



## Widom Quote!

When you get tired, learn to rest, not quit.  
—Banksy

## Kashmir Painted In Tricolour On I-Day



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In an unprecedented move the Jammu and Kashmir administration has directed all government and semi-government departments and

educational institutions to hoist tricolour this Sunday to mark the 75th Independence day.

"Independence Day will be celebrated in all schools. Directions should be conveyed to all the CEOs, Principals/

headmasters to host the national flag at all schools. Videos and photos of the function will be uploaded on Google drive," reads a circular issued by the J&K government.

Though all [More On P10](#)

## Covid Not Yet Over, Get Vaccinated: Prez Kovind

Agenceis

**New Delhi:** President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday said the coronavirus pandemic is not yet over and urged the people to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour.

Addressing the nation on the eve of 75th Independence Day, President Kovind said that the coronavirus is still here and has not gone away and one must not let the guard down.

Noting that the vaccine is the best possible protection, he said, "We are yet to come out of the devastating effects of its recurrence this year. Last year, with exceptional efforts from all, we had succeeded in bringing the spread of infections under control. Our scientists had succeeded in developing vaccines in a very short time."

He also said that at the beginning of this year, the largest vaccination exercise in the history of the world was launched, urging the people to get vaccinated. [More On P10](#)

## India, Pakistan Troops Exchange Sweets Along LoC



Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Army personnel on Saturday greeted their

Pakistani counterparts on their nation's Independence Day and exchanged sweets along the [More On P10](#)

## Aug 14 Is Partition Horrors Remembrance Day: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Saturday that August 14 will be observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in the memory of the struggles and sacrifices of people, saying the pain of partition can never be forgotten. [More On P10](#)

## NEWS DIGEST



### Gujjar Leader Mian Bashir Passes Away

**SRINAGAR:** Veteran Gujjar leader Mian Bashir Ahmed passed away late on Saturday after a protracted illness. He was 98. Mian Bashir breathed his last at his native village Wangat Kangan. [More On P10](#)

### Unclaimed Bag Sparks Bomb Scare

**JAMMU:** An unclaimed bag triggered bomb scare on Saturday in Satwari area near the high security Jammu Airport. According to reports, cops at a checkpoint noticed an unclaimed bag lying near Satwari Chowk, barely a few metres short of the airport and the Jammu Air Force Base. The abandoned black [More On P10](#)

### Train Service To Remain Suspended Today

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities have decided to suspend train services from Banihal-Baramulla and vice-versa in Kashmir Valley on August 15. Official sources said that police and concerned authorities have been informed about the decision by the railway administration. (GNS)

### Explosive Device Defused In Kishtwar

**JAMMU:** An explosive device was detected by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Saturday, averting a major tragedy, officials said. The explosive device was found during patrolling by security forces in the [More On P10](#)

## Celebrations Amid Massive Security Bandobast

Izhar Nazir Ali

**SRINAGAR:** Police and paramilitary forces on Saturday carried out surprise checks, rampant frisking and identification parades in most parts of the Kashmir Valley on the eve of I-day celebrations amid apprehensions of militant attacks.

According to reports, Police and CRPF personnel further



intensified the security apparatus in Srinagar and other

parts of Valley to ensure trouble [More On P10](#)

## Govt Orders Preservation, Protection Of Migrant Property

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday issued instructions to the administration to preserve and protect Kashmiri migrants' immovable property and removal of encroachments there from.

The directions were passed by the Administrative Council which met under the chairmanship of LG here on Saturday, an official spokesperson said.

To streamline the preservation and protection efforts, he said, the AC also approved the proposal of Revenue Department to confer powers of Commissioners upon the Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir Division under the Agrarian Reforms Act.

"Further, the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction was directed to develop an online portal for facilitating [More On P10](#)

## CRPF Man Injured In Grenade Attack

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man was injured on Saturday in a grenade attack by militants in Sanat Nagar area of this capital city.

Around 8:55 pm Saturday, unknown militants lobbed a grenade towards a CRPF party at Sanat Nagar Chowk leaving one security personal injured, officials said. The injured CRPF man was removed to the nearby hospital for [More On P10](#)

## J&K's Education Infrastructure Among Best In India: LG



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Terming the education infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir among the best in the country, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said

Saturday that his administration is transforming the education ecosystem, opening up new opportunities for the youth to take up innovative challenges and be the change maker "J&K is among [More On P10](#)

## Hails 'Sacrifices' Of Kashmir Police

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said he is proud of the Jammu and Kashmir Police's bravery and the sacrifices made by the force in defending the sovereignty of the country. The LG's remarks came after Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel were awarded gallantry awards including [More On P10](#)

## Neighbouring Country Instigating Our Youth: LG

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday urged "misguided youngsters" to return on the path of peace and progress and live their lives with dignity in the pious soil of Jammu and Kashmir. [Read LG's full address on kashmiroobserver.net](#)

## J&K Sees 156 Recoveries, 135 Cases

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** As many as 156 coronavirus infected people recovered in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday while 135 fresh cases of virus were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to

officials, J&K witnessed more recoveries than cases as 156 more patients infected by Covid-19 recovered, 64 from Jammu division and 92 from Kashmir Valley. During the same time, officials said, 135 new cases of Covid-19 were reported from J&K—98 from the Valley and the [More On P10](#)



## Study reveals new findings for metabolic rates at different ages of life

Agencies

A new study suggested that metabolism, the rate at which we burn calories, actually peaks much earlier and starts its inevitable decline later than we might think. The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Science'. "As we age, there are a lot of physiological changes that occur in the phases of our life such as during puberty and in menopause. What's odd is that the timing of our 'metabolic life stages' doesn't appear to match the markers we associate with growing up and getting older," said study co-author Jennifer Rood, PhD, Associate Executive Director for Cores and Resources at Pennington Biomedical Research Center. Four Pennington Biomedical researchers were part of an international team of scientists who analysed the average calories burned by more than 6,600 people as they went about their daily lives.

The participants' ages ranged from one week old to 95 years, and they lived in 29 different countries. The other Pennington Biomedical scientists are Peter Katzmarzyk, PhD, Associate Executive Director for Population and Public Health Sciences; Corby Martin, PhD, Professor and Director, Ingestive Behavior Laboratory; and Eric Ravussin, PhD, Associate Executive Director for Clinical Science. Most previous large-scale studies measured how much energy the body uses for basic vital functions - breathing, digesting, and pumping blood - the calories you need just to stay alive. But basic functions account for just 50 per cent to 70 per cent of the calories we burn each day. They don't include the energy we spend doing everything else: washing the dishes, walking the dog, breaking a sweat at the gym, even just thinking or fidgeting. To come up with a number for total

daily energy expenditure, the researchers turned to the "doubly labelled water" method. It's a urine test that involves having a person drink water in which the hydrogen and oxygen in the water molecules have been replaced with naturally occurring "heavy" forms, and then measures how quickly they're flushed out. Scientists have used the technique - considered the gold standard for measuring daily energy expenditure during normal daily life outside of the lab - to measure energy expenditure in humans since the 1980s. But previous studies were limited in size and scope due to cost. To get around that limitation, multiple labs shared their data in a single database, to see if they could tease out truths hidden or only hinted at in previous studies. Pooling and analysing energy expenditures across the entire lifespan revealed some surprises.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO DEAREST



MYRA ZEHRA

Happiest First Birthday To Our Beloved Daughter, your Presence In Our Lives Have Given Us A Reason To Smile Better And You Surely Have Become A Reason Of Making Our Lives Happier, wishing A Long Healthy And Happy Life To You.

FROM

Pyaraa Baba, Mamma, Badee Mama, Papa Ji, Ameer Jaan, Maamu, Mayee And All Near And Dears, Hamdania Colony, Sector 12 Bemina

### Architecture & Designs

**Archi Designs**  
 Architecture, Structure, Interiors designs and Private Contracts  
 Chinnar Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar  
 Contact:-9018381436/7006897503

### Computers

**Maces computers**  
 Ground floor & 1<sup>st</sup> floor Polo view Srinagar  
 Contact:-01942457988

**Maces computers**  
 Contact:-01942457988

**Maces computers**  
 Contact:-01942457988

### Crockery and Gift items

**Heaven Crockery**  
 Main Market Dalgate Srinagar  
 Contact:-9906629707

### Electronics

**10X Mobile Store**  
 Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar  
 Contact:-7889657769

**Pleasure**  
 1<sup>st</sup> floor Akhara, Bldg, Budshah Chowk, Srinagar.  
 Contact:-9622693484

**Adnan Electronics**  
 Furniture Market Babodhem Srinagar  
 Contact:-8493957698

**Off Complus**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Chnander Chinnar Bldg Regal Chowk Srinagar  
 Contact:-9419069964/9797000252

**Mobile Accessories**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Chnander Chinnar Bldg Regal Chowk Srinagar  
 Contact:-9622430737

**Tech World**  
 All Mobile and Electronic Accessories  
 Xerox also available.  
 Sannat Nagar Srinagar  
 Contact:-9103119812.

### Electrical

**Butt Co**  
 Dalgate Srinagar  
 Contact:-9419071159

**Punjoo trading Co**  
 Nowhata Chowk Srinagar  
 Contact:-9796370068/7006045451

### Furniture & Fixtures

**Gulfam Furniture**  
 New Road Bagwaan pora Srinagar  
 Contact:-9419001154

**Sunny Furniture**  
 Nakashpora Barbarshah Srinagar  
 Contact:-9469323572

### Provisional Stores

**C. P Needs**  
 Dalgate, Srinagar  
 Contact:-9419064835

### Stationeries

**Media Stationers**  
 Dalgate Near CD Hospital Srinagar  
 Contact:-7006083439

**SALOONS & SPA**  
**Creators Salon For Men**  
 Hair/Spa/Beauty  
 Sannat nagar Srinagar  
 Contact:-9103119812

### Government of Jammu and Kashmir Public Works (R&B) Department (HRM- SECTION) CIVIL SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR

Subject: Acceptance of diploma in Civil Engineering acquired by Mr. Maroof Chowdhary, Draftsman (Civil), PW(R&B) Circle Rajouri and inclusion of his name in the relevant seniority list.

#### NOTICE INVITING OBJECTIONS

Whereas, the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B), Jammu vide Letter No. CEJ/ Etdr/ S/ 329-30 dated 25.05.2021 has forwarded the case of Mr. Maroof Chowdhary, Draftsman (Civil), PW(R&B) Circle, Rajouri for acceptance of his Diploma in Civil Engineering and inclusion in the seniority list of diploma holder Draftsman whose particulars are given below:-

S. No.	Name with Designation	Date Recd.	Date of Appl. as Draftsman	Name of Board/University	Date of passing Diploma
1	Maroof Chowdhary, Draftsman (Civil)	22.05.2021	01.07.2019	Punjab State Board of Technical Education & Industrial Training	12.02.2014

Whereas, the Diploma/merit certificates of the official were forwarded to the Registrar, Punjab State Board of Technical Education & Industrial Training, Chandigarh on 23.03.2021 for verification of genuineness. In response the Registrar of the said Board vide No. PSB/ Verification/ 2021/ 988 dated 09.06.2021 has verified the genuineness of the Diploma acquired by the above named Draftsman.

Whereas, the above incumbents has also produced undertaking affirming that in case any information about his Diploma is found fraudulent/ bogus at any time during service, the same shall be deemed to be cancelled ab-initio and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against them in terms of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1958.

Whereas, it has been found that there is a case to accept his Diploma from the date of passing Diploma and also include his name at appropriate place in the relevant seniority lists of Draftsman (Civil) Diploma Holders as and when the same is notified afloat.

Now, therefore before acceptance of the Diploma in Civil Engineering acquired by Mr. Maroof Chowdhary, Draftsman (Civil) and subsequent inclusion of his name at appropriate place in the relevant seniority lists, objections are invited from the members of the cadre who are likely to be affected due to decision of the department, which should reach in the Administrative Department through concerned Chief Engineer by Post or by e-mail to [pwrcs@rediffmail.com](mailto:pwrcs@rediffmail.com) within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance/publication of the notice. No claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained after expiry of stipulated time period.

DIPK-6646/21

(Rajni) Kumar KAS  
 Additional Secretary to Government  
 Public Works (R&B) Department  
 Dated: 13.08.2021.

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PROCUREMENT CIRCLE, KPDCI KASHMIR 190018

Web Site: [www.pmpddjk.org](http://www.pmpddjk.org), Tele/Fax: 0194-2493881, email: [epc2ndsrinagar@gmail.com](mailto:epc2ndsrinagar@gmail.com)

#### e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

1) e-NIT No: SE/Proc/11/2021-22.

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCI Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Procurement Circle, KPDCI Kashmir invites online e-bids from Govt. registered original equipment manufacturers for supply of **Bamboo Ladders and Aluminium Ladders** as depicted below for the requirement of KPDCI:

S. No	Material Description	FOR ECSD Srinagar (No's)	Reference to e-NIT
1	Bamboo Ladder	3000	SE/Proc/11/2021-22
2	Aluminum Ladder	300	

The complete tender document is available at website <http://ktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of Tender Document	13.08.2021; 18:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	04.09.2021; 14:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clarifications	14.08.2021; 10:00 Hrs to 17.08.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	18.08.2021; 10:00 Hrs to 04.09.2021; 14:00 Hrs
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date & Time	06.09.2021 in the office of Chief Engineer Planning and Procurement Bemina Srinagar 190018.
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	07.09.2021; 14:00 Hrs
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Soft Copy Electronically
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) for local firms of J&K and Rs.3000.00 (Rupees Three Thousand Only) for firms outside J&K against NIT No. SE/Proc/11/2021-22 (Non-refundable).
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	The bid security shall be as per D.O. No: 9/4/2020-PPD dated 12.11.2020 of Govt. Of India endorsed by Govt. of UT of J&K vide no: A/Misc (2018)-III-895/J dated 22.12.2020.

DIPK-NB-2596/21

Sd/  
 Superintending Engineer  
 Procurement (KPDCI)

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

#### BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th under Below mentioned particulars  
 Name : Muzamil Nazir  
 S/o Nazir Ahmad Parray  
 R/o Sozeith Narbal Crossing



Details of Marks Certificate lost  
 Secondary School Examination (class 10 th )  
 Roll No 2422290 Session /Year Annual 2017

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
 Sub Office Magam

### Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

#### NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Bilal Ahmad Hurrab S/o: Mohd Maqbool Hurrab R/o: Tilsara chhari Sharief Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E1185 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K State Co operative Bank B/U Chhari Sharief.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3067  
 Dated 14-08-2021  
 Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

### JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Solina Srinagar, Kashmir - 190001

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>  
 email: [jkpscsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:jkpscsecretary@gmail.com)

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530  
 Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

Subject: Representation submitted by Dr. Zafrah - consideration thereof.

#### NOTICE

Dated: 13-08-2021

Whereas, 02 posts (OM=1, SC=1) of Lecturer Pathology in Health & Medical Education Department were advertised vide Notification No. 08-PSC (DR-P) of 2019 dated 20.05.2019 and 09-PSC (DR-P) of 2019 dated 08.07.2019 and the interview for the said post was conducted on 30.07.2021.

Whereas, among others, one Dr. Zafrah was also called for interview for the post of Lecturer Pathology in GMC Srinagar in reference to the above Notifications, under OM Category, on 30.07.2021.

Whereas, as per the provisions of the J&K Public Service Commission (Business & Procedure) Rules, 1980, as amended from time to time, the performance of the candidate is to be assessed by the Interview Board with respect to parameters viz Research & Publication & Participation & Presentation in Seminars/Conferences/Workshops, on the basis of findings of Experts on the panel at the time of interview of the candidate(s).

Whereas, Dr. Zafrah had submitted "Certificate of Presentation" of 16th Congress of the Asian Society of Transplantation, (CAST 2019) dated 29.06.2019 to 02.12.2019 before the Interview Board.

Whereas, the Experts on the panel of the Interview Board have found that the above certificate presented by the Dr. Zafrah is without title, and as such the said certificate was not accepted for award of weightage.

Whereas, the select list for the post of Lecturer Pathology in GMC Srinagar has been issued on 06.08.2021 vide Notification No. 40-PSC (DR-S) of 2021 dated 06.08.2021. The cut of merit for the post of Lecturer Pathology in GMC Srinagar, under OM Category, is 62.95 and Dr. Zafrah with 62.25 points has not made it to the select list.

Whereas, Dr. Zafrah submitted a representation before the Commission on 09.08.2021 claiming weightage on account of the "Certificate of presentation" in the CAST 2019 which she had presented before the Interview board, along with a set of documents (Souvenir) which she has now enclosed with the representation, and which were not presented at the time of interview.

Whereas, as per the Explanation (ii) below the heading Selection Committee of Rule 51 of J&K Public Service Commission (Business & Procedure) Rules, 1980, amended from time to time, no document whatsoever can be entertained after the interview is over.

#### EXPLANATION:

"production of documents like publications, books, seminars, presentation, experience and special attributes shall not be entertained whatsoever after the interview is over"

Whereas, Dr. Zafrah had presented only the "Certificate of the Presentation" CAST 2019 at the time of interview and the same was without title and as no other document in support of the said certificate was presented before the interview board, therefore, these documents cannot be entertained after the interview is already over in light of the above rule position.

Now, therefore, the representation of Dr. Zafrah having being considered has been found devoid of any merit and is accordingly rejected.  
 No: DR/PSC/Lectt./Pathology/2017  
 Dated:- 08-2021

DIPK-6643/21

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





**COMMUTERS AND MOTORISTS WERE SUBJECTED TO FRISKING IN SRINAGAR CITY** on Saturday as the authorities beefed up security arrangements on the eve of August 15 events. KO Photo Abid Bha

## Div Com Reviews Developmental Projects, Takes Stock Of Muharram Arrangements

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Saturday visited Imam Bara Zaidal and Shrine of Mir Shamsud-Din Iraqi (R.A) to take stock of arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of mourning processions and religious gatherings during the ongoing month of

smooth passage of mourners during the night hours.

SMC Commissioner was instructed to ensure proper maintenance of sanitation and cleanliness and regular lifting of garbage and its disposal in the area and other Shia dominated areas of Srinagar. Health authorities were directed to ensure a team of doctors along with an



Muharram-ul-Haram.

During visit, the Div Com also took stock of the progress on various ongoing developmental works being executed by departments including Tourism, PWD and JKPC. He directed concerned to expedite the pace of work and ensure all works are completed in a time bound manner.

