



P3 CITY

**COURT DENIES BAIL TO 8 AYUSH DOCTORS ARRESTED FOR 'CHEATING AND BLACK MAILING'**

Special Court Anti-Corruption on Wednesday rejected the bail applications of 8 Ayush Doctors who were arrested by Crime Branch Kashmir recently in connection with fraud.

P6 THINK

**RAHUL GANDHI IN KASHMIR: IGNORING THE ELEPHANT IN ROOM**

During his just concluded visit to Kashmir, Congress vice president, Rahul Gandhi tried to strike an emotional chord with the people here. But the visit did nothing to restore the confidence of Kashmiri people in India's



P3 CITY

**'MUCH RELIEF TO KIDNEY PATIENTS': DIALYSIS CENTRES ESTABLISHED IN ALL DISTRICTS OF J&K**

Much to the relief of kidney patients requiring dialysis in the Union Territory of J&K, Health & Medical

**Quote!**

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.

—Milton Berle

**NEWS DIGEST****Search Operation Underway In Samba**

**JAMMU:** Ahead of the 75th Independence Day, security forces carried out a massive search-and-combing operation along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Wednesday, police said. The operation was carried out in the entire border belt jointly by the police, the Army, the BSF, the CRPF, the CISF and **More On P10**

**Youth Injured In Bear Attack**

**SRINAGAR:** A youth was attacked and injured on Wednesday by a black bear in Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. 26-year-old Mubashir Mustaq was attacked by a bear on Wednesday morning in Watlab area of Sopore, reports said. The youth received critical injuries before the beast was chased away by the villagers. The youth, reports said, was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him **More On P10**

**PIA Written Balloon Seized Along LoC**

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Wednesday recovered an aircraft shaped balloon with PIA written on it along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. The balloon was found near the LoC in Naushera Sector of Rajouri district by SDPO Naushera Zakir Shaheen Mirza, an official said. PIA stands for Pakistan International Airlines while the balloon was shaped exactly **More On P10**

**Arms Cache Recovered In Bandipora**

**SRINAGAR:** The government forces on Wednesday recovered a cache of arms and ammunition in the Gurez sector near the Line of Control (LoC) in Bandipora district. Police and army conducted a joint search operation in Tarbal area of Gurez sector and recovered three AK-47 rifles, 12 magazines, 358 rounds, two pistols, four pistol magazines and six hand grenades from a militant **More On P10**

**Ladakh Reports 7 New Covid Cases**

**LEH:** Ladakh recorded seven fresh COVID-19 cases taking the union territory's tally to 20,407, while active cases stood at 74, officials said on Wednesday. Ladakh has registered 207 Covid-related deaths -- 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. A total of 20,121 patients have recovered till date. Of the seven new Covid cases reported on Tuesday, six were from Leh and **More On P10**

**August 15 Celebrations****LG To Preside Over Main Function In J&K**

File Photo

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will preside over the main Independence Day function in Jammu and Kashmir while District Development Council (DDC) chairpersons shall be the chief guests in their respective districts.

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department, the lieutenant governor will preside over the main Independence Day function to be held at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium here.

While the L-G's Advisor

R R Bhatnagar will preside over the function at M A Stadium in Jammu, the mayors and DDC chairpersons of the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar shall attend the main functions in their respective cities.

The DDC chairpersons shall preside over the functions and rake salute at march past in their respective districts.

Block Development Council chairpersons will preside over the functions in their respective blocks while presidents of municipal committees and councils will do the honours in their respective areas. **More On P10**

**MeT Predicts Rainfall In J&K On Aug 14, 15**

Firdos Ahmad

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir will receive light to moderate rainfall from August 14 bringing some relief from hot weather conditions, a senior Meteorological Department official said Wednesday.

"Light to moderate rainfall will occur in Jammu division on August 14 and 15th, while Kashmir will also receive light rains during these two days," Deputy Director, Meteorological Department, Mukhtar Ahmed told Kashmir Observer Wednesday.

Ahmad further said that his department has not issued any weather warning of landslides of flash floods in wake of the two-day wet spell. **More On P10**

**25 Cases Of Sedition, UAPA Filed In J&K In 5 Years: MHA**

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Wednesday informed the parliament that a total of 25 cases of sedition and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, (UAPA) were registered during the last five years, in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir of which five persons were charge-sheeted.

The Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs Nityanand Rai was replying to the queries raised in the parliament including the number of cases of sedition **More On P10**

**Pak Based Outfits Planning Major Strikes In J&K: DGP**

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Just days ahead of the Independence Day, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh disclosed on Wednesday that Pakistan-based militant outfits, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), are planning major strikes in the Union Territory. **More On P10**

**Cops Accused Of Faking Militant Attack Denied Bail**

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A local court in Kupwara on Wednesday rejected bail application of two policemen who are accused of faking a militant attack in league with three BJP workers at Gulgam Kupwara on July 16 this year.

"The accused persons are involved in serious, heinous and non-bailable **More On P10**

**J&K's Agri Land Can Now Be Used For Public Purposes: MHA**

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Ministry Of Home Affairs on Wednesday said that as per the adapted land laws of Jammu and Kashmir, the government can allow transfer of agricultural land for public purposes such as education, charitable purpose and healthcare.

"After 5th August, 2019, all provisions of the Constitution of India have been made applicable to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) which necessitated changes in existing laws in Jammu and Kashmir by Adaptation Orders so as to conform with the provisions of the Constitution



of India." Minister of State in the Ministry Of Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai said in a written reply.

"As per the adapted land

laws of Jammu and Kashmir, the Government may, by notification in the official gazette, allow transfer of land, for public **More On P10**

**J&K BIG LANDED ESTATES ABOLITION ACT, 1950** has been repealed and there is another legislation i.e. The Jammu & Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, for transfer of land to tillers which is in force. This Act prescribes ceiling restriction of 100 standard kanals (12.5 acres)"

**9 Properties Restored To KPs In J&K: Govt**

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The government is taking steps to restore ancestral properties of Kashmiri Hindu migrants who had to run away from violence there and so far nine properties have been given back to the rightful and original owners, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said under the Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint on Distress Sales)



Act, 1997, District Magistrates (DMs) of concerned districts in Jammu and Kashmir are

the legal custodians of the immovable properties of the migrants, who **More On P10**

**Advisor Reviews Progress On KPs Transit Accommodation**

**The** Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday directed the officers to submit DPR for the 17 sites identified as transit accommodation for the Kashmiri Pandit employees in each district of the Kashmir valley. According to an official spokesperson, these directions were passed by Lieutenant Governor's Baseer Ahmad Khan on Wednesday while chairing a meeting to review the progress in connection with setting **More On P10**

**3 Ladakh Residents Move SC Challenging Art-370 Abrogation**

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Three Ladakh residents have moved the Supreme Court challenging the abrogation of Article 370. Qamar Ali Akhooon, Asgar Ali Karbalai and Sajjad Hussain, who are also the permanent residents of the Union Territory of Ladakh, filed an application for implementation in the already-pending cases challenging the 2019 presidential orders and

amendment.

The plea says the residents are aggrieved by the "chilling effect" of the "impugned" act, which has extinguished a "state" which thus overrides the constitutional scheme.

The applicants have sought an impleadment in the plea filed by Lok Sabha MP Mohammad Akbar Lone and Justice (retd) Hasnain Masoodi. **More On P10**

**J&K Reports 114 New Corona Cases**

Firdaus Ali

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 114 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while one more person succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

While 80 new cases of Covid-19 surfaced from Kashmir Valley, the remaining 34 were reported from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 32,285, officials said.

Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 27, Baramulla 11, **More On P10**

**J&K Progressing Rapidly In Every Sphere Of Life: LG****Suggests Feasibility Study For Starting Cable Car In Bungus Valley**

Observer News Service

**KUPWARA:** Claiming that Jammu and Kashmir is progressing rapidly in every sphere of life, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Wednesday that his administration is working continuously towards achieving the goal of building a sustainable and prosperous Union Territory.

Sinha made these remarks while inaugurating the "Bungus Awaam Mela" amidst grand arrangements for village games, exhilarating local performances, and other activities to celebrate the 75th year of Independence at Bungus valley, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, observed the patriotic fervour and enthusiasm and stated that the spirit of celebration among the local population is a befitting



response to all those who try to vitiate the atmosphere of peace and development. Sinha, he said, also noted that the government is continuously working to reach out to the last person in the queue with all developmental and welfare schemes.

"The Lt Governor observed that J&K is progressing rapidly in every sphere of life and the administration is working continuously towards achieving the goal of building **More On P10**

**'Wasted Wizard': Kashmir's Cult Cricketer's Comeback As Coach**

Zaid Bin Shabir

On April 9, 2000, Pampore United, the then "best cricket team" in Kashmir, hosted a knockout match against the Islamabad Cricketers in the final of the week-long Pampore knockout tournament. That restful morning, hundreds of fathers along with their children drifted to Pampore ground where Feroz Ahmed, the "greatest player" known to the spectators, led Pampore United onto the pitch in their classic Green and white striped jerseys.

From the perch on the east-side stands known as BijbeharaLowfields, children strained to get a closer look of the "legend" that their fathers had always boasted about. Of

course, there was just one team everyone in the stands was rooting for—the Feroz's side. For a few hundred cricket zealots, the privilege of seeing Feroz was a joy more preferred over any momentary thrill of victories.

That Pampore ground was the same pitch where Feroz had established himself as a wonderfully creative player since the armed insurgency flared in the nineties—when most of his compatriots were choosing guerrilla warfare across the Line of Control over the wooden sticks.

But it wasn't just Feroz's solo skills that had set him apart. He made his teammates better. Under his leadership as a captain and later as a manager himself, he helped to perfect the fluid playing style of the game,



in which, rather than executing set plays and chasing down heavy targets, players constantly exchanged fielding positions, filling up spaces and making

extensive pressure on the opposition team in order to flummox their batting order. "With Feroz as its orchestrator, this style of play wasn't just effective, it

was beautiful to watch," Farooq Islambaed, an old friend of Feroz said while remembering the long-forgotten master of the game.

After two decades, since Feroz's eventful life witnessed a colossal fanfare across the region, the cricketing cult's career has taken an about turn with hardly anyone left to rejuvenate this man's dexterous life.

Now, here he's—the man who reportedly ran Farooq Abdullah's Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) on his own behind the curtain from 2005 to 2008, the period when Feroz received several acknowledgments from veteran Qayoom Bagga for his match winning tactics—sitting on the perch inside the silent settings of Polo

Ground, sounding alarmed while explaining that period since when he hasn't even had one of his better nights. He now trains Kashmir's new talent on the turf game.

Presently, living away from the crowd in the hushed neighbourhood of Pampore on the outskirts of Srinagar, Feroz's playful expedition began from Srinagar, his birthplace.

During his school days, he would take a tennis ball on rent from John Mohammed Sports House, an obscurely small shop near his school in the old city. "At that stage of life, buying a tennis ball was a rich kid's hobby," recalls Feroz, now a private cricket instructor in Gindun Ground. "Unfortunately, I wasn't one of those kids, so renting a tennis

ball was all I could afford."

But the ball affair that merely started as a fun activity soon turned out to be a hobby and then into a profession.

Feroz's professional journey began immediately after he pointed out that Kashmiri players playing in the Ranji have no career ahead and what they're left with is to play in the local matches around the valley. "Players from Delhi, Mumbai, Punjab and South-India were celebrating an international career but when it came to Kashmir, not one player had found solace in cricket," he says. Apparently, it was the rush for the same solace that drove Feroz into creating a niche of his own.

In 2005, when JKCA had already taken **More On P10**





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## Public Notice

This is inform general public that I have applied for pesticides license. In this regard any person having any objection He/She may contact office of the PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Name: **Aijaz Ahmad Rather**  
S/O: **Ab Gani Rather**  
R/O: **Doru Anantnag**

RNA

### Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

#### NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Javed Iqbal Khan S/O Ghulam Rasool Khan R/o Magarmal Bagh Srinagar (Transferor) of M/CYCLE bearing registration No. JK01AG- 6861 chasis No: 28467 Engine No: 51333 Model 2018 in favour of Zubair Ahmad Kela S/o Mohd Sidieeq Kella R/O Karewa Drabgam Pulwama (Transferee).



Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 5537  
Dated: 11/08/2021  
FKO

Sd/-  
Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir

### Office of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Baramulla

#### NOTICE



Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Umar Farooq S/o Wajahat Farooq R/o Flat NO 514 A-5 Cauvery Blok NGV, Bangalore 560047 (Transferor) of Scooty bearing registration No. KA01JB5469 chasis No: ME4JF-49CGJ8005273 Engine No: JF49E84027691 Model Honda Activa 125 in favour of Umar Farooq S/o Wajahat Farooq R/o Flat NO 514 A-5 Cauvery Blok NGV, Bangalore 560047 (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

ARTO/ BLA / 1137  
Dated: 10/08/2021  
GMS

Sd/-  
Assistnat Regional Transport  
Office, Baramulla

### The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

#### BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th under Below mentioned particulars  
Raashid Altaf Shah  
Father's name: Mohammad Altaf Shah  
Mother's name: Fahmeeda Begum  
Roll No: 3117307 Session / Year 2015 Annual Reg  
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.



GMS

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Sopore

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed the cast of my family from Dobby to Mir if anybody haiving any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tehsil Office Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.  
Bashir Ahmad Mir S/o Gulam Rasool Mir R/O Pinjoora Shopian  
Family Members: Misra Parveen ,  
Waseem Bashir Mir , Aqib Bashir Mir

TAS

## Office Of The Chief Executive Officer Torusism Development Authority Yousmarg

Sub; Outsourcing of Huts & Cafeterias of Tourism Developmetn  
Authroity Yousmarg Through Open Auction Basis. Corrigendum

### CORRIGENDUM

Please read the "Minimum Reserve Bid Per Annum kept for Outsourcing of Huts & Cafeterias of Tourism Development Authority Yousmarg through Open Auction Basis advertised vide this office Open Auction Notice No. 01 of 2021 dated 07-08-2021 issued under endorsement No. CEO/YDA/2021-22/252-57 dated 07-08-2021. All other terms and conditions remain same.

No:- CEO/KDA/2021 -22/269-74 Dated:- 10-08-2021

DIPK-NB-2484/21

Sd/=  
Chief Executive Officer  
Tourism Development Authority  
YOUSMARG

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

## DEPARTMENT OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT, J&K GOVT. POLYTECHNIC FOR WOMEN, SRINAGAR

Address: Bemina, Srinagar, Kashmir-190018, UT of J&K (INDIA)  
Landline No.: 0194-2491176; Fax No.: 0194-2493808;  
Email: wpolysgr@gmail.com; Website: http://womenpolytechnic.in

### ADMISSION NOTICE

National Skill Training Institute, Jammu under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, invites applications for the following Regular Training Course (ITI) at its Centre located in Government Polytechnic for Women, Srinagar.

| Course  | Duration | Min. Qualification            | Intake |
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Course is under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) and the Certificate will be awarded by National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) – Govt. of India. Interested candidate may apply online at www.nimionlineadmission.in. The Last Date of application is 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

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- Fee details: Tuition Fee is Rs. 150/- per month (Rs. 50/- p.m for SC/ST Candidates). Gymkhana Fee is Rs. 100/- (No Fee for SC/ST). Caution Money is Rs.250/- per course (Refundable) and one time admission Fee of Rs. 100/- (Rs. 25/- for SC/ST) will be charged.

Principal  
Govt. Polytechnic for Women,  
Srinagar

DIPK-6364/21

### The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

#### BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12th under Below mentioned particulars  
Raashid Altaf Shah  
Father's name: Mohammad Altaf Shah  
Mother's name: Fahmeeda Begum  
Roll No: 3159294 Session / Year 2017 Annual Reg  
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.



GMS

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Sopore

#### CertificateEWS

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- غلام احمد انتہرے 51 مزدوری
- عطیہ بیگم 49 گھریلو کام
- گلشن بانو 22 زرعیت
- شبنم اختر 21 زرعیت
- یاسین احمد انتہرے 19 زرعیت
- ادنان احمد انتہرے 07 زرعیت

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کسمبہ نہیں بتلا یا گیا ہے سرفقیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے معیا وگرنے بعد کوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار AJJ

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برخاص وعام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مظہر کوڈی کاں ٹھیکہ داری کا رڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض پر امنڈنگ انجیر آرائیڈی سرکل انتہ ناگ کو لکھ کھنڈل کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیا  
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المستھر  
انجاز احمد بٹ ولد بٹ ساکنہ کبری شاگس انتہ ناگ

#### نائب تحصیلدار

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گڈرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
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المستھر  
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نائب تحصیلدار کا رڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے  
برخاص وعام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مظہر



## Mehjoor Nagar- Rambagh road in shambles

‘Will be macadamized shortly: R&B

Srinagar: The road connecting Mehjoor Nagar with Rambagh area in Srinagar is in shambles for the past couple of years, the residents complained. A group of people from Mehjoor Nagar area told news agency Kashmir News Trust that the condition of the road speaks volumes about the non-seriousness of R&B Department.

“The Mehjoor Nagar-Rambagh bund road gives tough time to commuters. Despite repeated appeals the road, which is of critical importance for a vast populace, is being ignored,” the locals said and appealed to Chief Engineer R&B to get the road macadamized at an earliest.

When contacted, Chief Engineer R&B, Showkat Jeelani Pandit told KNT that there was some tender related issue that has been sorted out and the road will be shortly macadamized. (KNT)

## LAWDA Demolishes illegally raised structures

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 11: The Enforcement Wing of Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) today carried out a demolition drive in the area of Chandpora Harwan, Shalimar, Wangunt Teilbal, Friends Colony and Batapora.

During the drive one room in the area of Chandpora, two second storeys at Shalimar, one single storey in the area of Wangunt Teilbal, Gate Pillars at Friends Colony and one single storey in the area of Batapora raised illegally were demolished onspot.

Also legal action warrantied under rules was initiated against the violators.

