



P6 THINK

## DON'T TRIVIALISE STREET HARASSMENT

The recent National Family Health Survey reveals that there has been an upsurge in violent crimes and sexual harassment against women in J&K. The survey report suggests that in 2019-2020, 9.6% women in the age group of 18-49 experienced...

P7 THINK

## BEQUEATHING ISLAM TO KASHMIR

Religions are part of human lives with people having affiliations to different and particular religions. They are an integral part of human lives and preach the same message of peace and brotherhood....



P12 SPORTS

## SHAHEEN'S 6-51 PUTS PAKISTAN ON TOP IN 2ND TEST VS WEST INDIES

Fast bowler Shaheen Afridi took a career-best 6-51 as Pakistan established control of the second cricket test against the West Indies on the fourth day Monday...



PAGE 1 ANCHOR

# General Remark: 'Any Situation In Afghanistan Has Effect In Kashmir'

## Army Veterans Discuss Changing Scenario In The Region And Its Possible Impact On Kashmir

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: In a searing summer day in Srinagar this year, Lieutenant General DP Pandey addressed—probably, for the first time—what security analysts had long termed as “elephant in the room”.

With US President Joe Biden setting the final deadline for ending “forever war” in Afghanistan, LG Pandey, the General officer Commanding (GoC) of Srinagar-based Army's 15 Corps, perhaps became the first serving general to

talk about the consequences of an impending Taliban victory.

“There's a possibility that US forces pullout from Afghanistan may push some militants into Kashmir,” the general said on the sidelines of a passing-out parade at JAKLI Regimental centre Rangreth in Srinagar, on June 25.

Months later, as Taliban overtook Kabul in a swift move, Kashmir police chief, IGP Vijay Kumar said that in case any foreign element, including Taliban, enters Kashmir, the government forces will deal with the challenge.



**INDIA TODAY HAS A MUCH** stronger frontier posture and presence as compared to the late 1980s when some Afghan fighters entered Kashmir. The internal security grid is robust enough to deal with any threat.”

“If at all any such thing happens,” Kumar, flanked by GoC Victor-Force, Rashim Bali, told scribes on August 21. “I as a police officer assure the people of Kashmir that police, army and the other security forces will deal

with the challenge professionally.” The IGP was replying to a query whether security forces were ready to deal with the situation, if Taliban decides to enter Kashmir. “While we're ready” **More On P10**

## Quote!

Whatever you decide to do, make sure it makes you happy!

—Paulo Coelho

## NEWS DIGEST

### 6 Militant Associates Held In Bandipora

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed to have busted a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) module by arresting six alleged over-ground workers of the outfit from north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Muzaffar Mohiuddin Lone, Mohammad Amin Lone, Rizwan Qadir Lone, **More On P10**

### Pak Teenager Arrested Along LoC

SRINAGAR: A teenage boy from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir was arrested on Tuesday by soldiers along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district. 16-year-old Khyam Maqsood was arrested by soldiers after he crossed the LoC and entered a forward area of the **More On P10**

### Electric Shock Injures PDD Employee

SRINAGAR: A Power Development Department (PDD) employee was injured on Tuesday after receiving an electric shock in Achabal area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Ghulam Mohiuddin, a resident of Shiroora, was injured when he came in contact with a live wire accidentally while repairing **More On P10**

### Arms Cache Recovered From Militant Hideout

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Tuesday recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from a militant hideout in Alosa area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Acting on specific inputs, army's 26 Assam Rifles launched a cordon and search operation in Nagmarg forest area of Alosa and busted a militant hideout, an official **More On P10**

# 3 TRF Militants Killed In Sopore

## 100 Militants Killed In Kashmir So Far This Year: Police



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three militants of The Resistance Front (TRF) were killed in an overnight encounter with government forces in Sopore town of Baramulla district, police said Tuesday.

Acting on specific input regarding the presence of militants, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, Army's 52RR and CRPF in Peth Seer area of Sopore on Monday night, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. He said

the hiding militants opened fire upon search team when given an opportunity to surrender.

The joint search party, he said, retaliated to the militants firing setting off an encounter.

“However due to darkness the operation was suspended, while the cordon was kept intact. In the wee hours, repeated announcements were again made to the hiding terrorists to surrender, but the terrorists again fired on joint search party and the fire was retaliated,” the police spokesperson said. In the ensuing **More On P10**

### Grenade Lobbed On CRPF In Old City

Unidentified militants on Tuesday lobbed a grenade at a picket of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Zaina Kadal area of the Old City here. According to reports, unknown militants hurled a grenade towards the picket of CRPF 23 battalion at Mujahid Manzil in Zainakadal area of the Old City on Tuesday evening. However, the grenade did not cause any loss of life or property. Soon after the incident, police and CRPF reinforcements **More On P10**

**PERTINENTLY, THE COLLECTIVE** efforts of J&K Police, Army, CRPF & people of Kashmir Valley have led to neutralisation of more than 100 terrorists in the current year so far in Kashmir division.”

### PAGD Seeks Pre-2019 Status for J&K

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Tuesday passed a resolution demanding restoration of Article 370, 35-A and all the constitutional rights that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh enjoyed prior to abrogation of the erstwhile state's semi autonomous status by Modi government on August 5, 2019.

“Since the revocation of Article 370, the Indian Government has coerced a blanket silence in the region and calls it a normalcy. Even today the government is trying to enforce restrictions on the people of J&K and forces them to not raise their heads in freedom,” PAGD spokesperson M Y Tarigami said, while addressing a news conference at Gupkar on Tuesday. **More On P10**

### Pak Objects To India's Power Plant On Chenab

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Pakistan has raised objections to the design of India's Kiru hydroelectric plant, a mega 624 MW project over the Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir, but New Delhi asserts that the project is fully compliant with the Indus Water Treaty, officials said on Tuesday.

Confirming this development, India's Indus Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena told PTI that his Pakistan Indus Commissioner Syed Muhammad Meher Ali Shah raised the objections last week.

Saxena, however, asserted that the design of the project is fully compliant with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty. **More On P10**

# Govt's Priorities To Rectify 'Past Injustices': LG

Says J&K Is An Example Of Immortal Organic Composite Indian Culture; Development Has Replaced “Terror”

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that in his overarching policies for new Jammu Kashmir, priorities are to rectify past injustices and transform the Union Territory as a powerhouse of education & science.

The LG made these remarks while addressing the valedictory session of two-day International Symposium on “Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh: Development Dynamics and Future Trajectories” organized by Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Seoul, Republic of Korea in collaboration with Indian Council of Cultural Relations; Institute of East and West Studies, Yonsei University; India Foundation, and Jammu - Kashmir Study



Centre, an official spokesperson said.

Sharing Jammu and Kashmir's journey towards development and prosperity, the LG, he said, observed that J&K's development and growth model revolves around 4 P's - Peace, Progress, Prosperity, and People-First.

“J&K is an example of immortal organic composite Indian culture. The sense of cohesion that we see today is significantly contributing to equitable opportunity and strengthening integrated, accountable, and transparent governance,” Sinha said, as per **More On P10**

# J&K Logs 125 New Covid Cases, One Death

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir reported on Tuesday 125 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while one more person succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Officials said that 104 new cases of coronavirus surfaced in Kashmir Valley and 21 remaining from

Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 324420. Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 50, Baramulla 7, Budgam 13, Pulwama 10, Kupwara 2, Bandipora 12, Ganderbal 8, Kulgam 1, Shopian 1, Jammu 8, Udhampur 3, Rajouri 3, Doda 3, **More On P10**

### Cop Taking Bribe Caught Red Handed

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday arrested a policeman for demanding and taking bribe from an accused for submitting a favourable report in the court in Anantnag district.

Acting on a complaint filed by a person accused in a case lodged in Qazigund police station of Anantnag district, the ACB laid a trap as the **More On P10**

# Facing Shortage, J&K Admin Notifies 3 Subsidiary Jails

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid “dearth of space” in jails of Jammu & Kashmir, the administration has declared three buildings as subsidiary jails in the Union Territory.

According to official documents, the Union Territory administration has declared three buildings- two in south Kashmir and one in north Kashmir- as subsidiary jails.

On July 29, 2021, the UT's Home department issued three separate notifications to declare an equal number of buildings as subsidiary jails under The Prisoners Act-1900. According to the documents, the Home department has declared a building of Boys Pahari Hostel Kupwara as a subsidiary jail.

“In exercise of the powers conferred by clause(b) of section 2 of The Prisoners Act, 1900

and in suppression of Order No. 450 of 2021 dated 15.06.2021 issued under endorsement No. DS/Temporary Jail/2019/2184-89 by the DGP( Prisons), the government hereby declared



the building of Boys Pahari Hostel adjacent to district jail complex, Kupwara as a subsidiary jail,” reads a notification.

Similarly, the Home department has also declared a building situated at **More On P10**

## SPECIAL STATUS REVOCATION

# 2 Non-Locals Bought Land In Jammu, None In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Two non-locals from northern states of New Delhi and Punjab have bought land in Jammu district following abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in August 2019, reports said Tuesday.

However, no non-J&K resident has purchased any property in Kashmir Valley over these two years, a local news agency KDC reported.

According to the report, Neelam Gupta and Prashant



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Gupta of New Delhi have bought one kanal land in Channi, Himmat in Jammu, while Bindu Verma and Veena Saraf,

residents of Punjab have bought one kanal land in Channi Biji in Jammu district. The land had been registered **More On P10**

**AS PER THE INFORMATION PROVIDED** by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, two persons from outside Jammu and Kashmir have purchased two properties in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir since August, 2019.”

# Govt Orders Demarcation, Verification Of Waqf Properties

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered demarcation and verification of Waqf properties across the Union Territory and has asked the divisional commissioners to ensure completion of the process within a month.

In an order issued here, the government has said that in the process of digitization and geo-tagging of Waqf properties, it has come to notice that there are a large number of properties which require demarcation or where encroachments have taken place.

“Accordingly, in order to conduct demarcation, verification and removal of encroachments. Tehsildar concerned shall organise verification and demarcation of each of the Waqf properties while associating a representative of the CEO Waqf Kashmir/Special Officer Auqaf,”

the order reads.

“Specific focus shall be on those Waqf properties that could not be geo-tagged with reference to the data uploaded on the Waqf Management System of India (WAMSI) portal.”

The order reads that the Deputy Commissioners shall constitute teams for 100% cross-checking of the demarcation and encroachment reports. “The necessary entries of waqf properties in Revenue records shall also be made.”

It reads that the Deputy Commissioners will send reports along with copies of relevant records to the CEO Waqf Kashmir/Special Officer Auqaf who shall certify that the properties have been verified as per the records and duly reconciled with the revenue records and undertake digitisation/geo-tagging of the **More On P10**







## Operation Jamia Masjid...

# ‘Mirwaiz Farooq’s Courage Could Not Be Shaken By Conspiracies’

Srinagar: Anjuman Aufaq Jamia Masjid Tuesday commemorated the 32nd anniversary of operation Jamia Masjid, when the central Jamia Masjid was ransacked by “men in uniform” on August 25, 1989. In a statement, Anjuman Aufaq said that the desecration of the mosque had greatly hurt the deep rooted emotional and religious sentiments of the Muslims of the valley and was an attempt to cow down the then Mirwaiz, Moulana Muhammad Farooq (RA) to desist from advocating the “rights of the people” of Kashmir.

“But, Shaheed-e-Millat (RA) known for his courage and conviction, his rock-solid resolve could not be shaken by such conspiracies, and till date the pulpit of Jamia Masjid Srinagar continues to raise the voice of people and represent their sentiments and aspirations,” reads the statement.

The Anjuman said that Jamia Masjid Srinagar symbolizes the unique cultural and religious identity and history of J&K and it’s Muslims. “And the Mirwaizeen down the centuries through their unique style of preaching from its pulpit and the subsequent connect with people,

have not only preserved and promoted that identity but added to it. Given the political uncertainty and upheavals that unfolded in J&K and the consequent political turmoil, the pulpit could not stay immune to these developments affecting the people. The Mirwaizeen naturally guided the people in this, and the pulpit came to represent the political sentiments and aspiration of the people and its realization.”

It reads that it is for this reason that the Masjid and the Mirwaizeen are targeted by those in authority. “Time and again, by force, the gates of this pivotal socio-religious centre of Muslims of J&K are closed to people for weeks and months on end, causing them great distress, while for the last two Years Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has been placed under house arrest by the authorities.”

“Of late despite the significant reduction in COVID-19 cases, and even after putting in place all SOPs, the authorities have not allowed the Central Jamia Masjid to be opened for prayers.”

Anjuman said the coming Friday it will again attempt to keep the Masjid open for worshippers with all COVID-19 precautions, if the authorities allow.”

## Science Day Celebrations...

# SKIMS Signs MoU With KU For Joint Research Collaboration

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, SKIMS, and Kashmir University Tuesday signed a MOU (Memorandum of understanding) for joint research collaboration in presence of Director SKIMS, Dr. AG Ahangar, Vice Chancellor Kashmir University Prof. Talat, Dr. OJ Shah, Dean Medical Faculty, Prof. Farooq Masoodi Dean Research and Academic affairs and Dr. Ashraf Gani, Prof. Department of Endocrinology and Sub Dean Research, SKIMS.

The MoU was signed during the Science Day celebrations. SKIMS celebrated the day in collaboration with Indian Thyroid Society & M.P.COS Society organized Science Day-2021 on Thyroid disorders with theme as “Thyroid Dysfunction: A non-communicable epidemic”. The Program was supported by Department of Science and Technology, J&K.

Prof. Talat, Vice Chancellor Kashmir University who was chief guest on the occasion in his address emphasized more joint/interactive sessions for deeper understanding of issues pertaining to society to benefit community at large scale. He said MOU between SKIMS and K.U will help in optimum utilization of resources and expertise. He further said exchange of academic material/human resource and infrastructure is important for better utilization as in most of the academic institutes the high end equipments remain underutilized and appealed students and scholars to take advantage of this collaboration.

Director SKIMS, Dr. A.G Ahangar said Science Day has a great significance which is celebrated across the country to recall the contributions of renowned scientist “C.V Raman”. SKIMS has always been on forefront and contributed significantly at various levels. Commenting on MOU between SKIMS and K.U, he said that the collaboration will be beneficial for both the institutions. He emphasized the role of young scientists for the future of mankind on this planet using their effort and talent for making the life on this planet a “miracle safeguarded by collective wisdom”.

Prof. Omar Javid Shah, Dean Medical Faculty expressed his gratitude to the Kashmir University for support and emphasized the involvement of youngsters is critical in various initiatives.

Prof. Farooq Masoodi, Dean Research and Academic affairs Kashmir University said the two Institutes have always facilitated each other in terms of knowledge sharing, “Collaborations are always beneficial and advantageous”.

Referring to SKIMS & KU collaboration, he said “This collaboration will pave way for optimum utilization of researches/infrastructure”.



**With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the demise of Haji Ghulam Ahmad Tinda S/o Ghulam Hyder Tinda R/o Tinda Mohalla Vegetable Market Dal Lake, Srinagar who left for heavenly abode on 22nd of August 2021 (Sunday) after a brief illness. The Congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on 25th of August 2021 (Wednesday) at 6 AM at their ancestral graveyard Hassanabad saida Kadal, Srinagar, after that condolence meeting will be held at their residence Tinda Mohalla Vegetable Market Dal Lake, Srinagar.**

# 10 Burglars Operating In Military Fatigue Arrested

## Stolen Goods Worth Lacs Recovered

KO News Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police in Kashmir capital Srinagar busted a gang of burglars who would loot houses donning combat uniforms, using dummy weapons and iron rods.

