

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P6 THINK

## AFGHANISTAN'S COME BACK IN KASHMIR POLITICS

Mehbooba Mufti warned the centre that it could meet the fate of the US if it did not rethink its repressive policies in Kashmir when she spoke to her party workers at Kulgam days after the

P7

## INDIA'S INTERNET HYPOCRISY

At last month's G7 summit, India joined 11 other signatories, from Canada to South Korea to the European Union, in issuing a joint statement affirming their "shared belief in open societies, democratic values, and multilateralism." The statement touted



P11 SPORTS

## DON'T USE MY NAME TO FURTHER PROPAGANDA & DIRTY AGENDA: NEERAJ CHOPRA

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra on Thursday said he was pained by the controversy surrounding his...



In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.  
—Albert Einstein

## NEWS DIGEST

### Two Hizb Militants Held In Kishtwar

**JAMMU:** Two militants belonging to the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday, officials said. The arrests were made based on reliable information received at Chatroo police station that two youths — Ashfaq qayoom Tak of Passerkot • [More On P10](#)

### Man Injured As Sand Mine Caves In

**SRINAGAR:** A person received critical injuries after a sand mine he was working on, caved in on Thursday in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Officials said that Nazir Ahmad was working on illegal sand mine in his native village Rangpeth Ashpora in Qaziabad when the incident occurred. • [More On P10](#)

### Youth Found Dead In Poonch

**SRINAGAR:** A youth was found dead on Thursday along the banks of a river in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. 24-year-old Sabar Hussain of Satwari, Jammu was found dead along the banks of Bikram Singh Yadgar Mangar River on Thursday, officials said. They said a police party rushed to the spot and took the custody of • [More On P10](#)

### Ladakh Reports 15 New Covid Cases

**LEH:** Ladakh recorded 15 fresh COVID-19 cases in a day taking the tally of infections in the Union Territory so far to 20,515 while the number of active cases stands at 64, officials said on Thursday. No death from the viral disease was reported in Ladakh during the period. The Union Territory has registered 207 Covid-related deaths — 149 in Leh and 58 in • [More On P10](#)

## Govt Warns 147 Officers Over 'Non-Serious' Attitude

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Taking a strong note of alleged casual approach demonstrated by the officers in submitting their annual Performance Report (APRs), the Jammu and Kashmir administration has issued a warning to 147 officers for their "non-serious attitude" in completing the process.

In a circular issued by General Administration Department (GAD), all the 147 officers have been castigated for failing to submit self assessment of Annual Performance Report (APRs) on 'J&K SPARROW platform' for the assessment year 2020-21, which has been fixed as 31st August, 2021

"It has been observed that despite the extension of timelines for processing of APRs,

one hundred forty seven (147) officers of the service have not yet submitted their Self Assessment for completing the process" reads the circular issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, commissioner/secretary to the government.

"The non-seriousness on part of these officers can defeat the very essence of shifting to online mode of filing APRs for Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service. These officers are accordingly directed to complete their Self Assessment of APRs on SPARROW platform by 31.08.2021 positively and in case of non compliance the APRs shall be "Force Forwarded" to next authority who shall deal with such cases in terms of Para III(1) of the APR Guidelines notified vide Government Order No. 1311-GAD of 2001 • [More On P10](#)

## Now SDMs To Ensure Punctuality In Govt Offices

Observer News Service

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday empowered Sub Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to supervise all developmental works and to ensure punctuality in government offices within their respective jurisdictions in the Union Territory. • [More On P10](#)

**IT HAS BEEN OBSERVED THAT** despite the extension of timelines for processing of APRs, one hundred forty seven (147) officers of the service have not yet submitted their Self Assessment for completing the process"

## ISLAMIC BANKING IN J&K

## HC Grants Govt Month's Time For Reply On PIL

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The High Court has granted J&K government a month's further time to respond to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), seeking the introduction of Islamic Banking in Jammu and Kashmir.

A division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mishra and Justice Sanjay Dhar granted the time on the request by the counsel appearing for the government.

"Despite time allowed on 26.03.2021 to the respondents No. 3 and 4 (government functionaries) to file counter affidavit, same has not been filed till date," the

court said.

Assistant Solicitor General of India T. M. Shamshi submitted that the counter affidavit of Reserve Bank of India would suffice the purpose on behalf of union Finance Ministry.

"In view of the above, only the counter affidavit of respondent No. 3 and 4 is to be called upon," the court said, adding, "Accordingly, we direct counsel for the respondents No. 3 and 4 to file counter affidavit within further period of one month and no more." The court posted PIL for further consideration on November 3.

The J&K bank has already informed the • [More On P10](#)

## 5 Forms, 4 Types Of Fees

## Govt Eases Rules To Operate Drones In India

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation has eased the rules regarding drone operations in the country by reducing the number of forms that need to be filled to operate them from 25 to 5 and decreasing the types of fees charged from the operator from 72 to 4.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Twitter that the new drone rules usher in a landmark moment for the sector in India.

"The rules are based on the premise of trust and self-certification. Approvals, compliance requirements and entry barriers have been significantly reduced," he stated.

The Drone Rules, 2021, were issued on Wednesday. They supersede the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021, which had come into • [More On P10](#)

## Govt Eyes Rs 50,000 Cr Investment Proposals By March 2022

J&K Was Deprived Of Industrial Development For Decades: LG

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Asserting that the government is working on an ambitious plan to make Union Territory the skill capital of the country, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday expressed hope that investment proposals in Jammu and Kashmir will reach Rs 50,000 crore by March next year.

"Jammu and Kashmir was deprived of industrial development for decades. Now, the Rs 28,400 cr new Industrial Development Scheme is transforming the industrial sector of the UT and attracting huge investments," Sinha said, as per an official



spokesperson.

The LG made these remarks after laying foundation stone for the 700-bedded mega boys' hostel of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar through virtual mode on Thursday. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education

shared his views on the occasion through a video message.

"Recently, J&K has received investment proposals worth Rs 23,500 cr and if we go by the recent scenario, the figure will reach Rs 50,000 cr by March next year," the LG said, adding "The • [More On P10](#)

## 101 More Test Covid-19 Positive In 24 Hrs

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday witnessed recovery of 119 more coronavirus infected persons, while 101 fresh cases of virus were reported across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, 119 more coronavirus infected patients have recovered from Jammu and Kashmir during the last 24 hours, leaving the number of active cases at 1060-338 in Jammu and 722 in Kashmir. During the same time, they said, Kashmir reported 84 new cases of Covid-19 while 17 cases were • [More On P10](#)



Vendors assemble with their vegetable laden boats at the floating vegetable market in the interiors of Dal Lake on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Samoon Asks Private Polytechnics To Start Ops

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon on Thursday took stock of the admission process and infrastructure in private polytechnics here in the Valley.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in SDD, Director SDD, Secretary BOTE, other officers and representatives of KITE polytechnic college, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

Dr Samoon, he said, emphasised upon both the officers and administration of the KITE College to look for ways and means to start the admission

process in the college. He stated that the college has a fine infrastructure and deserves to be put to good use.

"Dr Samoon also asked the administrators of the college to fix reasonable fees so that children of poor families could afford admission there. He assured the college of his full support in filling the seats of the college besides establishment of an ITI there. He stressed on them to engage quality manpower for imparting training to the admitted students," he added.

In another meeting, he said, the Principal Secretary reviewed the • [More On P10](#)

## DC's Authorised To Transfer Tehsildars, Revenue Officers

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday authorised Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to transfer or post revenue officers, including Tehsildars, within their respective districts across the Union Territory.

The order in this regard was issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner Secretary to the Government on Thursday.

"In partial modification of government order no 810-JK(GAD) of 2020, it is hereby ordered that the transfer of Tehsildar(s), Naib Tehsildar(s), Girdwar(s) shall be effected by

the Divisional Commissioners concerned, who shall place their services at the disposal of Deputy Commissioners, for further posting within their respective districts," read the order.

The order further reads that all Deputy Commissioners shall be competent to effect transfers and postings of the Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Girdawars and Patwaris within their respective districts, and also to assign the charge of any such vacant posts, till regular arrangement in respect of such vacant posts is made.

"Further, the transfers and postings of Naib Tehsildars, Girdawars and Pathwari can also be made by • [More On P10](#)

## Beyond Hot Summer, Kashmir Facing Multiple Ecocide Offense

Shubhanjana Das

**SRINAGAR:** In July 2021, a video from Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala recorded the mayhem caused by a flash flood owing to a cloudburst, claiming 10 lives. Soon after, the skies broke loose in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar in a wrathful cloudburst that swallowed 8 lives, injured 17, and left houses and cattle displaced.

These are only two of the several recent climate disasters, including apocalyptic fires, extreme heat, droughts and floods raging across the world.

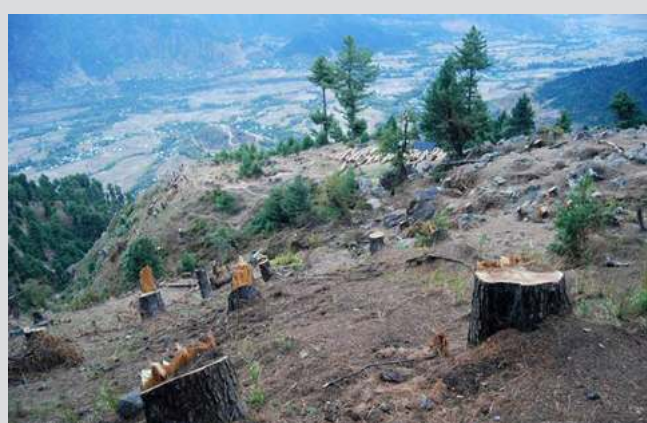
This comes at the heels of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s latest assessment report, almost as a manifestation of the code

red alert issued for humanity owing to irrevocable temperature rise and entailing threats of erratic weather conditions.

And while the climate crisis is a global issue, it is the ecologically vulnerable areas that have to contend with the manifestations of extreme weather and climatic changes, leading to climate injustice as unfair distribution of benefits and damages related to climate change wreak havoc on certain ecologically vulnerable regions.

The valley of Kashmir is one of them.

While the prolonged political conflict and consequent lockdowns have long put environmental issues on the backburner, now the environmental emergency looms closer than



ever.

Glaciers that are the lifelines of the valley, forest cover that is of ecological as well as economic importance, and wetlands that are climate

vanguards in Kashmir—the valley's ecology is facing unprecedented threats in what is unveiling to be a multi-faceted environmental offense.

And the manifestations will



only get more obvious.

### Rising Temperature

In any climate study, temperature rise is taken as one of

the key determiners of predicting future threats. While IPCC's 6th assessment states that the average global temperatures will reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming in the next 20 years,

the digits are even more alarming for Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh as per a study in the Climatic Change journal dating July 2020.

Sonam Lotus, MET Director of Jammu and Kashmir, says that "erratic weather conditions have made forecasting a challenge in the last few years," which is also what makes predicting cloud bursts difficult as they take place in the matter of a few hours.

He also states that the rise in temperature is certain and with it, manifestations of climate variability including erratic snowfall and rainfall.

Lotus attributes it to the shortcomings in reigning in greenhouse gas emissions.

This also implies that if the projections • [More On P10](#)







## Water scarcity Sparks Protest In Batamaloo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The residents of uptown Batamaloo Thursday staged a protest demonstration over acute shortage of water in the area.

The protesters raised slogans against the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department and blocked the road near Danderkha Chowk for almost an hour, with wooden logs and worn-out tyres.

“There is not a drop of water

to drink as taps are running dry. Every time we visited the office of Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering with the request to restore supply in the area but the officials never acted,” the protesters said.

Protesters, mainly women holding sticks in their hands, sat on a dharna, chanting slogans against the PHE Department.

The residents appealed the authorities to look into our matter and end the water woes of the area.

## ‘Snails Pace’ Passenger Traffic Irks Commuters

Agencies

Srinagar: In Srinagar city, passenger vehicles moving at a very slow speed, cause severe mental trauma and anguish to the passengers.

The commuters of the Srinagar city said that it takes over an hour to complete the travel of a few minutes in a passenger vehicle. They said that nobody is paying heed to the issue and that the traffic department is acting as a mute spectator.

In addition to this New Bus Stand Parimpora to Lalchowk, Jahangir Chowk to Bemina, HMT, Qamarwari, Barzulla-Bagath, Rawalpura, Hyderpora, Wanabal-Rawalpora, Bagh Mehtab, Chanapora, Natipora, Nowgam, Dargah,

Braien, Nishat, Shalimar, Harwan and many other routes are facing difficulties for passengers due to overcrowding and slow movement of public transport.

Commuters of these routes said that they have to face mental trauma on the way because the vehicles, despite being overcrowded, stop at dozens of places unnecessarily.

A resident from Shalimar said that whenever he travels towards Lalchowk in a passenger vehicle, it gets difficult to reach on time due to slow movement of passenger vehicles.

The commuters appealed the traffic authorities to take steps to improve the system, so that they can heave a sigh of relief.

## Week-long Art Workshop Begins At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A week-long art workshop commenced at the University of Kashmir on Thursday.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad inaugurated the workshop, organised jointly by the varsity and Sansar Chand Baru Charitable Trust.

In his presidential address, Prof Talat said such workshops will enable young minds to showcase their talent and highlight various issues of societal importance.

“Art is a very important way of expressing yourself and giving vent to your thoughts and emotions. I am sure that this workshop will facilitate the participants to learn more about forms of art and highlight issues of societal and environmental importance,” Prof Talat said, congratulating the organisers for hold-

ing the workshop. KU Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir, who was a guest of honour, said the university is committed to provide a professional platform to youth of J&K to showcase their talent in various forms of art.

“We want our students to excel at the national and international level and for this we are trying to augment our infrastructure to provide the best possible training to youth so that they can showcase their talent,” he said.

Anuradha Rishi from Sansar Chand Baru Charitable Trust highlighted the achievements and works being undertaken by the organisation. Dr Aadil Bashir from Department of Social Work, KU, coordinated the event, which was attended by prominent artists from across the country and participants from KU’s Institute of Music and Fine Arts and Department of Social Work.

## PHE Employees Demand Release Of Pending Wages

Observer News Service

Srinagar: PHE joint employees association held a protest at PHE office on Thursday, demanding release of their pending wages and regulations.

The employees while talking to media said, “daily wages and casual labourers are used as scapegoats by the Chief Engineer for his post as he wants to sacrifice innocent PHE employees.”

In an official statement the protesters said that this is the first phase of their protest to demand release of our pending wages.

“The funds which have been approved by J and K government for clean drinking water for the people have not been utilised as it should be due to incompetent Chief Engineer,” they said.

The protesters appealed to the government to make a commission to check the utilization of funds.

“If government will not take any action and will not release our wages within a week we will come on roads with our families and continue our protests,” they said.

## SKUAST-K Holds Workshop On Backyard Poultry Farming

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir organised a daylong workshop on “Backyard Poultry: Opportunities and Experiences” at its Faculty Outreach Centre of Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, Shuhama campus.

The programme was organized by the Division of Livestock Production and Management, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, Shuhama under the patronage of Directorate of Research, SKUAST-K, Shalimar to assess the progress of ongoing externally funded projects that are in progress at the Division of LPM.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof Sarfaraz A Wani, Director Research and Prof MT Banday, Dean Faculty of Veterinary Sciences. University Librarian Prof Shoaib Kamil was also present in the Workshop. The programme was attended by University Scientists, Officers of Animal Husbandry Department, Officers of NABARD, Programme Coordinators of KVK’s, Subject Matter Specialists, Research Scholars and a large number of poultry farmers.



The undergraduate students on Thursday staged in protest demonstration in Press Enclave Srinagar demanding implementation of UGC guidelines. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

## Physician-Penman Returns With Shadowy Aspects of Society In His New Book

KO News Desk

Srinagar: Days after creating a buzz in Urdu readership of the valley with his upcoming literary work, Tinkey—the “first of its kind” anthology of over 100 micro-fictions—is all set for its formal launch on August 29 in Srinagar.