During the demolition drive at some places there was minor resistance from the locals of the area, but the demolition team remained on forefront and conducted the demolition in a hassle free manner.

Meanwhile, all the public residing within the LDA jurisdiction & inlake are hereby once again directed not to go for any sort of illegal constructions/ encroachments, as the Enforcement wing will continue with demolition of illegal constructions/ removal of encroachments.

## Court denies bail to 8 Ayush doctors arrested for ‘cheating and black mailing’

Agencies

Srinagar: Special Court Anti-Corruption on Wednesday rejected the bail applications of 8 Ayush Doctors who were arrested by Crime Branch Kashmir recently in connection with fraud, Anti-Corruption Judge C.L Bavoria after hearing the arguments related to granting of bail to the accused doctors said that petitioners have failed to carve out a prima facie case to qualify for the concession of bail in anticipation of their arrest.

Crime Branch Kashmir last week carried out searches at various locations across the Kashmir Valley in connection with a case registered against 8 Ayush doctors amid allegations of “extortion and blackmailing” by them while running a “self styled” Association.

Crime Branch Kashmir has registered the case (FIR No. 34/2021) under section IPC sections of 420 (cheating), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 506 (criminal intimidation) besides 5(2) Prevention of Corruption Act in Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir against the eight doctors following a complaint in which it was alleged that a fake association of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (AYUSH) Doctors is running within J&K. The complainant had also said that the Association was running on

fake address without any true credentials. The complainant, they said, also alleged that the fake Association was also resorting to blackmailing, extortion, harassment to Indian System of Medicines (ISM) employees.

Subsequently, during the course of probe, it surfaced that the Association is not registered either with Registrar Societies or any Government Department. The letter



head used by the self-styled office bearers (8 doctors) was used on fictitious names and with different fake addresses. The probe further revealed that members of the Association were threatening, blackmailing Indian System of Medicines employees with the departmental action, transfers and have collected huge amount in cash in the name of the Association.

All the 8 doctors (petitioners) had applied for a bail before Anti-Corruption Court. The accused doctors include Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Parray of Lawaypora, Srinagar, Dr.

Shabir Ahmad Parray of Mustabad, Zainakote, Srinagar, Dr. Shiraz Ahmad Lone of Hassibhat, Rainawari, Srinagar, Dr. Reyaz Ahmad Teli of Noorbagh, Baghwanpora, Srinagar, Dr. Farooq Naqashbandi, a resident of Jamia Qadeem, Sopore, Dr. Muhammad Amin Kawa of Botingo, Sopore, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Tantray of Bohipora, Kupwara and Dr. Javed Hussain Mugloo, a resident of Lal Bazar, Srinagar.

The Court while dismissing the bail application said that the allegations against petitioners are incriminating in nature, serious, prima facially is obvious and crystal clear from the evidence collected by the prosecution in the investigation conducted so far and there are indisputable & reasonable grounds for believing that petitioners have committed the offences as indicated in the FIR.

The Court said that anticipatory bail, being an extraordinary privilege, is granted only in exceptional cases, when the court is convinced on the basis of material on record, that a public servant has been falsely implicated. The investigation in the present case is at its initial stage and at this stage of the investigation it is not appropriate to exercise the concession of bail in favour of petitioners in anticipation of their arrest in light of this case. (KNT)

### 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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

### RAILWAYS

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

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

## This Day in History

- 3-Venus-Jupiter in conjunction-Star of Bethlehem
- 1099 - Battle at Ascalon: Godfried of Broth leading the Crusaders beats Egyptians Fatimid army
- 1121 - Battle of Didgori: the Georgian army under King David the Builder wins a decisive victory over the famous Seljuk commander Ilghazi
- 1164 - Battle of Haim: Nur ad-Din defeats the Crusader armies of the County of Tripoli and the Principality of Antioch.
- 1323- Treaty of Nöteborg between Sweden and Novgorod (Russia) regulates the border for the first time
- 1492- Christopher Columbus arrives in the Canary Islands on his first voyage to the New World
- 1499- First engagement of the Battle of Zonchio between Venetian and Ottoman fleets
- 1549- French troops conquer Ambleuse, in the Pas-de-Calais, and kill all the English prisoners.
- 1588- Commander of the English fleet Lord Howard of Effingham calls off chase of the Spanish Armada off coast of Scotland
- 1588- Medemblik surrenders to Spanish army
- 1676-1st war between American colonists & Indians ends in New England
- 1687- Charles of Lotharingen defeats Turkish leaders
- 1687- Battle of Mohacs: Ottoman invaders of Hungary routed by forces of Holy Roman Emperor under Charles of Lorraine
- 1759- Battle of Kunersdorf - Russian-Austrian army overpowers Prussians
- 1831- Netherlands & Belgium sign peace treaty
- 1865- Joseph Lister performs 1st antiseptic surgery
- 1877- Thomas Edison invents Edisonphone, a sound recording device
- 1898- Peace protocol ends Spanish-American War, signed
- 1908- Henry Ford's company builds the first Model T car
- 1914- France and Great Britian declare war on Austria-Hungary
- 1914- Russian troops take East-Prussia & occupy Marggrabowa
- 1918- WW I: Allies defeat Germans at the Battle of Amiens - the last great battle on the Western Front
- 1920- Battle of Warsaw between Poland and Russia begins
- 1953- Soviet Union conducts secret test of its 1st hydrogen bomb
- 1960- Echo 1, 1st communications satellite, is launched
- 1962- 1st time 2 people in space
- 1962- Russia launches Vostok 4, Pavel Popovich, who lands safely Aug 15
- 1976- 1st approach & lands test (ALT) of orbiter Enterprise
- 1977- High Energy Astronomy Observatory [HEAO] 1 launched into Earth's orbit by NASA
- 1977- Space shuttle Enterprise makes 1st atmospheric flight
- 1978- China & Japan sign peace treaty
- 1990- Iraqi President Saddam Hussein says he is ready to resolve Gulf crisis if Israel withdraws from occupied territories.
- 2005 - Sri Lanka's foreign minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar, is fatally shot by an LTTE (Tamil Tigers) sniper at his home.
- 2013 - 30 people are killed by gunmen in northeast Nigeria
- 2013 - Ibrahim Boubacar Keita is elected President of Mali
- 2014 - Ebola outbreak death toll exceeds 1000
- 2014 - World Health Organization (WHO) gives its 'cautious blessing' to the use of experimental drugs to treat the Ebola virus
- 2015 - In London archaeologists discover a mass grave of 30 bodies from the 1665 plague
- 2015 - Large series of explosions in Tianjin, China leave at least 50 dead and 700 injured in an industrial accident



HIJRI  
CALENDAR

3

MUHARRAM

1443

## PRAYERS

FAJR

4:17

ZUHR

12: 36

ASR

5:25

MAGRIB

7:25

ISHA

8:54

## Cleanliness drive continues across Srinagar under ‘Swachhta Pakhwada’

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: As a part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav’ campaign, a special cleanliness drive is going on across Srinagar district in



all Government Offices and at Panchayat Level. The Drive was launched on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Au-

gust 01. During the 15-day long cleanliness drive, various Government buildings, Office premises, Parks, Panchayat Ghars and other public places shall be cleaned and garbage shall be

at level have been identified and cleaned by the officials of Rural Development, members of Panchayat Raj Institutions with active participation of local volunteers. Block Development Officers, Sarpanchs and Panchs also participated in cleanliness drives at different blocks and Panchayats.

Special focus was laid on the cleanliness of water bodies and removal of waste from road sides.

Meanwhile, the DC has called for conducting special cleanliness and sanitation drives in all Panchayat Halqas, Municipal Wards with focus on schools, Panchayat Ghars, Health Institutions. Water bodies as part of ongoing Safai Abhiyan (Swachhta Pakhwada) with due participation of all stakeholders especially the youngsters.

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

removed from road sides besides awareness shall be raised among masses about the importance of cleanliness.

Several localities at Panchay-

## JDI, Kashmir launches Covid Awareness campaign

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 11: The Joint Director Information (JDI) Kashmir, Imam ul Haq on Wednesday launched Covid Awareness campaign to sensitise people about the observance of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB).

Incharge, Deputy Director, PR, Mohammad Aslam Khan; Culture Officer, Tawheed Ahmad; Youth Information Officer, Sachin Bali and other officials were present on the occasion.

JDI, Kashmir said that following

existing SOPs is the judicious step to remain safe from the covid pandemic besides calling it a strong weapon to delay or stop third wave.

On the occasion, the officers and officials of the different sections including Cultural Unit, Field Publicity Office, Public Relations section and Joint Directorate office organised a covid awareness rally to highlight the importance of the usage of face masks, social distance and vaccination.

### Lose of BMIT 2nd year Marks Card'

I have lost my Bmlt 2nd yr marks card bearing Roll no 5452003/ GNO 1551023 somewhere in Dehradun So if anybody found it please return me on same address otherwise I can apply for Duplicate copy so if anybody have any objection may contact to uttranchal PG college of Bio-medical Science and hospital Dehradun with in seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Name:- Mehraj-u-Din Mir  
S/o:- mohd shaban Mir

R/O:- Qalamabad Ph no:- 9906603368 (sult)

### Public Notice

In school records the father's name of my daughter Aaminah Sami (class 2nd yellow) has wrongly been entered as Sami Ullah Punjabi instead of Sami Ullah Rather. Now, the necessary correction is to be made. In this regard if anybody has any objection, they may convey it to the principal Mallinson School Sheikh Bagh Srinagar within a period of 7days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

SAMI ULLAH RATHER  
Botakadal Lal Bazar Srinagar

### Public Notice

In school records the father's name of my daughter Issa Sami (class 9th Yellow) has wrongly been entered as Sami Ullah Punjabi instead of Sami Ullah Rather. Now, the necessary correction is to be made. In this regard if anybody has any objection, they may convey it to the principal Tyndale Biscoe School Sheikh Bagh Srinagar within a period of 7days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

SAMI ULLAH RATHER  
Botakadal Lal Bazar Srinagar



## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT SKIMS Medical College-Hospital Bemina, SRINAGAR-190018

Email Id: mmo@skimsmc.edu.in

E-NIT No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/ 05 Tender OF 2021

Dated: 10 /08/2021

**Sub: Notice inviting e- tenders for identification of local source/s for purchase of Drugs/Surgical/other items, on two year rate Contract basis.**

E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir, through Principal, SKIMS Medical College-Hospital Bemina Srinagar, from local retail dealers having valid retail drug license/ GST registration etc., and location of business unit within the aerial distance of 5 km. Bidders should have at least one year experience in the field for supply of Drugs/Surgical items as a local vendor. The Tender shall be invited on Two Year Rate Contract Basis to be submitted under two Bid Cover System-Cover I “Technical Bid” & Cover II “Price Bid”.

The tender documents/detailed specification are available at www.jktenders.gov.in. / www.skimsmc.edu.in

**Tender Fee Rs.1,000/-**

| S. No. | Nomenclature.                     | Schedule.                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.     | Date of publish                   | 10/08/2021.                 |
| 2.     | Tender Download Start Date        | 11/08/2021.                 |
| 3.     | Clarification Start date          | 11/08/2021                  |
| 4.     | Last date of clarification if any | 27/08/2021                  |
| 5.     | Bid Submission Start Date         | 11/08/2021                  |
| 6.     | Pre-bid meeting                   | 16 /08/2021                 |
| 7.     | Bid Submission End Date           | 31 /08/2021 ( up to 2:00pm) |
| 8.     | Technical Bid Open Date           | 03/09/2021 (at 2:00pm)      |
| 9.     | Financial Bid Open Date           | To be notified later        |

The tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed e-NIT.

No. SKIMS/MCH/MMD/ 05/Tender of  
2021/2432-40  
Dated:10 /08/2021.

DIPK-NB-2483/21

Sd/-  
Materials Management Officer  
SKIMS MCH Bemina Srinagar.

## From KO Archives

## 8 killed, scooter blast on boulevard

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Eight militants, including four associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit were killed and two army jawans injured in separate encounters since yesterday in Jammu and Kashmir, where a scooter bomb exploded on the banks of Dal lake in Srinagar, official sources said today.

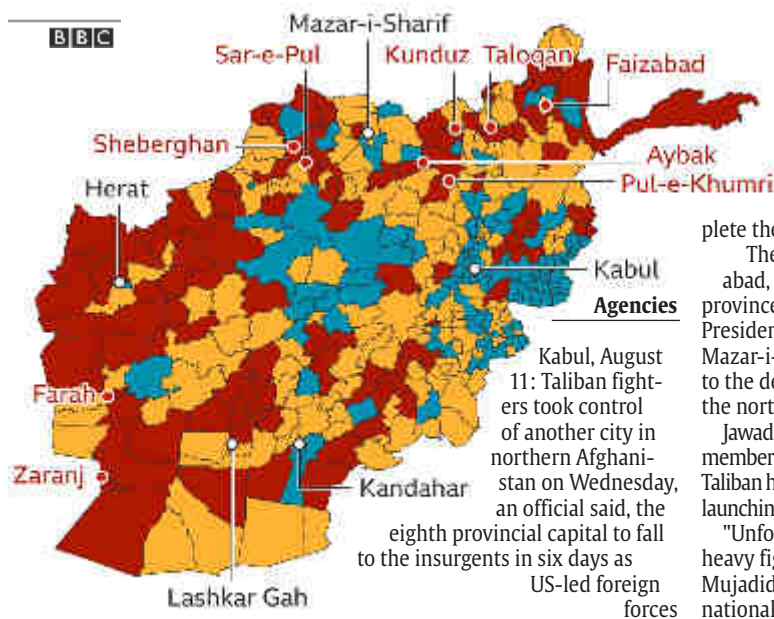
Two LeT militants Abdullah Mir and Abu Zanaan were killed in an encounter with security forces in Draman area of Rajouri district of Jammu division early today, the sources said. In a joint operation, Rashtriya Rifles and police killed one foreign militant of Lashkar group, identified as Umar Gaza, at Pernote village m Doda district.

However, his associate managed to escape during the encounter the sources said. Two AK .56 rifles, five magazines and a huge quantity of ammunition was recovered from the spot. The scooter bomb planted by suspected militants behind a local hotel on the banks of Dal Lake in the heart of the city went off around 1500 hours today, but caused no casualty.

Official sources said adding the blast was of low-intensity and was aimed to cause panic. Two army jawans, who suffered injuries in the encounter with militants were evacuated later to the army hospital in Udhampur. Security forces cordoned off Maisuma and some adjoining localities in uptown Srinagar.

(Kashmir Observer, August 12, 2000)





Contested is where fighting is ongoing or strong Taliban presence  
Districts according to 2005 Afghanistan government boundaries

### Who's in control in Afghanistan?

- Taliban control ■ Government control ■ Contested
- Cities taken by the Taliban

# TALIBAN TAKE EIGHTH PROVINCIAL CAPITAL IN SPEEDY ADVANCE ACROSS AFGHANISTAN

plete their withdrawal.

The Taliban capture of Faizabad, capital of the northeastern province of Badakhshan, came as President Ashraf Ghani flew in to Mazar-i-Sharif to rally old warlords to the defence of the biggest city in the north as Taliban forces close in.

Jawad Mujadidi, a provincial council member from Badakhshan, said the Taliban had laid siege to Faizabad before launching an offensive on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, after hours of heavy fighting the ANDSF retreated," Mujadidi told Reuters, referring to national security forces. "With the fall of Faizabad the whole of the northeast has come under Taliban control." Badakhshan borders Tajikistan, Pakistan and China.

The loss of the city is the latest setback for the government, which has been struggling to stem the momen-

tum of Taliban assaults in the last few months. The Taliban are battling to defeat the US-backed government and reimpose strict Islamic law. The speed of their advance has shocked the government and its allies.

Taliban forces now control 65% of Afghanistan and have taken or threaten to take 11 provincial capitals, a senior EU official said on Tuesday.

US President Joe Biden urged Afghan leaders to fight for their homeland, saying on Tuesday he did not regret his decision to withdraw, noting that the United States had spent more than \$1 trillion over 20 years and lost thousands of troops.

The United States was providing significant air support, food, equipment and salaries to Afghan forces, he said.

The United States will complete the withdrawal of its forces this month in exchange for Taliban prom-

ises to prevent Afghanistan being used for international terrorism.

The Taliban promised not to attack foreign forces as they withdrew but did not agree to a ceasefire with the government. A commitment by the Taliban to talk peace with the government side has come to nothing as they eye military victory.

Some Afghans feel abandoned as the United States and other Western powers withdraw, leaving the Taliban to make their move.

"The U.S. did not provide support ... now we see the result," Dawlat Waziri, a retired general and military analyst, told Reuters.

### REGIONAL APPEAL

The Taliban advances have raised fears of the return to power of the hardline militants who emerged in the early 1990s from the chaos of civil war and controlled most of the country from 1996 to 2001, when they were ousted by a US-led campaign for harbouring al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden.

A new generation of Afghans, who have come of age since 2001, fears that the progress made in areas such as women's rights and media freedom will be squandered.

UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said on Tuesday reports of violations that could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity were emerging, including "deeply disturbing reports" of the summary execution of surrendering government troops. Afghan officials have appealed for pressure on Pakistan to stop Taliban reinforcements and supplies flowing over the border. Pakistan denies backing the Taliban.

The government has withdrawn its forces from some hard-to-defend rural districts to focus on holding population centres. In some places, government forces have given up without a fight.

During their 1996-2001 rule, the Taliban were never completely in control of the north but this time, they seem intent on securing it before closing in on the capital.

## Taliban could take Afghan capital in 90 days: US intelligence

Taliban fighters could isolate Afghanistan's capital in 30 days and possibly take it over in 90, a US defence official told Reuters on Wednesday citing US intelligence, as militants took control of an eighth provincial Afghan capital.

The Taliban now control 65% of Afghanistan and have taken or threaten to take 11 provincial capitals, a senior EU official said on Tuesday. The US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the new assessment of how long Kabul could stand was a result of the rapid gains the Taliban had been making around the country as US-led foreign forces leave.