The Div Com emphasised on putting all arrangements at both sites to ensure smooth conduct of religious gatherings and mourning processions during the holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

He instructed concerned to ensure uninterrupted water and electricity supplies in the area. Besides instruction were given for arranging additional gen-set facility for power back up.

The Div Com stressed on repairing of roads and installation of street lights at all required spots on war footing to ensure

ambulance is deployed to facilitate better medical supplies besides arrangements for sanitizers and face masks is made available to the devotees during the processions.

The Div Com urged people to follow Covid Appropriate Behaviour during gatherings as is the need of the hour to contain the spread of Coronavirus.

During his visit, the Div Com also met a local delegation led by General Secretary All J&K Shia Association, Abid Hussain Ansari, appraising him about the progress of ongoing works and regarding the issue and demands of locals and Imam Bara and Shrine bodies.

The demands included extension of Imam bara premises, rehabilitation of affected families and development of parks.

The Div Com assured the delegation that all its genuine demands shall be looked into and addressed on priority.

## KPC Organises Covid Vaccination Drive For Journalists

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Press Club (KPC) in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Kashmir, on Saturday organised the second dose of vaccination drive for journalists at the premises of KPC in Srinagar.

The media fraternity reiterated the demand that the journalists should be considered as frontline workers. Dr Shabeela, in charge of the vaccination drive said that the Health Department Kashmir in collaboration with the KPC on Saturday organised the second dose of vaccination for the journalist fraternity.

"The purpose of the vaccination is the message for all sections of the society to get vaccinated, there are still some sections of people who show hesitancy towards vaccines,"

Shabeela said.

"Many awareness programs are being held, after rumours were spread about the vaccine, however people now understand the importance of vaccines and are coming forward for vaccination," she said. Bilal Furqani, senior journalist during the vaccination drive, said that given the profession, we have to be at ground zero to report all the happenings, but despite that journalists are not considered as frontline workers.

"It is always challenging and risky to report pandemics from ground zero, though in many parts of the country journalists have been given the status of frontline workers but we are still behind. Government should really give a thought on it and should consider journalists as front line warriors," Furqani said.

## 'Our Woes Do Not End': Stench Creating Distress Sale, Departure In Achan

From Downtown Areas To Lal Bazar, The Smell Is All Over The Place

Syed Burhan

Srinagar: LIVING in the immediate vicinity of the Srinagar's only garbage dumping yard—Achan—Tariq Bhat is eager to show the house his neighbour had to sell off.

"This is the house Gulam Mohammad sold recently," Tariq points his fingers towards the house. "He did not find the vicinity liveable anymore because of the garbage dumped in the locality."

Tariq's neighbour had to sell his two-storied house with around six marlas of land at a meagre amount of Rs 32 lakh.

"Land in our locality has lost its value," continues visibly angry Tariq. "Here a kanal of land sells at around Rs 80 lakh, whereas in the nearby Zoonimar area it sells at more than double the price here."

Behind the distress sale and the silent departure from one of the most reported city pockets is the unbearable stench which often leaves the residents gasping for breath.

"Our woes do not end here," Tariq says. "We can't open windows of our rooms due to strong stench. And whenever we do open our windows, there're flies all over the place."

People living in the locality complain of chest-related complications. Tariq puts the blame on Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) for not adhering to Health and Medical protocols while dumping the garbage.

"In the past," he says, "I have myself thought of leaving this place for good."

However, before the present day controversial dumping yard created what locals call "mess and migration", Achan was a mesmerising landscape, recalls Abdul Majid, a native turning nostalgic about "good old days".

"During my childhood days," says Majid, a man in his fifties, "we used to go fishing in the fresh waters here. But since the day dumping of garbage started, all good things of this place have vanished. It's a mountain of garbage now and is not worth living."

Even though he does not remember the names of people who have vacated their homes in the recent years, Majid does acknowledge there's a migration taking place.

"In the last few years many people have left this place after authorities turned Achan into a living hell for natives," he says. "This land used to be the property of revenue department and it was acquired by the SMC for dumping garbage. Since then there has been no end to our woes."

Holding a copy of government order, with vide order no. 9942, dated 13-01-2010, in his hand, Nazir Ahmad, who heads the Mohalla Committee Saidpora Achan, remembers how a decade ago the office of the Assistant Commissioner Public Works Department notified the area as no construction zone.

"After government notified the area, it lost the value it had," Nazir says.

Three decades back, when Na-



zir moved from Karan Nagar to this place, it used to be a locality of around 20 households.

"But now, even as there're more than 250 households here, dog population has overtaken the human populace. The situation is so bad that even our relatives don't come to our place."

Like others, Nazir regrets moving to Achan saying that authorities had promised the locals that they would be relocated but no concrete steps were taken.

"In the past, SMC used to provide us with things like brooms and phenyl, but now it has all stopped," Nazir says. "They are at odds with the locals."

There're only two ways about it now, he says—"Either the authorities should relocate us which seems unlikely, or they should stop dumping

**"DURING MY CHILDHOOD DAYS,"** says Majid, a man in his fifties, "we used to go fishing in the fresh waters here. But since the day dumping of garbage started, all good things of this place have vanished. It's a mountain of garbage now and is not worth living."

garbage here."

Nazir even wrote to the heads of SKIMS and Chest Diseases Hospital to hold a camp in Achan for studying the impact of garbage dumping on the health of locals "but all my pleas fell on the deaf ears".

Exasperated by the pungent smell and an unhealthy ambience of the Saidpora locality, Mohammad Yusuf, a Pashmina weaver by profession, is ready to bid a goodbye to his ancestral abode for a better future for his children.

But it looks like a farfetched dream for him as no one is willing to buy his house at an adequate price.

Finding a customer for his house is hard, he acknowledges. His son, who has reached the marital age, is furious.

"No one is willing to get his daughters married here," he yells with a visibly disappointed face.

However, his father looks calm and is ready to vacate the legacy of his ancestors as "it's no more liveable".

Yusuf remains hopeful of finding a customer who is willing to pay an appropriate price for his property. However, he has a request for the government: "If the government does not care for the locals, they should care for the patients because this dumping yard is in close proximity of SKIMS and it can lead to a health hazard."

Another local, Bilal Ahmad, is aghast at how land in his vicinity is

losing its value. "On the other side of Dr. Ali Jan Road, the value of land is almost double than this place," Bilal says. "It's all because of the dumping site."

In the neighbouring Zoonimar area, the situation isn't that bad. The roads and lanes are cleaner but it's a matter of time that a wave of pungent smell can anytime engulf the area. But for Faizan Dar, a local of Zoonimar, it hardly matters.

He's of the opinion that he isn't the only one to getting affected. From Downtown areas to Lal bazar, the smell is all over the place, he says on a lighter note.

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

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

6

MUHARRAM

1443

### This Day in History

- 519 - Panama City founded by Spanish conquistador Pedro Arias Dávila
- 1684 -Spain & Germany sign cease fire with France
- 1741 - French troops attack the Rhine
- 1892- 4th & last British government of William Gladstone forms
- 1901- Great Britain issues a proclamation calling on the Boers to surrender by 15 September or face banishment and confiscation of their property
- 1906 - King Edward VII of Great Britain visits German Emperor Wilhelm II to discuss the escalating rivalry between their nations' naval forces
- 1914 - Japan joins side of allies
- 1925 - Norway annexes Spitsbergen
- 1943 - Allies land on Kiska Aleutians
- 1945 - Victory over Japan Day, the Japanese surrender and the end of WWII is announced in Japan (due to time zones 14th Aug in the Americas)
- 1947- India gains independence from Great Britain, remains a dominion until 1950
- 1950- 8.6 earthquake in India kills 20,000 to 30,000
- 1950- Sukarno proclaims the unitary Republic of Indonesia and becomes its 1st President
- 1962- Netherlands & Indonesia sign accord over New Guinea
- 1971 - Bahrain gains independence from Britain
- 1971 - US President Richard Nixon announces 90-day freeze on wages, prices & rents.
- 1971 - The Social Democratic and Labour Party announce a campaign of civil disobedience in response to the introduction of Internment in Northern Ireland
- 1974 - Hurricane/floods ravage Bangladesh, 4,000 killed

### PRAYERS

FAJR

4:22

ZUHR

12: 35

ASR

5:24

MAGRIB

7:22

ISHA

8:50

### From KO Archives

## Independence Day Eve Insecurity Grips Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR : A sense of insecurity has gripped the people all over the valley, particularly in this capital city and major towns amid mounting independence day-eve tension. Security has been beefed up more so in view of the renewed threat of militant attacks in the wake of Thursday's car bomb blast near the Kothibagh police station.

Security forces cordoned off several areas, including Sarai Bala, Goni Khan and Maharaj Bazaar overlooking Bakshi stadium, the venue of state-level ceremonial Independence Day parade this morning asking the shopkeepers to pull down their shutters. All the people were herded to Iqbal park area for identification.

During the operation, security personnel conducted house-to-house searches and scanned every nook and corner to detect any rogue object. However, nothing incriminating was found nor was anyone apprehended. The security forces warned the residents of 'dire consequences' in the event of any disturbance in the area. The threat has created a scare among the people. Security in the entire area around Bakshi stadium has been strengthened with police and paramilitary forces in full battle gear manning vantage points atop residential houses and other buildings. The neighbouring localities of Batmaloo, Magarmal Bagh, Solina, Haft Chinar, Rambagh, Gogjibagh and Jawahir Nagar, are being watched closely.

Vehicles and pedestrians moving in the area are also subjected to minute checking and frisking. Barricades have been erected on the road in front of the stadium along Iqbal Park and in the Tulsibagh area. Sniffer dogs have also been pressed into service and metal detectors are being used extensively to detect possible explosives.

The civil lines here wore a deserted look over the past couple of days with most people keeping away in the wake of the Thursday blast on Residency Road. Fewer people could be seen on the busy malls as they feared a more militant attacks. Heavy deployment of police and security forces in the area has heightened the tension particularly after the Hizb threat to carry out deadlier attacks on the security forces.

Fear has also gripped the rest of the city and other areas in the valley. Security forces are carrying out random cordon and search operations. Released militants and suspects have been asked to present themselves at the nearby security camps every day. Several people have been taken into preventive custody. Security around the civil secretariat, high court and other vital installations in the civil lines area has also been beefed up. No private vehicles are allowed to park in the area.

Elsewhere in the state, security forces have been put on high alert in the wake of threats by militant outfits to step up violence and a call for general strike by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) on the Independence Day as fear gripped the people across the valley.

Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba outfits openly warned of more deadly attacks on security forces and vital installations in the coming days. A high alert has been sounded all over the state as various intelligence agencies reported that wireless intercepts revealed a militant plan to create large scale violence, official sources said today.

Militants operating in Kashmir, according to intelligence sources, are continuously receiving directions for the past few days from across the border to carry out more deadly attacks against the security forces. Official sources said army, paramilitary forces and police had been directed to maintain a round-the clock vigil across the state.

(Kashmir Observer, August 15, 2000)



## Census shows US is diversifying, white population shrinking

Agencies

The US became more diverse and more urban over the past decade, and the non-Hispanic white population dropped for the first time on record, the Census Bureau reported Thursday as it released a trove of demographic data that will be used to redraw the nation's political maps.

the most prevalent racial or ethnic group, though that changed in California, where Hispanics became the largest racial or ethnic group, growing from 37.6 per cent to 39.4 per cent over the decade, while the share of white people dropped from 40.1 per cent to 34.7 per cent. California, the nation's most populous state, joined Hawaii, New Mexico and the District of Columbia as a place where



The new figures offered the most detailed portrait yet of how the country has changed since 2010, and they are sure to set off an intense partisan battle over representation at a time of deep national division and fights over voting rights. The numbers could help determine control of the House in the 2022 elections and provide an electoral edge for years to come. The data will also shape how USD 1.5 trillion in annual federal spending is distributed. Americans continued to migrate to the South and West at the expense of the Midwest and Northeast, the figures showed.

non-Hispanic white people are no longer the dominant group. "The US population is much more multiracial and much more racially and ethnically diverse than what we have measured in the past," said Nicholas Jones, a Census Bureau official. Some demographers cautioned that the white population was not shrinking as much as shifting to multiracial identities. The number of people who identified as belonging to two or more races more than tripled from 9 million people in 2010 to 33.8 million in 2020. They now account for 10 per cent of the US population.

The share of the white population fell from 63.7 per cent in 2010 to 57.8 per cent in 2020, the lowest on record, driven by falling birthrates among white women compared with Hispanic and Asian women. The number of non-Hispanic white people shrank from 196 million in 2010 to 191 million.

People who identify as a race other than white, Black, Asian, American Indian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander— either alone or in combination with one of those races— jumped to 49.9 million people, surpassing the Black population of 46.9 million people as the nation's second-largest racial group, according to the Census Bureau.

## Pakistan celebrates Independence Day with promise to attain peace



Agencies

Islamabad: Pakistan celebrated its Independence Day on Saturday with a renewed promise to attain "peace within and peace without" - the message of the founder of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

the President's Office where President Dr Arif Alvi hoisted the national flag and conferred Pakistan's civil awards to 126 Pakistanis and foreigners in recognition of their services to Pakistan and demonstrating excellence in their respective fields. The President also approved the conferment of military awards.

The day dawned with a 31-gun salute in the capital city Islamabad and a 21-gun salute in all four provincial capitals. The celebration commenced with the change-of-guards ceremonies at the mausoleum of the founder of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Karachi, and the national poet Allama Mohammad Iqbal's mausoleum in Lahore.

Pakistani Naval soldiers salute at the mausoleum of Pakistan founding father Muhammad Ali Jinnah during Pakistan's 75th Independence Day celebrations in Karachi on August 14, 2021.

Pakistanis marked the day with fireworks and small gatherings due to the pandemic restrictions. People decorated their cars, bikes, and homes with the flag of Pakistan. The parliament building and landmarks all across the country were lighted in Pakistan's flag colours.

Addressing the nation, President Alvi said the country is heading in the right direction to become a strong nation as the government's focus is on industrialisation, technology and knowledge economy. "We have significantly improved all our macro-economic indicators." During the 74 years journey, "Pakistan faced many challenges but it successfully overcame them with hard work, sacrifices and the support of the entire nation" he said.

The main ceremony was held at

## Taliban reaches Char Asyab district, just 7 miles from Afghan capital

They now control 18 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, leaving the Western-backed government in control of a smattering of provinces in the center and east, as well as Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif.

Agencies

KABUL: The Taliban seized a province just south of Afghanistan's capital and launched a multi-pronged assault early Saturday on a major city in the north defended by powerful former warlords, Afghan officials said.

a spokesman for the provincial governor. There was no immediate word on casualties.

The insurgents have captured much of northern, western and southern Afghanistan in a break-

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani delivered a televised speech on Saturday, his first public appearance since the recent Taliban gains, in which he vowed not to give up the "achievements" of the 20 years since the U.S. toppled the Taliban following the 9/11 attacks. "We have started consulta-

warlords have been known to switch sides for their own survival. Ismail Khan, a powerful former warlord who had tried to defend Herat, was captured by the Taliban when the insurgents seized the western city after two weeks of heavy fighting. Residents of Mazar-e-Sharif expressed fear about the security breakdown.



neck offensive less than three weeks before the United States is set to withdraw its last troops, raising fears of a full militant takeover or another Afghan civil war.

"The situation is dangerous outside of the city and inside the

The Taliban captured all of Logar and detained its provincial officials, Hoda Ahmadi, a lawmaker from the province, said Saturday. She said the Taliban have reached the Char Asyab district, just 11 kilometres (7 miles) south of the capital, Kabul.

The security situation in the city is getting worse," said Kawa Basharat. "I want peace and stability. The fighting should be stopped."

The Taliban also attacked the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif from several directions, setting off heavy fighting on its outskirts, according to Munir Ahmad Farhad,

The Taliban have made major advances in recent days, including capturing Herat and Kandahar, the country's second- and third-largest cities. They now control 18 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, leaving the Western-backed government in control of a smattering of provinces in the center and east, as well as Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif.

They remain allied with the government, but during previous rounds of fighting in Afghanistan,

## Reports: US embassy in Kabul tells staff to destroy sensitive documents

Agencies

The US embassy in Afghanistan's capital has directed its staff to destroy sensitive documents and computers as well as other material that could be used against the United States, according to American media outlets. The directive was given in a memo written for staff at the US embassy in Kabul and shared with NPR on the condition of anonymity.

the American Embassy in Kabul. The US military is deploying 3,000 troops back to Afghanistan to help with the evacuation. They will be stationed at the Kabul airport.

The memo called on diplomats to destroy computers and other sensitive documents before they leave, as well as items featuring the American flag, embassy logos, and other articles that "could be misused in propaganda efforts," CNN reported. The memo comes as the Taliban are reportedly preparing to attack Kabul. It also comes one day after the Pentagon announced it was deploying 3,000 American troops to Afghanistan to evacuate most of the embassy personnel from Kabul, leaving only "a core diplomatic presence" in the country.

"We're taking the situation seriously and that's one of the reasons why we're moving these forces

into Kabul to assist with this particular mission because we know that time is a precious commodity," Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said on Friday.



"Let me be very clear about this: The embassy remains open and we plan to continue our diplomatic work in Afghanistan," Ned Price, the State Department's chief spokesman, said Thursday.

He confirmed the US is deploying troops around the Kabul airport, adding that the US military is prepared to airlift "thousands" of people, who include both American diplomats and Afghans who have applied for Special Immigrant Visas. Rapid Taliban gains 'deeply concerning' to US

The Biden administration announced on Thursday that it will evacuate all but a "core" staff from

the Pentagon said on Friday the Taliban's rapid takeover of large

parts of Afghanistan is "deeply concerning" to the United States after the militants seized the country's second- and third-biggest cities. According to reports, the possibility the capital Kabul could fall in the next weeks has grown stronger with the Taliban's gains, and that the fall of the gov-

ernment in Kabul could happen much more quickly than previously anticipated. Kirby acknowledged the Taliban are trying to isolate Kabul. "We are certainly concerned by the speed with which the Taliban has been moving," Kirby told reporters. "We're obviously watching this just like you're watching this and seeing it happen in real-time, and it's deeply concerning," he added. "This is a moment for the Afghans to unite, the leadership and the military. No outcome has to be inevitable."

## Global sizzling: July was hottest month on record, says NOAA

Agencies

Washington, August 14 Earth sizzled in July and became the hottest month in 142 years of recordkeeping, US weather officials announced. As extreme heat waves struck parts of the United States and Europe, the globe averaged 62.07 degrees (16.73 degrees Celsius) last month, beating out the previous re-

higher than the record, what shattered it was land temperature over the Northern Hemisphere, she said.



