirit.

Bankers say now those accounts that were frozen can be operationalised for three months more, by which time the banks would be able to iron out issues.

State Bank of India chairman Dinesh Khara said while most of

the challenges have already been addressed, the time given by the RBI was a "reasonable timeframe to engage with clients on the matter."

The frozen accounts can now be reopened for ease of migration to a new arrangement, he said.

"Banks will be able to resolve outstanding issues harmoniously in this period," Khara said.

Till now, banks were closing down accounts, or freezing them unilaterally, but now they will have to consult the clients about the migration path, bankers say.

A senior banker with a private bank said most current accounts were frozen and not closed outrightly. The debit side was kept open, while the credit side was frozen. That means the accounts could be used for payments, but no fresh money was allowed to be deposited in the accounts.

However, there are some cases where accounts have been closed permanently.

"Banks have been giving notices to their clients for 30 days. Responding to those notices many



accounts have been closed already. Besides, banks also closed a few accounts on the last day, and settled the outstanding in many cases. They cannot be reopened," said another private banker, who said RBI clarification should have ideally

come before the deadline, and not after four days.

Pushing the deadline to October 31, the RBI said, "this extended timeline shall be utilised by banks to engage with their borrowers to arrive at mutually satisfactory

resolutions within the ambit of the circular."

"Banks shall ensure that the contents of the circular are implemented in letter and spirit without causing undue inconvenience to their borrowers," the RBI said in its

notification.

Cases that banks are unable to resolve themselves will have to be escalated to Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for appropriate guidance. The banking industry lobby, would flag any regulatory considerations required to the RBI by September 30. This may indicate that the October 31 deadline is flexible, provided banks sort out the issue with their customers and come to a solution.

In the original circular, the RBI had said that a customer can open a current account with any bank if she has not availed overdraft facility from any bank, and the exposure to the banking system is less than Rs 5 crore. If the exposure is between Rs 5 crore and Rs 50 crore, the lending bank can allow the customer to open a current account as well.

However, for large borrowers above Rs 50 crore exposure and having multiple bank exposures, current account and cash credit/ overdraft facility has to be with a single bank. In essence, a customer has to have a single current ac-

count, and that too with the bank with which it has a loan facility running. In case of multiple banks, the borrower and the banks can decide mutually where to keep the current account.

The current account has to be run through an escrow mechanism, and "current accounts of such borrowers can only be opened/maintained by the escrow managing bank," the RBI had said in its August circular.

The RBI's proposed rules gave rise to problems in many cases, as firms generally take loans from public sector banks, but run current accounts with private and foreign banks that offer better services. The RBI wanted to stem this, saying the core banking system (CBS) connects all the banks and the firms should not have any problem integrating accounts.

The idea was to make sure that funds are not routed through multiple check-in accounts, and that by limiting such accounts within one bank, the firms are better monitored.





#	COUNTRY	G	S	B	T
1	CHINA	32	22	16	70
2	UNITED STATES	25	31	23	79
3	JAPAN	21	7	12	40
4	GREAT BRITAIN	15	18	15	48
5	AUSTRALIA	15	4	17	36
6	ROC	14	21	18	53
7	GERMANY	8	8	16	32
8	FRANCE	6	10	9	25
9	ITALY	6	9	15	30
10	NETHERLANDS	6	8	9	23
65	INDIA	0	1	2	3



**INDIA RANK: 65**  
GOLD: 0 SILVER: 1 BRONZE: 2  
TOTAL: 3

## Lovlina Borgohain Wins India Boxing Bronze At Tokyo Olympics



Press Trust of India

**TOKYO:** Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) signed off with a bronze medal in the Olympic Games after a comprehensive 0-5 loss to reigning world champion Busenaz Surneli here on Wednesday, bringing an end to the country's campaign in the sport here.

Borgohain was completely out-punched by the gold medal favourite, who produced a thoroughly dominating performance.