"But this is not a foregone conclusion," the official added, saying that the Afghan security forces could reverse the momentum by putting up more resistance.

Wednesday's loss of Faizabad, capital of the northeastern province of Badakhshan, was the latest setback for the Afghan government, which has been struggling to stem the momentum of Taliban assaults. It came as President Ashraf Ghani flew in to Mazar-i-Sharif to rally old warlords to the defence of the biggest city in the north as Taliban forces close in. Jawad Mujadidi, a provincial council member from Badakhshan, said the Taliban had laid siege to Faizabad before launching an offensive on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, after hours of heavy fighting the ANDSF retreated," Mujadidi told Reuters, referring to national security forces.

"With the fall of Faizabad the whole of the northeast has come under Taliban control." Badakhshan borders Tajikistan, Pakistan and China. The Taliban are battling to defeat the US-backed government and reimpose strict Islamic law. The speed of their advance has shocked the government and its allies.

US President Joe Biden urged Afghan leaders to fight for their homeland, saying on Tuesday he did not regret his decision to withdraw, noting that the United States had spent more than \$1 trillion over 20 years and lost thousands of troops.

The United States was providing significant air support, food, equipment and salaries to Afghan forces, he said.

The United States will complete the withdrawal of its forces this month in exchange for Taliban promises to prevent Afghanistan being used for international terrorism.

The Taliban promised not to attack foreign forces as they withdrew but did not agree to a ceasefire with the government. A commitment by the Taliban to talk peace with the government side has come to nothing as they eye military victory.

Some Afghans feel abandoned as the United States and other Western powers withdraw, leaving the Taliban to make their move.

"The US did not provide support ... now we see the result," Dawlat Waziri, a retired general and military analyst, told Reuters.



## School Openings Must Be Prioritised With Distancing, Masking: WHO Chief Scientist

### Agencies

New Delhi: School openings must be prioritized while maintaining proper health and hygiene, said World Health Organization chief Scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan amid the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taking to Twitter, Dr Swaminathan said, "The impact on children's mental, physical and cognitive well-being will last a long time. School openings must be prioritized with distancing, masking, avoiding indoor singing and gatherings, hand hygiene & vaccination of all adults @mhrdschools @DrYasminAHaque @NTIAayog @UNICEF"

The impact on children's mental, physical and cognitive well-being will last a long time. School openings must be prioritized with distancing, masking, avoiding indoor singing and gatherings, hand hygiene & vaccination of all adults @mhrdschools @DrYasminAHaque @NTIAayog @UNICEFhttps://t.co/vgWcTZ6Nnk — Soumya Swaminathan (@doctoroumya) August 10, 2021

In a tweet by the not-for-profit MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, it informed, "Greatest Impact of Covid-19 is the indirect effect on education by shutting down of

schools around the world. 1.5 billion children were suddenly out of school and it affecting their education, says Dr Donald Bundy"

Earlier, on August 6, Dr Soumya Swaminathan cautioned people



against lowering their guard against the coronavirus and urged them to strictly follow Covid-appropriate protocols for another six months.

The WHO chief scientist said, "I know everybody is tired, everyone wants to meet their family, organise parties. But this is not the time to let down your guard. Let's be careful for another six months. By then, if the vaccination coverage is very high, then things should definitely start improving."

The global health body's chief sci-

entist also had said that there is no scientific evidence for anxiety that the third wave of coronavirus will target children.

On June 19, the Union Ministry of Education had released the guidelines for parent participation in home-based learning during school closure and beyond.

Former Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' in his tweet had said that "in this 'new normal' of the pandemic, considering parents' role as pivotal to children's growth and learning, these Guidelines aim to provide information on the 'why', 'what', and 'how-to' of participation and engagement in supporting children during the school closure, irrespective of their literacy levels. Home is the first school, and parents are the first teachers".

The guidelines on home based learning emphasize on the need for parents to create a safe and engaging environment and a positive learning environment, have realistic expectations from the child, take care of health and eat healthy, while at the same time having fun with children. These guidelines are meant not only for parents but also for caregivers, other family members, grandparents, community members, older siblings who all are engaged in promoting the welfare of children.

## Floods hit Turkey's north after south ravaged by wildfires

### Agencies

Floods caused by unusually heavy rainfall are ravaging Turkey's northern coast, tearing down a bridge and leaving villages without power. The floods on Wednes-

In Sinop province, 240km (150 miles) east of Bartin, a house collapsed due to the deluge and cars were left stranded in water, Reuters news agency footage showed.

AFAD said a hospital was being evacuated and some roads were



day came after some of the largest wildfires in the country's history spread across the southwest.

State broadcaster TRT Haber said one person died from a heart attack in the northern province of Bartin amid the flooding, and emergency workers were looking for another person who was missing. Thirteen people were also injured after a bridge collapsed in Bartin and there were power outages in 12 villages, the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) said.

closed in Sinop, warning that strong rains in the area were expected to continue.

Turkey's north is prone to flash floods in the summer when rains are particularly strong. Last year, at least six people were killed in the floods in the region.

The most recent flooding came just days after the United Nations climate panel sounded a dire warning that the world's greenhouse gas levels were high enough to guarantee climate disruption for decades.

## Bahrainis Want Peaceful Transition from Tyranny to Democracy

### Agencies

Bahrain's main opposition group, the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, says the Arab nation is demanding an end to tyranny and a peaceful transition to democracy in the Persian Gulf kingdom, as the ruling Al Khalifah regime presses ahead with its crackdown on dissent. Al-Wefaq, in a statement released on Tuesday, said Bahrainis are calling for fundamental democratic reforms and genuine legislative participation, and they will not be fooled by hollow promises and publicity stunts.

"The people of Bahrain have long demanded a political transition to a real democratic state based on people's will and rule besides the establishment of a state of institutions and law. These are legitimate, popular, humanitarian and legal demands approved by all international and humanitarian values and conventions as well as the Charter of the United Nations and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," the statement read.

The opposition party added, "The Bahraini nation is demanding natural and inalienable rights which most peoples of the world enjoy. These are among the basic principles for building societies and states, and not luxuries or exclusive privileges." Al-Wefaq emphasized that all strata of the Bahraini society reject injustice, tyranny, authoritarianism, monopoly, corruption and ruling with an iron fist.

It said the use of excessive force and sheer brutality are indicative of the ruling Al Khalifah regime's nature. Wisdom and thoughtfulness do not go hand in hand with rampant corruption, and only the beneficiaries support the current situation.

"The Bahraini regime's stubborn insistence on obstructing peaceful transition and genuine political reforms reflects a weak and illegitimate ruling mentality. The status quo is not only a war against our countrymen and women, but also against our homeland and its future. "It is also an attempt [by the Al Khalifah regime] to forge ahead with its theft, looting, expropriation of national assets, monopolization and worst illegal methods and policies in order to justify its escape from realizing public aspirations," al-Wefaq said.

## Herd Immunity Not A Possibility With Delta Variant, Warns UK Vaccine Expert

### Agencies

London: The highly transmissible Delta variant of coronavirus has rendered the prospect of herd immunity, where the majority of a country's population becomes immune to a virus, difficult, the head of the UK's Oxford Vaccine Group has warned.

Professor Andrew Pollard, who led the team that was behind the Oxford University's COVID-19 vaccine, told the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Coronavirus Tuesday that the fear of another even more transmissible variant remains a possibility and, therefore, there is nothing that can completely stop the deadly virus from spreading.

However, he also said there was no cause for "panic" as he expressed his doubts over the UK government's proposed third booster dose of vaccines.

"The problem with this virus is (it is) not measles. If 95% of people were vaccinated against measles, the virus cannot transmit in the population," Professor Pollard explained during the online evidence session.

"The Delta variant will still infect people who have been vaccinated. And that does mean that anyone who's still unvaccinated at some point will meet the virus. We don't have anything that will stop transmission, so I think we are in a situation where herd immunity is not a possibility and I suspect the virus will throw up a new variant that is even better at infecting vaccinated individuals," he said.

This was echoed by Paul Hunter, professor in medicine at the University of East Anglia and an expert in infectious diseases, who also highlighted that the current vaccines being administered are very effective in preventing severe

Covid infection and death but they cannot prevent infections entirely.

"The concept of herd immunity is unachievable because we know the infection will spread in unvaccinated populations and the latest data is suggesting that two doses is probably only 50 per cent protective against infection," said Mr Hunter.

Meanwhile, the experts also weighed in on UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid's plans to start offering the most at-risk groups a third booster shot of a Covid vaccine along with a flu vaccine from next month.

"The time we would need to boost is if we see evidence that there was an increase in hospitalisation - or the next stage after that, which would be people dying - amongst those who are vaccinated. And that is not something we are seeing at the moment," said Professor Pollard.

### NEWS MAKER

## Prince Charles, Princess Diana's Wedding Cake Slice Sells For \$2,558

London: A slice of cake from the 1981 wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer sold for 1,850 euros (\$2,558) at auction in Britain on Wednesday -- with a warning not to eat it. The 40-year-old slab of marzipan and thick white icing decorated with the royal coat of arms fetched more than three times its asking price of 300 euros to 500 euros.

"We were amazed at the numbers of people wanting to bid on this large and unique piece of royal cake icing," said auctioneer Chris Albury, a royal memorabilia specialist at Dominic Winter Auctioneers in Cirencester, western England.



"There were lots of enquiries from bidders, mostly in the UK, the USA and several countries in the Middle East," he added in an email. The successful bidder comes from Leeds in the north of England, Albury said. The cake was originally given to Moyra Smith, who worked for Queen Elizabeth II's mother at her Clarence House residence in central London. Following Smith's death, her family sold it at the same auction house in 2008 for 1,000 euros to a private collector, who has now sold it at a profit. "It appears to be in exactly the same good condition as when originally sold, but we advise against eating it," the auctioneers said.

"Handle with care" The cake remains as Smith kept it, wrapped in cling film in a cake tin that she labelled "Handle with care" and dated 29 July 1981, the day of the wedding. The auctioneers said the slice came from a multi-tier cake served to staff at Clarence House, where Smith worked in the kitchen.

Apart from the main wedding cake, there were around 22 other cakes supplied by manufacturers for the royal occasion, the auctioneers said. Wednesday's lot included order of service and ceremonial programmes for the wedding, a royal wedding breakfast menu and a table seating programme from Buckingham Palace. Pieces of Charles and Diana's wedding cake still regularly go on sale and interest remains strong despite the break-up of their marriage and divorce in 1996. A piece of wedding cake in an original commemorative box sold for \$2,240 in the United States in

December, according to Julien's Auctions. The sale is the latest example of the continued fascination with Diana, who died aged 36 in a high-speed car crash in Paris in 1997. In June, her old Ford Escort -- an engagement present from Charles -- was bought by a South American museum for more than 50,000 euros. In 2019, a midnight blue velvet gown she wore when she danced with John Travolta at the White House in 1985 was put up for sale for between 250,000 euros and 350,000 euros.



## 24-Year-Old Man Murdered In Rajouri, Locals Block Highway In Protest



Jammu- A 24-year-old man was killed inside his house in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir early Wednesday, prompting locals to block the Jammu-Poonch highway in protest, officials said. Some unidentified assailants attacked Ankush Sharma (24) with sharp-edged weapons inside his house at Chakli village, causing his instant death, the officials said. They said police have registered a case and started investigation. Efforts are being made to arrest the attackers who fled the

house after attacking Sharma.

The motive behind the attack was not known immediately, the officials said.

They said the relatives and neighbours of the deceased blocked the Jammu-Poonch national highway demanding arrest of the culprits.

Senior police and civil officers visited the spot and are persuading the protesters to disperse, assuring prompt investigation and arrest of the accused, the officials said.

### Police Forms SIT

Jammu: Police on Wednesday formed a Special Investigation Team to investigate into the "brutal murder" of a 28-year-old youth by some unknown persons in Chakli area of Rajouri district last night, officials said.

"Today on August 11, 2021, information was received that during the night, some unknown persons entered the house of one Bachan Lal (at) Chakli and attacked his son, Ankush Bakshi, with sharp edged weapons, who died on the spot as a result of the injuries sustained," a police official said in a statement. Based on this, police said, a case (FIR No. 538/20210 under section 302 and 458 IPC has been registered at PS Rajouri and investigation has been started.

"A Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by DySP Headquarters, Rajouri has been constituted for speedy investigation of the case on merits," the police added. Reports said that the unknown assailants entered house of the youth and stabbed him to death as he was asleep at around 1 a.m.

Later a police party reached the spot and recovered "weapon of offense". The police team also took the body into possession for medico-legal formalities.

## FC&SCA recovers fine of Rs. 63.9 lacs; registers 573 FIRs against violators

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 11: Consequent upon the directions of Advisor to Lt. Governor, J&K, the Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FC&SCA) department has recovered a fine of Rs. 63, 90,328 from 18,905 defaulters and lodged a landmark 573 FIRs against the violators from April 2020-March 2021 across the Kashmir valley.

Giving details, the Assistant Director, FC&SCA, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani said that the fines and FIRs were lodged against the butchers, poultry shops, bakery shops, fruit sellers after they were found violating EC Act. He said in addition to imposing fines and lodging FIRs, 160 establishments were also sealed. He said the department has strengthened its guard and acted heavily against the violators after April 2021 too.

The AD, FC&SCA informed that further an amount of Rs 25,93,320 against 6311 defaulters during April 2021-July 2021 were collected. Besides 265 establishments were sealed as well and 74 FIRs were registered against the violation of the EC Act in Kashmir valley.

It was revealed that during

the inspections, the department formulated various teams across the valley to inspect various food establishments, mutton and chicken shops, fruit and vegetable, bakery shops besides various other establishments.

The teams inspected various markets within their jurisdiction, and found defaulters failing to maintain the quality of food items, not displaying rate lists of essential commodities, selling expiry products, besides indulging in practices of illegal profiteering and sale of underweight products.

Apart from imposing fines, the rotten vegetables and other expired items were destroyed on the spot. The enforcement team headed by AD Enforcement has recently sealed two boutiques one at Lambert lane and another at Bund Side Lal Chowk for charging high rates to customers. Besides jewellery shops have been directed to maintain the quality of gold and sell only HallMark jewellery.

Meanwhile, the general public are being informed to lodge complaints on toll free number: 18001807011 (24x7) in case of any violation in the market.

## 'Enrolment of students at all levels decreases by nearly two percent in JK schools'

### Agencies

Srinagar: In Jammu and Kashmir, the government-run-schools have recorded a dip in enrolment at both elementary and secondary level by nearly two percent in one academic year, the Government of India (GoI) said. The Ministry of Education (MoE) for GoI has said asked the Jammu and Kashmir government that the enrolment at elementary as well as at secondary and higher secondary level needs to be focused on priority According to the official figures available with the news agency, "It decreased by 0.2 lakh at Primary level, 0.1 lakh at Upper Primary level resulting in a decrease of 0.34 lakh enrolment at Elementary level."

It reveals that the decreased level of the student enrolment is 0.07 Lakh at secondary level and 0.04 lakh at higher secondary level.

The GoI had also said that the authorities from Jammu and Kashmir require an inclusive planning to improve enrolment through effective

measures.

Besides, the MoE has said that School Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir has expedited with 930, 5 Kilo-watts hybrid out of 1418 and 602, 1 Kilo-watts offline out of 809 Solar Power Panels that were successfully installed in the designated schools during the year 2020-21.

It also reveals that an online portal was also developed for monitoring of implementation of Vocational Education in all the approved schools of JK and the e-inaugurated was done by Lieutenant Governor.

The GoI also said that all the institutions that were funded through Samagra Shiksha which includes two directorates of School Education, 20 Chief Educational Offices (CEO) offices, 20 District Institute of Education and Trainings (DIETs), 188 Educational Zones and in the meantime, 23,112 schools have been registered on Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and the funds are presently being operated through PFMS—(KNO)

## 'Much relief to kidney patients': Dialysis Centres established in all districts of J&K

### KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: Much to the relief of kidney patients requiring dialysis in the Union Territory of J&K, Health & Medical Education Department has made dialysis centres operational in all the 20 Districts of the Union Territory.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Atal Dullo while giving details about the progress made in this regard, said that these centres have been established under Prime Minister's National Dialysis Program (PMNDP) under the umbrella of National Health Mission in the District Hospitals namely Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu, DH Poonch, DH Udhampur, DH Kishtwar, DH Ramban, DH Reasi, DH Samba in Jammu Division and DH Budgam, DH Pulwama, DH Ganderbal, DH Shopian, DH Kulgam, DH Bandipora, JLNH Hospital Srinagar & SDH Kupwara from Kashmir Division and Associated Hospitals of New Govt. Medical Colleges at Baramulla, Anantnag, Doda, Rajouri & Kathua.

He said under NHM free of cost dialysis sessions are conducted for patients from below poverty line (BPL) economic group and for non BPL patients the benefit of accessing the

services close to the community at the district hospitals at subsidized rates of Rs 950 per session is being provided.

Atal Dullo said that the Govt. is committed to provide quality services at the doorsteps of the patients as most patients had to undertake frequent trips and often over long dis-

high out of pocket expenditure by the patients, he added.

Mission Director, NHM, Yasin Choudhary said that under this programme 5 to 8 dialysis machines as per workload have been installed in each of the dialysis centre and a total of 125 machines stand installed till date in the UT of J&K of which



tances to access dialysis services incurring travel cost and loss of wages for the patients and family members leading to financial catastrophe for practically all families with such patients. In absence of a government-run facility, the patients were forced to seek treatment at the privately operated centers involving very

62 dialysis machines were provided by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI, 40 by World Bank and rest 22 procured under National Health Mission in the UT. Till date more than 35,000 dialysis sessions have been conducted in these centres, and registered over 952 chronic patients suffering with renal diseases, he added.

## 20-year old youth found 'hanging' in his room in Uri

### Agencies

Uri: A 20-year-old youth was found hanging in Gowalta area of Boring Town Uri in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday morning.

A police official told the news agency KNT that the victim (name withheld) was found hanging with a ceiling fan by his family members at his home.