The reviewers have already hailed the author—noted physician Dr. Nazir Mushtaq—for “daring to pen-down” the telling book mapping some unspeakable wrongs in the society.

“There is a galaxy of good fiction writers in Kashmir but Dr. Nazir Mushtaq creates a niche of his own in the world of microfiction

composers,” Noor Shah, Kashmir’s prominent fiction writer, notes in his review. Shah who has also penned Preface for the book adds: “The author’s love for writing microfiction can be analysed from the fact that “Tinkey” is the first of its kind in Kashmir that any author has dared to pen-down.”

Writer Parvez Manooos has also hailed the book for its subject and storytelling.

In Tinkey, Dr. Nazir, known for his fictional and micro-fictional writings, reminds readers that things aren’t always upright in Kashmir society. He gives a special reference to how Kashmir’s cultural heritage and ethos is losing its sheen with



each passing day.

Even though Dr. Nazir’s book deals with several shadowy aspects of the society, his most micro-fictions are related to his medical profession.

## Family Of ‘Drowned Boy’ Seeks Investigation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The family of Zahid Iqbal, an 11th standard student who according to his family died in a mysterious drowning in August 2013, demanded that the authorities once again look into the matter and investigate the case.

Zahid Iqbal, a resident of Padshahi Bagh died in a mysterious drowning in August 2013.

According to the family Zahid Iqbal, a resident of Padshahi Bagh went

‘mysteriously’ missing on August 23, 2013 from his home. The family had called Zahid on his cell number which had been put on switch off mode. According to the family when Zahid did not return home till late evening, they started search several times on his number but it was off,” his uncle Dilawar Ahmad said.

We started searching for him continuously for many days and a missing report was lodged at the police station, Raj Bagh,” he said.

“We got shocked when on August

26, 2013 while searching for Zahid, we found his tortured body from river Jhelum near footbridge Lal Chowk and it cleared he was murdered,” he said.

Meanwhile, Police had already started an investigation into this mysterious death.

“After digging deep into the investigations, Zahid’s cellphone was recovered from one of his friend’s relative’s place. Days after his death his wristwatch and the clothes were also recovered by the police,” he said.

### DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS



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

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

## This Day in History

- 479 BC- Greco-Persian Wars: Battle of Plataea, Persian forces led by Mardonius routed by Greek army under Pausanias; together with Greek success at Battle of Mycale halts Persian invasion of Greece
- 479 BC- Greco-Persian Wars: Battle of Mycale won by Greek forces over Persian naval troops on Ionian coast, double victory with that at Plataea ends Persian invasion
- 663 - Battle of Baekgang: Tang Chinese and Silla Korean forces defeat Korean Baekje forces and their Yamato Japanese allies on the Geum River in Korea. Last Japanese invasion of Korea for 900 years.
- 1585- Duke of Parma’s troops occupy Antwerp
- 1626- Battle of Lutter: Catholic League beats Danish king Christian IV
- 1689- The Treaty of Nerchinsk is signed by Russia and the Qing empire
- 1776- British defeat Americans in Battle of Long Island
- 1783- First hydrogen balloon flight (unmanned); reaches an altitude of 900m
- 1798- Battle of Castlebar, Ireland: French army and Irish rebels rout a larger the British force
- 1799 - British invasion army lands in North Holland
- 1813 - Battle of Dresden; Napoleon defeats Austrians
- 1828 - Uruguay gains independence during Brazil-Argentina peace talks
- 1828 - The Russians defeat the Turks at the Battle of Akhcalzic.
- 1883 - Krakatoa volcano, west of Java in Indonesia, erupts with a force of 1,300 megatons and kills approximately 40,000 people.
- 1900 - Battle of Bergendal: General Buller defeats the Boer under general Louis Botha
- 1913 - Swedish engineer Gideon Sundback of Hoboken applies to patent all-purpose zipper
- 1916 - Romania declares war on Austria-Hungary
- 1928 - Kellogg-Briand Pact, 60 nations agree to condemn 'recourse to war for the solution of international controversies'.
- 1941 - Shah of Iran Reza Shah Pahlavi abdicates throne in favour of his son Mohammad Reza Pahlavi
- 1942 - Cuba declares war on Germany, Japan & Italy
- 1955 - "Guinness Book of World Records" 1st published
- 1958 - USSR launches Sputnik 3 with two dogs aboard
- 1962 - Mariner 2 launched; first probe to fly by Venus
- 1979 - 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and last Viceroy of India, is killed along with three companions, two of them children by the IRA when his boat is blown up near Sligo, Ireland
- 1982 - Soyuz T-7 returns to Earth
- 1984 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1984 -War Against Indiscipline is launched by the Buhari regime in Nigeria
- 1985 - General Ibrahim Babangida overthrows Major General Muhammadu Buhari’s regime in Nigeria
- 1990 - Market prices plunge as OPEC nears informal agreement to increase output to cover shortfall due to invasion; cash market trading experiences abrupt decline.
- 1991 - Moldavia declares independence from USSR
- 2003 - Mars makes its closest approach to Earth in nearly 60,000 years, passing 34,646,418 miles (55,758,005 km) distant.
- 2006 - Comair Flight 5191 crashes on takeoff from Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky, bound for Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia killing 49 of 50 on board the first African-American to be nominated by a major political party for President of the United States
- 2012 - First interplanetary human voice recording is broadcast from the Mars Rover Curiosity
- 2018 - UN releases report saying Myanmar military leaders should face genocide and crimes against humanity charges for violence against Rohingya

## From KO Archives

## Officer shifted for 7th time, goes on leave

Observer News Service

Srinagar - The principal secretary, revenue, Sonali Kumar, has proceeded on leave following the recent transfers and postings in the state administration.

The high-ranking bureaucrat has been transferred for the seventh time in the changes announced yesterday.

During the two-and-a-Half year tenure of the coalition government, Kumar has been shifted six times from her posts.

Before the coalition government came to power, Sonali Kumar had been made the commissioner secretary, education, on May 1, 2002.

Soon after the new government took over, she was transferred to the technical education department as commissioner secretary in November

2003. In February the next year, she was transferred to industries and commerce, and four months later, in July 2003, to the higher and technical education department

After serving on that post for one year, she was transferred again in July 2004, and made the principal secretary of the forest department. The government shifted her again in April 2005, this time to the health and medical education department.

Yesterday’s revamp, which made her the principal secretary of the revenue department, was the sixth time she was transferred in 2-and-a-half years.

Fed up with the repeated transfers and postings, Sonali Kumar, has gone on leave in protest, sources told the KNS. She has asked the government to grant her leave till October.

(Kashmir Observer, August 27, 2000)

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B SUB DIVISION MAGAM

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

FOR MACADAM WORKS

NIT No. 67/R&B/Divn./ Magam of 2021-22 / DATED: 25/08/2021.

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money	Time of Completion (in days)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Macadamization/ Up-gradation of road from main road towards Pariswani at Reram by way of P/L Nallah muck in patches / stretches, P/L 75mm thick wet mix, 50mm thick bitumen macadam and 25mm thick semidense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine Mix to be laid with Paver)	Rs. 15.00 lacs Incl. C/o Bitumen	800/-	3% of quoted cost within 03 days after opening of financial bid	20	PRI	AAY/ AAY with HMPO/ Registered Hot Mix Plant Owner

Position of AAA: Accorded  
Position of funds: Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-08-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	25/08/2021 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	25/08/2021 from 10.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	01-09-2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	02-09-2021 at 11 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Sub Division Magam/GDA

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M. Head 0059in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam (tender inviting authority) and Bid security Declaration as per format given in SBD. The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (3% of quoted cost) within the period as specified in SBD.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of R&B Sub-Division Magam (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-
  - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
  - Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
- Class "A" Civil Contractor can Participate in E-tendering for macadamization works subject to condition that they will upload an agreement deed with any HMPO from whom the materials/ Machinery shall be procured
- All other terms and conditions shall be strictly as per SBD circulated letter No. CE/RBK/HD/29158-88 dated 10-02-2018 and No. CE/WS/4260-92 Dt: 03-05-2021.
- In case any new circular / instructions / order is issued by the competent authorities during the current financial year, the same shall be implemented / treated in force on all the tenders floated from time to time, the verification certificate of Card registration have to be produce before opening of financial bids within 02 days.

sd/-

Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam

DIPK-7307/21



## Turkish Troops Leave Kabul, Abandoning Hopes For Airport

### Agencies

ANKARA: Turkey said on Wednesday it had started pulling troops out of Afghanistan, apparently abandoning plans to help secure Kabul's strategic airport.

The Taliban have asked Turkey for technical help to run Kabul airport after the departure of foreign forces but insist that Ankara's military also withdraw fully by the end-August deadline, two Turkish officials said.



But President Tayyip Erdogan's government has said for months that it could keep a presence at the airport if requested. After the Taliban seized control of the country Turkey offered technical and security assistance at the airport.

Ankara had been hoping to gain a foothold in Kabul after the US troop withdrawal is completed on Tuesday. But the Taliban's swift capture of the Afghan capital left those plans in disarray, eliminating a key point of leverage in its tumultuous relations with the United States.

Taliban sought Ankara's support to run Kabul airport

"The Turkish Armed Forces are returning to our homeland with the pride of successfully fulfilling the tasks entrusted to it," the Turkish defence ministry said in a statement. Turkey had more than 500 non-combat troops stationed in Afghanistan as part of Nato's now-abandoned mission in the war-torn country. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Ankara was still interested in playing a role in Afghanistan,

keeping its lines of communication open with Taliban leaders.

"It is important for Afghanistan to stabilise," Erdogan said as the troop withdrawal was announced.

"Turkey will continue to be in close dialogue with all parties in Afghanistan in line with this goal." The Turkish defence ministry also left open the option of playing a security role in Kabul down the line.

"Turkey will continue to be with the Afghan people as long as they

want," it said, noting the troops had been stationed at the airport for the past six years.

The conditional request by the Islamist Taliban, who swept back to power in Afghanistan 20 years after they were ousted in a US invasion, leaves Ankara with a difficult decision over whether to accept a hazardous job, one official said.

"The Taliban have made a request for technical support in running Kabul airport," a senior Turkish official said, adding however that the Taliban demand for all Turkish troops to leave would complicate any prospective mission.

"Ensuring the safety of workers without the Turkish Armed Forces is a risky job," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Talks with the Taliban on the issue were ongoing and, in the meantime, preparations for a troop withdrawal had been completed, he said. It was unclear whether Turkey would agree to give technical assistance if its troops were not there to provide security.

## Moderna Withholds 1.63 Million Covid-19 Vaccine Doses In Japan Due To Contamination

### Reuters

August 25: Moderna Inc said on Wednesday it has withheld supply of about 1.63 million doses of its COVID-19 vaccine in Japan after a report of contamination of vials with particulate matter, which it suspects involves a production



line in Spain. Although Moderna said no safety or efficacy issues had been identified, the suspension is a fresh setback for the firm, whose partners had production delays last month that disrupted supplies to countries, including South Korea.

That has prompted some Japanese companies to cancel worker vaccinations planned for Thursday, as most of doses in question have been supplied to mass vaccination sites and workplaces in Japan.

"Moderna confirms having been notified of cases of particulate mat-

ter being seen in drug product vials of its COVID-19 vaccine," Moderna said in a statement.

"The company is investigating the reports and remains committed to working expeditiously with its partner, Takeda, and regulators to address this," it added, referring to Japan's Takeda Pharmaceutical.

It said the contamination could be due to a manufacturing issue in one of the production lines at its contract manufacturing site in Spain. It was not immediately clear whether the issue impacted supplies to other countries.

Moderna did not immediately respond to a Reuters' request for comment. Spain's Rovi, which bottles or "fills and finishes" Moderna vaccines for markets other than the United States, was not immediately available to comment. The vaccine lot with complaints had 565,400 doses and Moderna said that "out of an abundance of caution" it had put the lot on hold and two adjacent ones. Takeda said it conducted an emergency examination after particulate matter was found in a lot of vaccine vials at an inoculation site in Japan. Japan's health ministry has decided to withdraw some doses as a precaution after consultation with Takeda but it said it would strive to minimize the impact of the withdrawal on its inoculation plans.

## INFOGRAPHIC: TALIBAN'S US-FUNDED WAR CHEST

From 2002, the US gave the Afghan military an estimated \$76 billion in weaponry, including aircraft, armoured vehicles and guns. Much of this military material is now in the hands of the Taliban



## Kabul Airport Blasts Kill At Least 13, Including Children

### Agencies

Kabul, August 26: At least 13 persons were killed, including children, and many Taliban guards were wounded in twin blasts outside Kabul airport, a Taliban official said on Thursday.

Russia said a second explosion went off outside Kabul airport. Twin attacks killed at least 13 peo-



ple and wounded 15, it added.

An explosion went off on Thursday outside the Kabul airport, where thousands of people have gathered to try to flee the country on Western airlift since the Taliban seized power earlier this month. The Pentagon confirmed the first blast. Western nations had warned of a possible attack on Kabul's airport in the waning days of the massive evacuation efforts.

Several countries urged people to avoid the airport, where an official said there was a threat of a suicide bombing. But just days — or even hours for some nations — be-

fore the evacuation effort ends, few appeared to heed the call.

Over the last week, the airport has been the scene of some of the most searing images of the chaotic end of America's longest war and the Taliban's takeover, as flight after flight took off carrying those who fear a return to the militants' brutal rule. Already, some countries have ended their evacuations

and begun to withdraw their soldiers and diplomats, signaling the beginning of the end of one of history's largest airlifts. The Taliban have so far honored a pledge not to attack Western forces during the evacuation, but insist the foreign troops must be out by America's self-imposed deadline of August 31. Overnight, warnings emerged from Western capitals about a threat from Afghanistan's Islamic State group affiliate, which likely has seen its ranks boosted by the Taliban's freeing of prisoners during their blitz across the country.

British Armed Forces Minister

James Heappey told the BBC early Thursday there was "very, very credible reporting of an imminent attack" at the airport, possibly within "hours." Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said his country had received information from the U.S. and other countries about the "threat of suicide attacks on the mass of people." The acting U.S. ambassador to Kabul, Ross Wilson, said the security threat at the Kabul airport overnight was "clearly regarded as credible, as imminent, as compelling." But in an interview with ABC News, he would not give details and did not say whether the threat remained.

Shortly after, the blast was reported.

Wilson also said there remain "safe ways" for Americans to reach the airport, but "there undoubtedly will be" Afghans who had worked with or for the US in Afghanistan who will not be able to get out before the evacuation ends.

Late Wednesday, the US Embassy warned citizens at three airport gates to leave immediately due to an unspecified security threat. Australia, Britain and New Zealand also advised their citizens Thursday not to go to the airport, with Australia's foreign minister saying there was a "very high threat of a terrorist attack." Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid earlier denied that any attack was imminent.

## Russia, Iran & China to Hold Joint Military Exercise In Persian Gulf

### TRANS ASIA NEWS

Tehran: Iran, Russia and China will hold joint maritime exercises - dubbed CHIRU -- in the Persian Gulf between late 2021 and early 2022, to ensure international shipping safety and combat piracy, according to the Russian ambassador in Tehran.

"In the end of this year or the beginning of the next year, the annual joint naval exercises, CHIRU, will be held in the Persian Gulf region. Russian, Iranian and Chinese warships are taking part in it. The main aim is to practice actions on ensuring international shipping safety, and combating sea pirates," Levan Dzagharyan said in an interview with Sputnik on Monday.

He added that preparations for the Depth competition, held at the International Army Games 2021 in Iran's Chabahar port, are also being completed.