Borgohain goes home a history-maker as the 23-year-old, who started her career as a Muay Thai practitioner, has become only the third Indian boxer to ensure a podium finish at the showpiece after Vijender Singh (2008) and M C Mary Kom (2012).

"Accha to nahi lag raha hai. I worked hard for a gold medal so it is a bit disappointing," Borgohain said after the bout, in which she was docked a point for not paying attention to the referee's instructions and also endured two standing eight counts.

"I could not execute my strategy, she was strong, I thought if I play on the backfoot, I would get hit, so I always wanted to compete in the Olympics and win a medal. I am glad I got a medal but I could have got more," she said.

"I have worked for eight years for this medal. I have stayed away from home, not been with my family, not eaten what I would have like to, but I don't think one should do this.

"I would also always feel that anything wrong I do would affect my game," she said of the sacrifices she made in her journey to the Olympic podium.

Well Fought! President, PM Lead India In Applauding Borgohain

"...With your hard work and dogged determination, you have done the nation proud. Your Bronze medal in boxing at the Olympics Games will inspire the youth, especially young women, to battle with challenges and turn their dreams into reality," President Ram Nath Kovind wrote on his twitter handle.

The 23-year-old's bronze came after weightlifter Mirabai Chanu and shuttler PV Sindhu had secured a silver and bronze respectively.

"Well fought @LovlinaBorgohain! Her success in the boxing ring inspires several Indians. Her tenacity and determination are admirable. Congratulations to her on winning the Bronze. Best wishes for her future endeavours," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

## Hockey J&K Organises Plantation Drive

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Hockey J&K in collaboration with J&K Sports Council organised a plantation drive on Wednesday at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Dr. Zafar Iqbal JKAS Chief Accounts Officer J&K Sports Council was the chief guest on the occasion.

"After planting Amla saplings in Green Field Play Ground, Gan-

dhi Nagar he said that green India campaign should be carried to the extent that within few years J&K's status should become as number one state in forest cover. Recently Corona pandemic has alerted the humanity to save environment and plant more trees," the Hockey J&K said in a statement.

Dr. Taran Singh, Secretary General, Hockey J&K was also present on the occasion.

## Talakhadze Breaks Weightlifting Records, Iran, Syria Win Olympic Medals

Agencies

**TOKYO:** Lasha Talakhadze pumped everyone up with three world records on the final day of Olympic competition in weightlifting.

The defending champion from Georgia lifted 223 kilograms in the snatch and 265kg in the clean and jerk for a total 488kg on Wednesday. All three figures broke his own world records in the over-109kg men's superheavyweight category.

Ali Davoudi of Iran was left in second place by the vast margin of 47kg.

Even Talakhadze's starting lifts were more than anyone else attempted, which meant he had to lift three times back-to-back in each half of the competition.

Talakhadze immediately pledged to return for a third Olympic gold in 2024, and his feat in Tokyo raised the question of whether he could become the first man to lift the once undreamed-of total of 500kg.

"At this stage it would be risky, this 500, but I will try my utmost and I will do everything in order to set the nearest margin at least to that limit," Talakhadze said through an interpreter.

Man Asaad of Syria took the bronze with a total 424kg for his country's first medal since its civil war began a decade ago. Syria's last Olympic medal in any sport was a boxing bronze in 2004.

"The medal means a lot to me and a lot to my country, Syria," Asaad said through an interpreter.

On the last day of weightlifting competition in Tokyo, the event was also a reminder of the shadow doping has cast over the sport. Talakhadze previously served a doping ban from 2013-15 and Brazilian lifter Fernando Reis was cut from the competition after failing a doping test last month.

Also, Walid Bidani of Algeria missed the competition after Olympic organizers said he had been quarantined for health reasons. The statement didn't specify if Bidani had tested positive for the coronavirus.

Weightlifting's place at the next Olympics is still uncertain. The International Olympic Committee wants the sport's governing body to pass a new constitution before it will confirm it on the program following years of doping and corruption allegations.