He said a case under relevant sections of law has been registered to ascertain the cause of the death of the youth.

He said prima facie it seems a case of suicide but still the investigation has been set into motion. (KNT)

## J&K employees form united front to push regularisation of daily, casual labourers

### Agencies

Srinagar: An amalgam of Jammu and Kashmir Employees Unions (JKEU) on Wednesday announced the formation of a joint platform under the banner of Jammu and Kashmir Employees United Front (JKEUF) to push for the regularisation of daily wagers and casual labourers of Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing the press conference, employee leaders said that there has been a long pending genuine demand of regularisation of daily wagers and casual labourers of Jammu and Kashmir.

EJAC president Mohd Rafiq said that to plead the regularisation of casual and daily wagers employees working in the different departments, many employee unions decided to form a single platform to press for their regularisation.

## Khan Directs officers to strictly adhere to timelines in completion of projects

### KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 11: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, today chaired the 78th Board of Directors meeting of Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited at Civil Secretariat Srinagar. The BoD meeting was attended by Principal Secretary PDD Rohit Kansal, Secretary Science and Technology Alok Kumar, Managing Director JKSPDC Raja Yaqoob Farooq, Executive Director Electric JKSPDC, FA & CAO, JKSPDC Santosh Kumar, Sunil Gupta Company Secretary JKSPDC. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power GoI Ghanshyam Prasad, Director (HPP&I) Central Electricity Authority, Manoj Tripathi and other officers attended the meeting through video conferencing. The meeting held threadbare discussion on the appointment of Managing Director of JKSPDC, works program for the year 2021-22, Sale of Power of BHEP, Construction of corporate office at Rajbagh Srinagar, Extension of Time for EPC Contract and PMC for Implementation of 37.5MW Parnai HEP, electrification of 54 un-electrified villages through off grid

mode (Solar Standalone System). The Board of Directors (BoD) consented for an ambitious working plan for the year 2020-21 for Creation, Renovation and Maintenance of assets of the Corporation. The meeting also discussed issues pertaining to 900 MW Baglihar HEP, status update of 930 MW Kirthai-II HE, regularization of engineering and geological staff in JKSPDC among other issues.

Advisor Baseer Khan while chairing the meeting directed the officers of JKSPDC to complete all the projects within the stipulated timelines and said that no extension will be granted as far as timelines are concerned. He also said that regular monitoring of works should be done on regular basis for efficient management and delivery of services.

The Advisor further directed the officers to fix realistic timelines for the completion of the projects and take technical advice from experts wherever required. He also directed the officers to expedite the construction of corporate office at Rajbagh Srinagar on modern lines with all the facilities in place.

The BoD meeting informed that the

or by spreading motivated and mischievous information for ulterior considerations.

As such, the aspiring candidates are cautioned against the activities of such vested interests and are advised not to fall prey to the designs of such unscrupulous elements. The candidates who are being approached by such people in any matter pertaining to recruitment of JKSSB are advised to immediately report to the JKSSB without any delay.

The JKSSB will appreciate if specific information about such unscrupulous elements along with evidence is furnished to the Board, enabling it to take appropriate legal action. The identity of such candidates who will report about the unscrupulous elements shall be kept confidential.

The J&K SSB has maintained highest standards of transparency and conducted biggest ever examinations in the history of J&K UT in successful manner. There is a transparent and institutionalized mechanism in place in JKSSB for making recruitments, purely on the basis of merit, and information/notices regarding the same are being uploaded on the official website from time-to-time.

The candidates are advised to visit official website of the Board [www.jkssb.nic.in](http://www.jkssb.nic.in) for authentic/verified updates/ information.

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir Department of Fisheries

Ph.0191-2582235, 0191-2584248 email: jkfdjmu@gmail.com/

### e-Reauction Notice NO. 09 of 2021 Dated: 09-08-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor J&K Union Territory, e-Bid affixed with revenue stamp worth Rs. 5/- are invited From Domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the auction of Fishing rights from Ranjit Sagar Reservoir (J&K portion) Satwani/Basohli District Kathua for the year 2021-22. The society of the Fishermen registered under Cooperative Act of the J&K state (Now Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir) if any, can also participate in the auction.

The Bid document containing detailed terms & conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded against e-Bid document fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) in shape of DD pledged to Assistant Director Fisheries Kathua from the official Government website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from:-

|   |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| 1 | Download date start                             | 13-08-2021 |
| 2 | Bid Submission date start                       | 14-08-2021 |
| 3 | Bid submission dale ends                        | 23-08-2021 |
| 4 | Submission of DD of EMD and Tender Document Fee | 24-08-2021 |
| 5 | Bid opening Date                                | 25-08-2021 |

The original instruments of earnest Money Deposit for an amount of Rs.5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh only) and Tender Document Fee for an amount of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) both in the shape of Demand Drafts favouring Assistant Director Fisheries Kathua shall reach by 24-08-2021 upto 4.00 PM in a sealed envelope addressed to Accounts Officer (Member Secretary of the Auction Committee Ranjit Sagar Reservoir) Fisheries Department, Canal Road, Nowabad Jammu- 180016 without which bids shall not be accepted. The Bid shall be opened on 25-08-2021 at 11:00 AM or any other date convenient to bid opening authority in presence of Bidders who may like to be present. The other terms and conditions are mentioned in detailed Bid document.

No:-DF/Acctts/e-Auction 2021-22/2470-77  
Dated: 09-08-2021

DIPK-6394/21

**Accounts Officer  
Member Secretary  
Auction Committee  
Ranjit Sagar Reservoir,  
Fisheries Department.**



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

### K O V I E W

## Third wave is seeding

After a progressive decline in the coronavirus caseload over the past two months, India on Wednesday reported an increase in infections and fatalities. According to the union health ministry data, India reported 38,353 Covid-19 cases and 479 deaths in the last 24 hours on Wednesday. This is a 36 percent jump from Tuesday when India reported 28,204 new Covid cases and 373 deaths. The fresh surge is taking place across 44 districts in India which are reporting more than 10 per cent weekly positivity rate. Kerala is the only state which has more than 1 lakh active Covid-19 cases.

On a positive note, the active Covid-19 active cases constitute 1.21 percent of the total cases and the country has achieved its highest recovery rate today at 97.45 percent. Over forty thousand patients have recovered in the last 24 hours. India has also paced up the vaccination over the last two months. The total number of COVID vaccine doses administered in the country so far has reached 51.90 crore.

Now the studies are underway to see if a combination of two different vaccines would give a better outcome. In India, a new ICMR study has found it safe to mix Covishield and Covaxin, the two main vaccines against Covid-19 in use in India. The study has also found that mixing the two gives better immunity. However, according to the World Health Organization, there is currently limited data on the efficacy of a "mix and match" regimen.

For now the rising infections is a big worry. And this is happening even when a significant population has so far been vaccinated. Worldwide, the new surge is traced to India-originated delta variant. But the centre has denied that in India that the fresh infections are a result of the delta variant.

However, the need for caution can't be overemphasised. In Kashmir too where on ground, the Covid protocols are observed in breach. The situation has, more or less, gone back to square one. The people seem to have concluded once again that the pandemic is all but over. And which is not the case – albeit, the second Covid-19 wave may be waning.

The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has called for a strict adherence to Covid protocols to pre-empt the expected third wave. Sinha has also directed the Health and Information departments to come up with a comprehensive district-level plan for conducting awareness campaigns. He also asked the Deputy Commissioners and the district police officers to rope in religious leaders and community heads for spreading awareness regarding adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour. It is, however, important that not only the awareness is created but the Covid protocol is also enforced. As things stand, the third wave could be seeding.

### OTHER OPINION

## Sport is Not a War Nor Weapon

Serious sport, and all the sportspersons worth admiring, play a game well and appreciate their competitors. Unfortunately, the tensions between the two largest countries in the Subcontinent — despite their shared culture and history — has often spilled into sports. Cricket is the usual casualty, with the two countries rarely being able to play a bilateral series. But the javelin, even though its origins are as a weapon, was not allowed to be a pawn in the bitter games between jingoists. When asked about Nadeem, Chopra was clear: "It would have been good to have Nadeem on the podium too. Asia ka naam ho jata."

For all the talk of sports as war and the players as warriors, the true spirit of competition comes from pursuing excellence and building solidarity. On the grandest stage of his career, the world's best javelin thrower — an Indian soldier — did not put down a friend who had lost, one who appreciated his win. That, as much as Neeraj's athletic ability, is worth admiring. As politicians rush to congratulate the Indian Olympians, they could learn a bit about statesmanship, sporting spirit and magnanimity from a 23-year-old whose pride in his nation is not contingent on hating the neighbouring one.

*The Indian Express*



# Rahul Gandhi calls Kashmir home but fails to address people's concerns

Altaf Hussain

**Congress itself had eroded much of J&K's internal autonomy and reduced Article 370 to a skeleton. The BJP has done in a single stroke and brazenly what the Congress did slowly and not so brazenly**

During his just concluded visit to Kashmir, Congress vice president, Rahul Gandhi tried to strike an emotional chord with the people here. But the visit did nothing to restore the confidence of Kashmiri people in India's political class.

Speaking after the inauguration of Pradesh Congress headquarters in Srinagar on Tuesday, Rahul Gandhi talked of his family's roots in Kashmir. "My family lives in Delhi. Earlier, it lived in Allahabad. And before that, it lived here (in Srinagar)" he said to a loud applause by party workers gathered for the occasion.

Pertinent to mention that Rahul Gandhi's great grandfather and India's first Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru was a descendant of a Kashmiri Pandit, Raj Kaul, a Sanskrit scholar who migrated from Srinagar at the instance of Mughal emperor Farrukhsiyar, in 1716.

Kashmiri Pandits, by and large, identified themselves with the Nehru family. That largely changed after their exodus from the Valley in 1990s. Many vocal members of the migrant community have since become ardent supporters of the BJP.

While calling Kashmir his home, Rahul minced no words in saying that the Modi government had committed aggression against Jammu and Kashmir. He also demanded restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. But, he did not say a word about Article 370 which the Modi govt revoked in August 2019.

Majority of people in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the majority Muslim community, feel deeply distressed by the abrogation of Article 370. They see it as breach of faith and a conspiracy to change the Muslim-majority character of the state. Worse still, they see people from other states occupying land in J&K and consequently both Kashmiri Muslims and Hindus losing their common cultural and political identity. There was nothing in Rahul Gandhi's speech that would assuage an average Kashmiri's fears. Ordinary people in Kashmir understand that Congress will not take the risk of annoying people outside Jammu and Kashmir

drawal of J&K's statehood and its bifurcation into two union territories. His dismay and disappointment is shared by many ordinary people in Kashmir. They have totally lost faith in the Indian political class, except for a few individual politicians.

The BJP has, indeed, strengthened itself by revoking Article 370. But it has harmed wider national interest. For, it has caused



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Congress itself had eroded much of J&K's internal autonomy and reduced Article 370 to a skeleton. The BJP has done in a single stroke and brazenly what the Congress did slowly and not so brazenly.

True that Congress and many other secular parties in India did not support abrogation of Article 370 or the bifurcation of J&K into two union territories. But, except for a couple of regional parties, the Opposition in India took an equivocal stand. Omar Abdullah says the party's like the Congress, perhaps, could not afford to oppose the revocation of Article 370. But he says these parties "let us down" by being silent on the with-

such alienation in Kashmir as never before.

Such is the resentment and deep depression that a prominent Kashmiri Pandit leader, Sanjay Tickoo, who has stayed put in the Valley, fears a repeat of 1990. Participating in a debate on Media Swaraj on Tuesday evening, he said if the lava bursts, "not only Kashmir, the whole of India will burn."

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

*The author is a freelance journalist, formerly North India Correspondent of the BBC. He also worked with Times of India.*



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## A Stroll Down the Literary Lane of Dara Shikoh

At the age of twenty-five Dara Shikoh wrote his first book, Safinat-ul-Awliya, which was a succinct amalgamation of events in the life of the Prophet and the Caliphs. Dara was a spiritual person, an avid reader and was regarded as a tolerant and intellectual man, unlike the infamous reputation of a 'ruthless bigot' that preceded his brother, Aurangzeb.

While Dara's younger siblings were busy carrying out administrative duties by governing provinces, he spent most of his time in the royal household often enjoying a sumptuous life. It was no secret that Dara

was Shah Jahan's most favoured and adored son, he even made Dara in charge of the affairs of the state because of the accurate arrows in his quiver that he employed to handle sensitive issues. Hence, Dara constantly remained at the capital with his trusted group of advisors and pre-occupied himself with the goal to satiate his intellectual itch. He used this time to create a new wave in Islamic literature that unfurled numerous avenues of discussion and correlation between religious texts in the Mughal Empire. This insight that he soaked up during his free time translated into tolerance for other religions,

which was seen via his adoption of the "pantheistic school of thought" Wahdatul Wujud. This school of thought, while following the main pillars of Islam, tried to establish a common ground on the identical strands of varying religious systems present in India. Dara authored Majma-ul-Bahrain (the Mingling of the two oceans) that he later got translated into Sanskrit, as Samudra Sangam, by Hindu scholars, to ensure that it was made accessible to more people, especially those of the Hindu religion. Majma-ul-Bahrain was a Persian text that employed lexical techniques of similarity to build a bridge

between the ineffable facets of spirituality prevalent in Sufism and the Upanishads. Dara also produced another significant Persian work titled Sirr-i-Akbar, which was the translation of the fifty-two Upanishads. The form of literature produced by Dara was an idiosyncratic set of work that might have helped him gain popularity amongst the common people. His contributions to the field of literature associated with the Mughal empire are cherished and read till date.

*Neha Fayaz  
nehafayaz911@gmail.com*



Mehak Fatima

Black banners and flags atop buildings and houses betoken the onset of Muharram in Kashmir. Mourning rituals, including majalis (lecture gatherings), juloos (processions), nawhakhwani (lamentation poems), and marsiyakhwani (elegies), begin to be observed. These rituals are pronounced with expression of grief over the tragedies that befell the Prophet's family by lamenting and beating of chests



## Karbala in Kashmir

KARBALA, literally the land of karb (sorrow) and bala (agony) has over time turned into a metaphor — one for catastrophe, and one for resistance. It was on this land that Hussain ibn Ali, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was martyred alongside seventy-one companions. Hussain and his companions made the ultimate sacrifice by standing in the face of tyranny, injustice, and corruption, and keeping alive the values of truth, justice, and dignity.

“Hayhat minna al zilla!” (never to humiliation!) – the flame of resistance was sparked by Hussain ibn Ali’s refusal to pledge allegiance to the tyrant, Yazeed, with these words. Hayhat minna al zilla! – chant mourners in processions paying homage to the martyrs of Karbala.

The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic year, however, for the followers of the Shi’a school of thought, Muharram ushers in a religious fervour accompanied by grief and passion. The first nine days of the month of Muharram have, for the longest time, been observed and commemorated with mourning ceremonies across the globe, leading up to the tenth day or Ashura (Arabic for ‘tenth’), which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussain and his faithful companions.

Black banners and flags atop buildings and houses betoken the onset of Muharram in Kashmir. Mourning rituals, including majalis (lecture gatherings), juloos (processions), nawhakhwani (lamentation poems), and marsiyakhwani (elegies), begin

to be observed. These rituals are pronounced with expression of grief over the tragedies that befell the Prophet’s family by lamenting and beating of chests.

Juloos or processions in earlier times were taken out in the wee hours of the night. Ceremonies were largely private and held indoors or within maatam sarais (mourning houses). The eighth and tenth of Muharram would usually be devoted to alam (flag) and zuljinah (Imam Hussain’s horse in Karbala) processions respectively. Overtime, the rituals moved outdoors in daylight, with male mourners lining streets in groups – some beating chests, some self-flagellating – while women lined the boundaries and buildings beating their chests to the rhythm of the nawhas.

Public observation of Muharram in Kashmir has long undergone notable changes. From nighttime processions to mourners being detained and lathi-charged, the socio-political milieu in Kashmir over the centuries has substantially shaped Muharram into a glaring symbol of resistance. Noted poet, Agha Shahid Ali, explored his Kashmiri Muslim identity in many of his works as he drew parallels between Karbala and Kashmir, adding a distinctive facet to resistance poetry.

“Break their hands.’ Will ours return with guns, or a bouquet?  
Ice hardens its fat near his heart. We’re cut to the brains.  
He memorizes, clause by clause, the contract for Doomsday.

We mourn the martyrs of Karbala, our skins torn with chains.

The Mansion is white, lit up with roses. He is driven Through streets in which blood flows like Husain’s. Our hands won’t return to us, not even mutilated, when

Death comes — thin bureaucrat — from the plains.” — Agha Shahid Ali (Muharram in Srinagar, 1992)

The ceremonies held during Muharram, year after year, serve as a reminder and a source for drawing lessons from lives of Karbala’s martyrs, reinforcing integrity and sustaining resilience in the face of oppression. This period comes for every individual as an opportunity to reflect upon how one can, in their own capacities, answer Hussain’s echoing call from the grounds of Karbala – “hal min nasirin yansurna?” (is there anyone to come to my aid). The answer to this call for support does not lie in physical presence and strength, but it is a call to rise up against injustice in every form, to make Hussain’s cause one’s own, and stand firm for the truth. Observers of Muharram in Kashmir continue to strive in this direction and live by the saying, “kullu yawmin Ashura, kullu ardhin Karbala” – “every day is Ashura, every land is Karbala.”

Mehak Fatima is a postgraduate in English from the University of Delhi and is currently pursuing her Bachelor’s in Education from IASE, Srinagar

## Hijri New Year: How It Marks A New Beginning

The Islamic Calendar teaches the believers to stay hopeful under all circumstances

Raamish Siddiqui,

Islamic Calendar depends on the movement of the moon. It is almost eleven days shorter than the solar calendar. The Islamic Calendar, also known as the Hijri Calendar, is named after the Hijrah or migration of the Prophet of Islam from his birth city of Mecca to Medina (previously known as Yathrib).

