

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

Saturday 25 September | 17 Safar | 1443 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 225 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

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P6 THINK

## BEHIND THE BOOKS

Last week, on 14 September, a major controversy erupted in South Asian academia after an anonymous twitter account Settler\_Scholarship (@Settler\_Scholar) criticised and raised questions on Indian anthropologist Saiba Varma's research ethics

P7 HISTORICAL GLIMPSE

Jal I Kh lid, a pioneering Arabic novel written by an Iraqi traveler and published in 1928 from Baghdad, gave me an opportunity to look back into the colonial history of India of the 1920s. Hundred years have passed since Mahmud Ahmad as-Sayyid (1903-1937) documented



P11 SPORTS

## J&K PACER UMRAN MALIK NAMED IN SRH'S IPL SQUAD

Uncapped medium pacer from Jammu & Kashmir, Umrans Malik was on Friday named as a short-term COVID-19 replacement for T Natarajan in the Sunrisers...



## Quote!

If you judge people, you have no time to love them  
- Mother Teresa

## NEWS DIGEST

### LG Discusses Security Situation With GoC

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday discussed various issues related to internal security management in the Union Territory with General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps, Lt General, D.P Pandey. The top army commander briefed the LG about the prevailing security scenario in the Union Territory at Raj Bhavan here on Friday. [More On P10](#)

### AEE Dies After SUV Falls Into Gorge

**SRINAGAR:** An Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), of PMGSY Sub division Kangan died on Friday in a road accident in Kachnambal village of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Altaf Ahmad Cheka, a resident of Ahmednagar, Saura, was on his way from Wangath towards Prang when his SUV (JKOIAN-5394) turned turtle near Kachnambal and rolled into a deep gorge. [More On P10](#)

### Teen Drowns In River Sindh

**SRINAGAR:** A teenager drowned to death on Friday in river Sindh in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Friday afternoon. 17-year-old Mohammad Azam Shah, son of Kaiser Ahmad Shah from Bamloora drowned in river Sindh near Duderhama when he was taking a bath on Friday afternoon, reports said. Soon after the incident, a massive operation was launched. [More On P10](#)

### Leopard Cub Captured In Budgam

**SRINAGAR:** Seven days after a nine-year-old boy was mauled to death, a leopard cub was caught alive by Wildlife authorities on Friday morning at Dooru Sebdan area in Central Kashmir's Budgam district. An official said that a leopard was spotted in the area following which the searches were intensified accordingly. [More On P10](#)

## Parts Of Old City Put Under 10 Day Lockdown

20 People To Be Allowed At Marriage Functions, 10 In Funeral

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Days after warning tough measures against the violation of Covid appropriate behaviour (CAB), the district administration here on Friday announced strict curfew in parts of this capital city to combat the spread of coronavirus.

Corona curfew has been imposed in several areas of the city, including Zaidib (SMC) Ward No's: 55-Hawal, 56-Alamgari Bazar, & 63-Kathi Darwaza) and Lal Bazar (SMC Ward No's: 59-Lalbazar, 60-Botshah Mohalla, 61-Umer Colony) for a period of 10 days starting from today (Friday).

Curfew has been imposed in the areas where preparations were underway for the



commemoration of Arbaeen on 28th of this month. Arbaeen marks the end of the 40 day period of Muharram mourning. The order in this regard has been issued by District Magistrate, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who supervised a drive against SOP violators in the commercial hub of Lal Chowk earlier this week. Asad had also warned of curbs in the areas showing rise in daily positive cases. "There are some areas, where positive cases are on rise due to violation of Covid-19 protocols. We will keep a watch on next two-three days. If protocols are not adhered in these areas, we will enforce a complete lockdown," he had said during a [More On P10](#)

## 148 New Cases, One Death In 24 Hours

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 148 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while the deadly infection claimed the life of one more person in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, 120 new cases of Covid-19 were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 28 from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 328738. In Valley, the officials said, Srinagar reported highest 66 cases followed by Baramulla with 17, Ganderbal 9, Budgam 8, Kupwara 6, Anantnag and Pulwama 5 each, Bandipora 2. [More On P10](#)

## 21 Years Later, Chopans of Kashmir Still Await ST Status

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Chohan Welfare Community (CWA) has urged upon the government of Jammu and Kashmir to take immediate steps for inclusion of their community in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list.

The Chopans of Kashmir have been waiting for the ST status since 10th April 2000, when the J&K Legislative Assembly



had passed a resolution No. 5821-23/LEGS/2000 as recommendation for granting Scheduled Tribe

status to Chopans of the erstwhile state.

As per several other official orders, the copies of which lie with Kashmir Observer, the Chohan Community were placed at special preference for its inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe list but even after 2 decades, the indigenous tribe is still crusading to receive its legal status.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Abdul Ahad Chopan, [More On P10](#)

## Revenue Records To Go Online By Oct 15

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday directed the revenue department to develop a user-friendly interface by October 15 to enable public access to the revenue records.

Mehta passed these directions during a meeting to review the digitization of land records. [More On P10](#)

## HC's Poser To WUCMA

### When Will Wular Become Encroachment Free?

Auqib Javeed

**SRINAGAR:** The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Friday directed the government to file a report clearly showing the sanctioned strength of the staff of the Wular Conservation and Management Authority

(WUCMA)

In an order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the order asked Additional Advocate General (AAG), B A Dar to file a report showing the number of persons employed by WUCMA to show that the authority is really interested in taking effective [More On P10](#)

## Govt Transfers 13 Senior Police Officers

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration has ordered the transfer and posting of 13 police officers including police chiefs of several districts in the Valley.

In an order issued late Thursday night, Superintendents of Police (SPs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) of several districts were shifted.

IPS officer Sunil Kumar, who was awaiting orders of posting, was posted as ADGP, Railways, J-K, against [More On P10](#)

## Slain Cop's Family Cries Foul, Seek Probe

Press Trust Of India

**JAGTI CAMP (JAMMU):** The family of slain policeman Ajay Dhar, who was apparently shot dead by a colleague in a case of mistaken identity in Kupwara, accused the police department of attempting a "cover-up", and demanded justice.

Dhar, a follower in the police department posted in Handwara, died in the early hours of Wednesday after being shot by a sentry guarding a temple who [More On P10](#)

## MHA Booklet Lists Success Stories Post-Spl Status Revocation

J&K On Path Of Peace, Militancy Down; Hurriyat Base Diminishing

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Friday said that with the revocation of Article 370 and 35-A, Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's resolve of 'One Nation, One Law and One Head of the nation' became a reality after 70 years of independence. "As a result, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, also called the Heaven on Earth, are moving on the path of progress, in [More On P10](#)

Hurriyat base diminishing." In a 38-page booklet released by the MHA titled—"the dream of one nation, one law, one symbol fulfilled", the Ministry states that with freedom from Article 370 and 35-A, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's resolve of 'One Nation, One Law and One Head of the nation' became a reality after 70 years of independence. "As a result, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, also called the Heaven on Earth, are moving on the path of progress, in [More On P10](#)

## Change Visible After Art-370 Abrogation: Minister

Asserting that the present dispensation was trying its best to bring Jammu and Kashmir on the glorious path of development, Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr Raj Kumar Ranjan Singh Friday that after abrogation of Article 370, many changes are visible in the field of development and different centrally sponsored [More On P10](#)

FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS NOW, this region has embarked on a new journey of development. 170 Central laws, which were not applicable earlier, have now been made applicable in this region. At present all the Central laws are applied in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir."

**KASHMIR OBSERVER**

Watch to know more in this episode of **Inkishaf** on Kashmir Observer YouTube Channel

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

**INKISHAF**  
by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

## Unbearable Toothache At Dental College

Why patients landing at Govt Dental College Srinagar complain about a painful procedure due to the campus administration's inability to repair the flood-ravaged oral health equipment?

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## 'Kashur Zamutdoudh': Old Curd-Pot Returns Amid New Trends

Auqib Javeed

Zahid Iqbal Shah's day starts early. The suave man leaves his Buchpora Srinagar home for his manufacturing-unit in Gulab Bagh, where he collects milk from different dealers. He pools the milk to make "pure and organic" curd.

This might read like a quintessential milkman's introduction before one gets to know how the self-starter in his mid-forties is currently backing the local products and reviving the lost traditional packaging that Kashmir lost to plastic



trends of times.

Zahid supplies his clay-pot curd in different sizes and shapes to markets, marriage functions, commercial events and entities. He sells over 500 curd-pots

by afternoon, with the demand for 'ethnic kashur' product only growing by the day.

"One of the things I've learned about our community is that we Kashmiris support local brands if they know how

to serve it well," Zahid says.

"It's all about maintaining quality and service. If you can do that, you're bound to succeed in the local market despite its shortcomings and situational challenges."

This business belief helped him build his brand during the Covid crisis.

Like others held hostage in their homes by the coronavirus last year, Zahid was desperately brainstorming about something productive.

By June 2020, when the viral fret had almost disrupted Kashmir's localized support system—helping the strife region to overcome [More On P10](#)

**DEMISE**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the demise of **Mansha Ali D/o Ali Mohammad Dar R/o Batamaloo Srinagar**. She left for heavenly abode on Thursday, 23rd September 2021. Her Fateha khuwani will be held at ancestors graveyard Malteng on Sunday, 26th September 2021 at 09:30AM.



**BEREAVED**  
**HILAL AHMAD DAR**  
**YOUNIS AHMAD DAR**

**NOTICE**

I hold Indian Passport No K7961497 with name Zaid Shafiq issued at Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia(KSA). I intend to correct my father's name misspelled in my passport as "Shafiq Ahmed Shah" when the correct name is "Shafiq Ahmad Shah". If anyone has any objection, kindly contact Passport Office Srinagar, within 7 days from the date of publication of the notice.

Zaid Shafiq Shah  
 R/o Lal Bazar

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER KUPWARA-193222**  
 Email: doshdakupwara@gmail.com Telefax: +911955252220.

**NOTICE**

It is for the information of all those applicants/ tribals to participate in the selection process, who have applied for the establishment of sheep units under Tribal Sub Plan (T.S.P) participatory mode (10 Ewes +1 Ram) in response to the Advertisement Notice No.DSHOK/Tech/2021-22/1184-90 Dated: 11-09-2021, that department is going to conduct draw of lots for selection of applicants as beneficiaries on **25-09-2021** in the DSHO Complex Kupwara at **11:00 A.M.**

No. DSHOK/Tech/2021-22/1308-15 Sd/= District Sheep Husbandry Officer KUPWARA  
 Dated: 23/09/2021  
 DIPK-9301/21

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM KASHMIR**  
 TRC, Srinagar, Kashmir, 190001

E-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com  
 Subject:- Grant of Registration of Residential House of Ms Naseema as Paying Guest House titled M/s White Cottage PGH situated at Rajbagh, Srinagar.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas, Ms. Naseema D/o Mohammad Amin Bazaz (W/o Mr. Khursheed Ahmad Ashwari) R/o Al-Noor Enclave Rajbagh Srinagar has approached this office for registration of her residential house as Paying Guest House titled as M/s White Cottage PGH situated at Al-Noor Enclave Rajbagh, 190008, under the provisions of J&K registration of Tourist Trade Act 1987/82/2011/2012. Whereas, the applicant has submitted, online under application No.PG00000052 and has attached documents like, the building permission, Revenue documents, PRC, Pan card, PDD, Affidavit, NOC from Masjid committee, ID proof, Photographs of the applicant and the proposed PGH and other relevant documents;

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under J&K Registration Tourist Trade Act 1987/82/2011/12. Before the request of applicant for registration as paying Guest House is considered, the matter is hereby notified for information of General / Public/ Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Organizations, etc. that in case of any objection, the same should reach to this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objection beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant shall be considered for registration under rules and after submission of all requisite formalities.

No. Reg/PG/346-A/DTK Sd/-  
 Dated: 19/09/2021 Dy. Director Tourism  
 DIPK-9243/21 Registration Kashmir

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**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT J&K, JAMMU**  
 Request for Proposal (RFP)  
 Tender Reference No: VTP/AIS140/250  
 Tender id: 2021\_TRANS\_140654\_1 Dated: 22-09-2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K, Motor Vehicle Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir (Purchaser) intends to implement a Vehicle Tracking Platform for Safety & Enforcement as per AIS-140 Standard under Nirbhaya framework & has decided to carry out a competitive bidding process for selection of an Implementation Agency as the bidder to whom the Project may be awarded.

The Purchaser invites proposals from government entities PSU's such as Central or State Government Department/Office or a Company incorporated under the Indian Companies Act 1956/2013 with at least 50% equity stake of government entity through this Request for Proposal (RFP) process for Selection of Implementation Agency for Vehicle Tracking Platform for Safety and Enforcement as per AIS-140 Standard in Jammu & Kashmir.

Detailed terms and conditions are available in the RFP VOL I & VOL II document, which are available for download on website www.jktransport.nic.in, www.jktenders.gov.in

Office Address: Transport Commissioner office J&K Rail Head Complex Jammu.  
 Contact Details: 0191-2476091 (10:00am to 05:00pm)  
 Email: tptcommissionerjk@gmail.com pmc@dimts.in

DIPK-9249/21 Joint Transport Commissioner J&K, Jammu

**Notice Inviting Tender**  
**UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT J&K, JAMMU**

Motor Vehicle Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir (Purchaser) intends to implement a Vehicle Tracking Platform for Safety & Enforcement as per AIS-140 Standard under Nirbhaya framework & has decided to carry out a competitive bidding process for selection of an Implementation Agency as the bidder to whom the Project may be awarded.

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Detailed terms and conditions are available in the RFP VOL I & VOL II document, which are available for download on website www.jktransport.nic.in, www.jktenders.gov.in

Pre-Bid Meeting: 28/10/2021 at 11:00 AM  
 Last Date of Submission of Proposal: 23/11/2021 up to 03:00 PM

Office Address: Transport Commissioner office J&K Rail Head Complex Jammu.  
 Contact Details: 0191-2476091 (10:00am to 05:00pm)  
 Email: tptcommissionerjk@gmail.com pmc@dimts.in

**SHER-E-KASHMIR UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY OF KASHMIR**  
 ESTATES WING, MAIN CAMPUS SHALIMAR - 190 025

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
**E-NIT NO. (23) Of 2021** Dated: 16.09.2021

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST(K), e-tenders in (single-cover system) are invited on Item basis from approved and eligible Contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2022 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S.No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	"Ex-Situ Gene Bank: a Way Forward for Conserving Biodiversity in Temperate and Cold-arid Agro-climatic Regions of Jammu and Kashmir" at Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura SKUAST Kashmir	69.96	Having executed similar nature of work	2000/-	45 days

Position of AAA: Accorded  
 Position of T.S : Sanctioned  
 Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per following schedule:-

1. Date of issue of Tender Notice	17.09.2021
2. Date of start of downloading	17.09.2021
3. Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4. Bid submission start Date	17.09.2021
5. Bid submission end date	06.10.2021
7. Date & Time of opening of Technical bid/ Financial Bids of qualifying bidders (online)	07.10.2021

Further information can be had from the Office of the undersigned

No. Au/Estates/E-NIT(23)/312 Sd/-  
 Dated: 22.09.2021 Estates Officer  
 DIPK-NB-3746/21 SKUAST-K

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AS THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION ON FRIDAY ANNOUNCED A STRICT CURFEW in parts of this capital city to combat the spread of coronavirus, the health department mobilized their teams and vaccinated the people in commercial hub Lal Chowk. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Friday Prayers Again Disallowed At Jamia Masjid, Hazratbal

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:-** No congregational prayers were offered at Srinagar's Jamia Masjid – the grand mosque of Kashmir and Dargah Hazratbal for the 7th consecutive Friday.

Friday prayers were again suspended at the historic Jamia Masjid and Dargah Hazratbal following advisory by the administration limiting gatherings to 25 people in the Union Territory.

Eyewitnesses said that the prayers were not offered as authorities had locked the main gate of the mosques with armed forces personnel deployed in front of it.

In this regard, a formal notice was also posted on the gate of the Jamia Masjid by the administration.

The Anjuman Aquaf Jamia Masjid lamented that despite the fact worshippers are fully adhering to COVID-19 SOPs, the prayers at the largest place of worship in Kashmir were not being allowed for the last seven Fridays.

Chief executive officer, Waqf



Image for representation

Board, Mufti Mohammad Fareed-ud-din, said that the authorities have asked them to allow only 25 people inside the shrine for the prayers.

"My own staff is more than that. How can we allow just 25 people inside?" he said, adding it is not possible and that the prayers will not be held today.

Earlier, shrines and mosques were shut due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the valley. However, the congregational prayers were allowed at Jamia Masjid after four months as it had remained off-limits for prayers due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, people alleged that the 'dual policy' adopted by administration is confusing

as on one hand it has closed worship places and are yet to reopen educational institutions while on the other hand, tourist resorts are open and the administration and political parties are holding functions, Sports tournaments and other melas are being held in the valley.

"It's ironic that on one hand all concerns regarding Covid are being ignored when it comes to asking people to participate in official functions while restrictions are being imposed on Friday prayers and worship in central mosques, shrines and imambaras where Covid SOPs are being fully followed," one of the devotee said.

"If you go to any tourist resort in week days or weekends, you will see most of the people roaming around without adhering to any COVID guidelines," he added.

Various political parties have asked for immediate opening of all the religious places including Dargah Hazratbal and Jamia Masjid Srinagar for devotees that have been closed for Friday prayers for long. (CNS)

**IT'S IRONIC THAT ON ONE HAND ALL CONCERNS REGARDING Covid are being ignored when it comes to asking people to participate in official functions while restrictions are being imposed on Friday prayers and worship in central mosques, shrines and imambaras where Covid SOPs are being fully followed,"**

## DIPR Conducts Nukkad Natak At B&J Hospital

Raises Awareness On Adherence To CAB, SOPs



KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Cultural Unit Srinagar of DIPR on Friday organised a Nukkad Natak at Bone and Joints Hospital Barzulla with an aim to raise awareness among hospital visitors and general public about Covid Appropriate Behaviour. Face masks were also distributed at the venue.

A large gathering of people watched the Nukkad Natak. Through the Act, the artists advised the participants to keep following SOPs and all the guidelines of the Health Department regarding Covid-19 and undertake vaccination to avert the third covid wave and guard themselves against the deadly virus.

Hospital authorities, medical staff and attendants appreciated the Cultural Unit of DIPR for conducting an impressive IEC campaign about Covid-19.

**WHILE APPRECIATING the artists, Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain thanked the spectators for their keen watching and response. He assured that such campaigns will be conducted in future too.**

While appreciating the artists, Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain thanked the spectators for their keen watching and response. He assured that such campaigns will be conducted in future too.

On the occasion, Medical Superintendent Bone and Joints Hospital Dr. Suhail Mian stressed the need for holding such innovative Covid awareness programmes so that people continue to maintain Covid appropriate behaviour.

## Panchayat Accounts Assistant Qualifiers Stage Protest



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:-** The candidates who have qualified the Panchayat Accounts Assistant exam staged a protest demonstration against the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) over the delay in issuing the final selection list on Friday.