# India Vs Pakistan T20 WC Match Set For October 24

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The marquee T20 World Cup clash between arch-rivals India and Pakistan in all likelihood will be held on October 24, which is a Sunday, even though the ICC will be releasing the official schedule of the tournament in few days.

It has been learnt that the ICC normally keeps two to three sets of schedule before zeroing in on the final one. But, it is given that with the kind of traction an Indo-Pak rivalry generates, the match will have to be held on a weekend.

"As of now, Sunday, October 24 looks the likely option as the first week's Qualifying round matches starting October 17 will be held in Muscat, Oman," a source privy to developments in the ICC board told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"So when the main round robin fixtures are played, it is better to start with an Indo-Pak game which will have the best TRP."

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



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

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

## Eng Vs Ind 1st Test, Day 1 India Bowl England Out For 183, Reach 21/0 At Stumps

Press Trust of India

**NOTTINGHAM:** India were 21 for no loss at stumps after bowling out England for 183 on the opening day of the first Test here on Wednesday.

Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul were batting on 9 runs each at the close of play as India reduced the deficit by 162 runs in their first innings.

Earlier, having reached tea at 138 for four, England lost their remaining six wickets for just 45 runs in the day's third and final session. Skipper Joe Root made 64 off 108 balls, even as the others failed miserably to stand up to the Indian pace bowling attack.

For the visitors, Jasprit Bumrah picked up four wickets for 46 runs, Mohammed Shami had 3/28, while Shardul Thakur bagged 2/41.

England scored 77 runs in 25.2 overs bowled in the afternoon session for the loss of two wickets, after scoring 61 in the first session. The pitch had enough for the pacers in the first hour of play with the ball swinging and seaming around.

With India going in with four pacers, Shardul Thakur came into the side but the one spinner picked was Ravindra Jadeja, who didn't bowl in the first session. Dropping premier spinner R Ashwin was a big call as he had been well prepared for the series opener with his preparation including a county game.

**Brief Score:** England 1st innings: 183 all out in 65.4 overs (Joe Root 64; Jasprit Bumrah 4/46, Mohammed Shami 3/28, Shardul Thakur 2/41). India 1st innings: 21 for no loss in 13 overs.

## Pakistan Wins Rain-Ruined T20 Series Against West Indies



Agencies

**GEORGETOWN:** Pakistan maintained their winning streak over the West Indies as rain had the final say yet again with the scheduled final encounter of the four-match Twenty20 International series abandoned as a no-result at the Providence Stadium in Guyana on Tuesday.

Just one of the scheduled matches reached a conclusion on the field of play with the tourists defeating the home side by seven runs in the second match on Saturday at the same venue.

Although play started on time in the final match, just three overs were bowled with the opening pair of Andre Fletcher and Chris Gayle getting the West Indies off to a flying start at 30 without loss.

Fletcher (17) slammed off-spinning all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez for two sixes in the first over of the truncated West Indies innings before Gayle (12) took two successive fours off young pacer Mohammad Wasim in the next over. However, the combination of steady rainfall and an outfield that had already soaked up considerable moisture in the preceding two days meant another length delay.

There were hopes of playing a match reduced to nine overs per side, but just as the action was about to resume a drizzle arrived which developed into showers and ended any hope the home side had of squeezing out a victory to level the series.

Attention now shifts to the two-Test series with both matches being played at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica, starting from Aug 12.

## What Happens When Olympics And Politics Collide?

Agencies

**TOKYO:** For all the International Olympic Committee talks of staying neutral, its games have long proven to be essentially and sometimes overtly political — for the Games overall, and often for the athletes who are intended to entertain the world in a two-week global show.

Case in point: diplomatic eruptions. Hundreds of athletes have come to an Olympic Games and never returned to the home nation they represented in the pool, on the mat or on the track. Their stories since 1948, when the Olympics resumed in London after a wartime pause, confirm that when the world meets for sports, politics is always there.