"Along with Russia and Iran, China, India, Syria and Venezuela will take part in it. There are

plans to hold a contest between dive teams of these countries' armed forces. Representatives of the Russian Navy command will arrive at the opening and closing ceremonies of this contest," the ambassador noted.

The announcement of a new joint exercise comes as the United States, Britain and Israel accused Iran of a drone attack on an Israeli-managed tanker near Oman on July 29 and threatened that there would be consequences.

Elsewhere in his interview, Dzagharyan said Russia is confident that neither Iran nor its Arab neighbors are interested in further escalation in the Persian Gulf.

"There are tensions indeed ... but I would not be dramatic and say that the situation is more acute now than during previous crises. Neither Iran nor its Arab neighbors are interested in further escalation," the ambassador pointed out.

Dzagharyan said he believes

that relations between Iran and Arab counties in the Persian Gulf are becoming warmer.

"Russia welcomes dialogue in this strategically important region. This is one of the goals of our concept for collective security in the Persian Gulf, which we are promoting," he added.

Late in December 2019, Iran, Russia and China staged a four-day joint maritime exercise in the Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman area.

The drills, dubbed the 'Marine Security Belt' exercise, covered 17,000 square kilometers and consisted of various tactical exercises such as target practicing and rescuing ships from assault and incidents such as fires.

The Sea of Oman is a particularly sensitive waterway as it connects to the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world's oil passes and which in turn connects to the Persian Gulf.

## Taliban Leader: Music Will Be Banned In Afghanistan

### REUTERS

The latest finding comes as several countries are rolling out additional jabs for the fully vaccinated

Taliban will let women return to their jobs in the future, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid tells The New York Times

A Taliban leader has said that music will be banned in Afghanistan and women will be required to travel with a male chaperone on trips

leave the house in a burqa -- a shapeless covering which covers the head and entire body, with only a fabric mesh to see out of.

He also said that those with proper travel documents will be able to leave the country, and that his regime will not hunt down former interpreters and others who have worked with the American military over the years, but expressed frustration at American evacuation efforts.

"They shouldn't interfere in our country and take out our human re-



that last several days, even as he promises the Taliban will be more liberal than they were 20 years ago.

In an interview with The New York Times, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said while women will eventually be allowed to return to work and go on trips to school, and hospitals, they would need a male chaperone for trips that last several days.

And music will be banned in the country.

"Music is forbidden in Islam, but we're hoping that we can persuade people not to do such things, instead of pressure them," Mujahid said, reports UK-bases Daily Mail citing The New York Times.

However, he said, things will be different under this Taliban rule than the previous regime.

"We want to build the future and forget what happened in the past," he said, rejecting reports that the Taliban is already extracting vengeance on those who opposed them and are trying to reimpose the harsh restrictions on women that made them notorious when they first took control in 1996. He suggested to The New York Times that the Taliban will let women return to their jobs in the future -- as long as they wear a head covering -- and said concerns that the Taliban would once again force women to stay inside or cover their faces are baseless.

During their previous time in power, Afghan women could only

sources: doctors, professors and other people we need here. In America, they might become dishwashers or cooks. It's inhuman," Mujahid added.

But, he said, he is still hopeful that the Taliban could build good relationships with the international community, saying they have already cooperated with international leaders on issues like counterterrorism, opium eradication and the reduction of refugees to the West.

Mujahid's remarks come one day after he announced at a press conference that women should remain inside "until we have a new procedure" in place, while the Taliban trains its forces not to harass women.

"We are worried our forces, who are new and have not been yet trained very well, may mistreat women."

"We don't want our forces, God forbid, to harm or harass women," the Taliban leader said.

In the meantime, he said, women's salaries will be paid in their homes, echoing what Ahmadullah Waseq, the deputy of the Taliban's cultural affairs committee, told the Times: that the Taliban has "no problems with working women" as long as they wear hijabs.

But under the old Taliban rule, women were not allowed to attend school and faced public flogging if they were found to have violated morality rules, like one requiring that they be fully covered.

## Eight Killed In Firing Over Land Dispute In Pakistan



### Agencies

Peshawar, August 26: Eight people were killed, and 12 others injured in a firing between two rival groups over a land dispute in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province, police said.

The firing between the two

groups occurred in Lower Kurram tribal district of the province, killing eight people.

Police said that the firing has stopped following a ceasefire between the two groups.

Efforts are on to bring peace and calm in the area, they said, adding the injured have been admitted to hospital. — PTI

## Ex-Afghan Minister Now A Pizza Deliveryman In Germany

### NEWS MAKER

He has two master's degrees in communications and electronic engineering from Oxford University and worked for over 20 years in the field of communications

In a shocking turn of events, a former Afghan minister is currently employed as a pizza deliveryman in Germany, where he took refuge in Leipzig.

Once the Afghan acting telecom and IT minister and a deputy minister of technology, Syed Ahmad Shah Saadat revealed the matter on his Facebook account.

Also, he was recently clicked on the streets of Germany.

His photos, including one showing him riding a bike while carrying a backpack, have been doing rounds on social media after a local journalist shot those.

Sadaat had joined the cabinet of now-exiled president Ashraf Ghani in 2018. He stepped down and moved to Germany in December last

year, reports The Independent.

According to Sky News, Sadaat took a job as a food delivery professional for German company Livran-do after his money ran out.

He told the channel that his story will serve as a "catalyst" to change the way high-ranking people live their lives in Asia and the Arab world.

The former Afghan minister has two master's degrees in communications and electronic engineering from Oxford University.

He worked for over 20 years in the field of communications with more than 20 companies, across 13 countries, including Saudi Arabia, for Aramco and the Saudi Telecom Company.

He also served as CEO of Ariana Telecom in London from 2016 until 2017. He worked as a technical advisor to Afghanistan's communication and information technology ministry from 2005 to 2013.

Speaking on the recent developments in Afghanistan, Sadat told Sky

News he never expected the civilian government to fall so quickly.

The Facebook post Apparently with a heavy heart, Sadaat on Wednesday wrote: "Despite two masters, one degree and twenty years of work experience, I don't understand the German language. In my career, I didn't have the opportunity to work in Germany.

"God created man to work and worship so we must work to move life forward. I didn't like taking social open money so I can register myself with him and he says I will buy. So have to work," he added.

Citing media reports covering his struggle in Germany, the former minister mentioned: "I think it would be a shame for Afghans that an old minister is working but it would be a shame to take social money."

Tanking God (Allah), Sadaat claimed that he was not ashamed of his job and "does not feel less and work is worship".



Ex-Afghan minister Syed Ahmad Shah Sadaat now (left) and before moving to Germany (right) Collected



## Bagh-e-Islam Residents Demand Upgradation Of Transformer

### Agencies

Kupwara: The local residents of Vilgam Bagh-e-Islam area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Thursday demanded the Power Development Department (PDD) to provide another transformer in the area. The locals of the area said that they have been repeatedly demanding up gradation of transformer and accused the concerned authorities of not paying heed to their repeated pleas.

Mushtaq Ahmad, a local, said that the village has a 250-KV transformer which was allotted by the local Sarpanch after the old transformer

got damaged thrice in a month.

"250KV transformers couldn't suffice the load of 60 households. The electricity which we are receiving is of no use as we have been using candle lights during dinner time and even LED lamps are not working on it", added Ahmad.

The residents' urged the government to provide another transformer which they have brought with their own money so the problem could be solved on an immediate basis as the winter is approaching.

The local residents also requested the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and Chief Engineer of PDD to look into the matter.

## ACB Books Former SCD Official In Disproportionate Assets Case

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday said that it has produced a chargesheet against former Forester, Soil Conservation department J&K, Bashir Ahmad Shah in disproportionate assets case.

According to a statement, ACB said it produced a chargesheet in a case under FIR number 11/2017 under section 5 (1)(d),(e) r/w section 5(2) of PC Act Samvat-2006 of ACB SBG Srinagar against one persons namely Bashir Ahmad Shah, son of Late Wali Mohammad Shah of Garoora Bandipora A/p Zubairabad Sujwan Jammu/Housing Colony, Bagh-e-Mehtab, Srinagar.

"The brief facts of the case are that a verification was conducted by the Anti Corruption Bureau Kashmir into the allegations that public servant namely Bashir Ahmad Shah then Forester presently posted as Zonal Soil Conservation officer (Soil Conservation department J&K) has amassed huge wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income," the statement said.

It revealed that the said accused Bashir Ahmad Shah had purchased land (plot No.64) at Bagh-e-Mehtab Housing Colony Srinagar and another plot at Zubairabad Sujwan Road Jammu and has constructed two palatial house on the said plots.

Verification has further revealed that the said Bashir Ahmad had amassed the property and incurred huge expenditure during the period 1980 to 2009 which has been found disproportionate to his known sources of income, it said.

"The aforesaid omissions and commissions on the part of Bashir Ahmad Shah, son of Late Wali Muhammad Shah of Garoora Bandipora presently residing at Zubairabad Sujwan Road Jammu, then forester department of Soil Conservation presently posted as Zonal Soil Conservation officer (Soil Conservation department J&K) Jammu lead to the registration of the instant case and investigation was taken up," the statement said.

"The assets discovered and attributed to the accused public servant are the house at Plot No. 64 Bagh-e-Mehtab Housing Colony, Srinagar, belonged to one Jawahar Lal Bhan, son of Dr. M.L. Bhan of Diona New Delhi who had migrated out of valley after the eruption of Militancy."

"The accused public servant has purchased a plot (51X39.5 Sfts) measuring 07 marlas under khasra No.356/min situated at Zubair Abad Sujwan Bhathandi Jammu through a "tahreer Nama and Baian Halfi" dated 27.02.2007 from one Chowdhary Zain ud Din, son of Haji Mohammad Zubair in the name of his 2nd wife namely Rumysa," it added.

## MEA Briefing On Afghanistan...

# 'Restore Special Status To Ward-off Afghan Spill Over In J&K'

### KO News Desk

New Delhi: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Thursday asked government of India to restore the 'Special Status' of the erstwhile state to ward-off the Afghan spill over into the region.

The remarks were made by the Party's Member of Parliament from Anantnag Hassnain Masoodi while speaking in the MEA briefing on Afghanistan for Parliamentary floor leaders called by the GOI to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. Government of India, on August 5, 2019, abrogated the Special Status of Jammu and Kashmir that was guaranteed by the India Constitution in the form of Articles 370 and 35-A.

"GOI (should) undo the August 5 decisions in order to ward-off the fall out of the change of guard in Afghanistan in the region particularly Jammu and Kashmir, La-

dakh," Masoodi said according to a National Conference statement.

On the occasion the Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar briefed the leaders on the latest situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban Captured power there three weeks ago. In its briefing the MEA stated that New Delhi will go slow with the developments in Afghanistan and that the main agenda for the GOI is to repatriate Indian Nationals stuck there. It was also briefed by the concerned ministry that the GOI is carefully observing the developments in Afghanistan with main focus on ensuring security of Indian Nationals and their repatriation.

MEA spelled out various measures undertaken by it to ensure safe evacuation of Indian Nationals from Afghanistan in the coming days. Speaking on the occasion various Members of Parliament expressed concern over the Afghan spill over in the region, particularly Jammu and Kashmir, & Ladakh. Masoodi shared the concerns of the Parliament Members about the fall-out of the changing situation of Afghanistan in the region, particularly J&K and Ladakh. Expressing dissatisfaction over the "wait and watch" policy of the government, he said that the need of the hour calls for playing a more assertive and proactive role in order to protect its interests.

He said that policy limbo which New Delhi is fraught with could have serious ramifications for the entire region. Referring to the fears triggered by the possible Afghanistan spillover, Masoodi said with eye on Afghanistan, GOI must not lose further time in revoking the decisions of August 5, 2019.

"To ensure that the anticipated spillover doesn't play out in a manner that affects peace and stability in the region, the GOI must restore August 4, 2019 position to ease out the situation and generate goodwill among the populace of JK."



## J&K To Get 1000 Commercial Vehicles Under Mumkin Scheme

### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary Tribal Affairs and CEO Mission Youth held detailed interaction with senior functionaries and representatives of Hinduja Group and Ashok Leyland for creating employment and entrepreneurship avenues for youth. Hinduja Group team led by Dr S K Chadha reaffirmed the commitment of Rs. 16 Cr as subsidy support apart initiatives in education, banking outreach and tourism promotion. Sanjeev Kumar, Head of Marketing Division, Ramanjot Singh, Area Manager from Ashok Leyland and Maninder Pal Singh, State Head IndusInd Bank, OSD Mission Youth Tabish Saleem and other senior officials attended the meeting.

It was decided that 1000 commercial vehicles under Mumkin Scheme will be delivered over next two months and in view of overwhelming demand the scheme will also include heavy commercial vehicles and machines. The youth opting for opportunities in transport sector will also be skilled under the scheme apart from provisioning of various other incentives. The Group will also undertake quality development measures in schools under its Corporate Social Responsibility with focus on youth empowerment and capacity building. It was also decided to launch a pilot project of "Food on Wheel" exclusively for women applicants in the age group of 18-35 years. Under this scheme 100% input fi-

nancial support will be given for fabricated and specifically designed vans with an aim to make available quality local cuisines at places of maxium tourist footfall and various urban areas.

CEO Mission Youth discussed with the visiting team about efforts being made for opportunities tailored for youth aspiration in various sectors like education, skill development, self-employment, placement, research, culture, recreation, sports, art, literature and other fields. Avenues available in national and international markets were also discussed with an aim to offer skill support system and financial as well as technical support to youth for availing such opportunities.

## Chatpora Residents Stage Protest, Demand Blacktopping Of Pulwama-Rajpora Road

### Agencies

Srinagar: The residents of Chatpora area of Pulwama district Thursday protested against the Roads and Buildings department for failing to repair the vital Pulwama-Rajpora road.

Protestors at Chatpora said that all roads have been repaired or macadamised in the area but the vital Pulwama-Rajpora stretch has been left out due to unknown reasons.

The protesters said that issue was brought into the notice of higher ups many times but to no avail as repeated assurances of officials have proved futile.

They requested the concerned department to look into the matter as the road is in a dilapidated condition and it must be macad-

amised at an earliest.

Meanwhile, residents of Chenigund also staged protests against the Jal Shakti department for failing to provide drinking water to the area for the last three years.

The protestors, mainly women, said that their taps have turned dry for the last three years.

"In absence of potable water, we are forced to drink contaminated water which is proving very harmful," they said. "Since three years we have knocked on the doors of every official but to no avail."

"We request higher ups to look into the matter and make immediate efforts to restore water supply in the area which has been defunct for a long time now," the protesters said.

## Carpenter Dies Two Days After Falling From Rooftop

### Observer News Service

Sopore: A carpenter, who fell off a rooftop in Mahrajpora area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district two days ago, died at a Srinagar hospital on Thursday.

Identified as Farooq Ahmad Changa, 40, son of Habibullah, a

resident of Changa Mohalla Arampora Sopore, the slain was building the roof of the house when he slipped and fell down on Tuesday.

Farooq was shifted to sub-district hospital Sopore in an unconscious state where doctors referred him to a hospital in Srinagar for specialized treatment.

## Chief Justice Inaugurates Virtual Traffic Courts

### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Pankaj Mithal Thursday inaugurated two Virtual Traffic Courts at Srinagar and Jammu in a ceremony held at District Court



Iqbal Wani attended the ceremony virtually from Jammu wing of the High Court. Virtual Court is an initiative of E-Committee of Supreme Court in collaboration with Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India. It is a concept aimed at eliminating the presence of litigant

Complex Mominabad Srinagar.

The Virtual Traffic Court at Srinagar was inaugurated physically while Virtual Traffic Court at Jammu was inaugurated virtually, in presence of the Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, who is also Chairperson of IT Committee and Administrative Judge for District Srinagar, Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul and Justice Sanjay Dhar attended the ceremony at Srinagar whereas, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajesh Oswal, Justice Puneet Gupta and Justice Javed

or lawyer in the Court and adjudication of the case online. In a trial by Virtual Court, neither litigant shall come to the Court nor will Judge have to sit physically in the Court to adjudicate the case.