The Arabic word Hijrah refers to ‘departure’ or ‘flight’ and the consequent ‘separation’. The term refers to the departure of the Prophet of Islam from Mecca to Medina in 622AD. The Prophet of Islam announced his Prophethood in 610AD, which was faced with opposition by some in Mecca. Despite the opposition, the Prophet of Islam and his companions continued the preaching efforts unabated.

Eventually, the opposition leaders unanimously devised a plan to arm young men from the different tribes against the Prophet. In this way, they wanted to ensure that a single tribe does not bear the blood responsibility, and the onus rests with all the tribes, as was the prevalent custom in Arabia in those days.

As recorded in the Hadith traditions, God pre-informed the Prophet of Islam and ordained him to migrate. The Prophet left the house and his birth city of Mecca with Abu Bakr, a close companion, and embarked on the perilous Hijrah journey.

When the Meccan tribal leaders realised that the Prophet of Islam had left, they sent a group of assassins after him. On the way to Medina, the Prophet and his companion Abu Bakr sought refuge in a cave at the mountain of Jabal



al-Thawr. Finally, after almost twelve days, they reached Medina.

### A milestone in the history of Islam

Hijrah is not an ordinary event in the history of Islam. It presented a model of patience and avoidance of conflict, even at the cost of migrating from the birth place.

This event illustrates the immense importance that Islam lays on maintaining peace, and through Hijrah, the Prophet of Islam laid the foundation of

a peaceful course of action. It was for this reason that this event holds a significant position in the history of Islam.

Later, as the Caliphate grew and reached far and wide, the need to have a uniform calendar emerged to effectively govern the everyday affairs of the state and unify the lands. As per scholars, the Second Caliph Umar ibn al Khattab tasked his Council to set up the Islamic Calendar.

The Council began to brainstorm on the details of such a Calendar and to

determine its starting date. The team prepared several ideas and proposed to mark events like the birth of the Prophet of Islam, the date of the first revelation of the Quran, and other highlight events to mark the beginning of this Calendar.

Then, Ali ibn Abi Talib proposed to start the Islamic Calendar from the date of Hijrah. Several deliberations took place, and eventually, Caliph Umar decided to adopt the date of Hijrah as the start date of the Islamic Calendar. The

Hijri Calendar came into being approximately seventeen years after the journey of the Prophet.

The cultural impact of the development of the Hijri Calendar was significant. It united the lands across the Arabian Peninsula that were previously marked by differences.

### A matter of great wisdom

The selection of the date of Hijrah as the start of the Islamic Calendar was a matter of great wisdom. This is because Hijrah was not simply an act of relocating from Mecca to Medina. It was a step to find a more suitable place to continue the work. This event intensified the ongoing efforts and became a remarkable milestone in the history of Islam.

The Hijri calendar is a beacon of hope. It teaches the believers to stay hopeful under all circumstances. The situation might appear to be adverse and life-threatening, like being trapped in a cave, but those who are steadfast in their approach shall emerge stronger.

The Islamic Calendar is also a manifestation of how non-confrontation is the only gainful approach in life. By adopting a course of non-confrontation, one can try to resolve the problem in the best possible manner.

We must not allow any excuse to disrupt peace in society. In other words, the start of the new year reminds us to renew the resolve that peace is of paramount importance and that anything can be given up for the sake of peace, but peace cannot be given up for the sake of anything.

The Gulf News



# Heart health can be improved by exercising, cutting 200 calories daily

## Agencies

Cutting just 200 calories a day coupled with moderate exercise reaped bigger rewards than exercise alone for older, obese adults, according to the findings of a new study.

Among older adults with obesity, combining aerobic exercise with a moderate reduction in daily calories resulted in greater improvements in aortic stiffness (a measure of vascular health, which impacts cardiovascular disease), compared to exercise only or to exercise plus a more restrictive diet. The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Circulation'.

Modifiable lifestyle factors such as a healthy diet and regular physical activity may help offset age-related increases in aortic stiffness. Although aerobic exercise generally has favourable effects on aortic structure and function, previous studies have shown that exercise alone may not be sufficient to improve aortic stiffness in older adults with obesity.

"This is the first study to assess the effects of aerobic exercise training with and without reducing calories on aortic stiffness, which was measured via cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) to obtain detailed images of the aorta," said Tina E. Brinkley, PhD, lead author of the study and associate professor of gerontology and geriatric medicine at the Sticht Center for Healthy Aging and Alzheimer's Prevention at Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

"We sought to determine whether adding caloric restriction for weight loss would lead to greater improve-

ments in vascular health compared to aerobic exercise alone in older adults with obesity," added Brinkley.

This randomised controlled trial included 160 sedentary adults, ages 65-79 years with obesity (BMI=30-45 kg/m2). The average age of the participants was 69 years; 74 per cent were female, and 73 per cent were white.

Participants were randomly assigned to one of three intervention groups for 20 weeks: 1) exercise only with their regular diet, 2) exercise plus moderate calorie restriction (reduction of approximately 250 calories/day), or 3) exercise plus more intensive calorie restriction (reduction of approximately 600 calories/day).

The two calorie-restricted groups received pre-made lunches and dinners with less than 30 per cent of calories from fat and at least 0.8 grams of protein per kg of their ideal body weight, prepared under the direction of a registered dietitian for the study; they made their own breakfasts according to the dietitian-approved menu.

Everyone in the study received supervised aerobic exercise training four days per week for the duration of the 20-week study at the Geriatric Research Center at Wake Forest School of Medicine.

The structure and function of the aorta were assessed with cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging to measure aortic arch pulse wave velocity (PWV) (the speed at which blood travels through the aorta) and distensibility, or the ability of the aorta to expand and contract. Higher PWV values and lower distensibility values indicate a stiffer aorta.

Fax No: 0194-2496328

E-mail Id: chiefliftinspectorkmr@gmail.com



GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF LIFT INSPECTOR, KASHMIR

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Government has initiated the process of enactment of "J&K LIFT & ESCALATOR ACT", through proper legislation, in order to provide for regulation of erection, maintenance and safe operation of Lifts, Escalators and Moving Walkways, and all other machinery and apparatus pertaining thereto, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. While the formal issuance of ' Notification' through proper legislation might take some time, in the meanwhile, in order to ensure that all the safety measures are in place and all the requisite precautions are adhered to in, case of such existing infrastructure pertaining to the Manufacturers/their authorized dealers/Govt./Semi-Govt. undertakings/Autonomous bodies/Private/Public/Commercial or Residential buildings, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, by virtue of Govt. Order issued vide No. 552-PW(R&B) OF 2018 Dated: 22.10.2018, has appointed the Authority constituting of the following:-

1. The Superintending Engineer, (Mechanical Circle), Mechanical Engineering Department Kashmir designated as "The Chief Lift Inspector, Kashmir".
2. The Assistant Executive Engineer (Mechanical) designated as "Lift Inspector".
3. Junior Engineer (Mechanical) designated as "Assistant Lift Inspector - Mechanical".
4. Junior Engineer (Electrical) designated as "Assistant Lift Inspector -Electrical",

who shall exercise the powers and perform the functions as under:-

#### a) Permission to erect/install a Lift/Escalator/Moving Walkway

The Chief Lift Inspector, after conducting the requisite inspection, shall either grant the permission, for Installation/Erection and to make addition and alteration of Lifts/Escalators/Moving Walkways, or refuse the permission, as the case may be.

#### b) Annual Permission to Operate the Lift/Escalator/Moving Walkway

The Chief Lift Inspector, after conducting the requisite inspection, shall either grant the permission, for Operation/Working of Lifts/Escalators/ Moving Walkways (New Installation as well as Existing Installation), or refuse the permission, as the case may be.

#### c) Conduct inspection of Lift/Escalator/Moving Walkway

The Chief Lift Inspector or his authorized representative as mandated under the said Govt. Order, after giving reasonable notice to the "Owner" has the right to enter upon any Govt./Semi Govt./Private /Public / Commercial or Residential buildings, in Kashmir Province, in which Lift/Escalator/Moving Walkway is installed or is being installed or in connection with application for permission to operate such installation, or otherwise, for the purpose of inspecting the lift or its installation or its operation.

Wherever any occurrence of accident is intimated, during the operation of any Lift/Escalator/Moving Walkway, the installation shall be instantly sealed. The operation of such installation shall not be resumed except with the written permission of the Chief Lift Inspector.

Therefore, through this publication, it is brought to the notice of the "Owners" of all Govt./Semi Govt./Private/ Public/Commercial/residential buildings in Kashmir Province falling under the following categories:-

- Those who intend to install new Lift/Escalator/Moving Walkway or make additions & alterations in Existing Lift/Escalator/Moving Walkway.
- Those who intend to operate the new as well as existing Lift/Escalator/Moving Way in future also,

need to seek permission from the designated authority i.e The Chief Lift Inspector, Kashmir, through an application on standard requisite format and depositing a prescribed sum towards application fee for each Lift/ Escalator/Moving Walkways installation, which shall be credited to Head, MH-0059 miscellaneous revenue, favouring The Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Circle (MED), Kashmir ( The Chief Lift Inspector, Kashmir), within a period of 30 days from the publication of this notice.

The following designated authorities can be contacted on Phone numbers/e-mails for further information:-

1. **Lift Inspector**
  - a) Er. Sheikh Bilal Ahmad (Assistant Executive Engineer) (Ph. No. 8825076186) E-mail id: [liftinspectormedsrinagar@gmail.com](mailto:liftinspectormedsrinagar@gmail.com)
2. **Assistant Lift Inspector**
  - a) Er. Ishan Huku (Junior Engineer) (Ph. No. 7006194209)
  - b) Er. Mushtaq Ahmad Bajard (Junior Engineer) (Ph. No. 9419009907)

Sd/-

(Er. Sanjay Sharma)

(Chief Lift Inspector)

Superintending Engineer,

Mechanical Circle, (MED) Kashmir.

DIPK-6400/21

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir  
Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

TENDER NOTICE

FRESH OF NIT 30

NIT No. e-35/2021-22/LSD/Srinagar/Jammu

Dated: -10/08/2021

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

| S. No | Name of Work   | Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) | Cost of T/ Doc. (Amt in Rs.) | Earnest Money/ Bid Security (Amt in Rs.) | Time of completion | Time & Date of Opening of tender | Class of Contractor | Head of Account |
|-------|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1     | 2  | 3                       | 4                            | 5  | 6                  | 7                                | 8                   | 9               |
| 1     | Facelifting by way of repairs, cleaning, washing and painting on grill fencing and providing fixing of hanging flower baskets in the central verge of IG Road from Barzulla upto Airport Drop Gate Humhama) Part-II. | Rs. 1.675Lacs           | Rs. 200/-                    | Bid Declaration Certificate              | 20days             | 18.07.2021 at 11.00AM            | " DEE" M&R          | 3054            |

Position of Funds: -Available.

Administrative approval: -Accorded.

Note:- The above mentioned work shall be mandatorily completed during the current financial year 2021-22.

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

|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Date of issue of Tender Notice   | 10.08.2021  |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents   | 10.08.2021  |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date  | 10.08.2021  |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date  | 17.08.2021  |
| 5. | Deadline for receiving the Hard copy (Original e-challan/Hard copy to be submitted by the successful bidder (L1) only within seven days after or Treasury challan/receipt and EMD) | financial evaluation.   |
| 6. | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)  | 18.08.2021 at 11.00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar |

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan or Treasury challan/receipt (Non-refundable) along with bid security declaration certificate as per format (Annexure A), failure to do so shall be render the bidder as non-Responsive.

1. First lowest bidder has to submit Performance security Deposit 3% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ BG(BG validity should be 45days more than bid validity days i.e. 120+45=165Days) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority).

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)

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

4. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

5. Additional performance security required as per NIT conditions shall be released after virtual completion of the work.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

8.2 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.

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

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

8.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, Original/Photo-copies of documents related to bid be submitted physically /by registered post / through courier before date specified in Para -1.

a. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

48.The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

49.All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

50.The Employer can cancel the NIT/LOI/ALLOTMENT at any stage without any reason.

No: -LD/2520-28

Dated: -10-08-2021.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
R&B Landscaping Division,  
Rajbagh, Srinagar

DIPK-6368/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

## JK Lt Governor's Grievance Cell

Civil Secretariat, Jammu

This is for the information of the citizens who want to file a grievance with the Government of U.T. Of J&K . The Hon'ble Lt. Governor's Grievance Cell is functional both at Jammu and Srinagar at the following addresses:

### Jammu address

1. House No. 30 A/C  
Gandhi Nagar , Pin code-180004

2. Lieutenant Governor's Grievance Cell,  
Behind Main Building,  
Civil Secretariat Jammu Pin code-180001

### Srinagar Address

Lieutenant Governor's Grievance Cell  
Church Lane, Sonawar, Srinagar , Pin code-190004

The citizens can visit the Grievance Cell at Srinagar or at Jammu and file their grievance electronically at (<http://jkgrivance.in>) or submit a written complaint or grievance. Besides, the Grievance Cell at Jammu and Srinagar both have Call Centers and interested citizens can call on the following numbers to get their grievance registered and redressed.

Jammu-18005722327

Kashmir-18005722328

(Vir Ji Hangloo)

DIPK-6274/21

Special Secretary to Government Public Grievances

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

website:<http://jkpsc.nic.in>

email:[jkpscsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:jkpscsecretary@gmail.com)

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530

Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

Subject: Select List for the posts of Lecturer Pathology (GMC-Srinagar) in Health & Medical Education Department.

Notification No. 39 – PSC (DR-S) of 2021

Dated: 06.08.2021

Whereas, Health & Medical Education Department vide letter No. ME/GAZ/187/2014 dated 25.04.2019 referred 01 post under Open Merit of Lecturer in the discipline of Pathology (GMC-Srinagar) for selection of suitable candidate; and

Whereas, J&K Public Service Commission vide Notification No. 08-PSC (DR-P) of 2019 dated 20.05.2019 advertised the said posts for selection of suitable candidate; and

Whereas, Commission received 34 applications, which were scrutinized and 31 eligible candidates were called for interview; and

Whereas, the interview of the shortlisted candidates was conducted on 29.07.2021 & 30.07.2021 with the assistance of experts; and

Now, therefore, on the basis of the performance in the interview in pursuance of Rule 51 of the J&K Public Service Commission (Business & Procedure) Rules, 1980 as amended from time to time and other related parameters, the merit of the candidates who have appeared in the interview is enclosed as Annexure-"A" to this Notification.

Consequent upon the above, Dr. Mir Wajahat Un Nazir S/O Sh. Nazir Ahmed Mir R/O 01 Muchpona securing 65.12 points is selected against the post of Lecturer Pathology under Open Merit Category in GMC Srinagar.

### Note:-

1. The Commission reserves the right to have certificates/documents of the candidate verified, if at any later stage found expedient to do so. The Selection of the candidate is purely provisional and is subject to the outcome of writ petition(s) pending before any competent Court of law.

2. The select list is provisional and objection, if any, may be submitted to the Commission within five days for examination and disposal. No claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained after five days from the date of issuance of Notification.

(R. K. Katoch) KAS

Secretary

J&K Public Service Commission.

No. PSC/DR/Lect/Pathology/H&ME/2019

Dated:06.08.2021

DIPK-6300/21



# A New Phishing Attack Lurking To Scam Banking Customers: Advisory

## Agencies

New Delhi— Scammers are targeting banking customers in India using a novel phishing attack to collect sensitive information such as internet banking credentials, mobile number and OTP to carry out fraudulent transactions, the country's cyber security agency has warned in its latest advisory. The malicious activity is being carried out using the ngrok platform, a unique web application, it said.

"It has been observed that Indian banking customers are being targeted by a new type of phishing attack using ngrok platform."

"The malicious actors have abused the ngrok platform to host phishing websites impersonating internet banking portals of Indian banks," according to the advisory issued by CERT-In on Tuesday.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team or CERT-In is the federal technology arm to combat cyber attacks and guarding the cyber space against phishing and hacking assaults and similar online attacks.

Phishing denotes to the fraud when an attacker, masquerading as a trusted entity, tricks a victim into clicking evil links to steal passwords, login credentials and one-time password (OTP). Using these phishing websites, the advisory elaborated, "malicious actors" are collecting sensitive information of the customers such as internet banking credentials, mobile number and OTP to perform "fraudulent transactions."

It said the phishing attacks have been seen to be triggered through SMSes containing links that end with ngrok.io/xxxbank. The advisory explained this with a sample SMS.

"Dear customer your xxx bank account will be suspended! Please Re KYC Verification Update click



here link <http://446bdf227fc4.ngrok.io/xxxbank>."

Once a victim clicks on this URL (universal resource locator) and log in to the phishing website using internet banking credentials, the attacker generates OTP for 2FA or two factor authentication which is delivered to the victim's phone number.

"The victim then enters this OTP in the phishing site, which the attacker captures," it said.

Finally, the attacker gains access to the victim's account using the OTP

and performs fraudulent transactions, the advisory said.

The cyber security agency has suggested some "best practices" to nip these attacks in the bud, the most important being: "Look for suspicious numbers that don't look like real mobile phone numbers as scammers

that the websites they visited are legitimate," it said. A specific check against such attacks is "exercising caution towards shortened URLs, such as those involving bit.ly and tinyurl." "Users are advised to hover their cursors over the shortened URLs (if possible) to see the full website domain which they are visiting or use a URL checker that will allow the user to enter a short URL and view the full URL," it said.

Users can also use the shortening service preview feature to see a preview of the full URL, the advisory stated. It said bank customers should pay "particular attention to any misspelling and/or substitution of letters in the URLs of the websites they are browsing."

Some other counter-measures stated in the advisory are the often-repeated principles that are advised for safe browsing and accessing the internet.

"Install and maintain updated anti-virus and anti-spyware software, filtering tools (anti-virus and content-based filtering), firewall, and filtering services."

Update spam filters with latest spam mail contents, it said.

"Customers should report any unusual activity in their account immediately to the respective bank," it said.