Northern Hemisphere temperatures were a third of a degree (.19 degrees Celsius) higher than the previous record set in July 2012, which for temperature records is "a wide margin," Sanchez-Lugo said. July is the hottest month of the year for the globe, so this is also the

hottest month on record. One factor helping the world bake this summer is a natural weather cycle called the Arctic Oscillation, sort of a cousin to El Nino, which in its positive phase is associated with more warming, the NOAA climatologist said.



The last seven Julys, from 2015 to 2021, have been the hottest seven Julys on record, said NOAA climatologist Ahira Sanchez-Lugo. Last month was 1.67 degrees (0.93 degrees Celsius) warmer than the 20th century average for the month.

Even with a scorching July and a nasty June, this year so far is only the sixth warmest on record. That's mostly because 2021 started cooler than recent years due to a La Nina cooling of the central Pacific that often reduces the global temperature average, Sanchez-Lugo said.

"In this case first place is the worst place to be," NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad said in a press release. "This new record adds to the disturbing and disruptive path that climate change has set for the globe."

"One month by itself does not say much, but that this was a La Nina year and we still had the warmest temperatures on record ... fits with the pattern of what we have been seeing for most of the last decade now," said University of Illinois meteorology professor Donald Wuebbles.

"This is climate change," said Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann. "It is an exclamation mark on a summer of unprecedented heat, drought, wildfires and flooding."

While the world set a record in July, the United States only tied for its 13th hottest July on record. Even though California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington had their hottest Julys, slightly cooler than normal months in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Alabama, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire kept the nation from approaching record heat levels.

Earlier this week, a prestigious United Nations science panel warned of worsening climate change caused by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas and other human activity. Warming on land in western North America and in parts of Europe and Asia really drove the record-setting heat, Sanchez-Lugo said. While the worldwide temperature was barely

## Iran orders travel ban and shutdown amid Covid surge



Agencies

DUBAI: Iran is to impose a one-week lockdown and a ban on road travel amid a fifth Covid-19 surge in the worst-hit country in the Middle East, state television reported on Saturday.

Alireza Raisi, spokesman for the national coronavirus task force, told the television.

All non-essential businesses and offices will have to close under the nationwide lockdown from Monday to Aug. 21, in an effort to curb the highly contagious Delta variant. Authorities are also imposing a driving ban from Sunday until Aug. 27, except for essential vehicles.

Authorities will only allow open-air gatherings for ongoing Shia Muslim mourning ceremonies, Raisi said.

"All roads will be closed except for trucks carrying food and essential goods and ambulances. This traffic ban will be very strictly imposed,"

The Health Ministry reported 29,700 new cases on Saturday, and 466 daily deaths, down from a record daily toll of 588 fatalities on Monday. Total deaths have reached 97,208, according to official figures. Social media users have accused the government of mismanagement over slow vaccinations with only 3.8 million people fully inoculated in a population of 83 million.

Officials have blamed US sanctions for hampering efforts to buy foreign vaccines and for delays in deliveries.

### IN FOCUS

## The Afghan military was built over 20 years. How did it collapse so quickly?

New York Times | Kandahar

The surrenders seem to be happening as fast as the Taliban can travel.



In the past several days, Afghan security forces have collapsed in more than 15 cities under the pressure of a Taliban advance that began in May. On Friday, officials confirmed that those included two of the country's most important provincial capitals: Kandahar and Herat.

United States having poured more than \$83 billion in weapons, equipment and training into the country's security forces over two decades.

The swift offensive has resulted in mass surrenders, captured helicopters and millions of dollars of US-supplied equipment paraded by the Taliban on grainy cellphone videos. In some cities, heavy fighting had been underway for weeks on their outskirts, but the Taliban ultimately overtook their defensive lines and then walked in with little or no resistance.

Building the Afghan security apparatus was one of the key parts of the Obama administration's strategy

as it sought to find a way to hand over security and leave nearly a decade ago. These efforts produced an army modeled in the image of the US military, an Afghan institution that was supposed to outlast the American war. But it will likely be gone

before the United States is.

While the future of Afghanistan seems more and more uncertain, one thing is becoming exceedingly clear: The United States' 20-year endeavor to rebuild Afghanistan's military into a robust and independent fighting

force has failed, and that failure is now playing out in real time as the country slips into Taliban control.

How the Afghan military came to disintegrate first became apparent last week but months ago in an accumulation of losses that started even before President Joe Biden's announcement that the United States would withdraw by September 11.

It began with individual outposts in rural areas where starving and ammunition-depleted soldiers and police units were surrounded by Taliban fighters and promised safe passage if they surrendered and left behind their equipment, slowly giving the insurgents more and more control of roads, then entire districts. As positions collapsed, the complaint was almost always the same: There was no air support or they had run out of supplies and food.

Soldiers and policemen have expressed ever-deeper resentment of the Afghan leadership. Officials often turned a blind eye to what was happening knowing full well that the Afghan forces' real manpower count was far lower than what was on the books, skewed by corruption and secrecy that they quietly accepted. And when the Taliban started building momentum after the United States' announcement of with-

drawal, it only increased the belief that fighting in the security forces — fighting for President Ashraf Ghani's government — wasn't worth dying for. In interview after interview, soldiers and police officers described moments of despair and feelings of abandonment. On one front line in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar last week, the Afghan security forces' seeming inability to fend off the Taliban's devastating offensive came down to potatoes.

THESE FRENCH FRIES ARE NOT GOING TO HOLD these front lines!" a police officer yelled, disgusted by the lack of support they were receiving in the country's second-largest city.



## JKSSB Warns Aspiring Candidates Against Unscrupulous Elements For Securing Govt Jobs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has advised the candidates who are scheduled to appear in Computer Based Written Test (CBT) Examination not to fall prey to nefarious designs of unscrupulous



elements and vested interests for securing government jobs.

The JKSSB is going to conduct the CBT examination from 17th August to 24th August, 2021 for more than 1200 posts advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2021 at various Examination centres in Jammu, Srinagar, Budgam and Baramulla districts.

The board said that it has come to the notice that some unscrupulous elements/ vested interests are approaching innocent youth with the intention of duping them by using various deceptive means including making false promises of securing jobs either through influence or use of unfair means or by spreading

motivated and mischievous information for ulterior considerations.

The board highlighted that time and again, the aspiring candidates have been cautioned against the activities of such vested interests and advised not to fall prey to the designs of such unscrupulous elements. In this connection, the board has again reiterated that the candidates who are being approached by such unscrupulous elements in any matter pertaining to recruitments of JKSSB are advised to immediately report about such persons to the JKSSB without any delay.

The JKSSB said that it 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 board also said that the identity of such candidates who will report about the unscrupulous elements shall be kept confidential.

The board further remarked that it has always maintained highest standards of transparency and conducted biggest ever examinations in the history of J&K UT in a 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," it added.

## Foundation Stone Laid 34 Years Ago, Budgam Bridge Awaits Completion

KO News Desk

Budgam: A bridge connecting two Tehsils of central Kashmir's Budgam district is awaiting completion for the last 34 years as the foundation stone was laid in 1997. The residents of Kanigund-Khansahib areas of Budgam district Saturday staged a protest demonstration saying that the R&B department and district administration has failed to complete the construction of the bridge for the last 34 years. A group of protesters said that the bridge was inaugurated in 1997 and few structures were made by the concerned department and since then the bridge is incomplete due to negligence and failure of district administration Budgam.

They said the bridge connects two Tehsils of the district and people from both sides suffer due to incompleteness of the bridge.

According to the residents of Kanigund, the bridge has been made of timber provided by one of the locals.

The protesters appealed the district administration to start the pending work on the bridge as soon as possible so that the locals can breathe a sigh of relief.

## Ganderbal Villages Rue 'Contaminated' Water Supply

Observer News Service

Ganderbal: The people living in Kujjar village and five adjoining villages in Ganderbal district have complained that the Jal Shakti department has been supplying contaminated water from its abandoned water supply scheme.

Irfan Ahmad, a local resident said that in 1989 a water supply scheme was established in the area, which is still functional but the water is not filtered and the structure has deteriorated.

Locals said that the department is least bothered about the maintenance of the water supply scheme despite repeated

requests. "The supply scheme is unsafe and poses a threat to human lives," they said.

They said although there is natural spring near the scheme which was maintained by the department as source of supply to the reservoir but that has also remained defunct over the years.

"This source of pure drinking water has also been wasted due to the negligence of the department," locals alleged.

Locals demanded a new water supply scheme in the area and sought intervention of Deputy Commissioner and Lt Governor to resolve the general grievance of the villagers at the earliest.

## 'JK Film Policy A Game Changer For Film Making'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With the launch of the Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy 2021, a new ray of hope has come up for the Filmmakers and people associated with it, a communique issued Saturday evening said.

The policy was launched a week before through consultations with all the stakeholders and people associated with the industry with special focus on involving the locals associated with it. The comprehensive document has also been uploaded on the portal with address <http://jkfilm.jk.gov.in> making it more accessible at National and International level. The communique said that the effectiveness of the policy can be gauged by the fact that the permission was granted to one production house First Line Productions within one day thereby enabling them to carry on their shooting in a hassle free manner.

"It is astonishing that the speed with which we were granted permission for shoot within one day which was unheard of before and we used to chase different departments for weeks together, which was a cumbersome process and acted as a deterrent for so many production houses who were

willing to shoot their movies", the communique quoted Saima Khan of First Line Productions as having said. The new Film Policy 2021 is a game changer in this regard and we are expecting more film makers to

in the Union Territory, it further mentioned. Pertinently Jammu and Kashmir used to be hub of these types of activities from 1960's to 1989.

The Policy provides compre-

**WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT** the policy would infuse a new direction and effectively act as necessary catalyst for the filmmakers to shoot their movies here which would contribute in providing the local talent of the UT new avenues, besides also contribute in the economy."

explore their picturesque landscapes of the union territory, she maintained, according to the communique.

"We are hopeful that the policy would infuse a new direction and effectively act as necessary catalyst for the filmmakers to shoot their movies here which would contribute in providing the local talent of the UT new avenues, besides also contribute in the economy", maintain some of the veterans associated with the field of Art, Culture and Film making.

A ray of hope has beamed among the young filmmakers who are hopeful of availing subsidies and other related facilities which are being offered for catalysing the film scenario

hensive guidance to the aspiring to shoot in Jammu and Kashmir with special focus on providing single window clearance thereby saving their time and energy to make their movies. Besides, it has also been taken care of making appropriate security and safety arrangements for the film makers which would be free of cost enabling them to have a hassle free shoot in the locations of their choice.

The concept of providing subsidy has also been introduced for Films, TV shows, Web Series / original show of OTT which according to the people associated with the industry can be a game changer especially for the young and upcoming film makers.

## Kansal Directs Officers To Improve Power Supply Across J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Power Development Department (PDD), Rohit Kansal Saturday reviewed the progress of several projects being carried out for strengthening IT and Communications Divisions of J&K PDD for the augmentation of power sector during a meeting.

ware/UPS/VPS was completed and control center hardware was powered last month.

While discussing the smart metering in twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar, it was informed that consumer survey, supply and installation of IT Hardware at DC/DRC, besides RF design and server activity have been completed.

asked the PDD officers to expedite all ongoing projects and ensure their timely completion so that people would get benefited and directed them to accelerate all the ground works for installation of smart metering in the Union Territory.

While stressing for strengthening the IT cell of PDD, he asked officers to develop sin-



The meeting deliberated upon the issues pertaining to the projects like RAPDRP-A, Network & Security upgrade and AMC works of PDD.

The meeting was informed that network and security devices have been upgraded to meet CERT-IN compliances at DC & DRC, besides on board of Cyber Swachta Kendra is complied with, replacement of battery banks at Data Center and SAN Storage at DC, DRC etc.

On the SCADA/DMS project for sub-station automation in Srinagar city, it was given out that installation of server hard-

ware/UPS/VPS was completed and control center hardware was powered last month.

While discussing the smart metering in twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar, it was informed that consumer survey, supply and installation of IT Hardware at DC/DRC, besides RF design and server activity have been completed.

While addressing the meeting, the Principal Secretary impressed upon the officers to make optimum use of technological interventions in the power sector to improve transmission, distribution and supply of power across the Union territory.

On the occasion, Kansal

gle integrated software that will provide information like losses, revenue collection and are also linked with transformers and feeders.

He also maintained that as numerous steps have been taken to improve and reform the power supply system in J&K and added that there is always a room for further improvement in the system.

He also exhorted the officers to develop consumer friendly information technology modules for generation and timely delivery of power bills to ensure target revenue realization.

## Directorate of MDM Signs MoU With Akshay Patra For Providing Pre-cooked Meals To Govt Schools

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Mid Day Meal (MDM), Department of School Education, Saturday signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Akshay Patra Foundation with an objective of provid-

He also expressed gratitude to Principal Secretary School Education Department, B.K Singh for his constant guidance and relentless support.

The Project Director also extended gratitude to the members of Akshay Patra Foundation for taking



ing pre-cooked meals to 15000 students studying in Government Schools of J&K. The MoU was signed by Project Director, MDM, Deep Raj and a senior representative from Akshay Patra.

In the initial phase of MoU, two districts Jammu and Samba will be covered. To support the existing structure of the MDM scheme operational in J&K from the year 2004, Akshay Patra came forward to facilitate the directorate in eliminating classroom hunger by implementing the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the government schools and government-aided schools. Speaking on the occasion, Project Director, MDM revealed that directorate is committed to provide hygienic and nutritious cooked meals to all the eligible children across the UT of J&K.

He further said that even during the Covid Lockdown period, dry ration was provided to the door steps and cooking cost was disbursed into bank accounts of children through DBT under Food Security Allowance.

a step forward to provide highly nutritious meals to the children here.

Under Mid-Day Meal scheme, cooked meals are provided to students studying in elementary level classes from 1st to 8th.

The MDMS guidelines envisage to provide cooked mid-day meal with 450 calories and 12 g of protein to every child at primary level and 700 calories and 20g of protein. The core objectives of the scheme are to improve the Nutritional status of the children in classes I- VIII, encouraging poor children belonging to disadvantaged sections to attend schools more regularly by providing them nutritional support.

Akshaya Patra Foundation is an NGO headquartered in Bengaluru working to eliminate classroom hunger by implementing the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the government schools and government-aided schools. It also aims at countering malnutrition and supporting the right to education of socio-economically disadvantaged children.

## Poor Infrastructure Hits Healthcare At CHC Hajin

Observer News Service

Bandipora: The residents of Hajin area in North Kashmir's Bandipora district Saturday alleged that a community health centre established in 1960 in their area lacks basic facilities such as manpower and proper infrastructure.

The healthcare system in Hajin area continues to remain in a poor state and the residents expressed strong concern over the mismanagement in the hospital. They alleged that they are being forced to travel to either Sumbal Hospital or Srinagar even for minor injuries.

Waseem Ahmad, a local, said that the hospital lacks facilities including availability of doctors, other supportive staff, cleanliness and space due to which the local people are facing hardships.

"Sanitation in the hospital premises is also a concern," Mohammad Yousof, a resident of Paray Mohalla said. "This hospital is in pathetic condition. Heaps of garbage and bio-med-

ical wastes remain unattended, emanating stench."

"Dumping of used syringes, plaster and infected glows is a cause of serious concern as it can be misused as rag pickers pick the waste," he said, adding that almost every day you will see cattle grazing inside the hospital premises.

Locals said that they had several times brought these grievances to the notice of the concerned officials but nothing concrete had been done in this regard so far.

The locals of the area have sought immediate intervention of LG Manoj Sinha in this regard and have demanded development of infrastructure and posting of adequate staff in the health centre so that patients are spared from further sufferings.

Meanwhile, an official admitted that the hospital lacks supportive staff which they have repeatedly conveyed to the authorities. He further said that they clean all bio-medical and other waste of the hospital on a regular basis.

## Decaying Electric Poles, Dangling Wires Pose Threat To Shopian Residents

Observer News Service

Pulwama: Dangling electric wires tied with trees, worn out wooden poles pose a grave threat to the lives of people as well as to their property in several villages of Shopian district.

The residents of Babapora, Darbagh, Safanagri, Zainapora, Durpora Awneera, Check, Chermarg, Reshiepora, Bandpawa, Thokerpora, Reban and its adjacent villages of Shopian district alleged that they are living under constant fear due to low lying electric wires tied with trees and decaying electric poles in their villages.

The residents said that the electric lines touch roofs of houses and trees on roads posing risk to life and property.

"Due to low lying overhead transmission lines, we are not able to work properly in the fields. We have been requesting the concerned department to replace the dangling and damaged electric wires and poles but our pleas fell on deaf ears," Shahid Ahmad, a local resident said.

He said that in back to village

programmes, locals had demanded electric poles and wires in the area, but on ground nothing has been done.



"All low tension wires in our village have been tied with trees in absence of poles due to which the wires are very low. Moreover, the wires are very weak and often get

damaged, said Mohammad Yousof, another local resident.

He said that they have taken up this issue with the administration

SRINAGAR: In order to curb the illegal sale of Psychotropic/Habit forming drugs, a special drive was held across various markets by the Department of Drug and Food Control Organisation (D&FCO).

The drive was conducted on the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, and in this regard D&FCO Govt. of J&K had constituted various teams to carry out comprehensive market checking of drug sale establishments in various districts.

The drives were conducted in districts including Baramulla, Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam, Kupwara and Srinagar.

## 14 Drug Establishments Sealed, 28 Served Show-cause Notices

Observer News Service

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The drives were conducted in districts including Baramulla, Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam, Kupwara and Srinagar. As many as 154 establishments were inspected by the teams constituted to

carry out the drive in different areas of their respective districts. During the drive, 14 violations were found and 28 notices were issued. While a fine of Rs. 35,480/- was also imposed. The stakeholders were directed to maintain records of Psychotropic/Habit forming properly.

General public is informed through the medium of this notice to lodge complaints with regard to any violation/ discrepancies encountered against any drug sale establishment on helpline No. 0194-2455384, 2495191 or email at [deputycontrollerkashmir@gamil.com](mailto:deputycontrollerkashmir@gamil.com)/ [mentalhealth-helplinekashmir@gmail.com](mailto:mentalhealth-helplinekashmir@gmail.com).

The drive in this regard shall continue for the rest of the districts and detailed reports shall be communicated accordingly in near future.