The aspirants assembled at Press Enclave in Srinagar and said that it had been more than nine months since the JKSSB authorities were giving false dates even after the notification clearly mentioned that the final selection list of the candidates would be out within a period of 45 days.

The candidates said that in December last year when the merit list was published by the JKSSB, they were told that the final selection list of the candidates would be out within a month, "but more than 9 months have

passed now and we are yet to see the final selection list," said Uzair Ahmad, protestor.

"After that throughout January, the process of the document verification was carried out by the JKSSB and we were told that the selection list will come out, but so far we have seen nothing," he said.

The unnecessary delay despite completion of the document verification process is "frustrating", they added

"A total of 1889 candidates qualified the examinations conducted through JKSSB last year. It has been over 9 months since and the final selection list is still awaited," said Aamir Malik, one of the candidates.

While stating that they are eagerly waiting to serve the Union Territory, the candidates appealed to the LG Manoj Sinha to look into the matter so that the selection list and then appointment orders are issued in their favour.(CNS)

## Fatty Electricity Bills Irk Mehjoor Nagar Locals

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In almost all colonies of Mehjoor Nagar area of Srinagar city, locals are irked over exorbitant electricity bills.

On Friday, locals in many colonies of Mehjoor Nagar, including Rose Colony, Friends Colony, Imran Gali, Chinar Colony and Iqbal Colony staged a protest raising slogans against Power Development Department.

Protesters told news agency Kashmir News Trust that each month they get fatty electricity bills. "Sometimes we get a bill amounting to Rs 750, sometimes Rs 1500 and now this month we have received a bill of Rs 3600.

"Without taking consumers into confidence, the Department prepares agreements on their own and dispatch fatty bills," a protester from Friends Colony said.

They said the electricity bill sent to them should be waived at the earliest or they will intensify the agitation for justice.

Another protester said that they approached top PDD officials who said they can't do anything in this regard as they have been directed to achieve a target and generate revenue.

"If PDD has to generate rev-



enue and achieve the set target then they should first exact electricity fee from those who are the major defaulters. They fail to get money from the departments which are the biggest defaulters and are harassing poor people," the protesters said.

An elderly protester said that there are people residing in different colonies who fall under the category of below poverty line. "We are going to resist this injustice by tooth and nail and won't succumb to any pressure," the protesters said.

When contacted Executive Engineer Raj Bagh Division Manzoor Ahmed said that consumers are supposed to pay on the basis of the consumption. "We can't do injustice with anyone. If anybody has any grievance, he should approach to his office," he said. (KNT)

## 2 Books Authored By Young Students Released In Sgr

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Prof Qayoom Hussain, VC Cluster University and other dignitaries Friday released two books authored by two young students during a conference on education organised by Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK).

According to a statement issued to the news agency, the first book released on the occasion was "Nursery Rhymes" written by Tuba Naqeeb a class 12 student of DPS Srinagar.

Another book "Peace in Agony" authored by Sairah Rasheed, a student of Light House Public School Villagam and resident of Dolipora, Villagam Kupwara was also released on the occasion.

The Vice Chancellor praised the students on the occasion. He said that it is heartening to see young authors coming forward to write on varied subjects and thus enriching the literature.

The books were released on the eve of a conference titled 'Quality Education and 21st century Challenges' organised by Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

### DIAL-EMMA

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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

### RAILWAYS

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

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

### This Day in History

- 1066 - Battle of Stamford Bridge; English army under King Harold Godwinson defeat invading Norwegians led by King Harald Hardrada and Harold's brother Tostig, who were both killed
- 1340 - England & France sign disarmament treaty
- 1396 - Battle of Nicopolis: Sultan Bajezid I defeats Crusades armies
- 1493 - Columbus sails with 17 ships on 2nd voyage to the Americas
- 1513 - Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa crosses the Panama Isthmus becoming first European to see the Pacific Ocean
- 1597 - Amiens surrenders to French King Henri IV
- 1639 - First printing press in America
- 1639 - Suzuki Shosan, Samurai monk of Zen Buddhism, found awakening
- 1654 - England & Denmark sign trade agreement
- 1663 - Austrian Fort Neuhausl surrenders to invading Turkish army
- 1690 - Public Occurrences, first newspaper in the American colonies (Boston), publishes first & last edition
- 1777 - British general William Howe conquers Philadelphia
- 1780 - Benedict Arnold joins the British
- 1804 - 12th amendment to US constitution, regulating judicial power
- 1820 - French Physicist Francois Arago announces electromagnetism in his discovery that a copper wire between the poles of a voltaic cell could laterally attract iron filings to itself
- 1846 - US troops under Gen Taylor occupies Monterey Mexico
- 1857 - Relief of Lucknow by Havelock & Outram begins
- 1911 - French battleship Liberté explodes at Toulon Harbor, 285 killed.
- 1912 - Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism is founded in New York, New York.
- 1915 - Battle of Loos commenced, lasted until 14th October. Chlorine gas deployed by the British was blown back into their own trenches: 59,000 British & 26,000 German casualties.
- 1915 - The Second Battle of Champagne begins.
- 1937 - Battle of Ping-hsin-kuan Wutai Mountain.
- 1939 - German Luftwaffe strikes Warsaw with (fire)bombs.
- 1939 - Andorra and Germany sign a treaty ending WW I, as Versailles Peace Treaty forgot to include Andorra.
- 1943 - Russian troops liberate Smolensk.
- 1956 - First transatlantic telephone cable goes into operation from Newfoundland to Oman.
- 1957 Great Britain performs nuclear test at Maralinga, Australia
- 1957 - Soviet 7 year plan (1959-1965) announced.
- 1972 - Norway votes to join European common market.
- 1974 - Scientists first report that freon gases from aerosol sprays are destroying the ozone layer.
- 1980 - The first congress of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan held in Kabul.
- 1984 - Egypt & Jordan regain diplomatic relations.
- 1989 - Archaeologists open Titus of Rhine grave in Amsterdam.
- 1990 - Saddam Hussein warns that US will repeat Vietnam experience.
- 1990 - UN Security Council vote 14-1 to impose air embargo against Iraq.
- 1997 - STS 86 (Atlantis 20) launches into orbit
- 2008 - China launches the spacecraft Shenzhou 7.
- 2008 - The "Celtic Tiger" slides into recession for the first time in over two decades, recording a 0.5% fall in second quarter GDP, following a 0.3% decline in the first quarter; its last recession in 1983 saw thousands of people leave Ireland to seek work overseas.
- 2012 - 50 Taiwanese ships clash with the Japan Coast Guard in waters off the Senkaku Islands.



HIJRI CALENDAR

17

SAFAR -UL- MUZAFFAR

1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR  
4:57  
ZUHR  
12:23  
ASR  
4:42  
MAGRIB  
6:28  
ISHA  
7:48

### From KO Archives

## 1100 Militants Active In Jammu Division: Army

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** About 1100 militants, 50 percent of them foreigners are operating in Jammu division, a senior army official has said. The militants strength has increased from 600 to 1100 in Doda, Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur and Kathua districts of Jammu division since 1997-98, the GoC of Jammu Corps, Lt.General A.S. Khanna told reporters at the 16 Corps headquarters in Nagrota yesterday.

Of these, 50 percent are operating in Doda district alone, while the remaining in Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur districts, he said, adding that over 50 percent of militants belong to Hizb-ul-Mujahideen.

He said as many as 549 militants "were killed in different operations in Jammu division this year. Of these, 164 militants were killed in Poonch, followed by 15.7 in Rajouri, 94 in Udhampur, 75 in Doda, 41 in Jammu and 18 in Kathua districts since January this year.

Last year as many as 458 militants were killed in the division. Similarly, troops killed 115 militants along Jammu border during 77 unsuccessful infiltration bids, while 62 militants were killed in 54 bids last year. Besides, 52 civilians were killed by militants this year. Of these, 43 civilians were killed by militants and nine civilians were killed in blast caused by same period, he said.

(Kashmir Observer, September 25, 2000)

## Iran Says Pleased With 'Progress' In Talks With Saudi Arabia

Agenceis

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh says Iran is pleased with how negotiations on bilateral issues have proceeded with Saudi Arabia, emphasizing that the two regional players have the capacity to establish "sustainable" ties.

Speaking to the IRNA news agency on Thursday, Khatibzadeh said that the Islamic Republic had several rounds of talks with the Saudi government in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, over the past few months.

"There have been good talks regarding bilateral issues," he added. "There has also been very serious progress in negotiations concerning the security of the Persian Gulf."

from the Islamic Republic of Iran, which says the solution to the problems in the region lies within the region itself and we must reach a comprehensive regional mechanism."

On Wednesday, Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud expressed hope that Riyadh's direct dialog with Tehran will lead to confidence building.

"Iran is a neighboring country, and we hope that our initial talks with it will lead to concrete results to build confidence ... based on... respect of sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs," he said in a pre-recorded video address to the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Iranian and Saudi delegations have so far held three rounds of



The spokesman further said that the talks have never stopped and that messages were exchanged between the two sides at an appropriate level after the administration of Iran's President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi took office.

"We think that we can have a stable and good relationship between the two important countries in the region, i.e. Iran and Saudi Arabia, if the government of the Saudi Kingdom pays serious attention to a message

talks in Baghdad. A fourth round has been postponed to a time convenient to both sides.

Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations with Iran in January 2016 after Iranian protesters, enraged by the Saudi execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr, stormed its embassy in Tehran.

For years, the kingdom pursued a confrontational foreign policy toward the Islamic Republic, but it recently appeared to have changed track.

## UK MPs Debate Kashmir Motion; India Condemns 'Abusive' Language



Agenceis

**LONDON:** Members of Parliament from the UK's All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Kashmir have tabled a motion on 'Human rights in Kashmir' for a debate in the House of Commons, drawing a strong reaction from India which said any assertion made in any forum on a subject related to an integral part of the country needs to be duly substantiated with authentic verifiable facts.

The Minister for Asia in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Amanda Milling, responded to the debate on Thursday by reiterating the UK government's unchanged stance on Kashmir as a bilateral issue.

"The government takes the situation in Kashmir very seriously but it's for India and Pakistan to find a lasting political solution, taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It's not for the UK to prescribe a solution or to act as a mediator," said Milling.

The Indian government expressed its dismay at some of the language used by participating MPs in the Backbench Debate, specifically "Pakistan-origin Labour MP Naz Shah.

A minister from the Indian High Commission in London condemned the attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and highlighted Kashmir's status as an integral part of India.

"It is with sadness that the High Commission of India notes that an august institution of a fellow democracy has been misused today to level abuse against the elected leader of the largest practising democracy in the world," the minister said, referring to Shah's remarks on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

"As on previous occasions, the High Commission of India reiterates that any assertion made in any forum on a subject related to an integral part of India needs to be duly substantiated with authentic verifiable facts," the minister added.

The debate, which was scheduled to be held in March 2020 but had to be postponed due to the Covid pandemic lockdown, was opened by Opposition Labour Party MP Debbie Abrahams who recounted her visit to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in February 2020.

"The Pakistani government allowed us unfettered access...we used our meetings to ask pointed questions related to human rights issues highlighted in United

Nations reports," said Abrahams. "Kashmiris must be at the heart of a trilateral peacebuilding process," she said, reiterating that Thursday's debate was not "pro or anti" any country and only speaking in favour of human rights.

Over 20 cross-party MPs participated on both sides of the debate, with Labour MP Barry Gardiner highlighting the terrorist camps harboured by Pakistan in the region and drawing parallels with neighbouring Afghanistan.

"Over the years Pakistan has harboured Taliban leaders and the ISI, their security services, provided other forms of support to them and to other terrorist organisations," he said.

Conservative Party MPs Bob Blackman and Theresa Villiers spoke about India's democratic credentials and flagged the completion of local elections in Kashmir last December despite pandemic-related adversities.

"As a democracy where religious minorities have full constitutional protections and which places great value on the respect for the rule of law, I believe that India's courts and institutions are well capable of properly investigating alleged human rights abuses," said Villiers. PTI

## Taliban Official Says Strict Punishment, Executions, Will Return

Agenceis

One of the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its strict rule of Afghanistan during the 1990s says the group will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

In an interview with The Associated Press news agency, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi dismissed outrage over the Taliban's executions in the past, which sometimes took place in front of crowds at a stadium, and he warned the world against interfering with Afghanistan's new rulers.

"Everyone criticised us for the punishments in the stadium, but we have never said anything about their laws and their punishments," Turabi told the AP, speaking in Kabul.

"No one will tell us what our laws should be. We will follow Islam and we will make our laws on the Quran."

Since the Taliban overran Kabul on August 15 and seized control of the country, Afghans and the world have been watching to see whether they will recreate their harsh rule of the 1996-2001 period.

Turabi's comments pointed to how the group's leaders remain entrenched in a deeply conservative, hardline worldview, even if they are embracing technological changes, like video and mobile phones.

"Peace and stability" Turabi, now in his early 60s, was justice minister and head of the so-called Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice - effectively, the religious police - during the Taliban's previous rule.

At that time, the world denounced the Taliban's

punishments, which took place in Kabul's stadium or on the grounds of the sprawling Eid Gah Mosque, often attended by hundreds of Afghan men.

Executions of convicted murderers were usually by a single shot to the head, carried out by the victim's family, who had the option of accepting "blood money" and allowing the culprit to live. For convicted thieves, the punishment was amputation of a hand. For those convicted of highway robbery, a hand and a foot were amputated.

Trials and convictions were rarely public and the judiciary was weighted in favour of Islamic scholars, whose knowledge of the law was limited to religious injunctions.

Turabi said that this time, judges - including women - would adjudicate cases, but the foundation of Afghanistan's laws will be the Quran. He said the same punishments would be revived.

"Cutting off of hands is very necessary for security," he said, saying it had a deterrent effect. He said the cabinet was studying whether to do punishments in public and will "develop a policy".

In a recent interview with Al Jazeera, Turabi - who returned to Afghanistan after 20 years of exile in Pakistan - also said the new justice system will mirror the previous Taliban order, though with some "changes".

"Our deeds will show that we are not like the Americans who say that they stand for human rights but committed terrible crimes. There will be no more torture and no more hunger," Turabi said, as he explained that the new prison staff will include members of the old system and the Taliban mujahideen.

## Pakistan to US: Abandoning Afghanistan risks humanitarian crisis



Agenceis

Pakistan has repeated its call for the world not to "abandon" Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover of that country, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets his Pakistani counterpart on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

The meeting in New York on Thursday was the highest level face-to-face meeting between the Biden administration and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's government since the US president took office earlier this year.

In brief remarks to the news media ahead of the meeting, Blinken said the talks would focus on "Afghanistan and the importance of our countries working together and going forward on Afghanistan".

The US Secretary of State also said he appreciated Pakistan's aid in facilitating the departure of US and other citizens from Afghanistan following the Taliban's seizure of Kabul in mid-August.

Pakistani authorities say they have so far facilitated evacuations for more than 13,000 people from Afghanistan, mostly foreign citizens or personnel associated with international organisations.

A Pakistani foreign ministry statement on the meeting, released early on Friday, said Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi had spoken to Blinken about "a new political reality" in Afghanistan since the Taliban assumed control.

"While the Taliban should be held to their commitments, the international community has a moral obligation to help the Afghan people deal with the growing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan," the statement said. "Qureshi hoped the world would not repeat the mistake of disengaging with Afghanistan."

That message has been consistent with the Pakistani government's position on Afghanistan in recent weeks, calling for immediate

international engagement and aid in order to stave off a potential humanitarian crisis.

With the Taliban still getting governance and infrastructure up and running again, and as poverty, hunger and economic paralysis spiral, analysts say the possibility of a collapse of Afghan government structures is possible without international help.

International donors pledged more than \$1.1bn at a conference on Afghanistan last week to address those concerns but the Taliban has also called for an estimated \$10bn in Afghan central bank assets held in foreign countries to be released so that they can be used to address these issues.

That call has been supported by several other countries, including Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

On Thursday, the Pakistani foreign minister also reiterated Islamabad's call for "an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan".

Earlier this month, the Taliban announced the formation of an interim government headed by interim Prime Minister Mohammad Hasan Akhund that included several hardline commanders, with any women or ethnic minorities in positions of power.

However on Tuesday, Taliban expanded that cabinet to include a number of new deputy ministers, some of whom belong to ethnic minorities. Women remain unrepresented in the Taliban's ruling structure.

On Thursday, Pakistan's foreign ministry said the move to expand the cabinet was a "positive" development. "We have taken note of the expansion in the interim cabinet with representation of different ethnic and political groups," said Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Asim Iftikhar at a weekly news briefing in the capital, Islamabad.

"This is a positive direction, and we hope they continue to take steps leading to lasting stability in the country."

## Covid Will End Up Resembling Common Cold, Says Oxford Vaccine Creator

Agenceis

Variants that can resist vaccine or are more severe unlikely, Dame Sarah Gilbert told a Royal Society of Medicine webinar

Covid-19 is unlikely to turn into a more lethal form that can evade vaccines because there "aren't very many places for the virus to go" and will eventually cause the common cold, a leading scientist behind the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine has said.

Dame Sarah Gilbert, speaking on a Royal Society of Medicine webinar, dismissed fears of a more deadly new variant.

"We normally see that viruses become less virulent as they circulate more easily and there is no reason to think we will have a more virulent version of Sars-CoV-2," she said, according to The Times newspaper in the UK.

"There are not many places for the virus to go that can evade immunity but still be a truly infectious virus."

She said that viruses "become less virulent" through populations, adding: "There is no reason



to think that we will have a more virulent version of Sars-CoV-2."

"We already live with four different human coronaviruses that we never really think about very much and eventually Sars-CoV-2 in will become one."

These other coronaviruses cause the common cold and Dame Gilbert said: "Eventually Sars-CoV-2 will become one of those."

"It's just a question of how long it will take to get there and what measures we will have to take to

manage it in the meantime."

The 59-year-old led the team at Oxford University's Jenner Institute that created the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, the most widely distributed job in the world.

The remarks came as Professor Chris Whitty, chief medical officer for England, warned that nearly all uninfected children would become infected with Covid-19 at some point in the future and that nearly half of young people had already caught the virus.

### NEWS MAKER

## "A Tale Of Epic Proportions": US Returns Ancient Gilgamesh Tablet To Iraq

Washington: A 3,500-year-old tablet recounting the epic of Gilgamesh was returned to Iraq Thursday after being stolen three decades ago and illegally imported to the United States.

Iraqi Cultural Minister Hassan Nazim accepted the tablet during a ceremony in Washington.

"To me, it means restituting self-esteem and the confidence in Iraqi society," he said.

Despite its small size, the ancient artifact has immense cultural and historical value. It contains portions of the "Epic of Gilgamesh," considered one of the oldest works of literature in human history, which tells the story of a powerful Mesopotamian king on a quest for immortality.

"It's a story which has influenced all the great monotheistic religions,



leaving traces also on the Iliad and the Odyssey," said UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay, who called the tale a "treasure" for "our common humanity."

She added that the stone's return to its rightful home is "a

major victory for the international community over those who mutilate heritage."

"Its repatriation itself is a tale of epic proportions," said US Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Polite.