"Phishing websites and suspicious messages should be reported to the CERT-In at [incident@cert-in.org](mailto:incident@cert-in.org) and respective banks with the relevant details for taking further appropriate actions," the advisory concluded.

## Banks will now be fined for non-availability of cash in ATMs

In huge relief for the common man, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to charge penalties on banks for non-availability of cash in ATMs.

Starting October 1, 2021, cash-out at any ATM of more than 10 hours in a month will attract a flat penalty of Rs 10,000 per ATM. In case of White Label ATMs (WLAs), the penalty would be charged to the bank which is meeting the cash requirement of that particular WLA.

The bank, may, at its discretion, recover the penalty from the WLA operator, said an RBI notification.

In a notification to the MDs and CEOs of all banks, the central bank has said that it has a mandate to issue banknotes and the banks are fulfilling this mandate by dispensing banknotes to the public through their wide network of branches and ATMs.

"In this connection, a review of downtime of ATMs due to cash-outs was undertaken and it was observed that ATM operations, affected by cash-outs, lead to non-availability of cash and cause avoidable inconvenience to the members of the public," it said.

The RBI has now decided that the banks or white label ATM operators (WLAOs) shall strengthen their systems/mechanisms to monitor availability of cash in ATMs and ensure timely replenishment to avoid cash-outs. Any non-compliance in this regard shall be viewed seriously and shall attract monetary penalty as per

the "scheme of penalty for non-replenishment of ATMs".

As per the scheme, banks

separate statement on behalf of WLAOs on cash-out of such ATMs due to non-replenish-



**IN THIS CONNECTION**, a review of downtime of ATMs due to cash-outs was undertaken and it was observed that ATM operations, affected by cash-outs, lead to non-availability of cash and cause avoidable inconvenience to the members of the public,"

shall submit a system generated statement on downtime of ATMs due to non-replenishment of cash to the Issue Department of the RBI under whose jurisdiction these ATMs are located.

In case of WLAOs, the banks which are meeting their cash requirement shall furnish a

ment of cash.

Such statements shall be submitted for every month within five days of the following month and first such statement for the month of October 2021 shall be submitted on or before November 5, 2021, to the Issue Department concerned.

## Concerns mount about kharif sowing due to uneven rainfall distribution: Crisil Research



New Delhi: Accordingly, after stalling from June-end to mid-July, the southwest monsoon accelerated to close the deficit in long period average (LPA) of rainfall from 7 per cent as on July 12 to just 4 per cent as on August 8.

Besides, the India Meteorological Department forecasts monsoon will remain normal for the rest of the season.

"However, concerns around kharif sowing persist mainly because of

uneven distribution of rainfall."

"During the recovery phase (commencing July 13), the country received 2 per cent lower rains than the LPA as on August 8."

Region wise, the report said that rainfall activity was higher by 11 per cent and 12 per cent in North-west India and South peninsula region, respectively.

"The Central and East and North-east regions lagged 4 per cent and 20 per cent lower rains,

respectively."

"The patchy distribution of rains has perturbed many farmers. Gujarat, which accounts for 40 per cent and 20 per cent of total groundnut and cotton acreage, and Odisha, at 8 per cent of total paddy acreage, are at a cumulative deficit of 43 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively. In contrast, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana have received excessive rainfall."

## Indians now believe in products 'Made in India': PM

Exhibiting India's manufacturing potential, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that Indians today have faith in products that are 'Made in India'.



Speaking at the CII annual conclave, Modi said that faster progress in the country and changing mindsets have enabled greater confidence of Indians in products that are manufactured in the country. According to the Prime Minister, several steps taken by the Central government have led to record FDI inflows in India.

"We're also creating new records in FPI and our forex reserve is at an all-time high," Modi said. Besides, the Prime Minister said that startups are

also showing more self-confidence now. "Several unicorns are becoming the image of the nation... 7-8 years ago, India might have had just 3-4 unicorns. Today, there are nearly 60 unicorns in India. Out of these 60, 21 have been developed in the last few months," Modi said.

**SEVERAL UNICORNS ARE BECOMING** the image of the nation... 7-8 years ago, India might have had just 3-4 unicorns. Today, there are nearly 60 unicorns in India. Out of these 60, 21 have been developed in the last few months," Modi said.

## Hospitality sector sore as Centre stalling Rs 60K cr package

### Agencies

Mumbai, Aug 11 (IANS): The country's apex hospitality body, the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) has expressed disappointment that a Rs 60,000 crore package announced in June by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has yet to be notified by the Centre.

In a representation to Sitharaman, the FHRAI has sought her intervention to set in motion the Rs 60,000 crore sanctioned under the 'Loan Guarantee Scheme' for Covid-hit sectors, as announced by her on June 28, said FHRAI Vice President Gurbaxish Singh Kohli.

"Over a month has passed but it is not notified, neither the operational guidelines nor other details have been revealed by the Finance Ministry. However, a similar scheme for the health sector has already been notified and necessary guidelines have been announced," he said.

Kohli said the hospitality sector is among the worst-hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns, and the severest restrictions and protocols have led to massive losses piling up in the past 16 months. The

second wave has virtually destroyed the entire hospitality eco-system which would take years to recover and hence it was imperative for Sitharaman to immediately notify the Rs 60,000 crore scheme with 100 per cent government guarantee and long-term repayment options.

"It can address the colossal damage suffered by the tourism and hospitality sector. But the government's negligence really compels us to doubt the seriousness in its approach towards the industry's hardships," Kohli rued.

Additionally, the industry is concerned about members complaining from different parts of the country how banks and financial institutions are not processing applications for loans under the ECLGS3.0 and for loan restructuring.

"The banks and NBFCs are taking advantage of the ceiling limits of the RBI and are not ready to extend any concessions to the deeply distressed MSMEs. They are unmindful of the fact that loans under ECLGS are fully guaranteed by the Centre and the banks/NBFCs lose nothing if they provide loans at concessional interest rates to the customers," Kohli said.

## DG Horticulture conducts extensive tour of Pulwama

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 11: The Director General (DG) Horticulture Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today conducted an extensive tour of District Pulwama.

During the visit, the DG inspected the building at Dangerpora Pulwama, which has recently been allotted to the Department of



Horticulture, Kashmir by District Administration.

On the occasion, he informed that a state of the art soil testing laboratory will be established in the said building, for which funds have already been released by the U.T. Government, and further added that the Laboratory will cater the needs of the orchardists of district Pulwama and adjoining areas.

The DG during the visit was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Pulwama and other officers of the Department.

Later, the DG chaired a meeting at the Directorate of Horticulture Kashmir regarding implementation of the newly launched "Modified High Density Plantation Scheme".

The meeting was attended by Chief Horticulture Officers and representatives of agencies empanelled for supply of High Density

Plantation in Jammu and Kashmir.

In the said meeting the specific targets were allotted to the agencies with the instructions to complete the targets well in time.

The "Modified High Density Plantation Scheme" was recently launched by the U.T. Government in collaboration with NAFED and the scheme will remain effective for 6 years and an area of 5500 ha of land will be covered under the scheme.

It was informed that the department will publish a booklet on the scheme, which will soon be ma

## Director Agri Kmr inaugurates sale of Vegetable seedlings at KG, Lal Mandi



### KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 11: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated the distribution of Vegetable seedlings of Cabbage and Cauliflower at Kitchen Garden (KG) Lal Mandi, here.

While interacting with the vegetable growers and kitchen garden lovers, the Director said that the department is committed to provide quality seedling material to the vegetable growers so that they could use the land resources available to them and will contribute to the overall vegetable production.

He said kitchen gardening is becoming a healthy trend and the urban people are adopting it nowadays with open arms.

Director said that kitchen gardening is a multi dimensional venture where on one hand the vegetables grown in kitchen gardens are mostly organic because people do not use chemical fertilizers in their kitchen gardens and on the other hand it promotes agriculture among the young generations and students.

During the inauguration of today's sale Director was accompanied by Deputy Director Agriculture Planning Mohammad Younis Chowdhary and other senior officers of the department.

## Training Program on PFMS held at Directorate of Agriculture, Lalmandi

### KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 11: A training program for Accounts Officers and Drawing and Disbursing Officers of Agriculture and allied Departments on "Public Financial Management System" (PFMS)

cision making and is actually a decision making support system and an online transaction platform, he said.

The Director said that the main objective of this system is to promote greater transparency and accountability in the imple-

interface with the Core Banking System (CBS) of over 300 banks operating in India.

Interface with the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has also been developed that facilitates validation for Aadhar linked payments.



was today held at Directorate of Agriculture Lalmandi, here.

The training program was inaugurated by Imtiyaz Ahmad Wani, Director Finance Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare Department.

In his inaugural address Director Finance said that PFMS is a web based online software application developed and implemented by PFMS Division, Ministry of Finance Government of India. The portal helps in de-

mentation of centrally sponsored schemes. It provides real-time information and monitoring mechanism of financial progress of any centrally sponsored scheme, he added.

It was said that the primary function of PFMS is to facilitate a sound public financial management system for the Government of India by establishing an efficient fund flow system as well as a payment cum accounting network. At present PFMS has

The PFMS will also result in improved program administration and management, direct payment to the beneficiaries and greater transparency and accountability in the use of public funds, Wani said.

The training program was attended by the Joint Director Agriculture Inputs Kashmir Farooq Ahmad Shah, Joint Director Agriculture Extension Sheikh Shahid Iqbal, Accounts Officers and other DDOs of the department.



MeT Predicts

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 18.6 degree Celsius against 18.3 degree Celsius normal for this time of the year, a MeT official said. Jammu recorded a low of 26.5 degree Celsius against the normal of 25.1 degree Celsius for this time of J&K's winter capital.

He said Pahalgam recorded 12.4 degrees Celsius while Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir was the coldest place in J&K as it recorded a low temperature of 11.8 degree Celsius against 12.1 degree Celsius normal for the area during this time of the season.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 14.7 degree Celsius while Kokernag had a low of 13.9 degree Celsius, he said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of 16.3 degrees Celsius against normal of 17.3 degrees Celsius, the official added.

25 Cases Of Sedition,

and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, (UAPA) registered during last five years and the number of registered cases under sedition and UAPA wherein charge sheets have been filed, along with the number of persons chargesheeted.

Besides the details of the number of cases where accused have been convicted out of total cases registered under UAPA and sedition during the last five years till date.

In a written reply to the house the MoS said that the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles the data on crime as reported to it by States and Union Territories and publishes the same in its annual publication 'Crime in India'.

About the cases from the year 2015 to the year 2019 under the Sedition (Section 124 A IPC) and under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) it said that a total of 25 cases under aforesaid sections were filed.

He informed that in the last five years 3 cases were charge-sheeted while five persons were charge-sheeted.

About the year-wise breakup of the cases, the minister said that 1, 0, 1, 12, and 11 cases were registered in the subsequent years from 2015 to 2019.

It said that no case was charge-sheeted up to 2017 while 1 and 2 cases were charge-sheeted in 2018 and 2019.

The Minister also informed that a total of five persons was charge-sheeted which include 1 in 2018 and 4 in the year 2019.

9 Properties Restored

take suo motto action on eviction proceedings in cases of encroachment, while the migrants can also request DMs in such cases.

Regarding restoration of properties to its rightful and original owner, nine properties have been restored, as per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, he said in a written reply to a question.

Rai said as per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, after the abrogation of Article 370, a total of 520 migrants have returned to Kashmir for taking up the jobs under the Prime Minister's Development Package-2015.

Replying to another question, the minister said after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, all provisions of the Constitution have been made applicable to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which necessitated changes in existing laws in J-K by Adaptation Orders so as to conform with the provisions of the Constitution.

He said as per the adapted land laws of Jammu and Kashmir, the government may, by notification in the official gazette, allow transfer of land for public purposes such as education, healthcare and charitable purposes.

Advisor Reviews

of Transit accommodation for Kashmiri Migrants under Prime Minister's Development Package at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Secretary (DMRRR), Development Commissioner Works (PWD), Chief Engineer PW (R&B), Kashmir, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Department Kashmir, Tehsildar Relief and Rehabilitation (M) Kashmir, Liaison Officer Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K.

Khan, as per the official spokesperson directed the Department of Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR) to push for the completion of all the ongoing Transit Accommodation and remove bottlenecks, if any. He said that the LG's Advisor also directed the officers from Jal Shakti, Power Development Department, R&B and other concerned departments to expedite the formulation of DPRs for each site and directed the officers to have better coordination with other line departments.

The government under PMDP/PMRP had decided to construct transit accommodation in each district of the Kashmir valley at 17 sites as per the number of recruitment made under Prime Minister's Package.

"The Advisor directed the officers to submit DPR for all the 17 sites within 7 days and every department must ensure that timelines are strictly adhered to. The Advisor directed the officers to redouble their efforts in chasing the targets and meeting the deadlines and said that work should be drawn in order of priority," the official spokesperson said.

He further said that the LG's Advisor stated that a proper layout plan should be drawn for all the 17 locations in 10 districts as each site will have a specific DPR different requirements. He also directed the PDD, Jal Shakti, PWD departments to see the requirements of each location and start working on that and directed them to strictly follow the requirements as per the layout plan for better management.

"He said that the all the 17 locations in Kashmir should have all the basic amenities available in terms of water, power, roads, Watch towers, boundary wall, Gate, Community hall, Shopping complex," the official spokesperson said.

Khan, he said, directed the chief Engineer Jal Shakti, PDD and R&B and the officers of DMRRR to have the work on Wandhama site expedited and fixed 15 September timeline for completion in all respects.

"Advisor further said that regular meetings shall be taken fortnightly to review the work done by the concerned departments in

connection with the transit accommodation," he added.

3 Ladakh Residents

Separation of the union territory of Ladakh, which due to its terrain and climatic conditions, is dependent on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, has gravely affected the residents.

A report in LiveLaw.in said that the plea mentioned: "The Impugned Presidential Orders along with the Impugned Reorganization Act have eroded the legislative and executive organs and have denied the Constitutional rights of the inhabitants of the State of Jammu and Kashmir including the Inhabitants of the region which is now the Union Territory of Ladakh,"

The applicants have alleged that the inhabitants have been left at the mercy of administrators who do not possess the mandate of inhabitants of the region.

The applicants state that while exercising the power under section 96 of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, amendments to various laws applicable in Jammu and Kashmir have been carried out without any express approval or sanction of the people.

J&K Reports 114

Budgam 4, Pulwama 2, Kupwara 20, Anantnag 1, Bandipora 6, Ganderbal 4, Kulgam 5, Jammu 8, Udhampur 1, Rajouri 13, Doda 6, Samba 1, Kishtwar 5 new cases of Covid-19. No fresh case of infection was reported from south Kashmir's Shopian district and four districts of Kathua, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi in Jammu division.

Also, officials said, 114 more patients have recovered, 41 from Jammu Division and 73 from Kashmir Valley.

Meanwhile, one person from Jammu division succumbed to the virus, raising the overall fatality count to 4393 in J&K—2154 in Jammu division and 2239 in Kashmir.

Also, there was one more confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today. With this 38 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K so far, the officials added. (With GNS inputs)

Pak Based Outfits

while asserting that the security forces are alert to thwart any such attempt.

He also said anti-militancy operations are going on in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir and the security forces are keeping a tight vigil to frustrate Pakistani attempts to lure youngsters into committing militant activities.

"There are reports that Pakistani terror outfits like LeT, Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and JeM are looking for an opportunity to carry out major terror attacks in the Jammu region as well as in the Kashmir region.

"Our forces are alert and the police are working in close coordination with the intelligence agencies and other security agencies. I am confident that we will be able to thwart such designs of the terrorists," the police chief told reporters in Kishtwar district.

After visiting Rajouri the previous day, the DGP reached Kishtwar on Wednesday morning to review the security situation ahead of the Independence Day in the district that saw repeated attempts by the ultras to revive activities.

On the arrest of two newly-recruited HM militants from the Dachhan area of the district two days ago, Singh said, "It is an ongoing process. The operations are going on all over the Kashmir and Jammu regions."

"In Rajouri, two terrorists were eliminated in a joint operation by the police and the Army in the Pangai area. There are reports about the presence of more terrorists in the area who have crossed over from Pakistan," he added.

The DGP said Pakistan and agents sponsored by the country are trying to activate certain overground workers (OGWs) of militant outfits in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Kishtwar police was keeping track of such elements and they were able to lay their hands on some of them who had joined terrorist ranks and were just about to go active and resort to acts of terror," he said, referring to the arrest of the two newly-recruited militants from Dachhan.

Lauding the police and other forces working in the district, Singh said, "They are also on the look out for some others who are hand in glove with the elements (militants) working in Kashmir.

"They have expressed their desire to join terrorist ranks and resort to terror violence. I am sure the police and the security forces will be able to take care of them."

He said Pakistan and the agents sponsored by it are looking out for those who could be involved in militant activities and "hunting for people" in Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch and some parts of Reasi district in the Jammu region.

"Our police and intelligence agencies are keeping a watch and we know the way to crack down on them," the DGP said.

He said the support structure, which includes separatists and elements working with Pakistan-based militant outfits, are active along with those who are misusing the social media to lure youngsters into militancy, but "we are countering the adversaries who are misguiding and misleading the youngsters".

Cops Accused Of

offences & they do not deserve the concession of bail," Rafiqat Hussain, Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Kupwara said while rejecting bail plea of the accused policemen—Reyaz Ahmad Khan of Awoora Reshiwaral,

Kupwara and Irfan Ahmed Payer of Manigah Kupwara.

"The police in our UT [J&K] have been trying to keep the UT free in the face of insurmountable odds due to militancy in the valley and many police personnel have attained martyrdom in the line of duty," the court said.

However, the court said the act of the accused persons by staging a fake militant attack with the aim to get monetary and promotional benefits have not only created chaos, law & order problems in Kupwara but have "tarnished the image and reputation of the police department as well before the public."

"The Investigation of the case is at the beginning and there is every likelihood that the accused may dissuade the prosecution witnesses from disclosing true facts before the investigating agency," the court said, adding, "There is every apprehension that if the accused are admitted to bail at this stage, they would attempt to influence the process of investigation."