## 10 Accounts Posts Created In Revenue Department

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC), which met Saturday under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved creation of 110 posts of Accounts personnel in the Department. The new posts will be created in the offices of Financial Commissioner, IG Registration, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Custodian General and Revenue Training Institutes, Settlement Organization, Nazol Organization, and others.

The new accounts cells in Rev-

enue Department will be single-point interface for all issues involving financial matters and will act as bulwark against fiscal indiscipline.

Further, the specialized cells will also have play a crucial role in thoroughly scrutinizing budget proposals; maintaining departmental accounts in accordance with the requirements under the State Financial Rules; and evaluating progress and achievements for seeking supplementary grants.

The newly created posts include 02 Chief Accounts Officers, 26 Accounts Officers, 07 Assistant Accounts Officers, 22 Accountants, and 53 Account Assistants.

## Six Army Men Get Shaurya Chakra For Anti-Militancy Operations In J&K

Agencies

News Delhi: India's third-highest gallantry medal in peacetime, Shaurya Chakra, has been awarded to six Army personnel, including posthumously to one, for displaying bravery in anti-militancy operations in Jammu and Kashmir last year.

The recipients of the prestigious award are Major Arun

Kumar Pandey, Major Ravi Kumar Chaudhary, Captain Ashutosh Kumar (posthumously), Captain Vikas Khatri, Rifleman Mukesh Kumar and Sepoy Neeraj Ahlawat, according to the Indian Army.

It said four Army personnel were conferred the Bar to Sena medal while 116 others were named for the Sena medal on the eve of I-Day.

**DU TO LOW LYING OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES,** we are not able to work properly in the fields. We have been requesting the concerned department to replace the dangling and damaged electric wires and poles but our pleas fell on deaf ears."



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OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



“Quit India”, “Simon Go Back”, “Inquilab Zindabad”, “Sarfarooshi Ki Tamanna, Ab Hamare Dil Mein Hai”, “Saare Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara”, the famous patriotic slogans commonly used during the Indian freedom struggle were coined by Muslim freedom fighters

# Role of Muslims in Indian Freedom Struggle

M Ahmad

The freedom attained on 15th August 1947 was a result of a long struggle which involved contributions and sacrifices of men and women of all classes and communities of India. Muslims form an integral part of this history. That Muslims played an equal and important role in the freedom of India cannot be overstated.

It was Muslims who spearheaded the very first attempts to fight back British imperialists. The list of people is innumerable. Whether it was Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah in the Battle of Plassey or Tipu Sultan in the Seringapatam battle in South India in 1799; Muslims were not soft by any means towards Britishers. In fact, in what is known as the first war of Independence, 70% Hindu revolutionaries together with Muslims chose a Mughal ruler Bahadur Shah Zafar as India's Ruler.

Bakht Khan from Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh, was a major part of the rebellion of 1857. An experienced army-man, Bakht Khan was serving as the Subedar in the Army of East India Company and took command of the rebel forces. His strong and powerful rebellion activities prompted the British rulers to launch a manhunt against him, following which, he was shot dead by Britishers.

There are still many Muslim heroes, some at the center and some pushed to the margins. Muhammad Ashfaq Ullah Khan of Shahjehanpur who conspired and looted the British treasury at Kakori (Lucknow) to cripple the administration is one. When asked for his last will, before

execution, he said: “No desire is left except one that someone may put a little soil of my motherland in my winding sheet.”

Similarly, Barkatullah and Syed Rehmat Shah of Ghadar Party sacrificed their lives for the independence of their country. Umar Subhani, an industrialist and a millionaire of Bombay is popularly known for presenting a blank cheque to Gandhiji for “Tilak Swarajya Fund and INC. His boundless donations crippled him but he bore the challenge for his country.

Who doesn't know Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, “frontier Gandhi”, who was one of the major reasons behind the Britishers leaving India. Ghaffar Khan met Gandhiji and entered politics in 1919 during agitation over the Rowlatt Acts, which allowed the internment of political dissidents without trial. In the following year he joined the Khilafat movement.

Then there was another such stalwart leader and freedom fighter of India, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. His service to the nation didn't just stop after India became independent, he continued serving India till his last breath.

Inspired by Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad, Abbas Ali joined the Indian freedom movement in his teenage after completing his education. He joined the Indian National Army (INA) or the ‘Azad Hind Fauj’ and was subsequently court-martialed and sentenced to death.

When thousands of freedom fighters were getting jailed everyday, yet another Indian Muslim, Asaf Ali stepped up and fought their legal battles to bail them out. He was even jailed alongside Jawaharlal Nehru. He participated in the ‘Quit India Movement’ and did ev-

In fact, the first journalist to be martyred publicly in the cause of India's Freedom Struggle was also a Muslim - Maulana Baqar/Moulvi Muhammad Baqir. He was executed following the revolt of 1857.

Everything he could to help India achieve independence. On 1 April 1953, Asaf Ali died in Bern (Switzerland) while serving as India's representative. A postal stamp was issued in his honour in 1989.

Important historical events and etched echoes from India's freedom struggle have a marked Muslim presence, shoulder to shoulder with other Indians. It was Dr. Saifuddin Kichloo, hailed as the ‘Hero of Jallianwala Bagh’ who conducted a public meeting at the historical Jallianwala Bagh on 30 March, 1919, protesting the Rowlatt Act during the Indian National Movement. It was Yusuf Meher Ali, a socialist leader, founder of the National Militia, Bombay Youth League and the Congress Socialist Party who said, “Simon Go Back” was part of the Quit India Movement along with Mahatma Gandhi for India's last nationwide campaign for independence from the British Empire.

Cardinal movements like the

Non-cooperation Movement and the Swadeshi Movement saw overwhelming Muslim participation. Janab Sabusiddiq who was the sugar-king of that time gave up his business as a form of boycott. The Khoja and Memon communities owned the biggest business houses of that time and they parted with their treasured industries to support the boycott.

Muslim freedom fighters were active in the field of journalism as well. Maulana Azad used his pen against the British despite being prevented by the colonial powers a number of times. In fact, the first journalist to be martyred publicly in the cause of India's Freedom Struggle was also a Muslim - Maulana Baqar/Moulvi Muhammad Baqir. He was executed following the revolt of 1857.

Additionally, the history of the Indian national movement would be incomplete without mentioning the contribution of Muslim women. Asghari Begum (mother of Qazi Abdul Rahim, the revolutionary of Thana Bhawan, Muzaffarnagar) fought against the British and was burnt alive when defeated. It was estimated that about 225 Muslim women gave their lives in the revolt. Begum Hazrat Mahal, revolutionary Queen of Awadh, was the unsung heroine of the first war of Independence, who shot the British ruler, Sir Henry Lawrence and defeated the British army in a decisive Battle at Chinhat on 30th June, 1857. Bimamma out of the hundreds of women who fought the battle of freedom along with their men folk against the British Raj. Abadi Begum (mother of Maulana Muhammad Ali), Amjadi Begum (wife of Maulana Muhammad Ali), Amina

Tyabji (wife of Abbas Tyabji), Begum Sakina Luqmani (wife of Dr Luqmani and daughter of Badruddin Tyabji), Nishat-un-Nisa (Begum Hasrat Mohani), Saadat Bano Kitchlew (wife of Dr Saifuddin Kichlew), Zulekha Begum (wife of Maulana Azad), Mehr Taj (daughter of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan), Zubaida Begum Daoodi (wife of Shafi Daoodi, the reputed nationalist of Bihar) and many others. Aruna Asaf Ali popularly known as the ‘Grand Old Lady’ of the Independence Movement. She is known for hoisting the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement. In 1932, she had gone on a hunger strike in Tihar Jail against the mistreatment of the political prisoners, which led to an improvement in their living. There are many many more of such brave souls who fought for their nation all along with the people of other religions of the Country.

“Quit India”, “Simon Go Back”, “Inquilab Zindabad”, “Sarfarooshi Ki Tamanna, Ab Hamare Dil Mein Hai”, “Saare Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara”, the famous patriotic slogans commonly used during the Indian freedom struggle were coined by Muslim freedom fighters.

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

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In 1947, after 200 years of control, the British finally quit the Indian subcontinent. Before leaving, the colonizers drew a line in the sand that formed two new dominions: Muslim-majority Pakistan and Hindu-majority India. Some 15 million people migrated (the largest human migration in history) and one to two million perished in the communal violence that followed.

Several decades passed before a widespread effort was made to document survivors' testimonies about their experiences. One of the first, the Oral History Project by the Citizens Archive of Pakistan, began collecting stories in 2007. A few years later, others, like the 1947 Partition Archive, followed.

## The Parted Earth

Thankfully, there were also books. Partition literature encompasses a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction published in multiple countries and multiple languages. They capture some of the most harrowing events of the era, but also the courage, sacrifice, and generosity of the human spirit. Urvasi Butalia, author of *The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India*, writes:

“How do we know this event except through the ways in which it has been handed down to us: through fiction, memoirs, testimonies, through memories, individual and collective?”

The focal point of my own debut novel, *The Parted Earth*, is about how survivors' stories are either passed down or forgotten, and the importance of preserving them. The book spans 70 years, from 1947 to 2017, and centers two main characters: Deepa, a 16-year-old living in Delhi in 1947, and Shan Johnson, her estranged 41-year-old granddaughter, living in Atlanta in the present day. What I hoped to convey is how Partition has lived on. It is not so much an event in the past, but one that continues to influence the descendants of those who survived it.

## The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India by Urvasi Butalia

This groundbreaking book was one of the first I came across with in-depth firsthand testimonies of Partition survivors. Butalia's family members were Sikh refu-

gees from Lahore, a city in the new Pakistan, who were forced to escape to India. One of the survivors she interviews is her own uncle who stayed behind. Her family did not have contact with him for 40 years until she reached out.

Butalia is a feminist activist and scholar, and in the book, she highlights the violence against women during Partition. Some 75,000 women were raped, she writes, though some sources put this figure closer to 100,000. In order to keep them from being kidnapped, raped, and converted, men killed the women in their families to “martyr” them. Butalia writes about the frustrating silence around Partition's gendered violence, and the inaccurate ways it is often described:

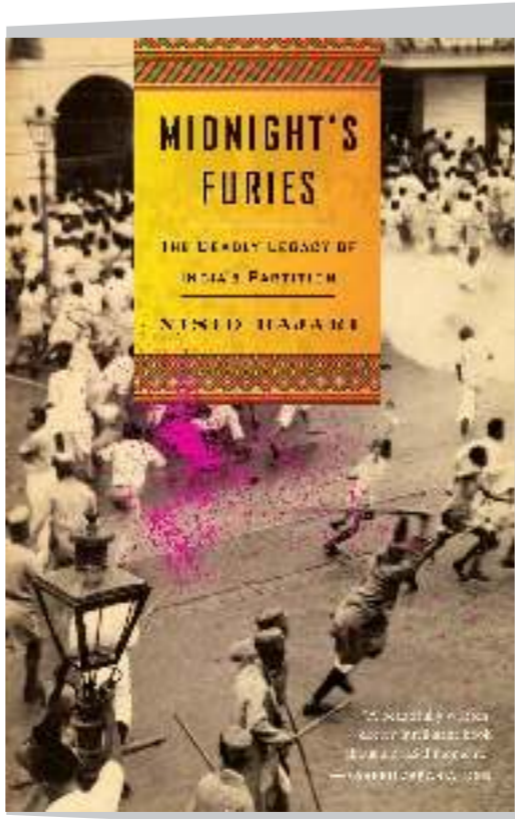
“Killing women was not violence, it was saving the honour of the community; losing sight of children, abandoning them to who knew what fate was not violence, it was maintaining the purity of the religion; killing people for the other religion was not murder, it was somehow excusable...seldom has a process of research I have been engaged in brought me more anger, and more anguish.”

## Victory Colony 1950 by Bhaswati Ghosh

This engrossing debut novel begins in 1950, three years after the formation of what was then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Amala Manna and her younger brother Kartik owe their lives to a local Muslim family who hid them when rioters were roaming their village. They escape only to be separated at a train station in Calcutta. Amala must build a new life in a refugee camp in the new India with strangers who share similar, unimaginable losses.

Ghosh is a journalist, a translator of Bengali and English, and the granddaughter of a Partition survivor. In an interview with *The Rumpus*, the Canadian author talked about the general lack of

awareness about how Partition played out along the eastern border: “There was tremendous loss on the eastern border, too, perhaps not the same in scale but definitely huge psychological and sociocultural



losses, the effects of which continue to impact subsequent generations.”

## Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition by Nisid Hajari

Hajari's book is a who's who of political operatives leading up to the cracks and

fissures of the subcontinent. The author deftly dissects the intentions and flaws of the nations' first two leaders, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's first Governor-General Muhammad Jinnah, both of whom were ill-prepared for what was to come.

Hajari asks an essential question of how two nations with so much in common become enemies so quickly. He answers it by piecing together personal correspondence, including notes, letters, and diaries of political and military leaders, as well as reports of spies, economic data, and governmental gossip.

## The Pity of Partition: Manto's Life, Times and Work Across the India-Pakistan Divide by Ayesha Jalal

There may be no more prolific a writer of Partition fiction than Saadat Hasan Manto, whose short stories captured every aspect of Partition, including the irony of it. One of the most translated Urdu writers, Manto fled to Lahore in the new Pakistan during Partition. His 700-page collected stories, *Bitter Fruit*, can be purchased through second-hand sellers. It's well worth the effort to locate a copy.

If you're looking for a less hefty read, and one that can be more easily purchased in the U.S., try Jalal's engaging biography of Manto, which examines Partition through the lens of his letters, essays, and short stories. A Pakistani American historian at Tufts, Jalal nimbly spotlights the seemingly limitless creative energy of a writer who produced over twenty short story collections, a novel, and several plays, before his death at only age 42.

“With his no-holds-barred critique of society and his unshakable belief in the inherent goodness of people, however

lowly and despicable they may seem to others, [Manto] makes the postcolonial moment come alive in all its ambivalences and contradictions.”

## Partitions by Amit Majmudar

Poet Amit Majmudar's debut novel is a sweeping story about four characters uprooting their lives to cross the new border. They include Keshav and Shankar, six-year-old twins who become separated from their mother when boarding a train to Delhi; Simran Kaur, a teenage Sikh girl whose survival depends on her first escapee her own family, and Ibrahim Masud, a Muslim doctor, who, while trying to make his way to Pakistan, heals others along the way.

The urgency of their journeys is conveyed through the twins' long-deceased father who has seen the future and knows what awaits the fates of his sons and his widow. He is present not as a guide, but as a witness in the afterlife to their grief and suffering, and help them feel less alone. Majmudar's dazzling novel highlights the very best of human nature in the midst of the horrific violence.

## Cracking India by Bapsi Sidhwa

Originally entitled *Ice Candy Man*, *Cracking India* is told through the eyes of eight-year-old Lenny, a polio survivor, who lives in Lahore with her Parsi family when her nursemaid is kidnapped. Sidhwa adroitly unspools how Lenny comes to understand the escalating violence between Hindus, Sikhs, and Muslims, and what people who once lived together peacefully are capable of doing to one another.

The New York Times deemed Sidhwa, born in Karachi in 1938, “Pakistan's finest English language novelist.” Like her character Lenny, she is a survivor of both polio and Partition. In an interview for *Dawn*, she recalls a memory of that time:

“I was seven or eight. And I remember the roar of the mob from a distance. I couldn't make out the words. But later, I was able to decipher the ‘Hare Hare Maha Dev,’ the ‘Allahu Akbar’ and the ‘Sat Siriye Kaal.’ Even back then, I could understand that they are killing each other. I knew it was evil.”



# Ceaseless Sensations

5 Stories That Prove The Trauma of Partition Didn't End In 1947

Devika Mittal

As I think of the Partition that happened 71 years ago, it feels like a memory. Though I do not possess any personal narrative of it, yet it feels like I do have one, so personal that it invokes emotions. This owes to the Partition of 1947 being a national memory in both India and Pakistan to this day. A memory that, as Pakistani historian Ayesha Jalal notes, continues to influence how the peoples and states of postcolonial South Asia envisage their past, present and future.

Despite this eminence, it feels like there is a dearth of narratives; stories that remain to be told and heard, dialogues that need to take place. The memory of the Partition itself cannot be sealed off, and this article is an attempt towards this. I bring together lived and inherited memories and delve into the everyday lives of six families to explore how they encountered the Partition, and the meaning(s) they attach to it.

## Deciding to Migrate

The Partition recorded one of the largest mass migrations in human history. But why did people migrate?

The Partition that entailed a separate nation for Muslims was seen as an escape from a predicted oppressive future for Muslims, argues Sualaha Batool, a banking professional from Karachi. Batool places the Partition as a desired end to the cycle of oppression. She argues that Muslims had ruled over India for centuries and must have oppressed Hindus in their time, so now when the Hindus got the chance to rule, they would oppress Muslims. This bleak future for Muslims was apparent from the views of the Hindu leaders. There was thus a strong sense of fear and insecurity among Muslims over staying in India, she argues.

One reason for migrating was the hope for a better life. Batool shares that while her mother's family migrated during the Partition fearing the violence that broke out, her father had migrated in the 1960s after a family feud. He shifted to Hyderabad (Pakistan) to stay with some relatives and finally moved to Karachi to start a new life.

There were also those who only had the option to migrate. Tulika Bathija, a Mumbai-based educator and peace activist, stumbled upon her family's history when she found an old passport belonging to her grandfather that mentioned Shikarpur, and eventually discovered that her family, both paternal and mater-



nal, had migrated from Pakistan. Since the Sindh migrants were scattered, they migrated from different routes. While her paternal grandfather's family migrated from a border in Sindh, her mother's family migrated from the Punjab side, and what they experienced sowed seeds of hatred for years to come.

One of her uncles crossed the border in a train full of corpses, with blood dripping on his left shoulder throughout the journey. The scene remained etched in his mind and shaped his being for the time to come. When he came to India, he said, "We Hindus need to protect ourselves."

Bathija's maternal grandmother also has both sweet and bitter memories. She misses her ancestral place (Sukkur), and talks fondly about it, but is also entangled in a feeling of loss and betrayal. She feels her home and her life was snatched from her by Muslims.