A police spokesperson said that Police received a couple of complaints from West area of city, wherein complainants had claimed that their houses were looted during cordon and search operations by men donning army uniforms.

One such complaint was received by police station Parimpora from a local of Maloora HMT wherein he claimed that a group of people donning combat uniforms raided his house and during the raid, gold, cash and cell phones were looted.

Divulging information about these incidents, SP West Perbeet said that one such incident occurred in Maloora area on 4 May this year.

“We registered a formal FIR vide number 107/2021 to investigate the matter. In the meantime, another similar incident during the intervening night of 7 and 8 July occurred in Hokar-sar area. Subsequently, a Special Investigation Team led by SDO West Muzaffar Jan and SHO Parimpora Police Station Syed Junaid was constituted,” SP said.

Perbeet said that with the help of technical data, the SIT zeroed in on some suspects who were arrested during multiple raids. These suspects confessed their involvement in these burglary incidents,” he said.

The SP West while talking about

the modus operandi of the gang said that they used to target those houses where marriage ceremonies were taking place or where marriages had already been solemnized. This they were doing just to loot more gold and cash.

“We have arrested 10 members of the gang. More arrests and recoveries are expected in coming days,” the police officer said.

He said the gang members after donning combat uniforms used to enter the house, locking up all the family members on the pretext of a search operation, snatch their cell phones and loot cash and gold.

“We have recovered gold ornaments worth 22 lakh, cash 3.50 lakh, a vehicle which they had purchased from the stolen money, 6 combat dresses, 5 dummy AK-47 rifles, 4 dummy pistols and some iron rods which they used to break the locks,” SP Mr Perbeet said.

# Augment Libraries With Resources For Civil Services Exam: DG NLI

SRINAGAR: Director General, National Library of India (NLI) and Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata, Prof Ajay Pratap Singh arrived on a two-day visit in Srinagar on Tuesday to take first-hand appraisal of the measures for upgrading library facilities in Jammu & Kashmir.

Prof Singh also attended the 2nd meeting of the UT-Level Library Advisory-cum-Purchase Committee (UTLACPC) constituted by J&K Government to recommend measures for development of the library services and upgradation of library facilities. The Committee also makes selection of books to be purchased by the Libraries Department for its libraries.

The UTLACPC meeting was also attended by Director, Libraries & Research, Mohammad Rafi; Director, Finance, Department of Culture,

J&K; Representative of the Board of School Education, J&K; Deputy Director, Libraries Jammu/Kashmir; Assistant Director, Research & Publication wing; Chief Librarian, SPS Library Srinagar; Chief Librarian, SRS Library Jammu, Satish Vimal, expert Hindi language; Liaqat Jafri, expert Urdu language; Rajeshwar Singh Raju, expert Dogri language; Ghulam Nabi Haleem, expert Kashmiri Language; Ms Surinder Neer, expert Punjabi Language; Prof Parvez Majeed, Media Studies; Saleem Pandit, Journalist and Kulbushan Malhotra.

Welcoming the participants, Director Libraries gave an overview of the initiatives taken by the Department, of late, to upgrade the infrastructure in Public Libraries and provide best possible facilities to the users. He said for the first time around 350 titles of reference books for civil services examinations have

been provided in all the public libraries across J&K.

The Committee recommended the books to be purchased under RRRLF scheme, books not covered under RRRLF and books from local authors.

Speaking at the meeting Director General, National Library of India stressed the need for making available important reference books and study material for civil services and other competitive examinations in the public libraries, both in e-format and as hard copies. He also called for organizing regular interaction of the students with experts on how to crack civil services examinations.

He also sought proposals from J&K for upgradation of libraries under the National Mission on Libraries (NML), as the UT has till date not availed any funding under the scheme.

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

## HIGHWAY STATUS

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

## This Day in History

- 1580- Battle of Alcantara, Spain defeats Portugal
- 1609- Galileo demonstrates his 1st telescope to Venetian lawmakers
- 1628- Assault on sultan of Mantarams of Batavia
- 1654- Battle of Arras: Louis de Bourbon, Prince of Condé, failed to take Arras and withdrew to Cambrai.
- 1689- Battle at Charleroi: Spanish & English armies chase French
- 1804- Alice Meynell becomes 1st woman jockey (England)
- 1814- British forces destroy Library of Congress, containing 3,000 books (War of 1812)
- 1825- Uruguay declares independence from Brazil (National Day)
- 1830- Belgium revolts against Netherlands and begins the Belgian Revolution
- 1886- 1st international polo meet (US vs England)
- 1894- Japanese scientist Shibasaburo Kitasato discovers the infectious agent of the bubonic plague and publishes his findings in The Lancet
- 1912- 1st time an aircraft recovers from a spin
- 1920- Russia suffers a final decisive defeat in the Battle of Warsaw against Poland
- 192- US signs peace treaty with Germany
- 1937- Japanese fleet blockades Chinese coast
- 1940- Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia incorporated into Soviet Union
- 1941- British & Russian troops attack pro-German Iran
- 1943- Lord Louis Mountbatten appointed Supreme Allied Commander in SE Asia
- 1944- Paris liberated from Nazi occupation (Freedom Tuesday)
- 1955- Last Soviet forces leave Austria
- 1981- Voyager 2's closest approach to Saturn (63,000 miles/100,000 km)
- 1983- US & USSR sign \$10 billion grain pact
- 1988- Iran & Iraq begin talks to end their 8 year war
- 1988- NASA launches space vehicle S-214
- 1989- After 12-year, 4-billion-mile journey, Voyager 2 flies over cloudtops of Neptune & its moon Triton, sending back photographs of swamps
- 199-1 White-Russia declares its independence
- 1991- Linux was born when Linus Torvalds sent off the email announcing his project to create a new operating system.
- 2012- 330 people are killed as a result of conflict in the Syrian civil war
- 2012- 85,000 people are displaced by severe floods in Myanmar
- 2012- 39 people are killed and 80 are injured after a gas leak in North Venezuelan refinery
- 2012- Voyager 1 spacecraft, enters interstellar space (launched in 1977), - first spacecraft to do so

## From KO Archives

# Villagers thrashed, shops looted as SF run amock

## IED Blast Wounds 5 Soldiers, 2 Women

Ghulam Muhammad

SOPORE: Tension gripped the highway village of Patukah 6 km from here; after security forces allegedly went berserk injuring civilians, smashing vehicles and ransacking shops and houses following an IED explosion in which five of their men and two local women were injured this morning. Vehicular - traffic on the highway was disrupted for several hours while the villagers and shopkeepers have fled from the spot out of fear.

According to reports, five army jawans of 29 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) were injured, some of them seriously, when suspected militants detonated a powerful improvised Explosive device (IED) planted in a bag under handcart near filling station eat Patukah at about 11 an today. It was believed to have been triggered through a remote control device. Two local women, identified as Shamima w/o Bashir Ahmad Hallam and Misra w/o Abdul Ahad, were also injured. A CNS report said the Hizbul Mujahideen had claimed responsibility for the blast.

Eyewitnesses said the impact of the explosion was such that the one tonne vehicle the army jawans were travelling in was hurled a distance of several yards and smashed into a moving civilian truck. The vehicle as well as the truck, bearing registration No JKC 3908 and carrying timber, suffered extensive damage. Those injured in the incident were immediately rushed to hospitals. While two of the injured soldiers were discharged after first aid, the other three were stated to be out of danger. However, a KPS report said two of the injured soldiers succumbed to injuries at the base hospital at Badamibagh, Srinagar. Soon after the incident, according to reports, troops in strength swooped on the village and allegedly ran amock, beating everyone they could catch hold of. They smashing the petrol pump belonging to Feroz Ahmad Pandit s/o Habibullah Pandit of Sopore and his Maruti car bearing registration No JK 04 / 2757. Pandit was injured due to thrashing by the securitymen.

A little ahead, the jawans beat a bandsaw owner; Ghulam Muhammad Khuroo, and his labour, Muhammad Hannan Hajjam, resulting in serious injuries to both. They were rushed to Srinagar in a critical condition. A horse cart puller, Muhammad Arif r/o Inzar, Shrakawara, fractured his leg due to severe beating and he too was rushed to Srinagar. Several others were also beaten. Meanwhile, reports said, all the villagers deserted their homes and hearths in panic while the shopkeepers left their shops. The security forces immediately laid siege to the village and allegedly went about looting and ransacking the shops with gay abandon. They also conducted house-to-house searches to flush out the suspects.

(Kashmir Observer, August 25, 2000)

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE JAL SHAKTI DIVISION KULGAM

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## NOTICE INVITING E TENDERS

**E-NIT No: 43 Of 2021-22 issued under endorsement No:PHK/2550-65 Dated:21-08-2021**

For & on behalf of President of India,e-tenders are invited (in single cover system) "on item rate basis" from Registered contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules for the following works:-

SNo	Name of work	Advt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contract	Time for Compl.	Cost of tender Document	MH of Account
1	Connecting and commissioning of 0.1 MGD Rapid sand Filtration Plant at Damhal WSS Damhal under maintt and repairs	0.83	Bid security declaration form duly sworn on affidavit notarized	DEE	10days	100/=	M&R

Position of AA : Accorded

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: WWW.jktenders.gov.in

As per the Schedule of dates given below:

I	Publishing date of NIT	23-08-2021	9.00	A.M
II	Download start date	23-08-2021	9.00	A.M
III	Bid submission start date	23-08-2021	9.00	A.M
IV	Bid submission end date	30-08-2021	4.00	P.M
IV	Bid opening date	31-08-2021	10.00	A.M

- The bidders shall have to upload the following documents with their bid:
  - Scanned copies of Tender Fee & Bid security form to be sworn on affidavit duly notarized be attached with the Bid
  - Scanned copies of Registration Card duly renewed
  - Scanned copies of GST Registration with latest GST Renewal/ PAN.
  - Bidders Address format/undertaking
- Bidder shall quote rates on item rate basis in the BOQ.
- The rates quoted shall be inclusive of all taxes as applicable at the time of payment.
- The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The bid documents can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given above
- The Hard copies of technical bid shall have to be submitted by the L1 in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Kulgam within three days from the date of opening of bids
- The Service Tax/Income Tax/Cess or any other tax shall be effective @ prevailing rates fixed by the Govt. from time to time and shall be deducted at source from the amount payable to contractor.
- The successful contractor shall draw agreement deed with the department within seven days from the date of issue of L01 or allotment whichever is earlier.
- Any injury/loss of the labourers during execution of work shall be the personal responsibility of the contractor.
- The material shall be arranged by the contractor himself.
- No extra carriage lead or lift of any kind of material shall be paid and the payment shall be made as per actual work done on rate basis as per BOQ.
- The contractor shall have to take photographs of each site of work before execution, during execution and after execution of work.
- GEO Tagging of each work shall have to be done by the contractor and the contractor is advised to quote his rates accordingly
- No payment shall be released to the contractor without obtaining Royalty Clearance Certificate of Sand, Aggregate, Nallah Muck, ordinary earth etc. from the Department of Geology & Mining J&K.
- Any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to natural calamities, shall be the responsibility of the bidder till the work is finally handed-over to the Department.
- The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of L01/Contract allotment as the case may be.
- Anything of historical/significant value unexpectedly discovered on the site during execution of work shall be the property of the Government.
- It shall be mandatory for the executing agency/contractor to ensure safe and adequate supply of electricity required for all the workmen skilled/unskilled deployed at site of work. Besides, no labour below the age of 18 years should be engaged as per the Labour Law.
- Arrangements for sufficient sanitation facility at site be ensured by the executing agency/ contractor for all the workmen to be mobilized at site, besides, separate toilet facilities be provided for Female workers at the site of work.
- Suitable arrangements for supply of potable water at site for all the workmen skilled/unskilled be made by the agency/contractor just before the virtual start of execution at site
- Insurance cover as admissible under rules shall be provided to all the workers skilled/unskilled deployed at site and the necessary premiums shall be borne by the executing agency/contractor itself.
- It is mandatory upon the executing agency to follow the SOP during COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Other terms & conditions shall remain in force as per Standard Bidding Document (SBD) attached with the NIT.
- Performance guarantee 3% of advt cost in form of CDR/FDR shall be submitted to the Executive Engineer before the allotment is issued which will be released after the successful commissioning of the work.
- If the price of the 1st lowest tenderer works out beyond 15% below the advertised cost, additional security shall have to be paid @ 3.5% of the adv. Cost.

HEAD OF ACCOUNT : M&R

Signed for on behalf of  
President of India  
Executive Engineer  
Jal shakti Division Kulgam

DIPK-7096/21



## Union Minister Rane Arrested for 'Slap Shiva Sena Chief' Remark

Agencies

Mumbai, August 24: Union minister Narayan Rane was arrested on Tuesday after sparking off a row over his remarks about slapping Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray for what he claimed was the latter's ignorance of the year of India's independence.

Rane was taken into custody by police in coastal Ratnagiri district, where he is travelling as part of the Jan Ashirwad Yatra, an official said.

Rane was taken to the Sangameswar police station after being taken into custody, the official said. There were reports that the BJP leader complained of high blood pressure and sugar levels and a doctor was called to examine him.

"It is shameful that the chief minister does not know the year of independence. He leaned back to enquire about the count of years of independence during his speech. Had I been there, I would have given (him) a tight slap," Rane said in adjoining Raigad district on Monday.

The former chief minister claimed Thackeray forgot the year of independence during his August 15 address to the people of the state. Thackeray had to check the year of independence with his aides midway during the speech that day, Rane said. Rane on Tuesday defended his remarks against Thackeray, saying he hasn't committed any crime by making them.

On media reportage of his 'imminent arrest' in the case, Rane said—hours before his arrest—that he was not a 'normal' man and cautioned the media against such reportage.

"I haven't committed any crime. You should verify and show it on TV or else I will file a case against you (media). Despite not committing any crime, the media is showing speculative news about my 'imminent' arrest. Do you think I am a normal (ordinary) man?" Rane said.

Rane's remarks drew sharp reactions from Shiv Sena, whose workers put several posters in Mumbai and other places, calling him a 'kombdi chor' (chicken stealer), a reference to the poultry shop he ran in Mumbai's Chembur area five decades ago, during the initial part of his over four-decades-old stint with the Bal Thackeray-led party.

Activists of Shiv Sena and its youth wing staged protests in various cities across Maharashtra against Rane.



In Pune's Deccan Gymkhana area, Sena workers slapped posters of Rane with footwear. Yuva Sena workers staged a demonstration in Hadapsar. A stone was hurled at a mall located on JM Road in Pune, a police official said.

In Amravati, Sena workers vandalised the BJP office located in the Rajapeth area and also set various posters installed in front of the office on fire in protest against Rane's remarks. No BJP office-bearer or party worker was present in the office at the time of the incident.

Sena activists poured petrol, brought by them in bottles, on the posters installed outside the office and set them afire around noon. They also hurled stones at the office.