Subsequently the court rejected the bail application of the accused policemen who were deployed for security duty as PSOs with one of the accused persons—Mohammad Mohd Shafi Mir ( District President of BJP for Kupwara).

Three BJP workers including district president for Kupwara and his son have been arrested for allegedly faking the attack to get enhanced security.

Earlier the prosecution while resisting the bail said the accused had hatched a well-designed criminal conspiracy with the aim to make political gains, to get their security enhanced and to have a bullet-proof vehicle besides to earn name and fame in their political career.

"The conspiracy so hatched was executed at the cost of life, liberty and property of residents of village Gulgam," the prosecution said, adding "The accused who were deployed as PSOs with one of the accused where part of this criminal conspiracy and had been promised monetary and promotional benefits, who in breach of their duties fired indiscriminately while the ration was being distributed among the local residents which created a chaos and sense of insecurity in the area." (GNS)

J&K Progressing

a sustainable and prosperous UT," the official spokesperson said.

He said the LG noted that Bungus valley has the tourism potential to change the entire socio-economic landscape of the region and said that the UT administration has been working in a mission mode to promote the unexplored, untapped tourism potential of this valley, among others. The LG, he said, also informed that permissions to visit the Bungus valley have been relaxed now.

To make the Bungus valley environmentally sustainable, the official spokespersons said that the LG directed the Forests and Tourism Department to chart out viable "Eco-Tourism" plan for the region and all other prominent beautiful grasslands and meadows in the UT. He also suggested for undertaking a feasibility study for starting a cable car in this trekker's paradise.

"Environment and Development are complementary to each other, we have to prioritize providing facilities in a scientific manner especially in places that are in Ecologically Sensitive Zones," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, also noted the demands and issues of the Nomadic population living there in the summer season and directed the concerned officers for installation of pre-fabricated toilets for the seasonal population, besides ensuring drinking water facility without any interruption to all the 2,000 families, among other instructions.

He further said that the LG expressed his appreciation for the commendable work done in the roads, education, water and power sectors in district Kupwara, despite covid pandemic.

"Kupwara is our Aspirational District, so it is our endeavour to reach out to the poorest of the poor without any discrimination, bring positive changes in their lives through seamless access to government welfare schemes and continuous upgradation of educational, health, and road infrastructure," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

Sinha, he said, also observed that this year's Rs 767 crore district Capex budget of Kupwara is three times more than last year. Further, out of the 13,114 works which have been taken up, 5815 works will be completed in this financial year.

"100% vaccination has been done in the 45 years above age group above and the figure has reached above 64% in the age group of 18 to 44 in the district", the LG said.

"There is no dearth of resources and we are working on bringing about the necessary reforms, removing bottlenecks and minimizing the delay in implementation," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG observed that for imparting necessary impetus to the handholding of our youth, the vision of youth clubs has been given top priority. He informed that out of 385 panchayats of Kupwara, youth clubs have been formed in 355

panchayats and in the remaining 30 panchayats the work will be completed by August 15.

He said that the LG stated that the UT administration has also started many initiatives like 'Tejaswani' and 'Hausla' aimed at making women financially independent. He said that 5568 self-help groups are being run by women in Kupwara, to which more than 44 thousand families are directly connected.

"I also appreciate the role of district administration, banks, and social workers for this because progress in the rural economy is possible only through the spirit of cooperatives," the LG said, as per the official spokesperson.

He further said that the LG asked the teachers of the Seasonal Schools to celebrate Independence Day with full zeal and enthusiasm involving the children.

"The children should be made aware of the immense contributions of our freedom fighters and a special National Anthem and painting competition should be organized on 15th August", Sinha added.

‘Wasted Wizard’:

two years to decide the year-long fixtures for cricket tournaments to be held in Kashmir, Feroz came up with a supportive idea. "The idea was simple," he pauses, to say, "water your own sapling."

Those days, not many Kashmiri players made it to the Nationals usually held in Chandigarh and Haryana. Feroz requested Qayoom Bagga to organise a selection camp in SP College Ground for a National level tournament. Bagga, who'd closely seen Feroz growing up into an aesthetic cricketer, curtly supported the "master-plan" and gave a "good to go" nod to the man.

"In Chandigarh, Anil Mehta, a state-level head of cricket association from Punjab was delighted to see our Kashmir team in the Nationals," says Feroz.

But more than Mehta's joy face, his words boosted Feroz's morale: "You (Kashmiri) players deserve to play International cricket more than anyone in India."

With more than a dozen "Winners" certificates in their hands, Feroz and his team came back to Srinagar exhilarated. "Those days," he says, "National certificates had to be accredited by state committees, so JKCA was bound to do the same."

But rather than accrediting those sheets of paper, the state cricket board which faced the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s whip on corruption charges, reacted in the exact manner for which it had gained notoriety among the masses: It deconstructed the whole journey by discrediting those certificates.

"That struggle towards Nationals didn't happen overnight, it had taken years of practice but then JKCA movers and shakers destroyed dozens of growing careers including mine in mere seconds," Feroz rues. "It was all out of resentment as I had exposed their failures by selecting a team of real players over JKCA brats."

Nominally, his teammates who were the smart sets in Kashmir, were themselves thinking of ending their journey, but in an era when Kashmir was yet to introduce its international talent in the celebrated cinema of cricket, Feroz's unsurpassed positional sense and ability to read the future barred him give up.

Back then, a unique form of cricket was gaining traction in England and Australia. No one in Kashmir had ever heard about Twenty20 before. Rather than letting the JKCA's decision overshadow his professionalism, Feroz invested into the same cricket form by organising a tournament in the lush ground of S.P College. It was simply called the "SP college Twenty-20 knockout tournament."

Apparently, the biggest drawback for the tournament was the teams participating in it had no idea what T-20 was all about. But for "the maestro", this problem was akin to another cricket match where he was supposed to culminate opposition team's defence. "For almost a week," Feroz says, "I trained the participating teams about the ways to gain control of the limited overs game in an instant; how to score strong targets; how to effortlessly chase opposition teams' score and the preeminent skill of how to practically play a Super-over."

As Feroz's principles proved successful, JKCA adapted them. A month later, Rauf, who led JKCA as a coach, said that Feroz "painted the chapel, and Kashmiri coaches since have merely restored or improved it." The religious metaphor was fitting. "Feroz's admirers didn't just like the way he and his team played, they believe the world could be a better place if his vision of cricket prevailed. Kashmir's cricket, they felt, is more beautiful, more fun and more spiritual than other approaches," Qayoom Bagga wrote that month, in an insightful report to the JKCA.

Thereafter, with the report being discussed among the JKCA cadres, Feroz was called by the association to display his skills in a National selection camp held in the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium. "For the first time," Feroz says, "I was going to participate as a player in the JKCA National selection camp."

There, an "impulsive coach" had asked Feroz to play a free-flowing cover drive. "With that

cover drive, my career concluded," he says. "It wasn't out of exhilaration that JKCA had called me for a selection but out of resentment for me."

That's where the legend of Feroz came to an end, says Fayaz Kanth, a national level cricketer from Downtown who had accompanied Feroz that day for his selection trials. "The resilience of his character was such that he never went for such selection camps ever again but had constantly motivated me and others especially when it was getting difficult for me to develop trust for the JKCA procedures. But Feroz himself ended up as a wasted wizard."

After curtains fell over his celebrated career, the Kashmir team seemingly slackened. Fifteen years down the line, senior JKCA members and several statistics voted him the 'Kashmiri cricketer of the decade'. Was he better than Abid Nabhi or Parvez Rasool or Manzoor Pandev? The arguments will go on forever. But he was certainly on their level, and his artistry was appreciated well beyond his sport.

After all these years of obscurity, a slim figure with neck-length black hair, Feroz is still smiling but reciprocates one last thing before the conversation ends, "The man who rechristened a unique form of cricket in Kashmir, was left to stay put on his own."

J&K's Agri Land

purposes such as education, charitable purpose and healthcare."

He was responding to a question by Congress MP Akhilesh Prasad Singh in Rajya Sabha whether the Government has altered the land laws of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) wherein no domicile or permanent resident certificate is required to purchase non-agricultural land in the J&K.

To another question on whether the historic Jammu and Kashmir Big Landed Estates Abolition Act, 1950 has been abolished which led to the radical redistribution of land which paved way for rural prosperity and ended landlordism in J&K, the minister said: Under the Jammu and Kashmir Big Landed Estates Abolition Act, 1950, the land was transferred to the tillers. The Act also prescribed a limit to the right of ownership of 182 standard kanals (22.75 acres)."

However, he said, this Act has been repealed and there is another legislation i.e. The Jammu & Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, for transfer of land to tillers which is in force. This Act prescribes ceiling restriction of 100 standard kanals (12.5 acres).

The changes in the land laws were cleared by the Centre on October 26, 2020 under the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, less than a week before its powers to independently amend the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 would cease to exist.

Through the order, the government repealed 12 J&K laws, including the historic land reform laws, and amended 14 others, some of which dealt exclusively with the sale and purchase of land.

Search Operation

village defence committees in view of the forthcoming Independence Day and stepped-up drone activities from across the border, a police official said.

The police, with the help of other security agencies, have strengthened surveillance in the border areas, which were divided into four sectors, each headed by a gazetted officer of the force during the operation that started from Nandpur in Ramgarh sector, covering all the areas up to Lala Chak, Rajpura in Ghagwal sector, the official said.

Besides strengthening the security arrangements at the checkpoints, especially in the border areas, the police are also maintaining a vigil over any suspicious movement, he added.

During the search operation, the residents of the border areas were sensitised about the movement of any suspicious object or person and requested to inform the police if anything comes to their notice, the official said.

Youth Injured

to Srinagar for advanced treatment.

PIA Written Balloon

in the form of an airplane with windows and doors painted on green and white background.

Arms Cache

hideout, an official said Wednesday.

Also, the official said that a cutting of a daily newspaper published from Pakistan was also found at the spot.

Ladakh Reports

one from Kargil. A total of 2,033 samples -- 1,156 from Leh and 877 from Kargil -- were found negative for the coronavirus, they said.

No death from Covid was reported in Ladakh on Tuesday.

Nine patients were discharged from hospitals on Tuesday -- eight in Leh and one in Kargil.

The total number of active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh stood at 74, with 55 of these in Leh and 19 in Kargil district. (PTI)




**FOUNDATION**  
WORLD SCHOOL  
Cambridge Center No: IN094

**MANAGING COMMITTEE OF  
FOUNDATION WORLD SCHOOL**

| Name                 | Designation   |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Syed Arshad Hussain  | Chairman      |
| Abdul Subhan Lone    | Settler       |
| Mubashir Aslam Wafai | Vice-Chairman |
| Arifa                | Secretary     |
| Manjuman Aslam       | Principal     |

**MAMATH BUDGAM, KASHMIR**  
**PHONE NO'S: 9797778185, 9797611234**



**FOUNDATION**  
WORLD SCHOOL  
Cambridge Center No: IN094

**FEE STRUCTURE**

| KINDERGARTEN                                  |       | Class 1st to Class 9th    |       |
|---|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| Annual Fee                                    | 12000 | Annual Fee                | 12000 |
| Tuition Fee                                   | 5460  | Tuition Fee               | 5760  |
| Heating, Snacks, Stationary and Other Charges | 900   | Heating and Other Charges | 600   |

**MAMATH BUDGAM, KASHMIR**  
**PHONE NO'S: 9797778185, 9797611234**



## JKFA Organise Futsal Workshop & Championship In Srinagar



R. Elahi

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Wednesday kick-started its 5-a-side Futsal Championship 2021 with the inaugural match and 3 hour-long workshop held at Gindun Playfield in Rajbagh.

Advisor to LG, Farooq Khan inaugurated the tournament which will see the participation of 16 football clubs. Secretary JKSC, Nuzhat Gul, Sports Officer (Central), Nusrat Gazala, JKFA President, Z A Thakur, among others, were also present on the occasion.

Earlier, the workshop, also held at the Gindun playfield, was attended by coaches and managers of all participating teams.

"Nazir Ahmed Bhat, HOR, and a technical expert gave a Powerpoint presentation on the subject. Bhat apprised the participants about the laws of the game and other related issues. The interactive session lasted for 3 hours. The office bearers, members & match officials of

JKFA were also present on the occasion," a JKFA statement said.

Later in the inaugural match of Futsal Championship 2021, Hyderya Sports FC defeated Musadah Foundation FC by 11 goals to 5.

The Championship is being organised in collaboration with J&K Sports Council. 27 matches are set to be played during the course of the tournament.

### Exhibition matches held at Anantnag, Pattan

The JKFA in collaboration with its Anantnag District Football Association organised an exhibition match on Wednesday at Sports Stadium, Anantnag between Real Kashmir FC (Reserves) and Anantnag Stars FC. The match went into a tie-breaker in which Anantnag Stars came out on top with a 4-3 scoreline.

In Pattan, the exhibition match was played between Downtown Heroes FC and Kashmir Panthers FC, Pattan. The match ended in a 2-2 draw.

## JKSC Holds Badminton Competitions In Srinagar & Jammu



### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) on Wednesday organised Badminton competitions in Srinagar and Jammu as a part of its ongoing Independence Day Sports Week 2021 celebrations.

The District Srinagar Badminton Championship, organised by the J&K Badminton Association in collaboration with the JKSC, at Indoor Sports Complex, Polo Ground. The Championship will run from August 9 to August 12 and has seen the participation of players from different parts of Srinagar.

In Jammu, the JKSC and J&K Badminton Association kick-started the District Jammu Badminton Championship on Wednesday.

The Championship will run from August 11 to August 14.

In an official statement, the Sports Council said that the competitions are being held to glorify ongoing Independence Day celebrations and that "conduct of District Championship in Badminton has been approved in the calendar of activities for the year 2021-22".

"The tournament was declared open by Dr Zafar Iqbal Chief Accounts Officer J&K Sports Council whereas Ashok Singh, Divisional Sports Officer, Jammu was the guest of honour," the statement added.

The Sports Council maintained that all COVID-19 precautions and SOPs were fully adhered to during the two events in Srinagar and Jammu.

### ENG vs IND 2nd Test, Preview

# India Aim For Better Batting Show Against England At Lord's

### Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** Captain Virat Kohli may have to seriously consider playing his best spinner Ravichandran Ashwin while expecting a far better show from the seasoned batting line-up when India meet England in the second Test at the Lord's starting Thursday.

While India were in a better position to win the first Test before heavens opened up on the final day, the first innings score of 278 was still below par as none among Virat Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane scored runs.

As far as team combination is concerned, Shardul Thakur's hamstring injury does again tilt the lower-order batting balance although the Mumbai seamer didn't trouble the scorers in the only innings that he played.

Ashwin, who was dropped from the playing XI in the drawn opening game in Nottingham because of Ravindra Jadeja's superior skills with the willow, is back in the mix as Thakur seems to have done his hamstring some damage during the training session at the Lord's on Monday.

It's still not clear whether he picked up the injury during the first Test or not.

London has been recording a maximum temperature of 24 degrees with average temperature around 14 degrees.

It would be interesting to see



if England retain a green top like they did in 2018 when Indian batting collapsed twice in two days and all-rounder Chris Woakes walked away with the honours.

For Kohli, if four pacers are non-negotiable, then one among Ishant Sharma or Umesh Yadav will be straightaway replacing Thakur but the choice might not be that easy.

"Most likely it will be a template going ahead [4-1 combination], but we've always been adaptable as well, to the conditions and pace of the wicket," Kohli had said after the first Test.

But adaptability is the rider that Indian skipper used during that post-match conference and hence Ashwin, who is currently on the verge of surpassing

Harbhajan Singh's (417 wickets) tally, comes into the picture.

If the skipper believes that his batting needs to be suitably beefed up, then Ashwin is the right choice in case weather permitting, there is something available on the fourth or fifth day Lord's pitch.

For India, KL Rahul would like to consolidate his position at the top of the order even though Mayank Agarwal being back in the nets is a welcome sign for India.

While batting order might not be tinkered with but Agarwal's fitness could also make Rahul an option in the middle-order, where he personally prefers batting.

While both Pujara and Rahane are not in the best of form of late, they will only be replaced in the likely event of a last-minute injury.

## ICC Test Rankings: Root Jumps Ahead Of Kohli, Bumrah Enters Top 10

### Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Riding on his fine show in the opening Test against England, India pacer Jasprit Bumrah has returned to the top 10, but skipper Virat Kohli slipped to the fifth position in the latest ICC men's Test player rankings.

Bumrah, who held a career-high third position in September 2019, has improved 10 slots to grab the ninth place among bowlers after a match haul of nine for 110 in the Nottingham Test.

Kohli, however, slipped a place following his duck in the first innings of the series opener.

He was overtaken by England skipper Joe Root, who grabbed the fourth position in the batters' list after his Player of the Match performance of 64 and 109 earned him 49 rating points.

Opener Rohit Sharma and wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant were static at the sixth and seventh spots respectively.

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja progressed three slots to 36th among batters with a first innings half-century and opener KL Rahul has re-entered the rankings in 56th position with scores of 84 and 26.

Jadeja also improved a spot to take the second position in Test all-rounder ranking list, which also had senior India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin at the fourth spot.

Ashwin continued to stay at

the second place in the bowlers list, which was topped by Australia's Pat Cummins.

Shardul Thakur was also up 19 places to 55th, while England seam bowlers James Anderson (up one place to seventh) and Ollie Robinson (up 22 places to 46th) also moved up in the latest men's weekly rankings update issued every Wednesday.

Bangladesh's Shakib-Al-Hasan was back to number one position among all-rounders in T20I rankings, having reached that spot last in October 2017.

He has also gained three slots to reach 53rd among batters and advanced six positions to reach 12th among bowlers. Captain Mahmudullah has gained two slots and is now in 33rd position.

Fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman is back in the top 10, gaining 20 slots after taking five wickets in four matches, while Mohammad Saifuddin (up 26 places to 43rd) and Nasum Ahmed (up 103 places to 66th) are among the others to make headway.