## Petrol Stations Close in UK Amid Shortage Of Truck Drivers

Agenceis

Several UK petrol stations have closed as a shortage of truck drivers stretches some of the country's vital supply chains close to breaking point.

British oil giant BP temporarily closed some of its 1,200 UK petrol stations on Friday due to a lack of unleaded and diesel grades, which it blamed on driver shortages.

ExxonMobil's Esso said a small number of its 200 Tesco Alliance retail sites had also been affected.

Queues formed at some petrol stations in London and the southern English county of Kent on Friday as motorists rushed to fill up, Reuters news agency reported.

But Transport Secretary Grant Shapps insisted there was no fuel shortage, saying the government was taking steps to recruit more drivers.

"The advice would be to carry on as normal," he told UK broadcaster Sky News, after other officials warned the public against panic-buying.

Strained supply chains Just as the world's fifth-largest economy emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, the post-Brexit shortage of truck drivers and a spike in European natural gas prices has left the UK grappling with the grim prospect of a potential food supply crunch

and soaring energy bills.

The British haulage industry says it needs about 100,000 more drivers after 25,000 returned to Europe before the UK exited the European Union and the pandemic halted the qualification process for new workers.

For months, supermarkets and farmers have raised the alarm, saying it has been getting harder to get goods to market.

With the industry now raising the spectre of Christmas shortages of turkeys and toys, the government is scrambling to attract more people into truck driving, long viewed as an underpaid and under-appreciated job.

Shapps, who denied the shortage was due to Brexit, said the UK was doubling the number of tests available to become a truck driver. Britain was unable to test 40,000 drivers during its COVID-19 lockdowns, with the pandemic forcing the exams to be cancelled.

He told Sky News the government would "move heaven and earth" to address the shortages, including easing visa rules and deploying the army to deliver fuel.

But hauliers and logistics companies cautioned that there were no quick fixes and warned that amending the testing or visa processes would likely be too late to alleviate pre-Christmas shortages, as retailers stockpile months ahead.

## Anurag Thakur Inaugurates Himalayan Film Festival At Leh

J&K, Ladakh To Be Connected With Film Training Institute Soon

Press Trust of India



**LEH:** Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday inaugurated the Himalayan Film Festival at Leh in Ladakh, an official statement said. "Keeping in view the PM's call for 'Jan Bhagidhari', the film festival will have active participation from the local filmmakers and will showcase talent across 12 Himalayan states and Union Territories," the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said in the statement.

Addressing the audience at the inauguration ceremony, Thakur said the Narendra Modi government will give a new identity to the hill states and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will work relentlessly towards that goal.

"The Himalayan states have a diverse culture and have a

lot to showcase. The youth of these states need opportunities to display their talent. Cinemas provides a platform to bring all cultural diversities together. The world of cinema provides a prominent platform to the culture of the country," he said.

Thakur said India is a country where the popularity of OTT platforms is increasing.

"This presents an opportunity, not just for the big states but even the smaller states of the country, and soon Ladakh is going to find recognition even in international film festivals," he said.

The minister also announced that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will be connected with a film training institute soon.

In the ongoing film festival, short films and short documentaries have also been invited in the "Competition Section", the statement said.

A food festival showcasing the unique cuisines of Ladakh region, a cultural show showcasing the rich cultural diversity of Ladakh and a music festival will also be held during the ongoing film festival.

"The 'Himalayan Film Festival' also envisions institutionalizing a Himalayan Film Fraternity which will have productive repercussions for filmmaking in the Himalayan parts of India," the ministry said.

A food festival showcasing the unique cuisines of Ladakh region, a cultural show showcasing the rich cultural diversity of Ladakh and a music festival will also be held during the ongoing film festival.

## Union MoS Chandrasekhar Visits Baramulla Interacts With Local Handicraft Artisans

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Friday paid visit to Pattan area of Baramulla district where he interacted with the local artisans associated with 'Murgund Handicraft Cluster' besides carrying out several developmental activities.

The minister held a comprehensive interaction with the artisans and took first hand appraisal of various activities carried out in the handicraft cluster. The artisans shared their views and suggestions besides appraising several grievances meant for the upgradation and development of handicraft sector.

After interaction, Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that through Skill India programme, special emphasis is being laid for the encouragement of lo-



cal artisans adding that the quantum of revenue generated through handicraft industry will mark the exponential growth.

Meanwhile, the Minister presented felicitation certificates to the local artisans who have successfully cleared the assessment for the job role of Traditional Hand Embroiderer conforming to National Skills Qualifications Framework Level -4.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Bhopinder Kumar among other senior concerned functionaries were present on the occasion.

## Govt To Recover Rs 43 Cr From Employees Deployed For 2018 Polls

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The government of Jammu & Kashmir has asked the drawing and disbursing officers and treasury officers of the Union Territory to recover excess amount worth Rs 43 crore from employees and officials deployed for the conduct of municipal and panchayat elections in 2018.

As per an order, a copy of which lies with news agency KNO, the government has claimed that in terms of Article 27 (b) of J&K Civil Ser-



VICES Regulations (Volume-I), the definition of salary does not include local allowances, HRA, deputation allowance, travelling allowance.

According to the order, the payment of these allowances

in favour of concerned employees was wrongly made, and has resulted in excess payment of Rs. 43.29 crores.

The order states that this amount needs to be recovered from these officers and officials and also from the employees who in the meanwhile retired on superannuation.

It is worthwhile to mention that State Administrative Council in 2018 approved one month additional salary in favour of employees deployed for conduct of municipal and panchayat elections

## Prime Minister's Development Package for J&K

## Rs 33809 Cr Utilized On Centre, State Sector Projects



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Around Rs 33000 crore have been utilized in Jammu & Kashmir on different projects executed under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP).

According to news agency KNO, Rs 33809 crore have been utilized under the state and central projects being executed under the development package in J&K.

Of which Rs 20728 crore have been utilized under central sector projects and Rs 13081 under state sector projects, the documents further state.

The PMDP package was unveiled by the Prime Minister Narendra on November 7, 2015 for reconstruction of infrastructure hit by devastating floods of 2014 and new infrastructure development in the erstwhile state.

Till July this year, around

Rs 35464 crore have been released under the package, of which 20944 crore were for centre sector projects and Rs 14520 crore for state sector projects, the documents state.

The total outlay of the projects being executed under the PMDP in J&K UT is Rs 58477 crore- Rs 26971 crore for centre sector projects and Rs 31506 crore for state sector projects. Till July this year, projects worth Rs 55973 crore have been sanctioned. The total financial outlay of 63 PMDP projects is Rs 80068 crore.

Of which 53 projects with an outlay of Rs 58,477 crore are in J&K UT and nine projects with an outlay of Rs 21,441 crore are in Ladakh UT.

## IUST Holds Placement Drive For Food Tech Students

Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** Department of Food Technology, IUST on Thursday hosted Campus Placement Drive in collaboration with FIL Industries PVT. Ltd SIDCO Electronics Complex, Rangreth for the position of Trainee Chemist, Chemist and Microbiologist.

Large number of students having Masters' and Bachelors' degree in Food Technology

participated in the said drive during which seven students have been shortlisted.

Senior Manager Human Resources, Peerzada Arshad and Senior Quality Manager, Sarfaraz from FIL industries were part of the placement drive.

I/C Training and Placement Department of Food Technology Dr. Aamir Hussain Dar welcomed the officials of the FIL Industries for organizing the

campus placement drive. Dean Research and HOD Food Technology during the threadbare discussion with the Placement team emphasized for creating more Industry-Academia linkages in order to provide best available Human Resource to the Industry. He further thanked the Management of FIL Industries for selecting Department of Food Technology IUST for the placement drive.

## Provide Details Of Employees With Over 5 Year Stay: DHSK

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Director Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) has all ordered all the Chief Medical officers and Medical Superintendents to furnish a list of all employees having stay of over five years at a particular place.

He has also asked them to furnish a list of the officials who have completed two years at the present place of posting.

An official communique with Chief Medical officers and Medical Superintendents titled 'Rotation of Government Officials' reads that with relevance to the aforementioned subject and as per O.M issued by General Ad-

ministration Department vide No. GAD-ADMOIII/13/2021-02-GAD Dated:-13.09.2021, you are requested to furnish the stay list of all the employees (Officers/Officials) working in your respective districts having stay of more than five (05) years as per the devised format within 03 days positively through respective Dealing hand both in hard and soft format.

"Besides, you are requested to furnish the stay of those officials who have completed two years of stay at the present place of postings as per above mentioned format both in hard as well in hard copy as well," it stated.

## Union MoS Chandrasekhar Visits Budgam Visits Holy Shrine Of Hazrat Sheikh Ul Alam (RA)



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** Union Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics & Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar visited Budgam district on Friday.

While interacting with various deputations at Govt. Degree College Charar-i-Sharief, Chandrasekhar said that a new era of development has started in UT of J&K.

The Minister inaugurated Sub District Hospital Charar-i-Sharief completed at a cost of 11.65 crores. He was accompanied by DDC Chairman Nazir Ahmad Khan, DC Budgam S.A.Mirza, Director Health Services Kashmir Mushtaq Ahmad

Rather besides officers from medical faculty and district Administration. The Minister minutely inspected all sections of the Hospital and ascertained from concerned authorities about the functioning of the Hospital and availability of medical supplies and other allied infrastructure required to take care of any emergency needs.

The Union minister also visited Holy Shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Ul Alam (RA) where he was received with enthusiasm by the Sajadahnisheen of Dargah. The Minister apart from paying obeisance at Holy Shrine, interacted with the local Aquaf Committee to know issues and requirements to be taken up with the concerned authorities.

Later the minister visited Degree College where a good reception was held. Many deputations consisting of DDC, BDC, MC members, Councilors, PRI members were called in to have direct interaction with Traders Federation, Charar-i-Sharief, Fruit Growers Association and local youth clubs.

Deputations from students of IIT Charisharief and Polytechnic College Nagam also had a detailed interaction with the minister. The Minister added that the latest curriculum and more employment generation courses will be introduced very soon.

Minister Chandrasekhar also laid a foundation stone of Charar-i-Sharief-Hafroo Batpora road which will be completed at an estimated cost of Rs 3.75 Crore.

## Dr Sehrish Inaugurates Workshop For SAATH Intermediaries 5000 Rural Women To Be Benefited

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Mission Director, JKRLM, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar on Friday inaugurated a workshop for the functionaries implementing the 'SAATH' program here.

The 'SAATH' initiative is a rural enterprise acceleration program for the Self Help Group (SHG) women in J&K. Under the program both the intermediaries and prospective entrepreneurs would initially be trained for taking their businesses to the next level of success.

On the occasion the MD, JKRLM said that the intention and purpose of the program is that rural women are benefited. She said that this new initiative is a step above our routine functioning. She observed that such a program has been

fashioned for capacity building of all the stakeholders including JKRLM functionaries and the rural SHG women for making this program a success.

The MD apprised that by a scientific method it has been worked out that "our registered SHGs has a potential of creating employment for 35000 persons."

The Additional MD, Riyaz Ahmad Beigh applauded the whole team of the mission and that of India SME Forum for chalking out the modalities for this program. Giving details, he said that this program would continue for two days here in the offline mode and thereafter in the online mode for further 9 weeks.

It was also revealed that some 8000 applications have been received by the mission for the

SAATH initiative, out of which 5000 women would be given training in the workshops by the India SME Forum. Moreover 500 women would be selected for the intensive training course out of whom 100 women would be chosen for scaled-up mentoring. The Forum representative also gave out that these women would be imparted sectoral training for scaling up livelihood activities into rural enterprises. It was also said that access to finance, national and international market could be availed by those having potential to excel.

It was given that a simple eligibility criteria has been adopted comprising of women in the age group of 18-50 years involved in any self employment activity and aspires to upscale her livelihood activity into an enterprise.

## DC Bandipora Reviews Winter Preparedness At Gurez

Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Friday visited Gurez valley to review the winter preparedness besides inspecting developmental activities.

The meeting discussed the availability and dumping of essential commodities including ration, LPG, medicines etc in Gurez division for the upcoming winter season.

Regarding medical facilities, the DC was briefed by CMO Bandipora that ample stock of medicines and other essential items are being dumped for

upcoming winters.

Dr Owais also directed the concerned to dump enough stock of fire wood and other essentials for smooth functioning of offices and asked the officers to ensure 100 percent attendance in government offices during winters.

While reviewing the progress of developmental works, the DC directed the officers to complete all developmental projects within stipulated time. He was informed that 87 works out of the 178 approved works have been tendered and works are in progress.

It was given out that all the required fuel for DG Sets shall

be dumped by mid October to ensure electricity as per schedule during winters.

The DC appreciated the work of Sheep and Animal husbandry for maintaining livestock this year and conducting regular checkups and vaccinations to the livestock in difficult terrains of Gurez Meadows.

Dr Owais directed ARTO Bandipora to conduct driving tests, and fitness related processes at Gurez also for issuance of Driving License. He also directed the Mechanical wing of R&B to make available snow clearance machines and equipment before the start of winters.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HYDRAULIC DIVISION URI**  
email: [urihydraulic@gmail.com](mailto:urihydraulic@gmail.com)

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
e\_NIT\_No\_07/Hyd/Uri\_of\_2021-22 Dated: 23/09/2021

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Jammu and Kashmir UT Government, for the following works:-

Position of AAA: Accorded		Position of Funds: Committed							
S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Position of AAA	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head	Cost of Tender document (In Rs.)	TENDER-ID
1	Re-activation of Filtration Plant at Uri Water Supply Scheme Uri Town by way of changing of Filter Media/ Supply and Fitting of 03-Phase LT Tri-Vector Meter and repairing/providing and fitting of mechanical equipments.	2.40	Accorded	Bid security form to be attached with the Bid	20-days	DEE	2215-M&R	300/-	2021_IFC_140997_1
2	Providing of water supply Facility to Watch and Ward Hut at Jablafrom WSS NowporaSalamabad	0.77	Funds transferred by Fisheries Department (I.P)		15-days	DEE	Funds transferred by fisheries Department	300/-	2021_IFC_14099_2
3	Laying and fitting of pipe line to Govt. Degree College Boniyar at Chahlan, WSS Chahlan	2.16	Accorded		20-days	DEE	2215-M&R	300/-	2021_IFC_140997_3

The NIT consisting of Qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in):-

1	Publishing Date	23/09/2021 from 3.00 PM
2	Download Date Start	24/09/2021 from 10.00AM
3	Tender Submission date Start	24/09/2021 from 10.00pm
4	Tender Submission date Ends	30/09/2021 up to 4.00 pm
5	Date of Opening	01/10/2021 at 12.00PM, in the Office of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri (H.Q. Chandanwari)

- Tenders must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri, payable at Treasury Office.
- The Tenders for the works shall remain valid for a period of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening of Tenders.
- The Tenders shall be deposited in Electronic format on the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The Tender uploaded on the website upto due date and time will be opened on the schedule date and time and any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri H.Q Chandanwari, in presence of the Tenderers who wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of the opening of the Tender/ date of submission of Hard copies, the same will be on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
  - Any Tenderer withdraws his Tenders/ tender during the period of Tender validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the Tender.
  - Failure of Successful tenderer to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- The tenderer shall have to execute the agreement within 10-days after fixation of contract.
- Instructions to Tenderer regarding E-Tendering process:-
  - Tenderers are advised to download Tender submission manual from the "downloads" option as well as from "Tenderers manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) acquaint Tenderers submission process.
  - To participate in tendering process Tenderers have to get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology act, 2000. Tenderers can get digital certificate from approved vendor.
  - The Tenderer have to submit their Tenders online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial Tender will be accepted in physical form.
  - Tender will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
  - Tenderers must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents like BID Security Declaration FORMAT/PAN/ G.S. TIN/Treasury challan under MH 0702 in respect of irrigation work and under MH 0215 in respect of PHE works /REG. Card duly renewed and submitted hard copies thereof physically to tender receiving authority before date of opening of Tender.
- The quantities shown in the rate list of Stage Contract are tentative and shall be increased/decreased as per site conditions/requirement.
- All other terms, conditions are as per the PWD form 25 (Double agreement form).

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.

NO: HDU/CC-02/ 1301-1320  
DATED: 23/09/2021  
DIPK-9342/21

Sd/-  
(Er. Javid Ahmad Sofi)  
Executive Engineer,  
Hydraulic Division Uri

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider  
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja  
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304  
Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsvserver.net

Twitter Talks



"According to a Chinese study, the overall SARS-CoV-2 attack rates in airplane flights < 4 hours were < 1%. People in the same row as an index case had the highest risk of infection. (Clinical Infectious Diseases Sep 21). Study done prior to in-flight COVID measures. Comforting!" -

@ParvaizKoul

"The Co-Win app created access barriers for those in lower income/educated households and there was near complete silence. Now the UK isn't recognising Co-Win certification, making travel of the privileged inconvenient so every politician/channel is screaming racism and boycott"

@AsmitaBakshi

"This, for the record, is the liberal stand. "Delete these people but humanely please." -

@swatiatrest

## Menstruation And Worship

Heraa Hashmi

In recent years, this has been another rung of debate in Muslim women's related issues – and events to talk about women's spirituality whilst menstruating are plentiful, especially in Ramadan. I was a panelist among other wonderful women this past Ramadan for an event tackling the topic from multiple angles: fiqh (jurisprudence), a lack of proper understanding of ritual impurity away from negative cultural baggage, jahil (ignorant, foolish) behavior towards menstruating women, imposing secular notions of gender equality onto worship, separating the form of rituals from the spiritual, and the metaphysical from the physical. I want to offer my brief reflections on them one by one prior to circling back to the question posed above.

Men and women's bodies are different, so the fiqh reflects it appropriately. In books of fiqh, ritual worship is discussed from a legal perspective: what the rules and conditions for our acts of worship such as salah (prayer) and fasting are, what is fard (obligatory), sunnah (recommended), makruh (disliked), etc. Major ritual impurity is a state that requires ghusl (full body ablution) for purification, like after sexual intercourse or discharge, and hayd (menstruation) and nifas (postpartum bleeding). Thus, ritual impurity is a temporary state, not an inherent condition of being impure, in which specific actions, including some acts of worship, are prohibited. Key-words are specific – critics and reformists who see this as evidence of an unfair, forced inaccessibility to God fail to realize that other acts of worship, like dhikr, sending salawat upon the Prophet, are allowed and encouraged as they usually are (there is a difference of opinion regarding the recitation of the Qur'an and in what circumstances).

Unfortunately, select societies and many individuals still inculcate a mindset that considers the menstruating woman as filthy, behaving in ways not unlike the non-Muslim communities at the time of the Prophet who would banish their women to other places, refuse to sit with them, or touch them. Whereas the Prophet rested His head on the lap of his menstruating wife Aisha [1], others shamefully internalize these foreign ideas; that menstruation is such a taboo and embarrassing bodily function that women should pretend to fast, wake up for the pre-dawn meal, and even pray to prevent their male relatives from finding out. There should be decency and general good manners that keep one from crudeness or discussing details unnecessarily, some of which is

up to the local culture and customs to determine what that constitutes, but it is not an excuse for the above. Menstruation is part of a woman's life. They are not unclean nor inferior. That some men pressure them to carry out haram acts or wallow in pain alone to protect their self-inflicted ignorance parading as honor is a pathetic attitude they need to immediately rectify.