The digital challans prepared by the Traffic Police or captured by the cameras will be sent in a digital form to the virtual courts. The Courts, as per Section 208 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1988, will issue special summons to the violator via her/his mobile phone. Once a violator receives intimation on her/his mobile phone, she/he would have the option to either contest the summons or pay by visiting the web portal, <https://vcourts.gov.in>.

## Six Medics Found Absent At SDH Sopore

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Six doctors were found unauthorizedly absent from their duties at Sub District Hospital (SDH) Sopore on Wednesday.

As per a letter by Tehsildar Sopore to Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Bhupinder Kumar, the former on his visit to SDH Sopore on Wednesday found Dr Mohammad Ashraf Consultant Surgeon, Dr Mohammad Sultan Medical Officer,

Dr Mohammad Saleem Chesti, Dr Mudasar Nazir, Dr M Rafi and Dr Sheikh Dawood as unauthorizedly absent from their duties.

The surprise visit by Tehsildar Sopore was made over verbal directions by DC Baramulla in this regard. Tehsildar Sopore has submitted a report along with the daily attendance sheet produced by the Block Medical Officer Sopore to the DC Baramulla for information and further necessary action as desired.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL, SKIMS MC&H, BEMINA & SKIMS, SOURA, SRINAGAR.

**Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext: 2159 email:mechanicalskims@gmail.com**

### Short term notice inviting E-tenders

**Gist of e-NIT NO. 24 OF 2021-22 Dated, 24.08.2021**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites online e-bids in two (02) cover system from Original Manufacturers or their authorized distributors/dealers/ registered and reputed Govt. suppliers having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works:

S.No	Name of the Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)
1.	Providing & fitting of spares to ETIOS, Ambassador car No. JKO1L-6348, JKO1L-6347, JKO1L-6401, JKO1L-7646 & painting to ETIOS & Sumo at SKIMS, Soura.	1,72,695/-

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders/tenderers may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

i)	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents(Starting Date)	27.08.2021 at 11:00 Hour
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ clarification/Pre-bid meet.	01-09.2021 at 11:00Hours
iv)	Last date & Time of Bid Uploading	04-09-2021 up to 16:00 Hours
v)	Date of submission of hard copies.( Original EMD / FDR & DD only)	06-09-2021 up to 14:00 Hours
vi)	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	07-09-2021 at 11:00 Hours ( or next convenient day)
vii)	Date & Time of Financial Bid(Cover-IInd) Opening	Shall be intimated separately
viii)	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs.100/=(Rupees one hundred only)
ix)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit(CDR/FDR)	Rs.3454/=(Rupees three thousand four hundred & fifty-four only)
x)	Completion Time	10 days
xi)	Budget Head	POL for the year 2021-22

No:-SIMS 139 EX/MECH/2019-20/553/21- 1121-27  
Dated 24/08/2021 **DIPK-NB-2939/21**

**Sd/-**  
**Executive Engineer**  
**Mechanical, SKIMS**

**Sd/-**  
**(R.K Katoch)KAS**  
**Secretary,**  
**J&K Public Service Commission.**



## JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001**  
website:<http://jkpsc.nic.in> Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530  
email:jkpscsecretary@gmail.com Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

**Subject: Select List for the post of Assistant Professor Public Administration in Higher Education Department – Disposal of representations thereof.**

## Notice

Dated: 24.08.2021

Whereas, Higher Education Department vide letter HE-Coll/COORD/APPTT/AP/2017 dated 18.10.2017 referred 10 posts [OM:05, RBA:02, SC:01, ST:01, ALC:01]of Assistant Professor in the discipline of Public Administration for selection of suitable candidates; and

Whereas, the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission vide Notification No.10-PSC(DR-P) of 2017 dated 27.10.2017 invited online applications on prescribed format from the permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir for Ten (10) posts of Assistant Professor Public Administration in Higher Education Department; and

Whereas, against the said notification the Commission received 74 applications, which were scrutinized and 14 eligible candidates were called for interview which was conducted on 06.07.2021 with the assistance of Experts from outside; and

Whereas, on the basis of the performance in the interview in pursuance of Rule 51 of the J&K Public Service Commission (Business & Procedure) Rules, 1980, the Commission approved the provisional select list for the posts of Assistant Professor (Public Administration) under Agenda item No.17.9 in its meeting held on 06.08.2021; and

Whereas, the provisional select list was issued vide Notification No.33-PSC (DR-S) of 2021 dated 06.08.2021 wherein, 08 candidates were selected provisionally under different categories with the stipulation that, objections, if any, may be submitted to the Commission within five days from the issuance of the provisional select list for examination and disposal and that no claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained after five days from the date of issuance of Notification; and

Whereas, in response to the above, 02 representations were received in the Commission and have been disposed of with the clarification/remarks mentioned in the remarks column below against each:

S.No	Name of the Candidate	Claim(s)	Remarks
01	Scholars of Public Administration (Anonymous)	Candidates at S.No. 1 & 2 with Ph.D and M.Phil in Political Science have been selected.	Though the complaint is anonymous and merits no examination, the same has been examined and disposed off for purpose of record. As per Notification issued by the University concerned both the candidates have been awarded Degree of Doctorate of Philosophy in the discipline of Public Administration i.e. in the relevant subject. <b>The complaint, as such, is devoid of merit and merits no consideration.</b>
02	Highly qualified unemployed aspirants through Zahid Ahmad Mir S/O Abdul Gani Mir, Near Petrol Pump Martand Anantnag-192125.	Following allegations have been leveled against candidates namely Mohd. ShafiBhat S/O Haji GulamNabiBhat:- i) has done M.Phil and Ph.D on the basis of Master's in Political Science. ii) He has managed his M.A. in Public Administration from the outside the J&K in back date on regular mode and has completed his B.Ed. in the same year in regular mode. iii) While doing the Post-Doctoral fellowship, the candidate was working on contractual basis as AP/ Lecturer in IUST. As per available related documents, the candidate has been working as Contractual Lecturer during the year 2013 and 2014 whileas, he has started his Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the year 2016. The candidate has not claimed any weightage on account of teaching experience (Contractual Lecturer). With regard to B.Ed, no document is available to ascertain the facts. <b>The complaint, therefore, merits no consideration.</b>	The candidate has applied and held eligible on the basis of Master's Degree and Ph.D in Public Administration. As per documents attached with the application form he has done Master of Arts in Public Administration from University of Madras in the year 2006 and Ph.D from JamiaHamdard University, New Delhi awarded vide University Notification No.JH/Exam/N-PhD-38 dated 16.09.2021. The Ph.D has been subsumed for attaining eligibility. However, he has been given benefit of Post-Doctoral Fellowship from 11.02.2016 to 31.12.2017.



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### K O V I E W

## A lurking third wave

India on Wednesday recorded 46,164 new Covid cases which is a 22 percent increase from the previous day. 607 more people died during this time taking the total fatalities to 4.36 lakh. The country's overall case load now stands at 3.25 crore. However, close to 70 percent of the new Covid cases are from Kerala alone. The second worst-hit state is Maharashtra, which reported 5,031 new infections. The daily positivity rate at the national level remains less than 3 per cent for the last 31 days and is presently at 2.58 per cent. In the rest of the country, the number of infections has drastically come down. In J&K, the last 24 hours have added just 126 cases.

But this is no reason to be complacent. If people don't observe precautions, the situation could still get out of hand. The pandemic remains very much around us. According to chief scientist of the World Health Organisation Dr Soumya Swaminathan India may be entering the endemic stage of Covid which means the point when a population learns to live with a virus. She said that given the size of India and heterogeneity of population and immunity status in different parts of the country, the situation may continue like this with ups and downs in various parts of the country.

That said, the government's effort should be to root out the pandemic in the country. And this will require not only observance of a Covid-appropriate behaviour by the people but also a strict enforcement of the Standard Operating Procedure by the government. At the same time, the vaccination needs to be speeded up.

As per data compiled by Johns Hopkins, India has administered over 60 crore doses of the anti-coronavirus vaccine, second only to China. Experts are calling for expediting the vaccination to avert a scenario like the second wave. More so, when the third wave is expected to be much more virulent and likely to affect children more than the adults.

The need for caution thus can't be overemphasised. In Kashmir too where on ground, the Covid protocols are observed in breach. The situation has, more or less, gone back to square one. The people seem to have concluded once again that the pandemic is all but over. And which is not the case – albeit, the second Covid-19 wave may be waning. The government's priority therefore should be to focus on vaccination. It is only when there is 100 percent vaccination that the pandemic could be effectively controlled.

### OTHER OPINION

## On Crises in Congress State Units

With their backs up against the wall and in a crisis, resilient organisations are expected to run a tight ship. But in politics, if the organisation lacks a strong glue, there are enough malcontents to weaken it from within. The Congress finds itself in such a situation today. Beleaguered and limited to power on its own in only three major States — Rajasthan, Punjab and Chhattisgarh — the Congress should have focused on utilising the period in power to provide good governance and to inspire successes elsewhere. Since nothing succeeds like success, working together to achieve a functioning government is an imperative. But far from backing the respective Chief Ministers to the hilt, leaders in the Congress have tried to take on the mantle of rebellion to varying degrees of success. In Rajasthan, Sachin Pilot's rebellion against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot was managed last year, but no viable compromise between the two has been reached yet. In Punjab, despite being an import after a stint in the BJP, former cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu managed to wrest the position of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee president by mobilising enough discontent against Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. Now chafing, Capt. Amarinder's allies have sought their utmost to undermine Mr. Sidhu's leadership in another round of internecine strife. In Chhattisgarh, Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo's claim that he was supposed to get the Chief Minister's post as "promised" to him halfway into the government's tenure, has not yet been accepted by the party high command which, however, seems unwilling to back the incumbent, Bhupesh Baghel.

In none of these instances can a claim be made that the incumbent government's performance has warranted a change. The rebellions, therefore, can be attributed to the personal ambitions of three leaders and not even to traditional factional politics related to ideological differences. There has been a lot of focus on the party's national leadership and a concentration of power in the Nehru-Gandhi family, but the more pressing problem it confronts is the absence of a clear ideological commitment that draws leaders and cadre into closer coordination and camaraderie.

*The Hindu*



# Afghanistan's Come Back in Kashmir Politics

The return to power in Kabul of the Islamic group is too big a geopolitical development to leave Kashmir untouched

Riyaz Wani

**What is, however, certain, is that the US exit from Afghanistan will redraw the political and strategic priorities of the regional players – including that of India and Pakistan. It is likely that the situation will change rapidly enough for many existing arrangements not to hold**

Mehbooba Mufti warned the centre that it could meet the fate of the US if it did not rethink its repressive policies in Kashmir when she spoke to her party workers at Kulgam days after the Taliban overtook Afghanistan. "If people lose patience, you will disappear," Mehbooba told New Delhi. The strongly worded speech has since sparked controversy with the BJP leaders as usual calling for action against her.

Soon after her rally, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration held a meeting where they reiterated their demand for the restoration of Article 370 and statehood.

The timing of Mehbooba's speech and the PAGD meeting is significant. Both came amid the now raging speculations that the Taliban victory would revive flagging insurgency in Kashmir.

There is certainly a feeling of deja vu. Will the situation in Kashmir that followed the exit of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan in 1989 and its subsequent break-up repeat itself, this time compounded by the rise of China as the global power? Will China assert itself more aggressively on the regional stage and on Pakistan's side? Will this launch a new regional great game with India, Pakistan, and China its immediate players? And with the US off its back, will Pakistan seek to again take a hardline on Kashmir. And, of course, what about the fallout on the Azadi struggle in Kashmir? The answers to these questions are still in the realm of speculation. What is, however, certain, is that the US exit from Afghanistan will redraw the political and strategic priorities of the regional players – including that of India and Pakistan. It is likely that the situation will change rapidly enough for many existing arrangements not to hold.

The aspects of regional geopol-

itics that are unlikely to change are the ones governed by global exigencies. The US-India relations for example. Economy apart, the cooperation of the two countries in Afghanistan and across a broad array of geo-political issues has intensified over the years. The relations between the US and Pakistan, on the contrary, have lost their old raison d'être. Their objectives in Afghanistan have diverged to an extent that there is hardly any scope for reconciliation. China's rise and expanding clout together with India's importance as a regional counterweight have redrawn the US priorities in the region.

Such a shift has profoundly impacted the nature of disputes like Kashmir. In the ongoing gradual shift from a unipolar to a multi-polar world, India is asserting itself as a global power. What is more, in western eyes, the country's democratic credentials – albeit diminished in recent years – favourably distinguish it from China. This has now firmly ruled out the chances of outside mediation on Kashmir if ever there was one.

At the same time, the return to power of the Taliban is too big a geopolitical development to leave Kashmir untouched. And this is also clear from the statements being issued by the senior government functionaries, experts and the politicians in India. Senior BJP leader Ram Madhav, who was the party's in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir for years, was among the first in India to point out the security implications of the Taliban takeover for India. In a tweet, Madhav admitted that "the immediate threat was for India".

India is gearing up for a possible influx of militants into Kashmir to support the ongoing militant struggle in the region. Taliban's first stint in power had witnessed a sharp spike in violence in the Valley including a short war between India and Pakistan in Kargil. There is a possibil-

ity that a similar situation could play out in Kashmir. More so, in the wake of India's withdrawal of Kashmir's autonomy which Pakistan, Taliban's perceived benefactor, has vowed to resist and Kashmiris want to be undone.

It is also true that the geopolitical context now is markedly different from the nineties and the Taliban itself may not be keen to get involved. Any such involvement will only further detract from the group's legitimacy at the international level. Taliban has also assured that it won't allow Afghan soil to be used to carry out attacks against other countries. The group's first concern would be to seek international recognition and the aid to help stabilize the war-scarred country.

Similarly, being seen to be sending across militants to aid the militancy in Kashmir is likely to have repercussions for Pakistan which is still under the scanner of the Financial Action Task Force. Furthermore, Pakistan will have to prioritize dealing with the security implications of the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan in the near term. The group's like Tehreek Taliban Pakistan will certainly be inspired if not aided by their Afghan counterparts to mount a fresh challenge to the Pakistani state.

It also remains to be seen whether and how much the Taliban would be influenced by Pakistan. It is possible that the Taliban, fresh from having defeated the superpower US will choose to strike on its own. All these factors will play out in the weeks and months to come. In the meantime, we can only cross our fingers.

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

*The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir*



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## Confusing Teachers

We live in a society in which merit is considered to be purely related to an individual's talent and hard work, it is important to understand that meritocracy is a product of privilege and anybody can fetch a good merit if given the proper guidance and equipped with adequate resources. As long we turn a blind eye to this basic fact we can never lift our population out of poverty, achieve great miles and harness our societies true potential. It is important to establish a level playing

field where everyone gets an equal opportunity to explore their interests and hone their skills. The government has to reach out to people and apprise them about the importance of education. Investing on educating the youth will have countless benefits for the society. It is necessary that the government incentivises people to enrol their children in schools and higher educational institutes and ensures that the quality education is imparted to the students by certified teachers professors. In Kashmir, the past several years have dented

the education system quite badly especially for the underprivileged, the provision of quality education was disrupted by the political crises and the outbreak of the covid was a final nail in the coffin. This period has witnessed a high drop out rate especially among girls. According to the the Ministry of education report the drop out rate among secondary and elementary education levels has increased to 16.6 % and 3.7% from 2019 to 2020. One primary reason for the dropout rate can be attributed to bias for boys' education which

prevails in our society. The remedy for correcting this problem is to provide the girls with the necessary resources to continue their education. The government should subsidise the provision of books or give them at a free cost, this may seem insignificant but this is an impediment for many in our society. We should ensure that no child is bereft of education because of the lack of capital.