Heavy police security was deployed outside Rane's residence in Mumbai in the wake of his remarks against Thackeray, an official said.

BJP workers gathered outside Rane's residence on Juhu Tara Road in Santacruz (West) in the morning in support of their party leader.

## CIA Chief Secretly Met Taliban Leader In Kabul: Report

PTI

Washington, August 24: America's top spy held a secret meeting with the Taliban's de facto leader Abdul Ghani Baradar in Kabul on Monday in the highest-level face-to-face encounter between the two sides

citizens and Afghan allies, it added.

The Biden administration is under pressure from some allies to keep US forces in the country beyond August 31 deadline in order to assist the evacuation of tens of thousands of citizens of the US and Western countries

country, he has struck a conciliatory tone, saying the militant group is seeking "an Islamic system in which all people of the nation can participate without discrimination and live harmoniously with each other in an atmosphere of brotherhood."

In his meeting with Burns on



Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's deputy leader and negotiator, and other delegation members attend the Afghan peace conference in Moscow, Russia March 18, 2021. Reuters file

since the militant group seized the Afghan capital, a media report said on Tuesday. The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US was set to complete its troop withdrawal after a costly two-decade war. This forced Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to flee the country to the UAE.

CIA Director William J. Burns held a secret meeting in Kabul on Monday with Baradar in the highest-level face-to-face encounter between the Taliban and the Biden administration since the militants seized the Afghan capital, the Washington Post reported, citing unnamed US officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

President Joe Biden's decision to dispatch his top spy, a veteran of the foreign service, comes amid a frantic effort to evacuate people from Kabul international airport in what the president has called "one of the largest, most difficult airlifts in history," the paper said.

The CIA declined to comment on the Taliban meeting but the discussions likely involved the impending August 31 deadline for the US military to conclude its airlift of US

as well as Afghan allies desperate to escape Taliban rule.

However, a Taliban spokesman on Monday warned that there will be "consequences" if the US and UK sought an extension to the August 31 deadline for the US-led troop withdrawal from the war-torn country. Baradar, who spent eight years in Pakistani prison before his release in 2018, has served as the Taliban's chief negotiator in peace talks with the US in Qatar that resulted in an agreement with the Trump administration on the withdrawal of US forces.

In November 2020, he posed for a photo in front of gold-rimmed chairs with then Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

A close friend of the Taliban's founding supreme leader Muhammad Omar, Baradar is believed to hold significant influence over the Taliban rank-and-file, the paper said.

He fought Soviet forces during their occupation of Afghanistan and was the governor of several provinces in the 1990s when the Taliban last ruled the country.

Since the Taliban's takeover of the

Monday, Baradar faced one of America's most seasoned diplomats, a former deputy secretary of state who has also served as US ambassador to Russia, the Post said.

In April, Burns made an unannounced trip to Afghanistan as concerns mounted about the Afghan government's ability to fend off the Taliban after the US withdrawal, the paper said.

As director, Burns oversees a spy agency that trained elite Afghan special forces units who had been viewed as a potent force in the country, but were also implicated in extrajudicial killings and human rights violations.

On Monday, before details of the secret meeting emerged, State Department spokesman Ned Price was asked about why senior US officials hadn't engaged with Baradar given the stakes in Afghanistan.

Price said "our discussions with the Taliban have been operational, tactical, they have been focused largely on our near-term operations and near-term goals ... what is going on at the airport compound ... that is what we're focused on at the moment."

## Analysis: China, Pakistan, India jockey for position in Afghanistan's new Great Game

AFP

As the Taliban takes over in the strategic, landlocked nation, the new Great Game has Pakistan in control, with its ally China looking to cement its grip on the region.

The Russian and British empires battled over Afghanistan in the 19th century, and the United States and the Soviet Union in the 20th. As the Taliban takes over in the strategic, landlocked nation, the new Great Game has Pakistan in control, with its ally China looking to cement its grip on the region.

Pakistan has deep ties with the Taliban and has been accused of supporting the Islamist group as

it battled the US-backed government in Kabul - charges denied by Islamabad. When the Taliban captured Kabul last week, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said Afghans had broken the "shackles of slavery."

As the Taliban holds discussions to decide on its government model, media reports have said some Pakistani officials are involved.

A Foreign Office spokesperson in Islamabad said Pakistan wanted an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan that ensured peace and stability in the region but added the "key role remains with the Afghans".

China, with no previous involvement in Afghanistan but a

strong alliance with Pakistan, has held out an olive branch to the Taliban, enticed by the country's mineral wealth, including its large reserves of lithium, a key component for electric vehicles. China is also looking at the prospect of extra security for its narrow land route through the Karakoram mountains into Pakistan.

And then there is India - Pakistan's old enemy, which has been locked in a military standoff with China along their disputed border for more than a year. India was a key supporter of the ousted regime in Kabul and as both Pakistan and China become key players in a Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, New Delhi's nervousness in increasing.

## Iran resumes a crucial lifeline to Afghanistan: Fuel

REUTERS

A suicide bombing targeting a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in southwestern Pakistan killed two children and wounded three on Friday, police said.

Iran resumed fuel exports to Afghanistan a few days ago following a request from the new Afghan government, which feels empowered by the US withdrawal to buy the sanctioned nation's oil more openly, an Iranian official has told the Reuters news agency.

The Sunni Muslim group seized power in Afghanistan last week as the United States and its allies withdrew troops after a 20-year war. The price of gasoline in Afghanistan reached \$900 per tonne as many Afghans were driven out of cities, fearing reprisals and a return to a harsh interpretation of Islamic law the Taliban imposed when in power 20 years ago.

To counter the price spike, the new Taliban asked Shia Iran to keep the borders open for traders.

"The Taliban sent messages to Iran saying: 'You can continue the exports of petroleum products,'" Hamid Hosseini, a board member and spokesman of Iran's Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters' Union, in Tehran, told

Reuters which reported news of the resumption to Afghanistan on Tuesday. The Taliban sent messages to Iranian traders and to an Iranian chamber of commerce, which has close links to the government.

As a result, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), which is a part of the government, lifted a ban on fuel exports to Afghanistan, which had been in place since August 6 because of Iran's concerns about the safety of trading in the country.

Those concerns have been eased by the Taliban's attitude, Hosseini said. He also cited the Taliban's decision to cut tariffs on imports of fuel from Iran and other neighbouring countries and shared with Reuters an official document issued by Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan - the name by which the Taliban refers to itself.

The document specified a 70-percent discount on tariffs on imports of gasoline, diesel and LPG from the neighbouring countries to Afghanistan.

Dealing more openly Iran sits on the world's fourth-largest oil reserves but the latest round of US sanctions imposed by former US President Donald Trump in 2018, has significantly reduced Iranian oil exports.

## Israel 'quietly' allows Jews to pray in Al-Aqsa compound: Report

Agencies

The Israeli government is allowing Jews to conduct prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem - also known to Jews as the Temple Mount - in a move that risks shifting the site's status quo, The New York Times reported.

In a story published on Tuesday, the Times said Rabbi Yehudah Glick made "little effort to

According to the Times, Glick - a US-born, right-wing former lawmaker - has been leading efforts to change the status quo for decades, and said he characterises his effort as a matter of "religious freedom".

Other rising movements, such as the Temple Mount Faithful and the Temple Institute, have also challenged the Israeli government's ban on allowing Jews to enter the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

The formal arrangement



hide his prayers" and was even livestreaming them.

The area is in Jerusalem's walled Old City and part of the territory Israel captured in a 1967 Middle East war. Israel occupied East Jerusalem in 1980 in a step that was never recognised by the international community.

Since 1967, Jordan and Israel agreed that the Waqf, or the Islamic trust, would have control over matters inside the compound, while Israel would control external security. Non-Muslims would be allowed onto the site during visiting hours, but would not be allowed to pray there.

agreed on by Jordan and Israel is in place is to avoid conflict at the flashpoint site.

But Israeli forces routinely allow groups, some in the hundreds, of Jewish settlers who live in occupied Palestinian territories to descend on the Al-Aqsa compound under police and army protection, stirring Palestinian fears of an Israeli takeover.

In 2000, Israeli politician Ariel Sharon entered the holy site accompanied by some 1,000 Israeli police. His entrance to the compound unleashed the second Intifada, in which more than 3,000 Palestinians and some 1,000 Israelis were killed.

### NEWS MAKER

## 2 in 3 Indian adults addicted to being online due to Covid: Report

New Delhi, August 24: Nearly two in three Indians (66 per cent) have become addicted to being online as a result of the Covid pandemic, a report released on Tuesday said.

The 2021 Norton Cyber Safety Insights report by consumer security company NortonLifeLock is based on an online survey of more than 1,000 Indian adults conducted by the Harris Poll. The survey found that on average, adults in India spend 4.4 hours a day in front of screens, outside of work or educational time.

About eight in 10 (82 per cent) said that the amount of time they spent on screens, aside from educational or work purposes, has increased significantly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Smartphones by far are the most common device Indian adults surveyed feel they are spending too much time on (84 per cent).

The majority of Indian adults (74 per cent) agree that the amount of time they spend in front of a screen negatively impacts their physical

health, while more than half (55 per cent) say it negatively impacts their mental health.

"It is understandable that the pandemic has increased our dependence on screens for activities that could otherwise have been done offline. It is important for every individual, however, to find a healthy balance between their on-screen and off-screen time so that their health and, more importantly, their children's health is not adversely im-

acted," NortonLifeLock's Director, Sales and Field Marketing, India & SAARC Countries Ritesh Chopra said

in a statement.

The survey also showed a lack of trust among



Indian adults in smart home devices and/or the companies that manufacture them.

Nearly half of adults decided against purchasing a smart home device due to

security concerns or because of privacy concerns (40 per cent).

People also cited a lack of information about smart home devices (40 per cent) and a lack of transparency from smart home device manufacturers about how they use consumer data (35 per cent) as reasons for not purchasing a smart home device.

"The online landscape has seen an increase in the numbers and types of cyber threats. Users must take great care of how and where they use their connected devices. Convenience should not come at the cost of security," Chopra said.

"Today, the loss of personal or confidential information can have very serious repercussions indeed. It is important for parents to be aware of this fact and to educate their children on the need for cyber safety," he added. — IANS

## Study: Delta cases show 300 times higher viral load

Reuters

The higher load means the virus spreads far more easily from person to person, increasing infections and hospitalizations

People infected with the more transmissible Delta variant have a viral load 300 times higher than those with the original version of the Covid-19 virus, when symptoms are first observed, a South Korea study found.

ut the amount gradually decreased over time - to 30 times in four days and over 10 times in nine days - and it matched levels seen in other variants after 10 days, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said on Tuesday.

The higher load means the virus spreads far more easily from person to person, increasing infections and hospitalizations, a health ministry official Lee Sang-won told a news conference.

"But it doesn't mean Delta is 300 times more infectious...we think its transmis-

sion rate is 1.6 times the Alpha variant, and about two times the original version of the virus," Lee said.

The Delta variant of the coronavirus was first identified in India and the Alpha variant in the UK.

To avoid the spread of the Delta variant, the KDCA urged people to immediately get tested when developing Covid-19 symptoms and avoid in-person meetings. The rapid spread of the Delta variant and low vaccination rates have caught much of Asia off-guard, especially in emerging markets, even as economies in Europe and North America reopen.

The study compared the viral load of 1,848 patients infected with the Delta variant with 22,106 people who had other strains.

South Korea reported 1,509 new coronavirus cases for Monday, raising the total to 239,287 infections, with 2,228 deaths. It has vaccinated 51.2% of its 52 million population with at least one dose of a vaccine, while 23.9% have been fully vaccinated.



Sd/-  
Floriculture Officer,  
Department of Floriculture  
NMBG, Cheshmashahi



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K O V I E W

New tourist season

With the waning of the second Covid-19 wave, tourists are returning to the Valley. On an average 30 flights operate at Srinagar International Airport daily with seven to eight thousand people travelling to and from Kashmir. The people associated with the tourism sector are pinning hope on the upcoming autumn and the winter thereafter to draw more holidaymakers to the Valley, just like the corresponding period from October to April had done last year. According to government figures, 1.13 lakh tourists had arrived in Kashmir during the period, a figure that the then union tourism minister Prahlad Singh Patel had told the parliament at the time had broken the record of the past 16 years.

To woo travellers back, hotels and houseboats are providing huge discounts with prices reduced by as much as 50 percent. The tourism department has taken several measures to ensure that the fear of the Covid-19 contagion doesn't scare away the visitors. According to government data, so far 80 percent of its tourism service providers have been vaccinated and are safe to welcome travellers from far and wide. Government is also in the process of identifying new tourist destinations to accommodate more tourists and offer them more places to visit. Recently, a meeting chaired by the advisor to governor Baseer Ahmad Khan listed out parameters to identify these places and the adventure spots.

Sounding a note of caution though, the tourism in Kashmir is not only about whether the pandemic is on or gone. The security situation is a factor too. While the Covid-19 lockdown may have been responsible for shutting the Valley off over the last one year, the security situation too has not been good.

At the best of times, the situation in the Valley remains uneasy and uncertain. And sometimes a big local event could make the region a site of geopolitical tension just like the Pulwama attack did. Truth is that while tourism is a boon for Kashmir it needs a peaceful environment to thrive, something that the Valley has lacked for the past thirty years. And considering the ongoing state of affairs, fundamentally the situation remains the same.

So, while we look forward to a fresh season of tourism, it is important that the state of siege that has more or less prevailed since the repeal of Article 370 in August 2019 is lifted. And this siege is not about the lockdown or the denial of internet and phones but about the political uncertainty and unpredictability.

OTHER OPINION

Staying Invested

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to ask the MEA to brief all parliamentary parties on the Government's actions in Afghanistan comes as questions grow about the Government's planning for contingencies there, with the Taliban's takeover. Since August 15, when the Taliban militia entered Kabul, the Government, including the MEA and the Defence Ministry, has been understandably occupied with the challenging evacuation of Indian nationals. In addition, the Government's decision to evacuate the entire embassy staff and security personnel first has made it more difficult to facilitate those Indians, as well as long-term visa holding Afghan Sikhs and Hindus needing to return. With most of the Indians based in Afghanistan returning home, or expected to soon, the Government must face the larger strategic questions over whether the Indian Embassy was evacuated too early. India had undertaken evacuations during the 1990s too, but then the presence of Indian nationals was not as large and Indian stakes in Afghanistan were not so deeply rooted. In the past 20 years, India has built considerable interests, including major infrastructure projects and ongoing development projects, helped script the Afghan Constitution and conduct of elections, as well as enabled the training and education of the next generation of officials, soldiers and professionals. It seems unfortunate, therefore, that this bank of goodwill came to naught as the Government decided it was safer to pull up stakes, emulating neither the U.S. and European countries who relocated their diplomatic outposts to the Kabul airport, nor Russia, China and Iran, which decided not to vacate their embassies there.