The sprinter from Belarus, Krystina Tsimanouskaya, who left Tokyo early Wednesday to seek refuge, fits into that long tradition — yet with a unique reason.

Most athletes who defected competed under a kind of flag of convenience — travelling to the Summer Games from eastern Europe with a plan to head west. The Olympics offered escape from authoritarian regimes at home, and at no time more than the peak of the Cold War.

After the 1972 Munich Olympics, more than 100 athletes stayed in West Germany to first seek refuge before, in many cases, moving on to make lives in democratically run countries. Those whose plans succeeded have cited varied reasons — political ideology, the prospect of a more peaceful life or simply the chance to achieve their true value as an athlete.

Tsimanouskaya had no plans of escape upon arriving in Japan from Belar-



us, a country in turmoil for a year since the disputed re-election of authoritarian president Alexander Lukashenko. She disagreed with her coaches about team selection for relay races and shared her thoughts on social media. That made her a pariah in Belarus, where dissent can be life-threatening.

But she leaves having authored a page in a storied Olympic history. What other Olympians have been caught at the intersection of sport and diplomacy?

**LONDON, 1948 (AND BEYOND)**  
Oscar Charles had a different role at three consecutive Summer Games water polo tournaments.

Born Oszkar Csuvik in Hungary, he helped the national team take silver in London. He defected to stay in Britain and avoid returning to communist rule in his home country. Two years later, he migrated to Australia

and coached its team at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

The Olympics came to Australia in 1956, opening in Melbourne three weeks after Soviet Union forces invaded Hungary to crush a people's uprising. Charles worked there as a radio commentator and was poolside for the storied "Blood in the Water" water polo game in which Hungary beat the Soviet team 4-0 in a famously violent clash.

Charles "was only just restrained from jumping into the pool," according to an Australian newspaper obituary in 2008.

**MELBOURNE, 1956**  
Held in the Southern hemisphere summer, the Melbourne Olympics opened on Nov. 22, 1956. Hungary sent more than 100 athletes from a nation in turmoil after Soviet forces invaded — including gymnastics great Agnes Keleti,

who won gold medals and two silvers and proceeded to defect to Australia.

She joined dozens of eastern European athletes who refused to go home. The United States authorized taking in at least 40 Olympic athletes, including 35 from the Hungary team at Melbourne. Keleti went to Israel, where she lived until six years ago. Now in Hungary, she turned 100 in January and is the oldest living Olympic champion.

**ATLANTA, 1996**

Defecting in the United States was an attractive prospect. Atlanta offered an opportunity.

Iraq's flag bearer at the opening ceremony, Raed Ahmed, fled the Olympic Village after competing in weightlifting. He wanted to escape the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Pitcher Rolando Arrojo helped Cuba win baseball gold at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and was preparing to help defend its title. He eluded team security in a Georgia hotel and was soon branded a "Judas" by Cuban president Fidel Castro. Just two years later, as a Tampa Bay Devil Ray, he was an MLB all-star.

**LONDON, 2012**

Ayoub-Ali Sihame was the only swimmer representing the African island of Comoros in London. Then 17, she left the Olympic Village after competing in the 100 meters freestyle.

She later said she feared going home and being sold by her family into a forced marriage with a much older man. She claimed her family wanted to cash in on her Olympic celebrity.

## Neeraj Chopra Qualifies For Javelin Final With Monster Throw

**TOKYO:** Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra kept India's hopes of an elusive Olympic medal from track and field events alive by earning a direct qualification into the finals with a stunning throw of 86.65m that put him on the top of the Group A contest.

23-year-old Chopra took just a few seconds to make to the final round to be held on Saturday as he sent the spear well past the qualifying mark of 83.50m in his first attempt.

Those who touch 83.50m mark or the 12 best performers qualify for the final on Saturday.

## Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem Reaches Javelin Throw Final

**TOKYO:** Arshad Nadeem on Wednesday kept Pakistan's hopes of its maiden medal at Tokyo Olympics alive as he went through to the final of the men's javelin with a throw of 85.16 metres.

The feat made him the first Pakistani to qualify for the final of any track and field event at the Olympics.

Nadeem's throw was third-best of the day behind India's Neeraj Chopra (86.65m) and world leader Germany's Johannes Vetter (85.64m).

## India Women's Team Lose Hockey Semifinal 1-2 To Argentina

**TOKYO:** Indian women's hockey lost 1-2 to world no.2 Argentina in a hard-fought semifinal of the ongoing Games in Tokyo on Wednesday.

India still have a chance to win the bronze medal when they take on Great Britain in the third-fourth place play-off match on Friday.

The Indians fought valiantly and gave Argentina a run for their money by taking the lead in the second minute through a penalty corner conversion by Gurjit Kaur.

But the Las Leonas bounced back strongly with skipper Maria Barriounevo's (18th, 36th minutes) twin strikes from penalty corners to secure the hard-fought win.

## Ravi Kumar Dahiya Enters 57kg Wrestling Finals

**TOKYO:** Ravi Dahiya on Wednesday became only the second Indian wrestler to qualify for the gold medal clash at the Olympic Games when he sensationally turned around the 57kg semifinal by pinning Kazakhstan's Nurislam Sanayev in Tokyo.

The fourth seed Indian trailed 2-9 after Sanayev effected a few 'fitley' (leg lace) but as the clocked ticked away, Dahiya regrouped and got hold of his rival with a double leg attack that resulted in a 'victory by fall'.

Earlier, Indian wrestler Deepak Punia was outclassed by formidable American David Morris Taylor in the 86kg semifinals. Punia will now fight for bronze medal.

## Greek Swimmers Ruled Out After COVID-19 Cases

**TOKYO:** An outbreak of COVID-19 cases among the Greek Olympic team's artistic swimmers has ruled them out of competing at the Tokyo Games, officials said Wednesday.

"Five of the twelve Greek artistic swimmers and the team officials who were staying at the Olympic Village had tested positive for COVID-19," Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee spokesperson Masa Takaya said at a briefing. The Greek team said they are all staying at a quarantine hotel. Greece was due to compete in the duet and team events.

## Russia's Romashina Sets Record With 6th Olympic Gold

**TOKYO:** Russian star Svetlana Romashina claimed her record sixth Olympic gold in artistic swimming, teaming with Svetlana Kolesnichenko to win the duet Wednesday night.

The Russians were heavy favorites in a sport they have dominated for more than two decades. Their last Olympic loss in what was then known as synchronized swimming came at the 1996 Atlanta Games. Romashina had been tied with fellow Russians Anastasia Davydova and Natalia Ishchenko with five golds medals apiece. Now, Romashina is in a class by herself.

## Belarus Olympic Sprinter Arrives In Vienna After Refusing To Go Home

**VIENNA:** A plane carrying a Belarusian Olympic sprinter Krystina Tsimanouskaya seeking refuge landed in Austria on Wednesday after she resisted an attempt by her Olympic team's officials to send her home, where she feared reprisals from the authoritarian government.

The sprinter caused a diplomatic incident on Sunday when she said her coaches had cut her Tokyo Games short, demanding she pack her bags at the Olympic village and taking her to the airport against her wishes because she had publicly criticised them. She refused to board the flight and sought the protection of Japanese police.

Tsimanouskaya will board a flight for Warsaw on Wednesday after Poland's government offered her a humanitarian visa.

## 1.71 Lakh Rape Cases Registered In India Between 2015 And 2019



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 1.71 lakh rape cases were registered in the country between 2015 and 2019 and the highest number of incidents of this heinous crime was reported from Madhya Pradesh, followed by Rajasthan, the government informed Parliament on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra

said a total of 22,753 rape cases were registered in Madhya Pradesh between 2015 and 2019, 20,937 in Rajasthan, 19,098 in Uttar Pradesh and 14,707 in Maharashtra.