Australia all-rounder Mitchell Marsh has gained four slots to reach 21st position among batters, after aggregating 111 runs in the last four matches of the five-match series in Bangladesh, played over the last week.

Left-arm spinner Ashton Agar has gained one slot to reach seventh place among bowlers while fast bowler Josh Hazlewood is up 43 places to 34th position.

## Babar Azam, Shaheen Afridi, Hasan Ali Want Match Fee Hike: Reports

### Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** Top Pakistani cricketers including skipper Babar wicketkeeper Azam, Muhammad Rizwan, all-rounder Hasan Ali and fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi have appealed to their cricket board to consider a hike in match fees, a website reported. (More Cricket News)

All four, who were recently awarded 'A' grade contracts by the PCB have told a senior board official that their match fees should be revised, according to a report published in cricket-pakistan.com.pk.

According to the report, that these players are not happy as there was no increase in their Test, ODI and T20I match fees in the new central contracts.

In July, PCB announced a performance-based central contract list 2021-22 for 20 players, including three emerging cricketers, in which match fees across all formats were made the same for all categories.

Only four players, Babar, Rizwan, Hasan and Shaheen were given Category A contracts while other senior players including former captains, Azhar Ali and Sarfaraz Ahmed were relegated to grade B and C

respectively.

Veterans like Muhammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik, Wahab Riaz being given no contracts.

To make bring in uniformity across formats, the PCB increased the Test, ODI and T20 match fees in B and C categories while in Grade A, only retainer-ship percentage was increased by 25 per cent.

However in grade B, Test match fee was increased by 15 per cent, ODI and T20I remunerations by 20 and 25 per cent respectively.

Similarly, grade C there was 25 per cent increase in retainer; 34 per cent increase in Test match fee, 50 and 67 per cent increase in ODI and T20 International match fees respectively.

As per the website report, one of the senior players have already registered his protest with PCB, Director - International Cricket Zakir Khan and requested for an increase in match fee of Category A players.

While Zakir has given no such assurance, the senior cricketer is confident that the board will not decline his request.

The report said that the PCB had denied that any cricketer had complained to them about their match fees.

## Srinagar's Grand Warriors Academy Bags 4 Medals In Open Kashmir Mega Event

### Jamil Ansari

**SRINAGAR:** Grand Warriors Academy of Martial Arts bagged 4 medals in different categories in Open Kashmir Mega event in which about 500 athletes from different districts and clubs participated.

The Open Kashmir Mega event, which was held at Old City Srinagar's Mother Land School from August 8 to August 11, and was organised by International Tigers Martial Art. In the event, the 4-member team of Grand Warriors from Srinagar led by the team coach Aftab Khan, under the supervision of the Senior Coach Adil Hussain Khan, won 4 medals in different weight categories.

Senior Grand Warriors coach Adil Hussain reflecting on the achievements said, "It has been just one week since we started our academy. Thanks to almighty Allah that our dedication and hard work paid off, it is a matter of great pride that Grand Warriors earned the four medals."

"Earlier one of our players Munshi Masooma



participated in District Pencak Silat Championship and secured Silver medal. She has now been selected for upcoming state championship," the senior coach said.

"We worked very hard for this and got the estimated results,"

team coach Aftab Khan said.

The Grand Warriors who won medals in the Open Kashmir competition include, Suhail who bagged the Silver medal, Emad who took the Silver medal, Arooj won the bronze medal while Sameer won the bronze medal.

## Lionel Messi Eyes Champions League Glory With PSG

### Agencies

**PARIS:** Lionel Messi said he's "in the right place" to win another Champions League trophy and cited a reunion with Neymar as a key factor in his decision to sign with Paris Saint-Germain.

The 34-year-old Argentina star spoke at his introductory news conference at Parc des Princes stadium on Wednesday, the morning after signing a two-year deal with the option for a third season after leaving Barcelona.

"My goal and dream is to raise another Champion's (League Trophy) and I believe that I am in the right place to have the best chances to achieve that," Messi said. "When you see this squad, you really want to play with them because there are so many possibilities," he added. "We have the same goal. And Neymar of course did a lot and was important for my choice."

Qatari-backed PSG has been desperate to win the Champions League, falling just short when it lost the 2020 final to Bayern Munich. Messi helped Barcelona win four Champions League trophies.

Messi's arrival gives PSG formidable attacking options as he links up with not only Neymar — his



former teammate at Barcelona — but also France World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe.

"I'm going to play with best players, it's very nice, it's incredible to be able to experience this," Messi said when asked about playing with Mbappe and Neymar.

Besides Neymar, he specifically cited Argentina teammates and PSG players Angel di Maria and Leandro Paredes.

"Obviously, one of the reasons (I came) was the locker room: Neymar, Di Maria, Paredes, whom I know."

Messi said he is "ready" to start playing with PSG, which hosts

Strasbourg on Saturday night.

"When I feel it, when the staff thinks I'm ok, I'll be ready. I'm willing to play," he said.

Messi became the most high-profile free agent in soccer history after his attempts to stay at Barcelona were rejected last week by the Spanish league because the salary would not comply with financial regulations, with the Catalan club burdened by debts of more than 1.2 billion euros (\$1.4 billion).

PSG moved quickly to sign the Argentina star. The team, Messi said, "positioned themselves and everything went really fast and it was easy. It happened in little

time. It was a difficult situation and they were efficient."

PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino quickly made contact with his fellow Argentine after Barcelona announced last Thursday that Messi would be leaving the club he joined as a 13-year-old boy. Messi won every major honor with Barcelona and was granted a tearful exit news conference on Sunday to signal the end of an era. Only Cristiano Ronaldo in the current era challenges Messi's status as an all-time great.

While PSG had to pay 222 million euros (then \$261 million) to sign Neymar from Barcelona in 2017, there was no transfer fee for Messi.

No salary details were given, but a person with knowledge of the negotiations earlier told The Associated Press that Messi is set to earn around 35 million euros (\$41 million) net annually. The person said on condition of anonymity before the contract was signed.

PSG will be hoping not only that Messi helps the team regain the French title it lost to Lille last season but finally win the Champions League.

Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi praised "a historic day for the club, football world and it is a fantastic moment for us."



## Parliament Passes Constitutional Amendment Bill On OBC List



Agenceis

A constitutional amendment bill to restore the powers of the states to make their own OBC lists was passed by Parliament on Wednesday.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed by the Rajya Sabha as 187 members voted in its favour. The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha a day before.

Some amendments moved by the opposition were negated by the Upper House.

The bill was passed after a division vote with 187 members voting in favour. No member voted against it.

Earlier in the day, Social Justice and Empowerment

Minister Virendra Kumar who moved the bill said the legislation will help restore the powers of states to have their own lists of OBCs which was negated by the Supreme Court.

The Rajya Sabha, which has been witnessing a logjam over issues such as Pegasus and farm laws, on Wednesday discussed the bill for about five hours as members from both treasury as well as opposition benches participated in it. As per Article 368 of the Constitution, a constitution amendment bill requires a special majority for passage in both Houses of Parliament.

There should be a majority of the total membership of the House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting.

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## IndiGo Starts Priority Boarding Facility For Passengers



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** IndiGo on Wednesday said it has started a priority boarding facility for its passengers so that they can avoid longer queues at the boarding gates in airports.

"The customers can book this service on IndiGo website, mobile app or via the call centre during the booking process or add it later through My Bookings portal at a nominal cost of Rs 400 per passenger per flight," a statement issued by the private carrier noted.

The service will be available on domestic travel between the

metro cities initially and will be opened for the entire domestic network in a phased manner, the largest airline of the country said.

"The option (of priority boarding) will be available for a limited number of passengers per flight on a first-come-first-serve basis," it noted.

IndiGo's chief strategy and revenue officer Sanjay Kumar said the airline is always striving to enhance the travel experience for its customers.

"The priority boarding will not only help customers save time at boarding gates, but also ensure comfort for families and senior citizens," he stated. — PTI

**THE PRIORITY BOARDING WILL** not only help customers save time at boarding gates, but also ensure comfort for families and senior citizens."

## Opposition Leaders Meet To Discuss Strategy On Pegasus, Other Issues



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Opposition leaders from various parties, including the Congress, the DMK and the Trinamool Congress, met on Wednesday to evolve a joint strategy on the Pegasus snooping row and other issues.

About 14 parties were represented at the meeting held in the chamber of leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, opposition

sources said.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi also attended the discussions.

The parties whose leaders were present at the meeting also included the Samajwadi Party, the Shiv Sena, the National Conference, the NCP, CPM, RJD, CPI, IUML, RSP, VCK, and the IJD.

Besides, Punjab MPs from the Congress and the Akali Dal staged a protest in Parliament complex in support of farmers seeking a

repeal of the new agri laws.

The Lok Sabha functioned normally for the first time on Tuesday when members of the opposition participated in the discussion on the Constitution Amendment bill to allow states to have their own lists of OBCs.

The opposition has been demanding a discussion in Parliament on the Pegasus snooping issue and have been disrupting the proceedings of the House for the past three weeks in support of their demand.

## Amid Decline In Covid Cases, Patients Return To Hospitals With Requests For Elective Surgeries

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** As coronavirus cases decline in the national capital, hospitals in Delhi-NCR are seeing patients returning to them for elective surgeries, with some of them saying the current situation is almost similar to the pre-Covid time.

However, the medical facilities said patients put forth special demands like less hospital visits and single room stay as they are still fearful of contracting Covid.

Dr Gurinder Bedi, director and HOD, orthopedic and joint replacement, Fortis Hospital in Vasant Kunj, said the hospital OPDs are back to normal and in some cases, even better placed than how they were in the pre-Covid era.

The senior doctor said the hospital has seen an increase in joint replacement surgeries, spine surgeries for chronic low backache.

"There is a colossal change in the last six to eight weeks. There is also a fear of the third wave and people are more pragmatic thinking that there is a window and they should get issues sorted out," he said.

Dr Sumeet Shah, director - Minimal Access and Bariatric Surgery - PSRI Hospital, concurred with Bedi and said that there was definitely a

dip in the number of elective surgeries during the second wave of Covid but since the number of coronavirus cases have come down significantly the elective surgery numbers are now almost close to the pre-Covid levels.

"There are multiple reasons for it, people sense that there is a gap in the Covid cases and this provides them the right opportunity to get operated on," he said.

Since many patients had already delayed their surgeries, they had reached the point where the surgery could not be delayed further, he said.

"Like we have seen cases of patients suffering from piles where patients reached to us when their condition became severe with their haemoglobin was as low as five. Consequently, we had to admit them just to restore their hemoglobin level and post that we operated on them," Dr Shah said.

"There can be a significant risk in such cases. Similarly, we have patients with gall-bladder stone, hernia who delayed their surgeries and reached the stage where it became an emergency kind of situation," he added.

Dr Kousar A Shah, COO, Aakash Healthcare in Dwarka, said since mid-May,

the hospital has seen a 50 to 70 per cent increase in elective surgeries.

"The increase has been across all the departments, but some departments like orthopaedics have seen more elective surgeries. Although the number of elective surgeries never went to zero, we are seeing more than 50 per cent to 70 per cent rise now," he added.

Dr Nitin Arora, senior consultant, general surgery, Paras Healthcare in Gurgaon, said there has been a 200 per cent increase in elective surgeries.

"There is an interesting shift in the demands of patients. Earlier, they would say that we should not discharge them early or before they have fully recovered but now they want a minimum stay in hospital and ask whether the surgery can be done early in the day and they can be discharged before night. We are allowing patients to stay at the hospital for less time," he said.

Bedi said patients usually want the number of hospital visits to be kept low.

"A large number of patients are opting for single rooms despite the cost being higher. They also inquire whether the physiotherapy after the surgery can be done at home or the dressing change can happen at their home," he added. — PTI

## Travel Rules Ease, Indian Students See Record Entries To UK Universities

Agenceis

**LONDON:** A record number of 3,200 students from India have been accepted onto UK universities and higher education courses through the country's centralised application system in 2021, marking an increase of 19 per cent over the previous year.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) acceptance figures, released on Tuesday, come days after India was moved off the Red List COVID-19 travel ban on to Amber.

This would have a big impact on Indian students planning to travel to Britain to take up their courses as they no longer need to quarantine in a government-managed facility for 10 days at considerable additional cost.

Instead, they can quarantine for the required 10 days at a chosen destination, which for many will be their university accommodation, or a friend or family home address.

"We know India being moved from the Red to Amber list will be a significant and welcome move for those Indian students due to travel to the UK soon. Those students should stay in touch with their university and be aware of the latest procedure for amber list arrivals to ensure a smooth arrival," said Vivienne Stern, Director of Universities UK International, which represents over 140 universities.

"UK universities are preparing to give a warm welcome to Indian students this autumn. Students have shown a great amount of patience and resilience in sticking with their plans to study overseas and we look forward to welcoming them, and welcoming them back, to our campuses and university communities," she said.

India was moved off the Red List at 4 am local time on Sunday and under the Amber List rules, all vaccinated travellers must fill in the compulsory passenger locator form to provide an address where they would be undergoing the 10-day self-isolation.

All Amber List arrivals will need to have a negative COVID-19 test before travelling, as well as take a COVID test on Day 2 and Day 8 of their quarantine. In England, there is the option of paying for

a test on Day 5, which if negative, will allow students to end their quarantine early.

"We welcome the news that for one of our largest international markets, India has been moved from the UK's Red to Amber List," said Kerry Law, Chief Marketing & Engagement Officer at the University of Leicester - which has a large Indian student population.

"The move to the Amber List is great news for our large number of Indian students and means that alongside no longer needing to quarantine they also won't have any delays to arrival and can engage and adapt to life on campus," she said.

"To ensure we welcome students and give them a great experience as we have extended our welcome by an additional week and have developed online transition support for all new starters," she added.

The National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK had been raising the plight of Indian students facing additional compulsory hotel quarantine costs of 1,750 pounds under the Red List.

It led to Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla setting aside 10 crores to assist Indian students who may face additional costs as Covishield - the India-made Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine - does not fall within the UK-approved vaccines ambit for quarantine-free travel to the UK under the Amber List.

"We are absolutely thrilled to see the numbers of Indian students accepted onto courses via UCAS go up by nearly a fifth as part of the overall significant increase in the numbers choosing to come to the UK to study," said NISAU UK Chairperson Sanam Arora.

"The UK now offers a wonderful proposition for Indian students - world-class education, a great post-study work offer, and through NISAU a home away from home for Indian students, which I can proudly say is a distinct offering for Indians going abroad to study," she said.

The UK's new post-study or Graduate route visa, which came in force in July, offers students the chance to stay on for two years after completing their degree course to be able to gather work experience.

## Gujarat: BJP MP's Purported Sleaze Video Goes Viral; Cops Detain 2 For Questioning



Agenceis

**Palanpur:** Police in Gujarat have registered an FIR against two persons and detained them after a video purportedly showing BJP MP Parbatbhai Patel in a compromising position with a woman went viral on social media even as the parliamentarian claimed the clip was doctored, said an official on Wednesday.

The FIR was lodged on Tuesday at the Tharad police station of Banaskantha district on a complaint given by the MP's son, Shailesh Patel, said Deputy Superintendent of Police P H Chaudhary, adding the Local Crime Branch (LCB) is probing the case.

Parbatbhai Patel (72), the Lok Sabha MP from Banaskantha, denied any wrongdoing and claimed the video has been doctored, and his face superimposed on the person seen in the clip, while his family alleged a conspiracy to extort money and defame them.

"In his complaint, Shailesh Patel has alleged that his father's edited video was made viral on social media by the two accused - Magha Patel and Mukesh Rajput (both detained) as part of a pre-planned conspiracy.

"We have lodged an FIR under sections 389 (extortion), 500 (defamation), criminal conspiracy (120-B) of the IPC and under relevant sections of the IT Act," he said.

Evidence collected so far suggests there was a conspiracy to malign the MP's image and extort money from him through the video, said the DySP.

In the one-minute video, a man resembling Parbatbhai Patel can be seen hugging a woman on a sofa and getting intimate. It appears they were aware about the presence of some other persons in

the room, including the one who was shooting the video.

According to Chaudhary, Magha Patel had earlier threatened on his Facebook page that he will "publish a video of Banaskantha's top politician on August 15".

Then on Tuesday, the same video, purportedly featuring Parbatbhai Patel, was shared in a WhatsApp group by Mukesh Rajput, he said.

"Both (Magha Patel and Rajput) were shown as accused in the FIR. They were detained for questioning by the LCB. Evidence given by the complainant and collected from the social media by police primarily establish that there was a conspiracy to malign the MP's image and extort money from him through this video," said the DySP.

He added that the video will be sent for forensic analysis to find out its authenticity.

Shailesh Patel told reporters that the video has been used for defaming his father and to extort money.

"Magha Patel has been threatening to release the video for some time. This is an edited video created only to defame my father. This is a conspiracy and the accused had earlier demanded money in exchange for not releasing the video," said Shailesh Patel. Parbatbhai Patel, who had previously served as a minister in the BJP government in Gujarat, claimed the video has been edited by superimposing his face on the person seen in the clip.

"Everyone knows about my character. I never indulged in any wrongdoings in my entire life. It is possible that my photo was used for making such an edited video.

"People have been trying to extort money from me since 2016 for this video. I had challenged them to release it if they want to," said the Lok Sabha MP. — PTI

## District Volleyball Association Anantnag



On 5th August, 1st semifinal in Boys Section was played between Spartak Ang. and Srigufwara Sport, in which the latter beat the former 3:0 — 25-21, 25-23, 25-20.



In 2nd semifinal, Ball Bustor beat Harnag Club 3:0 — 25-23, 25-21, 25-18.

In Girls Section, final match was played between Ang A and Ang B, in which the former won the match

3:0 — 25-14, 25-15, 25-17.

Mr. Tariq Ahmad Veeri, an NGO head, distributed the prizes—Rs 5,000 among winners, and Rs 3,000 among runners-up. He promises 40 uniforms to Boys Section.