Going forward, the Government must explain how it expects to approach the new regime in Afghanistan once it is formed. It is still unclear whether this will be merely a repeat of the brutal regime seen from 1996-2001, or whether negotiations are under way for a more inclusive coalition, including several former leaders of Afghanistan, will fructify into a transitional government. The rise of Taliban power and that of the group's Pakistani backers is a particular security concern as groups such as the LeT and the JeM could use Afghanistan as a staging base for terror attacks in India. Finally, the Government must explain how it will approach the Afghan people, especially those whose lives could be in danger, including Embassy staff and associates, those working on Indian projects, minorities, including those Islamic sects such as the Hazaras who have been targeted, as well as women. A more open, liberalised visa policy, and more swift processing of the newly launched special "e-Emergency X-Misc" visas would reassure both Afghans and the international community that India's exit from Afghanistan is not permanent, and it will retain its traditional and historic interests in the country and its people, despite adverse events there.

The Hindu



Faisal Khan/KR

Don't Trivialise  
Street Harassment

Street Harassment is not harmless, it perpetuates rape culture

Dania Sheikh

“This reluctance to report harassment stems from the warped notion of honour that is fed to women from a very early stage. Young girls are conditioned to believe that harassment erodes their honour, it leaves them scarred, this stigma and shame attributed to the victim makes rape and harassment an instrument to control women, to subdue them and discourages women from speaking up.

The recent National Family Health Survey reveals that there has been an upsurge in violent crimes and sexual harassment against women in J&K. The survey report suggests that in 2019-2020, 9.6% women in the age group of 18-49 experienced domestic violence, and 1046 rape cases were registered during this year. These numbers are a grim reminder of the lopsided power dynamics which relegates a lower status to the women in our society. It is this position of authority and power which gives men a sense of impunity and license to get away scott free after committing heinous and barbaric crimes.

Uprooting patriarchy is the only way to end the systemic suppression that women face in our society. Change in social attitudes, coupled with a robust justice system can put an end to the myriad forms of atrocities that women face on a daily basis and make the society a habitable place for women.

Violent and unfathomable crimes do not emerge out of a vacuum, they are a consequence of ignoring and trivialising sexist jokes, catcalling, whistle-blowing and groping etc. These behaviours exhibited towards women are not harmless, they create an environment conducive for men to assert their power over women and perpetuate rape culture. A society which tolerates any form of harassment (verbal or physical) against women incapacitates the harasser and gives him the confidence to disregard a woman's agency and violate her consent. An outcry against harassment is the first step in the long haul of subverting the rape culture that exists in our society. Refusing to accept it as something harmless is essential for reclaiming our agency and public spaces and moving around freely with calm-

ness and comfort without the fear of being visually profiled and assaulted. Reports indicate that 50% of the women who face harassment chose not to report it and this is why no statistical survey can reveal the actual extent of the harassment faced by women in the society.

This reluctance to report harassment stems from the warped notion of honour that is fed to women from a very early stage. Young girls are conditioned to believe that harassment erodes their honour, it leaves them scarred, this stigma and shame attributed to the victim makes rape and harassment an instrument to control women, to subdue them and discourages women from speaking

the process of seeking justice are distressing and adversely impact women, their quality of life and their well being. In our society every woman is either a victim or a potential victim and has to live in trepidation and constantly tweak her choices to ensure her safety. We cannot claim that we live in a civil and democratic state if women have to be hyper vigilant whenever they step out. It is incumbent upon the state to play an active role in ensuring that women's rights are protected and their freedom of movement is not restricted and that they are able to live life freely without fear. Apart from the effective implementation of laws that safeguard and protect women's rights, the government

“Eradicating the stigma and shame attached to the victim is essential to take this power away from men and empower women. The prevalence of victims shaming makes speaking up against harassment more morally reprehensible than harassment itself, this needs to be countered

up. Eradicating the stigma and shame attached to the victim is essential to take this power away from men and empower women. The prevalence of victims shaming makes speaking up against harassment more morally reprehensible than harassment itself, this needs to be countered.

The flailing justice system and the apathy shown by the law enforcement agencies dissuade women from reporting instances of harassment. Additionally, the burden of proof that rests on the victim makes seeking justice traumatic. The fear of harassment, harassment and

also needs to ensure that women are adequately represented in all spheres of the society, representation is the tool through which women can assert themselves and reclaim their agency, otherwise the only way women can ensure their safety is by being invisible in the public sphere.

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

The author can be reached at DaniaSheikh8@yahoo.com



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Consider Vaccination

It has been said by Doctors that the best vaccine is the one that is available. As of now, in India, there are two vaccine options available; Covaxin and Covishield. Even then a lot of people in Kashmir are still wary of getting vaccination. Vaccine skepticism is not new. The current one is because many have exaggerated the side effects of vaccines. Some side-effects to a vaccine are

expected, but these are usually mild, including a sore arm, tiredness and a bit of a temperature.

If you have underlying conditions, you can consult your doctor or a GP (general physician) and see if you can get vaccinated. You can also ask your GPs general protocols you would need to follow, after or before vaccination, if at all. If your parents and grandparents are apprehensive

of getting a vaccine, it would be best to fix an appointment with a doctor and let them reassure them. This will help them be more willing.

In case any of your relatives have also received vaccination, you can ask them to share their experience with your elders. This will also help them prepare mentally.

Do not postpone getting a vaccine if you are eligible by age and your

doctor has given you an approval. Although vaccines won't prevent you from getting an infection, it has shown to decrease the severity of the infection. Sure, there are new variants but let's have professionals deal with that. If you can get vaccinated, avail what is available.

Tania Saeed  
tanias@rediffmail



# Bequeathing Islam to Kashmir

Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (R.A.) role in bringing Islam to Kashmir

“

**Awrad-E-Fathiya** is a major case in point. It is the collection of religious prayers of great religious people which is recited every morning after the Fajr prayers in almost all the Hanafiya School of thought mosques reflecting the faith and deep commitment in one God laying emphasis on the the unity of God and His attributes

Abid Ahmad Shah



Religions are part of human lives with people having affiliations to different and particular religions. They are an integral part of human lives and preach the same message of peace and brotherhood. Islam is also one of the monotheistic and major religions in the world having an enormous following of 1.8 billion Muslims in the world. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is the founder of Islam in Arabia. With the passage of time, the companions of Prophet SAW played a great role in the spread of Islam in the world facing a lot of hardships day-in and day-out.

The messenger of Allah sent his companions every right, left and centres to convey the divine message of one God to the people of the world in order to show them a real path of eternal religious prosperity.

History is replete with the facts that although Islam had reached Kashmir very early, but the practical aspect was missing thereof. Kashmir was once a non-Muslim land where people were accustomed to non-Muslim practices and were mostly Hindus. Thus, there came an intervention in their lives. Whether, we call it divine or by chance, Islam arrived to make its roots permeate into the lives of the

masses of the valley of South Asia.

It was initially Hazrat Syed Sharaf-ud-Din Abdul Rahman(RA), a Sufi from Turkistan also known as Syed Bulbul Shah(RA) who provided the idea of Islam in Kashmir. Unfortunately, there have been little literary forays into his life, although few references to him form a part and parcel of the historical narratives of the medieval Kashmir. He was thus the first Islamic missionary to Kashmir who laid the foundation of Sufi order here. He played a catalytic role in the spread of Islam to concretise the societal transformation at large. According to historical sources, many people in Kashmir embraced the creed of Bulbul Shah.

After this great saint, there arrived the descendent of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), known as Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (R.A.), a Sufi of Kubrawi order from Hamadan, Iran from central Asia along with 700 Sayyids in Kashmir to enlighten the masses with the glorious Islam and its practical aspects through his teachings. He was a Shafi Muslim scholar from an educationally well-off family. He was born in 1314 A.D. at Hamadan, Persia from parents namely Syed Shihab-Ud-din and Saiyidnah Fatima.

Shahi Hamadan R.A. came to

Kashmir thrice with a noble mission of spreading the religion of Islam and arrived in Kashmir for the first time in 1372 A.D. and left for Mecca afterwards. Thereafter, he again arrived in Kashmir and stayed briefly and left vale again. Finally, he again came to Kashmir in 1383 and remained in Kashmir for a short span of time and left this earthly world towards eternal heavens afterwards and Tajikistan became the epicentre of his eternal bodily stay.

Shahi Hamdan is also known as Ali Sani (Second Ali) in Kashmir and revered by one and sundry with a linked genealogy through Imam Husain (R.A.) traced back to fourth Caliph, Hazrat Ali (R.A.). He contributed not only Islamic tenets and principles based on the Islamic philosophy for the people, but also contributed the dual elements of art and crafts in Kashmir. He contributed subjects like ethics, science, philosophy, jurisprudence, theology, poetry and prose immensely in Kashmir. He also profoundly impacted the architecture in Kashmir through construction of Khanqahs and tombs.

The arrival and influx of Shahi Hamadan (R.A.) in Kashmir brought a socio-cultural and religious revolution. Shah-i-Hamadan was also an

author and a poet par excellence who wrote books like, Zakhiratul Muluk and Muwwadatul Quraba. Zakhiratul Muluk dealt with his political ideology, the duties of rulers and the responsibilities of the people. Besides, he also authored several books spanning religious and spiritual aspects.

Awrad-E-Fathiya is a major case in point. It is the collection of religious prayers of great religious people which is recited every morning after the Fajr prayers in almost all the Hanafiya School of thought mosques reflecting the faith and deep commitment in one God laying emphasis on the the unity of God and His attributes. Another important poetic collection of Shahi Hamadan (R.A.) is Chahlul Asraar .Every year prior to Eid Ul Adha, the Urs of this great saint Shah Hamdan (R.A.) is celebrated on the 6th of Zil Haj of the Muslim calendar at few sacred abodes of his shrines, including Seer Hamdan, Dooru Shahabad, Tral and Srinagar as a mark of deep reverence and regard for the unrelenting efforts of this saint for the upliftment and prosperity of the people of Kashmir.

The inroads of Shahi Hamadan (R.A.) into Kashmir without any regard for the rewards makes the point clear that the great saint as a mark of

legacy of the mission of his dynasty of Prophet Muhammad SAW cared about the people of Kashmir and yearned to stabilise their lives socially, religiously and culturally. Today, when Kashmir is at the crossroads of uncertainty, whether politically or otherwise, if we follow the paths of their great religious saint, time will not be far when divinely support to our problems will annihilate them and a valley of scenic beauty will restore and regain its charm again and metamorphosize our pains into peace. Together, by following the charted discourse of Shahi Hamadan R.A., our lives will blossom both here and hereafter. I still remember tears rolling down the cheeks of my father at the time of prayer's recitation at Shahi Hamadan R.A. This were the time that etched my memory and solidified my love for the Auliya. As the remembrance days of this saint have started today in the vale, the mosques of Hanafiya school of thought are reverberating with his couplets and providing aura to the environs.

*Abid Ahmad Shah is alumnus JMI and JNU, New Delhi. He can be reached at abidjmi121@gmail.com*

## How India Came to Love Colonial Cricket

Lars Dzikus and Adam Love

Originating in England, cricket came to India with the East India Company – an English company formed to develop trade in Asia.

According to British sailor Clement Downing's "A History of the Indian Wars," written in 1737, the first cricket match in India was played between sailors like him in 1721 in Khambhat, near India's western seaboard, only 55 miles from the stadium where Trump gave his speech.

The introduction of English traditions and sports helped the colonizers affirm their supposed cultural superiority and justify their rule. Some Indians, however, were actively involved in making the foreign sport their own.

The Parsis, an ethnic minority, who were enterprising traders with close ties to the British, for example, were particularly enthusiastic about the sport. By the mid-1800s, they had formed their own cricket teams.

Thereafter, English sports began to surpass traditional Indian games in popularity, such as local forms of wrestling. Other pastimes, such as "Kabaddi" – a team sport involving chasing and tagging opponents – started to be organized like English sports in the 1920s with rules, formal competitions and federations.

However, leading up to India's



independence in 1947, fierce debates raged over this British influence. Student protesters saw the cricket contests between different Indian groups as "a slow poison given to the rising

Indian generation and blockading the path to independence."

Cricket fans, however, continued to flock to local contests, including the Bombay Pentangular, an annual tournament between teams consisting of Europeans, Parsis, Hindus, Muslims and other minority faiths.

From colonialism to commerce

A major stepping stone in cricket's rise to a national sport was India's 1971 triumph in England. The Indian cricket team defeated the former colonizers at their own game, on their own turf.

Then again, in 1983, India won the cricket World Cup at Lord's Cricket Ground in London – the original home of the sport, once called the "cathedral of cricket."

In addition to its success in international competition, India has also turned cricket into a multi-billion-dollar industry. The Indian Premier League, inaugurated in 2008, features a fast-paced variety of cricket known as Twenty20. As opposed to traditional "test matches" between national teams that last up to five days, Twenty20 matches are typically completed in three hours and encourage aggressive, offensive play.

David Richardson, the chief executive officer of the International Cricket Council, said in March 2019 that the Indian Premier League had helped locate India at the center of the cricketing world.

When President Trump delivered his remarks at the new stadium, located in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat, the venue served as more than just a convenient space to accommodate a large crowd. It symbolized the evolution of a sport with a political history. Or, as historian Boria Majumdar notes, a sport that is like "religion at home."

*The Conversation*



# Online product displays can shape buying behaviour: Study

Agencies

According to new University of California San Diego research, curated product recommendations during online shopping can change whether people buy a product they had been considering.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Frontiers in Neuroscience'.

The study by Uma R. Karmarkar, assistant professor at the UC San Diego Rady School of Management and School of Global Policy and Strategy, found that display items that come from the same category as the target product, such as a board game matched with other board games, enhance the chances of a target product's purchase.

In contrast, consumers are less likely to buy the target product if it is mismatched with products from different categories, for example, a board game displayed with kitchen knives.

The study utilised eye-tracking – a sensor technology that makes it possible to know where a person is looking – to examine how different types of displays influenced visual attention.

Participants in the study looked at their target product for the same amount of time when it was paired with similar items or with items from different categories; however, shoppers spent more time looking at the mismatched products, even though they were only supposed to be there "for display".

"What is surprising is that when I asked people how much they liked the target products, their preferences didn't change between display settings," Karmarkar said.

"The findings show that it is not about how much you like or dislike the item you're looking at, it's about your process for buying

the item," Karmarkar explained.

"The surrounding display items don't seem to change how much attention you give the target product, but they can influence your decision whether to buy it or not," Karmarkar added.

Karmarkar, who holds PhDs in consumer behaviour and neuroscience, said the findings suggest that seeing similar options on the page reinforces the idea to consumers that they're making the right kind of decision to purchase an item that fits the category on display.

"When the information is mismatched, it changes the scope of the decision. A mismatched display is comparable to shopping in a store with more variety," she said.

"You may consider a featured board game but if you can see other products to buy, this board game may not be the first kind of purchase you want to make. The mismatched items draw additional attention and compete with the category you were considering," she added.

The study involved 58 participants, ages 18 to 40, who had to make 36 online shopping decisions for real products with real money.

The findings showing differences in purchase rates replicate a set of studies Karmarkar published in 2017. In the new research, she was able to measure what parts of the display were engaging more or less attention.

In addition, the upcoming paper shows that matched displays increase purchase rates even when they include more attention-grabbing information, like details about price.

Karmarkar talked with industry experts about product recommendations systems, which shaped her approach to these questions.

Recommender algorithms can

have different designs to meet a variety of retailers' respective goals.

Products can be shown with "mismatched" displays when retailers are using cross-promoting tactics based on prior customer behaviour or inventory they may want to sell more rapidly.

The board game example Karmarkar often uses is based on a real experience she had while shopping online during the month of October.