A total of 8,051 rape cases were registered in Delhi between 2015 and 2019, he added.

The minister said altogether, 34,651 rape cases were registered across the country in 2015, 38,947 in 2016, 32,559 in 2017, 33,356 in 2018 and 32,033 in 2019.

## Taking Measures To Ensure Safety Of Indian Nationals In Afghanistan: Centre



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** As the Taliban steps up its offensive in Afghanistan, India on Wednesday said it remains vigilant and is taking all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of Indians in the conflict-ridden country.

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan also said the India-based personnel from the Indian consulate in Kandahar were temporarily withdrawn last month as part of the security measures.

"The security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated in the recent past. In view of this, the government remains vigilant and is taking all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals and ongoing projects," he said.

Mr Muraleedharan said the Indian embassy in Kabul continues to function normally and is providing regular consular and visa services.

"As a security measure in July, India-based personnel from the consulate of India in Kandahar were temporarily withdrawn. However, the consulate continues to operate visa and consular services through its local staff," he said.

"Our mission in Kabul also

continues to extend necessary assistance to Indian nationals in Afghanistan," the minister said.

The Taliban has been making rapid advances across Afghanistan by resorting to widespread violence since the US began withdrawing its troops on May 1. The US has already pulled back the majority of its forces and is looking to complete the drawdown by August 31.

To a separate question, he said the government had decided to offer COVID-19 vaccine to foreign personnel working at embassies, consulates and the United Nations offices and other international organisations located in India.

"A total of 3,751 such foreign personnel registered with the Ministry of External Affairs for COVID-19 vaccination... They were offered vaccination facilities at any of the vaccination centres in their respective cities," Mr Muraleedharan said.

To another question, he said a number of countries, including some neighbouring ones, had signed contracts with Indian manufacturers for procurement of COVID-19 vaccines.

"At present, priority is being accorded to the implementation of our national vaccination programme," the minister said.

**A TOTAL OF 3,751 SUCH FOREIGN personnel registered with the Ministry of External Affairs for COVID-19 vaccination... They were offered vaccination facilities at any of the vaccination centres in their respective cities."**

## Rise In Covid Cases Worrying, But Premature To Declare Third Wave: Scientists

Agenceis

**T**he rise in fresh Covid cases and the effective reproduction number indication of how fast an infection spreads -- in many states is worrying but don't panic. Instead, mask up and get vaccinated, say experts, stressing that it is too early to declare the beginning of a new wave.

In fact, it could be that the second wave is not over, said several scientists who have been closely monitoring India's Covid graph and have noted the surge in a few pockets.

In the northeast, for instance, cases have certainly not gone down to the low levels that are being seen in Delhi and other northern states, observed Gautam Menon, professor, Departments of Physics and Biology at Ashoka University in Haryana.

"In that sense, we are likely seeing a continuation of the second wave rather than the initiation of a new Covid wave distinct from the previous one," he explained.

On Wednesday, India recorded 42,625 fresh Covid cases with a daily positivity rate of 2.31 per cent and a weekly one of 2.36 per cent.

India's Covid situation is seemingly under control. However, 13 states/union territories recorded a surge in coronavirus infections last week with Kerala reporting half of India's daily new cases. Last week, Kerala reported 1.4 lakh new COVID-19 cases, around 20,000 more than the previous week.

In the week ended August 1, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, J&K, Sikkim, and Karnataka also witnessed a rise in cases.

With the government warning that the pandemic is still raging, there is also an increase in India's effective reproduction number (R) which represents the number of susceptible people one Covid positive person may infect.

A recent analysis by researchers at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, found that the effective R number in India has crossed 1 for the first time since May 7.