*Safoora Shafi  
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# India's Internet Hypocrisy

NEETI BIYANI

India's government insists that it is acting with the best of intentions: to curb crime and keep women and children safe online. In fact, it is doing just the opposite. With its assault on end-to-end encryption, it is threatening the safety of India's people, including the most vulnerable

NEW DELHI – At last month's G7 summit, India joined 11 other signatories, from Canada to South Korea to the European Union, in issuing a joint statement affirming their "shared belief in open societies, democratic values, and multilateralism." The statement touted signatories' commitment to international rules and norms relating to, among other things, "freedom of expression, both online and offline," and identified "politically motivated internet shutdowns" as a threat to freedom and democracy. By this definition, India can no longer be considered a model of democratic values.

The internet's potential as a force for good is well known, not least to India's citizens. During the devastating second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, when public services failed, Indians used social-media platforms like Twitter and WhatsApp to crowdsource resources.

Indians also used such platforms to organize and mobilize support for protests against controversial agricultural reforms and the discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act. But the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party deemed this unacceptable, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government repeatedly suspended online access under the guise of "maintaining public safety."

In fact, since the BJP came to power in 2014, it has shut down the internet 521 times. But, because shutdowns are a blunt instrument, the government is attempting to establish more consistent control over how the internet operates in the country, through the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

Enacted in February without adequate public consultation or parliamentary debate, the Rules grant the Indian government vast powers to suppress content online. This includes forcing tech platforms to remove posts or videos deemed libelous, hateful, deceptive, or in violation of the country's sovereignty and integrity.

The rules also instruct social-media companies to appoint India-based executives, who could be held criminally liable for any violations. And perhaps most contentiously, messaging services are required to implement "traceability" for all messages sent via their services, thereby effectively breaking the end-to-end encryption that platforms like WhatsApp and Signal provide for their users.

Of course, India's government insists that it is acting with the best of intentions: to curb crime and keep women and children safe online.



In fact, it is doing just the opposite. With its assault on end-to-end encryption, it is threatening the safety of India's people, including the most vulnerable.

Encryption is the strongest and most widely available mechanism for ensuring privacy and security for internet users. End-to-end encryption – which ensures that nobody other than the sender and recipient can decrypt and read it – is the gold standard for safety online. When it is weakened or broken, the risks of criminal exploitation, unlawful surveillance, and abuse grow, threatening both personal and national security. The debate is simply not one between privacy and security. Instead, the government is sacrificing both.

Not surprisingly, the new rules have been roundly criticized. Twitter, whose India offices were raided by police in May, after the platform labeled a government official's tweets as "manipulated media," described the rules as "dangerous overreach."

WhatsApp, for its part, has filed a lawsuit against the Indian government, arguing that the traceability requirement is incompatible with end-to-end encryption. Because the company cannot predict which messages will be subject to a tracing order, the lawsuit notes, it will have to identify the originator of every message on its platform forever.

Ultimately, the rules are unconstitutional, the lawsuit asserts, because they infringe on

privacy without passing the three-part test, established in a 2017 Supreme Court ruling, of legality, necessity, and proportionality. Other lawsuits challenging the traceability clause echo these arguments.

Tech companies are hardly alone in opposing the IT rules. Three United Nations special rapporteurs – on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and on the right to privacy – have urged India's government to withdraw, review, or reconsider aspects of the rules. As written, the special rapporteurs argue, the rules are inconsistent with international human-rights norms enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a treaty India ratified in 1979.

The rapporteurs' letter also points out that the rules' ambiguous language leaves room for abuse. And experts have noted that, for all the risks the traceability requirement poses to security and privacy, it is not even likely to be effective.

As the world's largest democracy, India is widely considered one of the world's "digital deciders" in debates about cyber norms. But the Modi government's decisions regarding the internet run directly counter to the statement it signed last month. India cannot have it both ways.

Project Syndicate

SARS-CoV-2 has caused the greatest pandemic of the past 100 years. Understanding its origins is crucial for knowing what happened in late 2019 and for preparing for the next pandemic virus.

These studies take time, planning and cooperation. They must be driven by science – not politics or posturing. The investigation into the origins of SARS-CoV-2 has already taken too long. It has been more than 20 months since the first cases were recognised in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

This week US President Joe Biden was briefed by United States intelligence agencies on their investigation into the origins of the virus responsible for COVID-19, according to media. Parts of the investigation's report are expected to be publicly released within the next few days.

An early report from the New York Times suggests the investigation does not conclude whether the spread of the virus resulted from a lab leak, or if it emerged naturally in a spillover from animals to humans.

While a possible lab leak is a line of inquiry (should scientific evidence emerge), it mustn't distract from where the current evidence tells us we should be directing most of our energy. The more time that passes, the less feasible it will become for experts to determine the biological origins of the virus.

#### Six recommendations

I was one of the experts who visited Wuhan earlier this year as part of the World Health Organisation's investigation into SARS-CoV-2 origins. We found the evidence pointed to the pandemic starting as a result of zoonotic transmission of the virus, meaning a spillover from an animal to humans.

Our inquiry culminated in a report published in March which made a series of recommendations for further work. There is an urgent need to get on with designing studies to support these recommendations.

Today, myself and other independent authors of the WHO report have written to plead for this work to be accelerated. Crucial time is disappearing to work through the six priority areas, which include:

1. further trace-back studies based on early disease reports
2. SARS-CoV-2-specific antibody surveys in regions with early COVID-19 cases. This is important given a number of countries including Italy, France, Spain and the United Kingdom have often reported inconclusive evidence of early COVID-19 detection
3. trace-back and community sur-

veys of the people involved with the wildlife farms that supplied animals to Wuhan markets

4. risk-targeted surveys of possible animal hosts. This could be either the primary host (such as bats), or secondary hosts or amplifiers
5. detailed risk-factor analyses of pockets of early cases, wherever these have occurred
6. and follow up of any credible new leads.

#### Race against the clock

The biological feasibility of some of these studies is time dependent. SARS-CoV-2 antibodies emerge a week or so after someone has become infected and recovered from the virus, or after being vaccinated.

But we know antibodies decrease over time – so samples collected now

## A Little Too Late

Why it will soon be too late to find out where the COVID-19 virus originated

Dominic Dwyer



While the possibility of a laboratory accident can't be entirely dismissed, it is highly unlikely, given the repeated human-animal contact that occurs routinely in the wildlife trade. Still, the "lab-leak" hypotheses continue to generate media interest over and above the available evidence. These more political discussions further slow the cooperation and agreement needed to progress with the WHO report's phase two studies

from people infected before or around December 2019 may be harder to examine accurately.

Using antibody studies to differentiate between vaccination, natural infection, or even second infection (especially if the initial infection occurred in 2019) in the general population is also problematic.

For example, after natural infection a range of SARS-CoV-2-specific antibodies, such as to the spike protein or nucleoprotein, can be detected for varying lengths of time and in varying concentrations and ability to neutralise the virus.

But depending on the vaccine used, antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein may be all that is detected. These, too, drop with time.

There is also a need to have international consensus in the laboratory methods used to detect SARS-CoV-2-spe-

cific antibodies. Inconsistency in testing methods has led to arguments about data quality from many locations.

It takes time to come to agreement on laboratory techniques for serological and viral genomic studies, sample access and sharing (including addressing consent and privacy concerns). Securing funding also takes time – so time is not a resource we can waste.

#### Distance from potential sources

Moreover, many wildlife farms in Wuhan have closed down following the initial outbreak, generally in an unverified manner. And finding human or animal evidence of early coronavirus spillover is increasingly difficult as animals and humans disperse.

Fortunately, some studies can be done now. This includes reviews of early case studies, and blood donor studies in Wuhan and other cities in China (and anywhere else where there was early detection of viral genomes).

It is important to examine the progress or results of such studies by local and international experts, yet the mechanisms for such scientific cross-examination have not yet been put in place.

New evidence has come forward since our March report. These papers and the WHO report data have been reviewed by scientists independent of the WHO group. They have come to similar conclusions to the WHO report, identifying:

- the host reservoir for SARS-CoV-2 has not been found
- the key species in China (or elsewhere) may not have been tested
- and there is substantial scientific evidence supporting a zoonotic origin.

#### Teetering back and forth

While the possibility of a laboratory accident can't be entirely dismissed, it is highly unlikely, given the repeated human-animal contact that occurs routinely in the wildlife trade.

Still, the "lab-leak" hypotheses continue to generate media interest over and above the available evidence. These more political discussions further slow the cooperation and agreement needed to progress with the WHO report's phase two studies.

The World Health Organisation has called for a new committee to oversee future origins studies. This is laudable, but there is the risk of further delaying the necessary planning for the already outlined SARS-CoV-2 origins studies.

By arrangements with  
The Conversation



از نیابت انت ناگ با اجلاس انگریز کیلئے مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول ناگ

درخواست منجانب: رفیقہ جان دختر گلزار احمد شیخ ساکنہ انزالہ تحصیل ضلع ناگ

بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 294 SRO

اشتراک برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سالیہ نے ایک درخواست سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جس کی فوار پورٹ جو کہ زیر کاروانی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے ہے کہ سالیہ بچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے دہ ہذا میں سکونت پذیر ہے۔ کوئڈ کی تفصیل یوں ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	امدائی
۱۔	گلزار احمد شیخ ولد گل محمد شیخ	48 سال	مزدوری	=7000
۲۔	فاطمہ بانو زوجہ گلزار احمد شیخ	46 سال	گھریلو کام	
۳۔	عادل احمد ولد گلزار احمد شیخ	26 سال	مزدوری	
۴۔	رفیقہ جان دختر گلزار احمد شیخ	22 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۵۔	رفیقہ بانو زوجہ عادل احمد شیخ	24 سال	گھریلو کام	

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کیسے موجود نہیں ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اِزا د کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دروازہ ہفتی کی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار اِزا کرنے بعد مشتر اخبار عدالت ہذا کو آگاہ کیجئے عذر ت پیش کریں۔ بعد کو لڑائے میا کو کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نایب تحصیلدار۔ RNA

از نیابت دیلاگام با اجلاس انگریز کیلئے مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول دیلاگام

مضمون درخواست منجانب: محمد یوسف ولد غلام محمد الدین گنائی ساکنین دیلاگام انت ناگ

بغرض حصول ایگل ہیر سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتراک برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ایگل ہیر سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو زیر کاروانی ہے۔ حسب رپورٹ موتی کے باپ مورخ 12-03-2021 کو فوت ہو چکے۔ موتی کے وارثان جائز بنڈیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	رشتہ برادر	پیشہ	عمر	آمدنی
01	محمد یوسف ولد محمد غلام محمد الدین گنائی	پسر	کاروبار	53 سال	10000/
02	سمات حسینہ دختر دختر غلام محمد الدین گنائی	دختر	سرکاری ملازم	51 سال	LPC
03	سمات وزیرہ دختر دختر غلام محمد الدین گنائی	دختر	سرکاری ملازم	49 سال	LPC
04	زینہ بانو بیوہ محمد غلام محمد الدین گنائی	بیوہ	پیشہ	72 سال	P/C

موتی کا کنبہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ اِزا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں سات دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں۔ بعد از معیار اِزا کرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تقر الصدرا انگریز کیلئے مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول۔ RNA

از نیابت رنبیر پورہ با اجلاس امتیاز احمد ڈار صاحب

درخواست منجانب: اعلویشہ دختر شہیر احمد خان پٹھان ساکنہ رنبیر پورہ تحصیل مٹن

بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 294 SRO

اشتراک برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سالیہ نے ایک درخواست سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جس کی فوار پورٹ جو کہ زیر کاروانی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے ہے کہ سائل بچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے دہ ہذا میں سکونت پذیر ہے۔ کوئڈ کی تفصیل یوں ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	امدائی
۱۔	شہیر احمد خان پٹھان ولد غلام احمد پٹھان	49 سال	سرکاری ملازم	L.P.C
۲۔	شکیلہ بانو زوجہ شہیر احمد خان پٹھان	46 سال	گھریلو کام	
۳۔	شہباز خان دختر شہیر احمد خان پٹھان	24 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۴۔	فلوچان دختر شہیر احمد خان پٹھان	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۵۔	محمد صافقہ ولد شہیر احمد خان پٹھان	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طرح سائل کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنبہ میں ایک سرکاری ملازم موجود ہے۔ سالیہ کے کنبہ کے پاس دھڑ ہذا میں 2 کنال آراض موجود ہیں جس کا سالانہ آمدنی =40000 روپے ہے اور سالیہ کے کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی تمام زرعی سے تقریباً =150000 روپے تک ہیں سالیہ RBA سرٹیفکیٹ اِزا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد سات دن کے اندر اندر آچاندر یا عذر یا عذر ہذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از رے میا کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

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

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

Sub:- Representations submitted by the candidates for the post of Assistant Professor, Bio-Resource in Higher Education Department - Consideration thereof.

Notice Dated:- 23-08-2021

Whereas, the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission vide Notification No.10-PSC (DR-PJ) of 2017 date 27.10.2017 invited online application forms, on prescribed format, from the permanent residents of Jammu & Kashmir for the 10 posts of Assistant Professor, Bio-resource in Higher Education Department.

Whereas, the cut off merit under various categories alongwith the names of the eligible candidates was notified vide Notice dated 23.07.2021 with the stipulation that, if any candidate feels aggrieved with respect to the cut off merit and non-inclusion in the eligibility list, he/she may represent before the Commission within 10 days from the date of issuance of this Notice; and

Whereas, in response to the above Notice, representations have been received from the following candidates:-

S. No.	Name of the candidate
1.	Fayaz Ahmad Dar
2.	Bilal Ahmad Wani
3.	Nisar Ahmad Wani

Whereas, the representation submitted by the above candidates were scrutinized and examined in the Commission and the decision taken therein is indicated against each:-

S. No.	Name of the candidate	Remarks
1.	Fayaz Ahmad Dar	The candidate has done Ph.D degree in 2021 i.e. after cut-off date which is 31-12-2017. Hence, the representation is rejected.
2.	Bilal Ahmad Wani	The candidate has done his Master's degree in Botany. As per the decision of the Equivalence Committee furnished by the Higher Education Department the Master's degree in Botany is not equivalent to Master's degree in Bio-Resource. Hence, the representation is rejected.
3.	Nisar Ahmad Wani	The representation of the candidate which he had submitted in compliance to CAT Order, has already been considered and found devoid of any merit and accordingly, the claim has been rejected, vide consideration order dated 15.07.2021.

Note.

If any candidate feels further aggrieved, he/she may represent before the Appellate Authority of the Commission within 03 days from the date of issuance of this Notice. No grievance what-so-ever shall be entertained/accepted after the stipulated time period

No:- PSC/DR/Asstt-Prof/Bio-Resource/2017/11  
Dated: 23-08-2021

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

DIPK-7301/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

## Office of the Warden Gujjar and Bakerwal Boys Hostel

Anantnag

Email: [warden-ang@jk.qov.in](mailto:warden-ang@jk.qov.in)

QUOTATION

Date: 24/08/2021

Sealed quotations are invited from registered/reputed dealers/ Suppliers/Blacksmiths /painters for carrying out iron grilling of the doors/Windows, painting of main gate and design of the office sign Board. The quotations affixed with revenue stamp of Rs.02/- should reach this office within 03 days from the date of publication of quotation in the newspapers. Further details can be have had from the office of undersigned on any working day. The successful quotationer is bond to carry out the said work within 07 days positively from the date of receipt of the order for carrying out the said work. The quotationer should quote the rates inclusively of all taxes etc. The undersigned has the right to accept or reject any quotation or quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

S.No	Item With Specification	Rate Units
01	Design of sign Board	Per No
02	Iron Grill of Doors and windows	Per Kg
03	Coloring of main gate	Per Sq/ft

Terms and Conditions

- Cuttings/Overwriting in quotation if any should be attested/conditional quotation shall not be accepted. Rates should be mentioned in both words and figures.
- Rates quoted should be inclusively of all taxes.
- In case of any failure or not carrying out said work within scheduled time the quotation shall stand forfeited.
- No type of extra charge will be paid.
- Payment will be made after completion of the work in full and variation if any regarding specification shall be rejected outright.