"I had been browsing games like 'Bananagrams' and when I reloaded the product page, a Halloween costumes display popped up," she said.

"Given my search history, the store probably estimated I had a family. So while I'm sure they wanted me to buy the game, they also knew they had an active shopper who might be interested in the Halloween costumes that needed to sell by the end of the month," she added.

"It looks like a win-win, but our work suggests that creating this mismatched situation could have lowered the chance that I would add the game to my cart," she explained.

While the study is useful for online retailers to know the benefits of showing same-category options on a specific product page, the research is valuable to consumers as well.

"This shows how outside forces shape our decisions in ways we might not recognise. If a shopper is looking for something specific, they are likely to focus their attention, regardless of recommender displays," she said.

"But when people are just 'browsing stuff' online,' different page designs can create different patterns of attention. Store displays can change what we choose, even when they don't change what we like," she concluded.

## OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, KATHUA

e-TENDERING

Tender Notice: e-NIT No: 26 of 2021-22 Dated: 17/08/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

Name of Works

S/N	Name of work	Adv. Cost (. In Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Comple- tion	Receiving /Open- ing Authority	Geo- Reference
01	Construction of Fencing using Square PCC Fence Posts & G.I Barbed Wire (5 Strands with 2 Criss Cross) at Strip Lakhampur-II (1200 rft) Nes Block Keerian Gandyal SF Range Kathua of Social Forestry Division Kathua Under State (Capex) 2021-22.	0.960	A,B,C & D	Rs.500/-	20 Days	Tender Opening Committee	N 32.38052 E 75.594835
	Total:-	0.960		Rs.500/-	20 Days		

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities,(B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

Position of funds	Budgeted
Position of AA	Accorded & Position of TS : Accorded
Publishing Date.	17-08-2021
Download Start Date.	17-08-2021 from 04:30 PM
Bid Submission Start Date.	17.08.2021 from 05:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date.	27.08.2021 upto 10:00 AM
Date of opening of Technical Bid.	27.08.2021 at 01.30 PM. (in the Office of Regional Director, Department of Social
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	27.08.2021 at 02:30 PM. (in the Office of Regional Director, Department of Social

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Departmental Website:-<https://jktenders.gov.in>.

- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 27.08.2021 at 01:30 PM in the Office of Regional Director, Department of Social Forestry, Opp. NITCO Lane, Jammu. In case of date of opening of the bid being public holiday, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bids must accompany cost of tender document as shown against each work in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406-Forest. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651 dated:-07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned and for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M.H.0406-Forest.

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Social Forestry Division  
Kathua

DIPK-7082/21

## ZONAL POLICE HQR's KASHMIR SRINAGAR.

Phone/Fax No. 01942450299 | 01942457689

e-mail:[igkmr@jkpolice.gov.in](mailto:igkmr@jkpolice.gov.in)

e-NIT No:- 04 of 2020

Dated:-21/8/2021

Online e-tenders in two cover system (Technical & Financial) are invited from manufacturers, authorized dealers, registered firms / suppliers for the supply of Urine Screening Test Kits and Naltrexone Tablets required in Youth Development and Rehabilitation Centre Eidgah, Srinagar as per details shown in tender documents for the current financial year 2021-22. The tenders should be accompanied with CDR only pledged to Accounts Officer ZPHQ Kashmir worth Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees five thousand only).

- The cost of e-tender documents is Rs. 200/- (Rupees two hundred only) to be deposited in the Government treasury and receipt / challan of the treasury be uploaded with tender documents.
- The download of e-NIT shall start 23-08-2021 at 1300 . Tenders shall be submitted online on J&K UT e-Procurement Portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 24-08-2021 upto 1600 hours.
- The tenders (technical bids only) will be opened online on 07-09-2021 at 1100 hours at ZPHQ Kashmir Srinagar. In case of unforeseen circumstances, the date of opening will be next working day.
- The contract / supply order can be cancelled at any time if the supplies are not made according to the required specifications. It shall be at the absolute discretion of the department to ask for replacement in lieu of the rejected supplies.
- If after the placement of orders, the successful tenderer backs out, the security deposit will be forfeited, besides other remedial penalty measure available shall be taken against him and purchases will be made from 2nd lowest tenderer at the risk and cost of approved supplier.

- Detailed tender documents (SBD) with terms and conditions are available on J&K UT e-Procurement Portal [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in).

(Vijay Kumar)-IPS  
Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone.

No:-Acctts/NIT-4/medium -168/50736-41  
Dated:- 21/08/2021

DIPK-7076/21

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION PULWAMA NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e- NIT No. 23/2021-22 Dated 20-08-2021

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

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Acctt
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9
1	Const Of Field Channal From Musa School To Onwards At Nalekhah At Ladhu-B Scheme PRI	2.00	200/=	3% FDR/ CDR Advt. cost by 1 <sup>st</sup> lowest bidder, after opening of bid	30 days	DEE	Capex Budget (PRI)
2	Const Of Lane Drain With Tiles From HO Gh. Mohi U Din To HO Gh Hassan Wani At Ladhu B. Scheme DDC	1.50	200/=		30 days	DEE	Capex Budget (DDC)
3	Const. Of drain From H.O Mohd Amin To Hanfie Jamia Masjid Munpora. Scheme PRI	2.50	200/=		30 days	DEE	Capex Budget (PRI)
4	Const. Of Drain From HO Mushtaq Ah Ganie To Ab. Rashid Ganie At Gundbal Ladhu-B Scheme PRI	2.00	200/=		30 days	DEE	Capex Budget (PRI)
5	Const. Of Lane. Drain From H O Gh Nabi Shah To Main Road Astan Mohalla Konibal. Scheme PRI	1.10	200/=		30 days	DEE	Capex Budget (PRI)
6	Const. Of Lane Near Ab. Rashid Badam At Wuyan Payeen Scheme DDC	1.50	200/=		30 days	DEE	Capex Budget (DDC)
7	Const. Of Lane With Tiles Steps From HO Ali. Mohd Sheikh To Ab Aziz Sheikh at Sheikh Mohalla Konibal. Scheme DDC	1.50	200/=		30 days	DEE	Capex Budget (DDC)
8	Const. of Lane With Tiles From HO Lassa Kumar To Onwards At Wuyan Payeen. Scheme PRI	1.50	200/=		30 days	DEE	Capex Budget (PRI)
9	Const. Of P Bund From Masjid Rehmatula Alamen To HO Nazir ah Bhat And Others At LalaPora Konibal. Scheme PRI	2.20	200/=		30 days	DEE	Capex Budget (PRI)
10	Const. Of P.Bund Near L. O Javaid ah. To Mehraj Din Mir Baghi ianiyatullah Meej Scheme PRI	2.50	200/=		30 days	DEE	Capex Budget (PRI)

Position of AAA: Accorded Position of Tehnical sanction: Accorded

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-08-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20-08-2021 From 2.00 PM to 02-09-2021 Up to 4.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	20-08-2021 from 2:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	02-09-2021 up to 4.00 PM
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) -	03-09-2021 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW Division PULWAMA
7	Note: Hard copy of original Treasury Challan Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bid is opened. In case the original Treasury Challan Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 2 days after the Financial Bid is Opened for all responsive bidders who have participated online , the Department shall serve the Notice as per Rules.	

Sd/  
Executive Engineer REW,  
PULWAMA

No.Xen/REW/Pul/2755-65  
Dated:- 20-08-2021

DIPK-7065/21

## KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECTS KASHMIR

House No. 9,10 Post Office Lane Near Mubarak Hospital Hyderpora Sringar Kashmir

Phone No. 0194-2438751 Fax No. 0194-2438750 E-mail: [ceprojectwing@gmail.com](mailto:ceprojectwing@gmail.com)

### GIST OF NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

For and on behalf of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir online e-bids are hereby invited for Sub Transmission and Distribution Works under PMDP-Urban (Additional) works in various Circle of Kashmir Province. The details are as under:

S. No	Description	e-NIT Number	Estimated Cost Rs in Lacs	EMD/Bid Security Declaration Rs in Lacs	Bid Process-ing Fees in Rs.	Last date for submission of e-Bid
1	Rural Electrification Works under PMDP-Rural (Additional) in District Anantnag.	CE/P/KPDCL/05 of 2021-22	1831.00	36.62	Rs.10000	21-09-2021 1500 Hrs
2	Rural Electrification Works under PMDP-Rural (Additional) in District Baramulla	CE/P/KPDCL/06 of 2021-22	1405.00	28.10	Rs.10000	21-09-2021 1500 Hrs
3	Rural Electrification Works under PMDP-Rural (Additional) in District Kupwara	CE/P/KPDCL/07 of 2021-22	2392.00	47.84	Rs. 10000	21-09-2021 1500 Hrs
4	Rural Electrification Works under PMDP-Rural (Additional) in District Bandipora	CE/P/KPDCL/08 of 2021-22	1546.00	30.92	Rs.10000	21-09-2021 1500 Hrs
5	Rural Electrification Works under PMDP-Rural (Additional) in District Ganderbal	CE/P/KPDCL/09 of 2021-22	1926.00	38.52	Rs. 10000	21-09-2021 1500 Hrs
6	Rural Electrification Works under PMDP-Rural (Additional) in District Budgam	CE/P/KPDCL/10 of 2021-22	3158.00	63.16	Rs.10000	21-09-2021 1500 Hrs

- The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e- Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> from 22-08-21 1000 Hours
B	Clarifications start date	22-08-2021 : 1100 Hours
C	Clarifications end date	10-09-2021 1600 Hours
D	Pre Bid Conference Date & Venue	11/09/2021 in The Office of Chief Engineer, Projects KPDCI Kashmir at 11 am.
E	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	15/09//2021:1000 Hours
F	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time	21/09/2021 :1500 Hours
G	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	23/09/2021:1400 Hours
H	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders
I	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of Chief Engineer Projects KPDCI KASHMIR

- The bidders need to submit the cost of Documents as stated in the above table pledged to Accounts Officer, Projects KPDCI, payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft as cost of document/Bid Processing fee must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original instruments should reach the office of Chief Engineer Projects KPDCI, House No. 9-10 Post Office Lane Hyderpora Srinagar upto 22/09/2021 4:00PM.

- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of Bid Security declaration in light of Gol Ministry of Finance OM No. F.9/4/2020-PPD dated:12th Nov 2020.

- a. Hard Copy of Bid Security declaration shall be submitted to the office of Chief Engineer Projects KPDCI, House No. 9-10 Post Office Lane Hyderpora Srinagar upto 22/09/2021 4:00PM.

- b. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

- This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e- mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site at Office of Chief Engineer Projects KPDCI.

- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's/ OEM representative will be required to be produced.

- KPDCL reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of KPDCI will be final and binding.

- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.

- All the required documents should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format. Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD. Only Hard copy of Cost of document and Bid Security declaration is required to be submitted in Hard format also.

- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding

NO: CE/P/KPDCL:3131-33  
Dated 20-08-2021

Chief Engineer Projects KPDCI

DIPK-NB-2825/21



## Global Shares Mostly Rise, Momentum Fizzles On Virus Worries

Tokyo (AP): Global shares mostly gained Tuesday, boosted by a near-record rise on Wall Street, although the momentum began to fizzle over worries about the economic fallout from surging coronavirus infections in Asia.

France's CAC 40 was little changed, inching down less than 0.1 per cent to 6,682.28 in early trading, while Germany's DAX added 0.2 per cent to 15,884.33.

Britain's FTSE 100 slid 0.1 per cent to 7,103.75. U.S. shares were set to drift higher with Dow futures gaining nearly 0.2 per cent to 35,334.00. S&P 500 futures were up 0.2 per cent at 4,485.75. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.9 per cent to finish at 27,732.10. South Korea's Kospi gained 1.6 per cent to 3,138.30. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.2 per cent to 7,503.00.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 2.5 per cent to 25,727.92, while the Shanghai Composite was up 1.1 per cent at 3,514.47.

Some parts of Asia have had slower vaccine rollouts than the U.S. and Europe and are at a greater risk for the more contagious delta variant.

Outbreaks in Asia Pacific have led to new containment measures, disrupting production and trade in a region that accounts for 37 per cent of global merchandise exports, said Sara Johnson, executive director, global economics, IHS Markit. "Asia Pacific's manufacturing hubs are the current hotspots for COVID-19."

She noted vaccination campaigns outside mainland China have been slow in Asia, hurting consumer spending, tourism, industrial production and exports.

The IHS Markit manufacturing PMI surveys for July show deteriorating business conditions in Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Cases of COVID-19 infections have been falling in India, Taiwan and Indonesia, but rising in Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

"Risk-on sentiments largely followed through with the positive lead from U.S. indices overnight. Some catchup growth may be on watch, considering that Asian markets have been diverging in performance from their Western counterparts since June. Ongoing COVID-19 risks continue to be prevalent," said Yeap Jun Rong, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

The market remains in a summer slowdown, with late August being historically one of the slowest times for trading with the exception of the Christmas holiday season. Markets are expected to pick up in volume and volatility after the Labor Day weekend.

Investors will be looking to the Federal Reserve as the Kansas City Fed's annual conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming starts later this week. It will likely provide Wall Street with more insight into what the Fed may do about inflation.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude rose 66 cents to USD66.30 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, added 78 cents to USD69.53 a barrel.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar edged up to 109.75 Japanese yen from 109.69 yen. The euro cost USD1.1736, inching down from USD1.1743.

## India's GDP Likely To Grow At 18.5% In April-June Quarter This Fiscal: SBI report

Mumbai: The country's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow at around 18.5 per cent with an upward bias in the first quarter of the current financial year, according to SBI research report Ecwrap. This estimate is lower than the Reserve Bank of India's GDP growth projection of 21.4 per cent for the April-June quarter.

"Based on our 'Nowcast-

State Bank of India has developed the 'Nowcasting Model' with 41 high-frequency indicators associated with industrial activity, service activity, and the global economy. The report expects gross value added (GVA) to be at 15 per cent in Q1 FY22.

The corporate results announced so far indicate that there is a substantial recovery in

Q1 FY22. However, this is lower than growth in Q4 FY21, thereby corroborating the lower GDP estimate than what was thought earlier, it said.

The report further said it is globally noted that lower mobility leads to lower GDP and higher mobility to higher GDP, but the response is asymmetric.

With the decline in mobility, the economic activity declines and thus GDP growth, however, with an increase in mobility the GDP growth does not increase in the same proportion, it said.

"The relationship between the two has become weaker as can be seen in Q1 FY22 when mobility has declined, however, GDP growth is high and positive. But higher y-o-y growth is mainly on account of the base effect," the report said.

Meanwhile, the business activity index based on ultrahigh-frequency indicators show a further increase in August 2021, with the latest reading for the week ended August 16, 2021, at 103.3, it added.

RTO (regional transport office) collection, electricity consumption along with mobility indicators have revived in Q2 FY22, indicating positive momentum in economic activity going forward, the report said.



ing' model, the forecasted GDP growth for Q1 FY22 would be around 18.5 per cent (with upward bias)," the report said.

Higher growth in the second quarter of 2022, or Q1 FY22 is mainly on account of a low base.

corporate GVA EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) + employee cost) in Q1 FY22, it said.