The government on Tuesday also said the R-value is more than one in eight states and UTs, which is a cause of concern.

Researcher Sitabhra Sinha, who has been tracking the value of R since the beginning of the pandemic, is alarmed that this rise is not driven by the increase in cases in any particular region but seems to be resulting from several states having R values greater than 1 roughly around the same time.

Apart from Kerala which has had R above 1 for more than a month and the northeastern states where the second wave has not yet subsided after beginning in July, we saw in the past week R increase above 1 in Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana, and possibly in Uttarakhand, Sinha, from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, told PTI.

The cities of Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Delhi also are showing R above 1. This suggests a rise in the active cases that is coordinated across widely scattered regions which would be hard to contain, he added.

The need of the hour is to press the accelerator on Covid protocols.

We need to be prepared but not overtly panic. It is time people mask up and get vaccinated, Delhi-based physician-epidemiologist and health systems expert Chandrakant Lahariya told PTI, adding that the numbers clearly indicated the need to be cautious.

He noted that COVID-19 cases are mostly being reported from states

that had succeeded or avoided transmission earlier. Some of this, he said, is attributable to the high transmissibility of the Delta variant.

We should not be looking at the proportion contributed by a state of the total new cases reported in India. That is not very helpful as we end up comparing the states with better reporting systems with states with weak disease surveillance systems, the public health expert said.

The wave or cycle is of academic significance only. If cases are rising, it does not matter whether that is a continuation of the second wave or the start of the next wave, he said.

The interventions have to be very similar.

Scientist Gautam Menon agreed that while it is too early to declare the third wave, the surge in cases is certainly worrying.

The next few weeks will be critical to see whether the rise in case numbers, currently confined to the south and northeast of India, will spread across other parts of the country where cases have been declining for the past month, Menon told PTI.

Explaining the rise in cases, Menon said the spike in Kerala can be traced to the relatively low levels of seropositivity there, indicating that much of the state has not undergone a prior infection and should therefore be susceptible. From the few serosurveys that exist for the northeast, a similar situation should hold there, he added.

## Officials Trying To "Whitewash" Issue: Families On Delhi Oxygen Deaths

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** A day after the Delhi Police told a court that the deaths of 21 coronavirus patients in the national capital's Jaipur Golden Hospital were not due to oxygen shortage, the families of the victims accused the authorities of trying to "whitewash" the matter and demanded a fair probe into it.

Erick Massey, whose mother Delphin Massey died at the Jaipur Golden Hospital allegedly due to oxygen shortage, said the hospital director had clearly mentioned that they did not receive oxygen.

"The Centre had recently said that there were no deaths due to lack of oxygen that was specifically reported by states and union territories during the second wave of coronavirus. They are fooling us. The death summaries mention respiratory failure or cardiac arrest. It's written in a technical language. We are demanding a proper investigation," he said.

The hospital had clearly said they were operating on reserves, Mr Massey said, adding that it

mother has been murdered by the hospital. They are trying to blame everything on protocols," he said.

Navya Awasthi, whose mother Seema Awasthi died at the hospital, said that this showed how the government was "more concerned about whitewashing" than about the plight of people.

"The hospital is saying that they had to resort to reserves, yet there is no death due to oxygen shortage. Aren't these two statements contradictory? It is very easy to pass the buck. Whenever any committee looks at the reports, they will just show the records that say cardiac arrest or respiratory failure was the cause of the death. But what led to the cardiac arrest or respiratory failure of 21 patients," she questioned.

Navya Awasthi claimed that Medical Director Dr DK Baluja had stated that he cannot deny oxygen shortage played a role in the deaths of the patients.

"Even in Goa, where 74 people died allegedly due to oxygen shortage, the government took a u-turn," she said.



meant oxygen pressure was low and people on ventilators would not have survived on low oxygen pressure, he said.

Erick Massey also said that the hospital had told the police that the average mortality rate per day before and after the incident was only two and three, respectively, which increased to 21 within a span of seven to eight hours.