Sd/-  
WARDEN

DIPK-7310/21

E-mail:- [techrpbpu1786@gmail.com](mailto:techrpbpu1786@gmail.com)  
Phone:- 01933-295302, 1988224

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

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

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No :- 160 /EEP/RNB/of 2021-22/6245-55  
Dated: 25 /08/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on Item Rate Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in (Rs.Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Ac-cord Approval No:
1	Improvement / upgradation of road from old Town Building to Shah Colony Extreme End and back to main road via New Colony-A including CC Drain.	20.00	800/-	30 Working Days	BEE & CEE	S/S	37-SE/PS of 2021-22 Dated: 23.08.2021

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25/08/2021
2. <th>Period of downloading of bidding documents</th> <td>From 25/08/2021 10:00 A.M.</td>	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 25/08/2021 10:00 A.M.
3. <th>Bid submission Start Date</th> <td>25/08/2021 from 10.00 AM</td>	Bid submission Start Date	25/08/2021 from 10.00 AM
4. <th>Bid Submission End Date</th> <td>06 /09/2021 upto 4.00 P.M</td>	Bid Submission End Date	06 /09/2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5. <th>Date &amp; time of opening of Bids (Online)</th> <td>07 /09/2021 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&amp;B Division Pulwama</td>	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07 /09/2021 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama
6. <th>Submission of Performance Security (PS)</th> <td>Within 3 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest bidder has to provide 3% of Contract Value Cost as Performance Security instead of EMD within 3 days after opening of Financial Bid)</td>	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 3 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest bidder has to provide 3% of Contract Value Cost as Performance Security instead of EMD within 3 days after opening of Financial Bid)

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and Bid securing declaration instead of EMD as per format Appendix-I below on Letter Head of Contractor/Agency/Firm in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama showing clearly the name of work along with NIT No. & S.No. failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly

- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

Head Draftsman Technical Officer

Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Pulwama

DIPK-7269/21

UT of Jammu & Kashmir

## Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre Srinagar

Tender Notice Inviting Tenders

Single Cover System

e-NIT No. 06 SKICC of 2021-22 Dated: 25.08.21

For and on behalf of the Governor, J&K State, e-tender (In single cover system) is invited on item rate basis from the Registered/Reputed Dealer/Suppliers/OEMs approved by UT JK Govt, CPWD, Railways and other state/central govt for the following works

S. No	Name of work	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Period of contract	Class of contractor
01	Annual Rate Contract For Hiring Of Video Wall/HD Cameras/ TV Screen/Sound System On Rental Basis Including its Operation /Installation at SKICC.	1000.00	01 year	Registered agencies/dealers having relevant infrastructure and experience in dealing with such similar jobs.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, 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](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below: -

1.	Date of issue of tender notice	25.08.2021
2. <th>Period of downloading of bidding documents</th> <td>25.08.2021 AT 02 P.M</td>	Period of downloading of bidding documents	25.08.2021 AT 02 P.M
3. <th>Bid submission start date (on line)</th> <td>25.08.2021 AT 2PM</td>	Bid submission start date (on line)	25.08.2021 AT 2PM
4. <th>Bid submission End date (on line)</th> <td>06.09.21 upto 5 PM</td>	Bid submission End date (on line)	06.09.21 upto 5 PM
5. <th>Date &amp; time of opening of bids (online)</th> <td>07.09.21</td>	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	07.09.21

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in shape of demand draft in favor of the Executive engineer SKICC, Srinagar (Tender inviting/Receiving Authority). The date of DD should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date.
- All bidders have to submit bid security declaration form instead of earnest money as per annexure A as per circular of finance department.
- The first lowest has to produce a fixed amount Rs50,000/= as performance security in the shape of CDR /FDR/Bank Guarantee within 3 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).
- The bids for the contract shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of financial bid.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:  
a) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement immediately after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquire bid submission process.
- b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per information technology Act 2000, bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- c. The bidders have to submit their bids on line in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bids will be accepted in physical form.
- d. Bids will be opened on line as per time schedule.
- e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary/documents with bid.
- f. The rates quoted by the supplier shall involve all prevailing taxes including carriages & other charges.
8. In case of any dispute /difference between contractor and department arise the decision of the Director, SKICC will be final.
9. Time Extension: The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT/allotment.
10. The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirement as laid down in NIT
11. All other terms and conditions as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form)

HD  
SKICC

Executive Engineer  
SKICC

No: SKICC/EE/21/161-65  
Dated: 25.08.21

DIPK-NB-2949/21

Email : [jklsal234@gmail.com](mailto:jklsal234@gmail.com)  
Telephone : 0194-2480408.Fax.0194-2476945

## JAMMU & KASHMIR LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

### OLD SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR

NO: 07

Date: 25.08.2021

Subject:Short listing/Interview notice for the post of Junior Assistant in J&K Legal Services Authority notified vide notification no. 06 of 2021 dated 24.08.2021.

Corrigendum to the notice dated 24.08.2021

In continuation to this office notification no. 6 dated 24.08.2021, the candidates, whose Roll Nos are mentioned below, have been also shortlisted for interview under "Social Caste Category" on the basis of their merit/performance in the written test for the post of Junior Assistants in J&K Legal Services Authority pursuant to the subject notification. They shall appear for their interview on the date and at venue mentioned against their Roll Nobeolow:

S.No	Roll no.	Category	Venue of Interview	Date of Interview
1.	JA00530	Social Caste	JK LSA Authority Old Secretariate Srinagar	05.09.2021
2.	JA02196	Social Caste	JK LSA Authority JDA Complex Jammu	07.09.2021
3.	JA02197	Social Caste	JK LSA Authority JDA Complex Jammu	07.09.2021
4.	JA02454	Social Caste	JK LSA Authority JDA Complex Jammu	07.09.2021
5.	JA02793	Social Caste	JK LSA Authority JDA Complex Jammu	07.09.2021
6.	JA02794	Social Caste	JK LSA Authority JDA Complex Jammu	07.09.2021

Note: The conditions are same as are reflected in Notification No 6 dated 24.08.2021.

By order.

Sd/-  
(M.K. Sharma)  
Member Secretary

No:LSA(Estt)04/21/ 1617-22 Dated: 25.08.2021

DIPK-7309/21



## NMP A Plan To 'Sell' India's Assets, Will Be 'Disastrous': Left Parties

### Agencies

New Delhi (PTI): Left parties on Wednesday hit out at the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, claiming that is a plan to "sell" India's assets and it will be "disastrous".

"CAMOUFLAGED in jargon that speaks of 'monetisation of de-risked assets', the BJP-led NDA government has announced its plan to sell out India's public sector," the CPI(M) said in an editorial in its mouthpiece People's Democracy.

The party also said that the finance minister "conveniently side-stepped" key issues.

"It is a scheme to engineer a transfer of income and wealth to those at the apex of the wealth pyramid," it said.

The party also said that there is "little clarity" on how the government would ensure that private managers of assets would provide services of acceptable quality. Putting in place a regulatory regime for the purpose can be costly and time consuming, leading to neglect and a decline in the quality of more expensive services.

It also alleged that the scheme, which the party said was "scandalous" was aimed to fatten the "bottom line of cho-

sen business" houses and would not contribute significantly to the creation of new assets.

"The government claims that Rs 111 lakh crore will be invested over five years in projects included in the so-called National Infrastructure Pipeline. The Rs 6 lakh crore to be realised from asset monetisation is only about five per cent of that. This is nothing but a scam parading as a plan," it said.

The CPI in a statement also criticised the NMP stating that it was a continuation of the "government's anti-people economic policies".

"Disastrous national monetisation continues. All of us know that monetisation is one step short of direct sale and privatisation of national assets. Thus the government's anti-people economic policies continue," CPI general secretary D Raja said in a statement.

"The government abdicates its responsibility to revive the economy from recession and shows its shameful commitment to help the corporate houses and big business houses to loot the national assets, he alleged.

The Communist Party of India calls upon people to intensify struggles against these retrograde policies, Raja said.

## Tech Companies Pledge Billions In Cybersecurity Investments

### Agencies

Washington (AP): Some of the country's leading technology companies have committed to investing billions of dollars to strengthen cybersecurity defences and to train skilled workers, the White House has announced, following President Joe Biden's private meeting with top executives.

The gathering was held Wednesday during a relentless stretch of ransomware attacks that have targeted critical infrastructure, in some cases with the attackers extorting multimillion-dollar payments from major corporations, as well as other illicit cyber operations that US authorities have linked to foreign hackers.

The Biden administration has been urging the private sector to do its part to strengthen cybersecurity defences against those increasingly sophisticated attacks. In public remarks before the private meeting got underway, Biden referred to cybersecurity as a core national security challenge for the US.

The reality is most of our critical infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector, and the federal government can't

meet this challenge alone, Biden said. I've invited you all here today because you have the power, the capacity and the responsibility, I believe, to raise the bar on cybersecurity.

After the meeting, the White House announced that Google had committed to invest 10 billion in cybersecurity over the next five years, money aimed at helping secure the software supply chain and expand zero-trust programmes.

The Biden administration has looked for ways to safeguard the government's supply chain following a massive Russian government cyber espionage campaign that exploited vulnerabilities and gave hackers access to the networks of US government agencies and private companies.

Microsoft, meanwhile, said it would invest 20 billion in cybersecurity over the next five years and make available 150 million in technical services to help local governments improve their defences. IBM plans to train 150,000 people in cybersecurity over three years, and Apple said it would develop a new programme to help strengthen the supply chain.

Top executives of each of

those companies were invited to Wednesday's meeting, as were financial industry executives and representatives from the energy, education and insurance sectors.

A government initiative that at first supported the cybersecurity defences of electric utilities has been expanded to focus on natural gas pipelines, the White House said Wednesday.

Though ransomware was intended as one focus of Wednesday's gathering, a senior administration official who briefed reporters in advance said the purpose was much broader, centered on identifying the root causes of malicious cyber activities and ways in which the private sector can help bolster cybersecurity. The official briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity.

The meeting took place as Biden's national security team has been consumed by the troop withdrawal in Afghanistan and the chaotic evacuation of Americans and Afghan citizens. That it remained on the calendar indicates the administration regards cybersecurity as a major agenda item, with the administration official describing Wednesday's meeting as a call to action.

## ED Seizes Funds Worth Rs 107 Cr Of Chinese-Controlled Loan App Firm For FEMA Violation

### Agencies

New Delhi (PTI) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it has seized funds worth about Rs 107 crore of a Chinese-controlled NBFC, engaged in dishing out instant personal loans over an internet-based app, for alleged violation of the foreign exchange law.

The agency said the funds of PC Financial Services Private Limited (PCFS), a non-banking financial company (NBFC), were lying in bank accounts and virtual accounts over online payment gateways and those have been seized under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The total amount seized is Rs 106.93 crore.

The ED said the case came on its radar during an ongoing money-laundering probe against a number of NBFCs and FinTech companies that are linked to in-

stant personal loan-providing mobile applications.

These loans were being dished out with a high rate of interest and recovered using the personal data of the customers illegally and threatening and abusing them through call centres, the



agency said in a statement.

The alleged illegalities of these apps were reported from a number of states last year, especially following the economic stress triggered by the lockdown clamped to curb the spread of COVID-19, and a number of people

were reported to have been driven to end their lives due to the extortion and bullying of these "dubious" companies.

In the latest case, the NBFC was giving out such loans through a mobile phone app called "cash-bean".

The agency alleged that the management of the company "failed" to give any justification for these expenses and admitted that all remittances were made to move money out of India and park it abroad in the accounts of group companies "controlled" by the Chinese promoter.

Hence, it charged that PCFS "illegally" remitted huge funds outside India in the guise of importing non-existent software and marketing services to park the funds abroad and hold those in the accounts of related foreign companies, leading to contravention of the FEMA.

## SAIL Aims At Reducing Net Debt To Rs 15,000-20,000cr In FY22

### Agencies

Kolkata (PTI): Steel Authority of India Ltd is aiming at reducing its net debt to a range of Rs 15,000-20,000 crore in the current fiscal if the prices and demand for the commodity remain stable, a top company official said on Thursday.

The Maharatna PSU has around Rs 30,000 crore net debt as of June 30, 2021, down from Rs 35,350 crore by end of the previous fiscal.

"We are aiming at reducing the debt drastically from around Rs 30,000 crore now to anywhere between Rs 15,000-20,000 crore, depending on steel prices and demand situation," SAIL chairman Soma Mondal said on the sidelines of the inauguration of MSTC's new headquarters in New Town on the outskirts of the city. She was hopeful

that demand will pick up in the coming months.

Prices of flat products remain stable, while those of long ones are improving, Mondal said.

Domestic steel major had decreased its net debt by Rs 16,131 crore to Rs 35,350 crore during the 2020-21 financial year.

The company had announced that it would spend Rs 8,000 crore as capital expenditure during the current financial year.

The steelmaker posted a consolidated net profit of Rs

3,897 crore for the April-June quarter of the 2021-22 fiscal, as against a loss of Rs 1,226 crore in the year-ago period.



## India's Economy May Recover In Fy23 If Govt Doesn't Take Foolish Decisions: Chidambaram

Panaji (PTI): Former Union finance minister P Chidambaram on Thursday said that India's economy is at the "lowest ebb" right now and it may recover in fiscal 2022-23 provided the government does not take any "foolish decisions".

Chidambaram, who has been appointed by the Congress as the party's election observer for Goa, where Assembly polls are due early next year, made the statement during a press conference here on the second day of his two-day visit to the coastal state.

"Indian economy is at the lowest ebb. Please remember that last year we ended with negative growth in GDP. The GDP declined," he said.

"The government talks of V-shaped recovery. In this year, the GDP will not be back to pre-

pandemic level. It is only when the GDP goes back to the pre-pandemic level you can say it is



recovering," he added.

Chidambaram said that the GDP's recovery may happen in the year 2022-23.

"But everything will depend upon how many foolish decisions the government takes," the Congress veteran said.

## 3rd BoDs Meeting Of JKHC, JKHDC Draw Comprehensive Strategy To Boost Sales, Marketability Of Artisans' Products: Khan Directs Officers

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Thursday chaired the 3rd Joint Board of Directors meeting of J&K Handicrafts (S&E) Corporation and J&K Handloom Development Corporation at Civil Secretariat here.

The Board of Directors meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Industries and

He also directed them to pace up the progress of upcoming showrooms at Pahalgam, Gulmarg and other vital locations which witness huge footfall of tourists.

The Advisor also asked the Handloom Development Corporation for enhancing value of the products coupled with better marketing strategies



Commerce Department, Ranjan Kumar Thakur, Managing Director J&K Handicrafts (S&E) Corporation and J&K Handloom Development Corporation, Hashmat Ali Yatoo, Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, Mehmood Ahmad Shah. BoD members from Jammu attended the meeting through video conferencing.

While chairing the BoD meeting, Advisor stressed on framing a comprehensive marketing strategy so that the handicraft, handloom and other handmade craft items from J&K can be marketed in a very effective manner.

While directing officers to explore various other non-conventional marketing methods, the Advisor directed for proper e-marketing of the products, so that the ambit of marketing of handicraft and handloom products is broadened besides increasing the scope of providing these in untapped markets nationally as well as globally.

He directed the officers to lay special emphasis on marketing strategy and said that success stories of some successful e-commerce sites should be replicated for increasing the marketability of the produce of the artisans.

that will fetch better returns for the corporation. He also directed the Corporation to place bill boards of Emporium showroom at Airport and other locations for the information of domestic and foreign tourists.