Another family trying to make sense of their crumbling world belonged to Vikram Kalra, a Delhi-based heritage artist, who grew up with the nostalgia of being a Lahori. He recounts that Partition came as a big shock to his family. However, the fate of Lahore remained undecided till the last moment. When eventually Lahore was decided upon,

**Another family trying to make sense of their crumbling world belonged to Vikram Kalra, a Delhi-based heritage artist, who grew up with the nostalgia of being a Lahori. He recounts that Partition came as a big shock to his family. However, the fate of Lahore remained undecided till the last moment**

there was chaos and tension across the city. Seeing this, his family members decided to move to India for a few days. Confident this chaos will be short-lived, his uncle paid the electricity bill before leaving Lahore so that when they came back, they would not be in darkness.

## Witnessing the Partition

We tend to think of Partition-related violence in terms of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims, but what about the experiences of other communities? While a Parsi from Karachi believes their community was unaffected, there were some who felt threatened and thus migrated.

One such story is that of the in-laws of Mani Mehta, who is now in her 80s and lives in Nagpur. Her father-in-law worked as a manager in the military club in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, while her husband was studying at a boarding school in Bombay. When violence broke out in Rawalpindi, her in-laws decided to move to India. While her father-in-law decided to come later, his wife and children left and boarded a train to reach India. When the train was in Peshawar, a mob of Sikhs entered the compartment and killed all the Muslim passengers on board. When they came towards Mehta's family, one of the children who was nine-years-old at the time, mustered the courage to tell them they were Parsis. Hearing this, the Sikhs took mercy and told them they will ensure they reach India safely.

As for her father-in-law, he had used the name "Noshervan", a name common for both Muslims and Parsis, to pass off

as a Muslim, and after some months he moved to India. While her own family had not migrated, Mehta talked about the Bombay of that time hosting the refugees from Parsi and other communities. Besides this, during and post-migration, Parsis from different parts in Pakistan shifted to Karachi.

## Coping with the Trauma

Those who migrated, especially those who were forced to, struggled to start afresh in a land that was not just new but also hostile. Bathija shares that her paternal grandfather was in the shipping business and had contacts in Bombay. When violence broke out, they reluctantly decided to move to Bombay. However, life was not easy after migration. They had to live in rehabilitation camps and start from scratch, doing menial jobs to survive.

Post-migration, the Sindh community also re-invented itself to survive and integrate with the local community. This was also a response to the trauma it faced. According to Bathija, upon migration, Sindhis went from a culture and heritage of religious syncretism to simply seeming more Hindu.

We know that with time, our borders have only grown stricter. However, this is true not just for both countries, but for the divided families as well. Like Vikram Kalra's family, the family of Raza, a research student from Lahore, had also thought of the violence during Partition as a temporary disturbance, and hoped to return to Alwar after normalcy was restored but it never happened. His grandmother died a few years after the Partition, and his family believes it was due to the trauma of being away from her son who had stayed back in India. This also affected Raza's mother, whose mother died shortly after her birth, leaving her in the care of her eldest sister. Raza's mother wanted to visit her mother's ancestral home in India, in the hope that she will be able to experience the essence of her mother there. However, the cruel visa policy did not allow such a visit to take place.

A few years ago, the governments of India and Pakistan announced visa on arrival for senior citizens. Raza recounts that he shared this news with his mother and told her that for her, it was now only a matter of a few more years. However, his mother passed away without living her only dream.

*The Article First Appeared In The Express Tribune*

Seventy-five years ago, in August 1946, George Orwell's "Animal Farm" was published in the United States. It was a huge success, with over a half-million copies sold in its first year. "Animal Farm" was followed three years later by an even bigger success: Orwell's dystopian novel "Nineteen Eighty-Four."

In the years since, Orwell's writing has left an indelible mark on American thought and culture. Sales of "Animal Farm" and "Nineteen Eighty-Four" jumped in 2013 after the whistleblower Edward Snowden leaked confidential National Security Agency documents. And "Nineteen Eighty-Four" rose to the top of Amazon's best-sellers list after Donald Trump's Presidential Inauguration in 2017.

As a philosophy professor, I'm interested in the continuing relevance of Orwell's ideas, including those on totalitarianism and socialism.

## Early career

George Orwell was the pen name of Eric Blair. Born in 1903 in colonial India, Blair later moved to England, where he attended elite schools on scholarships. After finishing school, he joined the British civil service, working in Burma, now Myanmar. At age 24, Orwell returned to England to become a writer.

During the 1930s, Orwell had modest success as an essayist, journalist and novelist. He also served as a volunteer soldier with a left-wing militia group that fought on behalf of the Spanish Republic during the Spanish Civil War. During the conflict, Orwell experienced how propaganda could shape political narratives through observing inaccurate reporting of events he experienced firsthand.

Orwell later summarized the purpose of his writing from roughly the Spanish Civil War onward: "Every line of serious work I have written since 1936 has been, directly or indirectly, against totalitarianism and for democratic Socialism."

Orwell did not specify in that passage what he meant by either totalitarianism or democratic socialism, but some of his other works clarify how he understood those terms.

# Orwellian Reality Persists

Orwell's ideas remain relevant 75 years after 'Animal Farm' was published

Mark Satta

**Orwell's work, in my view, challenges us to resist permitting leaders to engage in totalitarian behavior, regardless of political affiliation. It also reminds us that some of our best tools for resisting totalitarianism are to tell truths and to preserve liberty**



## What is totalitarianism?

For Orwell, totalitarianism was a political order focused on power and control. The totalitarian attitude is exemplified by the antagonist, O'Brien, in "Nineteen Eighty-Four." The fictional O'Brien is a powerful government official who uses torture and manipulation to gain power over the thoughts and actions of the protagonist, Winston Smith. Significantly, O'Brien treats his desire for power as an end in itself. O'Brien represents power for power's sake.

Much of Orwell's keenest insights concern what totalitarianism is incompatible with. In his 1941 essay "The Lion and the Unicorn," Orwell writes of "The

totalitarian idea that there is no such thing as law, there is only power ... ." In other words, laws can limit a ruler's power. Totalitarianism seeks to obliterate the limits of law through the uninhibited exercise of power.

Similarly, in his 1942 essay "Looking Back on the Spanish War," Orwell argues that totalitarianism must deny that there are neutral facts and objective truth. Orwell identifies liberty and truth as "safeguards" against totalitarianism. The exercise of liberty and the recognition of truth are actions incompatible with the total centralized control that totalitarianism requires.

Orwell understood that totalitarian-

ism could be found on the political right and left. For Orwell, both Nazism and Communism were totalitarian.

Orwell's work, in my view, challenges us to resist permitting leaders to engage in totalitarian behavior, regardless of political affiliation. It also reminds us that some of our best tools for resisting totalitarianism are to tell truths and to preserve liberty.

## What is democratic socialism?

In his 1937 book "The Road to Wigan Pier," Orwell writes that socialism means "justice and liberty." The justice he refers to goes beyond mere economic justice. It also includes social and politi-

cal justice.

Orwell elaborates on what he means by socialism in "The Lion and the Unicorn." According to him, socialism requires "approximate equality of incomes (it need be no more than approximate), political democracy, and abolition of all hereditary privileges, especially in education."

In fleshing out what he means by "approximate equality of incomes," Orwell later says in the same essay that income equality shouldn't be greater than a ratio of about 10 to 1. In its modern-day interpretation, this suggests Orwell could find it ethical for a CEO to make 10 times more than their employees, but not to make 300 times more, as the average CEO in the United States does today.

But in describing socialism, Orwell discusses more than economic inequality. Orwell's writings indicate that his preferred conception of socialism also requires "political democracy." As scholar David Dwan has noted, Orwell distinguished "two concepts of democracy." The first concept refers to political power resting with the common people. The second is about having classical liberal freedoms, like freedom of thought. Both notions of democracy seem relevant to what Orwell means by democratic socialism. For Orwell, democratic socialism is a political order that provides social and economic equality while also preserving robust personal freedom.

I believe Orwell's description of democratic socialism and his recognition that there are various forms socialism can take remain important today given that American political dialogue about socialism often overlooks much of the nuance Orwell brings to the subject. For example, Americans often confuse socialism with communism. Orwell helps clarify the difference between these terms.

With high levels of economic inequality, political assaults on truth and renewed concerns about totalitarianism, Orwell's ideas remain as relevant now as they were 75 years ago.

*By arrangements with The Conversation*



## Eye size of birds may predict sensitivity to environmental change

Agencies

A new study shows the eye size of birds can reveal broad patterns of their biology and behaviour, including where they live, what they eat, and how they hunt, providing a potential roadmap for future conservation efforts.

Birds have some of the largest eyes relative to the bodies of all vertebrate land animals, second only to frogs. With a limited range of taste and smell, birds primarily rely on vision to navigate, find food and avoid predators. Yet surprisingly little is known about how eye size in birds influences their behaviour compared with other traits, such as beak shape and body size, which scientists have meticulously studied since Charles Darwin's classic work on finches.

"I was really shocked to find out while doing literature searches that there was no definitive publication on how eye size in birds relates to their environment," said Ian Ausprey, a recent doctoral graduate of the Florida Museum of Natural History's Ordway Lab of Ecosystem Conservation.

Previous studies on bird eyes have been limited in scope, typically including only a few dozen species or birds in specific regions. This gap in scientific knowledge was all the more glaring given that a graduate student measured the eyes of more than 4,000 species of birds in museum collections in the late 1970s, creating the largest dataset of its kind.

Ausprey relied on this resource to analyze eye size for 2,777 species -- about one-third of the world's bird diversity -- revealing that this single trait more powerfully predicts where birds live and how they behave than better-studied characteristics such as size, anatomy, and movement.

Ausprey had the idea for the study while conducting fieldwork with colleagues in the Andean forests of Peru. Over the course of five years, the researchers measured the eyes of Peruvian birds and attached small light sensors to more than a dozen species of tanagers, finches, wrens, and woodpeckers to determine how these birds were coping with increased amounts of forest fragmentation due to agriculture.

Their results were troubling: Birds with large eyes avoided agricultural fields, keeping to diminished forest habitats. But the researchers could also use eye size to predict where birds mated and laid eggs and what they were eating, valuable information for future conservation efforts.

Ausprey wanted to know whether this pattern held true for all birds, not just those in Peru. But with over 10,000 species spread out across all seven continents, answering a question as broad as how eye size influences bird behavior would have taken years.

Fortunately, the data Ausprey needed had already been collected in the form of a dissertation, a nearly 2,000-page tome completed by Stanley Ritland during his time as a doctoral student at the University of Chicago.

"He spent his time traveling around museums, extracting eyes out of specimens preserved in alcohol and then measuring them," Ausprey said. "He did it for several thousand species of birds, as well as mammals and reptiles."

## Office of the Chief Revenue Officer Srinagar Municipal Corporation

AUCTION NOTICE

**Subject: Notice inviting offers/bids for allotment of contract for running of Municipal Car Parking Lot at Shalimar opposite Mughal Garden.**

Sealed tenders/offers are invited from the interested parties for the allotment of contract for running of Municipal Car Parking Lot at Shalimar opposite Mughal Garden. The last date for the submission of tender applications is 08-09-2021 Upto 2:30 p.m. and the same shall be opened by the Tender Opening Committee on the same date at 3:00 p.m. in presence of the parties who may wish to remain available for this purpose. The other terms & conditions shall be as under:-

- The bidder is required to submit the Call Deposit Receipt of Rs. 50,000/- for the site pledged to the Chief Accounts Officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation along with the tender application without which no tender shall be accepted or entertained.
- The minimum reserve value fixed of the bid is 7,44,000/-
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit the bid amount in one go after which he will be allowed to run the Car Parking site.
- The term of the contract shall be for 01 (one) year only.
- The contractor shall have to collect the car parking fee from the general public as per the following schedule;

S.No	Name of the vehicle	Fee per vehicle/per trip/per day
1.	Tourist Bus big size	Rs. 100/-
2.	Tourist Bus normal size	Rs. 75/-
3.	School Bus/Mini Bus/Tempo Traveler	Rs. 50/-
4.	Light Vehicle/Four Wheeler	Rs. 20/-
5.	Scooter/Motor Bike/Auto Rickshaw	Rs. 10/-
6.	Bicycle	Rs. 05/-

Sd/-  
Chief Revenue Officer  
Srinagar Municipal Corporation  
DIPK-NB-2601/21  
No.SMC/Est/626-29  
Dated: 12/08/2021

# 'Snubbing friends to look at phone linked to various mental health issues'

Agencies

Researchers at the University of Georgia have found that ignoring friends to look at a phone screen is linked to various mental health issues including depression and anxiety.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Behaviour and Information Technology'.

Smartphones have made multi-tasking easier, more understandable, and at times compulsive. But in social settings, these devices can lead to a form of contemporary rudeness called phone snubbing, or phubbing, the act of ignoring one's companions to pay attention to a phone.

While it may be commonplace, snubbing one's friends (Fphubbing) can have serious repercussions on relationships.

The study revealed positive associations between depression and social anxiety on increasing Fphubbing: depressed people are likely to phub their friends more frequently, and socially anxious people, who might prefer online social interactions to face-to-face communication, might also exhibit more phubbing behaviour. Personality traits such as neuroticism also influence phubbing behaviour.

"And of course, some people who have high social anxiety or depression are more likely to be addicted to their smartphone," said Juhung Sun, lead author on the paper who completed her master's degree in communication studies at UGA.

The very ordinariness of phubbing suggested some fundamental insights about how technology interrupts social interactions -- and how quickly they are accepted, if not embraced.



"I observed that so many people use their phones while they are sitting with their friends at the cafe, any dining time, regardless of the relationship type," said Sun, currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Oklahoma.

She first considered some negative reasons behind phubbing -- smartphone addiction and relatedly, the habit of constantly reading notifications that pop up on the screen.

"People are really sensitive to their notifications. With each buzz or sound, we consciously or unconsciously look at our phones," she explained, noting that the device's wide utility across applications -- from weather to breaking news,

are key drivers fostering this dynamic.

"A third significant finding in the study revealed that agreeable individuals have a lower instance of phubbing in the presence of their friends. People who have agreeableness as a personality trait tend to show cooperative, polite and friendly behaviours in their interpersonal relationships and social settings," Sun added.

"They have a high tendency to maintain social harmony while avoiding arguments that can ruin their relationships. In face-to-face conversations, people with high levels of agreeableness consider phubbing behaviour rude and impolite to their conversational part-

ners," Sun further said.

And though agreeable people may prioritise strong friendships, an exploratory study by the researchers revealed phubbing also to be more likely in the presence of three or more people.

That dynamic may influence the prevalence of phubbing in the context of a work environment

"It's ironic that while so many people believe that phubbing behaviour is rude, they still do it," Sun said.

"A majority of people phub others, and in a group, it may seem OK, because it's just me, the speaker doesn't notice I'm using the phone. The number of people in a group can be one reason," Sun explained.

Alternately, disabling or turning over a phone can indicate a show of respect for a situation and focus on a person.

"That, too, is a signal -- I am listening to what you are saying, this meeting is important and I am focusing on you," Sun further said.

Jennifer Samp, professor in the UGA Franklin College of Arts and Sciences department communication studies and Sun's advisor on the project, believes that the act of Fphubbing may have even greater implications once the larger public returns to face-to-face interactions after the pandemic subsides.

"People relied heavily on phones and other technologies to stay connected during the pandemic," Samp said.

"For many, staying connected in a more distanced manner via texts and video messaging was more comfortable than face-to-face interaction. Will people -- particularly anxious ones -- still phub when physically reunited? Time will tell," Samp concluded.

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL hospitality and protocol jammu/srinagar

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

NIT No:-DHP/Acctts/039 Dated:- 02-08-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from registered/approved agencies in connection with OUTSOURCING OF CATERING SERVICES OF STATE CIRCUIT HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY AND PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT at Kashmir Division under two bid tendering process i.e. "Technical Bid" and "Financial Bid" as per details given below.

**Instructions to bidder (ITB):**

Name of the tender	OUTSOURCING OF CATERING SERVICES OF STATE CIRCUIT HOUSES OF HOSPITALITY AND PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT AT KASHMIR.
Cost of Tender Document	Rs.1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Hospitality and Protocol.
Earnest Money Deposit (CDR)	Undertaking in lieu of CDR for blacklisting (as per Annexure A)
Period of contract	One year
Period of downloading of tender document	21DAYS
Bid Submission Start Date	12-08-2021
Bid Submission End Date	03-09-2021
Late date for receiving hard copy (Original Demand Draft as cost of Tender Document and EMD in shape of CDR)	05-09-2021
Date of time of opening of Bids (on line)	Date convenient to Directorate Level Contract Committee.

1) The detailed NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, set of terms and conditions, scope of work, detail of material and manpower etc. can be seen/downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The bidders are requested to submit their bids prior to last date of submission to avoid any technical or other difficulty resulting in non submission of their bids due to non availability of website at last moment and or any reason whatsoever. Neither DHP nor the E-Tendering service provider shall be responsible for any issues such as internet connectivity or non compatibility internet browser etc. The last date and time of submission of bids will not be extended due to the hanging of the system or congestion due to internet at the end of the bidders at the time of submitting tender. Bids not submitted online will not be entertained. Directorate of Hospitality and Protocol, J&K(DHP) reserves the right to reject all or any tender wholly or partly without assigning any reason whatsoever.

2) Bidders who wish to participate in this tender will have to register on line [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). Bidders will have to procure Digital Signature Certificate using which they can sign their electronic bids. Bidders who already have a valid Digital Certificate do not need to procure a new Digital Certificate.

3) The bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents as specified in the "Technical Bid" in terms of soft copies within period specified above. No documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, the hard copies Tender Document Fee (Demand Draft) should be submitted physically in the Directorate of Hospitality and Protocol, Gupkar Road, Sonwar, Srinagar/Canal Road Jammu within the date and time specified above.

5) Besides other documents, the bidders must ensure to upload the signed / accepted copy of "Terms and Conditions" of the NIT without which the tender will be out rightly rejected.

6) **The bidder may be blacklisted and Security deposit/Performance guarantee deposit may be forfeited if:**

- Successful bidder fails to execute an Agreement within 15 days after fixation of contract.
- Successful Bidder withdraws his tender or backs out after acceptance.
- Bidder withdraws his tender before the expiry of validity period stipulated in the bidding document.
- Bidder violates any of the terms and conditions of the tender.
- Bidder revises any of the items quoted during the validity period.
- Bidder is found to have indulged in fraudulent practices in the bid submission process.

7) The tenderer should have at least three years working experience of Required field/Services. The bidder should have valid License, GST Registration No. and Income Tax Registration / PAN No. and other valid documents like Labour Registration, Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Registration .Copies of GST Number/PAN Number/Bank Account Number along with Tax Clearance certificates from respective department and latest return fields should be accompanied with the bid.

