

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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**Quote!**  
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## NEWS DIGEST

### 2 Rohingyas Held In Jammu

**JAMMU:** Two Rohingya Muslims were detained for questioning after they were found moving in a suspicious manner near an Army camp in the outskirts of Jammu, officials said on Monday. Abdul Amin (43) and Abdul Salam (34), putting up in Teli Basti area of ● **More On P10**

### LG Grooms People On Eid-i-Milad

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday extended his warm greetings to the people of the Union Territory on the eve of Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi. In his message of felicitations, the LG hoped that the auspicious occasion would foster the spirit of togetherness amongst ● **More On P10**

### Gurez Road Closed After Snowfall

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities in north Kashmir's Bandipora district Monday closed the traffic movement along Bandipora-Gurez road, owing to snowfall in parts of Gurez and Razdan top. An official said that the road has been closed on Monday morning after fresh snowfall in parts of Gurez Valley including Razdan Top took place. Meanwhile, officials said that ● **More On P10**

### Man Absconding For 15 Yrs Arrested

**KISHTWAR:** Police on Monday claimed to have arrested one more absconder, who was evading arrest from the last 15 years. An information was received through reliable sources and a team of PS Kishtwar under the directions of Dy SP Hqs Kishtwar Satish Kumar raided the suspected locations and arrested ● **More On P10**

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**Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927**

## Kashmir Valley On High Alert After Target Killings



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** The government forces on Monday heightened security measures, increased frisking of passersby and random checking of vehicles across

Kashmir amid a new cycle of killings, mostly of migrant labourers, by suspected militants.

According to reports, the police and paramilitary forces conducted day-long search operations to infuse a sense

of security among migrant labourers and also to keep a check on suspects. The intense security measures came in the aftermath of recent killings of migrant labourers coupled with intelligence ● **More On P10**

### Women Frisked In City Centre

**B**eefing up security apparatus further in this capital city, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Monday deployed female troopers here to carry out random searches of womenfolk amid a spurt in militant attacks and

### Mobile Internet Snapped In Parts Of Valley

**T**he Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday suspended mobile internet in parts of the city here and some areas in the twin districts of Kulgam and Pulwama in south Kashmir. In Srinagar, mobile internet services were snapped

### Int'l Flights to Commence From Srinagar Next Week

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, on Monday reviewed the arrangements for starting direct international flights to and from Srinagar airport from October 23.

"Pole held a meeting regarding operation of international flights from Srinagar international airport and necessary arrangements needed to put in place and management of passengers in view of Covid pandemic," an official spokesman said.

He said the operation of international flights will start from October 23, which will connect Kashmir directly with the rest of the world. ● **More On P10**

## Day 8: Army, Militants Exchange Fresh Fire In Poonch



Agencies

**JAMMU:** Exchange of fire between security forces and a group of terrorists hiding in Mendhar forests

began Monday as the gun battle in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir that has so far witnessed the killing of nine soldiers resumed on the ● **More On P10**

### Shah Reviews Kashmir Situation

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah discussed various security issues, including the recent ● **More On P10**

### Army Chief Reviews Situation In Jammu

**NEW DELHI:** Army Chief General MM Naravane is on a two-day visit to the Jammu region where the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of White Knight Corps will give him ● **More On P10**

### Eid-e-Milad To Be Observed Today

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Hundreds of devotees are expected to throng the revered Hazratbal shrine here and other major mosques and religious places on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi on Tuesday.

Special congregational prayers are also expected at Jenab Sahib Soura, Asar-i-Sharif Shahri Kalashpora, Lal Bazar, Khanqah-i-Maula, Ziarat Hazrat Dastgeer Sahib (RA), Syed Yaqoob Sahab (RA) Sonwar, Khawaja Naqshband Sahab (RA) and Ziarat Makhdoom Sahib (RA).

However, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Wakf Board, Mufti Farid-ud-din told a local news agency that it has been decided to allow only a limited number ● **More On P10**

### J&K Logs 75 New Cases, 2 Covid Deaths

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 75 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while two more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 63 new cases of coronavirus were reported from Kashmir Valley on Monday and the remaining 12 from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 331137.

Giving district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported highest 39 cases followed ● **More On P10**

## Dubai To Invest In J&K, MoU Signed

We Hope To Get Proposals Around Rs 60,000 Crores In Coming Times: LG



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a move that will boost infrastructure development in Jammu and Kashmir, the government of Dubai and the Union Territory administration on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aimed at developing the Industrial sector and various business enterprises in J&K.

"This MoU is a significant move towards rapid development and Industrial growth in J&K. It is a milestone after which the investment will pour in from the entire globe and is a big developmental push. Different entities from Dubai have shown keen interest in investment.

Development has to be aspired on all fronts and we are on track. Recent industrial package of Rs 28,400 Crore is a testimony towards ensured development of J&K," Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry told a select group of reporters at Raj Bhawan after the agreement was signed.

Besides Goyal, who is also Union Minister of Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Chairman of DP World addressed the media on the occasion, an official spokesperson said.

Goyal, he said, ● **More On P10**

**JAMMU & KASHMIR HAS RECEIVED A PROPOSAL** worth Rs 30,000 crores in just a few months after the second wave of the pandemic and we hope to get the proposals of around Rs 60,000 crores in the coming times."

## Strong Intensity' Wet Spell From Oct 23: MeT

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The meteorological department on Monday predicted another spell of "stronger intensity" rains and snow from October 23 across Jammu and Kashmir.

"As expected, light to moderate rain occurred at most places in plains of J&K and moderate snow over higher reaches of both regions," a MeT dept official said.

Regarding the forecast, he said, there was a possibility of light rain/snow at isolated places of Kashmir on Tuesday. "The weather will be mainly dry from 20th till 22nd," the official

said, adding, "another spell of stronger intensity is likely during October 23-25th."

Meanwhile, Srinagar received rainfall of 14.8mm in 24 hours till 0830 hours while minimum temperature settled at 11.0 degree Celsius against 11.3 degree Celsius on previous night, the official said. Qazigund had 14.8mm of rain and recorded minimum of 10.6 degree Celsius, the official said.

Pahalgam received 11.8mm of rain during the time even as the famous resort in south Kashmir recorded a low of 8.5 degree Celsius, he said.

Kokernag, also ● **More On P10**

## SADERKOOT MASSACRE

## Soldier Sent To Judicial Custody After 25 Years

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A local court on Monday sent a Territorial Army soldier to Central Jail Srinagar in connection with infamous 1996 Sadarkoot massacre in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

The accused was sent to Central Jail after 25 years of the massacre. The accused identified as Ayoub Dar of Hakbara Sumbal was Naik in Territorial Army and was evading arrest from past 25 years, a local news agency KNT reported.

Pertinently, seven unarmed civilians including two women and five men were gunned down by government-backed counter-insurgents infamously known as 'Ikhwanis' in the Sadarkoot village of Bandipora district 25 years ago on October 5, 1996.

Advocate Shafiq Bhat representing complainant Ghulam Qadir said that police presented the accused TA soldier Ayoub Dar in the court of Sessions Judge Muhammad Ibrahim Wani who after hearing arguments and counter-arguments ● **More On P10**

## Scared, But Not Leaving Kashmir As People Are Kind: Migrant Workers

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Sanjay Kumar like many migrant labourers from Bihar and other places working in Kashmir are scared following the killing of five non-locals by militants this month, but say they will go nowhere as wages are high and residents are kind. Labourers from several parts of the country come to the Valley every year in early March for skilled and unskilled jobs such as masonry, carpentry, welding and farming, and go back home before the onset of winter in November.

"We are scared but we are not going back to Bihar, at least not yet. We go back in the first week



of November every year and that is how it will be this time too," Shankar Narayan, a 45-year-old labourer from Bihar, said.

Kumar, who like Narayan also hails from Bihar, said he

will go back to his native place according to schedule in the first week of November.

Narayan has been coming to Kashmir every March for the past 15 years and works here

till the first week of November before returning home. He said he has not faced any problem during his stay in Kashmir.

"People have been helpful. When there was complete shutdown for five months in 2016, we were not harmed even though locals suffered a lot," he said.

Kumar and Narayan said they would not have come here if they could have got similar wages anywhere else.

"We would not have come here in the first place but wages back home are not even half of what we get here. Also, people are very kind and generous," Kumar said.

The 30-year-old had gone to Malaysia in 2017 but returned

to the Valley where he found himself more "respected".

"I was in Kuala Lumpur for two years but it was a bad decision. I paid a hefty sum to get a visa and work permit. In the end, I just managed to get back home without incurring a debt," he said.

Kumar claimed that workers in construction and services in foreign countries are looked down upon.

Riyaz Ahmad, a carpenter from Uttar Pradesh, has brought his entire family -- wife and three kids -- to Kashmir. "Life here is better than back home. Me and my wife get work regularly," Ahmad said.

The 36-year-old is hoping to save enough ● **More On P10**





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Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the As-istant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
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No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3843  
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Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3835  
Dated 18/10/2021

MCB

**Public Notice**

My name wrongly mentioned in my passport under no K6936207 as Syeda Bazila Bukhari instead of Syed Bazeela Bukhari. Now i am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He /She may contact Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**SYED BAZEELA BUKHARI**  
D/O SYED FAROOQ AHMAD BUKHARI  
R/O KREERI BARAMULLA  
Contact No 7889786116

AJJ

# Here's how spending time in nature benefits children

**Agencies**

According to a new study, children who spent maximum time in nature during lockdown are likely to have lower levels of emotional problems compared to those whose connection to nature stayed the same or decreased - regardless of their socio-economic status.

The study, by researchers at the University of Cambridge and the University of Sussex, also found that children from affluent families tended to have increased their connection to nature during the pandemic more than their less affluent peers.

Nearly two-thirds of parents reported a change in their child's connection to nature during the lockdown, while a third of children whose connection to nature decreased displayed increased problems of wellbeing - either through 'acting out' or by increased sadness or anxiety.

The results strengthen the case for nature as a low-cost method of mental health support for children and suggest that more effort should be made to support children in connecting with nature - both at home and at school. The researchers' suggestions for achieving this include: reducing the number of structured extracurricular activities for children to allow for more time outside, provision of gardening projects in schools, and



funding for schools, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to implement nature-based learning programmes. The study also offered important guidance in relation to potential future restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We know that access to and engagement with nature is associated with wide-ranging benefits in children and adults, including lowering levels of anxiety and depression, and reduc-

ing stress," said Samantha Friedman, a researcher in the University of Cambridge's Centre for Family Research, first author of the study.

She added: "The COVID-19 lockdowns meant that children no longer had their normal school activities, routines and social interactions. The removal of these barriers gave us a novel context to look at how changes in connection with nature affected mental health.

## THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

**Subject: Provisional Selection list of candidates for admission to B-Pharmacy Course-2021 at PrabhaHarjilal College of Pharmacy & Preclinical Sciences Madre-e-Meharbhhan Campus of Health Sciences, Jammu.**

**Reference:** i) Notification No.082-BOPEE of 2021 dated 01-09-2021.  
ii) Notification No.101-BOPEE of 2021 dated 08-10-2021.  
iii) Notification No.105-BOPEE of 2021 dated 13-10-2021

**Notification No.107-BOPEE of 2021  
Dated : 15-10-2021.**

The Board Vide Notification No.082-BOPEE of 2021 dated 01-09-2021 invited offline Application Forms for admission to B- Pharmacy Course-2021. After the expiry of last date for submission of offline Application Forms, the Board notified provisional merit list of eligible candidates vide Notification No.101-BOPEE of 2021 dated 08-10-2021. Sought objections, if any, from the candidates. In response the Board has received one representation which was examined and decided on merits, accordingly it is hereby notified that the Notification No.105 BOPEE of 2021 dated 13-10-2021 shall be treated as final, and the candidates figuring in the Annexure "A" to this Notification are provisionally recommended for admission to B-Pharmacy course 2021 at PrabhaHarjilal College of Pharmacy & Preclinical Sciences, Madre-e-Meharbhhan Campus of Health Sciences, Jammu.

The Principal of the concerned College shall get below mentioned original certificates of the concerned candidates verified by the In-charge College Admission Committee and countersigned by him/ her before allowing the candidates to complete their admission formalities. The provisionally selected candidates are advised to report to the College for admission along with following documents w.e.f. 18-10-2021 to 25-10-2021 upto 04.00PM.

1. Domicile Certificate
2. Marks Card of 12<sup>th</sup> class examination with PCM/PCM
3. DOB Certificate
4. Any other documents are required by the concerned Colleges.

The College shall submit shortfall of candidates, if any, who did not join the College to BOPEE Office Jammu/ Srinagar on 25-10-2021 upto 05.00 PM

**Note:**

- i. As already notified in Notification No.082-BOPEE of 2021 dated 01-09-2021, the seats under TFW category shall be filled up during conduct of second/third rounds of counselling or as may be decided by the Board.
- ii. The candidates who fail to join against the allotted seat(s) shall not be eligible to participate in second round of counselling under any circumstances.

III) The other terms and conditions shall remain same as notified in various Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time in this regard  
E&OE

DIPK-NB-4278/21

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)  
Controller of Examinations  
J&K BOPEE

No:BOPEE/Exam -19/2021

Dated:15-10-2021.

## THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

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Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

**Subject: Admission Notification for PG Diploma in Rehabilitation Psychology-2021.**

**Reference: CRC/Sgr/Acad/4000/21/333 dated 08-10-2021.**

**Notification No.108 -BOPEE of 2021  
Dated: 15-10-2021**

Offline applications are invited from the eligible candidates desirous of seeking admission in PG Diploma in Rehabilitation Psychology (PGDRP)-2021 in Composite Regional Centre, (CRC), Bemina Srinagar, which should reach the J&K BOPEE office Srinagar/Jammu upto 31st of October, 2021. The selection of the candidates shall be governed by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations Act, 2002 and the Rules and Regulations there under, JK Reservation Act, 2004 as amended from time to time and the Rules there under as amended vide S.O.127 of 2020 dated 20-04-2020. followed by S.O. 249 of 2021, dated 23-07-2021.

**Application Forms:**

The duly filled in Application Forms (in the prescribed format given on the BOPEE website) should be submitted at the BOPEE offices Srinagar/Jammu from 18-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 (4:00 PM) during working days only along with payment of fee of Rs. 2000/= | Rs. two thousand only) to be made through POS machines installed in the BOPEE offices Srinagar/Jammu through Credit Card/ Debit Card/ ATM Card.