The report said the corporate GVA of 4,069 companies registered a growth of 28.4 per cent in

## FM To Meet CEOs Of Public Sector Banks Today

New Delhi (PTI): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will meet heads of public sector banks (PSBs) on today review the financial performance of the lenders and progress made by them in supporting the pandemic-hit economy, sources said.

The meeting with MD and CEOs of PSBs assumes significance given the importance of the banking sector in generating demand and boosting consumption.

Recently, the finance minister had said the government is ready to do everything required to revive and support economic growth hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting is expected to take stock of the banking sector and progress on the restructuring 2.0 scheme announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the sources said, adding that banks may be nudged to push loan

growth in productive sectors.

The revamped Rs 4.5 lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) would also be reviewed during the meeting likely to be held in Mumbai, the sources said.

Besides, the finance minister is expected to take stock of the bad loans or non-performing assets (NPAs) situation, and discuss various recovery measures by banks, they said.

As a result of the government's strategy of recognition, resolution, recapitalisation and reforms, NPAs have shown a declining trend, from Rs 7,39,541 crore on March 31, 2019 to Rs 6,78,317 crore on March 31, 2020 and further to Rs 6,16,616 crore as on March 31, 2021 (provisional data).

At the same time, comprehensive steps were taken to control and to effect recovery in NPAs,

which enabled PSBs to recover Rs 5,01,479 crore over the last six financial years, the government



informed Parliament recently.

Besides, Sitharaman is expected to declare the results of Ease 3.0 Index for 2020-21, they said, adding that PSBs would be rated on various indexes for the year.

## Project For Modernisation Of Naanwai Shops To Be Taken Up In Srinagar

### DC Sgr holds interaction with members of AKLBMA

SRINAGAR: To encourage, provide infrastructural support and ensure sustainable livelihood of local bread makers (Naanwaies), the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday

Tuesday held an interactive meeting with the members of All Kashmir Local Bread Makers Association (AKLBMA) (Naanwaies) at meeting Hall of DC Office here.

While interacting with the participants, the DDC said that the objective of the meeting is to discuss and formulate a plan for the upliftment and welfare of Naanwaies by providing financial assistance under 'One District-

One Product' (ODOP) Scheme as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

He said one of the aims is to restructure the traditional Naanwaie shops as per modern technological requirements to ensure proper hygiene in and around the shops besides maintaining taste of the products.

Asad said all possible measures are being taken for handholding and upliftment of the socio-economic sector to generate employment opportunities for the local population and ensure quality products to the customers. He said Naanwaies are an essential part of society and the administration is very keen

about their welfare.

The DDC directed Chief Horticulture Officer and other concerned to sensitize Naanwaies about the advantage of the scheme so that they can avail maximum benefits. He further asked them to conduct a survey regarding quality of products in coordination with representatives of Naanwaies within a week's time so that in the first phase around a hundred Naanwaie shops are taken up for upgradation and modernisation.

The members of AKLBMA (Naanwaies) who participated in the meeting include its president, Abdul Majeed Pampori, Secretary, Khurshid Ahmad Sofi and Publicity Secretary, Bashir Asrar and others.



## KCCI Delegation Meets Parliamentary Standing Committees

Srinagar: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) led by its President Sheikh Ashiq Ahmad and Farooq Amin had an interaction with Parliamentary Standing Committees.

The trade body met with PSC for development of Handlooms, Handicrafts and welfare measures for the weavers and artisans in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and PSC on Augmenting Infrastructure Facilities to Boost Exports from J&K.

According to a statement issued here, The KCCI delegation discussed various points during the meeting.

"Exporters are facing a lot of challenges and difficulties with regard to exports from the Kashmir region. As we are at the far end of India without logistic support as still we have no dry port with the result export goods reach Delhi with higher fare rates resulting in losing the competition at international level," they told the PSCs.

"So freight subsidies are given to exporters from Jammu & Kashmir as they can't compete with others who are close to ports. Kashmir has a geographical disadvantage in logistics in respect of road transport. In order to increase exports and make our products competitive in the international market, there is a need to subsidize freight both air and road."

"State and Centre Governments must come up with attractive schemes so that our entrepreneurs/new educated/unemployed youth will attract towards this Export Industry," they said.

The KCCI delegation also demanded that all handmade items should be exempted from taxes like GST. "To preserve the livelihood of Weavers, Artisans, Traders, Exporters who are involved in handmade Handicraft and also the famous art of Cottage Industry, the GST must be waived off on Pashmina Shawls, Carpets, Papier Machie, Crewel, Chain Stitch and Wood Carving."

The Union Territory Government must come up with Special Schemes for Exporters based on their performance/turnover ba-

sis. Government should declare a Special Scheme in which 10% incentives be given to the exporter yearly on performance / turnover basis to encourage the exporters and boost Kashmir Handicrafts."

Those Silk Carpets which contains more than 60% silk should be given 7% incentives in RODTEP Scheme to encourage and boost Silk Handmade Carpets in Kashmir, the statement said, adding that there should be a separate ITC (HS) code for Pashmina Shawls and verified by the competent testing laboratory. "No capping should be placed on Pashmina Shawls or other value added handicraft items under the RODTEP Scheme."

The delegation demanded that the government should give all the benefits to Kashmir Handicrafts and declare it as a Special Economic Zone and also pitched for a warehousing Facility at International Airport.

The department connected with the Exporters such as Banks, ECCG, DGT do not provide the required awareness to the exporters, the delegation said, adding that the government must promote Carpet Village/City in Sumbal, Sonawari where we have more than 20,000 Artisans/Weavers available be identified as Modal Carpet Village which is already existing as per Industrial land bank availability. "200 Kanals of land should be initially provided to manufacturers/exporters in an organized way and Stakeholders should be asked to apply online and submit relevant DPR as per their capacity."

"Infrastructure with this Carpet Village/ City should be fully supported and incentive-wise in the form of 90:10 due to the present situation of carpet business in Kashmir. This Carpet Village should be installed with all Common Facility Centers wherein Design Development, Dying, Washing, Bank Facilities, Packing. To promote this Carpet Village wherein Carpet Manufacturers/ Exporters will come out with the new innovations and designs to cater the International Market."

## Sensex, Nifty End At Lifetime Highs; Bajaj Finserv Rallies 8 PC

Mumbai (PTI): Equity benchmarks darted up to fresh lifetime highs on Tuesday, propelled by heavy buying in banking, finance and metal stocks amid supportive global cues. Rising for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex soared 403.19 points or 0.73 per cent to end at its lifetime peak of 55,958.98.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty surged 128.15 points or 0.78 per cent to its all-time closing high of 16,624.60.

Bajaj Finserv was the star performer in the Sensex pack, climbing 7.91 per cent after the company received in-principle approval from Sebi for sponsoring a mutual fund.

Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, SBI and ICICI Bank were the other prominent winners, spurring up to 3.41 per cent.

On the other hand, Nestle India, HDFC, Infosys, HCL Tech, Asian Paints, Kotak Bank were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.34 per cent.

"Domestic equities recovered sharply today mainly led by strong rebound in financials and metals. Further, positive cues from global equities also supported markets....Notably, short coverings ahead of F&O expiry also aided some high beta stocks to witness sharp recovery today."

"Further, midcap and small-cap stocks witnessed sharp recovery today after seeing continued selling pressure in recent weeks. Sharp correction in number of quality midcap stocks had started offering healthy risk-reward propositions," said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Experts said market sentiment was also bolstered after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday unveiled an ambitious Rs 6 lakh crore National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) that included unlocking value by involving private companies across infrastructure sectors -- from passenger trains and railway stations to airports, roads and stadiums.

## Rupee Extends Gains For 2Nd Day On Stocks Rally, Closes At 74.19 Against Dollar

Mumbai (PTI): The rupee appreciated further by 3 paise to close at 74.19 against the US dollar on Tuesday following a strong rally in the domestic equity markets.

However, a strong dollar in the overseas markets and rising crude prices weighed on the investor sentiment and capped gains, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 74.12 against the greenback and moved in a range of 74.11 to 74.20 in the day trade.

It finally ended at 74.19 against the American currency, registering a rise of 3 paise over its previous close of 74.22. The rupee had gained 17 paise on Monday.

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged to fresh lifetime highs on heavy buying in banking, finance and metal stocks amid supportive

global cues on Tuesday. Sensex ended 403.19 points or 0.73 per cent higher at 55,958.98, while Nifty advanced 128.15 points or 0.78 per cent to 16,624.60.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday unveiled an ambitious Rs 6 lakh crore National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) that included unlocking value by involving private companies across infrastructure sectors -- from passenger trains and railway stations to airports, roads and stadiums.

"Rupee market appears to be taking rest after Monday's sharp appreciation. The tone was fairly positive for equities and the dollar facing a few headwinds ahead of the US Jackson Hole symposium, due later this week," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said.

Spot USD/INR is expected to stay in a range of 74.10 to 74.50 in the next

couple of days, he added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.07 per cent to 93.04.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, increased 1.34 per cent to USD 69.67 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Monday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,363.36 crore, according to the exchange data.

"The Rupee initially strengthened to an intraday high 74.11 supported by the strength in regional counterparts that appreciated taking cues from equities," Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said.

The USD/INR Spot pair could trade in a range of 74.05-74.35 levels in the coming session.

## Gold Jumps Rs 170, Silver Gains Rs 172

New Delhi (PTI): Gold in the national capital on Tuesday jumped Rs 170 to Rs 46,544 per 10 grams despite rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 46,374 per 10 grams. Silver also gained Rs 172 to Rs 61,584 per kg, from Rs 61,412 per kg in the previous trade. The rupee appreciated 9 paise to 74.13 against the US dollar in opening trade on Tuesday. In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,801 per ounce and silver was marginally down at USD 23.60 per ounce. HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said, "Gold prices traded marginally down with spot gold prices at COMEX trading near USD 1,801 per ounce on Tuesday."

## DC Poonch Reviews Performance Of Banks At DLRC Meeting

POONCH: District Development Commissioner Poonch, Inder Jeet who is also chairman of District Level Review Committee (DLRC), today reviewed the performance of government agencies and banks for the quarter ending June 2021 here at a meeting of the Committee.

The Deputy Commissioner advised all banks and line departments to adopt a proactive approach to meet their assigned jobs and make sure that targets under all sectors are achieved. He further stressed on the banks to increase the CD Ratio and achieve the targets under ACP.

The Chairman DLRC impressed upon all government agencies to accelerate the pro-

cess of sponsoring pending self-employment loan cases and advised the banks to reduce the time gap in the sanction and disbursement period. Stressing that the government is committed to provide the employment opportunity to unemployed youth, he advised the departments to encourage the youth to avail the benefits of employment schemes.

These schemes have incentives linked by way of margin money and subsidies which do help unemployed youth in establishing their own income generating units.

Meanwhile, Chairman DLRC directed banks to issue KCCs to all the eligible farmers without fail.

He said that the CD ratio of the district has increased from 41.73 % on 31.03.2021 to 42.54% as on 30.06.2021. Regarding advances & deposits, it was revealed that a positive growth of Rs 267.52 cr from Rs 1117.84 cr (June 2020) to Rs. 1385.36 cr (June 2021) in advances has been recorded in the district, while the deposits have increased from Rs. 2923.92 cr (June 20) to Rs. 3256.69 cr (June 2021) thereby showing positive growth of Rs 332.77 cr.

He further briefed that under total credit plan an amount of Rs 140.12 cr for Quarter ended June 2021 has been disbursed, which include Rs 73.75 cr in priority sector & Rs. 66.36 cr in Non-priority sector.



## Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir Alongwith Director Extension Reaches Nobra Valley

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. J. P Sharma, SKUAST-Kashmir alongwith, Director Extension Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi reached Nobra valley in Turtuk, 200 kms away from Leh. Krishi Vighyan Kendra (KVK) Leh, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, organized a Kissan Mela at village Panamic of Nobra block in Turtuk region. Shri Stanzin Choshpel, Hon'ble Executive Councilor Agriculture and Shri Ghulam Mehdi, Hon'ble Executive Councilor Horticulture were Chief Guests on the occasion. Prof. J. P Sharma, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor was Guest of



Honour while Director Extension Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi chaired the event. Farm women, various farm organizations and producer groups participated in the Mela and displayed their products in 20 different Stalls. Chief Guest, Hon'ble Vice

Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir alongwith Director Extension and Executive Councilors inspected the stalls and awarded the best farmers for their produce. Ex Deputy Executive Councilor Shri Sandop, DDC members, Sarpanches and Panches of the

area also participated in the Mela. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor also released various publications during the occasion. It was desired that on 1st September, a meeting with Principal Secretary will be organized at SKUAST-Kashmir. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor was kind enough for establishing a mega vermicompost project for Nobra, besides various sustainable and holistic approaches for the development of agriculture in the area will be taken in hand with STRY trainings for farm women to be conducted at SKUAST-Kashmir. Extension visits for farm women will also be arranged under sponsorship of KVK Leh and KVK Nyoma.

## HDFC Bank Aims To Regain Credit Card Market Share

### Agenceis

**MUMBAI:** HDFC Bank, India's largest credit card issuer, today announced that it is aiming to add five lakh new credit cards to its portfolio every month beginning February 2022. This will enable it to regain its market share and cement its leadership position in the credit card issuing business in the next 9 to 12 months.

HDFC Bank has over 20 initiatives which will hit the market in the next 6 to 9 months to drive this growth. These include the launch of new co-branded cards with the who's who of Corporate India spanning pharma, travel,

FMCG, hospitality, telecom and fintech. The bank has also revamped its existing range of cards over the past 9 months and is also ready with strategic partnerships with new companies.

The new and enhanced suite of credit card products will have something for everyone from the mass market to the ultra-premium segments. There will be tailored products for customers to meet their evolving needs.

"The last few months have been spent in readying ourselves for the future. When the restrictions from the regulator were in place, we utilized the time to chalk out a new strategy.

With our new offerings as well as our existing suite of cards, we are confident of meeting the needs of our customers and 'come back with a bang,'" said Parag Rao, Group Head – Payments, Consumer Finance, Digital Banking & IT, HDFC Bank.

HDFC Bank Credit cards spends are 1.5 times higher than the nearest competitor. The bank also has a dominant position in the merchant acquiring space.

HDFC Bank has about 3.67 crore debit cards, 1.48 crore credit cards and about 21.34 lakh acceptance points, making it among the largest facilitators of cashless payments in the country.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### General Remark:

to deal with the Taliban," a senior sleuth told Kashmir Observer, "our focus will be on narrative control."

Analysts say the ripple-effect of the war-torn country always tends to travel to the strife-zone. Following the American departure from Afghanistan, the valley is abuzz with arguments about the possible arrival. What makes these assertions credible for some is the recent statement by military expert, Ayesha Siddiq: "After victory in Kabul, JeM [Jaise-e-Muhammad] has started to talk about Kashmir again. Looks like after the two victories: USSR and US, now it is India's turn."

Indian military veterans don't entirely negate this case scenario.

Seconding Siddiq, former army chief, General Shankar Roychowdhury, remarked that Pakistan—"reinforced by the recent Taliban victory—"will make a fresh bid on Kashmir "using groups, such as Jaish-e-Muhammad.

"The victory in Afghanistan is being seen as a Pakistani victory and an Indian defeat," said the general who commanded 16 corps at the height of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have to organise ourselves for a renewed offensive by elements like the JeM and have to be prepared for Pakistani intentions (covert operations) supported by radical elements here."