Sd/= Director General Hospitality & Protocol,J&K  
DIPK-6657/21  
No.DHP/Acctts-NIT/Elect.Gadgets-Kashmir/679-80dated 02-08-2021

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Directorate of hospitality and protocol jammu/srinagar

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

NIT No:-DHP/ Acctts-40

Dated:-02/08/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from registered/approved agencies in connection with **Annual Maintenance Contract for various Electrical Gadgets installed in various Houses of the Department, Kashmir Province**, under two bid tendering process i.e. "Technical Bid" and "Financial Bid" as per details given below.

**Instructions to bidder (ITB):**

Name of the tender	Annual Maintenance Contract for various Electrical Gadgets installed in various Houses of the Department, Kashmir Province
Cost of Tender Document	Rs.1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Hospitality and Protocol.
Earnest Money Deposit (CDR)	Undertaking in lieu of CDR as per Annexure B
Period of contract	One year
Period of downloading of tender document	21DAYS
Bid Submission Start Date	24-08-2021
Bid Submission End Date	03-09-2021
Late date for receiving hard copy (Original Demand Draft as cost of Tender Document and EMD in shape of CDR)	03-09-2021
Date of time of opening of Bids (on line)	Date convenient to Directorate Level Contract Committee.

1) The detailed NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, set of terms and conditions, scope of work, detail of material and manpower etc. can be seen/downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The bidders are requested to submit their bids prior to last date of submission to avoid any technical or other difficulty resulting in non-submission of their bids due to non-availability of website at last moment and or any reason whatsoever. Neither DHP nor the E-Tendering service provider shall be responsible for any issues such as internet connectivity or non-compatibility internet browser etc. The last date and time of submission of bids will not be extended due to the hanging of the system or congestion due to internet at the end of the bidders at the time of submitting tender. Bids not submitted online will not be entertained. Directorate of Hospitality and Protocol, J&K (DIRECTOR HOSPITALITY & PROTOCOL, J&K) reserves the right to reject all or any tender wholly or partly without assigning any reason whatsoever.

2) Bidders who wish to participate in this tender will have to register online [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). Bidders will have to procure Digital Signature Certificate using which they can sign their electronic bids. Bidders who already have a valid Digital Certificate do not need to procure a new Digital Certificate.

3) The bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents as specified in the "Technical Bid" in terms of soft copies within period specified above. No documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, the hard copies of Undertaking in lieu of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR) and Tender Document Fee (Demand Draft) should be submitted physically in the Directorate of Hospitality and Protocol, Canal Road Jammu within the date and time specified above.

4) Besides other documents, the bidders must ensure to upload the signed / accepted copy of "Terms and Conditions" of the NIT without which the tender will be out rightly rejected.

5) Undertaking in lieu of EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) and TDF (Tender Document Fee) in shape of Demand Draft only shall be accepted. Tenders not accompanied with undertaking in lieu of CDR/TDF will be outrightly rejected.

6) **The Tenderer shall be black listed, if:-**

- Successful bidder fails to execute an Agreement within 15 days after fixation of contract.
- Successful Bidder withdraws his tender or backs out after acceptance.
- Bidder withdraws his tender before the expiry of validity period stipulated in the bidding document.
- Bidder violates any of the terms and conditions of the tender.
- Bidder revises any of the items quoted during the validity period.
- Bidder is found to have indulged in fraudulent practices in the bid submission process.

7) The tenderer should have at least Five years working experience of Required field/Services. The bidder should have valid License, GST Registration No. and Income Tax Registration / PAN No. and other valid documents like Labour Registration, Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Registration .Copies of GST Number/PAN Number/Bank Account Number along with Tax Clearance certificates from respective department and latest return fields should be accompanied with the bid.

Sd/= Director General Hospitality & Protocol,J&K  
DIPK-6656/21  
No.DHP/Acctts-NIT/Elect.Gadgets-Kashmir/681-82 dated 02-08-2021



## PM Modi launches automobile scrappage policy

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday formally launched the National Automobile Vehicle Scrappage Policy at the Investor Summit in Gujarat. The policy was first announced by Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari in March 2021 to phase out older polluting vehicles.



While launching the policy, the PM said that it will bring in a fresh investment of more than Rs 10,000 crore and create thousands of jobs. Modi also said that the general public will benefit greatly from this policy in every way – from zero registration fee to reduction in number of accidents. He added that the policy will give new energy and security to the scrap related sector.

“Employees and small entrepreneurs will get a safe environment and will get the benefits like the employees of other organised sectors...We had to import Rs 23,000 crore worth of scrap steel during the last year as our scrapping is

not productive and we are not able to recover energy and rare earth metals,” the PM said.

Gadkari, who was also present at the event, claimed that the move is likely to lead to a cut in raw material costs by around 40%. He added that 450-500 vehicle fitness centres will be opened under the new policy.

“There are about one crore vehicles in India that are plying on roads without valid fitness... The old vehicles are 10-12% more polluting than the newer ones and pose a safety hazard.”

After the policy was launched, several companies, including Tata Motors and Cero-Mahindra MSTC Recycling, announced setting up of scrappage facilities. Tata Motors said it has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government through the Ports and Transport Department to support setting up a registered vehicle scrapping facility (RVSF) in Ahmedabad for end-of-life passenger and commercial vehicles. The scrappage centre will have the capacity to recycle up to 36,000 vehicles a year.

The scrappage policy, also called The Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernisation Programme, is aimed at phasing out passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles that are older than 20 or 15 years, respectively. The policy implementation will start with heavy commercial vehicles from April 1, 2023.

## Commerce minister faces heat for criticism of businesses, including Tata

Agencies

India's commerce minister faced heat on social media on Saturday for his remarks that many big domestic businesses had overlooked national interests and that \$106 billion Tata Group's objections to proposed policy changes for e-commerce had upset him. At an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Thursday, Minister Piyush Goyal criticised Tata and more broadly said local businesses should not just focus on profits or think of bypassing local laws, according to media reports and a source who attended the event.

The comments caught public attention and stoked a debate on social media after The Hindu newspaper reported on Saturday the government had asked the CII to block videos with Goyal's comments. Two links to those videos on Goyal's speech shared with journalists were now marked private and blocked. The CII and Goyal's office did not respond to a request for comment.

“The kind of language used against industry captains & calling their work against nation's interest is shameful ... CII should demand an apology instead of helping him by pulling down the video,” said Priyanka Chaturvedi,

a lawmaker and opposition leader.

A spokeswoman of India's main opposition Congress Party, Supriya Shrinete, said on Twitter Goyal's remarks were “undignified”.

Goyal's comments on Tata



came after Reuters last month reported the conglomerate was among most vociferous in telling the government in a July meeting that proposed e-commerce rules will have a major impact on its business and bar its joint venture partners like Starbucks from selling goods on Tata's shopping websites.

At the CII event, Goyal said Tata's objection to the rules had hurt him, saying he had conveyed that position to Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, the source who attended said.

Tata declined to comment on Saturday.

## 'Threat to industry'

## DELEGATION OF PASHMINA EXPORTERS MET TWO UNION MINISTERS IN NEW DELHI

KO NEWS DESK

New Delhi:- A delegation of Pashmina exporters from UT of J&K led by Dr. Hina Bhat, Vice-Chairperson, KVIB met with Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shri Bhupender Yadav,

belongs to Pashmina goats and every handmade pashmina shawl has some guard hair present.

Due to this process of seizure, subsequent hardships, and the time taken to get the test results which may take from 6 months to two years, many exporters have faced cancel-

ers to either completely quit export of handmade shawls or choose cheaper machine made shawls.

If this practice continues for some more years, it will be devastating for the handmade Kashmir Pashmina industry which will eventually, leave some 5 lakh plus artisans and



Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change at their respective offices in New Delhi.

The ministers were apprised about the Threat to Pashmina industry due to the wrong branding and identification of Pashmina shawls as shahtoosh shawls. This is causing huge losses to the Pashmina industry and to the country's economy thereby making the Indian pashmina exporters lose credibility in the global market. Currently, the wildlife department sends the seized samples to their labs which uses Morphological microscopic tests to study the suspected guard hair found in the shawls. It was explained to the minister's that these testing techniques are outdated and that the guard hair

thousands of exporters and traders out of work. Both ministers heard the Grievance of the exporters and assured swift action on this matter by adopting the latest techniques

The delegation of exporters included Mr. Mubbashir Ahmed Shaw, Tariq Ahmed Dar, Imran Rashid Darzi, Bilal Ahmed Beigh, Naqeed Qazi, Abdul Manan Baba and other exporters. The delegation is very thankful to the ministers for hearing their grievances and assuring full support to the exporters and resolving this issue at the earliest.

Dr. Hina Bhat has assured the exporters her full support as this matter is of grave concern and will affect a large population of artisans in Kashmir valley.

## “HAUSLA- Inspiring her growth” paving the way, orientation ceremony for the women entrepreneurs commences

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 14: Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) under the aegis of Department of Industries of Commerce, moves to the next step on their initiative called “HAUSLA”. A programme that will help women entrepreneurs of J&K to overcome financial, legal, social and marketing challenges in their business ventures.

The programme will enable and empower women entrepreneurs with wider outreach and visibility for their products and services. The initiative was launched by Lt. Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha on 29th June 2021 at SKICC Srinagar.

The online orientation ceremony was for the 1st batch of 118 selected women entrepreneurs from J&K who are running their own enterprises, the program is supported by and partnered with India SME Forum, Ni-MSME & Mission Youth J&K as program

partners, J&K Bank as financial partner and Flipkart as e-Commerce partner.

Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce, Ranjan Prakash Thakur who was chief guest on the occasion said “the positive environment in favor of women entrepreneurs has been the department's focus and ‘Hausla’ will further keep empowering & providing them with more opportunities to spread their wings in their entrepreneurship journey. I further ensure all my support to the women entrepreneurs of J&K”

Managing Director, JKTPO, Ms. Ankita Kar in her welcome address said “Hausla is a tailored program to address the challenges faced by our Women entrepreneurs of J&K. The programme will surely create role models who will inspire generations to come”

Ms. Kar also congratulated the selected women entrepreneurs and welcomed them to the Hausla family.

Ms. Sushma Morthania, Director General, India SME Forum, Mentoring partner briefed the batch about the programme layout/format and Schedule. She underscored the importance of 3Ms for entrepreneurs- Money, Market and Mentorship which are very well taken into consideration while designing the programme.

Besides these officials the ceremony was graced by Mr. Prahlad Kakar, Chairman, India SME Forum, Mrs. Glory Swarupa, DG, Ni-MSME, Mr. Shareesh Sharma, Zonal Head, J&K Bank, Dr. J.S. Juneja, Vice Chairman, India SME Forum & Former CMD, NSIC and Mr. Tushar Mukherjee, Director, Flipkart

The initiative will have a comprehensive schedule which will include training of 27 hours spread over 9 weeks, special sessions and 6 hours mentoring for 50 women who will be selected based on assessment and evaluation throughout the training.

## Government hikes air fare cap; passenger capacity at 72 per cent

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The ministry of civil aviation (MoCA) has increased the capacity deployment by allowing airlines to sell up to 72.5% seats of their pre-covid-19 capacity on domestic flights, up from 65% earlier. The ministry also announced a price hike on domestic flights by at least 12.5% on both minimum and maximum domestic airfare.

“The minimum and maximum

result in additional losses. The government, however, is taking the measure to maintain social distancing norms inside airlines amidst Covid-19 pandemic and also protect the interest of smaller airlines which could not fight a tariff war against the big players.

MoCA permitted increasing the capacity deployment on domestic routes gradually from 33%, with effect from May 25, 2020, to 80%, with effect from



fare chargeable shall continue to be rolled over for the 30 days cycle,” the ministry said in the statement. According to the new changes, the minimum fares have been raised to Rs 2,900 from Rs 2,600 for short-haul flights with a duration of less than 40 minutes. The maximum fare that an airline can charge in these routes has been increased to Rs 8,800 from Rs 7,800. There are six other bands with separate minimum or maximum fares.

With this price hike, the Delhi-Mumbai one-way minimum fare has increased by at least Rs 575, while the maximum airfare has gone up by Rs 1,625. India airlines have long been asking the government to remove fare and capacity caps stating that it may

December 03, 2020. However, it reduced the permissible capacity deployment to 50% of pre-Covid levels with effect from June 01, 2021 due to the resurgence of the second wave of the pandemic. Before the current announcement, it was fixed at 65%. “This increase will allow airlines to partly offset the impact of increased aviation turbine fuel prices, thereby cushioning some impact on their losses.

SpiceJet posts standalone net loss of Rs 729 cr Private carrier SpiceJet on Friday posted a standalone net loss of Rs 729 crore for the June quarter. It had posted losses of Rs 235 crore and Rs 593 crore in the March quarter and corresponding quarter of last year, respectively.

## HC stays some provisions of Code of Ethics of IT Rules for digital media

Agencies

The Bombay High Court on Saturday granted an interim stay to the operation of clauses 9 (1) and 9 (3) of the new Information Technology Rules, 2021, for digital media pertaining to adherence to a Code of Ethics. A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G S Kulkarni said such compulsory adherence to code of ethics was in breach of the petitioners' right to free speech guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution.

It also said that clause 9 went beyond the scope of the Information Technology Act itself. The HC also refused the Union government's request to stay the order to enable it file an appeal.

The court, however, refused to stay clauses 14 and 16 of the IT Rules that deal with the constitution of an inter-ministerial committee and blocking of content in certain situations.

Legal news portal The Leaflet and journalist Nikhil Wagle had filed petitions challenging the new rules, saying they were likely

to have a “chilling effect” on citizens' right to free speech guaranteed by the Constitution.

On Friday, the bench had asked the Union government what was the need to introduce the recently notified Information Technology



Rules, 2021 without superseding the existing IT rules that came into effect in 2009. Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, who appeared for the Union government, had argued that the need to bring in new regulations was felt for checking the spread of fake news.

## "Some Customers Deferred Imports Of Spot LPG Due To High Prices": Petronet

Agencies

The country's biggest gas importer Petronet LNG said on Saturday said some of its customers have deferred imports of spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) due to high prices, which have made supplies under long-term deals more attractive.



“Some people are tapering purchases and rescheduling cargoes,” A.K. Singh, managing director of Petronet LNG said at a news conference. High spot LNG prices are not sustainable and India will ‘definitely’ sign long term deals, he said.

he said. He said the Indian power sector reduces LNG intakes if prices rise about \$10/mmBtu.

India aims to raise the share of natural gas in its energy mix to 15 per cent by 2030 from the current 6.2 per cent to cut its carbon footprint. The country also plans to use of hydrogen in

some sectors. Singh said in the short-run hydrogen use will not impact LNG demand.

“Today, the cost of hydrogen production is very high and also transportation and distribution is a challenge. It is an emerging fuel whereas LNG is an established fuel,” he said. India has allowed use of the super cooled

gas in transportation to cut the use of diesel.

Singh, whose company aims to set up 1,000 LNG dispensing stations in 4-5 years, hoped India would be able to emulate China's model, where its vast truck fleet is migrating to LNG from diesel.

## Airtel, Jio Conclude Rs1,008 Crore Spectrum Trading Deal

Bharti Airtel-Jio Spectrum Deal: The closure of the trading deal gives Jio the right to use Airtel's 800 Mhz spectrum in the Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, and Mumbai circles.

Agencies

Telecommunications major Bharti Airtel concludes its trading deal to sell 800 800 Mhz airwaves in three circles to Reliance Jio Infocomm (Jio), marking the first-ever deal between the two telecom rivals. On Friday, in a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges, Airtel announced that it has concluded its trading agreement with Reliance Jio to transfer the 'Right to Use' of Airtel's 800 MHz spectrum in three circles to Jio.

This means that trading deal closure gives Jio the right to use Airtel's 800 Mhz spectrum in the Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, and Mumbai circles.

As per the agreement, Airtel said that the company has received Rs 1,004.8 crore (net of tax) from Reliance Jio for the proposed transfer. Additionally, Jio will assume the future liabilities of Rs 469.3 crore relating to the spectrum.

The deal has resulted in Reli-

ance Jio - the biggest telecom operator in the country by subscriber base, and Airtel - the second largest, to work with each other, despite the rivalry between the two majors, ever since Mukesh Ambani-led Jio entered into the telecom sector in 2016.

Earlier this year, Airtel had signed a definitive trading deal to sell its 800 Mhz spectrum to Reliance Jio. The company then offered to sell 3.75 Mhz of bandwidth in Andhra Pradesh, 1.25 Mhz in Delhi, and 2.5 Mhz in Mumbai, subject to regulatory and statutory approvals.

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“The sale of the 800 MHz blocks in these three circles has enabled us to unlock value from spectrum that was unutilised. This is aligned to our overall network strategy,” said Gopal Vittal, MD & CEO (India and South Asia), Bharti Airtel in April 2021.

On Friday, August 13, Bharti Airtel was last trading 1.56 per cent higher at Rs 633 on the BSE.



“THE SALE OF THE 800 MHZ BLOCKS in these three circles has enabled us to unlock value from spectrum that was unutilised. This is aligned to our overall network strategy,” said Gopal Vittal, MD & CEO (India and South Asia), Bharti Airtel in April 2021.



## Covid-19 Third Wave Unpredictable: AIIM Director Randeep Guleria

**Visakhapatnam:** AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria said here on Saturday that the country might not see a third wave of coronavirus disease but it largely depended on people following Covid Appropriate Behaviour.

Talking to reporters at the Gitam Institute, where he received the Foundation Day Award in recognition of his services, Guleria noted that the only unpredictable part was how the virus behaved.

"But I don't think that we will see a third wave which will be as bad as the second wave," he observed.

Referring to apprehensions that the possible third wave could infect children more, the AIIMS chief pointed out that children would be "more susceptible" because they were not being vaccinated.

"The general feeling is that adults are getting vaccinated, children are not being vaccinated and therefore if there is a new wave it will affect those who are more susceptible. Children will be more susceptible," he noted.

More than 50 per cent of children have already been infected as per the sero survey and have antibodies, Guleria pointed out. But, he added, hopefully there would be a (anti-Covid) vaccine for children also coming up in another month or two.

Then children would also start getting vaccinated.

He said the vaccines were still effective as far as severe disease was concerned. "Vaccines are helping in preventing severe disease and death from Covid-19. Infections are still happening but those infected are predominantly those who have not been vaccinated. That's why we are saying more and more people need to get vaccinated," he added.

"Those getting infected even after vaccination, what we call breakthrough infection, are predominantly getting milder infection. So vaccines are effective in giving protection from severe disease," he noted.