Next, as menstruation and related issues are a biological reality for nearly half the ummah, there should be no shame in appropriately discussing it and understanding the fiqh dimension. Even the introductory fiqh text on worship will have a sub-chapter on or address hayd and nifas, and is studied by both female and male students. Shyness did not prevent the women of Medina from asking the Prophet about these matters, and his shyness did not prevent him from teaching about it. Those who disallow a believing woman from seeking out this knowledge actively violates her ability to fulfill her fard al-ayn (obligations upon every Muslim). Women need to be well acquainted with their own cycles and the rulings that pertain to them, and families should support them in learning this and good hygienic practices. Understanding the concept of istiḥāḍa (dysfunctional uterine bleeding), learning the minutiae of what is permissible and impermissible, and what they can do to stay connected to Allah during their menses are necessary for a healthier sense of belonging as both a Muslim and a woman.

More recently, there have been attempts to diverge from a discussion of societal stigma to question the legal designation of ritual impurity while menstruating itself. Certain interpretations see not an incorrect understanding or misogynistic attitudes as the reason for vileness, but the rulings themselves. They claim to settle on a more progressive understanding that transgresses all schools of jurisprudence, or argue that rules regarding the menstruating woman are not in the Qur'an, hence an innovation, or were invented by men. This argument fails on multiple counts, primarily that the Qur'an is not the sole source of legislation, and that fiqh was not an independent enterprise subject to the whims of random people. Rather, it was a rigorously codified body of knowledge that also took from the narrations of female companions.

The forms of worship that are allowed during a woman's menses are different – but it is a mercy. It is no less valuable and pious, and no further from God than outside of it.

The article was originally published by Traversing Tradition

# Behind The Books

Muhammad Tahir

Last week, on 14 September, a major controversy erupted in South Asian academia after an anonymous twitter account *Settler\_Scholarship* (@Settler\_Scholar) criticised and raised questions on Indian anthropologist Saiba Varma's research ethics with relation to her book on Kashmir. Dr Varma is an Associate

## OVERALL, THE WHOLE EPISODE

has put spotlight on the issue of ethics in research, particularly a research involving subject-informants from conflict zones who are vulnerable for sharing their stories and intimate selves to researchers

Professor and medical and cultural anthropologist at University of California, San Diego (USA), and she recently published her first book *The Occupied Clinic: Militarism and Care in Kashmir* (Duke University Press, 2020). In *Occupied Clinic*, Varma explores how medicine and militarism is deeply imbricated in the context of the Kashmir conflict where state has appropriated and weaponised health care to project an image of itself as a "healing force".

The anonymous group, identifying itself as 'a group of Kashmiri activists students & researchers', accused Varma of violating standard research ethics and protocol by not being transparent about her family background and particularly withholding the fact that her father, S.V. Krishna Varma, was an officer with Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence agency. Krishna Varma was Director of Aviation Research Centre (a technical wing of RAW) and had been posted in Kashmir during the 1990s.

The issue has generated a split opinion, with one set of people saying that Saiba Varma's father's former position as a RAW officer should not be used



The front cover of Saiba Varma's book, "The Occupied Clinic: Militarism and Care in Kashmir"

against her, and she must be judged solely based on her research not her family background. On the other hand, a group of Kashmir scholars have issued a statement, published in Medium on 21 September, wherein they have argued that "We do not believe that "the daughter should be punished for the sins of the father." The revelations, however, raise key questions about the ethical obligations of all scholars who do ethnographic and archival research in Kashmir, with particular relevance for scholars who are committed to supporting the Kashmiri political struggle." The collective of scholars views this episode as a "difficult and complex moment" because there are twofold concerns: one, there is "the possible breach of ethics towards the vulnerable communities in which Varma has conducted her

research, amidst Kashmiri patients seeking psychiatric care." Second, the forces inimical to new critical studies may potentially leverage this moment to destabilise the Kashmir scholarship. Varma's Indian publisher, Arpita Das of Yoda Press, also expressed her displeasure on the matter. In her Tweet (16 September), Das wrote "this is... why scholars MUST locate themselves clearly and transparently in their research writing -- full disclosure or nothing! At the same time, I feel we should have dug deeper. I am mortified, feeling utterly defeated today."

In her response, Dr Varma took to Twitter (on 18 September) and said, "My father had no direct bearing on the research I've done. Recognising the need to acknowledge this relationship, however, during my fieldwork I disclosed it to Kashmiri schol-

ars and journalists I was close to. My ethical practices and scholarly arguments are accountable to them."

It is not clear yet who were the Kashmiri scholars and journalists who knew about her father's background, but the Kashmir scholars who released the statement above have written that "we can confirm that this information was not disclosed to us despite our professional relationships with her over the years." Also, while Varma says that her father didn't have direct bearing on her research, she acknowledges his help in her PhD dissertation (*The Medical Net: Patients, Psychiatrists, and Paper Trials in the Kashmir Valley*, Cornell University, 2013) by saying that "I thank my father for opening up both Kashmir and the world of documents to me, with his own care" (p.7).

Overall, the whole episode has put spotlight on the issue of ethics in research, particularly a research involving subject-informants from conflict zones who are vulnerable for sharing their stories and intimate selves to researchers. The field of anthropology has gone through similar controversies in the past. Scholars like Kathleen Gough (1968), Talal Asad (1973) and Diane Lewis (1973) have exposed the links between anthropology and colonialism, but the field has developed since and innovated and addressed the ethical concerns by designing research protocols institutionalised through ethics review board or institutional review board. Nevertheless, as Anthropologist Maya Mikkashi argues in her Tweet on 20 September: "positioning yourself in research/ethnography is supposed to be conflicting. It is an exercise in humility & power. Exposing aspects of yourself in print that are uncomfortable is necessary, because that is literally what we do as a method when it is about messiness of other peoples lives the exercise could and sometimes should lead to the decision to not do the work at all."

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

The author is an independent researcher

## A Course Correction

Arghya Sengupta



SO BEFORE THE NEP CAN ACTUALLY be implemented, all kinds of shops will continue to function as higher educational institutions. This is because theories of good education matter little in India's intensely profitable higher education sector. It is the demand of India's aspirational classes that ultimately determines its future. Education has embraced this race to the market whole-heartedly, if somewhat coyly. Public universities are not privatized, at least not yet. But the growth of private universities has outstripped public ones significantly in order to satisfy this demand

modification of education, the National Education Policy 2020 signals a green shoot of recovery. The NEP gets its theories exactly right – that education from pre-primary to university needs to be multi-disciplinary, integrated, focusing on the intellectual, moral, physical and spiritual awakening of the student. It does not have to be Indic in terms of repudiating Western pedagogical concepts but must be practical in ensuring that Indian youth are equipped to lead lives as good citizens of the world. In its conceptualization, it appears to draw heavily both from Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo. Swami Vivekananda conveyed his understanding of education eloquently – "education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man." Such perfection would not manifest through accumulation of facts. It was about realizing oneself.

Sri Aurobindo put it succinctly – "The first principle of true teaching is that nothing can be taught." Castigating the European teaching method popular in India at the time for trying to "hammer the child into shape", he pointed to the futility of rote learning or cramming to

clear a test. True education came from within; teachers only supplied the spark. These views are well-known to most education planners. But such a transformed educational system cannot be created overnight. This is where the NEP falters. Beyond stating what several NEPs in the past have stated, that India must spend six per cent of its GDP on education (it currently spends 4.43 per cent), it does not walk its talk. Despite recognizing the reality of commodification of the higher education sector in India, it stops short of providing a workable roadmap on how such a state of affairs will change. Maybe that comes next. But till then, Vivekananda and Aurobindo remain like gods who are to be worshipped rather than wise men whose words are to be heeded.

So before the NEP can actually be implemented, all kinds of shops will continue to function as higher educational institutions. This is because theories of good education matter little in India's intensely profitable higher education sector. It is the demand of India's aspirational classes that ultimately

determines its future. Education has embraced this race to the market whole-heartedly, if somewhat coyly. Public universities are not privatized, at least not yet. But the growth of private universities has outstripped public ones significantly in order to satisfy this demand. According to the All India Survey of Higher Education 2020, state private universities have gone from 197 in 2015-16 to 327 in 2019-20. During the same time, state public universities have grown at less than 50 per cent. Equally, there are 31,390 private colleges in India where 1.8 crore students are enrolled in comparison with 8,565 government colleges with 90 lakh students. Private institutions are slowly becoming the norm-setters in this space.

Many of them offer flexible payment terms, don't always insist on class participation, make no promises about learning quality. All of them offer a degree that another market – the job market – considers the calling card of the educated. The sign of an educated recruit for large sections of the formal job market is a graduation or post-graduation degree; hands-on knowledge is secondary to command over English, and real-life skills are often too difficult to assess in the chosen method of assessment – a short interview – and, so, are often given a go-by. Needless to say, not all private universities and employers fall in this category. Neither are all public universities exemplars of quality education. But despite exceptions, commodification of higher education is a widespread reality. There is no time for Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo in this competitive market; they are silently trampled upon.

In this context, tech companies are simply doing what they do best – helping existing educational courses and institutions reach scale. By connecting them to students who had no access to them before, they are actually being egalitarian in distributing the fruits of India's contemporary higher education sector amongst a larger group. We must be careful to not shoot the messenger. But we must equally introspect about the message. India's lot will not rise if its students only earn quicker promotions and marginally higher salaries. At best, we will become a second-hand United States of America. Unless that is the pinnacle of achievement in our collective imagination, Indian higher education needs a course correction.

Arghya Sengupta is Research Director, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy. Views are personal

The article was originally published by Telegraph India

BOOK REVIEW

# Historical Glimpse

Remembering The Ideological Impressions Of The 1920S Of India From An Arabic Literary Trove By An Iraqi Traveler

Mohammad Imran

**J**al Kh lid, a pioneering Arabic novel written by an Iraqi traveler and published in 1928 from Baghdad, gave me an opportunity to look back into the colonial history of India of the 1920s. Hundred years have passed since Mahmud Ahmad as-Sayyid (1903-1937) documented his impressions of India. On the face of it, the decision to introduce this Arabic trove to the Indian readers is a matter of honor to me.

As-Sayyid embarked on a ship from Basra harbor and headed to the coast of Mumbai in March 1919. After his one-year stay in Mumbai, he switched to Calcutta in around April 1920; in the very year, he re-

turned and arrived in Iraq on 25 July 1920. He started to write this novel in 1921 and completed it till 1923.

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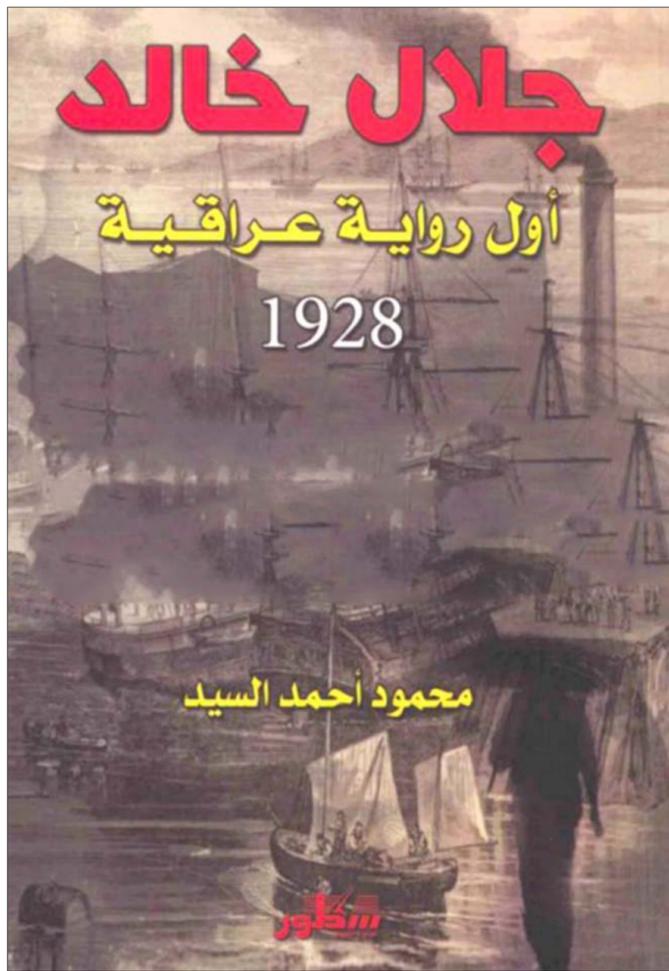
**THE CRUX OF THIS NOVEL IS THE ideological dialogues and migration of socialist and Marxist thoughts from India to Iraq. Thus, the novel stands for someone who may argue that the emergence of progressive thoughts in Calcutta first, became a foreground for the development of Marxism in Baghdad**

turned and arrived in Iraq on 25 July 1920. He started to write this novel in 1921 and completed it till 1923.

If we look back into the history of India, we observe the year 1920 had a significant hallmark in the history of labor strikes in India which commenced in 1919 and swelled till 1920 including 110 strikes in cotton and jute mills only. In Mumbai, he observed that in the face of exploitation by imperialists/capitalists, the workers were doing the hard jobs wearing the ordinary and lower clothes, scorching in the sun, and tired of the toil and moil. In Kolkata, he witnessed the labor strikes demanding the rise in wages and protesting against the ill-treatment in factories. The plots of the novel were set in Bombay and Kolkata; coincidentally both cities were the epicenter of labor crises. So the embodiment of labor crises in the novel was not out of the ordinary, but it was literary solidarity to them. The evident references to the poor, working labor, and destitute women in this novel illustrate the saga of struggle and survival in the history of India. Since all efforts in this novel were directed toward building the anti-colonial narratives that could serve as the prelude

foods in return.

The crux of this novel is the ideological dialogues and migration of socialist and Marxist thoughts from India to Iraq. Thus, the novel stands for someone who may argue that the emergence of progressive thoughts in Calcutta first, became a foreground for the development of Marxism in Baghdad. In Calcutta, as-Sayyid encounters a group of revolutionary people who were likely to have an association with Anushilan Samiti. In the backdrop of his curiosity to discuss the political agendas with some Indian progressive and nationalist intellectuals, he encounters a Swami. The dialogues between Swami and the hero of the novel, along with the portrayal of Swami help us to speculate his socio-political basis, ideological inclination, and educational background. It depicts that Swami is likely coming from an elite and educated class of people, and it is precisely correct in the history of the Bhadrakol society of West Bengal. Thus the novel tells the Arabic readers the social stratification of West Bengal and the influence of colonial educational policy in the development of Bhadrakol class of Bengal society.



In Calcutta, The Modern Review, a monthly English periodical introduced Marxist Socialism and Left Ideas straight-forwardly first time in 1912. So the routine encounters and meetings with Marxist people in Calcutta made this Iraqi youth fascinated with their socialist ideas. Swami discusses with this Arab youth that these temples, whatever are admired by European Architectural historians were of no benefit to the people. People did not have schools as many as they have temples. The priests are preaching the cult of the old centuries

and it is opium used to kill the arteries that pulsate with the blood of life.

In the wave of Socialism and the emergence of Marxism, which initially started from Bengal in India early in the twentieth century, the progressive framework shared by the Socialists and Marxists in the early twentieth century in India implicitly diminished the religious sphere in the Modern History of India. New aspects of interpretation of religion came into practice, and religion was familiarized to the new generation as an obstruction to modernization and socialization. The artists, scholars, historians, and writers put religion in the spotlight where the hermeneutic understanding of religion was reviewed in the light of Marxism, and Socialism.

The novel embeds these dialogues so that it can direct towards the central theme and trends of the narratives. No doubt, it directly speaks about the people, culture, and socio-political history of India, but it connotes all colonized nations there were suffering the Colonial tyrannies at that time.

The most relevant part of the novel to the growing communal extremism in today's India is the reference to the communal incidents that occurred due to cow vigilance during his stay in Calcutta. "We don't welcome the unity of what some leaders are calling to. We prefer real unity, which is natural and unbreakable. Don't you see the massacres that occurred between Muslims and Hindus because a Muslim man has slaughtered a cow or because a Hindu priest has blown the shankha in front of a mosque?" as-Sayyid said to Swami.

My concluding remark is to highlight the importance of this Arabic literary trove in the context of Indian colonial history. If someone tries to know about what the Arab writers/travelers wrote about India, this novel may serve with its richness of overlapping with India. In this context, I feel proud to introduce this treasured piece of Arabic literature to my Indian nationals.

Mohammad Imran is a Ph.D. student at Jawaharlal Nehru University and he is an awardee of the Erasmus Mobility fellowship for research in 2019. His research area is the contemporary Arabic novel and Arab thoughts. He is from Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Relevance Of Women's Prize For Fiction

Misha Ketchell

**E**very year since 1996, one of the most heralded of awards for women writing in English is announced annually. The prize formerly known as the Orange Prize, the Orange Broadband Prize, and Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction, has – since 2018 – been anonymously supported by a “family” of sponsors, and known simply as the Women's Prize for Fiction. And the 2021 winner is Susanna Clarke, with her second novel Piranesi.

**THIS SEPARATION OR SEGREGATION of women's writing should be understood as part of the patriarchal control of what and who matters – and, historically, women have not. The Women's Prize for Fiction was set up in response to the Booker Prize of 1991 when none of the six shortlisted books were by women**

Clarke's latest book was described by this year's chair of judges and former Booker winner, Bernardine Evaristo, as a book that “would have a lasting impact”. It comes 17 years after Clarke's first novel, Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell, which blends historical fiction with imaginative fantasy.

Every year, there is some discussion in parts of the press, and on social media, on the point of a prize for women writers. After all, the argument goes, Anglophone women writers have won such awards as the Booker – Hilary Mantel and Margaret Atwood, for example, while many of those shortlisted are also women. Meanwhile, Doris Lessing and Alice Munro have won the Nobel Prize for Literature. Do we need an award specifically for women?



Ever since the prize was first mooted in the early 1990s, many have wondered whether the prize is necessary, patronising, or even fair. A common position amongst its detractors is that the prize is sexist and discriminatory. English journalist and novelist, Auberon Waugh, (the eldest son of the novelist Evelyn Waugh) famously called it the Lemon Prize.

These debates about women writers have their origin, however, in the longstanding concerns and debates about the relationship between women, reading and writing: debates which are nearly as old as the history of the novel in English.

**The dismissal of women writers**

For example, the poet and priest Thomas Gisborne's 1797 conduct manual, An Enquiry into the Duties of the Female Sex, recommends to every woman “the habit of regularly allotting to improving books a portion of each day”. But Gisborne does

not include novels among his “improving books” – like many of those who have written on the possible dangers of reading fiction for women.

This policing of the woman reader – and it is a short skip and jump here to the woman writer – is far from an isolated occurrence. In January 1855, the novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote to his publisher that, “America is now wholly given over to a damned mob of scribbling women, and I should have no chance of success while the public taste is occupied with their trash – and should be ashamed of myself if I did succeed”. Hawthorne was concerned with the subject matter of women writers – quite simply, it was not to his taste.