Advising political dispensation in New Delhi to change the tack on Kashmir, the general who currently heads a strategic think tank 'Research Centre for Eastern and Northeast Studies' said: "We have to step up our outreach to Kashmiris, we also have to re-assure them that India will continue to be a secular democracy".

Throwing weight behind his senior's remarks, the general under whose watch the 2016 surgical strikes were conducted said the militant groups operating in Kashmir will have certainly received a psychological boost with the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

"There could be some increase in the infiltration attempts, but the border and the Line of Control is strongly held and I do not see a sudden influx of militants who could destabilise the security situation in Kashmir," Lt Gen (retd) DS Hooda, the former General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Indian army's Northern Command told Kashmir Observer.

India today has a much stronger frontier posture and presence as compared to the late 1980s when some Afghan fighters entered Kashmir, he said. "The internal security grid is robust enough to deal with any threat."

Besides, Pakistan isn't in a position to divert any fighters from Afghanistan to Kashmir, the general remarked.

"It carries risks for Pakistan not only from India, but also from the international institutions like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that is already keeping an eye on Pakistan. India has also demonstrated that it will react strongly to any major militant attack emanating from Pakistan."

However, there could be efforts to try and exploit the situation while attention seems elsewhere, warned Lieutenant General (retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain.

"Any situation in Afghanistan always has an effect in Jammu and Kashmir," said the General who used "heart as weapon" doctrine during his Kashmir posting.

"However, our ground domination will ensure this does not manifest negatively or leave any impact. What we need to be careful of is the immediate period before winter this year. Pakistan has a well-oiled recruitment and infiltration system and would wish to put this in place."

With the Taliban's rise, a number of fighters got freed from responsibilities of fighting in Afghanistan, he said. "Since weapons are freely on sale now, we cannot rule out those who were once part of the Afghan National Army joining in nefarious activity for survival either."

Kashmir will very much be in the loop of violence and counter-violence, if Taliban wishes to aggregate militant groups to Afghanistan, give them safe havens and "sponsor terror" in the region with the help of Pakistan, Hasnain said.

"Much depends on the line that the Taliban adopts. But it is too early to say anything. The Taliban is seeking international legitimacy and its behaviour and attitude may just be different. We have to keep all options open and must not disturb our grids at this time."

Most of these military vets said that Islamabad has certainly emerged in a position of "stronger influence" in its "strategic depth".

This is a dynamic situation, Hasnain said, and will keep progressing.

"We need agile diplomacy of which we are quite capable," he said. "Taliban is no monolith, it has factions and cliques. We could establish linkages with them and continue to deliver goodwill and soft power to the people."

### 3 TRF Militants

encounter, he said, three militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

The police identified the trio as Faisal Fayaz

and Rameez Ah Ghanie of Shopian and Gh Mustafa Sheikh of Kupwara, associated with TRF.

As per police records, the spokesperson said that the killed militants were part of groups involved in several "terror crime cases" including attacks on security establishments and "civilian atrocities".

"Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 1 AK-47 rifle & 02 Pistols were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes," he said.

"In this connection, Police has registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated," he added.

The police spokesperson also quoted Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar congratulating the joint teams working with great synergy and coordination on the ground for achieving this milestone and termed it as a big success.

"Pertinently, the collective efforts of J&K Police, Army, CRPF & people of Kashmir Valley have led to neutralisation of more than 100 terrorists in the current year so far in Kashmir division" Kumar said.

Pertinently, the encounter in Sopore broke out hours after police in a covert operation killed TRF Chief Abbas Sheikh, and his deputy Saqib Manzoor, in Aloochoi Bagh area of the up-town city here.

### Grenade Lobbed

reached the area and launched a search operation to nab the attackers.

### 6 Militant Associates

Imtiyaz Ahmad Lone, Javid Ahmed Lone and Mohammad Saleem Khan were arrested on the basis of specific input about anti national activity in the general area of Bandipora, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. All the six, he said, were militant associates of Lashkar.

"Incriminating arms and ammunition have been recovered from their possession which includes 2 live hand grenades, 2 Detonators, 15 AK Series Rounds, 2 Matrix Sheets and other materials," he said.

On preliminary enquiry, the police spokesperson said it was revealed that the accused were associated with LeT and were providing shelter, logistics and other material support to active militants of LeT in Bandipora district.

"In this regard Case FIR under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation has been taken up," he added.

### Pak Teenager

district, a defence spokesperson said here. The detained teen is a resident of Harkadiya Bala village of Abbaspur.

Masood's arrests come almost a week after three children were arrested by BSF in similar circumstances in the border district. All the three were later repatriated.

### Electric Shock

a transformer in Jogigund village of Acchabal, reports said Tuesday.

The injured PDD employee was removed to the sub-district hospital Acchabal for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for advanced treatment, reports said.

### Arms Cache Recovered

said. During the searches of the hideout, a cache of arms and ammunition including 10 UBGL rounds, two Chinese grenades and other incriminating material was recovered.

The official said that a case under relevant sections of laws has been registered and further investigation has been taken up in this regard.

### PAGD Seeks

Earlier, the senior leaders of alliance parties addressed a gathering and discussed the political and security situation in the Union Territory as fallout of August 2019 action. The meeting also saw Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti, National Conference (NC) Patron Dr Fargoo Abdullah and others addressing the meeting.

"As far as PAGD is considered, we have fought for the restoration of all constitutional rights of J&K since August 5th. We have been thrown to the brink of disgrace by the Government but PAGD will never accept that," Tarigami said.

Speaking about the agenda of today's meeting, the senior CPI(M) leader said that it was convened to once again remind the Government of India that the decision of August 5 is unacceptable.

"We have adopted a resolution which demands that Article 370, 35-A, Constitutional rights we had till 4th august 2019, complete statehood of J&K and the constitution of J&K that was illegally revoked be restored," he said.

"Since August 2019, the Government of India's false propaganda of development of J&K has already been exposed in front of our people," he added.

The PAGD spokesperson claimed that the

people in Jammu region too were dismayed at the destruction caused to their businesses by government of India.

"If one visits Jammu, one can find the anger that they currently have against the Government's decision of cancelling Darbar move and what repercussions their businesses have faced since this ghoulish move," he said.

Divulging more details about the resolution passed by the PAGD, Tarigami said that it also mentions that the senior posts in the administration and police have been occupied by non-J&K people.

"Where should the people of J&K and Ladakh go after such disgrace? This discrimination against our people should end immediately and they should be provided with what rightfully belongs to them," he said.

"Apart from this, we have also raised questions against the Government's decision of suspending or not providing jobs to the people who had an FIR against them in the past. In this country where the judicial and justice system is still alive, how can the Government term someone a culprit without even holding a proper and fair trial?" he added.

The PAGD spokesperson also asked government as how many people have been released from jails since the J&K leaders visit to New Delhi, where they attended PM Modi convened all party meet.

"Young children, budding youth and many elderly people have been jailed. Why isn't the government giving them a fair trial?" Tarigami asked.

He also lashed out a senior administration official for claiming that there were no political prisoners currently under detention.

"So, does the Government plan to keep such people in jails for years without fair trial. Till when, will this NIA and CBI raids continue on the political leadership of Kashmir. We aren't thugs; we are just normal leaders who want our constitutional rights back," the PAGD spokesperson added.

PAGD is a five party conglomerate, including National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Movement (JKPM) and Jammu and Kashmir Awami National Conference (JKANC) spearheading a campaign for the restoration of J&K's semi-autonomous status.

### Pak Objects

It has been certified by the Central Water Commission, an apex organisation of the country in the field of water resources.

This run of river project is being implemented by Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited, a joint venture of the National Hydropower Company and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC).

"As a responsible upper riparian state, India is committed for full utilisation of its rights and believes in an amicable resolution the issues raised by Pakistan side in letter and spirit of the treaty.

"Pakistan's objections on this project may come up for discussions in the next meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission scheduled this year in Pakistan. In the forthcoming meeting, the Indian side will explain its position and hope that Pakistan will appreciate the same and its apprehensions will be addressed through discussions," Saxena said.

The treaty provides Pakistan the right to raise objection on Indian design within three month of the receipt of the information. India has supplied the information on this project in June to Pakistan.

Under the IWT signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of the eastern rivers -- Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi -- amounting to around 33 million acre feet (MAF) annually is allocated to India for unrestricted use. The waters of western rivers -- Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab -- amounting to around 135 MAF annually has been assigned largely to Pakistan.

According to the treaty, India has been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through run-of-the-river projects on the western rivers subject to specific criteria for design and operation. The treaty also gives right to Pakistan to raise objections to designs of Indian hydroelectric projects on the western rivers.

India is permitted to construct the run of the river plants on western rivers with limited storage as per criteria specified in the treaty, Saxena said.

Earlier this year, during the meeting between Indus Commissioner of India and Pakistan, Shah also raised objections on the designs of Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir. To this, India said the designs are fully compliant with the treaty.

Pakistan has also raised objections on hydropower projects in Chilling (24 MW), Rongdo (12 MW) and Ratan Nag (10.5 MW) are in Leh; while Mangdum Sangra (19 MW), Kargil Hunderman (25 MW) and Tamasha (12 MW) are in Kargil. India had said the designs of these projects are also fully compliant with the treaty.

### Govt's Priorities

official spokesperson.

"Despite the country emerging as the fastest growing economy, developmental speed and spread in J&K were hindered through artificial barriers. The three dimensions of sustainable development - economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion- were completely missing. Regional aspirations were neglected and accumulation of growth happened at the hands of a few," he added.

Speaking on the transformation taking place in J&K, the official spokesperson said that the LG observed that the implementation framework based on SEED-- Speed, Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Delivery has helped in creating a roadmap to achieve sustainable growth.

"In my overarching policies for new Jammu Kashmir, priorities are clear - distributed growth model, better health facilities, skilled youth population, empowered women, prosperous farmers, rectifying past injustices and transforming this soil as a powerhouse of education and science, and turning the dream of socio-economic progress of all individuals into a reality," the LG said.

Hailing PM Modi's visionary leadership, the LG said that he did not hesitate for out of box solutions for the larger welfare of the people.

"In the last two years, we have rebooted the system and removed the fences that had deprived people of their rights and growth," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

"The society of Jammu Kashmir is ageless and visible in the layers of history which has been a witness to co-existence of almost all major religions known to humankind. It is my topmost priority to ensure development opportunities for all citizens of the UT," he added.

Taking a dig at Pakistan, the LG said that development has replaced "terror" in Jammu Kashmir that our neighbor "relentlessly exports".

"Large turnout during last year's District Development Council polls demonstrated people's belief in grass-root democracy and their urge to reap benefits of development that would come along with it," the LG said.

Throwing light on Governance & Administrative Reforms: The Way Forward to J&K's Economic Growth, the LG, as per the official spokesperson, observed that the UT is witnessing new dawn of growth in different sectors because of the reforms introduced to replace outdated, crumbling, and regressive systems.

"For the first time there is unprecedented accountability and transparency in the system," the LG said.

"The central laws for the first time in the history of Jammu & Kashmir are providing forest rights to tribals, rights of children to free and compulsory education, prevention of atrocities against weaker sections, protection to farmers to create new orchards, rights to displaced persons from Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir, West Pakistani refugees and Kashmiri migrants," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG highlighted some of the major initiatives taken by the government for the socio-economic growth of J&K and said that the government has adopted a targeted approach for the issues like poverty, nutrition, gender equality, quality education, skill development of youth and have ensured that benefits of schemes reach to the last mile for new distributed growth that is not limited to a select few.

"During the past one year, we have created an inclusive policy ecosystem for transforming Jammu Kashmir's major sectors including Industrial, power, agriculture and allied sectors which speaks volumes of structural changes that took place within UT in a very short span of time," Sinha said.

"The UT Government has adopted a people-centric policy and multi-pronged strategy involving all necessary systemic interventions to create at least a million employment opportunities and support them through an enabling ecosystem," he added.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson also said that the new Industrial Development Scheme offering Rs 28,400 Crores subsidy is attracting industrial investment.

"We have received a proposal of Rs 23,500 Crore private investment and by March next year, the number could go up to Rs.50,000 Crores," he said.

The LG further said that the policy initiatives include high-density apple plantation, new clusters of cold storage, setting up of farmer-producer organizations in every district, promotion of intercropping, setting up of food processing units, GI tagging for Saffron of Kashmir, organic certification of Basmati rice of Jammu, integrated dairy development scheme have been taken to increase the income of our famers, create jobs, ensure food security and getting people to move back to agriculture.

"Since the need of the hour is a massive upliftment of every potent sector and employment, the government's focus is on IPS-Identity, Productivity & Security," Sinha said, as per the official spokesperson.

"We are also in the process of strengthening the existing system and projects are being

completed at a faster pace. This new developmental model of 'Implementation first, announcement later' is aimed at making Jammu Kashmir self-reliant in the energy sector by 2025," he added.

### J&K Logs 125

Kathua 1, Kishtwar 2, and Ramban 1 new case of Covid-19. No fresh case of virus was reported from Anantnag, Samba, Poonch and Reasi districts of the Union Territory.

Also, the officials said that 123 more Covid -19 patients have recovered in the Union territory—41 from Jammu Division and 82 from the Valley.

The officials further added that one more person from Kashmir Valley died of coronavirus related complications, taking the death toll to 4404 in J&K—2163 in Jammu and 2241 in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, one fresh confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) was reported today, they said. So far 44 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials added.

### Cop Taking

complainant claimed that the investigating officer Head Constable Mohammad Yousuf demanded a bribe.

"The complainant said he was granted conditional bail in an FIR lodged against him in Police Station Qazigund, Anantnag by the competent court which was expiring on 25.8.2021," a spokesman of the ACB said.

"However, the investigating officer of the case Head Constable Mohd Yousuf of Police Station Qazigund was demanding Rs 10,000 from him for providing a favourable report to be submitted before the Court. The complainant requested the accused head constable negotiated the deal for Rs 5,000 which was demanded to be paid in the police station," the spokesman said.

He said a team was constituted and the accused was caught while accepting the bribe of Rs 5,000 from the complainant in Qazigund police station.

"The bribe money was also recovered on the spot. The head constable was arrested and taken into custody," he added.

### Facing Shortage

Armed Police complex, Kehribal, Mattan, Anantnag as subsidiary jail. The documents further reveal that a building within the premises of police station Kulgam has also been declared as subsidiary jail.

It is pertinent to mention that jails in Jammu and Kashmir, especially Kashmir are "overcrowded".

According to details, more than 4500 persons are lodged in jails of Jammu and Kashmir. Of which, 1400 are lodged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

### 2 Non-Locals

in their names in January this year.

The owners who have sold the land to the two non-locals are residents of Jammu and Katra, the report said.

As per the documents, these two non-locals are the outsiders are the only non-residents who have applied for purchasing properties in Jammu and Kashmir since abrogation of Article 370.

Early this month, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed Lok Sabha that only two persons have purchased as many properties in Jammu and Kashmir since August 2019. "As per the information provided by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, two persons from outside Jammu and Kashmir have purchased two properties in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir since August, 2019," he said.

The central government had abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, on August 5, 2019 and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories.