# Be Prepared For Any Challenge That May Come Your Way: Rajnath To Armed Forces

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said efforts are being made to resolve the differences on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh through dialogue with China and that the process of disengagement has been completed at some places.

In an address to the armed forces on the eve of the 75th Independence Day, Singh said the dimensions of security are constantly changing in the evolving environment and called upon the three services to be prepared for any challenge that may come their way. "I call upon you to be prepared for any challenge that may come your way. I assure you that the government is ready and will continue to always meet your and your loved ones' needs," he said, in comments that came in the backdrop of the deteriorating security scenario in Afghanistan.

Singh said the Indian civilisation has always been peaceful since ancient times, but peace is not possible without power.

"If non-violence is our ultimate duty, protecting the integrity of the nation is equally important. Therefore, we are ready to sacrifice anything for unity and integrity of the nation," he said.

"In order to maintain peace and prosperity in the country, it is necessary that you should be alert and aware in protecting the nation wherever you are in water, land or sky," he said.

The defence minister also said that the situation along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir remained in check over the last year due to vigilance and indomitable valour of the Indian armed forces.



"Ceasefire violations have also come down since February 2021. The infiltration from across the border has stopped due to vigilance of the armed forces and para-military forces," he said in the address aired on All India Radio.

"In eastern Ladakh, efforts are being made to resolve the differences on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) through dialogue with China. The process of disengagement has been completed at some places," he said referring to the border row with China.

Both sides have already disengaged from areas around the North and South banks of Pangong lake as well as from Gogra.

Referring to Army Subedar Neeraj Chopra's feat, Singh said he has made this year's Independence Day even sweeter by winning the gold medal in the Javelin throw event at the Tokyo Olympics.

"Subedar Neeraj as well as other Olympic medalists have been specially invited to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort tomorrow. I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji for this," Singh said.

The minister greeted the armed forces on the occasion of

Independence Day.

"The nation is ushering in an important phase of Independence from midnight today, the 75th year of it. There is an atmosphere of celebration all around the country on this momentous occasion," he said.

The defence minister said the government has always been aware of the operational requirements of the armed force, adding the capital outlay has been increased from Rs 1.13 lakh crore to Rs 1.35 lakh crore in the Union Budget for 2021-22.

He assured the armed forces that the government will take every step to protect the country.

Referring to the acquisition of Rafale fighter jets to maintain the "operational edge" of the Indian Air Force, Singh said 26 aircraft out of 36 have already arrived in India and the remaining ones too will reach soon, adding the fleet will bring qualitative enhancement in the defence capability of the force.

The defence minister said Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) Vikrant completed its four-day maiden sea voyage on August 8 and that the construction of the warship is a major achievement of the 'Make in

India' initiatives.

"In another important initiative of 'Make in India', Ministry of Defence has launched a project worth over Rs 40,000 crore for construction of six conventional submarines named Project 75 (India) for Indian Navy on July 20," he said.

He said the Request for Proposal (RFP) under the strategic partnership model has been issued for the programme to the partners selected for it, adding that these submarines will be very effective in protecting India's strategic interests.

Singh also mentioned the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) recent successful demonstration of the hypersonic scramjet technology with the testing of Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV).

He also talked about the successful test-fired Agni P and some other missiles.

The defence minister said that the government constituted the Special Number 5 Selection Board in September 2020 for the permanent commission of women officers following a judgement on the matter by the Supreme Court.

He said on the recommendation of the board, permanent commission was awarded to some officers in November last year.

"The Supreme Court in March 2021 had passed another order for permanent commission to women officers..."

"Thereafter, on the recommendation of the Board, 147 more women officers were awarded permanent commission last month," he said.

So far, 424 women officers out of 615 have availed this benefit, he added.

## Police Medal for Meritorious Service Awarded to 6 J&K cops

Agenceis

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday awarded Police Medal for Meritorious Service (JKMS) to six officers of the UT's police on the eve of Independence Day.

The government also awarded J&K Police Medal for Gallantry to 145 police officers.

Those who have been awarded JKMS medals are Mukesh Singh, IPS, ADGP, Jammu Zone, M K Sinha, IPS, ADGP, Headquarter PHQ, Vijay Kumar, IPS, IGP Kashmir Zone, Mohammad Aslam, SSP, CID Headquarters, S Inderjeet Singh, DySP, Welfare PHQ and

Sajad Ahmad Bhat, Inspector, a police spokesman said.

"Recognising the exemplary acts of bravery and courage beyond the call of normal duty and fighting against terrorists and also in preventing crime as also in nabbing dreaded criminals, the government awarded J&K Police Medal for Gallantry to 145 police officers personnel," he said.

The spokesman said DGP Dilbag Singh has expressed his happiness and thanked Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and his administration for acknowledging the services of the J&K Police Department.

The DGP has also congratulated the families of the awardees.

## Bomb Blast Damages School In Assam's Hailakandi Near Mizoram Border

### CM Says Probe To Be Conducted

**HAILAKANDI (ASSAM):** After a brief lull, tension along the Assam-Mizoram border escalated again on Saturday after unidentified miscreants bombed a government educational institute in Hailakandi district, triggering fear among locals, a senior police officer said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated that a probe will be carried out into the incident. The blast that took place at Sahebaria around midnight damaged a major portion of a primary school, close to the interstate border, though no casualty has been reported so far.

Hailakandi Superintendent of Police Gaurav Upadhyaya told reporters. Official sources here said that locals in the area suspect that miscreants from the other side of the border bombed the school. A police officer in Mizoram's

Kolasib district, bordering Hailakandi, however, asserted that there was no reason for anyone to explode bomb in Sahebaria, which isn't a disputed area.

"Why should people from Mizoram go and explode bombs in a place that falls in Assam. It is not a disputed area," Kolasib Superintendent of Police (SP) Vanlalafaka Ralte pointed out.

According to Upadhyaya, more details will be available after a thorough investigation.

Sarma, on his part, asserted that he will write to his Mizoram counterpart and request for a probe into the blast.

As the incident occurred within "our territory, the Assam police will conduct an inquiry into it," the CM maintained.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Kashmir Painted

the educational institutes in J&K remain closed in wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the staff has been directed to attend August 15 celebrations.

According to reports, tricolour will be hoisted at 23,000 schools and hundreds of government buildings across the Union Territory tomorrow. Directions to unfurl tricolour have also been issued to Panchayat representatives.

Kashmir University has also issued a circular that reads "A flag hoisting ceremony will be held in the University of Kashmir on Sunday, the 15th of August 2021 at 10:15 am. All employees of the varsity are invited to the ceremony."

Similar directive was passed earlier whereby all buildings housing government offices will be hoisting the tri-colour.

In Srinagar a 100-feet high tricolour measuring 24/36 feet was also installed atop Afghan built old Srinagar's Hari Parbat or Kohi Maran fort. Earlier, army unfurled 100 - feet high tricolour at the tourist resort of Gulmarg.

### Covid Not

Referring to the Covid second wave, the President said, efforts were made on war-footing to plug the gaps while the leadership rose to the challenge, and the government's endeavours were supplemented by initiatives of the states, private sector healthcare facilities, the civil society and others. "In this extraordinary mission, foreign nations shared the essentials generously, just as India had reached out to many nations with medicine, equipment and vaccines. I am grateful to the global fraternity that came forward with a helping hand", he said.

Talking about the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics, he made references to the stellar performances of Indian sportspersons. India has won the highest number of medals in the 121 years of its participation in the Olympics. He said, "Our daughters have achieved world class excellence in playgrounds overcoming many adversities. Along with sports, epoch-making changes are taking place in the participation and success of women in all walks of life. From higher educational institutions to armed forces, from laboratories to playgrounds, our daughters are making their mark. In this success of our daughters, I see a glimpse of a developed India of the future", Kovind said.

"Independence Day is a festival of freedom for us. This was made possible by generations of freedom fighters; some known, many unknown. They made great sacrifices. Today, you and I breathe under free skies thanks to their heroic deeds. I bow in respect to the pious memory of those brave martyrs", he further said.

He also said that our nationalist movement, led by Mahatma Gandhi, was based on the principles of truth and non-violence. He and all other national heroes provided us with an invaluable blueprint to not only liberate the nation from colonial rule, but also to rebuild it and his struggle was for a return to Indian ethos and for human dignity, Kovind added.

We have adopted the system of parliamentary democracy. Therefore, our Parliament is the temple of our democracy which provides

us with the highest forum where we discuss, debate and decide issues for the well-being of our people. It is a matter of great pride for all Indians that our Parliament will soon be housed in a new building. It will be a fitting statement of our outlook: It will honour our legacy while also walking in step with the contemporary world. It is more than symbolic that the new building will be inaugurated in the year of the 75th anniversary of Independence.

### India, Pakistan

Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The sweets were presented by the Indian Army personnel to their Pakistani counterparts at Chillehana Tithwal Crossing Point in The Tangdhar sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

"On August 14, the Indian Army as a warm gesture, presented sweets to the Pakistan Army at Chillehana Tithwal Crossing Point to extend best wishes to Pakistan on their Independence Day displaying the will to maintain peace along the LoC," an army official said.

He said over the years, India has continuously endeavoured to strengthen the bilateral relations with Pakistan through goodwill gestures like this one across the spectrum to ensure peace and tranquility in the region.

"The Awam (people) has appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army to maintain peace in the villages along the LoC. These positive endeavours by the Indian Army will further the cause towards prolonged peace along the LoC," the official said.

### Aug 14 Is Partition

Modi noted that millions of people were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence caused by the partition.

May the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, the prime minister said, keep "reminding us of the need to remove the poison of social divisions, disharmony and further strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment".

Pakistan was carved out as a Muslim country after the division of India by the British colonial rule in 1947, and millions of people were displaced and many lakhs of them lost their lives as large scale rioting broke out.

India will be celebrating its 75th Independence Day on Sunday.

### Celebrations Amid

free August 15 celebrations following a spurt in militant attacks this week.

Forces, reports said conducted surprise checks and identification parades at many parts of the city to keep a close watch on the activities of the suspicious persons. Here in this capital city, scores of mobile bunkers have popped up, where people are being subjected to frisking and identification checks.

Reports said heavy deployments have also been made in uptown Batamloo, Hari Singh High Street, Jehangir Chowk, Qamarwari, Rambagh, Maisuma and other areas to foil any threat of militant attack. Posse of policemen in full battle gear has been deployed around the historic Ganta Ghar, Budshah Chowk, SK Park, Maulana Azad Road, Dalgate and other areas of the city to prevent any untoward incident on

I-day.

At Maulana Azad link road, forces conducted daylong searches and subjected the people to frisking and identity checks. Similar reports were received from other parts of this capital city.

According to witnesses, security has also been beefed up across downtown Srinagar. The forces at Rainawari, Nowhatta, Khanyar and other places of the downtown were seen frisking the people and subjecting them to identification checks.

"The police also carried out surprise check of the vehicles on all the entry and exit points in this capital city," they said.

SK Cricket Stadium, the main venue of I-day celebrations, where Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will unfurl tricolour, has been turned into a fortress by CRPF troops and police with three tier security around it.

Late night reports said that the troops and police sealed off all the roads leading to the venue with barricades and spools of razor wire.

According to the reports, sniffer dogs and sharp shooters have also been pressed into service to thwart any possible militant attack to disrupt the August-15 celebrations. Besides it, the activities around the venue were also closely monitored through the CCTV's and Drones.

A local news agency quoted Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar as saying that all arrangements are in place to ensure peaceful conduct of August 15 functions.

"We are fully prepared to deal with any challenge. Police and the security forces are maintaining highest level of alertness," he said.

On Friday, a Pakistani militant was killed and a CRPF man and two civilians were injured during an encounter in Qazigund along the strategic Srinagar-Jammu highway. In Sopore, two civilians and a CRPF personnel were also injured in a grenade attack.

Security has also been beefed along the 272-km Srinagar-Jammu highway to foil any possible militant attack. Sensitive stretches along the highway from Pampore to Khanabal have been covered with thick blanket of security, reports said. Alert cops and paramilitaries holding automatic rifles are closely monitoring the movement of people.

Meanwhile, reports of heightened security have also been received from Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts of north Kashmir.

In Baramulla and Sopore, police and troops were seen carrying out searches of all the passenger and private vehicles on the Kupwara-Baramulla and Baramulla-Srinagar highway. Similar reports poured in from Shopian, Anantnag and Kulgam districts

### Govt Orders

migrants to apply for correction of records, demarcation and removal of encroachments, and alienation by way of fraud or distress. The disposal of such applicants has also been made time-bound under the Public Services Guarantee Act," he said.

### CRPF Man

treatment, the officials said. The attack on CRPF party came at a time

when the Valley, especially this capital city has been placed under a thick security cover.

According to reports, the grenade attack created panic in the busy Sanat Nagar Chowk prompting people to run towards the safer places.

On Friday, two civilians and a CRPF head constable were injured in Sopore town of Baramulla district when militants hurled a grenade at a CRPF team.

### J&K's Education

the best in the country in terms of education infrastructure. We are bringing reforms for the transformation of education ecosystem by bridging the gaps and opening up new opportunities for the younger generation to take up innovative challenges and be the change-maker," Sinha said.

He made these remarks after laying the foundation stone for the extension of Girls Hostel and inaugurating state-of-the-art Gymnasium at National Institute of Technology (NIT) here in this capital city on Saturday, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said, also took a brief review of the ongoing programs of the NIT Srinagar in the field of technological advancements and research.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG recounted various measures taken by the government for the development of educational sector in the Union Territory.

"After the Covid-19 pandemic, the whole world has changed. I believe that opportunities have also taken a dynamic shift. With new policies specially envisaged for empowering the youth & giving special impetus to the industrial growth, the government is creating an enabling environment for youth to be a partner in the progress and development of J&K," Sinha said, as per the official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, called upon the young innovators to focus on new inventions that will bring transformation in the life of a common man.

"It is high time we came up with people-friendly innovation & creative solutions to address issues like ecological protection, exploring alternate source of fuel, and strong road material. It will complement the government's efforts to achieve development goals," the LG said, as per the official spokesperson.

He further said that the LG asked the NIT Administration and the faculty members to take requisite measures for promoting vibrant, and entrepreneurial environment, besides strengthening institute-industry linkages to promote job creation and develop new start-up ventures for creating better prospects for our younger generation.

"Government is providing every necessary handholding to the promising entrepreneurs of J&K. The stakeholders should inspire educated-unemployed youth to start their entrepreneurial journey," Sinha said.

As per the official spokesperson, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Rakesh Sehgal briefed the LG about the Institute's background and present scenario. He also informed the LG about the implementation of various centrally sponsored flagship programs.

"We have adopted five villages and have also established skill centres in far-flung areas of

the region to empower the local youth," Sehgal said.

### Hails 'Sacrifices'

Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra on the eve of Independence Day.

"Proud of bravery and sacrifices made by Jammu and Kashmir Police in defending the sovereignty of the country. Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra and 257 police gallantry medals to JKP at the forefront of fight against terrorism is commendable," Sinha said on Twitter.

He said Assistant Sub-Inspector Babu Ram has been selected for this year's Ashok Chakra award (posthumous), Constable Altaf Hussain Bhat for Kirti Chakra (posthumous) and Special Police Officer (SPO) Shahbaz Ahmad for Shaurya Chakra (posthumous) for their acts of bravery, valour and selfless sacrifice for the motherland.

### J&K Sees 156

remaining 37 from the winter capital. Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 35, Baramulla 5, Budgam 6, Pulwama 9, Kupwara 10, Anantnag 8, Bandipora 11, Ganderbal 9, Kulgam 4, Shopian 1, Jammu 10, Udhampur 3, Rajouri 4, Doda 10, Samba 1, Kishtwar 7 and Poonch 2 new cases of coronavirus. The three districts of Ramban, Reasi and Kathua reported no new cases of virus.

Meanwhile, there was no death due to the virus. So far 4395 people have fallen victim to the pathogen in J&K-2156 in Jammu division and 2239 in Kashmir.

There was one fresh confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today. Thus far 42 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials added. (With GNS inputs)

### Gujjar Leader

in Ganderbal district, family sources said. Bashir was son of top Gujjar leader and saint Mian Nizamuddin Larvi and father of former Minister Mian Altaf Ahmad.

Nimaz e Jinazah will be performed at Mazar Shrief Baba ji Sahib Larvi located at Baba Nagari Wangat, Kangan on Sunday, family sources told Kashmir Observer.

Mian Bashir Ahmed Laaravi was born November 1923 .He was a minister in Shiekh Abdullah's cabinet. Later he left politics and started working for Islamic Sufi tradition and to help downtrodden people.

In 2008 he was honoured with 'Padma Bhushan' Award third highest civilian award of India for his extraordinary service for Gujjar, Bakarwal and other downtrodden communities.

### Unclaimed Bag

colour bag, reports said, caused a bomb scare following which a bomb disposal squad was called in. Later, the bag carrying a security clearance tag of the airport was found to be of a soldier from village Bandwal, Jourian

### Explosive Device

Kariya belt of the district, they said. A bomb disposal squad was called and the device was defused safely, the officials said.





“THERE'S SOMETHING THAT IS EXTRA bit special about Lord's, certainly for me. I do love it here. It just seemed to bring the best out of me.”

## IPL 2021: Sharjah Cricket Stadium Announces Major Upgrades



Press Trust of India

**SHARJAH:** The Sharjah cricket stadium, which will host 10 IPL matches before the T20 World Cup, has announced major upgrades in the run-up to the lucrative league, which will be played from September 19 in the United Arab Emirates.

The first half of the IPL 2021 was played in India earlier this year, before it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The BCCI then decided to shift the remaining matches to the UAE and they will be played at Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. “The newly re-laid wicket block will now accommodate six pitches in the centre, including four broadcasting and two practice pitches.

“They are currently building a new practice facility with four turf wickets and four astroturf wickets to accommodate multiple teams during practice sessions. These will be ready in time for the IPL,” a media release issued here stated on Saturday.

Among other facilities, a new state-of-the-art ‘fit capital gymnasium’, the indoor swimming

pool, steam, and sauna area have also been upgraded.

Moreover, there are 11 new VIP suites, a new VIP grand dining area and improved hospitality facilities at the top tier of the pavilion end.

“Sharjah’s atmosphere or as we like to call it the ‘Sharjah magic’ is what differentiates the stadium from any other cricketing venue in the UAE,” said Khalaf Bukhatir, Managing Director of Bukhatir Group and CEO of Sharjah Cricket Stadium. “This was no more evident than at last year’s edition when we played host to some of the most exciting moments of the IPL,” Bukhatir added.