This dismissal of women writers continues today. In an interview at the Royal Geographic Society in 2011, the British writer, V.S. Naipaul, was asked if he con-

siders any woman writer his match, to which he replied “I don't think so”. He claimed that he could “read a piece of writing and within a paragraph or two I know whether it is by a woman or not”. Naipaul was clear that part of this recognition was because writing by women is “unequal” to him and his writing. Key to this is that the subject matter of women's writing is often perceived as frivolous and unimportant.

**Separation and segregation**

This separation or segregation of women's writing should be understood as part of the patriarchal control of what and who matters – and, historically, women have not. The Women's Prize for Fiction was set up in response to the Booker Prize of 1991 when none of the six shortlisted books were by women, despite 60% of the novels published that year by women writers.

Not all potential entrants welcomed the new prize. A.S. Byatt (winner of the 1990 Man Booker Prize) refused to have her fiction submitted for consideration for the new award, and trivialised the Women's Prize for the assumption that there is something that might be grouped together as a “feminine subject matter”. But it is an indisputable fact that women have often been excluded from or dismissed by the literary establishment, by reviewers, and by the prize system.

This is not to say all women's writing experiences are the same. There are challenges to the notion of awards for women's writing – since they can still discriminate against different races, ages, types of education, classes, disability and trans women, among others. But what cannot be disputed is that all women (writers or not) are united by living in global and local societies that value, promulgate and prioritise the voice, identities and experiences of men over women.

The positions offered by Gisborne, Hawthorne and Naipaul are indicative of the expectations placed upon women in the literary marketplace and are very much tied to issues around the relationship between worth, taste and power. Who decides what text has “worth”, and how this worth has been arrived at, are questions that we might think are something for English literature students to grapple with at university.

But these are important questions for us all to consider. The humanities is broadly the study of what it is to be human and reading is a key marker of being human. We tell stories to ourselves, about ourselves, over and over again. We have entire industries built on reading, and on storytelling (whether books, films, games or more). We all need to think about who reads, and whose stories are told and re-told. The Women's Prize for Fiction is one way of ensuring that women's stories are among those that are told and re-told.

The author is a Senior Lecturer in Twentieth-Century Literature and Culture, Newcastle University. The article is being reproduced here by arrangement with The Conversation

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, (R&B) CIRCULAR ROAD PROJECT, SGR.

HQs: Engineering Complex, Rajbagh e-mail sernbcpr@gmail.com

چاورٹر سیر ایجنٹنگ کمپنی ہر کھارو پروجیکٹ سرنگر، گلگت، حکومت جموں و کشمیر۔

No.SE/R&B/CRP/PS/Notice/ \_\_\_\_\_ Dt. -09-2021

M/S Tajamul Hussain Khan,  
S/o: Ab. Hamid Khan  
R/o: Doulatabad Nowpora Khanyar.

Subject: - Development of central verge from Shamsan Bhoomi towards Qamarwari by way of grill fencing and removing of tree guards from well grown trees (Phase 1<sup>st</sup>).

Ref:- Executive Engineer (R&B) Landscape Divn. Sgr's Allotment No: LD/3155-61 dtd. 18.08.2021.

- Whereas, the above captioned work was allotted to you by the Executive Engineer (R&B) Landscape division vide No LD/3155-61 dt.18.08.2021; but till date the work has not been started by you as per the above quoted reference addressed to you & copy endorsed to this office as well.
- Whereas, you were supposed to start the work immediately from the date of issuance of allotment letter but in spite of repeated direction to start the work, no action for starting of work has been witnessed at site till date.
- Whereas, the works is of urgent nature & is under time bound programme and has to be completed within shortest possible period in any case;
- Whereas, the undue delay in start of work has yielded public criticism and resulted in bad name for the Deptt. before high ups;

Now, in view of the above, you are hereby given mercy chance to start the work within three days from the issuance of this final notice, failing which the contract allotment issued in your favour vide No: LD/3155-61 Dt.18.08.2021, will be cancelled & fresh tenders will be invited at your risk and cost besides, imposition of other penalties with recommendation for debarment for participating in the tendering process of PWD works at least one year.

Sd/-  
(Er. Abdul Qayoom Kirmani)  
Superintending Engineer,  
(R&B) Circular Road Project, Sgr.

DIPK 9367/21

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR.

#### SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER E-TENDER NIT NO. 103/XEN/EDS/2021-22 OF 09/2021

Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on item rate basis from approved and eligible Registered Civil Contractors with Union Territory J&K/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. (Amt In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Up-gradation and Renovation of Various Rooms by way of Wooden Panelling, Wardrobes, Wooden Flooring and other Allied Works in HOD-3 at Sonwar Srinagar.	6.38 lacs	300/-	30 Days	CEE/DEE	4059-Plan

Position of AAA: Accorded Position of funds: 50% Available  
1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-09-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23.09.2021 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	23.09.2021 from 10.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	30.09.2021 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30.09.2021 at 3.05 PM. In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (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.
- 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 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 technical bid.
- Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and Taxes:- The rate quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on Estates e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
- 13.1 All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-
  - All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.
  - All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan
  - All bidders shall upload Bid Security Declaration Form
  - All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.
  - All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest Clearance Certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest Clearance Certificate. (August 2021-22).

No. :- E-Tender/NIT/EDS/4168-78/2021-22 /T-1  
Dated:- 23-09-2021  
Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Sgr.  
DIPK-9273/21

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

e-mail:- rmbdivisonshopian@gmail.com (Phone/Fax No: 01933-260226)

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 125/8027-36 / SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2021-22 Dated:- 23-09-2021  
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion (In days)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	AAA No / Dt	TS No / Dt
1	Construction of Ramp and renovation of Snow Clearance Control Room at Padawan Shopian.	8443-Deposit Contribution	2.48	DEE	25 working days	200/-	SEMK/TS-26/AA/06 of 2021-22 Dated:- 24-12-2020.	114/R&B/Div/Spn of 2021-2 Dt: 21-09-2021
2	Construction of Double Storyed School Building at High School Sindu Shirmal by way of Providing and fixing Aluminum Partition, Collapsible doors and Grill work.	4202 Edu D/ Sector	3.30	DEE	25 working days	200/-	22-DDCS of 2020. Dated:- 04-01-2020.	115R&B/Div/Spn of 2021-2 Dt: 21-09-2021
3	Supply of dry Keekar fire wood for the winter preparedness (2021-22).	3054 Potholes (Contingencies)	5.50	DEE/CEE	25 working days	300/-	CE/R&B/K/PIg/17445-78. Dated:- 17-08-2021.	Under Process

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-09-2021
2	Document downloading Start Date	From 10.00 A.M
3	Document Downloading End Date	upto 4:00 P.M
4	Bid submission Start Date	24-09-2021 From 10.00 A.M
5	Bid Submission End Date	01-10-2021 upto 4:00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	02-10-2021 at 11:00 A.M

- Bidders must upload the requisite cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan / Treasury Challan Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority). (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).
  - All the Bidders have to upload / submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" enclosed).
  - The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR within 03 Days before fixation of Contract.
  - The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).
  - All other terms and conditions are as per PWD form-25 (Double agreement form)
- No. :- NIT/e-Tendering/8037-39  
Dated:- 23-09-2021  
Executive Engineer  
PW(R&B) Division Shopian  
DIPK-9344/21

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کریری درخواست بابت حصول ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ تحت SRO 43/1994  
معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ سے عیال ہے کہ غلام محمد حجام ولد نور الدین حجام ساکنہ ریشی پورہ اٹھوڑہ تحصیل کریری حلقہ & Sewerage Drainage میں بحیثیت ڈرافٹس مین (Drafts Man) تعینات تھا اور مورخہ 02-08-2021 فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ موتی کے پسماندگان بذیل ہیں۔  
زوند بیگم 55 سال گھر ریلو کام  
شیمس بانو 33 سال گھر ریلو کام  
بلال احمد حجام 30 سال بے روزگار  
اسکے علاوہ کوئی موتی کے دوا دوا دان شاہین بیگم و نثار احمد حجام شادی شدہ ہے اور اپنے کنبے جات کے ہمراہ بائیں پر ہے اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
نائب تحصیلدار AJJ

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Tawheed Ahmad Parray S/o: Mohammad Sultan Parray R/o: Warapora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 1558 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Finance Ser B/U Srinagar. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .  
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3468 Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Dated 24-09-2021 Budgam Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Nisar Ahmad Ganai S/o: Abdul Ahad Ganai R/o: Ompora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04A 5330 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Nowgam. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .  
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3460 Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Dated 24-09-2021 Budgam Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Sheikh Ajaz Ahmad S/o: Sheikh Gulam Nabi R/o: H.NO 136, Government Housing Colony Chanapora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04A 0816 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Air Cargo Srinagar . Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .  
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3462 Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Dated 24-09-2021 Budgam Kashmir

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

(www.jkssb.nic.in) Dated:22-09-2021

Advertisement No.05 of 2021 Subject: - Advertisement for District/Divisional/UT Cadre posts of various Indenting Departments under provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services - Decentralization and Recruitment Act, 2010 and rules made there under read with other relevant rules governing the subject. Reference:- Requisition of Posts/Vacancies received from Indenting Departments as per the details given below:

S.No.	Reference of Indent	Department	No. of posts received
1	JSD/NGJ/65/2021 dated 10-08-2021	Jal Shakti Department	163
2	Horti-NG/03/2021 dated 18-08-2021 read with Horti/56/2017 dated 14-01-2021 and 18-02-2021	Horticulture Department	198
3	Agri/Coord/25/2020/357 Dated 01-10-2020 followed by Agri/Cord/06/2021/363 Dated:-23-08-2021	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare Department	101
Total Posts			462

a) Date of Commencement for submission of online applications=09-10-2021.  
b) Last Date for submission of online applications =09-11-2021.

**Total Number of Posts Advertised =462**

The J&K Services Selection Board invites online application from eligible candidates for participation in the selection process for District/Divisional/UT Cadre posts. The detailed notification, terms and conditions with regard to eligibility, educational qualifications, domicile, reservation, etc are available on the official website of J&K Services Selection Board i.e (www.jkssb.nic.in).

No. SSB/Secy/Advt.No./05/6285-86  
Dated: 22/09/2021  
DIPK-9297/21  
Sd/-  
(Sachin Jamwal)JKAS, Secretary,  
J&K Services Selection Board.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING SRINAGAR

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 19 of 2021-22 DATED:-22-09-2021  
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of U T J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on ITEM RATE BASIS from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways/ Locals of the respective Panchayat Halqa's of concerned Blocks having registration certificate issued by District Development Commissioner Srinagar as per Govt. order No.238 -F of 2021 Dated:- 07-09-2021 and other State/Central Governments for the following works under District Capex Budget (PRI)

Sno	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Cost of tender Documents	Time of completion	Class of contractor	Treasury challan account head
1	Construction of culvert near the H/o Ab. Rashid Malik at Panzina B.	2.58	500	30 days	DEE / Registration	0515
2	Construction of culvert near the H/O Bashir Ahmad Malik at Panzina B.	2.58	500	30 days	DEE / Registration	0515
3	Construction of lane from H/o Riyaz Ahmad Dar to H/o Mudasir Ahmad Rather near Middle School Soitang.	2.54	500	30 days	DEE / Registration	0515
4	Construction of drain from H/O Bashir Ahmad Hajam to H/O Gh Mohd Hajam at Soiteng.	1.23	500	30 days	DEE / Registration	0515
5	Construction of lane from H/O Late Gh Hassan Nath to Nazir Ahmad Nath and others at Soiteng.	2.80	500	30 days	DEE / Registration	0515
6	Construction of lane from H/O Javid Ahmad Magray to H/O Ab Ahad Magray at Herpora Soiteng.	1.88	500	30 days	DEE / Registration	0515

1. (i) Position of AAA: -Accorded (ii) Position of funds: Demanded

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

A	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22.09.2021
B	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22.09.2021 6.00PM
C	Bid submission Start Date	22.09.2021 6.00PM
D	Bid Submission End Date	29.09.2021 4.00PM
E	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30-09-2021 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering wing Srinagar

No: XEN/REW/SGR/974-85  
Date: 22/09/2021  
DIPK-9255 - 60  
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Rural Engineering Wing Srinagar

## HISTORY @ 60: Sensex Conquers Mt 60K As Investors Keep The Faith

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MUMBAI:** The BSE Sensex made history on Friday by reaching the 60,000-mark for the first time ever as investors continued to accumulate banking, finance and auto stocks despite lacklustre global cues and concerns over frothy valuations.

The 30-share benchmark rose 163.11 points or 0.27 per cent to its lifetime closing high of 60,048.47. Intra-day, it touched an all-time peak of 60,333. Similarly, the NSE Nifty advanced 30.25 points or 0.17 per cent to close at a record 17,853.20. It soared to a lifetime high of 17,947.65 during the day.

It took a little over 31 years for the Sensex to traverse from 1,000 points to the historic 60,000 level.

The benchmark index was at 1,000 points back on July 25, 1990 and took nearly 25 years before it touched the 30,000 level on March 4, 2015.

The Sensex has climbed from the 30,000 level to 60,000 in a little over six years, reflecting the overall bullishness in the market.

The last 10,000 points have come at a record pace, with the Sensex reaching the 50,000-level only in January this year. "Sensex reaching 60,000 today is an indicator of India's growth potential, as well as the way India is emerging as a world leader during COVID period in addition to worldwide monetary expansion and relaxed fiscal policies adopted by world powers," said Ashish Kumar Chauhan, MD and CEO, BSE.

Asian Paints was the top gainer in the Sensex pack on Friday, spurring 3.72 per cent, followed by M&M, HCL Tech, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Maruti and Infosys.

On the other hand, Tata Steel, SBI, Axis Bank, ITC, HUL,

NTPC and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards, shedding up to 3.60 per cent.

"Market valuations are high but on the flip side the underlying economic growth is favourable. We would suggest not to be under-invested in equity."

"One can rebalance portfolios and revert to long term strategic allocation to large caps by exiting laggards and trimming the tail in mid and small caps, many of which may be over-valued right now," said Nimish Shah, Chief Investment Officer - Listed Investments, Waterfield Advisors.

Sectorally, BSE telecom, realty, teck, IT and auto indices rallied up to 2.77 per cent, while metal, healthcare, basic materials and FMCG fell as much as 2.31 per cent.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices underperformed the benchmarks, shedding up to 1.16 per cent.

During the week, the Sensex rallied 1,032.58 points or 1.74 per cent, while the Nifty surged 268.05 points or 1.52 per cent.

"Even at 60k our advice for investors is to buy in select stocks (strong companies in terms of managing and growing companies) with a medium to long term view."

"Most of the time in the market it is proved that the level of the index is just a number and the actual market index is very different from the numbers. However, the buying is advisable in tranches/parts, do not lock your entire funds at current levels," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities.

Global markets were on a weak footing on Friday on concerns over China Evergrande group after the real estate giant missed bond interest payments.

## Net Direct Tax Mop-Up Grows 74% At Rs 5.70 Lakh Cr So Far This Fiscal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

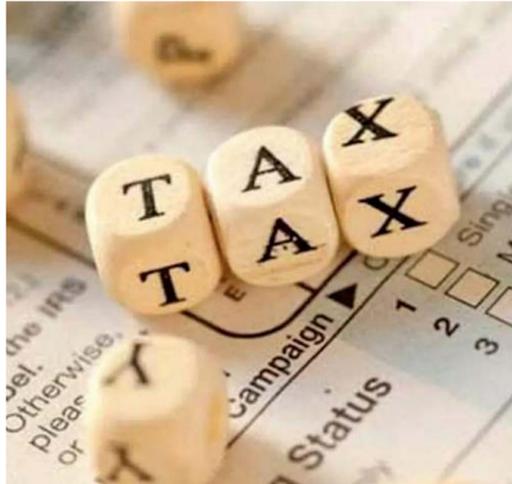
**NEW DELHI:** The net personal income and corporate taxes collection grew 74 per cent to Rs 5.70 lakh crore so far this fiscal, driven mainly by advance tax and TDS payments.

The mop up of net direct tax (which is arrived at after deducting refunds from gross collection) between April 1-September 22 was at Rs 5,70,568 crore, a 74.4 per cent growth over Rs 3.27 lakh crore collected in the same period last fiscal, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement. It is 27 per cent growth over Rs 4.48 lakh crore collected in 2019-20.

The gross direct tax collection so far this fiscal stands at over Rs 6.45 lakh crore, a 47 per cent growth over Rs 4.39 lakh crore mopped up in the corresponding period of the preceding year. The gross collection was 16.75 per cent higher than Rs 5.53 lakh crore collected between April 1-September 22 of 2019-20 fiscal.

While over Rs 2.53 lakh crore has been collected through advance tax, Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) mop-up was over Rs 3.19 lakh crore. Self-assessment tax worth Rs 41,739 crore, regular assessment tax of Rs 25,558 crore, dividend distribution tax of Rs 4,406 crore and tax under other minor heads of Rs 1,383 crore has been mopped up.

"The cumulative advance tax collections for the first and second quarter of the FY 2021-22 stand at Rs 2,53,353 crore as on September 22, 2021, against advance tax collections of Rs 1,62,037 crore for the corresponding period of the immediately preceding financial year i.e 2020-21, showing a growth of 56



per cent," the statement said.

The advance tax collection comprises corporation tax (CIT) at Rs 1.96 lakh crore and personal income tax (PIT) at Rs 56,389 crore.

The gross CIT mop up was Rs 3.58 lakh crore and PIT was over Rs 2.86 lakh crore, while net CIT was at Rs 3.02 lakh crore and PIT was at Rs 2.67 lakh crore.

Refunds amounting to Rs 75,111 crore have also been issued in the FY 2021-22 so far.

The CBDT said that despite extremely challenging initial months of the fiscal year 2021-22, the advance tax collection in the second quarter (July 1 to September 22, 2021) of FY 2021-22 is Rs 1.72 lakh crore, which shows a growth of 51.50 per cent over the corresponding period in FY 2020-21 when the advance tax collection was Rs 1.13 lakh crore.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said businesses, although not unscathed, were better prepared to ride the second wave.

"The significantly higher tax collection numbers bear proof of the projected improvement in India's economic growth rate. FY 2020-21 was a one of a kind year that caught taxpayers and governments across the world by surprise. Therefore, the 27 per cent improvement in tax collection from FY 2019-20, when the economy was more stable than it is today, may be more reassuring than the 74.4 per cent improvement from FY 2020-21 when businesses experienced a significant dip," he said.

Jhunjhunwala further said that the improvement in advance tax collection over 2019-20 demonstrates a strong bounce back.

## Telugu Film Makers Keen To Explore J&K As Shooting Destination

Tourism Deptt officers brief them about scope for film tourism



Observer News Service

**HYDERABAD:** The film makers of Telugu cinema (Tollywood) are keen to explore Jammu & Kashmir as a shooting destination for the upcoming movies.