**Submission of Application Forms (Offline):**

The interested candidates have to submit the following self attested certificates along with the Application Form:-

- (i) Domicile Certificate of UT of J&K/Ladakh;
- (ii) Qualifying marks certificate; (where result is declared)
- (iii) Date of Birth Certificate; and
- (iv) Reserved category certificate, if any.

The candidates shall also have to bring original certificates for verification.

Total Intake Capacity of seats = 20

**1. The Applicant must:**

- a. Be a domicile of UT of J&K / Ladakh and must have obtained:-
- i) Bachelor's Degree (Regular Mode) with General Psychology Courses in all the three years; or
- ii) Master's Degree in any Branch of Psychology either in Regular Mode or Distance Mode; or Master's Degree in Counselling Psychology either in Regular or Distance Mode.
- iii) A minimum of 55% marks in aggregate for OM candidates. For SC/ST/OBC (Reserved Categories), minimum of 50% Marks in aggregate is essential. Entry qualification shall be from a UGC recognized university.

**Selection Process:**

The Board shall notify the selection criteria separately after determining the eligibility of the candidates who apply for the said course.

**Please Note:**

- a. No under process certificates will be accepted.
- b. The information in the application forms of the candidate shall in no case be construed as an acceptance of that information/category certificate by the BDPEE. Therefore, if at any stage, it is found that a candidate has provided false or incorrect information in respect of any eligibility condition, his/her candidature will be cancelled without any further notice.
- c. The candidates having more than one reserved category certificate can get benefit of only one category indicated in the Application Form which in no case shall be changed afterwards. The candidate, whose category certificate has not been found valid, will be considered in open merit, if found otherwise eligible, without any further notice.
- d. In case there is no eligible candidate in any category, the seat of that category shall be allotted to Open Merit Candidates strictly in order of merit.

E&OE

DIPK-NB-4281/21

No:BOPEE/Exam -25/2021

Dated:15-10-2021.

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)  
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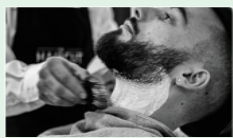


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THE WOMEN SECURITY FORCES were seen on Monday conducting frisking at Lal chowk, Srinagar, amid the target killing of non-local civilians in Kashmir.

# Killing Non-Locals Will Hit Kashmir Economy: JKHARA



## Agencies

**SRINAGAR:--** Jammu and Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Association (JKHARA) Monday expressed serious concern over the killings of civilians including non-local labourers.

In a statement issued to the news agency, JKHARA President Showkat Chowdhary said Kashmir has always maintained peaceful harmony between various

communities and such incidents tarnish the image of Kashmiris.

Chowdhary said the non-local labourers come to Kashmir purely for earning livelihood and targeting them is highly unfortunate.

He said such incidents will not only bring bad name to Kashmir but will also affect local economic sectors. "Our economy is also dependent on the skilled workforce from outside the J&K who work in many sectors. If non-lo-

cals leave the region, many sectors will be affected which will hamper the economic activities," said Chowdhary.

JKHARA president further said the killing of non-locals will also hit J&K's tourism sector as it will send a negative message among the travellers.

"Kashmir has been known for hospitality and safety of tourists. Such incidents need to be checked or else the travellers will think twice before making plans to holiday in Kashmir. Tourist arrivals have been picking up after Covid-19, however, these incidents can again halt the progress of this important sector," said Chowdhary.

Chowdhary urged the government to ensure foolproof security to the non-locals as to make them feel safe and stop their migration. "Kashmiris living outside JK will also be vulnerable if such incidents on non-locals are not stopped."

JKHARA also expressed heartfelt condolences with the bereaved families and prayed for the peace of the departed soul--(KNO)

**KASHMIR HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR HOSPITALITY AND SAFETY** of tourists. Such incidents need to be checked or else the travellers will think twice before making plans to holiday in Kashmir. Tourist arrivals have been picking up after Covid-19, however, these incidents can again halt the progress of this important sector,"

## Admin Organizes Sensitization Programme On CAB For Schools



### KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:--** The Divisional Covid Control Room Kashmir (DC-CRK) under the aegis of Divisional Administration Kashmir on Monday organised a one day Sensitization programme on Covid Appropriate Behavior (CAB) and Vaccination for the Principals of Crèche/Day-Care Schools of district Srinagar at Oasis Educational Institute, Gogji Bagh, here.

The programme was inaugurated by Tahir Ahmad Magray, Incharge DCCRK. Speaking on the occasion, Magray emphasized the importance of offline education in the institutions, which came to halt due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He said that in-campus school education not only gives a two way communication between the child and the teacher but also helps in the personality development besides providing moral

education to the students.

He also briefed about the repercussions of continuous on-line teaching mode which has brought not only screen dependency in children but has led to rise in many mental health issues in the children.

The highlights of the programme were the technical sessions conducted by Dr. Umar Nazir and Dr. Rouf Hussain Rather, Community Medicine Specialists, GMC Srinagar. Through their detailed PowerPoint Presentations, the Public Health Experts explained the ways and methods to maintain CAB and importance of vaccination of staff to contain the spread of virus at the campuses.

Teachers have to themselves be the role models regarding CAB and vaccination and encourage others influential people to be the messengers of CAB and vaccination in the society.

## Re-Open Schools To Reduce Mental Stress Of Children: G N War

### KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** President PSAJK, G. N. War, on Monday said that the Private schools association has a dedicated team in all districts working for the welfare of private schools and striving to provide quality education to the children despite all odds.

Var said that private schools are currently suffering badly and many schools are at the verge of closure due to financial crises. Var demanded that the Government should allow schools to function normally as has been allowed in many parts of the country and health experts have time and again recommended reopening of schools.

Var asked that when states like Maharashtra and Kerala, where Covid cases were in large number, can re-open schools, why J&K Government is not issuing such orders.

He said that continuous closure of schools has badly affected the mental health of children and if students are kept away from their schools for more time, it can prove dangerous for kids. He retorted that it is time that schools should be thrown open again and children be allowed to learn in open environments of educational institutions.

## Prophet's (SAW) Arrival Brought Honour, Dignity To Humanity: Anjuman Auqaf

### KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:--** Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar on behalf of its incarcerated head Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, has greeted the Muslim World in general and the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir in particular on the birth anniversary of the 'Saviour of Mankind, the Prophet of Mercy, the Seal of Prophets' Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Sallallaahu Alaihi Wasallam).

Anjuman in a statement, said the birth of the Prophet of Islam (SAW) was the turning point in the history of the world as it revolutionised human thinking, changed history, transformed people's lives and altered the geography of the world by laying the foundation of a new and unique civilisation.

With the arrival of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), for the first time in history, the world saw for itself how humanity was accorded respect, honour and dignity; the example of which cannot be found anywhere, the Anjuman said.

Paying tributes to the 'Mohsin-e-Insaniyat' (SAW), the Anjuman said the Muslims instead of just expressing love and regard orally must sincerely implement the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW) in their lives so as

to thwart the abominable and vile conspiracies being hatched against Islam and Muslims today.

Observing that the message of the great and revered Prophet (SAW) and his exemplary life is the guiding light for humanity for all times to lead a peaceful and meaningful life, the Anjuman said the revolutionary teachings of the Prophet of Islam (SAW) have assumed more significance in view of the 21st century, which is the age of the rise of science and technology. In this context, the responsibilities of the contemporary Muslims have also doubled.

The Anjuman prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the Muslims the potential to implement Islam in their practical lives and make them follow the path shown by Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in letter and spirit.

Meanwhile, expressing serious concern over the continuous imprisonment of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir, Anjuman said that due to the continued house arrest, the Mirwaiz is not only unable to fulfill his official responsibilities but his mission of spreading the message of the Prophet (SAW) across the Valley in this holy month has also been totally affected, which is reprehensible.

## Director RD Kashmir Chairs Review Meeting Of District Sgr



### KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:--** The Director Rural Development Kashmir, Tariq Ahmad Zargar on Monday chaired a review meeting of District Srinagar.

The meeting was informed that under MGNREGA against the approved labour budget of Rs. 0.96 lacs, the district has generated 0.36 lac Persondays and out of 122 works taken-up 24 works have been completed.

Under PMAY (G), out of 149 registered beneficiaries, 30 beneficiaries have been approved. Under CD&Pyt Sector out of 8 approved works, 7 works have been completed and for current financial year 09 works have been approved under the said scheme. Besides, one office building has also been approved.

Under 14th FC against the

total availability of Rs. 582.59 lacs, Rs. 370.72 lacs have been incurred. Against the total 456 approved works, 225 works were taken-up and 198 stands completed.

The concerned officers were enjoined upon to achieve the targets within stipulated time lines, creation of durable assets and to ensure release of wage payment under MGNREGA within a fixed timeline.

The Director stressed upon the officers to ensure better coordination with PRIs and also ensure proper monitoring/supervision of developmental activities.

The meeting was attended by Project Officer Wage Employment (ACD) Srinagar, District Panchayat Officer Srinagar and Block Development Officers of the district and other officers/officials of the Department.

### 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

- 1466 - The Thirteen Years' War ends with the Second Peace of Thorn, Germany
- 1512 - Martin Luther becomes a doctor of theology (Doctor in Biblia)
- 1739 - England declares war on Spain [OS=Oct 30]
- 1812 - Napoleon's forces begin their retreat from Moscow
- 1818 - US Government & Chickasaw Indians sign a treaty
- 1859 - Wilhelm Tempel discovers diffuse nebula around Pleid star Merope
- 1912 - Tripoli (Libya) passes from Turkish to Italian control
- 1913 - At a meeting of the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) in Durban, NIC secretaries, M. C. Anglia and Dada Osman, severely criticise Mahatma Gandhi and tender their resignations
- 1915 - Russia and Italy declare war on Bulgaria
- 1916 - France extends formal recognition of the Provisional Government in Crete proclaimed Eleftherios Venizelos
- 1925 - Italian army takes Somalia
- 1926 - Russian Politburo throws out Leon Trotsky and his followers
- 1932 - British government signs trade agreement with Soviet Union
- 1935 - Mao Zedong's army reaches Shanxi
- 1944 - British Prime Minister Winston Churchill flies back to London from Moscow
- 1950 - UN forces entered Pyongyang, capital of North Korea
- 1951 - US President Harry Truman formally ends state of war with Germany
- 1953 - 1st jet transcontinental nonstop scheduled service
- 1954 - Egypt & Great Britain sign treaty; British troops departs
- 1954 - First ascent of Cho Oyu, sixth highest mountain in the world at 8,201 metres
- 1960 - France grants Mauritania independence
- 1960 - Martin Luther King Jr. arrested in Atlanta sit-in
- 1960 - US imposes embargo on exports to Cuba
- 1967 - Mariner 5 makes fly-by of Venus
- 1973 - Saudi Arabia, Libya, and other Arab states proclaim an embargo on oil exports to the United States
- 1976 - US President Gerald Ford signs 1st major revision of copyright law since 1909
- 1976 - Battle of Aishiya, Lebanon during Lebanese Civil War.
- 1981 - Nicolaas Bloembergen & Arthur Schawlow win Nobel Prize for Physics (laser)
- 1986 - USSR expels five US diplomats
- 1987 - US warships destroy 2 Iranian oil platforms in Persian Gulf
- win Nobel in physics; 3 W Germans win chemistry Nobel
- 1991 - Longest NCAA football game (3:52) as RI beats Maine 52-30 (6 OTs)
- 1993 - UN authorizes arms, military & police supply embargo against Haiti
- 1994 - 160 killed in fighting in Tsjetsjenie (Chechnya)
- 2001 - SIEV-X, an Indonesian fishing boat en-route to Christmas Island, carrying over 400 asylum seekers, sinks killing 353
- 2003 - Mother Teresa of Calcutta is beatified by Pope John Paul II.
- 2004 - Myanmar prime minister Khin Nyunt is ousted and placed under house arrest by the SPDC on charges of corruption.
- 2005 - Saddam Hussein goes on trial in Baghdad for crimes against humanity
- 2005 - Hurricane Wilma becomes the most intense Atlantic hurricane on record with a minimum pressure of 882 mb
- 2014 - A working human intestine is generated in a laboratory from stem cells in the United States
- 2015 - US scientists from University of California find evidence life on earth may have begun 4.1 billion years ago, 300 million earlier than previously thought

## From KO Archives

## Court Orders JKB Debtor's Arrest

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR-** The additional district judge, bank cases, Srinagar, has ordered the arrest of an alleged debtor of the Jammu and Kashmir bank Ltd and recovery of Rs 36,14,943.25 from him. In an order dated October 18, re-turnable on or before November 20,2000, the judge direct-ed the station house officer (SHO), police station, Nishat, to arrest Ghulam Rasool Wakil s/o Munshi Abdul Majid Wakil of Wakil Manzil, 4th bridge, Zainakadal, Srinagar, at present residing at Ishber. Nishat (alongwith two more judgement debtors).

According to the order,Vakil was adjudged by a decree of the court in suit No 84 of 1990 dated 3.6.1999 to pay to the bank Rs 8,67,552.25 which he failed to pay to the decree holder. Adding Rs 27,34,583 as interest from the date of suit till October 20,1999 and Rs 12,808 as costs allowed, the total adds up to Rs 36,14,943.25 now. The judge directed the SHO to bring the debtor before the court unless he pays to him the decree amount.

(Kashmir Observer, October 19, 2000)



# Russia Cuts Diplomatic Ties With Nato In Latest Row

**Agencies**

Moscow: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Monday that Moscow was suspending its mission to Nato and closing the Western military bloc's liaison mission in Russia, in a new diplomatic row.

"We are suspending the work of our official mission to Nato, including the work of our military representative from November 1 or it could take a few more days," Lavrov told reporters.

Lavrov said that Russia was expected to fire in retaliation during any given war at 2,000.

Hezbollah fought off two Israeli wars against Lebanon in 2000 and 2006, forcing the regime's military to beat a humiliating retreat on both the occasions.

The movement has invariably distanced itself from any intention to enter any new conflict, but has vowed to resolutely defend Lebanon if one was to break out.