“We still don’t know if we are welcoming cricket fans into the stadium this IPL, but we are certainly ready and looking forward to hosting some world-class cricket in a world-class, safe and secure environment,” he said.

The first game here will be played between Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore on September 24.

The stadium will also host Qualifier 2 on October 11 and the Eliminator on October 13.

## West Indies Lead Pakistan By 34 On Day 2



Agencies

**KINGSTON:** Captain Kraigg Brathwaite was run out for 97 after a 96-run partnership with former captain Jason Holder which helped guide the West Indies to a first-innings lead over Pakistan on the second day of the first test.

Brathwaite turned a ball to fine leg and was attempting a second run when he was beaten by Hasan Ali’s direct hit at the keeper’s end, falling just short of a 10th test century. The West Indies were 221-7 when his wicket fell Friday, already ahead of Pakistan’s first innings of 217.

Holder was out earlier for 58. The West Indies began the day at 2-2 and were 251-8, a lead of 34, when stumps were drawn early due to bad light. Joshua da Silva was 20 not out.

The West Indies had been in trouble when they lost Kieran Powell and Nkrumah Bonner to consecutive deliveries from Mohammad Abbas near stumps on day one.

Roston Chase and Jermaine Blackwood steadied the innings at the start of the second day, putting on 49 for the third wicket before Chase, on 21, was caught behind by Mohammad Rizwan from the bowling of Hasan Ali.

Blackwood carried on, making 22 and helping the West Indies to 100 before he was caught by Abbas at mid-on from the bowling of Shahid Afridi.

Kyle Mayers fell next ball to Afridi, leaving the West Indies 100-5 and putting pressure on Brathwaite and Holder to rebuild the innings in the face of accurate bowling from Pakistan.

“The key was to be tight,” Brathwaite said. “They were really testing our patience and while we committed to putting away the bad balls, it was about

letting them come to us. “We stayed in that bubble for long periods and it helped us. I’ve played a lot of cricket with Jason. We just kept encouraging ourselves and we just stuck at it because we knew they were bowling well and we just buckled down and put away the bad balls when they came.”

Holder reached his half century from 95 balls with nine fours and was looking solid when he reached forward to a full ball from Faheem Ashraf which nipped away late, took a faint edge and carried to Rizwan. The umpires kept Holder at the crease while they established it was not a no-ball and Holder left with the West Indies at 196-6.

Brathwaite defied the Pakistan bowlers for just over six hours before he misjudged the chance of a second run. He said he was committed early to go for two and realized he’d made an error when he turned and saw the ball in the fielder’s hand.

“Obviously I’m not feeling too good,” Brathwaite said. “From a team point of view I wanted to be there at (stumps) but obviously it was a misjudgement from me.”

Brathwaite’s innings still marked an important return to form. While he made 126 and 85 in the second test against Sri Lanka in March, he managed only 28 runs in four innings in two subsequent tests against South Africa.

He said he’d worked hard on his game since, concentrating on his balance which allowed him to defend better and to play with more authority through the off-side.

After Brathwaite’s dismissal, Da Silva stuck around until stumps were drawn to give the West Indies hope of an enlarged lead in conditions which are favoring fast bowlers.

Abbas had 3-42 at stumps and Afridi’s figures were 2-59.

## JKFA Condolences Demise Of Veteran Footballer Abdul Salam Najar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) has condoled the demise of veteran Kashmiri footballer Abdul Salam Najar who passed away on Saturday in Srinagar. In a statement the JKFA hailed Najar as a renowned footballer of yesteryears.

“Abdul Salam was a prominent player of Food & Supplies XI. He represented the erstwhile State of J&K in many National events and tournaments. A soft spoken individual and a thorough gentleman, Najar was known for his qualities and will always be remembered by the fraternity of footballers,” the statement said.

“We deeply mourn the sad demise and pray to Allah to bestow peace upon the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss,” the statement concluded.

Born on 1 August, 1944



at Charamgari Mohalla in Nawakadal area of Srinagar, Abdul Salam Najar started playing football from the age of 12. He would play and practice at Downtown’s Eidgah grounds.

Najar went to Nawakadal High School and participated in Inter-School football tournaments, played at the SP College ground in 1958.

He joined the Food and Supplies club on 1 Oct, 1960 and played as a left sided striker, impressing

fans and peers alike.

In 1962, Najar was selected for the J&K State to compete in Santosh Trophy in Assam. A fire at his house, however, meant that Najar decided against competing in the tournament.

Najar played the 1964 Durand Cup in Delhi and the 1972 Rovers Cup in Mumbai as part of Kashmir XI. He played many local and international tournaments till his retirement in 1980.

## JKSA Selects 30 Players For All India Sqay Championship

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Sqay Association (JKSA) on Saturday conducted selection trials for the upcoming All India Sqay Championship (AISC) scheduled to be held at Pahalgam from August 24 to 26 of this year.

30 players were selected during the trials that took place at the International Sqay Martial Art Academy (ISMAA) in Pampore.

“About 80 players from different districts of the UT participated in the selection trials in which 30 players (15 men, 15 women) were selected for the upcoming championship,” an official statement said.

“Bashir Ahmad, Manager, Sports Stadium Pulwama was deputed as observer by the J&K



Sports Council who monitored the free and impartial selection of players,” the statement concluded.

Sqay, a sword-fighting form of martial arts, originated in Kashmir Valley and has spread across the globe. Armed sqay

makes use of a curved single-edge sword paired with a shield, or one sword in each hand. Unarmed techniques incorporate kicks, punches, locks and chops.

The indigenous game is governed by the Sqay Federation of India.

## Fernandes Scores 3, Pogba Sets Up 4 As Man Utd Routs Leeds 5-1

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Bruno Fernandes scored a hat trick and Paul Pogba set up four goals as Manchester United thrashed Leeds 5-1 Saturday to make a statement about its Premier League title credentials.

On a day when Jadon Sancho made his debut off the bench and Raphael Varane was presented as the club’s second big signing, a packed crowd at Old Trafford was treated to a midfield clinic by United’s two most high-profile players against a fierce local rival.

Pogba set up Fernandes for United’s 30th-minute opener and, after Luke Ayling equalized with a long-range strike in the 49th, played in Mason Greenwood for a low, angled shot that regained the lead for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer’s side.

Fernandes was the beneficiary of another through-ball from

Pogba before cutting inside and driving in a low effort that just went over the line before being cleared away by Ayling.

And after Fernandes completed his first hat trick for United by running onto a long pass by Victor Lindelof and rifling a shot high into the net, Pogba made it four assists for the match – one more than he managed in the whole of last season – by providing the cross that Fred swept home in the 68th.

“Today, we gave him the freedom of roaming wherever he wants to go, and get on the ball,” Solskjaer said. “Paul is one of those players who can create moments out of nothing.”

Solskjaer said he couldn’t ask for any more from his players in their opening match, with Pogba – the subject of plenty of transfer talk during the offseason – laughing and joking with Fred after the

final whistle while Bruno walked off with the match ball.

“For me, this is the way I want to see the team play,” he said, “not just because it’s Leeds but because of the running, going forward, taking risks.”

Sancho, signed from Borussia Dortmund for \$100 million, was given the final 15 minutes as a substitute to soak in the Old Trafford atmosphere in front of 72,722 fans, who had earlier seen Varane walk onto the field holding a team jersey and take a selfie in the center circle before the match after finalizing his move from Real Madrid.

United beat Leeds 6-2 at home last season, though there were no fans inside the stadium to see it.

Leeds was blown away in an eight-minute spell from the 52nd when United scored three times in response to Ayling’s fierce long-range strike.

## Joe Root Century Helps England Steady Ship Against India On Day 3

Agencies

**LONDON:** England captain Joe Root smashed an unbeaten century, his second of the series, to help steady his team to 314-5 at tea on day 3 of the second test against India on Saturday at Lord’s.

Root became the second English batsman after Alastair Cook to score 9000 test runs en route to his 132 not out. His 22nd test hundred was studded with 12 fours.

morning session, much to the frustration of the Indian bowlers who tried all they could but just could not separate them.

While Root, who scored 64 and 109 in the drawn series opener in Nottingham, maintained his red-hot form, Bairstow regained his mojo with a fighting 57, his first test fifty in 20 innings.

Mohammed Siraj had Bairstow caught in the slip after cramping him for room as the



Moeen Ali was batting on 20 at the break with England 50 runs behind but fancying a first innings lead.

It was a significant turnaround from 23-2 in reply to India’s first innings total of 364 when Root walked out to bat on Friday.

Having added 85 runs with Rory Burns to arrest the slide, Root forged a century partnership with Jonny Bairstow to further consolidate England’s position.

They batted throughout the

batsman tried to pull a short-pitched delivery from round the wicket.

Root, who has scored more than 27% of England’s runs in 2021, brought up his hundred with a tight single off Jasprit Bumrah.

The 30-year-old took off his helmet and soaked in the applause from the crowd before being embraced by Jos Buttler.

Ishant Sharma dismissed Buttler for 23, nipping one back to hit the top of the off-stump from a perfect length.

## Lord's Brings The Best Out Of Me, Says James Anderson

Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** The Lord’s does seem to get the best out of him, veteran England seamer James Anderson said after grabbing his seventh five-wicket haul at the iconic venue during the second Test against India here.

Eighteen years after he made his Test debut with a five-wicket haul against Zimbabwe at Lord’s, Anderson overcame an injury scare en route to capping his 31st fifer.

“There’s something that is extra bit special about Lord’s, certainly for me. I do love it here. It just seemed to bring the best out of me,” said Anderson, playing in his 164th Test, at the press conference after the end of second day’s play.

England struggled to get their first wicket till the 44th over after putting India in under overcast conditions and had to turn to Anderson who cleaned up Rohit Sharma (83) with a stunning delivery and also accounted for Cheteshwar Pujara (9) on day one.

He then returned on day two to dismiss Ajinkya Rahane (1), Ishant Sharma (8) and Jasprit Bumrah (0) as India slipped from 276/3 overnight to 364 all out with Anderson claiming his fourth fifer against India at Lord’s.

He also became the oldest pacer to take a five-for in Tests since 1951.

At 39, Anderson is not getting young, but the veteran pacer hoped he would get to play once again at his “favourite venue”.

“The last few times I’ve been

here you do think ‘is this the last time I’m going to play here?’ Hopefully, it’s not my last time here or my last time on the honours board.”

On England’s bowling strategy against India, Anderson said they planned to bowl as full as possible without overpitching.

“You tried to bowl as full as possible, but if you missed your length even slightly, it was getting driven.”

“I think it was testament to how they batted. Particularly KL (Rahul) and Rohit (Sharma). They put you under pressure. They left well, defended well. They sort of forced you into bowling that full length; as soon as you did it, they punished you.”

“I think today it was a case of a little bit of luck as well. KL chipping one to cover and from then on, it was just a case of trying to find that right length without getting too full,” he said.

Lavishing praise on his skipper, Anderson called Root “superhuman” for his consistency and backed him to surpass his predecessor Alastair Cook to become the top Test scorer for England.

“Every time he goes out there he is just class. And today he looked class from ball one,” he said of Root who weathered a hat-trick ball from Mohammed Siraj to take the team through an intense post-tea session.

“When you see your captain go out and play like that first up on a hat-trick ball, it does have a really calming effect on the dressing room.”

“OBVIOUSLY I’M NOT FEELING TOO GOOD. From a team point of view I wanted to be there at (stumps) but obviously it was a misjudgement from me.”

### NEWS BRIEFS

**Varane Presented To Man United Fans After Joining From Madrid**

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Finally a Manchester United player, Raphael Varane walked out in front of a full house at Old Trafford, holding up a team jersey. Stopping in the center circle, Varane took out his phone and took a selfie to huge cheers from the crowd.

The France center back’s move to United from Real Madrid for a reported fee of about \$56 million was finalized on Saturday. He has signed a four-year contract.

“Manchester United is one of the most iconic clubs in world football and the chance to come here and play in the Premier League is something I couldn’t turn down,” Varane said in a statement.

**Bayern Held 1-1 By Gladbach In Bundesliga Season Opener**

Agencies

**BERLIN:** Defending German champions Bayern Munich opened the Bundesliga season with a 1-1 draw at Borussia Mönchengladbach on Friday night, with the hosts incensed at the referee for denying them a late penalty.

Gladbach coach Adi Hütter was booked for his protests in his first league game in charge of the home team. Counterpart Julian Nagelsmann was making his debut as Bayern coach.

Allassane Plea gave the hosts the lead in the 10th minute but Robert Lewandowski equalized in the 42nd.

**PL Newcomers Brentford Beat Arsenal 2-0**

Agencies

**BRENTFORD:** Brentford started its first topflight campaign since 1947 by stunning Arsenal 2-0 Friday in the opening game of the Premier League season.

Sergi Canos put Brentford ahead in the 22nd minute and Christian Nørgaard headed in the second in the 73rd after Arsenal failed to deal with a long throw-in, handing the promoted club a perfect start to life in the Premier League in front of nearly 16,500 fans at the Community Stadium.

Those fans finally had a chance to celebrate inside the stadium, which was opened last year amid the lockdown when no supporters were allowed into games.

**Prithvi Shaw, Suryakumar Yadav Join Indian Team At Lord's**

Agencies

**LONDON:** Young opener Prithvi Shaw and flamboyant batsman Suryakumar Yadav, who were included in the Test squad for the ongoing England tour, have joined the Indian team at the Lord’s, London.

“Prithvi Shaw and Suryakumar Yadav have completed their quarantine period and have joined the team at Lord’s,” the BCCI’s media team stated.

Earlier, on July 26, the BCCI had announced that Suryakumar and Shaw, who were then playing the white-ball series in Sri Lanka, were added to the red-ball squad for the Test series against England.

**IPL 2021 Ideal Preparation For Australia Before T20 WC: Ponting**

**MELBOURNE:** Ricky Ponting has backed Australian players to feature in the rescheduled Indian Premier League in the UAE, saying it would be an ideal preparation ahead of T20 World Cup in October.

“Those guys that haven’t played for three or four months now, they need to get back into the groove of playing high-quality cricket against the best players in the world,” Ponting was quoted by cricket.com.au.

“No doubt it’s their best preparation to be in those exact conditions, playing in probably the strongest domestic T20 tournament in the world,” said the Delhi Capital’s coach Ponting.



# Security scaled up in Delhi ahead of Independence Day

**Agenceis**  
Security has been scaled up across the capital ahead of Independence Day with thousands of personnel keeping strict vigil at strategic locations, including the Delhi-borders where farmers have been on a sit-in for over eight months to protest the centre's new agri laws, officials said on Saturday. According to the police, a multi-layered security cover has been put at the Red Fort from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation on the 75th Independence Day. Multi-layered security arrangements are also in place with heavy barricading and extra picket deployments at vital installations across the city, including




the Indira Gandhi International Airport, railway stations and bus terminals along with border areas to thwart any untoward incident. Anti-sabotage checks are being carried out and patrolling has been intensified across the city, including on the Yamuna river where patrolling is being conducted on motorboats by the Delhi Police. Anti-terrorist measures are being carried out in view of threat perception and intelligence inputs, they said. Chinmoy Biswal, Delhi

Police PRO said, "In view of Independence day, elaborate security arrangements have been made in coordination with other security agencies at and around Red Fort in a coordinated manner. Arrangements have been made to combat hostile elements. No aerial objects, balloons are allowed this Independence Day." At the Mughal-era fort, a security ring, including NSG snipers, elite SWAT commandos and kite catchers, have been placed, while anti drone systems have also been installed there in view of recent terror attack at IAF station in Jammu airport, officials said. Policemen in civil dress would be deployed at strategic locations across the capital with extra focus in and around the Red Fort. As part of the anti-terror measures, enhanced police presence, intensive checking at vulnerable points, checking of hotels and guest houses, SIM card and second hand car dealers, sensitisation of cyber cafe owners and verification of tenant and servant drives have been intensively carried out by all the police stations, officials said. All the vehicles are being thoroughly checked for any suspicious activity especially at the border points, they said. PCR vans, "Prakhar" vans and QRT (Quick Reaction Team) vans have been stationed at as part of security deployment along with intensified patrolling by police personnel on motorcycle across the city, police officials said. The Delhi Traffic Police had also issued an advisory for the Independence Day function at the Red Fort to ensure safe and smooth flow of vehicles across the city.

# Traffickers Using Social Media To Prey On Schoolgirls


**Agenceis**  
be danger lurking for me," she said. Rita Paramick, a frontline child protection worker with Save the Children, who stopped Shahida's wedding, said Shahida's is one of the many cases of traffickers using social media to target children, who are spending a lot more time online as schools are closed and they can't even go out to play. "These days, traffickers have changed their modus operandi. Social media is one platform through which they trap young children like Shahida," she said. "Children have been out of school for more than a year now and girls like Shahida, who are living in extreme poverty, are always soft targets for predators," she added. Mamata Sardar, a youth advocate for Save the Children in West Bengal, said girls are increasingly being lured into marriage on social media. "As most children are now at home and attending classes online, they're glued to social media," she said. Sardar said she has stepped up vigilance as parents of many children have lost their jobs during the pandemic, leading to an increased possibility of child trafficking. **NEW DELHI:** With her school closed for over a year and little to do at home, 15-year-old Shahida (name changed) started spending more time on social media. Soon, the teenager was in a relationship with a 24-year-old man, Aadil, who contacted her on a social media site. He told her that he would send her to a good school and look after her well if she married him. Eventually, he managed to persuade the girl to elope with him. With her family struggling financially since her father lost his job during lockdown, Shahida was excited about the good life that Aadil promised to give her. At the end of May, when Aadil came to take Shahida with him, child representatives of the Village Child Protection Committee alerted a social worker who stopped the wedding in time. "Aadil made me believe that I could go to a good school if I married him. He said that would also make my school admission easier," said Shahida, who lives with her family in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district. "I agreed to his proposal as I hoped to have one square meal a day. I never thought that there might

Watch to know more in this episode of **Inkishaf** on **KASHMIR OBSERVER** YouTube Channel



<https://youtube.com/c/kobserver>

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## Why Isn't Beneficiary List Of PM Ujwala Yojna Being Made Public In Jammu And Kashmir?

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Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India

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**-Narendra Modi**

## Nation First, Always First

Independence Day Ceremony at the ramparts of Red Fort to be telecast live by Doordarshan from 6:25 a.m. onwards

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