Since the abrogation of special status, the administration has formulated a new definition of domicile for Jammu and Kashmir.

According to that definition, a person residing there for at least 15 years will be eligible to be a permanent resident of the UT.

The government notification also extended domicile rights to central government employees who have served in the state for 10 years and also to their children.

Before August 5, 2019, the Jammu and Kashmir assembly was constitutionally empowered to define a resident of the erstwhile state.

These defined residents were alone eligible to apply for jobs or own immovable property. However, the home ministry amended a 2010 legislation — the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment Act) — last year by substituting the term "permanent residents" with "domiciles of Jammu and Kashmir".

### Govt Orders

properties, details on the WAMSI portal.

The order further states that the Divisional Commissioners shall monitor the progress and ensure that the entire exercise is completed within a period of one month





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## JKCA Trials For U-19 Men & Women Cricketers From August 25 to 27

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) has issued a notice announcing trials for Under 19 men and women cricketers at Srinagar and Jammu. The simultaneous trials are scheduled to be held from August 25 till 27.

In Srinagar, the trials for both men and women cricket teams would be conducted at the Sher-i Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Srinagar from 10:30 am onwards. While in Jammu, the trials would be held at GGM Science College Ground, Jammu from 9:00 am onwards for men and 2:30 pm onwards for women.

Desirous players, born on or after September 1, 2002, have been asked to bring original Date of Birth certificates and a RT-PCR test

report (not older than 48 hours).

Willing participants below the age of 18 have been asked to bring an undertaking duly signed by a guardian or a parent.

The notification for trials comes merely days after the JKCA announced its selectors for junior men and women teams.

Arun Sharma was named Chairman, Junior Selection Committee for boys, while Zahoor Bhat, Jagtar Singh and Vikrant Taggar were confirmed as the committee's other members.

For women selections, Patibha Wadhwa Bhasin was named Chairman Junior Women Selection Committee, while as Madhu Sharma and Kounser Ali were named its members.

This is the first time in JKCA history that names of selectors has been made public.

## J&K Cricket Association Announces Senior Selectors For Upcoming Season



Agencies

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) on Tuesday announced senior selectors for the upcoming cricketing season.

As per an official handout, the panel of senior selectors both for men and women recommended by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Sub-Committee, JKCA has been accepted.

The selectors will be responsible to select players for Syed Mushtaq Ali T 20 Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy, Col CK Nayudu Trophy,

Ranji Trophy, Senior Women's One Day and Senior Women's T 20.

JKCA Administrator Brig (Retd) Anil Gupta said that the names of selectors included in the Men and Women Selection Committee have been announced.

Surbhi Dadechi, an ex-cricketer of international fame and ex-Captain of North Zone and J&K has been nominated as the Chairperson of the Senior Selection Committee (Women).

Payal Choudhary and Masrat Ahad are the other members of the selection committee.

In the Men Senior Selection Committee, Senior cricketer Vidya Bhaskar who has represented J&K in Ranji and Duleep Trophies has been selected as the Chairman.

The other members of the selection committee are also eminent cricketers and include Dhruv Mahajan, Vijay Sharma and Arshad Ahmad Bhat.

The schedule of trials for the above mentioned formats will also be announced shortly according to Mithun Manhas, Member Cricket operations, JKCA, said the Administrator, Sub-Committee.

## Maiden Fencing Training Course For Girls Concludes



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The basic training in sport of Fencing for the 1st batch of Girl students of district Srinagar was completed on Tuesday at Youth Hostel here.

It's for the first time that school students are being trained in the Olympic sport at Srinagar by the Department of Youth Services and Sports.

Director, Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K, Gazanfar Ali distributed certificates amongst the participants. He also inaugurated the second phase of training for Boys

students at the same venue.

Director YS&S while interacting with the trainees of the course expressed his utmost satisfaction over the joyful participation of young boys and girls in such programmes.

He assured that such training courses in other games and sports would be organised in a phased manner at all 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

District YS&S Officer, Srinagar Balbir Singh and senior officers and officials of the Department were also present on the valedictory and felicitation ceremony of the training programme.

## Four Indians Enter Semifinals of Asian Youth Boxing

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Four Indian boxers entered the semifinals of the Asian Youth boxing championships being held in Dubai after a day of mixed results for the country.

The continental showpiece is being conducted simultaneously for the youth and junior boxers (both men and women) for the first time. Seven Indians took the ring in the quarterfinals on Monday evening and four of them emerged victorious.

Jaydeep Rawat (71kg) defeated UAE's Mohammed Eissa in the most dominating show by an Indian, outclassing his rival in the second round.

Vanshaj (63.5kg) won 5-0 against Tajikistan's Makhkamov Dovud, while Daksh Singh (67kg) defeated Kyrgyzstan's Eldar Turdubaev 4-1. Suresh

Vishvanath (48kg) was up against Kyrgyzstan's Amantur Zholborosov and prevailed 5-0.

However, Victor Saikhom Singh (54kg) lost to Kyrgyzstan's Derbek Tilvaldiev 2-3, while Vijay Singh (57kg) was beaten 0-3 by Tajikistan's Morodov Abubakr. Rabindra Singh lost 2-3 to Tajikistan's Yaqubov Abdurrahim.

India's assured medal tally stood at over 20 on the day of draws itself as many countries either skipped or fielded smaller squads due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions. The gold medalists in the youth category will receive prize money of USD 6,000 while silver and bronze medalists will claim USD 3,000 and USD 1,500 respectively.

The junior champions will be awarded with USD 4,000 for gold and USD 2,000 and 1,000 for silver and bronze medalists respectively.

## Mariyappan Withdrawn As India's Paralympic Flag-Bearer After COVID Scare

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** High-jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu was on Tuesday replaced by javelin thrower Tek Chand as India's flag-bearer for the Paralympics opening ceremony here this evening after coming in close contact of a COVID positive person during his flight to Tokyo.

Mariyappan, a gold-medallist from Rio Olympics, has been quarantined along with five other Indians. Discus thrower Vinod Kumar is also among those withdrawn from the ceremony because of the same reason.

"Just now we have received an information from the Tokyo Paralympic COVID control room that 6 of our para athletes have been found to be in close contact while they were travelling to Tokyo," India's Chef de Mission Gursharan Singh said.

"Out of the six, Mariyappan and Vinod Kumar have also been found to be in close contact. Regrettably, Mariyappan who was the flag-bearer will not be able to join the march past today in the opening ceremony.

"Instead of Mariyappan now Tek Chand would be the new flag-bearer," he added.

Singh, however, made it clear that both Mariyappan and Vinod will compete in their events as they have tested negative for the virus so far.

## Virat Kohli Heaps Praise On Mohammed Siraj Ahead Of Leeds Test, Says Pacer 'Can Get Anyone Out At Any Stage'

Press Trust of India

**LEEDS:** Mohammed Siraj's meteoric rise is hardly a surprise for India skipper Virat Kohli who says the pacer's confidence has now risen to a level where he believes that he can get any batsman out at any point of the game.

The youngest in a lethal quartet also comprising Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Ishant Sharma, the 27-year-old Hyderabad pacer has taken 11 wickets in the first two Tests of the series against England.

His impeccable line and length and control has troubled the home batsmen consistently. Eight of his 11 wickets came at the Lord's Test that India won by 151 runs.

Kohli said the tour of Australia took his confidence to another level.

"I was not surprised at all (with his growth) because I have seen him from close quarters. He is a guy who has always had the skill. You need the confidence to back that skill, the Australia series provided him with that boost and confidence," Kohli said at



a virtual media interaction on the eve of the third Test.

"He is walking around knowing he can get anyone out at any stage and the belief in his game has been elevated to another level, hence you see results of what he is doing," the skipper added.

Kohli also said that Siraj's confidence makes him flamboyant.

"I am really happy to see him coming into his own, he is going to be this kind of bowler, who is in your face and who is looking to get guys out and

who is not scared, he is not going to take a backward step."

Kohli was also full of praise for his openers -- Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul -- and expected them to continue their good form.

Rohit (36, 12, 83 and 21) and Rahul (84, 26, 129, 5) have given India a solid platform so far in the series.

"The opening combination, when you are playing overseas, is one of the most important factors. So, the way KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma have played, has been outstanding and we hope that they continue in the



## Advisor Farooq Khan Reviews Progress Of Sports Infrastructure In J&K

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan on Tuesday held a meeting of officers to review the physical and financial progress of sports infrastructures being developed in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Alok Kumar, Director Youth Services and Sports, Gazanfar Ali, and other officers.

While directing the officers for augmentation of sports infrastructure in J&K, Advisor directed the Engineering wing of J&K Sports Council and other officers that timeline should be drawn in respect of every project and no excuses should be offered in this regard.

While reviewing the progress of stadia in both the divisions, Advisor directed that all the stadia must be made accessible to persons with disabilities and said that satisfactory seating options for wheelchair-bound spectators should be kept where they could be positioned. He also said that accessible toilets should be made available at all the infrastructure facilities that are specially designed to better accommodate people with physical disabilities.

Gazanfar Ali gave a detailed presentation wherein he gave present status of the ongoing projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

He informed that the completed and to be completed sports infrastructure worth Rs 202 cr are at different stages of completion.

Advisor said that government is committed to provide National level sports infrastructure to the youth of J&K so that they are able to compete at all levels.

He said the ongoing and other projects that are in the pipeline would give boost to the sports activities in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and have to be completed within the stipulated time frame. He also said that any work taken up has to be taken to its logical conclusion and all projects have to be taken after meticulous planning right from the start.

He directed the department that they will be provided every kind of support but they must show results on the ground.

The projects that came up for discussion include synthetic surface hockey fields, net practice pitches, cement concrete badminton courts, cement concrete basketball courts, synthetic volleyball courts, synthetic surface athletic fields, Synthetic football turfs and other facilities.

The Advisor directed the officers to hold periodical reviews of all the projects so that they get completed within the given time frame while maintaining the quality standards and directed them to hire consultancy services wherever required.

He also said that monthly progress reports of every work should be sent to his office along with the photographs. He said that no excuses will be entertained and wants better results for effective delivery of services.

## Afghanistan's ODI Series Vs Pakistan Postponed

Agencies

**ISLAMABAD:** Afghanistan's three-match ODI series against Pakistan has been postponed, the Pakistan Cricket Board has said.

The series was scheduled to be played in Sri Lanka in early September, but the PCB said the Afghanistan Cricket Board requested the postponement following the collapse of the country's government and the takeover by the Taliban.

The PCB cited both the

difficulties in traveling from Afghanistan, an increase in COVID-19 cases in Sri Lanka and the "players' mental health issues" as reasons for the postponement.

The Afghanistan cricket team had planned to travel to Pakistan by road and then fly out to Sri Lanka via Dubai.

The PCB added that the two cricket boards will try to re-schedule the series in 2022.

Last Friday, Sri Lanka announced a 10-day lockdown due to the increase in COVID-19 cases.

## Women Football Players Leave Afghanistan On Evacuation Flight



Agencies

**KABUL:** Players from Afghanistan women's national football team had an important victory on Tuesday when they were among a group of more than 75 people evacuated on a flight from Kabul.

Global football players' union FIFPRO thanked the Australian government for making the evacuation of players, team officials and family members possible, with work continuing to help more leave Afghanistan.

"These young women, both as athletes and activists, have been in a position of danger and on behalf of their peers around the world we thank the international community for coming to their aid," the union said in a statement.

The Afghan team was created in 2007 in a country where women playing sport was seen as a political act of defiance against the Taliban.

Players had been advised this month to delete social media

posts and photographs of them with the team to help avoid reprisals since the United States-backed Afghanistan government fell.

"The last few days have been extremely stressful but today we have achieved an important victory, former team captain Khalida Popal said.

Popal is among a team of FIFPRO lawyers and advisors who have worked with authorities in six countries, including Australia, the U.S. and United Kingdom, to get athletes and their families on to evacuation lists and flights to safety.

"The women footballers have been brave and strong in a moment of crisis and we hope they will have a better life outside Afghanistan," Popal said.

FIFPRO general secretary Jonas Baer-Hoffmann said evacuations had been an incredibly complex process.

"Our hearts go out to all the others who remain stranded in the country against their will," he said.

## Shaheen's 6-51 Puts Pakistan On Top In 2nd Test Vs West Indies

Agencies

**KINGSTON:** Fast bowler Shaheen Afridi took a career-best 6-51 as Pakistan established control of the second cricket test against the West Indies on the fourth day Monday, placing itself in a position to level the two-match series.

Left-arm Shaheen joined with Mohammad Abbas, who took 3-44, to rout the West Indies for 150, giving Pakistan a commanding 152-run first innings lead.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam then made a bold declaration of its second innings at 176-6 more than an hour before stumps, setting the West Indies a chase for 329 in around 130 overs to win the match and series.

The West Indies suffered another blow when opener Kieran Powell was run out for 23 less than 30 minutes from stumps. Captain Kraigg Brathwaite carried his team through to the close when he 17 not out and the West Indies were 49-1, still 280 runs behind.

"It was a (helpful) wicket and in the first innings I just tried to bowl length and work in partnerships and that brought the success," Shaheen said. "Early on you just try to bowl fuller on supportive wickets.

"The bowling partnerships are good with me and (Mohammad) Abbas and Hasan (Ali) and Faheem (Ashraf). If you work well in partnership then success comes."

The West Indies already were in trouble when they resumed their first innings Monday at 39-3 in reply to Pakistan's 302-9 declared. Shaheen, who took two of the three wickets to fall before stumps on day three, dismissed nightwatchman Alzarri Joseph for 4 in the fourth over of the day.

Overnight batsman Nkrumah Bonner and Jermaine Blackwood formed a defiant partnership for the fifth wicket which added 60 runs before Abbas dismissed Bonner for 39, then removed

Kyle Mayers next ball as the West Indies slipped to 105-6.

Abbas tested Bonner with several deliveries angled into the stump, then caused one to nip away on off stump which took an edge and carried to wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan. He then went round the wicket to Mayers who, low on confidence, played at a full length ball angling across him and gave Rizwan another simple catch.

Mayers, grappling with a serious form slump, made a first-ball duck in the first innings of the first test and a four-ball duck in the second innings.

Blackwood fell to Shaheen for 33, fending a short ball from the shoulder of the bat to Fawad Alam at gully when the West Indies were 109-7.

Jason Holder led some late resistance, making 26 in just under an hour before also falling to the Shaheen-Rizwan double act when he was beaten by a full ball which moved away late and gave Shaheen his fifth wicket.

Shaheen ended the innings when he removed Kemar Roach, lifting his tally of wickets for the series to 14. He took 4-59 in the first innings of the first test and 4-50 in the second innings, giving him 14 wickets for 160 runs at an average of 11.4 for the series when the West Indies first innings ended.

Pakistan appeared bent on an early declaration when it began its second innings, rushing to 176-6 from 272 overs at 6.4 runs per over. The Pakistan top order all made starts but were out relatively cheaply: Imran Butt made 37 and Abid Ali 29 in a 70-run opening partnership; Azhar Ali 22, Babar 33 and Hasan Ali 17 also contributed. Babar had the longest stay at the crease at 73 minutes.

Joseph took 2-22 and Holder 2-27.

A total of 19 overs had been bowled at stumps and the pitch showed signs of slowing with some edged shots falling short of the slip cordon.





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