The Israeli commander, meanwhile, reminded that even during the war against the Gaza Strip, cities such as Tel Aviv and Ashdod, which are based in the southern part of the occupied territories, were targeted with the "highest number of fire towards them in the



would also be ending the alliance's liaison mission -- established in 2002 and hosted at the Belgian embassy -- and information office in Moscow.

The bloc's information office was established in Moscow in 2001 to improve understanding

# Shooting In Syria Could Mark New Phase In Israeli Campaign

**Agencies**

Damascus: The death of a former Syrian Druze lawmaker, allegedly by Israeli sniper fire, could mark a new phase in what Israel calls its war against Iranian entrenchment in neighbouring Syria.



Midhat Saleh was fatally shot on Saturday in Ein el-Tinneh, a village along the Israeli frontier in the occupied Golan Heights where he ran a government office, Syria's state-run news agency said.

The Israeli military declined to comment, but if Saleh was indeed killed by Israel, it would mark the first time that Israeli snipers are known to have killed someone identified as an Iranian-linked target across the boundary.

Israel has said it will not tolerate a permanent Iranian military presence in Syria and has acknowledged carrying out scores of air attacks on alleged Iranian arms ship-

between Nato and Russia.

The latest row comes after Nato earlier this month stripped accreditations of eight members of the Russian mission to the alliance, describing them as "undeclared Russian intelligence officers".

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said at the time that the decision to kick out the Russian representatives was not "linked to any particular event" -- but gave no more details over the move.

On Monday, Lavrov cited "recent moves" by Nato, saying there were no longer "basic conditions for common work."

He said that in case of urgent matters, Nato could liaise via the Russian ambassador in Belgium.

Russia has long had an observer mission to Nato as part of a two-decade-old Nato-Russia Council meant to promote cooperation in common security areas, but it is not a member of the US-led alliance.

The Russian mission has been downsized once before, when seven of its members were ejected after the 2018 poisoning by the Novichok nerve agent on a Russian former double agent, Sergei Skripal, and his daughter in Britain.



# No More Social Distancing At Mecca Grand Mosque

**Agencies**

Macca: The Grand Mosque in the Muslim holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia operated at full capacity Sunday, with worshippers praying shoulder-to-shoulder for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic began.

Workers removed floor markings that guide people to social distance in and around the Grand Mosque, which is built around the Kaaba, the black cubic structure towards which Muslims around the world pray.

"This is in line with the decision to ease precautionary measures and to allow pilgrims and visitors to the Grand Mosque at full capacity," reported the official Saudi Press Agency.

Pictures and footage on Sunday morning showed people praying side by side, making straight rows of worshippers that are formations revered in performing

Muslim prayers, for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic took hold last year.

While social distancing measures were lifted, the authorities said visitors must be fully vaccinated against coronavirus and must continue to wear masks on mosque grounds.

Also, the Kaaba remained cordoned off and out of reach.

Saudi Arabia announced in August it will begin accepting vaccinated foreigners wanting to make the umrah pilgrimage.

The umrah can be undertaken at any time and usually draws millions from around the globe, as does the annual hajj, which abled-bodied Muslims who have the means must perform at least once in their lifetime.

In July, only around 60,000 inoculated residents were allowed to take part in a vastly scaled down form of the annual hajj.

The Covid-19 pandemic

# 'Mix-And-Match Vaccines Highly Effective Against COVID-19'

**Press Trust Of India**

London: People who received a first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine followed by an mRNA vaccine shot had a lower risk of infection compared to those immunised with both doses of the AstraZeneca preventive, according to a nationwide study in Sweden.

Since the use of AstraZeneca's vector-based vaccine against COVID-19 was halted for people younger than 65 years of age due to safety concerns, all individuals in Sweden who had already received their first dose of this vaccine were recommended an mRNA vaccine as their second dose.

"Having received any of the approved vaccines is better compared to no vaccine, and two doses are better than one," said Peter Nordstrom, a professor at Umea University, Sweden.

"However, our study shows a greater risk reduction for people who received an mRNA vaccine after having received a first dose of a vector-based, as compared to people having received the vector-based vaccine for both doses," Nordstrom said.

The study, published in The

Lancet Regional Health - Europe journal on Monday, is based on nationwide registry data from the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the National Board of Health and Welfare, and Statistics Sweden.

In the main analysis, about 700,000 individuals were included. During a 2.5-month average follow-up period after the second dose, the study showed a 67 per cent lower risk of infection for the combination of AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccine shots.

There was a 79 per cent lower risk of infection for AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccine shots, compared to unvaccinated individuals, the researchers said.

For people having received two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, known as Covishield in India, the risk reduction was 50, they said.

These risk estimates were observed after accounting for differences regarding date of vaccination, age of the participants, socioeconomic status, and other risk factors for COVID-19.

"The results of the study may have implications for vaccination strategies in different countries," said Marcel Ballin, doctoral student at Umea Uni-

versity, and co-author of the study.

"The World Health Organization has stated that despite the promising results from previous studies regarding immune response from mix-and-match vaccination, there is a need for larger studies to investigate their safety and effectiveness against clinical outcomes. Here we now have one such study," Ballin said.

There was a very low incidence of adverse thromboembolic events, or formation of blood clots in blood vessels, for all vaccine schedules, according to the researchers.

The number of COVID-19 cases severe enough to result in inpatient hospitalisation was too low for the researchers to be able to calculate the effectiveness against this outcome.

Past studies have demonstrated that mix-and-match vaccine schedules generate a robust immune response.

However, it has been unclear to which extent these schedules may reduce the risk of clinical infection, the researchers said, adding that their study aimed to fill that knowledge gap.

# In case of war, Hezbollah can fire 2,500 rockets at occupied territories each

**Agencies**

Jerusalem: Back in May, when the regime tempted a war with the Palestinian resistance movements in the Gaza Strip, "We saw a pace of more than 400 rockets fired towards" the occupied territories on a daily basis, AFP quoted the regime's Home Front Command chief Uri Gordin on Saturday as saying.

In the case of a future "conflict or a war with Hezbollah, we expect more than five times the number," he added. "Basically, we are looking at between 1,500 and 2,500 rockets fired daily" in the direction of the occupied territories, Gordin added.



No earlier than in March, the same commander had put the highest number of rockets that the Lebanese resistance movement

# China Says Recent Test Was Spacecraft, Not "Hypersonic Missile"

**Agencies**

Beijing: China on Monday denied a report it had recently launched a hypersonic missile, saying it tested a spacecraft to trial reusable technologies.



The Financial Times reported Saturday that Beijing had launched a nuclear-capable missile in August that circled the Earth at low orbit before narrowly missing its target.

FT sources said the hypersonic missile was carried by a Long March rocket and that the test had been kept under wraps.

But China said Monday the report was inaccurate and the exercise was a test of reusable technology that could reduce the cost of launching spacecraft.

"According to my understanding, this test is a routine spacecraft test, used to test a reusable spacecraft technology," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters.

"This could provide a convenient and cheap way for humans to use space for peaceful purposes."

When asked directly if the FT report was inaccurate about the missile, Zhao replied "yes".

Along with China, the United States, Russia and at least five other countries are working on hypersonic technology.

Hypersonic missiles can fly at more than five times the speed of sound and like ballistic missiles can deliver a nuclear warhead.

But ballistic missiles fly high into space in an arc to reach their target while a hypersonic flies on a trajectory low in the atmosphere, potentially reaching a target more quickly.

Crucially, a hypersonic missile is maneuverable -- making it harder to track and defend against.

Countries including the United States have developed systems to defend against cruise and ballistic missiles, but their ability to track and take down a hypersonic missile remains in question.

# Russian crew back to Earth after filming first movie in space

**A**Russian actress and director have returned to Earth after spending 12 days in the International Space Station (ISS) shooting scenes for the first movie in orbit.

Yulia Peresild and Klim Shipenko landed as scheduled on Kazakhstan's steppe at 0436 GMT on Sunday, according to footage broadcast live by the Russian space agency.

They were ferried back to terra firma by cosmonaut Oleg Novitsky, who had been on the space station for the past six months.

"The descent vehicle of the crewed spacecraft Soyuz MS-18 is standing upright and is secure. The crew are feeling good!" Russian space agency Roscosmos tweeted.

Actress Yulia Peresild, 37,



and film director Klim Shipenko, 38, blasted off from the Russia-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in ex-Soviet Kazakhstan earlier this month, travelling to the ISS with veteran cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov to film scenes for "The Challenge".

If the project stays on track, the Russian crew will beat a Hol-

lywood project announced last year by "Mission Impossible" star Tom Cruise together with NASA and Elon Musk's SpaceX.

The movie's plot, which has been mostly kept under wraps along with its budget, centres around a female surgeon who is dispatched to the ISS to save a cosmonaut.

# Colin Powell, first Black US secretary of state, dies of COVID

**C**olin Powell, the former United States secretary of state and the first Black person in the country's history to fill the position, has died due to complications from COVID-19, his family has said.

Powell, a four-star general who last held public office in 2005, died on Monday, the family said in a statement on Facebook. He was 84.

"He was fully vaccinated. We want to thank the medical staff at Walter Reed National Medical Center for their caring treatment. We have lost a remarkable and loving husband, father, grandfather and a great American," the Powell family said.

Known as a moderate and pragmatist, Powell was instrumental in shaping the foreign policy of Republican presidential administrations for decades. He was in top posts during the fall of the Berlin Wall, the 1989 US invasion of



Panama, the 1991 Gulf War, the September 11 attacks, and the resulting US invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003.

He served as national security adviser to former President Ronald Reagan from 1987

to 1989 and was the first Black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under former Republican President George HW Bush and former President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, from 1989 to 1993.

When he was confirmed as former President George

W Bush's secretary of state in 2001, he became the first Black person in US history to fill that role.

At the time, he also became the highest-ranking Black official in US history, later equalled by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and surpassed by former President Barack Obama.

**Iraq war controversy**

While initially opposing the military operation, Powell has been accused of misleading the public in the lead up to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 as the Bush administration sought to build international support.

In a controversial presentation on February 5, 2003, to the United Nations Security Council, Powell made the administration's case that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein constituted an imminent danger to the world because of Iraq's stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons.



## CS Mehta Reviews PMDP Projects In Jammu and Kashmir

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of PMDP projects in Jammu and Kashmir under execution in the different schemes of UT and Central governments.

Administrative Secretaries of Health and Medical Education, Home, Housing & Urban, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Power Development, Public Works (R&B), Secretary PD&MD and other senior officers attended the meeting.

It was informed that the out of 53 PMDP projects, 21 projects have been completed while another 10 projects will be completed by the end of the current fiscal year.

It was further informed that the two lane Uri-LoC road with a road length of 17.25 km has been completed except for one bridge which will be completed by July 2022.

While reviewing the construction of Semi Ring Road, Srinagar the Chief Secretary directed the Public Works Department to explore the feasibility of constructing take off point at Pandach so that the issues of relocation of 199 shops and the land acquisition that may result due to the present alignment are effectively dealt with.

It was informed that the ongoing feasibility study for Poonch-

Uri road project followed by the DPR preparation, tendering and allotment of work is likely to be completed in next 3-4 months.

It was further informed that while work on Tangmarg to Gulmarg road has been completed, the work on the remainder stretch of Baramulla – Gulmarg road will be completed by December 2022.

Dr Mehta directed the department to expedite the work on various packages on Jammu-Akhnoor road by liaising with the army authorities wherever necessary so that the original timelines are adhered to.

It was noted that work on Chenani Sudhmahadev road is going on briskly and the geo-technical surveys of three tunnels on this road are being completed and once sanction to the construction of these tunnels is received, work will pick up pace.

Dr Mehta directed the department to take steps, including coordinating with the law enforcement agencies, to ensure that Sinthan pass road may be kept in functional condition.

The department informed that work on Semi Ring Road Jammu and Semi Ring Road Srinagar will be completed by May 2022 and February 2024 respectively.

While reviewing Udhampur-Ramban Road, the Chief Secretary directed that the 10 structures at Dalwas be immediately removed by paying compensation to the owners of these structures.

## Allen Srinagar Felicitates Kashmir's Top Rankers

Cash reward of Rs 4.20 lakh, medals, academic scholarship up to 90% to 60 toppers given away



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** During the grand felicitation ceremony of ALLEN's Scholarship Test & Reward Program 'ALLEN SHARP 2021' held on October 15, 2021, the speakers Sunday said that Allen has been taking a lot of effort to encourage students' community in Kashmir.

"Kashmir is known for its talent and intelligence. All we have to do is make arrangements and platforms for the young kids who can avail of the facilities and compete in the national level exams. We have to channelize their energy," Dr. Gulzar Ahmad, MD Shifa Hospital, who is also logistic partner to Allen, said.

The grand felicitation ceremony held at SKICC Auditorium, Srinagar, was attended by meritorious students from all over the Valley along with their parents.

Students from Class 8 to 11 received prizes of Rs 4.20 Lakhs and Academic Scholarships up to 90% in academic session 2022-23 in classroom courses at ALLEN Srinagar.

The program started with the welcome speech by S. M. Raza, Center in charge (Allen Nowgam center) where he welcomed all the students, parents, chief guests and dignitaries.

"Teachers are builders of the nation and those parents are successful whose children are doing well in their education and their respective fields," Raza said, adding "Allen

is taking all possible measures to revolutionize the education sector."

The guest of honor for the occasion was Vice-chairperson, Khadi Village Board, Hina Bhat. During her speech, she said, "Earning isn't important. Serving is. I was in a profession where you heal people. Now I am somewhere where you serve and heal as well. That is what politics teaches you," Bhat said.

During the program successful students were felicitated with medals, certificates, and scholarships.

Brjesh Maheshwari, Director, Allen Career Institute also graced the event live. Maheshwari said that the student's excitement & enthusiasm was on sight. He encouraged and guided the winning students for their bright future.

During the occasion, he motivated the students to work hard, hope for the best and prepare for the worst situation.

Pied Piper PR & Advertising, a Srinagar based media Solution Company, carried out media strategy for the event for Allen Coaching Centre. The facilitation was done by the dignitaries & faculty members of Allen Srinagar.

The program was concluded by Javed Reshi, Center Incharge (Allen, Naseem Bagh Center) with the vote of thanks to the students, parents and dignitaries.