This was disclosed by the office bearers of Telugu Film Producers Council and Telugu Film Directors Association in a meeting with the officers of J&K Tourism Department here Friday.

A team of officers from the Tourism Department, these days, is on a visit to Hyderabad to interact with members of tourism trade, media, film makers and other stakeholders.

During the meeting, the officers informed the office bearers of these organisations about the recently launched Film Policy by the J&K administration under which all film permissions have been brought under single window clearance mechanism besides incentivising the producers opting to choose shooting in J&K.

The office bearers of Telugu Film Producers Council and Telugu Film Directors Association comprising T. Prasanna Kumar, Mohan Vadlapatla and N. Shankar and Tamareddy Bhardawaj appreciated the move of the Tourism Department to reach out to them to promote film tourism in J&K. They appreciated the recent launch of the Film Policy by the

J&K administration and informed that they would be keen to explore J&K for the shootings of their upcoming movies. In this regard, they informed the officers that their respective organisations would be discussing the details of the Policy and would plan a familiarisation trip accordingly.

This year, it may be recalled here, has seen an encouraging number of production houses from Southern states shooting in J&K. Some of the Telugu production houses which have shot in J&K this year include M/S Roaring Lions, Mumbai, R K Film Association, Arka Media Works, Hyderabad, People Media Factory LLP, Bangalore, Ushers Studios, Hyderabad besides production houses from Kannad, Malayalam and Tamil cinema.

The team of officers also met the office bearers of Hyderabad Golf Association headed by its President, C. Dayakar Reddy at Golconda Golf Course.

The officers informed the members of Golf association that Golfing circuit of Jammu & Kashmir comprising the iconic Royal Springs Golf Course, Pahalgam Golf Course, historic courses like the Gulmarg Golf Course and Kashmir Golf Course besides Jammu-Tawi Golf Course provides a rich and varied world class experience to visiting golfers which is unparalleled in rest of the country.

## Diesel Price Hiked, No Change In Petrol Rate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Diesel price on Friday was hiked by 20 paise per litre - the first increase in rates in over two months - as international oil prices neared their highest since 2018.

Price of diesel was hiked to Rs 88.82 per litre in Delhi and to Rs 96.41 in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Petrol price was not changed. It costs Rs 101.19 a litre in Delhi and Rs 107.26 in Mumbai.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) hadn't revised fuel rates since September 5 despite a surge in international oil prices.

On Friday, global benchmark Brent crude rose to USD 77.50 a barrel as crude inventories shrunk from Europe to the US. Oil rates are up 2 per cent for the week and this is the fifth weekly gain.

Since the last price revision on September 5, the price of petrol and diesel in the international market is higher by around USD 6-7 per barrel as compared to average prices during August.

But oil companies, which are supposed to revise prices daily in line with the cost, did not change rates for almost three weeks. They have now started to pass on the increase to customers.

Average international crude oil prices had fallen by more than USD 3 per barrel in August as compared to the previous month. This came against the backdrop of mixed economic data from the US and China and mobility restrictions in Asia fuelled by the fast-spreading Delta variant.

Accordingly, retail prices of petrol and diesel in the Delhi market were reduced by Rs 0.65 a litre and Rs 1.25 per litre by oil marketing companies from July 18 onwards. The last downward revision was on September 5. Prior to that, the petrol price was increased by Rs 11.44 a litre between May 4 and July 17. Diesel rate had gone up by Rs 9.14 during this period.

The price hike during this period pushed petrol prices above the Rs 100-a-litre mark in more than half of the country, while diesel crossed that level in at least three states.

## FPI Minister Interacts With Progressive Farmers, Entrepreneurs

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** As a part of Public Outreach Programme of Union Government for Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries (FPI), Pashupati Kumar Paras Friday visited Centre of Excellence (CoE), Zawoora Srinagar and had a detailed interaction with the progressive farmers and entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion the Union Minister said that the Government is committed to fulfill all genuine demands of farming community of the valley. He said that the Government has already initiated several measures to realize the dream of Prime Minister of doubling the farmers' income by 2022.

Highlighting about the initiatives of Union Government for development of Food Processing sector in J&K, Paras said that the Government is exploring possibilities to set up mini food parks in J&K to boost investment. He added that apart from enhancing processing capacity in the region, this will also ensure farmers get remunerative prices for their produce.

The Minister on the occasion announced that a special team from the Centre will be deputed to the Valley to assess the problems being faced by



the farming community and them that all of their grievances will be redressed.

While interacting with the fruit growers, Paras advised them to avail benefits of various centrally Sponsored Schemes for obtaining high yields with least inputs.

On the occasion, the Minister also appreciated the UT Government for its efforts put in towards the upliftment of farming community of the valley.

In his welcome address, Director General Horticulture briefed the Minister about the present scenario of Horticulture Sector of Kashmir Valley.

He said that Horticulture is one of the important sectors of the state which serves as the backbone for the economy of J&K. He informed the Minister that the total area under fruits in Kashmir valley is about 3.3 lakh Hectare with an annual production of 24 lakh MTs.

The Director exhorted the officers that there will be no compromise on already set benchmarks in terms of production of different crops from these Departmental Farms. He asked the participants to ensure the production and supply of quality seed to the farmers.

Earlier, a detailed presentation regarding the present scenario of these Departmental Farms was given to the Director.

## Dir Agri Reviews Functioning Of Departmental Farms

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Friday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the functioning of Departmental Farms in Kashmir Division and to take stock of the preparations for Rabi 2020-21, at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, here.

At the outset, the Director was apprised of different

Rabi plans which were later on discussed threadbare.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director asked the concerned officers to come up with some comprehensive plans to strengthen the departmental assets. These Departmental Farms would play an important role in achieving the goal of self-reliance in meeting the seed requirements of Kashmir to a large extent, he added.

Chowdhary directed the Farm Managers and concerned officers that harvest-

ing operations should be meticulously planned and executed. He said Joint Director Agriculture Inputs and Joint Director Agriculture Farms will monitor the harvesting proceedings and the entire activity of harvesting of different crops in these Farms should be done purely on scientific lines.

He reiterated the importance of post harvest management and scientific stor-

age of the produce.

The Director exhorted the officers that there will be no compromise on already set benchmarks in terms of production of different crops from these Departmental Farms. He asked the participants to ensure the production and supply of quality seed to the farmers.

Earlier, a detailed presentation regarding the present scenario of these Departmental Farms was given to the Director.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOURISM (M&W) KASHMIR, SRINAGAR**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**e-NIT No. DT/M and W/K/ 34 of 2021-22, Dated 22.09.2021**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited by Deputy Director Tourism (M&W), Kashmir on (Aggregate Percentage Basis) from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Govt. for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	Providing Electrification to Mausoleum of Mehmood Gami and Restoration / upgradation of illumination system to Mehmood Gami Park at Mehmood Abad Dooru, Anantnag.	3.20	200	35-days	AAV-class Electric	PLAN
2	Providing illumination facility to Phawarnag Park at Mattan, Anantnag.	4.93	200	40-days	AAV-class Electric	PLAN
3	Restoration / upgradation of damaged / defunt Electric / illumination system to various Huts / TRC / Ski lifts and Panels at Gulmarg.	11.78	600	50-days	AAV-class Electric	PLAN

**Position of AAA/TS: Accorded** **Position of Funds: Committed**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:-**

- The intending tenderers must have sufficient skilled / unskilled labour force.
- All Bidders have to upload Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid Registration card / PAN / GST registration and Treasury Receipt (1452-TSM Revenue Head). However successful bidder shall produce the original copies of same within 3 days after opening of tenders.
- The successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of Adv. cost as performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR within 03 days after opening of tenders and same shall be released after successful completion of work / DLP.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

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

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22/09/2021
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	22/09/2021 3.00 P.M to 29/09/2021,04.00 P.M
3. Bid submission Start Date	22/09/2021 From 3.00 P.M.
4. Bid Submission End Date	29/09/2021 4.00 P.M
5. Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	30/09/2021 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Dy. Director Tourism, M&W

**General Conditions:**

- The bidders will provide email ID and complete postal address including cell numbers.
- 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 Website in o/o Dy. Director Tourism, (M&W) Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of Bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
  - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make 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 7 days after fixation of contract.
- Bidders are advised to visit and examine the site / location of work, its surroundings and familiarize himself with existing facilities / difficulties and environment and collect all other information which he may require for preparing and submitting the bid entering into the contract. Claims and objections due to ignorance of existing conditions are in-adequacy of information will not be considered after submission of the bid and during execution of work.
- Bidders are advised to examine the departmental store before quoting the rates and ensure the condition of material available to be fixed and erected at work site any defect or damages in the material shall be rectified by the successful contractor at his own risk & cost.
- 7. 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) 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. Besides,
- The tenderer should study all the terms and conditions of e-NIT in carefully and fill up the tender accordingly.

NIT No: DT/M&W/K/ 34 / 166-70/TD,  
Dated: 22/09/2021  
DIPK-9224 / 21

Deputy Director Tourism  
(M&W), Srinagar

# SC Seeks Centre's Reply On PIL Alleging Export Of Iron Ore In Pellet Form By Evading Export Duty

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Friday asked the Centre to respond to a PIL which alleged export of iron ore in pellet form by some firms by evading duty.

The PIL also sought a direction to either ban the export or levy a 30 per cent duty on exports of iron ore in all forms including pellets.

NGO Common Cause, in its PIL, said the exports of iron ore pellets, manufactured by government-approved Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), may be exempted from the levy of 30 per cent export duty.

Issue notice, a bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli said after taking

note of brief submissions of lawyer Prashant Bhushan who appeared for the NGO.

The bench has sought responses from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), which is responsible for implementing the Foreign Trade Policy, the Department of Revenue, and the Pellet Manufacturers' Association of India in four weeks.

The instant writ petition... seeking an appropriate writ... to the Union of India to completely ban the export of iron ore (whether in the form of pellets or otherwise) or in the alternative to levying an export duty of 30% on the export of iron ore in all forms including pellets (except pellets manufactured and

exported by KIOCL)...

And also an appropriate writ... to initiate proceedings under Section 11 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 and Section 135(1) of the Customs Act, 1962 against the mining companies which have been exporting iron ore pellets in contravention of the provisions of India's export policy, thereby, evading the export duty chargeable on the export of iron ore pellets, and also direct a thorough and independent investigation into the role of public officials in allowing the same, the PIL said.

By illegally exporting iron ore in the form of pellets, the mining companies have been able to evade the mandatory export duty of 30 per cent which is

otherwise levied on the export of iron ore, and have also been able to evade the restriction related to Fe content, the plea said.

It has come to light that many mining companies have been illegally exporting iron ore pellets by falsely declaring them under the ITC HS Code 26011210, thereby, claiming full exemption of export duty, even though as per the export policy conditions only Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) Limited, Bangalore or any entity authorised by KIOCL Limited, Bangalore is allowed to export iron ore pellets manufactured by KIOCL, the plea said.

The brief hearing on the plea saw an exchange of words when lawyer M L Sharma, who had

filed the PIL on the same issue which is pending in the top court, joined the virtual hearing as a caveator to oppose the PIL of the NGO being argued by Bhushan.

"They have stolen my petition. I spent money and filed the petition, and at his behest, my video connection was disconnected five times. This is his regular practice, he always steals my petition. He is a copycat...", Sharma argued.

Your (Sharma) petition is already there. Notice has been issued on that. Does it stop Bhushan from filing another case... We are allowing his petition and it does not mean that we are disallowing your plea, the bench said.

## Children Less Severely Impacted By COVID-19 Pandemic: WHO Chief Scientist

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Children have been less severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and their chances of recovery are very well, World Health Organisation (WHO) chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan said on Friday.

She, however, said SARS-CoV2 virus may not disappear, but it is not going to cause the kind of impact and panic it caused over the last two years.

Participating in a virtual session on Priorities after Pandemic; What Young India wants?—Indian Student Parliament, Swaminathan said the reason why people talk about children being susceptible is because vaccination programmes today in most countries are targeting people above

the age of 18 and elderly as they are the most vulnerable.

"When you do that, you are left with younger, and younger people who are unvaccinated. And, therefore, when you have the virus circulating in the community, those people are basically the susceptible population," she said in response to a question.

In many countries, it is seen that by vaccinating older people, the infection pattern shifts to younger people.

"I want to assure you that children on the whole have been less severely impacted by this pandemic. Not that they don't get infected. Yes, they do get infected as adults but they don't get severely ill. Clearly, it is an age-related correlation with the severity," she said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## Parts Of Old

whirlwind tour of city on Monday.

According to the order, there shall be a 24 hour complete 'Corona' curfew with no movement of people except for permissible activities. Besides all educational institutions, all shopping complexes, bazaars, saloons, barber shops, cinema halls, restaurants, sport complexes, gyms, spas, swimming pools, parks, zoos, etc, shall remain closed.

"No social gatherings/functions whether indoors or outdoors shall be allowed. The permitted ceiling for marriage shall be restricted to 20 persons only. The gathering at funerals shall be limited to 10 persons only," reads the order.

"There will be no ingress and egress of the public permitted in these areas except in case of Medical exigencies," it adds.

Asad, who is also Chairman DDMA, has directed the Superintendent Engineer R&B (PWD) to barricade the restricted areas. Also, the DM has asked Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar to ensure strict implementation of the order, while Tehsildar Eidgah has been named the Administrator for the Red Zones and all the line departments have been asked to coordinate and cooperate with the Administrator for effective implementation of the order.

"Chief Medical Officer shall ensure intensive door to door RAT/RTPCR testing in the mentioned wards. Last but not the least, the public at large is also being informed that Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act provides for penalties in case a person obstructs any officer or employee in discharge of his functions or refuses to comply with any direction given under this Act. Any violation of the above directions will, therefore, lead to prosecution under section 51 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005," reads the order.

About the permissible activities, the order reads, that all essential services including all incidental services and activities needed for smooth functioning of these activities shall be allowed to continue, both in the public and private sector. Besides it, standalone grocery/vegetable/meat/milk shops may also remain open and functional to ensure provisioning of essential supplies from 7:00Am to 11:00AM only.

"There will be no hindrance to the smooth movement of goods and essential supplies. There shall be no restriction on the movement of Government Officials for attending office/duties, on production of I-Cards/ official orders," reads the order.

It also allows all development/ construction works to continue without any hindrance.

"The vaccination drive shall not be halted. Localized mobile teams shall be constituted to provide vaccination in colonies, residential areas and containment zones," it adds

## Govt Transfers

an available vacancy. Deepak Kumar (IPS) was handling the additional charge.

Ashish Kumar Mishra (IPS), SSP, Pulwama, was transferred and posted as SSP, Anantnag, in place of Imtiaz Hussain Mir, who was transferred and posted as commanding officer of IRP 8th Battalion.

Nikhil Borkar, IPS, Additional SP headquarters, Anantnag, was transferred and posted as SP, Ganderbal, in place of Suhail Munawar Mir, who was transferred and posted as CO of J-K Armed Police 5th Battalion.

Randhir Singh, who was awaiting orders of posting, was posted as SO to Commandant General, Home Guard/Civil Defence/State Disaster Response Force, J-K, as per the order.

Ghulam Jeelani Wani, who was CO, IR-3rd Bn, was transferred and posted as SSP, Pulwama. Al-Tahir Geelani, SP, Anti Corruption Bureau, was recalled from deputation and posted as SP West, Srinagar, replacing Perbeet Singh, who was transferred and shall report to the PHQ awaiting further posting, the order said.

Mukesh Kumar Kakkar, Additional SP Baramulla, was transferred and shall report to the PHQ and await further posting, it said.

Rakesh Kumar Parihar, Deputy CO IR-14th Bn, was transferred and posted as Additional SP, Baramulla.

Zohab Tanveer, Additional SP Kupwara, was transferred and posted as SP North, Srinagar, in place of Mubbasher Hussain, who has been asked to report to the PHQ and await further posting, the order read.

## Slain Cop's

mistook him for a militant, officials said.

According to preliminary investigation, Dhar was going from the Handwara police station to sleep at the temple located in main Handwara town, they said.

"The victim was using headphones on his mobile phone. When he reached near the temple, the guard there observed suspicious movement and signalled him to stop. Dhar apparently could not hear the sentry, prompting him to open fire," one of the officials said on Wednesday.

As Dhar's mortal remains reached his residence at Jagti camp on the outskirts of Jammu city on Thursday, hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits gathered outside and held protests, demanding a probe into the killing.

"Please return my son alive. Who fires at the head of a person," Dhar's grief-stricken mother lashed out.

Speaking to reporters, the victim's younger sister, Neha, said, "We want justice for my brother Ajay, not compensation or money. The police are telling lies. We want a high level probe by the NIA."

She added that they don't trust the statements of the police, and the government must order a probe by either the NIA or the CBI.

"It is a cold-blooded murder," another family member alleged.

Lashing out at the administration and the police for their failure to safeguard Kashmiri Pandits in the valley, Ajay Dhar's grandmother said, "We want justice and punishment to those involved in it, not compensation."

Terming the incident a "cold-blooded murder", the BJP accused the police of a cover-up and demanded a high-level probe.

J-K BJP vice-president Ajay Bharti said the incident will have repercussions on the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley if a probe is not ordered.

Kashmiri Pandit leader Vikas Raina also demanded a probe by the CBI into the circumstances of his death.

Several KP organisations, including the APMCC, HGT, ASKPC, KPC, AIKS, KPS and the Panun Kashmir, also demanded a high-level probe.

## MHA Booklet

step with the rest of the country. Kashmir is keeping pace with the country. The Narendra Modi Government erased the pain of the people by removing the provisions of Article 370 from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, which had been lagging behind in the race of development for decades. Now it has been brought at par with other states by bringing it into the mainstream," the booklet reads.

"For almost two years now, this region has embarked on a new journey of development. 170 Central laws, which were not applicable earlier, have now been made applicable in this region. At present all the Central laws are applied in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir."

The MHA further said soon after the issuance of the notification, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh were reorganised into two separate UTs from 31st October 2019.

"Out of the 334 State laws, 164 laws have been repealed and 167 laws have been adapted, according to the Indian Constitution. For the people living in areas adjoining the international border, a provision of 3% reservation in jobs and educational institutions has been effected," the MHA said.

It said that the domicile law has been applied in J&K. "According to the new definition of domicile, the persons residing in Jammu & Kashmir for 15 or more years, will be treated as domiciles. Displaced refugees from Western Pakistan too, have human and civil rights now," the MHA said, adding that "the way has been paved for the resettlement of Kashmiri Pandits ousted from the Kashmir valley in 1990."

It said that the protection of rights of the women marrying outside Jammu & Kashmir, as well as their children, has been ensured. The MHA booklet said that Jammu and Kashmir is gaining freedom from militancy and moving on the path of development.

"After the removal of article 370, the support base of separatists is diminishing. In 2018 fifty-eight, in 2019 seventy and in the year 2020, six leaders of Hurriyat were taken into custody. The security provided to the Hurriyat leaders at government expense has been withdrawn. 82 bank accounts of separatist were frozen," the MHA disclosed.

"The incidents of militancy have significantly declined and there is a new found atmosphere of peace and security in the valley."