"I don't think 21 patients have died in any hospital across India due to natural causes during the entire pandemic. It seems like a cover-up," he said.

Jagjyot Singh's mother Sarabjeet Kaur was one of the 21 casualties when the Jaipur Golden Hospital waited for its oxygen stock to be replenished on April 24.

"It looks like a drama. They are fooling us. How the deaths happened should be investigated. We are not able to sleep at night. My

The Delhi Police told a city court on Tuesday that the death of 21 COVID-19 patients in Jaipur Golden Hospital in April was not caused due to the shortage of oxygen, a claim which contradicts the hospital's stand. In the same status filed by the police before the court, the hospital has stated that there was a link between inadequate oxygen supply and deaths of the patients as no oxygen was supplied to them for 30 hours despite several SOS alerts.

As many as 21 in-patients died at the hospital on the intervening night of April 23-24 allegedly due to the lack of oxygen as it waited for the supply to be replenished.

"On scrutiny of death summaries of all deceased persons, it revealed that no death of any patient was caused due to shortage of oxygen," the police stated in the status report on a plea seeking FIR against the hospital for deaths.

## Hiring In India 42% Above Pre-Covid Levels: LinkedIn

Agenceis

**H**iring in India is around 42 per cent above pre-Covid levels, according to latest Labour Market by LinkedIn.

There was a deep hiring dip in April 2021, corresponding to a second wave of Covid-19 cases in India.

Since then, it has been recovering steadily -- compared to the pre-Covid levels in 2019, it was 35 per cent higher at the end of May 2021, and 42 per cent higher at the end of June 2021.

This is possibly due to a release of pent-up hiring (which accumulated in 2020 as companies took a more cautious stance towards hiring), the update showed.

While competition for jobs is lower compared to 12 months ago, applicants are applying more aggressively.

In 2020, the applications per job doubled during the height of global lockdowns. On the contrary, the average applications per job is 0.6 times compared to the same month last year.



Meanwhile, the applications per applicant has been slowly increasing and has reached 1.2 times compared to last year.

This suggests that the supply of jobs has increased in the market, and also that workers are more actively seeking jobs. In this environment, professionals who upskill will likely have a wider spectrum of jobs available to them, revealed the update.

The data also showed that between January 2018 to June 2021, the share of Gen Zs entering the workforce has increased by over 4.2 times. Compared to people who only have basic or applied digital

skills, Gen Z, who have either software/hardware skills or disruptive digital skills, are between 1.3 to 1.5 times more likely to be hired.

Further, the update also looked at how job seekers in different industries are adapting to changes and adjusting their jobs search strategy.

The hardware and networking sector is at the top of the list this month, but the rate has fallen from 2.9 times last month to 2.5 times this month. Over 75 per cent of those workers who transitioned out of the hardware and networking industry, moved to the software and IT sector in June 2021.

## UP Boy Kills Himself Over Poor Marks In Class 10 Board Exams

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**BALLIA (UP):** A 17-year-old boy allegedly hanged himself after failing to secure good marks in the Central Board of Secondary Education's Class 10 Board exams, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place at his home in Reoti area on Tuesday after the CBSE announced the Board exam results, Circle Officer (CO) Rajesh Kumar Tiwari said. The family members did not inform about the incident to the police and cremated him on Tuesday night, the CO said. The boy had secured 46 per cent marks in the exams, following which he took the extreme step, Tiwari said.

The board announced the results on the basis of an alternative assessment policy after the exams were cancelled in view of the aggressive second wave of Covid-19.

According to the policy, while 20 marks for each subject were for internal assessment as every year, 80 marks were calculated on basis of the students' performance in various tests or exams throughout the year. Schools were also asked to ensure that the marks awarded by them are in consonance with the past performance of the school in class 10 board exams. -- PTI

**Inkishaf**

# Troubled Waters of Doodhganga

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