## Situation Deteriorating In Kashmir: Congress

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** AICC Incharge J&K and MP, Rajani Patil, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Ghulam Ahmad Mir and CWC Member Tariq Hamid Karra on Monday met Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi and discussed current security situation in J&K.

"The meeting lasted for more than one hour, in which leaders debated and discussed the current security situation in J&K, besides civilians' killings and attack on non-local labourers came under discussion," a spokes-

man of the party said in a statement to GNS.

"The leaders expressed serious concern over deteriorating security situation in J&K and said Congress party feels highly concerned about the safety of people while blaming the Centre Govt for failing to ensure safety of people."

The loss of civilians is a matter of serious concern, leaders said. "They urged the Centre government to take immediate effective measures to ensure safety of citizens," it said, adding, "Many other issues of public importance also came under discussion."



FAMILY OF A MIGRANT LABOURER from Bihar waiting for bus for Jammu at TRC Srinagar

## For First Time In 30 Years, Women Frisked At Srinagar's Lal Chowk

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SRINAGAR:** Women were frisked by female CRPF constables in Lal Chowk area of the city, a first of its kind exercise in last 30 years, in the wake of civilian killings in Kashmir.

The CRPF women checked the bags of female folk passing through the city centre Lal Chowk.

While there was no resistance, some women expressed resentment, saying the exercise could have been done away from the public glare.

"Women carry many things which they keep private. The CRPF women should have erected a makeshift cubicle so that privacy was maintained," Fareeda, a woman from Soura,

said.

She said she had no issues with the frisking but the manner in which it was done.

The frisking of women folk has not been done before in Kashmir and is being undertaken following a spate of civilian killings in which non-local labourers have been targeted over the last few days.

## 547 Sq Km Around Kishtwar National Park Declared ESZ



AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Union Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change on Monday declared 547.09 square kilometers around the boundary of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park (KHANP) as Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).

The final notification was issued by the Ministry almost nine months after it had invited suggestions/objections from different stakeholders over draft notification of proposed ESZ around KHANP. "The eco-sensitive zone shall be of 547.09 square kilometers with an extent 0.51 kilometers to 10.106 kilometers around

the boundary of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park," reads the notification.

According to the notification, the administration of J&K UT shall prepare a zonal master plan within a period of two years from the date of publication of this notification in the official gazette, in consultation with local people. "The zonal master plan for the eco-sensitive zone shall be prepared by the Union territory government in such manner as is specified in this notification and also in consonance with the relevant central and Union territory laws and the guidelines issued by the central government, if

any," the notification states.

The National Park is spread over the undulating terrain of the great Himalayan mountains with an area of 2191.50 square kilometres in Kishtwar district. It was declared as a National Park on February 4, 1981, with an area of 425 square kilometers.

It was re-notified on July 6, 2015, with an area of 2191.50 square kilometres. The Park is known to harbour the highly endangered species such as Hangul or Kashmiri stag and musk deer. There are about 25 species of mammals and over 200 species of birds reported in the territories of the Park.

## Fatima Banoo Becomes First In Kargil To Receive 'Ladakh Resident' Certificate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**KARGIL:** Fatima Banoo, a resident of Choskore village, became the first person in Kargil to receive the 'Ladakh resident' certificate as local authorities held special camps for issuance of the document across the district on Monday, officials said. Kargil Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Tsering Motup issued the first resident certificate at the tehsildar office here, they said.

Nearly three months after reserving all subordinate services for the local residents, the Ladakh administration on September 4 issued an order to temporarily define 'residents of Union territory' for the purpose of appointment to all the non-gazetted posts borne on the establishment of any department or service.

According to the Ladakh Resident Certificate Order 2021, any person who possesses a Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) issued by the competent authority in Leh and Kargil or belongs to a category of persons who would have been eligible to be issued PRC by the competent authority would be eligible to receive the 'Resident Certificate'. Ladakh was made a separate UT on August 5, 2019

when the central government divided the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs and revoked its special status under Article 370. PRC or state subject was the proof of residence of a citizen of Jammu and Kashmir prior to August 5, 2019 development.

Congratulating the people of Kargil for getting the resident certificates, the ADC said special camps have been held in all tehsildar offices in the district for issuance of the resident certificates on Monday.

According to a recent order, he said the Ladakh administration has authorised the tehsildars concerned as the competent authority to issue the resident certificate.

"The process of issuance of certificates will continue at all tehsildar offices in the district during the coming days," the ADC said.

On the directions of the Kargil deputy commissioner, Motup said special camps would also be organised by the tehsildars in different parts of the district in close coordination with the Panchayati Raj Institution members and village heads, especially in the remote and far off areas to impart awareness to the locals and to facilitate them in issuance of the resident certificates.

## Sleeper Cells With Local Support Active In Srinagar: Ex-RAW Chief Dulat

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Amarjit Singh Dulat, former chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and the former special director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) on Monday said that civilian killings in Kashmir are alarming and claimed that "there were sleeper cells with local support active in Srinagar."

"The recent civilian killings are very unfortunate. There are ups and downs in Kashmir and the situation changes within 24 hours. The situation is alarming and unfortunate. The civilian killings take place in Kashmir but this time there were minorities which attracted more attention," Dulat told news agency KINS.

Asked whether the minorities were being targeted over abrogation of Article 370, he replied, "It is too early to say. Some say it is like the 1990s situation; let's hope it is not like that."

"One thing is clear that sleeper cells are active in Kashmir and it seems were involved in the recent killings. How many people are part of these sleeper cells can't be said. I hope they are in single digits. The recent killings remind of the 1990s when militants would come out in the open. JKLF boys would parade in Srinagar. Then many of these militants were arrested or got killed. Then came a phase of underground workers who would come, kill people then do their routine work like riding an auto rickshaw or running a shop. The situation seems similar now," he said.

He claimed that the sleeper



cells were active in the heart of Srinagar city. "Militants would operate from south Kashmir which would not grab much attention but when such an incident takes place in Srinagar, it has an impact on the whole Kashmir."

Asked that The Resistance Front (TRF) has claimed responsibility for several recent killings and if it was a challenge for the government, Dulat replied, "I have been hearing the name of TRF for some days. We also heard Geelani Force. Many such names surfaced in the past then they also got eliminated."

He said it was too early to say that two militants killed recently were part of the TRF. "You get to know if they were part of the TRF and were recently involved in civilian killings when they were arrested, interrogated and revealed everything."

He said the killing of civilians in crowded areas was scary. "It is a challenge for security agencies to stop such attacks. There are Pakistanis who are part of these sleeper cells but local boys are also involved in this."

At least eleven civilians have been killed since October 2 in Kashmir.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

### DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION & FARMERS WELFARE DEPARTMENT KASHMIR

**Subject:** Selection/recommendation list of candidates received from JKSSB vide No: SSB/Sel/Secy/Sel/2021/7026-35 dated 14-10-2021 to the Agriculture Department for the 50 each posts of Field Assistant-III/Field Assistant Mushrooms/Assistant Store-Keeper under Hon'ble Prime Ministers Package for Kashmiri Migrants and Non Migrant Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmiri Division.

In order to complete the process of conducting verification of character and antecedents of selected/recommended candidates for the post of Field Assistant-III/Field Assistant Mushrooms/Assistant Store-Keeper under Hon'ble Prime Ministers Package for Kashmiri Migrants and Non Migrant Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmiri Division, following two officers, shall be headquartered at Migrant Cell, Jammu and accomplish the job within two days positively.

S. No	Name of the Officer/Designation	Contact No
01	Shri Madan Gopal Singh, Director Rakhs & Farms, Kmr	9469707234
02	Shri Variender Kumar Raina, Agrostologist, Kashmir	7889941478

No: Agri/Esstt/Ng/2021-22/5014-19

Date: 18-10-2021

DIPK-10871/21

Sd/-

(Chowdhary Mohamad Iqbal)

Director Agriculture

Kashmir

Deputy Secretary

Lt. Governor's Secretariat

DIPK-10872/21



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K O V I E W

More Killings

Ever since the prominent businessman Makhan Lal Bindroo's high-profile killing, several non-local labourers have been shot dead. The situation is turning from bad to worse and building up to something really ominous. The killings can certainly trigger yet another exodus of minorities if they don't stop and the government is found wanting in its efforts to halt them. There is also a call from some sections of the society as well as the minority leaders that the majority community in the Valley should come out strongly against these killings. While this is understandable, this is also a fact that everyone in Kashmir, be it the majority or minority, is horrified by these killings. People and some organizations have reached out to minorities. But it is a cold comfort in the evolving dangerous situation. In the fraught place that Kashmir is threatening to become, the majority community is as helpless as the minorities. The stock condemnations will do little to make a redeeming difference.

One can't help but be pessimistic about Kashmir. There's little hope of peace in the near to medium future. This hasn't happened over the past thirty years. And nor, if this long duration is any guide, will it in future. The militancy and the state's response to it will go on. True, the state tackles the unfolding violence institutionally, so will not tire of it, but this unrelenting state of affairs is taking a disastrous toll on the people of the union territory, our new and the future generation - the majority, the minority and the non-locals. The most rational and effective response to the lingering turmoil is to address the factors which keep it going for decades now. But this is something that is and has been last on the minds of the ruling leadership of this country.

There is little hope for the future. As the lingering nature of the situation underlines, even the harshest use of the force has done little to address the turmoil in the former state. If things are becoming brutal in Kashmir by the day, the government has too has shown a singular lack of empathy to deal with the situation. We need such empathy now, not another round of trying to use a harsher force to create a semblance of peace. We need political outreach. We also need dialogue, not only with the people of Jammu and Kashmir but Pakistan also. A peace process that leads to some kind of an understanding between the two neighbors on Kashmir will be game-changing for the situation in the union territory. It will be great for Kashmir if India and Pakistan were to ever live as friendly neighbours. As of now, we can only pray for this elusive future.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Journalists Should Be Free To Tell Stories

Journalism can have a dramatic effect on how we all view the world, particularly when reporting from the global south. Stories can bring shared ideas and solutions to light, but they can also reinforce stigma and prejudice. This means it is important to consider not only which stories reach audiences but also who gets to tell those stories.

One World Media (OWM) has spent over 30 years working closely with journalists and filmmakers all over the world to help bring more original, creative and underreported stories to a global audience.

Whether due to the obstacles faced by OWM alumnus Prashun Mazumdar in bringing his story from the frontlines of India's Covid outbreak to the world's attention, or the abuse and threats experienced by OWM award-winning Middle East Eye journalist Shatha Hamdan, every day we hear accounts of the obstacles which impede the flow of stories from reporters to audiences.

Persistent barriers within the media industry, increasing threats to press freedom, distrust by the public and the spread of fake news - all influence and restrict the stories that shape our world.

When a single narrative dominates, we lose nuance and balance. But when we are able to access the numerous perspectives that make up the world we live in, we hear stories that inform and connect us all.

These stories can break down prejudices and rebalance the narrative. Fundamentally, filmmakers and journalists have the power to bring about change.

Events such as the annual OWM Global Reporting Summit, running from 12-13 October, are a crucial opportunity for members of the international journalism community to come together to discuss, debate and address these issues.

By exploring the role journalism plays in maintaining or confronting traditional power structures, together we have a chance to generate solutions for a freer, fairer media landscape.

Middle East Eye

Operation Of J&K's Erstwhile  
Laws Post Article 370



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

This piece is aimed at creating awareness about the constitutional changes that took place in Jammu & Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370. People are not aware about the applicability of these laws and as dozens of central laws have been extended to Jammu & Kashmir in the last two years, it is imperative to know about them.

When Article 370 of the Indian constitution was read down on August 5th 2019, several laws of the erstwhile state of J&K were under operation and implementation. Not only were the laws in operation or their rules but there were investigations and legal proceeding going on as well under various statutes of erstwhile J&K legal system.

Have all those proceedings been declared null and void after dozens of central laws were extended to Jammu & Kashmir under the J&K Re-organisation Act 2019 order 1st or subsequent orders? No, not at all.

Most of the erstwhile J&K state laws which have been repealed and replaced by central laws will continue to be in force until the proceedings taken under those laws are completed even if these laws stand repealed and replaced by central laws.

Similarly, many state laws of J&K were given legal protection. Under the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 order 1st as many as 166 J&K laws were protected. Some of them were later repealed as well, under different orders passed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) but still there are approximately 130 laws which continue to be in force.

Removal of Difficulties Order

Along with the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, the MHA came up with orders called Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Orders, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The article 214 of the Constitution of India provides that there shall be a High Court for each State. The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir was established on the basis of the Jammu and Kashmir Government order Number 1 issued on the 26th March, 1928 when Maharaja Hari Singh ruled Jammu & Kashmir. The Part IV of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution Act, 1939 dealt with the judiciary in the State. The High Court was established under clause (a) of section 48 of the said Act in 1928, and continued to be the High Court for the State. The sub-section (1) of section 93 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, 1956, declared that there shall be a High Court for the State of Jammu and Kashmir and that the High Court

**MOST OF THE ERSTWHILE J&K STATE LAWS** which have been repealed and replaced by central laws will continue to be in force until the proceedings taken under those laws are completed even if these laws stand repealed and replaced by central laws

exercising jurisdiction in relation to the State immediately before commencement of the Constitution shall be the High Court for the State.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 ( Act no 34 of 2019) was enacted to provide for reorganisation of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh. The clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 75 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 declared that the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir shall be the Common High Court for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh.

Section 13 and 14 of the order

The clause 13 of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2019 says that Acts repealed under J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 (post 370) shall not affect the previous operation of any law so repealed or anything duly done or suffered thereunder or any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under any law so repealed or any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed against any law so repealed or any investigation, legal proceeding or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment as aforesaid and any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced, and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed, as if this Act had not been passed.