About Tourism post revocation of Article 370, the MHA said that tourism will shine again in Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh as the places are being identified for development as Tourist destinations.

"A total of 137 peaks of Himalayas have been opened for foreign tourists out of which 15 mountain peaks are in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh," it said.

The MHA booklet further said that the Government is bringing the valley into the mainstream through Employment & Skill Development.

"Biggest recruitment campaign of 10,000 vacancies have been identified in the first phase of the biggest ever recruitment campaign, out of which, 8575 vacancies have been advertised by the Services Selection Board. As a part of the second phase of the recruitment campaign, 12379 posts have been identified," the MHA

said. Agencies

## Change Visible

schemes are being implemented in the Union Territory. Addressing a gathering here on Friday, Singh expressed satisfaction over implementation of several government schemes in the district, an official spokesperson said. The Minister, he said, appreciated the efforts of district administration as well as various departments for effective implementation of government schemes on ground.

"While addressing the gathering the Union Minister said that after abrogation of Article 370 from J&K, many changes are visible in the field of development like completion of mega projects, progress of ongoing developmental works and implementation of different centrally sponsored schemes in J&K. He said that the present dispensation is trying its best to bring Jammu and Kashmir on the glorious path of development," the official spokesperson said.

Regarding the establishment of 3rd tier of Panchayati Raj system in the UT, the Minister, he said, observed that with the establishment of Panchayati Raj Institutions the developmental process accelerated with full zeal and dedication for the socio economic upliftment of common people.

"He said that the government is committed to empowering Panchayats through devotion of funds, functions and functionaries as local representatives are well aware of needs of their areas and can resolve the issues on priority with the best solution," he added.

Commenting on the natural assets and scenic beauty of J&K, Singh, as per the official spokesperson said that Jammu region has huge tourism potential as well as potential of channelizing the local produce of vegetables into an organized venture.

"While underscoring the importance of New Education Policy 2020, he added that the new policy paves the way for reforms in the education sector and the government is committed to provide quality education to the students," he said.

Regarding Jal Jeevan Mission scheme, he said, the Minister informed that JIM is centrally sponsored schemes launched by the Government of India with objective to provide 100% tap water to all households.

During his visit, the official spokesperson said that the Minister inaugurated various developmental works and projects and also laid the foundation stone for improvement of road from Bari to SC village and construction of road from Shiv Temple to Barta High School under NABARD.

## 148 New Cases

and one new case each in Kulgam and Shopian districts.

In the winter capital, 10 cases were reported from Doda, 6 each from Jammu and Rajouri, Reasi 4 and Ramban 2, officials said. No cases of coronavirus were reported from the five districts of Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar and Poonch.

During the same time, officials said, 159 more patients have recovered—29 from Jammu and 130 from Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the deadly infection claimed the life of one more person in Kashmir Valley on Friday, raising the death toll to 4420—2172 in Jammu and 2248 in Kashmir.

## 21 Years Later,

District President CWA, said, "If we had a significant population, we would have been a strong vote-bank but we are no more than a lakh in numbers scattered around 15 districts of J&K. This is the main reason we haven't been included in the ST list."

He further added, "Our sister communities like Gujjar-Bakarwals, Changpas of Ladakh and Gaddis of Himachal Pradesh are already enjoying their rights under the ST list of 1991 but our community has been neglected for last several decades, even though our demand for rights stood at 12th preference on Mandal Commission Report."

Notably, Chopans, known as Pohuls in Kashmir, are a nomadic community scattered across J&K. Unlike their sister communities, they have no livestock of their own but rear sheep belonging to the local farmers.

"All previous governments have passed the buck to the next government for our community's welfare but all failed to bring justice to our tribe," Ahad said.

"For the last twenty years Chopans have demanded the same Scheduled Tribe status that has been given to all the shepherd communities in India."

Back in 2018, J&K's Social Welfare Department had also passed an order for the constitution of a committee in order to make a detailed study on the "Socio-Economic Status" of the Chopan Community.

The committee was headed by Dr. Pirzada

Mohammed Amin, Head of Sociology Department of University of Kashmir.

"The committee had done a survey and mentioned that Chopan Community is living a dismal life due to the failure of receiving the ST status," Ahad said. "But the report could never see the light of the day due to the frozen funds."

Even though the indigenous community's ST status was approved by the Backward Commission report, no further action was taken into the matter.

"If things continue to work in the same way," Ahad said, "the day isn't far when the Chopan community will cease to exist."

## Revenue Records

in Jammu and Kashmir and its subsequent hosting on a user-friendly portal, an official spokesperson said Friday. Principal Secretary, Revenue Department, Commissioner/Secretary GAD, CEO J&KEA, and scientists from CDAC participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, he said, it was informed that the IT Department has upgraded its storage capacity to host complete revenue records in the public domain.

"The Chief Secretary asked CDAC to suitably upgrade the capacity of its servers in the next 15 days to enable public access to revenue records including mutation, jamabandi, girdawari, and massavi documents," the official spokesperson said.

Further, he said, the Revenue Department was asked to develop a user-friendly interface by 15th October to enable hassle-free public access to various revenue documents.

## When Will

steps for conservation and preservation of the Wular Lake.

The court also directed the Director, WUCMA to come clean with the time schedule to remove encroachments from the Wular Lake.

Amicus Curiae in the matter- Nadeem Qadri told Kashmir Observer that the order is a landmark and will make every party responsible for conservation of the lake accountable.

"The court will closely monitor the case now," he told Kashmir Observer.

The court passed this direction after recording on previous hearing that 640 kanals of Wular Lake have been encroached.

This apart, it was recorded that the Union Government has pumped in Rs 200 crores for conservation and management of the Wular lake and, therefore, the respondents were asked to inform the court the manner in which it proposes to spend the said amount for the conservation and management of the lake.

In response to the court's directives, an action taken report was filed by the Chief Executive Director, Wular Conservation and Management Authority.

The report submitted before court indicated that the Wular Lake has been fully demarcated with geo-tagged and concrete boundary pillars have been fixed all over the periphery of the Lake.

It further stated that the net area of the Wular Lake at present is 130 Square Kilometres and that 642 Kanals 01 Marla of land (around 0.3 sqkm) was encroached upon.

"Out of the said encroached land about 261 kanals 10 marlas have been retrieved and that the authority is in the process of retrieving the balance of 380 kanals 11 marlas (0.19 sqkm)," the report said.

The Court of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul while taking the compliance report on record pointed out that the Director (WUCMA) has not specified as to the time frame within which the remaining encroachments shall be removed.

"In that view of the matter, we direct the authority to come clean with the time schedule within which the remaining encroachments shall be removed and the lake would be made encroachment free," the court directed.

In regard to Rs 200 crores, which have been provided for the conservation and management of the Wular Lake, the report states that according to the Wular Action Plan, about 124.825 crores have already been spent on survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, water management, biodiversity conservation, ecotourism development and institutional development.

Amicus Curiae in the matter- Nadeem Qadri disputed the above action and submitted that under certain heads nothing has been done by the respondents so far, as such, there is no question of spending any money under these heads.

He further submitted that there are about 33 villages around the said lake and that the authority has not taken any steps to ensure that no garbage from all the said villages is dumped into the lake area.

He also stated that despite a huge amount of Rs 200 crores having been provided, the authority has not engaged full time officials/

officers for the conservation and preservation of the lake.

The court while taking the submissions of the counsel on record permitted him to file his objections/ response to the aforesaid action taken report and "put forth his suggestions separately for the improvement of the lake," court directed.

The court will again hear the matter on 10 November, 2021.

## 'Kashur Zamutdoudh'

turmoil—he had his eureka moment.

Delivering curd in a traditional package when the lockdown-ridden people were getting essential services at their doorsteps made him quite an optimist.

"It was like conceiving something out of chaos," Zahid maintains. "And this made sense too given how Kashmir badly needed such a localized initiative for sending out a positive message that things can click in crisis with some creative application of mind."

Driven by this determined mindset, Zahid threw his weight behind his brainchild. And a little over a year later, he isn't regretting his decision.

"Alhamdulillah," he says, "the response is overwhelming."

Today, Zahid is supplying 'Kashur Zamutdoudh'—the milk product of his brand, A.T Dairies—to every nook and cranny of the city. With positive feedback and word of mouth, his business is only growing by leaps and bounds.

"One of the things which clicked for us is the pure quality of our curd," Zahid says as he takes us on a guided tour of his manufacturing unit. "You will get a home-feeling when you taste it."

Since curd is a notable food item and an essential part of Wazwan in Kashmir, it has a huge market appetite.

"The customers liked the idea of supplying the curd in traditional clay pots rather than usual plastic packaging during feasts and parties," Zahid continues.

"But beyond the hailing response, the idea was to revive the old culture and to give a boost to local potters."

However, before becoming a self-starter cum cultural revivalist, Zahid soon after graduating from Srinagar's Gandhi Memorial College had tried his luck in carry-bag making business.

But as he finally found his calling in curd, he intends to expand his business to other district headquarters of Kashmir now.

"I've worked very hard on this venture but Allah showed me the way," he says. "I believe success only comes gradually without any shortcuts."

His six-staff members and scores of out-workers are currently feeding market with three curd packages — 220-ml pot, 300-ml pot and 550-ml pot.

"Among them, 300-ml curd pot has a lot of demand for weddings and other functions organized by hoteliers," Zahid says.

"The idea at the end of the day is to promote the local product and the local industry. With this resolve, I've started Kashur Zamutdoudh."

## LG Discusses Security

an official spokesperson said.

"They also discussed various issues related to internal security management in J&K," he said, adding that the LG appreciated the high professionalism of the Army in ensuring a safe and secure environment for the people of J&K.

Earlier, the official spokesperson said, the Secretary Parliamentary Affairs, GOI, Gyanesh Kumar today called on LG and discussed a variety of issues related to Panchayati Raj System in J&K.

## AEE Dies After

leaving him dead on the spot, reports said.

The AEE's body was later taken to Sub-District Hospital, Kangan for medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, police said that a case under relevant sections of laws has been registered in this regard.

## Teen Drowns

to rescue the teenager from the gushing water of the stream. However, after hectic efforts, the rescue team retrieved the lifeless body of the teenager, reports said.

The body was later handed over to his family members after completion of legal formalities.

## Leopard Cub

He said that after strenuous efforts, the leopard cub was caught alive on Friday morning, according to news agency KNO.

He said that the leopard was captured at the place, located close to the village where a nine-year-old boy was mauled to death a week before.

He said that search is continuing from the last eleven days and staff has been deployed at every hotspot to catch the animal, who mauled the boy to death, he said.

## Parwez Wins Kashmir MTB Cycling Championship

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Kashmir Road MTB Cycling Championship organised by J&K Sports Development Association was held on Friday, September 24 here.

The race kick started from Duck Park Foreshore Road and culminated at Zaberwan Park Boulevard, Srinagar.

The event was held in collaboration with Department of Tourism, Amblin and RED FM Srinagar and Kashmir Sports Watch and was sponsored by Elegant Strikers, NITians Career Academy, Springs Buds Institute Budgam, Shahzaib group, CP Advertisers, Posh Enterprises. Parwez Ahmed of Narbal emerged winner in Senior category, while Waheed Ahmed finished second. Mansoor finished third in Senior category while as Faisal and Aamish finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

In Junior category, Parvaiz Ahmed finished first while as Shabir finished second. Farhan Tariq bagged third place while as Aqeel Sajad and Shahnawaz finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Around 90 cyclists from various parts of Kashmir participated in the race.

Director Tourism Kashmir, G N Itoo, was chief guest on the occasion and gave away the prizes.

Director Tourism on the occasion termed the booming trend of



cycling in Kashmir as great for the overall development of sports and tourism in Kashmir Valley.

He said that it is not only now cricket and football but cycling and trekking as well which are trending among Kashmiri youth.

Among others present were JKSDA Senior Vice President Rauf Ahmed Trambo, Technical Director JKSDA Dr Altaf ur Rehman, NITians Career Institute Director Sheikh Mubashir, Principal Spring Buds Shanawaz Qureshi, Director Shaheer Group, Owner Downtown Heroes FC Mushtaq Bashir, Director Amblin Hinan Bhat and Director Posh Enterprise's Shabir Ahmed.

Earlier, the race was flagged off by JKSDA President Bashir Ahmad Malik and Director Water Sports Bilquis Mir.

It was after long gap that JKSDA resumed its activities and is planning to conduct more such events in coming time. JKSDA have organised Tour de Kashmir Multiple Stage cycle event earlier.

## J&K Pacer Umran Malik Named In SRH's IPL Squad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** Uncapped medium pacer from Jammu & Kashmir, Umran Malik was on Friday named as a short-term COVID-19 replacement for T Natarajan in the Sunrisers Hyderabad squad for the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Natarajan had tested positive for COVID-19 before the team's fixture against Delhi Capitals on Wednesday.

"Sunrisers Hyderabad have brought in medium pacer Umran Malik as a short-term COVID-19 replacement for T Natarajan for their VIVO Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 campaign," an IPL release stated.

The 21-year-old Malik has played one T20 and List A match for Jammu Kashmir and has picked a total of four wickets. He is already part of the Sunrisers Hyderabad as a net bowler.

"Under the Regulation 6.1 (c),

franchises are allowed to sign a short-term replacement player until the original squad member is permitted to re-enter the team's bio-secure environment."

"Hence, Malik will only be a part of the Sunrisers Hyderabad side until Natarajan recovers and is allowed to join the team," the release added.

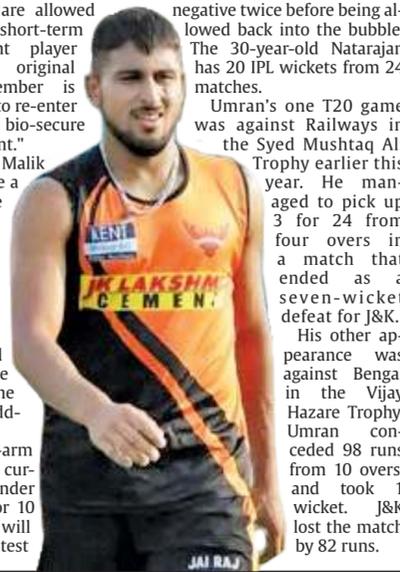
The left-arm pacer is currently under isolation for 10 days and will have to test

negative twice before being allowed back into the bubble. The 30-year-old Natarajan has 20 IPL wickets from 24 matches.

Umran's one T20 game was against Railways in the Syed Mushtaq Ali

Trophy earlier this year. He managed to pick up 3 for 24 from four overs in a match that ended as a seven-wicket

defeat for J&K. His other appearance was against Bengal in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Umran conceded 98 runs from 10 overs, and took 1 wicket. J&K lost the match by 82 runs.



## DC Aim For Consolidation, RR Hope To Keep Momentum Going

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**ABU DHABI:** Operating like a well-oiled unit, Delhi Capitals will be eager to consolidate their top spot when they clash with a resurgent Rajasthan Royals, who will be keen to keep the winning momentum going in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.

The Rishabh Pant-led side had a sensational first leg, winning six games in eight outings. They started the second phase on a high by handing laggards Sunrisers Hyderabad an eight-wicket thrashing on Wednesday to maintain their top spot on the points table.

On the other hand, Rajasthan, who were struggling to find their feet in the first leg, will take a lot of confidence after snatching a two-run victory from the jaws of defeat against Punjab Kings.

With the win, they have bridged the gap on the playoff

spots. A victory against Delhi will take them to the fourth.

For Rajasthan, youngsters Yas-hasvi Jaiswal and Mahipal Lomror rose to the occasion with the bat against Punjab but skipper Sanju Samson will be expected to take more responsibility.

In the bowling department, pacers Kartik Tyagi and Bangladesh's Mustafizur Rahman did the job in the end.

With Punjab needing eight runs to win of the final two overs, Rahman gave away just four in penultimate over before rookie Tyagi bowled a sensational final six balls, picking up two wickets while conceding just one run to seal the side's fourth win of the season.

The former champions will look to keep the winning momentum going and bag two more points but that's easier said than done.

## JKCA Under-25 Men Selection Trials From September 27



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) on Friday announced selection trials for its Under-25 Men's team.

In a notice the JKCA said the trials will take place from September 27 at Srinagar and Jammu simultaneously.

"It is for the information of all aspiring cricketers that JKCA

will be conducting preliminary trials for selection of Under-25 Men at JKCA grounds Jammu/Srinagar w.e.f. 27-09-21," the JKCA notice said.

In Srinagar, the trials will be conducted at Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Sonwar. While in Jammu, Hostel Ground, GGM Science College, Canal Road has been selected as the venue for the trials. The reporting time has been

set at 10:00 AM.

"All those desirous of attending the trials must bring their original digitalised Date of Birth certificate (born on or after September 1, 1996). Those who are below 18 years are not allowed to participate in the trials. Those who are fully vaccinated should get vaccination certificate and RT-PCR report also," the notice concluded.

## Srinagar Football Leagues: 3 Matches Played



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Three matches were played on Friday in the ongoing DFA Srinagar Annual Football League 2021 here.

In Super Division league, two matches were played at Synthetic Turf, TRC.

The first match between Galaxy FC and Jehlum Sports FC ended in a 2-2 draw.

Jehlum FC took the lead in 7th minute thanks to a goal by Bilal Ahmad. Galaxy FC hit back strongly and scored the equaliser in the 35th minute through Farhat. Minutes later, in the 37th minute, Galaxy FC doubled their lead through Asrar. Jehlum FC, however, fought back early in the second half and scored their second, and the match's final, goal in

the 45th minute through Bilal.

In the second Super Division match of the day, Syed Tajuddin FC and IFC Kashmir played a 1-1 draw.

Syed Tajuddin managed to find the net and take the lead through Faisal in the 13th minute of the match. Both teams created opportunities but failed to capitalise. In the second half, IFC Kashmir dominated the proceedings and scored the equalising goal in the 51st minute through Ishfaq.

In A-Division league, only one match was played on Friday at the Gindun Ground, Rajbagh.

Alamdar FC and Pandrathan FC battled it out in which Alamdar FC won by a solitary goal. Aijaz Ahmad was the scorer for Alamdar FC.

## No More Neutral Venues For Pakistan Cricket: PCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**KARACHI:** The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will not consider hosting its home series at neutral venues from now onwards, a senior official said on Friday, asserting that the country is safe to host international games.

New Zealand arrived in Pakistan for the first time since 2005 but left without playing a single game, citing a security threat. England also decided to cancel its tour to Pakistan, saying it had players' welfare in mind.

"That is now out of the equation because the security situation in Pakistan is normal and we have everything in place to host any international team. No more neutral venues for us," a PCB official said.

Pakistan has hosted a few of its home series in UAE as major Test playing nations country have avoided touring Pakistan since

the 2009 terror attack on the Sri Lankan team.

Gradually international cricket resumed in Pakistan and the PSL was also organised.

After the cancellation of the two tours, the PCB had approached a few Boards to arrange an international series at home before the T20 World Cup but now it has decided to organise a domestic event.

"Initial talks were held with some boards including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe but it was then decided to focus on the National T20 Championship as all the main players are available for the event and it is a curtain raiser to the World Cup for us now," the official said.