Managing Director J&K Handicrafts & Handloom, Hashmat Yatoo gave a presentation about the functioning and the progress of the various aspects of the Corporation.

He informed that the corporation to benefit the grass root level artisans of J&K took a major step by changing its policy of procurement from SCR to own trading thus benefiting directly the artisans of J&K and eliminating the role of middlemen. The purchase is being made out of revolving fund created by the Corporation and also gets support from the Government's side in the shape of CAPEX budget. The procurement policy was made more transparent and artisan friendly following all the procedures.

Regarding providing space to artisans to market their produce, MD informed that the Corporation has come up with a solution to help them by providing space in Corporation showrooms located at all prominent places under the name of Direct Marketing Assistance.

## Saffron Our Identity, Committed To Revive Its Glory: Dir AP&FWD

PULWAMA: The Director Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Department (AP&FWD) Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Thursday said that the Saffron is our identity and the department is committed to revive its glory and explore all the possibilities, opportunities for the development of this sector to its extreme potential.

The Director said this during his visit to the saffron growing areas of Pampore.

On the occasion, Iqbal met a number of saffron growers and farmer delegations and took stock of various activities that are being carried out by the farmers during the present season.

While interacting with the farmers, the Director assured them of every cooperation and

technical guidance from the department. He said that all the necessary initiatives have already been taken up by the department for the proper marketing and branding of the saffron produced in Kashmir.

He called upon the concerned officers to adopt a proactive approach in reaching out to the farmers to ensure speedy deliverance of technical guidance so that all the initiatives taken up by the department and the facilities provided to the farmers may prove productive in their socio-economic transformation.

The Director was accompanied by Deputy Director Planning Mohammad Younis Choudhary and other officers of the department during the visit.

## Markets Eke Out Slim Gains; Nifty Scales Fresh Peak

Mumbai (PTI): Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended on a flat note on Thursday as monthly derivatives expired amid a weak trend in global markets and sustained foreign fund outflows. After trading range-bound through the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended just 4.89 points or 0.01 per cent higher at 55,949.10. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 2.25 points or 0.01 per cent to its fresh closing peak of 16,636.90.

Reliance Industries was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising over 1 per cent, followed by M&M, HCL Tech, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and HUL. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, Maruti, SBI, PowerGrid, NTPC and Tata Steel were among the laggards.

"Indian market started flat to marginally negative following negative Asian market cues as South Korea's central bank hiked interest rates, making it

the first developed economy to do so in the pandemic era," said Narendra Solanki, Head- Equity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rath.

During the afternoon session, markets attempted a comeback following buying in blue chip stocks from across various sectors, he said, adding that sentiments were positive amid reports that Indian economic growth will likely touch a record high in the June quarter.

However, markets trimmed their gains in the closing session as a report from ratings agency Moody's said India's second COVID-19 wave has increased asset risks for banks in retail and the SME loan segment, he noted.

Meanwhile, US equities extended gains in overnight session with S&P 500 and Nasdaq witnessing fresh record highs ahead of Fed Chairman Jerome Powell's speech on Friday at the Jackson Hole Symposium.

## Make Mandatory 'Bumper-To-Bumper' Insurance: HC

Madras: In a significant order, the Madras High Court has ruled that "bumper-to-bumper" insurance should be mandatory whenever a new vehicle is sold, from September 1. This must be in addition to covering the driver, passengers and owner of the vehicle, for a period of five years. Thereafter, the owner of the vehicle must be cautious in safeguarding the interest of driver, passengers, third parties and himself/herself, so as to avoid unnecessary liability being foisted on the owner of the vehicle, as beyond five years, as on date there is no provision to extend the bumper to bumper policy, due to its non-availability, Justice S Vaidyanathan said in a recent order. The judge was allowing a writ petition from the New India Assurance Company Limited in Avalpoondurai, challenging the orders dated December 7, 2019 of the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal, Special District Court in Erode. The Insurance company pointed out that the insurance policy in question was only an "Act Policy", which would cover only the risk that might be confronted by a third party to the vehicle and not its occupants. The coverage for an occupant of the vehicle could be extended upon payment of additional premium by the owner of the car, the insurance company contended. The judge passed this order, which would go a long way in coming to the aid of lots of accident victims. He, however, could not come to the rescue of the claimants in this case, as the vehicle, in which their breadwinner was travelling/driving, was covered only with third-party insurance. .PTI

## Government of the Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of Information & Public Relations

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### NOTICE

Date of tender notice issued vide endorsement No: INF/PUR- 02/2018-19/1180-87 dated:05-08-2021/ followed by corrigendum vide endorsement no: INF/PUR-2018-19 dated:13-08-2021 published in-the . local leading newspapers on 7th August 2021 from Srinagar/Jammu, regarding executing an AMC (Annual Maintenance Contract) of Photocopiers installed in the office of Directorate of Information & PR, J&K is further extended to 07-09-2021 up to 4:00 Pm.

NO:INF/PUR-02/2018-19/1556-62 dated 26/08/2021

DIPK-7359/21

Administrative Officer Directorate Of Information



**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.  
Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

### NOTICE

Admission (Selection) Notification No. 04 of 2021 Dated 25-08-2021 for admission to following programmes is available on university website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in). The candidates whose Roll No's/ Form No's are reflected in the said notification are advised to go through the same and follow the instructions. The Last date for completion of admission formalities is **06-09-2021**.

Master of Business Administration (MBA)	M. A. International Relations
M. A. Economics	M. Sc. Physics
M. A. Journalism & Mass Communication	M. Sc. Chemistry
M. A. Islamic Studies	M. Sc. Statistics
M. A. Political Science (IR)	M. Tech Food Technology
M. A. English Language and Literature	

The detailed merit list(s) of all the above said programmes are also available on the University website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in).

**Admission under Self Financing Category / NRI Sponsored Quota:** For Self-Financing Category: The eligible candidate(s) whose name is shown in the Merit List and are desirous to apply under Self Financing Category may apply online by or before **15-09-2021**. The students can apply by clicking on the tab (Apply For Payment Seat) in admission portal available on University website and deposit fee of Rs 500/- (non-refundable) either online or offline at any branch of J&K Bank Ltd against a print out of the auto-generated pay-in-slip. They need not to submit the hard copies of their Self-Financing Application Form and Fee Receipt to the University at this point of time, however, the original Fee receipt may be required later for admission purposes if the candidate is selected.

**For NRI Sponsored Quota:** The eligible candidate(s) desirous to apply under NRI Sponsored Quota are advised to submit application in the Office of **Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora** on any working day by or before **06-09-2021** (except on Saturday & Sunday) alongwith application fee of Rs. 500/- and copy (ies) of required NRI Sponsored documents as mentioned in the University Prospectus 2021. The candidates who have not applied earlier can also apply under this quota.

Queries, if any, can be made on **EPABX: 01933-247252 Phone: 9906400789 / 9858306455**

Email ID: [admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in](mailto:admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in)

No. IUST/Acad/Admissions/21/271

Dated: 26-08-2021

Sd/-  
Assistant Registrar, Academics



[illegible]





**THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH ARSHAD NADEEM** using my javelin to prepare, it is within rules and please do not use my name to push a dirty agenda,"

## Two Matches Played In Super Division Football League 2021



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In the ongoing Super Division Annual Football League Tournament 2021 two matches were played on Thursday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The Super Division League is being organised by District Football Association (DFA) Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir Football Association and the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council.

The first match of the day was played between Young Rangreth FC and Court Road FC. Both the clubs started with an aggressive note trying to create gaps to find the net. Court Road FC in the 5th minute scored a goal through Hyder. Young Rangreth FC did their best to equalize although they made certain good moves at the opponents goal but could not succeed.

The first half was evenly balanced and the score at half time was 1:0 in favour of Court Road FC. The second half saw good football with Young Rangreth FC leaving no stone unturned to go for an equaliser. Their efforts bore fruits when Court Road FC succeeded in equalizing through a goal by Mehboob Sarfaraz in 62nd minute. The match eventually ended with 1-1 draw.

The second match was played Young Iqbal FC and Towheed FC Rajbagh.

Right from the start of the match both teams made

calculated moves at each others goal but could not find the net immediately. It was in the 20th minute of the first half that Towheed FC took the lead by scoring a goal through Faizan.

Young Iqbal FC did their best to equalize although they made certain good moves at the opponents goal but could not succeed. The solid defence of the Towheed FC did not give any chances to the opponent. In the dying moments of the match, Towheed FC doubled the lead through Mohd. Kaif and maintained the 2-0 goal lead till the final whistle. The match ended with 2-0 goal in favour of Towheed FC.

### 14th Edition Late Dada Sir Memorial League: Two Matches Played

Two matches were played on Thursday in the ongoing 14th Edition Late Dada Sir Memorial League Football Championship, in Bandipora.

The last two matches of the League's first round were played at S. K. Stadium Bandipora.

First match was played between B. N. Gazi FC and Aragam FC in which B. N. Gazi FC won the match by 2 goals to nil.

The second match was awarded to Real Wular FC Laharwpora as United Watapora FC failed to report to the ground.

The tournament is being organised by DFA Bandipora.

## All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation Concludes Pir Panjal Summit



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation trekked to more than 20 lakes and valleys of the Pir Panjal region, covering the districts of Shopian, Poonch and Rajouri, in an expedition that started on August 22.

The 9 member team of AJKMF left Srinagar early morning and drove all the way to Pir Ki Gali in Shopian. The team halted at Dongi Marg near famous Pir Ki Gali pass and kick-started their trek.

The mountaineers set out for the Hirpora lakes from Dongi Marg along Jaddi Nallah which is one of the main sources of Rambiar Nallah.

AJKMF reached the wonderful (1) Chandan Sar lake at around 3:00 pm. After a break of 30 minutes the team started the ascent to Jaddi pass where they came across the (2) Lakhsukh Sar and the (3) Handu Sar lakes. The team decided to set a base camp at Handu Sar, pitching tents and conserving strength for the next day.

On Day 2, August 23, The AJKMF team set off towards Bhag Sar which is the 3rd largest alpine lake in J&K after Kousarnag and Gangbal. Bhagsar is located within the Administrative boundaries of District Shopian.

The team called it a "A New day, A New beginning", as it was time for them to traverse the "Ropri Pass" where one can explore the (4) Bagh Sar on the one side and (5) Barnai Sar on the other.

The trekking team ventured around the area, enjoyed the beautiful weather and explored (7) Sonasar, (8) Chambarsar, (9) Padasar, (10) Katarnal Sar and (11) Nejasar lakes.

They came across these lakes after hiking up to Neja Gali, which is the border between Shopian and Rajouri districts. The pass itself was covered by haze and large glaciers.

The AJKMF team further explored 3 more lakes (12) Dakiyar Sar, (13) Tikyar Sar and (14) Belya Sar. Reaching back to their Hindu Sar base camp at around 6 pm.

The third day, August 25, of the expedition was taxing, both physically and emotionally as over the previous two days team had

crossed 4-6 passes and already explored dozens of lakes. But the determined mountaineers had their eyes set on adventuring through 8 more lakes on the same day.

The team reached back to Chandan Sar and moved towards Shankar Marg. The path helped the team to explore (15) Katori Sar, (16) Kadchi Sar, (17) Niel Sar, (18) Sukh Sar, (19) Kaldichni Sar, (20) Unnamed lake, (21) Kukad Sar and (22) Nandandara.

The Team Desendened back from Nandan Sar and took the same route towards Pir Ki Gali, where they boarded up and safely reached back to their Srinagar at 11:30 pm.

Speaking about the trek, the AJKMF said:

"This trek was special for our Club which makes us arguably the first Club to have explored the '20 lakes, 'Passes' and 'Valleys' in and around the Hirpora WLS."

"Apart from that, it's a matter honour that two of our club members namely, Ahsan Mohsin and Rameez Ahmad Dar, completed a mark of exploring 100+ Alpine lakes in the Kashmir region," the AJKMF said.

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## Don't Use My Name To Further Propaganda & Dirty Agenda: Neeraj Chopra

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra on Thursday said he was pained by the controversy surrounding his comments on Pakistani Arshad Nadeem using his javelin during the Tokyo Games and called the entire furore "propaganda aimed at pushing a dirty agenda."

The 23-year-old Army man, who won India's maiden Olympic medal in athletics, said nobody should use his name to rake up any controversy.

"I would request everyone to please not use me and my comments as a medium to further your vested interest and propaganda," Chopra, who became only the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold, said on his Twitter handle.

"Sports teaches us to be together and united. I'm extremely disappointed to see some of the reactions from the public on my recent comments."

"There was nothing wrong with Arshad Nadeem using my javelin to prepare, it is within rules and please do not use my name to push a dirty agenda," he added.

Chopra, in a recent interview, stated that he was searching for his personal javelin before his first throw during the Olympic final on August 7 and found Nadeem holding it.

According to rules, any javelin submitted to the officials by a

competitor for his use can also be used by any other participant. This rule applies in all field events except for pole vault.

Chopra, who had used Valhalla version of Nordic brand during the final, made it clear that Nadeem, who had finished fifth, had not done anything wrong.

"A controversy (mudda) has come up that I had talked about taking the javelin from Pakistani participant Arshad Nadeem before my first throw in the final (on August 7). It has been made into a big controversy," Chopra said in a video clip posted along with his tweet.

"It's a very simple thing, we keep our personal javelin (inside a holding rack) but it can be used by anybody. It is the rule and there is nothing wrong in that. He (Nadeem) was having the javelin and preparing for his throw. I asked him to give it to me for my throw."

"I am very sad that a big controversy has been created taking my name. We javelin throwers share a good bond and speak to each other nicely."

A former coach echoed Chopra's view.

"There is no controversy. It is not that you brought your personal javelin and nobody can use it. When you submitted it, others can also use it. Any participant can use any javelin which is there (in the holding rack)," he said.

## PM Imran Khan Has Nominated Me For PCB Chairmanship, Says Ramiz Raja

Agencies

**ISLAMABAD:** Former Pakistan cricketer Ramiz Raja could soon shun full-time commentary gigs to lead a pivotal role in administration as he says he has been nominated by Prime Minister Imran Khan to become the next chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

In an interview with Dawn.com, Raja confirmed to "have been informed by the Prime Minister's Office" that he is PM Imran's choice to take over the PCB from Ehsan Mani.

Raja said an official notification of his nomination by the prime minister, also the PCB's patron-in-chief, will be issued soon, following which he would contest PCB elections and become the new chairman of the board.

The comments came after the current PCB supremo Ehsan Mani confirmed to media that he will be stepping down from his role.

### Ehsan Mani Steps Down As Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ehsan Mani on Thursday stepped down from the post after completing his three-year term.

An official of the PCB

confirmed that Mani was no longer chairman of the board as his tenure ended on August 25.

"We can make no further comments on the matter as the notification for the election of the new chairman will be issued by the Prime Minister's house," he said.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is presently the patron in chief of the board and will now nominate two people to the PCB Board of Governors (BOG), and one of them will be elected as the new chairman.

Rumours were circulating that Pakistan's former Test captain Ramiz Raja will take over as the new chairman of the board.

Both Mani and Ramiz have held meetings with the PM this week but it remains unclear whether Khan will nominate Ramiz on the BOG.

Ramiz told a cricket website that he had submitted a blueprint for the restructuring of Pakistan cricket to the PM when he was called for the meeting.

"Pakistan cricket needs a new direction as our rankings in all three formats indicates our cricket is not improving as the prime minister wanted," he said.