The clause 14 of J&K Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) order 2019 also has similar provisions. It reads as : "Anything done or any action taken including any appointment or delegation made, notification, instruction or direction issued, form, bye-law or Scheme framed, certificate obtained, permit or licence granted or registration effected or agreement executed under any law shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of the Central laws now extended and applicable to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh and shall continue to be in force accordingly, unless and until superseded by anything done or any action taken under the Central laws now extended"

Misinterpretation of the order

Some Govt officers misinterpret both these clauses. Some months back, the collector land acquisition for Srinagar Ring Road district Budgam, in his response filed before the High Court of J&K supported by an affidavit in the matter of Abdul Salam Bhat & others vs UT of J&K said that Ring Road affected people from village Wathora Budgam cannot demand compensation under Right to Fair Compensation & Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013- (Central law) as the same is negated in terms of clarification envisaged in clause 13 and 14. He believes that land acquisition proceeding in Wathora was

**IT WAS THE DUTY** of the Government, more particularly, a responsibility was cast upon General Administration Department (GAD) and Institute of Management Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD) to conduct frequent workshops/capacity building programmes to create an understanding among the officers of Govt particularly the land acquisition collectors. Earlier too, I had urged the Govt to hold sensitization programmes for land revenue officers for better implementation and interpretation of the revenue laws

started under J&K Land Acquisition Act 1934 samvat 1990 and has to be concluded under the same act.

This is misleading. The officer has not mentioned the official communication No: DCB/LAS/20/300-10 dated 18.05.2020 wherein his boss i.e the Deputy Commissioner, Budgam suggests Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir for issuance of a fresh notification under the central law (Right to Fair compensation act) as the declaration issued under section 6 of erstwhile J&K Land Acquisition Act 1934 (samvat 1990) has elapsed due to efflux of time as per section 11-B of the repealed act. The

said letter contains a comprehensive village-wise status report about the acquisition of land for the construction of the Srinagar Ring Road.

The DC Budgam clearly discloses in his communication that in several villages like Gudsathoo, Ichgam, Ganjibagh, Dharmuna, Khanda including Wathora at serial no 19, the approval of the award has not been received from the competent authority within stipulated time of 2 years. He also admits that the land acquisition proceedings for these villages have lapsed under the provisions of section 11-B of the J&K Land Acquisition Act 1934 samvat 1990.

Prominently, the declaration under the repealed J&K Land Acquisition Act 1934 samvat 1990 was issued on August 8th 2017 and the awards were to be finalized within 2 years ( i.e. by or before August 7th 2019). The Collector and the Govt both failed to do so. The Deputy Commissioner, Budgam in his official communication mentioned above sought instructions from the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to initiate fresh proceedings under the Central Land Acquisition Act in the following terms:

"Guide if the land acquisition matters of villages detailed at (a) of the communication are to be initiated afresh as per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013."

Instead of acting over the suggestion made by Deputy Commissioner Budgam, the Govt gave consent to the award through Financial Commissioner Revenue J&K (competent authority) on 13th August 2020 vide his official communication No: FC -LS/LA-4577/2017. This was done after a time period of more than 3 years and is writ large with legal lacunas.

Conclusion

It is lack of elementary knowledge about the interpretation of laws that has prompted the Collector concerned (now posted as Assistant Commissioner Revenue-ACR Srinagar) to misinterpret the statute. It was the duty of the Government more particularly a responsibility was cast upon General Administration Department (GAD) and Institute of Management Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD) to conduct frequent workshops/capacity building programmes to create an understanding among the officers of Govt particularly the land acquisition collectors. Earlier too, I had urged the Govt to hold sensitization programmes for land revenue officers for better implementation and interpretation of the revenue laws. In absence of such workshops and training programmes, varying interpretations and statements are sine qua non. However, in exercise of inherent jurisdiction, the Hon'ble High Court is the best forum to interpret all statutes and laws made applicable to UTs of J&K and Ladakh. The J&K state Judicial Academy is yet another forum which could prioritize holding of workshops, interactive sessions and sensitization programmes on the changes in land acquisition laws in Jammu & Kashmir as all the district and sessions judges exercise special powers under the both repealed and existing land acquisition laws. Not only the judicial officers be invited to participate in these sessions but the collectors of land acquisition should be invited as well.

Views, claims and details mentioned in the article are the author's own responsibility and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

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Agree To Disagree

People across the world, especially in South Asia, celebrate Mawlid - the birthday of Prophet Muhammad pbuh. While people are divided over it with some terming it as an innovation, others find it to be an integral part of their beliefs. It is alright to have civil debates about the legitimacy of this day. Those who observe it are free to rejoice and those who do not, are free to

despise this as an unislamic act. However, what is uncalled for is people's inclinations towards labelling people as kafirs and resorting to name-calling on both sides.

Islam as a religion has spread and tread over generations. While we must all strive to follow the word of God and guidance of the Prophet (pbuh) as accurately as possible - this quest should not end up in hatred.

We're all on our individual journeys and what is more important is to civilly share each other's views and keep the doors open for change. It is better to disagree than degrade.

We should create a culture of debate rather than a system where we deem each other diabolical. It is this mutual debate and exchange of knowledge that will nurture our faith. Lets face it, degrading someone is not going to earn

anyone the blessings of Allah swt. We must hate sins. We must fight for our perspectives and interpretations but must never make that into a barbaric name-calling exercise.

If we had all truly created a culture where we'd learn and educate - we would have more people putting forth their opinions rather than issuing judgments.

Sauid Jan





# Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) A Mercy To Mankind

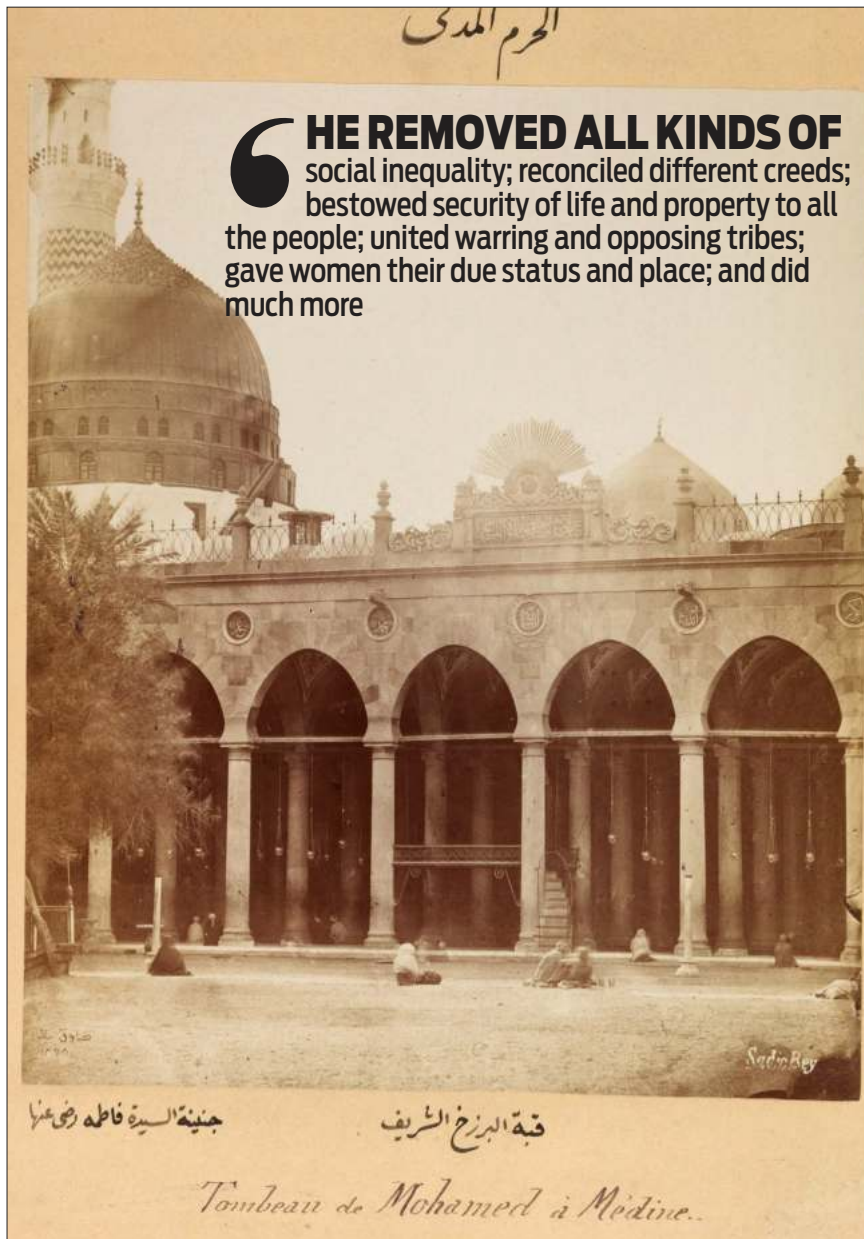
Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

A plethora of literature has been produced on the life of the Last Prophet, Muhammad (pbuh), which is generally denoted by the Arabic term Seerah. Seerah is, thus, one of the most prominent genres in the Islamic literary tradition. A large number of biographies of the Prophet (pbuh) exist in all Islamic languages as well as in the European languages (especially English) in prose, poetry, and more recently even in films. Interest has recently increased, in the West, about the popular as well as scholarly Seerah works. Among the recent scholarship on this theme, a good number have been written by Western (Muslim and non-Muslims alike) scholars.

Scholarship on Islam in general, and on different aspects of Qur'an and Prophet (pbuh) in particular, have continued from centuries, and, indeed, has seen an impressive growth in post-9/11 era. In this backdrop, this write-up presents a summary of the views of some selected Muslim and non-Muslim scholars/ writers on the life of the Last Prophet (pbuh) in the light of Muslim and non-Muslim writers.

The Quran is the Last Divine Book of Allah, and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the person whose words and deeds are the first and most important commentary and explanation of the Quran. Every detail of his blessed life (Seerah) is thoroughly known to us. Professor Carl W. Ernst, in his Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World, writes: "While the Qur'an as divine revelation may be the most important resource of the Islamic tradition, we would not have it in its present form without the Prophet Muhammad [(pbuh) who has] ... served as an ongoing model for ethics, law, family life, politics, and spirituality in ways that were not anticipated 1,400 years ago. There are few people in history who have had a greater impact on humanity, and it is through the historical elaboration of tradition that we must seek to understand that impact".

The Prophet (pbuh) was a devoted husband, an affectionate father, and a sincere friend; a successful businessman, a far-sighted reformer, a brave warrior; a skillful general, an efficient administrator, an impartial judge, a great statesman, and more. "In all these magnificent roles



Photograph of the Prophet's masjid at Medina (1298 AH /1881 AD)

**HE REMOVED ALL KINDS OF social inequality; reconciled different creeds; bestowed security of life and property to all the people; united warring and opposing tribes; gave women their due status and place; and did much more**

bestowed security of life and property to all the people; united warring and opposing tribes; gave women their due status and place; and did much more. In modern times, Prophet (pbuh) is presented as a 'reformer' who considerably raised the social and ethical level of the Arabs of his time. Leo Tolstoy said, "Undoubtedly,

over the character of the Arab people". He further states: "The work done within that short period [of 10 years] will always remain as one of the most wonderful achievements recorded in history". On the same lines, Gerhard Bowering, an 'Islamicist' (in the 'Introduction' of his Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought) is of this opinion: "That one man could achieve so much in such a short time is astounding. ... His message has stood the test of time for more than a thousand years, and his community has grown steadily over the centuries".

A savior and liberator of oppressed humanity, the Prophet (pbuh) transformed the Arabs, within a short span of 23 years, into a civilized and religious nation. Justice, equality, and truth were his motto; and modesty, kindness, patience and generosity pervaded his conduct. Hadrat Anas (RA) is reported to have said: "I served the Prophet (pbuh) for ten years, and he never said to me, 'Uf' (a minor harsh word denoting impatience)".

The Prophet (pbuh), as a leader and as political head of the City-State/ Commonwealth of Medina, never led the life of a king: he was a "King without kingly pretension". He had no arms, no standing army, no body guard, and no palace. Bosworth Smith, in his well-known book 'Mohammad and Mohammadanism', describes him in these words: "Head of the State as well as of the Church, he was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without Pope's pretensions, Caesar without the legion of Caesar: without a standing army, without a body-guard, without a palace, without a fixed revenue; if ever any man had the right to say that he ruled by the right divine, it was Mohammad [pbuh], for he had all the power without its instructions and without its supports".

The Prophet (pbuh) devoted all his life to the realization of his mission. A mission which every Prophet is bestowed by Allah: To illuminate humanity's way (Q. 51: 56; 21: 25; 16: 36); to guide people to the service of Allah (Q. 3: 164); to teach people Allah's Laws (Q. 5: 67); to be Role Models (Q. 6: 90; 33: 21); to establish 'Balance' (Q. 28: 77); and to be Allah's Witnesses (Q. 4: 165). The Prophet's (pbuh) mission was also the same: "To liberate man, to unite man, to educate man, in a word to humanize man".

The nobility of soul, purity of heart, austerity of conduct, refinement of feeling, and stern devotion to duty and responsibility, were the distinguishing traits of the character of the Prophet (pbuh). The Qur'an describes his character as "Usawah-e-Hasanah": "Verily, in the Apostle

**SCHOLARSHIP ON ISLAM IN GENERAL,** and on different aspects of Qur'an and Prophet (pbuh) in particular, have continued from centuries, and, indeed, has seen an impressive growth in post-9/11 era. In this backdrop, this write-up presents a summary of the views of some selected Muslim and non-Muslims scholars/ writers on the life of the Last Prophet (pbuh) in the light of Muslim and non-Muslim writers

of God you have a good example for everyone" (Q. 33: 21). Professor Tamara Sonn, in her 'Islam: A Brief History', admits that Prophet's life is "a model for humanity of how to live every moment, and make every choice, in accordance with God's will. The way he lived his life is described by the Quran as the best example of Islam"; and together with the Quran, his example (Sunnah) comprise the guidance and direction "Muslims need in their collective responsibility to establish justice". Hadrat Ayesha (RA) was questioned about the Prophet's personality and she replied: "His character [the ethics underlying his behavior] was the Qur'an". Truly a "Living Quran"! John L Esposito, an illustrious and well-respect 'Islamicist', in his The Future of Islam, writes: "Muhammad [pbuh] is one of the great figures of world history. Few have had more of a global religious and political impact.... In his lifetime, throughout Muslim history, and today, the Prophet Muhammad [pbuh] is seen as the 'living Quran', the embodiment of God's will in his behavior and words".