He said that Sri Lanka players would be in Oman holding a training camp ahead of their World Cup qualifying matches from October 17 as they have to qualify for the Super-12 stage.

## Nortje Praises Pant, Says He Has Great Game Sense

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**ABU DHABI:** He might have played just one match under Rishabh Pant's leadership as of now but South African speedster Anrich Nortje is impressed by Delhi Capitals' skipper's match reading skills and ability to project what's there in the offing.

Nortje, world's fastest bowler missed out on the first phase of IPL due to an injury.

The match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, where he got 2/12, was the first game that he played under Pant's captaincy.

"It's difficult to say just after one game. But all in all, he is good in understanding the game from what I have seen. He is a keeper as well and sees things differently," Nortje said ahead of Capitals' game against Rajasthan Royals.



"He has got a good eye of what's going to happen in the game, and that's really nice having that especially as a captain.

"The simple things like being good with angles and where fielders need to be placed, projecting what's going to happen, really nice having him at the back," Nortje said of his new skip-

per having played under Shreyas Iyer last time.

Without an iota of doubt, Nortje is currently the fastest bowler in world cricket and has bowled the top eight fastest deliveries of the IPL which includes a lot of 150 plus thunderbolts.

The highest recorded speed this IPL has been 151.71 kmph.

"I don't think about bowling speeds on the field but I

do think about it when I am doing my strength training. High speed is not something I search for on the field. I just try to hit the right lengths while bowling during a game."

Having Kagiso Rabada as a new ball partner has also helped him as their relation has become stronger over the years.

"KG learnt quite a lot. We are quite comfortable with each other and our relation has grown as we get along well.

"We chat simple stuff, like getting on top of off-stump, cliches, just about finding how to do it, knowing what you say to each other, building on it. How he bowls in certain situations in certain wickets," Nortje cited the advantages of having Rabada in his corner.

## Clubs Accuse FIFA Of Legal Breach, Railroading WC Overhaul

AGENCIES

**LONDON:** European clubs joined forces on Friday to rebuke FIFA for trying to railroad through plans for biennial World Cups, warning of a destructive impact on world football. FIFA President Gianni Infantino has infuriated the European Club Association, which is accusing the global governing body of being in breach of legal obligations with its rush to radically overhaul the sport and gain more control.

FIFA has been pushing internal interviews to media with retired players and former managers as it rushes to sweep up support from national associations for the plan to double the frequency of men's World Cups from every four years to two, while making the women's game appear to be an afterthought.

UEFA has already expressed its concerns about FIFA's conduct and that has been echoed by the ECA, which represents 234 clubs.

The ECA said it would back a more balanced approach to club and international football by reducing the five windows typically in the year for players to be released for national team games to reduce the burden on players. It is the lack of apparent engagement by FIFA on the required new international match calendar (IMC) from 2024 that is troubling the clubs.

"ECA has therefore followed with grave concern and alarm FIFA's launch of active PR campaigns and much pretence," the club body said in a statement to The Associated Press, "apparently seeking to railroad through reforms to the IMC, particularly the introduction of a biennial World Cup."

## Hope Messi Can Play Against Man City: Pochettino

AGENCIES

**PARIS:** Lionel Messi has been ruled out of Paris St Germain's match against Montpellier as he has not fully recovered from a bone bruising injury, but manager Mauricio Pochettino hopes he returns for their midweek match against Manchester City.

Messi suffered a knock on his left knee and an MRI scan earlier this week confirmed signs of a bone contusion. He missed PSG's 2-1 victory at Metz on Wednesday. The 34-year-old Argentine forward, who joined the French club from Barcelona on a two-year contract in August, will be assessed again on Sunday - ahead of the Champions League home game against City on Tuesday.

"Messi has started to run today... We are going to assess him and we hope he



improves," Pochettino told reporters on Friday. "On Sunday, we will be able to give a positive update. We hope everything goes well and he will be available again... Yes, we hope he can play (against City). We have to be cautious."

Pochettino said the City match will not affect his selection on Saturday, with Angel Di Maria expected to play the league game as he remains suspended in the Champions League after his red card in last season's semis against the Premier League side.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO DEAREST YAZDAAN HUSSAIN**

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

FROM: BABA, MAMMA, DAADI, NANU, NAANI, MAAMU, MAASI, BUA AND ALL NEAR AND DEARS.

**NOTICE**

This is for the information to the general public that I Tarique Ahmad S/o Abdul Gaffar Bhat R/o Arifeen Colony II, Ellahi Bagh Near Grid Srinagar want to transfer the electricity bill bearing installation no: 94184R-1A and consumer ID No: 0204020003720 to my name from Mehraj Ud Din Mir S/o Tajuddin Mir. In this case if anybody have any objection he/she may file the same with Ex. Engineer Division Ellahi Bagh Srinagar within 7 days. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

**NARCOTIC ANONYMOUS GROUP MEETINGS**

(LECTURES AND COUNSELLING SESSION)

INITIATIVE BY

**Healthy Minds (KASHMER) and HELP Foundation**

IN COLLABORATION WITH

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTRE, EIDGAH SRINAGAR, J&K**

VENUE: SYEDPUR, DR ALI JAN ROAD  
DATE: 25 SEPTEMBER TIME: 1100 HRS

## Ahead Of The Biden-Modi Bilateral Meet, White House Official Lists Agenda



**WASHINGTON:** US President Joe Biden is looking forward to his first bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi today during which they are expected to discuss a wide range of priority issues, including combating COVID-19 and climate change, economic cooperation as well as Afghanistan, according to a senior administration official.

While the two leaders have met in-person earlier, when Joe Biden was the Vice President of the United States, this is for the first time that Joe Biden will be meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in-person after he became the 46th president of the US in January.

Since President Biden's inauguration, the two leaders have spoken over the phone multiple times and have attended a few virtual summits, including that of the Quad in March hosted by the US President.

"President Biden is looking forward to his bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi in the Oval Office on Friday morning, ahead of the QUAD summit (later in the day)," said a senior administration official familiar with the preparations of the maiden Biden-Modi summit.

"We will cover a number of priority issues that India is really, front and centre... including pandemic response, their response to climate change; we'll talk about technology issues, economic cooperation and trade as well as Afghanistan," said the senior administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

After the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, India has been saying that its focus was to ensure that the war-torn country's soil is not used for terrorist activities against it.

Among the issues also include discussion about new areas of cooperation, said the official on the eve of the India-US bilateral summit.

In his departure statement on Wednesday, PM Modi said that during his visit, he will review the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership with President Biden and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Ahead of the visit, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said PM Modi and President Biden,

in their meeting, are expected to focus on further bolstering bilateral trade and investment ties, strengthening defence and security collaboration and boosting the strategic clean energy partnership.

"The bilateral meeting (between Narendra Modi and Joe Biden) will also feature the current regional security situation following recent developments in Afghanistan, our stakes as a neighbour and a long-standing and a preferred development partner of Afghanistan," he said in New Delhi on Tuesday.

"In this context, we would undoubtedly discuss the need to stem radicalism, extremism, cross-border terrorism and the dismantling of global terrorist networks," Mr Shringla added.

Mr Shringla said the importance of smooth post-COVID travel, especially for students, is also an important factor and is expected to be discussed at the talks.

President Biden and PM Modi are likely to be joined by their senior officials, including External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and India's Ambassador to the US Tarunjit Singh Sandhu.

Following the bilateral summit, President Biden would welcome PM Modi again at the White House for the first-ever in-person Quad summit. Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga will also attend the summit.

In November 2017, India, Japan, the US and Australia gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence.

The resource-rich Indo-Pacific region is where China has been trying to spread its influence. India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region. China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea.

## Gangster Shot Dead At Rohini Court By Gunmen Posing As Lawyers; 2 Attackers Killed In Police Action

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Jailed gangster Jitendra Gogi and his two assailants posing as lawyers were killed inside a crowded Rohini courtroom on Friday in a dramatic shootout that also saw the police fire bullets in retaliation, officials said.

Video footage of the incident, which exposed security lapses in the system, showed policemen and lawyers rushing out in panic as gunshots rang out inside courtroom number 207. The two gunmen dressed as lawyers belonged to a rival gang, officials said.

Witnesses said a woman lawyer also received a bullet injury in her leg and one claimed that the gang members pumped 10 bullets into Gogi.

Police said the incident happened around 1.15 pm when Gogi was taken to the courtroom for a hearing.

Advocate Sunil Tomar, who was present in the courtroom for his client's bail matters, said there were 15-17 people in the court of judge Gagandeep Singh when the gangsters opened fire.

"As Gogi entered the courtroom, two persons, who were dressed as lawyers, whipped out their pistols and suddenly opened fire upon him. After hearing gunshots, people started running to save their lives and the judge also went back to his office just behind the courtroom," Tomar told PTI.

"For the first 15 minutes, I could not figure out what was happening there."

Advocate Manoj Kumar Nigam, who was also there, said a woman lawyer has received a bullet injury in her leg.

A senior police officer said that Gogi was escorted by members of the counterintelligence unit of the Delhi Police's Special Cell.

"When Gogi entered the courtroom, the two assailants in lawyers' uniform opened fire on him. Immediately, the personnel from the counterintelligence team retaliated and the two assailants died on the spot," he said.

The joint commissioner of police (northern range) has been asked to enquire into the incident and submit a report.

Some lawyers claimed this is

not the first such shootout incident at the Rohini court.

"I was stepping out of the court when the incident happened. I heard firing and later more rounds were fired...this (incident of firing) has happened for the fourth or fifth time at Rohini. So, the situation has not improved," said advocate Rajiv Agnihotri.

Jitendra Maan alias Gogi, who carried a reward of Rs 6.5 lakh on his head, was arrested along with his three accomplices -- Kuldeep Naan alias Fajja, Kapil alias Gaurav and Rohit alias Koi -- from Gurgaon by a team of Special Cell in March last year, according to police.

The Special Cell was on the lookout for Gogi, Fajja and Gaurav for a long time before tracing them to their hideout in Gurgaon.

A few months ago, Fajja had managed to escape from the police custody when he was being produced in the Karkardooma court, another senior police official said.

Since that incident, the counterintelligence team of the Special Cell escorted Gogi and his associates to the court for hearings, he said. PTI

## Man Given Bail to Wash Women's Clothes for 6 Months



Press Trust of India

An Indian man accused of attempted rape has been given bail on condition that he wash and iron the clothes of all women in his village for six months.

Lalan Kumar, 20, will have to buy detergent and other items needed to provide six months of free laundry services to about 2,000 women in the village of Majhor in Bihar state, under the ruling made Wednesday.

Kumar, who washes clothes for a living, was arrested in April on charges including attempted rape, Santosh Kumar Singh, a police officer in Bihar's Madhubani district, told AFP.

No date has been set for his trial. "All the women in the village are happy with the court decision," Nasima Khatoon, the head

of the village council, told AFP.

"It is historic. It will boost respect for women and help to protect dignity," added Khatoon, one of the village dignitaries who will monitor Kumar.

Women in the village said the order had made a positive impact by making crime against women a subject of discussion in their community.

"This is a remarkable step and a different kind of punishment that sends a message to society," said Anjum Perween.

India's rape laws were overhauled after a 2012 gang rape in New Delhi but the number of offences remains high, with more than 28,000 rapes reported in 2020.

Police have long been accused of not doing enough to prevent violent crime and failing to bring sexual assault cases to court.

## UPSC Results Out, 761 Candidates Clear Civil Services Exam 2020

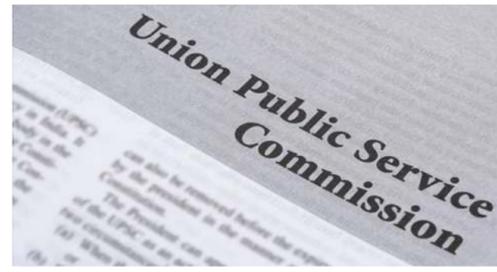
Agenceis

**New Delhi:** A total of 761 candidates have cleared the coveted civil services examination 2020, with engineering graduates Shubham Kumar and Jagrati Awasthi bagging the first and second ranks respectively.

The Union Public Service Commission on Friday declared the results of the examination, conducted annually to select IAS, IFS and IPS officers, among other civil servants.

Mr Kumar, a Bachelor of Technology (civil engineering) graduate from IIT Bombay, has qualified the examination with anthropology as his optional subject.

Ms Awasthi is the topper among women candidates, according to a statement issued by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). She qualified the examination with sociology as her optional subject. She completed B.Tech (electrical



engineering) from Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal.

Ankita Jain has achieved the third rank in the prestigious test.

A total of 761 candidates -- 545 men and 216 women -- have cleared the examination and recommended for various civil services by the Commission.

The civil services examination is conducted by the UPSC in three

A total of 10,564 candidates qualified for appearance in the written (main) examination which was held in January, 2021. Of them, 2,053 candidates qualified for the personality test (interview), it said.

The 761 recommended candidates include 25 persons with benchmark disability -- seven orthopedically handicapped, four visually challenged, 10 hearing impaired and four multiple disabilities.

Of the successful candidates, 263 are of general category, 86 from economic weaker section (EWS), 220 of Other Backward Class (OBC), 122 Scheduled Castes (SC) and 61 belong to Scheduled Tribes category.

The UPSC said that the top 25 candidates comprise 13 men and 12 women. The educational qualifications of top 25 successful candidates range from graduation in engineering, humanities, commerce and medical science from premier institutions of the country such as

IIT, NIT, BITS, NSUT, DTU, JIPMER, University of Mumbai and Delhi University, the statement said.

The top 25 successful candidates have opted for subjects like anthropology, civil engineering, commerce and accountancy, economics, geography, mathematics, mechanical engineering, medical science, philosophy, physics, political science and international relations, public administration, and sociology as their optional choice in the written (main) examination.

A total of 150 candidates have been put in the reserve list. The examination was conducted to fill 836 posts of different civil services.

Candidates can obtain any information/clarification regarding their examinations/recruitment on the working days between 10:00 hours to 17:00 hours in person or over telephone nos 23385271 / 23381125 / 23098543.

## 28 Arrested Over Teen's Gang-Rape For 8 Months

Agenceis

The offences were committed between January 29 and September 22. Thirty-three men have been allegedly raping a 15-year-old girl over the last eight months in the Indian state of Maharashtra, PTI reported on Thursday. The matter came to light on Wednesday night when the girl approached the Manpada Police in Dombivli city.

Twenty-six suspects have been arrested so far, ANI reported on Friday morning, citing Thane Police. Two minors have also been detained in connection with the incident, Additional Commissioner of Police Dattatray Karale told The Times of India on Thursday.

The offences were committed between January 29 and September 22, he added.

The police were looking for the other accused and a special investigation team has been formed to probe the case.

The main accused person is a friend of the girl. He had allegedly raped her in January and made a video of the sexual assault.

"He started blackmailing her on the basis of that video," said Karale. "Later on, his friends and acquaintances gangraped her on at least four to five occasions at different places, including Dombivli, Badlapur, Murbad and Rabale (cities) in the [Thane] district."

The matter came to light earlier this month after the girl told her aunt about the sexual assault.

"The girl's aunt approached a local social worker and decided to nab the accused," a police officer told the Hindustan Times. "On Wednesday, six of the accused called the victim to a lodge in Murbad. She shared her live location and her aunt informed us."

The police initially arrested two men from the lodge. The rest were arrested after their statements were recorded along with the girl's account. The accused have been booked multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code, including rape, as well as sections of the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act.

The girl has been admitted to a government hospital in Kalwa city. She is in a stable condition, said Karale.

Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said the government should act expeditiously on the matter and punish the culprits.

This came at a time when the Maharashtra government is already facing criticism for the Saki Naka rape and murder case. A woman in her 30s was found injured and bleeding inside a tempo van in Mumbai's Saki Naka area on September 10. She died on September 11 after being hospitalised in a critical condition. In 2020, India's National Crime Records Bureau recorded 28,046 rape cases - or nearly 77 cases a day.

## Muslims Should Bow To 'Indian Culture'; Ram, Krishna, Shiva Were Their Ancestors: UP minister

Press Trust of India

**BALLIA (UP):** Uttar Pradesh minister Anand Swaroop Shukla has said that lord Ram, Krishna, and Shiva were the ancestors of Indian Muslims and they should bow to the "land and culture of India".

In provocative remarks here, the minister of state for parliamentary affairs also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Adityanath have defeated the mindset which intended to create an Islamic State in the country by raising the flag of Hindutva and "Indian culture".

Presenting the account of Adityanath government's work during the last 4.5 years before the media on Thursday evening, Shukla said: "The ancestors of the Muslims of India are lord Ram, Krishna, and Shankar (Shiva). They do not need to see the land of Kaaba. These people should bow to the land and culture of India".

"After Syria and Afghanistan, some people from different countries want to make the world an Islamic State. Some in India have this mindset too. But, the Modi and Adityanath governments at the Centre and state have raised the flag of Hindutva and Indian culture in the country and defeated this mindset," Shukla said.

Referring to controversial posters put up in Sambhal recently, Shukla said they were the outcome of Samajwadi Party's support to Islamic terrorists and its MP Shaifur



Rehman Barq's statement supporting the Taliban.

Posters calling Sambhal the land of the "ghazis", an apparent reference to Islamic warriors, had come up ahead of AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's meeting there earlier this week.

The BJP had strongly objected to the posters, after which they were removed by workers of the All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM).

Shukla said "ghazis" have been completely eradicated from Uttar Pradesh. Such powers will not be able to raise their heads in the future, he said.

Attacking Owaisi, Shukla said his ancestors wanted to make Hyderabad a separate nation but could not succeed. "There are still people with such mentality. These are stupid people. Their ancestors became Muslims out of fear. This kind of thinking cannot flourish under the Modi and Adityanath governments," he said. -- PTI

### J&K SAYS NO TO 3<sup>RD</sup> WAVE OF COVID

Together we can Fight coronavirus

**Shri Manoj Sinha**  
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

### VACCINATION ALONG WITH COVID APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR IS BEST PROTECTION AGAINST COVID-19

**PROTECT**

**YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES**

Help us to help you

## # DON'T WAIT GET VACCINATED

**Do's**

- Always wear mask in public
- Practice frequent hand washing. Wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Maintain at least 6 feet (*Do gaz ki doori*) distance in hospitals, malls, market places, restaurants, public transport, etc.
- Cover your nose and mouth with handkerchief/tissue while sneezing and coughing
- Throw used tissues into closed bins immediately after use
- Keep number of guests minimal if social events cannot be postponed
- If you see any symptom promptly self-isolate and get your self tested

**Don'ts**

- Visiting crowded or public places or large gatherings
- Non-essential social, commercial, religious, cultural, sporting events, etc.
- Non-essential travel
- Have a close contact with anyone, if you're experiencing cough and fever
- Touch your eyes, nose and mouth
- Spit in public

Issued in Public Interest by:

**HEALTH AND MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, J&K**

For any kind of Covid 19 query log on to [www.covidrelief.jk.gov.in](http://www.covidrelief.jk.gov.in)

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