Mani confirmed to Geo News channel that he had declined to continue any longer as chairman of the board. (PTI)

## Advisor Khan Reviews Progress On Ongoing JKSC Sports Infrastructure Projects



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to LG, Farooq Khan on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of various sports infrastructure projects under J&K Sports Council (JKSC) at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Secretary JKSC, Nuzhat Gul, Executive Engineers and other concerned officials of the Sports Council.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the physical progress achieved on various projects like Arun Jaitley International Stadium at Kathua, construction of synthetic hockey turfs at Polo Ground, Srinagar and K.K Hakku Stadium, Jammu, Mini Stadium at Parade Ground, Jammu, multi-purpose indoor sports halls at Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Budgam and other places, Gymnastics hall at MAM Stadium Jammu, Skating rink at Jammu, Lawn Tennis court at Jammu and several similar other projects were also discussed in detail.

While reviewing the progress on these projects, Advisor Farooq Khan stressed upon the officers for speedy and timely completion of all the projects of JKSC to provide sportspersons of J&K a reliable and modern type of sports infrastructure to realize their potential. He asked them to make concerted efforts to involve more and more youth into sports to channelize their energies.

Speaking on the progress made on construction of Arun Jaitley International Stadium at Kathua, synthetic hockey turfs at Srinagar and Jammu and other

big projects, Advisor Khan directed the officers that all these big sports stadiums should be equipped with all types of modern facilities.

The Advisor directed them that ramps and seating arrangement for differently abled persons should be built at these places besides conveniences for physically challenged persons should also be constructed at all the stadiums.

He further directed the officers to devise a plan for installing solar rooftops at big stadiums so that the energy needs can be met besides an option of distributing the excess power generated to nearby offices or utilities on payment basis should also be looked into.

The Advisor also directed the officers to devise a mechanism for water harvesting at all stadiums so that the water harvested by this technique can be utilised for different purposes while carrying out various activities in these stadiums.

While reviewing the sports activities being organised across the rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Advisor Khan directed the Secretary JKSC to look into an option organising a sports festival at newly constructed multi-purpose indoor sports hall at Tral. He also directed the Secretary to organise sports festivals and camps across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Secretary JKSC gave a detailed presentation on the progress achieved on various ongoing sports infrastructure projects in J&K.

## ARCO FC Reach Finals After Defeating DFA Budgam In Thrilling Encounter

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a thrilling football match, ARCO FC defeated DFA Budgam in Hajin Soccer Cup 2021 to make it to the finals of the tournament.

The semi-finals of the tournament were played at Hajin Sports Ground in north Kashmir's Hajin area.

This was the first semi-final of the Hajin Soccer Cup during which ARCO FC and DFA Budgam competed against each other. The match proved to be a thrilling contest as both teams did their best to secure a place in the finals. ARCO FC however played attacking football to win the game by 2 goals to DFA Budgam's 1.



Shahid from ARCO FC was declared man of the match for his match-winning performance.

ARCO FC club is managed by 'ARCO Cement', which is one of

the leading cement brands of J&K. The organisation has been vocal in the upliftment of sports in J&K, with special focus on football.

## England Pile Misery On Listless India, Joe Root Closes In On 3rd Ton Of Series

Press Trust of India

**LEEDS:** Skipper Joe Root batted like a dream while Dawid Malan struck a sublime fifty in his comeback game as England piled misery on India to reach 298 for three at tea on day two of the second Test at Headingley on Thursday.

Runs came thick and fast for England in the afternoon session as India bowlers appeared toothless, both with old and new ball. The hosts added 116 runs in the session to extend their lead to 220 runs.

Root (80 batting off 94) and Malan (70 off 128) shared a 139-run stand off 189 balls before the southpaw picked up a faint edge while trying to flick Mohammad Siraj at the stroke of tea.

Indian pacers, who scripted a memorable win at Lord's, bowled too many boundary balls and the England duo was quick to put them away.

The pitch seems to have eased out considerably for the batsman after India collapsed to 78 all out on day one.

Root, who had been single-handedly carrying the batting responsibilities, got much need support from Malan, who



has made an instant impact in his first Test in three years.

Indian bowlers have not been able to trouble Root so far in the series and the skipper scored runs at will on Thursday. He seems to be in the form of his life and reached his 51st fifty off just 57 balls with a gorgeous back foot punch through the covers.

Malan too played some delightful strokes and was brutal as well as elegant on the off-side. Besides the cover drives and rasping cut shots, he also effectively used the glide to third man region.

With England looking good to bat India out of the game, the

visitors will need to produce something special to bounce back.

In the morning session, India struck twice but it was not enough to put England under pressure.

England managed to score 62 runs in the session, taking their first innings to score 182 for two having started the day at 120 for no loss.

Mohammad Shami looked the most threatening among the four Indian fast bowlers, who did not get enough seam or swing movement for the second day running.

Shami, coming round the wicket, removed Rory Burns (61 off 153) in the first hour

of play with a ball that nipped back in sharply to hit the top of off-stump.

India got a much needed second wicket against the run of play when Ravindra Jadeja struck in his first over of the day with a beauty.

The left-arm spinner got one to straighten slightly from middle and off-stump to beat a well-set Haseeb Hameed (68 off 195) and kiss the bails for his first wicket of the series.

Ishtant Sharma opened the bowling for India and like on Wednesday, did not look at his best and struggled to find the right line and length on the surface. England fast bowlers had bowled much fuller on day one.

The Indian attack, which relies on seam more than swing, has not been able to get much movement off the surface.

The accuracy, which England pacers displayed, also has been missing from the Indians.

Mohammad Siraj bowled a couple of looseners in his first over which Malan duly cut to the deep backward point and third man respectively. The southpaw began with an elegant cover drive off Jasprit Bumrah before growing in confidence.

## Juventus Hosts Empoli In What Could Be Ronaldo's Last Match For Them

Agencies

**MILAN:** Once again, Cristiano Ronaldo could be playing his final match for Juventus.

The Portugal great's departure has been rumored for months, with Paris Saint-Germain — and a dream team of him and Lionel Messi — or Manchester City the likeliest destinations.

Juventus met with Ronaldo's agent, Jorge Mendes, on Thursday. The talks lasted about an hour and a half but little reportedly came out of them.

Ronaldo ripped off his shirt in celebration last weekend after scoring what would have been the winning goal, only for it to be ruled out for offside. He'll get another chance on Saturday against Empoli. The 36-year-old Ronaldo has only one year left on his contract, and with no apparent offer on the table, Juventus is eager to settle the matter one way or another.

The transfer window closes on Tuesday and even his teammates say they have no idea whether Ronaldo will be with them past that date.

"He has not told me anything about his future and we don't know if he will stay, but I hope he will stay for a long time," said 19-year-old Kaio Jorge, who just joined from Brazilian club Santos.

"Cristiano Ronaldo has always been a source of inspiration for me. I will be by his side every day to learn as much as possible from him."



## Forced Sex With Wife Does Not Amount To Rape, Says Chhattisgarh HC

Press Trust of India

**BILASPUR:** The Chhattisgarh High Court has discharged a 37-year-old man in a rape case filed against him by his wife after observing that sexual intercourse or any sexual act with a legally wedded wife is not rape even if done by force or against her wish.

However, the HC did not grant any relief to the man who was also charged under IPC section 377 (unnatural offences).

Justice NK Chandravanshi delivered the judgement on August 23 in a criminal revision plea filed by the man and his two family members, seeking to quash rape charge (against him) and other offences framed against them, their lawyer YC Sharma said on Thursday.

As per the order, the victim married the man, a native of Changorabbhata in Raipur, in 2017. After a few days of marriage, the woman's husband and her two in-laws allegedly started harassing her for dowry.

The woman later lodged a complaint at the Bemetara police station of Bemetara district against the three.

After investigation, a charge-sheet under section 498-A (dowry harassment), 377 (unnatural offences), 376 (rape), 34 (common intention) of the IPC was filed against them. After providing opportunity of hearing to counsels of both the parties, a trial court had framed charges against the applicants under these sections, the order said.

The trio, including woman's husband, approached the High Court seeking to set aside the order of the trial court and discharge them from the charges, including that of rape against him.

"Counsel for the applicants submits that the complainant and the applicant No. 1 (man) are legally wedded wife and husband, therefore, none of the ingredients to constitute the offence punishable under Sections 376 and 377 of the IPC are spelt out against him, because, in India,

marital rape is not recognized and the same is not an offence in view of Exception II of Section 375 of the IPC," the HC said.

The counsel had prayed that the impugned order be set aside and the applicants be discharged from charges brought against them, it said.

After hearing, the HC had reserved its order on August 13 and it was delivered on Monday (August 23).

The order said, "Exception II of Section 375 of the IPC, referred to above, makes it clear that sexual intercourse or sexual act by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under eighteen years of age, is not rape."

The judge said charge under IPC section 376 (rape) against the man was erroneous and illegal.

"In this case, complainant is legally wedded wife of applicant No. 1, therefore, sexual intercourse or any sexual act with her by the husband would not constitute an offence of rape, even if it was by force or against her wish. Therefore, charge under Section 376 of the IPC framed against the husband is erroneous and illegal. Hence, he is entitled to be discharged from the charge under Section 376 of the IPC," it said.

"In the instant case, the complainant has reported that the husband has many times, without her consent, made unnatural physical relation with her. Therefore, I do not find any infirmity or illegality committed by learned trial court in framing the charge under Section 377 of the IPC against the husband," the HC said.

The HC said no illegality has been committed in framing other charges against the accused.

"Consequently, the instant revision is partly allowed. The applicant No. 1 (husband) is discharged from the charge framed against him under Section 376 of the I.P.C. This Court finds that trial Court has not committed any illegality in framing the charge under Section 377 and 498-A/34 of the IPC against all the applicants, it added. PTI

## Situation In Afghanistan Critical, Evacuating Indian Personnel Top Priority, Govt Says At All-Party Meet



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Evacuating Indian personnel from Afghanistan, where the situation is "critical", was a top priority, the government said on Thursday at the all-party meet, convened to brief them on the Afghan situation.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefed the leaders on the latest situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban captured power there last week.

Besides Jaishankar, Union minister and Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha Piyush

Goyal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi were also present during the briefing in the Parliament House Annexe.

India was trying to evacuate as many people as possible from Afghanistan, the minister said asserting that evacuating Indian personnel was a "top priority", according to some of the participants at the meeting.

The government also described the situation in the war-torn country as "critical", saying the Taliban had broken the promises made in the Doha agreement.

Among other things, the Doha pact, inked between the Taliban leaders and the US in February 2020, envisaged religious freedom and democracy, with a government in Kabul that represented all sections of Afghan society.

NCP leader Sharad Pawar, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Congress party in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, DMK's TR Baalu, former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel were among those who attended the meet. PTI

## Government Forwards Nine Names Recommended For SC Elevation To Prez For Final Call

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The government has forwarded nine names recommended by the Supreme Court collegium for appointment of judges in the top court to the President for final approval and a call is expected to be taken "shortly", sources in the government said on Thursday.

With a sanctioned strength of 34 judges, the Supreme Court as of now has ten vacancies.

In a first, the Supreme Court Collegium had last week recommended for appointment to the apex court three women judges, including Justice B V Nagarathna who will be in line to be the first woman Chief Justice of India (CJI) in September 2027 if she gets the final nod.

Besides Justice Nagarathna, the third senior-most judge of the Karnataka High Court, the other women judges whose names have been recommended



are Justice Hima Kohli, the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court, and Justice Bela M Trivedi, the fifth senior-most judge of the Gujarat High Court.

Justice Kohli retires on September 1. Asked what if her warrant of appointment could not be issued before that date, the sources said such a situation may not arise.

While high court judges retire at the age of 62, the retirement age of Supreme Court judges is 65.

They said a final call on the elevation of the nine names

recommended would be taken "shortly". Once the names are cleared their warrants of appointment will be issued and the government will then issue a notification announcing the decision.

Besides them, names of Justice C T Ravikumar of the Kerala High Court, and Justice M M Sundresh of the Madras High Court were recommended by the Collegium.

Senior advocate and former Additional Solicitor General P S Narasimha, whose name if cleared, would become the sixth lawyer to be elevated to the apex court bench directly from the Bar.

The chief justices of different high courts whose names have been recommended are Justices Abhay Shreenivas Oka (Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court), Vikram Nath (Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court) and Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari (Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court).

## Breast Milk Of Vaccinated Mothers Contains Antibodies That Fight COVID-19: Study

Agenceis

**WASHINGTON:** The breast milk of nursing mothers who have received the COVID-19 vaccine contains a significant supply of antibodies that may help protect nursing infants from the illness, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Breastfeeding Medicine, strongly suggests that vaccines can help protect both mother and baby, another compelling reason for pregnant or nursing women to get immunised.

"Our findings show that vaccination results in a significant increase in antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in breast milk, suggesting that vaccinated mothers can pass on this immunity to their babies," said Joseph Larkin, a senior study author, and an associate professor at the University of Florida, US.

The researchers noted that when babies are born, their immune systems are underdeveloped, making it hard for them to fight infections on their own.

They are also often too young to respond adequately to certain types of vaccines, they said.

"During this vulnerable period, breast milk allows nursing mothers to provide infants with 'passive immunity'," said Josef Neu, study's co-author and a professor at the University of Florida.

"Think of breast milk as a toolbox full of all the different tools that help prepare the infant for life. Vaccination adds another tool to the toolbox, one that has the potential to be especially good at preventing COVID-19 illness," Mr Neu explained.

The study was conducted between December 2020 and March 2021, when the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines

first became available to health care workers in the US.

The researchers recruited 21 nursing health care workers who had never contracted COVID-19.

They sampled the mothers' breast milk and blood three times: before vaccination, after the first dose and after the second dose.

"We saw a robust antibody response in blood and breast milk after the second dose -- about a hundred-fold increase compared with levels before vaccination," said Lauren Stafford, a doctoral student in Mr Larkin's lab.

"These levels are also higher than those observed after natural infection with the virus," added Vivian Valcarce, from the University of Florida.

Vaccinating mothers to protect babies is nothing new, Valcarce said.

"Typically, expectant mothers are vaccinated against whooping cough and flu because these can be serious illnesses for infants. Babies can also catch COVID-19, so routine vaccination of mothers against the virus could be something we see in the future," he said.

The team is continuing to explore how breast milk containing COVID-19 antibodies gained through vaccination protects babies who consume it.

"We would like to know if infants who consume breast milk containing these antibodies develop their own protection against COVID-19," Mr Larkin said.

The researchers said many other simultaneous studies conducted around the world also show antibodies in the breast-milk of vaccinated mothers.

"That means our study validates a growing body of evidence," Mr Neu added.

MYSURU GANG-RAPE

## Karnataka Minister Says Congress Trying To 'Rape' Him

Agenceis

**BENGALURU:** Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra's statements that the gang-rape victim and her male friend should not have gone to the deserted place, and his claims that the opposition Congress was trying to "rape" him, by targeting him, following the incident has evoked sharp reactions from the Congress.

He also accused the Congress of trying to gain political mileage from such an "inhuman" incident. Hitting out at the home minister and the ruling BJP, the Congress said they are "incapable" of protecting the people of the state.

"Around 7-7:30 pm (on Tuesday) they (the victim and male friend) had gone there, it is a deserted place, they should not have gone, but we can't stop anyone from going, they have gone. It is a deserted place and no one usually goes there as no one will be there," Jnanendra said in

response to a question.

Speaking to reporters here, he said there are concerns about lack of police patrolling in such places, and that he was going to Mysuru and will discuss with officials to rectify the lapses.

Reacting to opposition Congress' criticism on the law-and-order situation in the state after the gang-rape incident, the minister said, "Rape has happened there (in Mysuru), but the Congress was trying to rape me, they are trying to rape the home minister. They are trying to gain political mileage. It is an inhuman act."

"When such incidents happen, instead of exerting pressure to see it from a humanitarian perspective and detect (the culprits), attempts are on to get political mileage in such a situation. People will see it. I will not say much on this. Instructions have been given on what has to be done by the police, so that such things don't recur and we are at it," he added.

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



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# How Kashmir's Green Land Is Being Dumped