The Prophet (pbuh) was a human being; a special human being as the Quran (18: 110) states: "Say, 'I am only a human being, like you, to whom it has been revealed that your God is One". John L. Esposito in his 'What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam' writes: "In contrast to the often spiritualized Christian view of Jesus [Prophet 'Isa (AS)], Muslims look upon Muhammad [( )] as both a

his august personality that we can know the Will of the Lord, His love for humanity, and his view, how man should live in this world. In him all those values which our Lord wanted us to uphold took flesh and blood without compromise and without alloy. He had been, therefore, made for us the focus of loyalty because it is through him that we have learnt the true concept of God, the real implication of Tauhid [monotheism], the role of man, his accountability in the Hereafter—in fact the whole of the religion".

All those who study the Prophet's life, irrespective of their personal religious belief or ideology, can derive teachings from this. Dr. Annie Besant in her book, 'The Life and Teachings of Muhammad', says: "It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia, who knows how he taught and how he lived, to feel anything but reverence for that mighty Prophet, one of the great messengers of the Supreme".

Calling the Prophet (pbuh) "the Savior of Humanity", George Bernard Shaw (in 'The Genuine Islam') is of the opinion that for the general peace and comfort the present world needs leaders like the Prophet (pbuh); he states: "if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it the much needed peace and happiness".

It is apt to conclude with these two



Quran lessons at Masjid Al-Nabawi/Source: MuslimCulture Twitter

prophet and a very human figure, one who had great political as well as spiritual insights. Thus Muslims look to Muhammad's [pbuh] example for guidance in all aspects of life: how to treat friends as well as enemies, what to eat and drink, how to mourn and celebrate. ... [Prophet] Muhammad's [pbuh] life translated the guidance revealed in the Quran into action; he lived the revelation, giving concrete form to the laws that God revealed for the various conditions of ordinary human life. For Islam, no aspect of life is outside the realm of religion."

The Prophet (pbuh) has been described by the Quran with many titles: "the best of the creation" (Q. 33: 21); "a mercy to the worlds" (Q. 21: 107); "the seal of all Prophets" (Q. 33: 40); and numerous others. Moreover, the Quran shows respect for him in these words: "Verily, God and His angels bless the Prophet: [hence,] O you who have attained to faith, bless him and give yourselves up [to his guidance] in utter self-surrender!" (Q. 33: 56).

Furthermore, the Prophetic Tradition states: "None of you is a believer till I am dearer to him than his child, his father and whole of mankind" (Muslim). Thus, all this brings us to the point that while God and the Quran have a higher status, it is Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who, par excellence, is the "human face of Islam". Abdul Hamid Siddiqi (the translator of Sahih Muslim), has made this point clear and simple in the following passage: "It is often asked why love for the holy Prophet [pbuh] has been made the test of a man's faith. The answer is quite simple. It is in

statements summarizing the mission and message of the Prophet beautifully: Syed Ameer Ali in his The Spirit of Islam writes: "Fourteen centuries have passed since he [Prophet (pbuh)] delivered his message, but time has made no difference in the devotion he inspired, and today, as then, the Faithful have in their hearts and on their lips those memorable words: 'May my life be thy sacrifice, O Prophet of God.'" Tariq Ramadan in his The Messenger concludes: "The Prophet carried a universal message, both in the experience of love present throughout his life and in his reminders to people of the need to adhere to a universal ethics that transcends divisions, affiliations, and rigid identities. ... He was beloved by God and an example among humans. He prayed, he contemplated. He loved, he gave. He served, he transformed. The prophet was the light that leads to Light, and in learning from his life, believers return to the Source of Life and find His light, His warmth, and His love. The Messenger may have left the human world, but he has taught us never to forget Him, the Supreme Refuge, the Witness, the Most Near. ... [R]ecognizing Muhammad [pbuh] as the Messenger is essentially learning to love him in his absence and to love Him in His presence. Loving, and learning to love: God, the Prophet, the creation, the humankind."

The author is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, at GDC Sogam (Lolab), Kupwara (J&K). Feedback at tauseef.parray21@gmail.com



Two poems in praise of the Prophet Muhammad, signed by Tughan al-Nasiri, Egypt, Mamluk, dated 804 AH/1401 AD (Sotheby's)

**THE PROPHET (PBUH) WAS A DEVOTED** husband, an affectionate father, and a sincere friend; a successful businessman, a far-sighted reformer, a brave warrior; a skillful general, an efficient administrator, an impartial judge, a great statesman, and more

and in all these departments of human activities he is equally a hero", writes K. S. Ramakrishna Rao, in his 'Mohammed: The Prophet of Islam'.

"The Prophet [pbuh] came to humankind", writes Tariq Ramadan in his 'In The Footsteps of the Prophet: Lessons from the Life of Muhammad'/ The Messenger, "with a message of faith, ethics, and hope, in which the One reminds all people of His presence, His requirements, and the final Day of Return and Encounter". The Prophet (pbuh) touched every aspect of human life and proved to be the greatest reformer the world has ever produced. He was a great savior, liberator, and protector of the 'oppressed' humanity. He removed all kinds of social inequality; reconciled different creeds;

Prophet Muhammad [pbuh] is one of the greatest reformers who rendered extensive service to the human community. He guided an entire nation to the light of truth and made it inclined to serenity and peace. ...Such a man, indeed, is highly respectable and estimable".

The Prophet (pbuh) was a great administrator as well. After the hijrah (migration) from Makkah to Medina in 622 CE, he presided over the Commonwealth of Islam for ten years (622-632 CE) which brought numerous transformations in the Arabs during the short span over two decades. Syed Ameer Ali, in his A Short History of the Saracens, writes: "During the ten years Mohammed [Muhammad (pbuh)] presided over the commonwealth of Islam, a great change had come



# Researchers find why people remember stressful experiences better

Agencies

Researchers have analysed the reasons why stressful experiences are usually remembered more easily than neutral experiences. When the brain stores memories of objects, it creates a characteristic pattern of activity for each of them. Stress changes such memory traces. The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Current Biology'. The research team, headed by Anne Bierbrauer, Professor Oliver Wolf and Professor Nikolai Axmacher from the RUB Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, put people in stressful situations during simulated job interviews and then recorded their memory of objects from these interviews. Using functional magnetic resonance imaging, they analysed brain activity while the participants saw the objects again. Memories of objects from stressful situa-

tions seem to rely on similar brain activity as memories of the stress trigger itself. "We usually have detailed images in your mind's eye of stressful experiences, such as taking the driving test, even after many years. Whereas a walk through the park on the same day is quickly forgotten," said Oliver Wolf. The neuroscientists at RUB would like to understand the reasons for this phenomenon. Earlier studies and theoretical considerations had led to different predictions about how memories of stressful experiences differ from neutral ones: "One idea was that very different memory representation might have been the key to more powerful memories; on the other hand, there were indications that stress memories have resembled each other more closely," explained Anne Bierbrauer. The current study provides evidence for the second theory.

Unlike in many laboratory studies, the researchers set out to record the memory trace of a real event in their experiments, using the so-called Trier Social Stress Test for this purpose. This test requires the participants to speak in front of an application committee, all of whom wear a neutral expression and don't give any positive feedback. The test unfailingly triggers stress in the participants. During the job interview simulation, the committee used a number of everyday objects; for example, one of the committee members took a sip from a coffee cup. The control group was confronted with the same objects, but the participants were not subjected to any stress. One day later, the researchers showed the objects to participants in both groups while recording brain activity in a magnetic resonance imaging scanner. The stressed participants remembered the objects better than members of the control group.

The researchers analysed primarily the brain activity in the amygdala, a region whose main functions include emotional learning. They compared the neuronal traces of objects that had been used by the committee members in the stress situation with those of objects that hadn't been used. The result was: the memory traces of objects that had been used resembled each other more closely than those of objects that hadn't been used. This was not the case in the control group. In other words, the brain representations of the objects from stressful situations were very closely linked, and they were thus clearly set apart from other experiences. One day after the stress test, the researchers showed the participants not only pictures of the objects from the job interview but also photos of members of the committee. The participants mainly remembered objects where the brain activity was similar to the activity triggered by the

presentation of the committee members. "The committee members triggered the stress in the interview situation. Accordingly, it seems that the link between the objects and the stress triggers was crucial for the enhanced memory," concluded Nikolai Axmacher. The findings obtained in this study argue against the theory that stronger memories are triggered by memory representations that differ from each other as much as possible -- at least when it comes to emotional or stressful memories. Rather, the mechanism that reinforces emotional memories appears to be rooted in the fact that the important aspects of the episode are linked at the neural level and become more closely related to the stress trigger. "This result could be an important building block to better understand emotional and traumatic memories," pointed out Anne Bierbrauer.

## Study reveals optimal blood pressure helps brains age slower

Agencies

A recent research by The Australian National University scientists found that optimal blood pressure helps our brains stay at least six months younger than our actual age. People with elevated blood pressure that falls within the normal recommended range are at risk of accelerated brain ageing, according to the recent research published in Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience. The ANU study found participants with high blood pressure had older and therefore less healthy brains, increasing their risk of heart disease, stroke, and dementia. Participants with elevated blood pressure, but within the normal range, also had older-looking brains and were at risk of health problems. "This thinking that one's brain becomes unhealthy because of high blood pressure later in life is not completely true," Professor Nicolas Cherbuin, Head of the ANU Centre for Research on Ageing, Health, and Wellbeing, said. "It starts earlier and it starts in people who have normal blood

pressure." Normal blood pressure is defined by pressure below 120/80, whereas an optimal and healthier blood pressure is closer to 110/70. The new research comes after a large international study found the number of people over 30 with high blood pressure has doubled globally. Cardiologist and co-author of the study, Professor Walter Abhayaratna, said if we maintain optimal blood pressure our brains will remain younger and healthier as we age. "It's important we introduce lifestyle and diet changes early on in life to prevent our blood pressure from rising too much, rather than waiting for it to become a problem," he said. "Compared to a person with a high blood pressure of 135/85, someone with an optimal reading of 110/70 was found to have a brain age that appears more than six months younger by the time they reach middle age." The ANU team, in collaboration with colleagues in Australia, New Zealand, and Germany, examined more than 2,000 brain scans of 686 healthy individuals aged 44 to 76. The blood pressure of the par-

ticipants was measured up to four times across a 12-year period. The brain scan and blood pressure data were used to determine a person's brain age, which is a measure of brain health. Lead author, Professor Cherbuin, said the findings highlight a particular concern for young people aged in their 20s and 30s because it takes time for the effects of increased blood pressure to impact the brain. "By detecting the impact of increased blood pressure on the brain health of people in their 40s and older, we have to assume the effects of elevated blood pressure must build up over many years and could start in their 20s. This means that a young person's brain is already vulnerable," he said. Professor Abhayaratna said the research findings show the need for everyone, including young people, to check their blood pressure regularly. "Australian adults should take the opportunity to check their blood pressure at least once a year when they see their GP, with an aim to ensure that their target blood pressure is closer to 110/70, particularly in younger and middle age groups," he said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE

SRINAGAR KASHMIR

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 – email:- kashflori@rediffmail.com

Subject: - Extension No.02.

In view of no response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office e-Tender Notice No.19 of 2021 dated.09.09.2021 for Outsourcing of entry ticketing system of Mughal Garden Verinag is hereby extended as per the details given below: -

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	18/10/2021 from 01:00 PM to 03/11/2021 up to 2:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	18/10/2021 from 03:00 PM
3.	Bid submission End Date	03/11/2021 up to 2:00 PM
4.	Date & time of Opening of Tenders	06/11/2021 at 2:00 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid Tender Notice.

By Order

Sd/-

Accounts Officer

(Member Secretary)

DIPK-10868/21

No:-DFK/GS-564/3870-72

Dated: -18/10/2021.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Office of the District

Sheep Husbandry Officer Budgam

Email: - budgamdsho@gmail.com Tel.-01951-255229

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Subject: Invitation of applications for power driven chaff cutters

In view the fact that less number of applications for availing the benefit were received than the budget allocation under the scheme, it is notified for the information of Sheep/Goat farmers of District Budgam that the date for receiving the applications hereby kept open. The terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified vide this office No DSHOB/Stores/2021-22/2296-2313, Dated: 01/10/2021.

Sd/-

District

Sheep Husbandry Officer

Budgam

No. DSHOB/Stores/2021-22/2551-68

Dated: 16 /10/2021

DIPK-10804/21


Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Department of Information & Public Relations

CULTURAL UNIT, KASHMIR

Drabu House, Rambagh, Srinagar.190012

Public notice



Phone : 0194-243-0231  
email: infkcul@gmail.com  
website: web.www.jkdirinf.in

This office is going to present Nukkad Nataks in various tribal areas of Kashmir Division and intends to conduct these programmes in tribal languages such as Gojri, Pahari, Sheena.

Accordingly, registered artists/groups who are interested are informed to submit their application along with the relevant documents, registration etc, if any, to the office of the Cultural Unit. Jdi Kashmir. Drabu House, opp, Hotel Zam Zam, Rambagh, Srinagar should reach on or before 22-10-2021 up to 2:PM. for any query contact Mr. Hilal Ahmad Mattoo, Programme Producer of this office during office hours.

-Sd-  
Cultural Officer  
Cultural, Unit Kashmir

DIPK-10870/21

No:- INF/K-CUL-250 /2021

Dated: 18-10-2021

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TOURISM, GULMARG

Telefax: - 01954254439/87 Email: -gulmargtourism@gmail.com

Subject:- Boarding & lodging of official guests for the Winter Sports Season 2021-22 at Gulmarg Ski Resort.

Quotation

Quotations are invited from the registered hotels (Category A, B & C) situated at Gulmarg for the boarding & lodging of official guests for the winter sports season 2021-22 at Gulmarg Ski Resort. The prescribed format can be obtained from the office of the undersigned w.e.f 18-10-2021 upto 27-10-2021 (04:00 PM).

Terms & Conditions: -

1. The quotations should reach to the office of the undersigned upto 27-10-2021 (04:00 PM) & will be opened on 28-10-2021 (11:00 AM ) in presence of the bidders and tender opening committee of this office.

2. No compromise will be made on the quality and hygiene of the services. Besides, facilities like proper heating and running hot & cold water must be made available to the guests by all means.

3. The rates quoted shall be inclusive of all taxes etc.

4. The rates quoted and agreed upon shall remain valid upto 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 2022.

5. The job order in favour of the successful bidder shall be issued as and when the services are required by the department.

6. The payment of services provided by the hotelier shall be made only when the funds are available with this office.

7. In case of any dispute, the Director Tourism Kashmir shall be the arbitrator.

8. This office reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
Assistant Director Tourism  
Gulmarg

No:-Gen/355/Adtg/724

DIPK-10799/21

Dated: - 16 -10-2021

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Public Works (R&B) Department

(HRM - Section)

Civil Secretariat, Srinagar

Subjectq: Acceptance of Degree acquired by Junior Engineers (Civil) Diploma holder and inclusion of his name in the seniority list of JE (Civil) Degree holder's.

NOTICE INVITING OBJECTIONS

Whereas, this department has received the case of Mr.Akhil Ambardar, Junior Engineer (Civil) for acceptance of his Degree and inclusion of his name in the seniority list of Junior Engineer (Civil) Degree holders:-

S. No	Name	Date of ap- pointment	Name of University/ Institution	Date of passing Degree	Permission for higher studies
1	Akhil Ambardar	03.06.2019	Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science & Technol- ogy, Murthal Sonopath, Haryana	May 2018	Not required

Whereas, the case was examined in the department and Degree/ marks certificates of the Engineer were forwarded to the concerned University on 12.08.2021. In response, the Controller of Examination, Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science & Technology, Murthal Sonopath, Haryana vide letter dated 26.08.2021 has verified the genuineness of Degree of the Junior Engineer in question.

Whereas, the above incumbent has also produced undertakings affirming therein that "in case any information about his Degrees is found fraudulent/ bogus at any time during service, the same shall be deemed to be cancelled ab-initio and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against him in terms of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956".

Whereas, on further examining of the case it has been observed that there is a case to accept their Degree from the date of passing Degree and include their names at appropriate place/s in the relevant seniority list of JE (Civil) Degree Holders (migrants/PMDP) as and when the same are notified afresh and also exclusion of his name from the relevant seniority list of JE (Diploma holders migrants/PMDP).

Now, therefore, before acceptance of the Degree of aforesaid Engineer and also inclusion of his name at appropriate place in the relevant seniority list of JE (Civil) Degree holder's, objections are invited from the members of the cadre who are likely to be affected due to decision of the department which should reach in the Administrative Department through concerned Chief Engineer by Post or by e-mail to compwd@rediffmail.com within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance/ publication of the notice. No claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained after expiry of stipulated time period.

Rajnish Kumar) KAS  
Additional Secretary to Government Public Works  
(R&B) Department

DIPK-10795/21

Dated:12-10-2021.

No. PWD-HRMI/ 41/ 2021/ 05-PWD(R&B)



## JK Bank Management Reaches Out To Valley Industrialists



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** As part of the outreach program initiated by CMD, R K Chhibber, the J&K Bank's management executives Monday met the representatives of Khonmoh Industrialists Association at their office situated at Industrial Estates Khonmoh.

Presided over by Bank's President (Credit) Anil Deep Mehta, the meeting was attended by Vice President Shujaat Hussain Andrabi, Zonal Head Shafat Hussain Rufai, Cluster Head Parvez Ahmad and other officers of the Bank while as the industrialist body led by its President Imran Murtuza included Sr Vice President Zahoor Ahmed Malik, Vice President Khan Yasser, Secretary Publicity Oves Rehman and Advisor Mir Saqib.

While appreciating the Bank's outreach program initiated by its CMD, during the meeting, the representatives from industrialists' body thanked the Bank's leadership for walking an extra mile to meet the timely and genuine expectations of the valley's businessmen.

"We shall always remain grateful to the Bank for extending its great support to the business community of J&K especially during the two severe waves of Covid-19 pandemic that

disrupted the local economies across the country", they said.

The members expressed their concerns in detail and raised issues faced by them while putting forward many suggestions to strengthen the bonds between the industry and the Bank.

Listening patiently to the industrialists, the President acknowledged their deep appreciation for the Bank saying, "Such an appreciation always inspires us to do more for our valuable customers and I assure you all that the issues raised and suggestions put forth in this meeting shall be considered on merit and decided as per the regulatory guidelines of the Bank", adding that the Bank's outreach program is aimed at getting the honest and direct feedback from various stakeholders to further align its systems and procedures with the needs of local businesses.

"Your feedback greatly influences our future strategy and goes a long way in helping us to improve our products and services in the process", he added.

The members of the industrialists' body hailed the patient hearing of their issues by the Bank's management executives and assured to extend every possible cooperation to the Bank to strengthen the Bank-Industry relations.



## Overcharging, Exploitation Of Tourists Shall Not Be Allowed: Govt

'Rate for everything has to be reasonable, fixed'

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The overcharging and exploitation of tourists by Transporters, Hoteliers and Pony wallas shall not be allowed as it affects tourism sector. Besides, there has to be uniform and fixed rates for services at every tourist destination to stop fleecing of tourists.

This was said by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole while chairing a meeting on fixation of rates with concerned officers.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Deputy Commissioner

Bandipora, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ananatnag and CEOs of Gulmarg Development Authority, Sonmarg Development Authority and Pahalgam Development Authority through video conferencing and Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Managing Director JKTDC and other officer.

On the occasion, Div Com impressed on the officers that rates for transport vehicles, hotels and ponies need to be fixed permanently and uniformly to check on the overcharging of tourists.

He added that reasonable rates shall only be charged from tourists to address the complaints

received from tourists regarding overcharging.

In this regard a meeting will be convened soon to fix the rates for vehicles, hotels, ponywalas, snow scooters and alternate vehicles.

Div Com enjoined on the officers that rates for all services should be displayed at tourist places including telephone numbers to be used by tourists for registering complaints.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal to make proper arrangements to address issues of electricity, firewood and communication system at Sonmarg to make it functional during the winters.

## Investors Faced Problem Selling Stocks Due To Issue Related To CDSL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Investors of several brokerage houses, including Zerodha and Paytm Money, faced possible difficulty while selling shares on Monday morning due to "an issue" related to depository Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL).

The issue was resolved by CDSL in the afternoon.

Several investors opened up about their challenges in selling stocks on Twitter. In addition, online brokerage house Zerodha, Paytm Money, a wholly-owned subsidiary of fintech major Paytm, too warned investors about possible problems in executing sell orders.

Zerodha tweeted, "You may face an issue with authorizing the sale of your stocks due to an issue with CDSL. We are in touch with CDSL to have the issue resolved at the earliest."

"You can now skip CDSL authorisation if you wish to sell your holdings on Kite until CDSL resolves the authorisation issue. Please make sure to authorise your holdings by 5 pm," Zerodha said in another tweet.

In a separate tweet, Paytm Money had said investors may



currently be facing challenges in authorising a sale on our platform due to issues on the CDSL website.

"We would like to inform you that there was an issue with CDSL this morning and all brokers faced this. It was resolved in the afternoon and hence you can start trading on our App," Paytm Money Care responded to investors on Twitter.

In addition, users of Groww too faced challenges.

"There is an ongoing issue with the CDSL TPIN authorization across all the trading platforms. We are in constant touch with CDSL to get the issue resolved on priority," Groww responding to investors on Twitter.

Later Zerodha and Paytm informed that CDSL has resolved the issues on their website and authorization of sales are being processed normally. However, CDSL did not make any comment on the issue.

## Retail Tomato Prices Skyrocket Up To Rs 93 Per Kg In Metros

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The retail price of tomatoes rose to Rs 93 per kg in metros on Monday on sluggish arrival in mandis amid reports of crop damage, owing to unseasonal rains, according to the government data.

Among metro cities, tomatoes were sold at Rs 93 per kg in Kolkata, Rs 60 per kg in Chennai, Rs 59 per kg in Delhi and Rs 53 per kg in Chennai on Monday, data showed.

The retail price of tomatoes was ruling at more than Rs 50 per kg in over 50 cities out of 175-odd cities tracked by the consumer affairs ministry.

Even in the wholesale markets, tomatoes were sold at Rs 84 per kg in Kolkata, at Rs 52 per kg in Chennai, Rs 30 per kg in Mumbai and Rs 29.50 per kg in Delhi on Monday, the data showed.

Tomato prices are ruling firm due to poor arrival amid the damage of the crop because of the unseasonal rains in key growing states.

In Mumbai, tomato arrival was lower at 241 tonnes on October 16 as against 290 tonnes a week ago, while arrival was at 528.9 tonnes in Delhi and 545 tonnes in Kolkata on the same date, according to the government data that did not have a comparable



data for three metro cities.

"We are not getting good-quality tomatoes from mandi itself because of rains. Consumers pick good ones and the rotten ones are left behind which is a loss to us. So, we keep rates in such a way to recover that loss also," said a vegetable hawkker Shiva Lal Yadav who sells in Karol Bagh colony of Delhi.

Currently, harvesting is underway in key growing states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Last week, Azadpur Tomato Association President Ashok Kaushik had said, "Unseasonal rains in producing states like Madhya

Pradesh and Maharashtra have damaged the crop due to which the supply to consuming markets like Delhi has been affected. This has led to a rise in prices both in wholesale and retail markets."

The tomato crop is ready for harvest in about 2-3 months after planting. Harvesting is done as per the requirement of the market.

India, the world's second-largest tomato producer after China, produces around 19.75 million tonnes from an area of 7.89 lakh hectares with an average yield of 25.05 tonnes per hectare, according to the National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation.

## Sale of Air India Will Constitute An 'Important Milestone': IMF



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**WASHINGTON:** The International Monetary Fund on Monday said the sale of national carrier Air India will constitute an "important milestone" in India's privatisation efforts.

Tata group has emerged as the winning bidder for the loss-making Air India, and on October 11, a letter of intent (LoI) was issued to the group.

"We welcome the recent agreement on the sale of Air India, which constitutes an important milestone," Alfred Schipke, Director of IMF-STI Regional Training Institute and a former IMF India Mission Chief, told PTI in an interview.

Earlier this month, the government accepted an offer by Talace Pvt Ltd, a unit of Tata group, to pay Rs 2,700 crore cash and takeover Rs 15,300 crore of Air India's debt.

After Tatas accept the LoI, the share purchase agreement (SPA) for the sale will be signed. Along with Air India, Tatas will acquire low-cost carrier Air India Express and Air India's 50 per cent stake in equal joint venture AISATS.

"In general, to maximise the benefits from privatisation, the international experience highlights the importance of medium-term privatisation plans, solid regulatory frameworks, competitive markets and the buy-in of key stakeholders," Schipke said as the IMF released

its annual report on India.

As with all structural reforms during the transition, he said it is important to strengthen social safety nets to maximise the benefits and minimise any adverse implications.

The annual report lists more than 130 key policy actions that have been undertaken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in the last one year as part of efforts to liberalise and reform the country's economy.

On the fiscal front, Schipke said it was important to highlight two areas where actions taken stand out. First is the swift expansion of support to low-income households with the onset of the pandemic by effectively leveraging existing social support schemes.

The in-kind food transfers through PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which have been extended several times since the pandemic, and later improvement of the portability of benefits through the One Nation One Ration Card system have been critical to help alleviate the significant impact of the pandemic on livelihoods, he noted.

According to him, the second policy area is the authorities' new privatisation policy and asset monetisation pipeline that can, if implemented successfully, improve the return from government assets and help finance much-needed public expenditure on infrastructure, health and education.

## Tata Motors launches Punch, Price Starts At Rs 5.49 Lakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Tata Motors on Monday launched its sub-compact SUV 'Punch' in the country, with price starting at Rs 5.49 lakh (ex-showroom).

Designed across Tata Motor's studios in India, the UK and Italy, the model has been developed to herald an entirely new category—the sub-compact SUV—to address a growing customer need for a small-in-size vehicle that is big on space, safety, performance and features.

Built on the company's Agile Light Flexible Advanced (ALFA) architecture, Punch would sit below Nexon in the company's product line-up. It comes with a 1.2-litre petrol engine mated to both manual and automatic transmissions.

As per Tata Motors, the manual trims of the model deliver an ARAI-certified fuel efficiency of 18.97kmpl, while the AMT (automated manual transmission) variants offer 18.82kmpl

to a litre.

The model comes with SUV attributes like tall seating, high ground clearance, 370mm water-wading capability and traction feature to aid recovery in off-road situations. It has received 5-star adult safety rating for adult occupant protection in a crash test from Global NCAP, an internationally re-



nowned vehicle safety accreditation group.

Five stars indicate the highest score, while zero star rating points to the minimum score during the vehicle crash test.

"With Punch, we have created an entirely new category altogether to address a growing need for small-in-size cars with a true SUV character," Tata Motors President, Passenger Vehicles Business Unit (PVB), Shailesh Chandra noted.

### SHORT TAKES

## Exports Up 40.5 Pc to USD 15.13 Bn During Oct 1-14

**NEW DELHI:** The country's exports rose by 40.5 per cent to USD 15.13 billion during October 1-14 on account of healthy performance by key sectors such as petroleum products, engineering and chemicals, according to preliminary data of the commerce ministry.

Imports during the period grew by 60.72 per cent to USD 14.82 billion, the data showed.

India's merchandise exports grew by 22.63 per cent year-on-year to USD 33.79 billion in September on better performance by key sectors, even as the trade deficit widened to a record high of USD 22.59 billion.

Export sectors which are recording positive growth include coffee, cashew, petroleum products, handloom, engineering, chemicals, man-made yarn/fabrics, gems and jewellery, plastic and marine products.

Cumulatively, exports rose by 57.53 per cent to USD 197.89 billion during April-September this fiscal as against USD 125.62 billion during April-September 2020. (PTI)

## High Oil Prices To Hurt World Economic Recovery: India to OPEC

**NEW DELHI:** India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, has told Saudi Arabia and other OPEC nations that high oil prices will hurt the nascent economic recovery the world is witnessing after the devastating pandemic and that they have to price oil at reasonable levels, a top official said on Monday.

Petrol and diesel prices have shot up to record highs across the country after relentless price increases since early May.

India, which imports almost two-thirds of its oil needs from West Asia, has told crude oil producers, including the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), that high oil prices will hasten the transition to alternate fuels and such rates will be counter-productive for the producers, the official said.

"Oil prices have to strike a balance between the interests of the producers and consumers. Right now they are really high because the demand is more than the supplies," the official, who wished not to be named, said.

International oil prices had crashed

to USD 19 per barrel in April last year as demand evaporated with most nations clamping lockdowns to control the spread of COVID-19. The demand recovered this year as vaccination against the infection revived economies world over.

International benchmark Brent crude has since rallied to USD 85.67 per barrel. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has in recent weeks flagged the issue of high oil prices to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, the US, Russia and Bahrain, the official said.

Puri, in his meetings with the Secretary-General of OPEC and his counterparts in Saudi Arabia and other nations, conveyed India's serious concerns over crude oil price volatility. He conveyed India's strong preference for responsible and reasonable pricing which is mutually beneficial for consumers and producers, the official said.

India is again likely to raise the issue of high oil prices when global leaders meet for the India Energy Forum by CERAAWeek later this week. Saudi and UAE oil ministers besides the OPEC secretary-general are expected to participate in the meeting.

## Gold Gains Marginally; Silver Jumps Rs 323

**NEW DELHI:** Gold in the national capital on Monday gained marginally by Rs 37 to Rs 46,306 per 10 grams, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 46,269 per 10 grams.

Silver jumped Rs 323 to Rs 62,328 per kilogram from Rs 62,005 per kilogram in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading marginally lower at USD 1,766 per ounce and Silver was flat at USD 23.36 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading marginally down at USD 1,766 per ounce on Monday. Gold prices capped upside on Monday pressured by stronger dollar and mixed global cues," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel. (PTI)

## Rupee Drops By 9 Paise To 75.35 A Dollar On High Crude Oil Prices

**MUMBAI:** The rupee ended 9 paise lower at 75.35 against the US dollar on Monday, tracking a stronger greenback against key rivals overseas and rising global crude oil prices.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened on a steady note and later traded in a narrow range of 75.24 to 75.38 against the American currency.

On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 75.26 against the US dollar. The forex market was closed on Friday for Dussehra' holiday.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.19 per cent at 94.12.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.11 per cent to USD 85.80 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex surged 459.59 points or 0.75 per cent to end at 61,765.59; while the broader NSE Nifty jumped 138.50

points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 18,477.05.

Foreign institutional investors remained net buyers in the capital market on Thursday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,681.60 crore, as per exchange data.

Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities said the rupee started the week on a backfoot ignoring strong gains in domestic equities, as traders gave more importance to rising crude oil prices and the US Treasury Yields.

Brent crude oil prices stayed above USD 85 per barrel while US 10 Year benchmark bond yield quoted above 1.60 per cent. On Domestic bourses, trading volume remained light following holiday on Tuesday, however, the direction remains downward for the rupee after trade deficit data.

In near term, spot USDINR is having resistance around 75.70 level and support around 74.90. (PTI)



## Veteran Artist Veer Munshi Among 16 J&K Personalities Gets Harmony India Awards

AGENCEIS

**JAMMU:** Veteran artist Veer Munshi, journalist Rajesh Raina, Kashmiri singer Kailash Mehra and Sahitya Akademi awardee Zareef Ahmad Zareef were among 16 eminent personalities from Jammu and Kashmir to receive this year's Harmony India Awards, a spokesman of Harmony India foundation said.

The seventh edition of the awards was held on Sunday night at the Teacher's Bhawan here.

The recipients in included artists, musicians, writers, social activists, theatre and visual artists and journalists for their outstanding contribution in the growth and development of J&K and the nation.

The 'lifetime achievement award' for this year was conferred upon Sahitya Akademi awardee, Kashmiri poet and writer Zareef Ahmad Zareef for his outstanding contribution in the field of Kashmiri literature and language.

The 'Shrestha Samman' award was conferred upon famous Indian artist Veer Munshi (fine arts), Kashmiri

singer Prof Kailash Mehra (music), Ravi Kemmu (acting and theatre) and late Shadi Lal Koul (acting), the spokesman said.

M K Bangroo (journalism), Ravinder Kaul (art and culture), Gokul Dembi (fine arts), late Pandit Mohan Nirash (Kashmiri language and literature), Dr Naseeb Singh Manhas (media production) and Ravi Dhar (painting and sculpture) are the other awardees.

The 'State Icon Award' has been conferred upon Group editor of New18 Rajesh Raina in the field of journalism, the spokesman said.

The 'Community Icon Award' has been offered upon Sandhya Dhar in the field of social work, Kanwal Peshin and Sanjay Saraf for community services, he said.

The 'Yuva Puraskar' award has been given to Abdul Rashid in the field of Kashmiri folk instrumental music and a special award for this year for voluntary service during the COVID-19 pandemic has been conferred upon Dr Rohit Koul, Vikas Razdan, Bhavna Pandita and Ravinder Pandita, the spokesman said.

## Centre Defends Law On Tribunal Reforms In SC

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre has defended in the Supreme Court the validity of the new tribunal reforms law, which regulates issues such as appointment and tenure of presiding and other members in tribunals, and said the independence of the judiciary is not a ground that can be used for testing the statutes.

The Centre's defence to the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, assumes significance in view of the fact that a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana had termed as "serious issue" the passage of the Bill on tribunals with the provisions, struck down earlier, without any debate in Parliament.

The reply affidavit by the Centre has been filed in response to a batch of petitions filed by the Madras Bar Association, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and others challenging the constitutionality of the Act.

The affidavit said that even if there is a violation of the basic structure doctrine, it is not the grounds to attack the

validity of a statute.

"Basic structure in the Constitution can only be used to test the validity of a Constitutional amendment but has no relevance when it comes to validity of a statute," the Centre said.

The Centre also contended that independence of the judiciary is not a ground which can be used for testing statutes.

"If for any reason independence of the judiciary is treated as the basis, one could not phrase a provision by declaring that independence is removed which would ex facie sound antithetical. What is more, independence of the judiciary is not a ground which can be used for testing statutes," the affidavit said.

"It has been held in a series of cases including by two Constitutional Bench decisions and by a seven-judges bench of the Supreme Court that basic structure in the Constitution can only be used to test the validity of a Constitutional amendment but has no relevance when it comes to validity of a statute," it said.

The Centre said the laws and statutory rules made

by Parliament fall under the realm of policy.

"Government equally believes that the court striking down these pure matters of policy violates the separation of powers by the judicial wing of the State," it said.

The provisions, whose validity are under challenge, bars the appointment of persons below 50 years of age to tribunals.

"What is significant is if the separation of powers entrusts to Parliament and the Executive the exclusive jurisdiction to decide as to what would be the best policy, which would be necessary in public interest, then, the principle of separation of powers itself would stand violated if the Judiciary interferes with issues of policy and substitutes what it believes would be a better policy," the Centre stated.

Earlier, the bench had expressed its displeasure of the passage of the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021 without debate and attributing sufficient reasons justifying the need to reverse the apex court's rulings.

The law pertains to terms and conditions for the service and tenure of members

of various tribunals and the fresh law revives some of the provisions struck down by a bench headed by Justice L N Rao recently on pleas including the one filed by Madras Bar Association.

"We have seen two days back as to how what was struck down by this court has again come back. I do not think any debate has taken place in Parliament. No reason has been given. We have absolutely no problem with the Parliament making laws," the CJ had observed.

"Parliament has the right to make any law. But at least we must know what are the reasons for the Government to introduce this Bill again after the striking down of the Ordinance. Nothing is there. I read the newspapers that and from the Finance Ministers, there is only one word that the court has not struck down the Ordinance on constitutionality, he had observed.

The bench had then also granted last opportunity to the Centre to make appointments in quasi-judicial panels facing a severe crunch of presiding officers, judicial and technical members.

### BJP Worker Among 4 Nabbed Over Lakhimpur Khori Violence, Minister's Son Sent To Judicial Custody

**Lakhimpur:** The Uttar Pradesh police on Monday apprehended four more persons, including a BJP worker, over the Lakhimpur Khori violence, taking the number of arrests in the episode to 10, said officials.

Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra along with others accused in the case were also sent into judicial custody from police custody on Monday, the officials said.

Eight persons, including four farmers, were killed in the October 3 violence during a farmers' protest in the Tikonia area of the district, with the incident snowballing into a major political controversy over the alleged involvement of the Union minister's son.

Four persons were arrested on Monday by the Crime Branch of the Lakhimpur Khori police along with the SWAT team. The SIT investigators and other senior officials are interrogating the accused and further probe is underway, the UP police said in a statement.

Those held have been identified as Sumit Jaiswal, Shishi Pal, Satya Prakash Tripathi alias Satyam and Nandan Singh Bisht, the police said.

So far, the special investigation team (SIT) has arrested 10 persons including the key accused Ashish Mishra, Ankit Das, Ashish Pandey, Lavkush Rana, Shekhar Bharti and Latif.

### CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

#### Kashmir Valley

inputs suggesting that militants were planning to carry out attacks on vital security installations.

Here in Srinagar, scores of checkpoints popped up on Monday morning where people were lined up, frisked and subjected to identification checks by heavily armed cops and paramilitary men.

At many places here, reports said, the specially trained Special Operations Group (SOG) personnel carried out surprise checking of people.

At the historic Ganta Char and Hari Singh High Street, forces were seen conducting searches on regular intervals.

According to reports, scores of two-wheelers were confiscated by the forces during random searches in Nehru Park, Dalgate, Barzulla, Shaheed Gunj, Rajbagh, Rainawari, SK Park, Budshah Bridge, Maulana Azad link road and other places in this capital city.

The police action of seizing the bikes left many residents fuming.

Imran Mir, who has been waiting outside Police Station (PS) Batamaloos since morning to get his bike released, told Kashmir Observer that people understand that situation is critical but why wasn't there any specific information from police before launching this crackdown on bikes.

"If the police would've told us, then who would have come out to face such brutal hassles," Mir said, adding "At the end of the day it boils down to commoners only."

He further added that, "When people who were waiting outside the PS tried to enquire about the specific reasons behind seizure of their bikes from police, they started harassing the bikers and beat them."

"If I was carrying all the legal documents and helmet, then why was my vehicle seized? There's no law in the country that permits this unnecessary seizure of bikes," says Mir, an accountant for a local establishment.

Mushtaq Khan, another biker, told Kashmir Observer that police have been "dodging the reasons" behind seizure of their bikes.

"None of us were a part of the recent targeted killings, then why are we being made to suffer unnecessarily," he said.

"I'm a middle class guy. I'd bought a scooty to reach my workplace early so that my employer doesn't deduct my salary for being late to the office. But this unnecessary police action has cost me a day's salary," he added.

Khan added that he had left for work early as the weather was quite bad but since then, he has been waiting outside Rajbagh police station.

The heightened security in Srinagar and other parts of the Valley comes amid a sharp spike in civilian killings over the last two weeks.

In the most recent attack, suspected militants on Sunday shot dead two migrant workers and critically injured another in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

A day earlier, suspected militants shot in the head 30-year-old Arvind Kumar Sah, a street vendor from Banka in Bihar, in Eidgah area of the Old City. Barely an hour later, Saghir Ahmad, a carpenter hailing from Uttar Pradesh, was shot dead in Pulwama district.

"There's a high alert in the wake of recent targeted killings and the J&K police along with CRPF has intensified the security grid around the valley especially in the city," CRPF spokesperson, Abhi Ram Pankaj told Kashmir Observer.

However, Pankaj said that there were no specific inputs of a possible militant strike and the security has primarily been intensified in wake of targeted killings.

"Today's crackdown on two wheelers is also one of them. The militants usually use two wheelers to execute their nefarious activities and by launching a crackdown on bikes, the security agencies are trying to save the locals as well as non-locals against these militants," the CRPF spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, reports of intense checking and frisking were also received from all entry and

exit points in this capital city.

#### Women Frisked

the killing of non-locals. According to reports, a posse of CRPF women cops were deployed around Lal Chowk on Monday morning to assist the local police in carrying out searches in the bust marketplace and to keep an eye on suspects.

Wearing bullet proof vests and carrying assault rifles, the CRPF women cops were seen subjecting ladies to identification checks. Many women, including students were frisked and their bags and belongings were thoroughly checked before letting them go.

The random searches in the heart of the city conducted throughout the day.

However, the random frisking at the public place didn't go well with some women who complained breach in privacy.

"We were passing through Lal Chowk when CRPF women cops intercepted us. Our identity cards were sought and bags were thoroughly checked in full public glare. This is highly insensitive and objectionable," Shazia, a resident of Nowhatta said.

The heightened security in this capital city comes in the backdrop of a series of attacks on migrant workers, mostly from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. So far, 11 people have been killed allegedly by militants in the last two weeks.

#### Mobile Internet

on Monday evening in eight areas, including Anchar, Eidgah, Qamarwari, Soura, Maharaj Gunj, Bagyass, Nowhatta, and SafaKadal, reports said.

Similarly, the internet services were also cut-off in Wanpoh and Qaimoh in Kulgam and Litter in Pulwama district.

The suspension of internet services in Srinagar and the two south Kashmir districts comes amid a spate of attacks on migrant labourers by suspected militants in the last two weeks. So far, 11 people, mostly migrant workers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have been killed allegedly by militants in the last fortnight.

#### Eid-e-Milad To Be

of devotees at the shrine to participate in the night-long prayers.

The decision was taken in order to prevent the deadly virus from spreading, he said, adding that the devotees, who are living close to the shrine and are scheduled to participate in the night-long prayers, have been asked to follow the Covid Standard operating Procedures (SOPs) in letter and spirit.

CEO Wafk Board informed that despite allowing a limited number of devotees, the board has taken adequate measures with regard to the Covid related SOPs.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has already directed that Covid-19 related SOPs and guidelines shall be strictly followed on the Eid Milad un Nabi at all the places of congregation wherein it shall also be ensured that all the devotees are following SOPs of Covid-19 viz, wearing of masks, keeping distance, sanitization besides, gathering and congregation is within the limits. In this connection, Director Health Services Kashmir has been asked to provide necessary support.

**J&K Logs 75 New**

by Baramulla with 10, Kupwara 4, Pulwama and Anantnag 3 each, Kulgam 2 and one new case each in Budgam and Ganderbal districts. No fresh case was reported from Bandipora and Shopian districts in the Valley.

In the winter capital, the officials said that Jammu reported a maximum of 7 cases, Doda 3 and one new case each in Ramban and Reasi. Six of the districts Udhampur, Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar and Poonch reported no cases of virus on Monday.

Also, the officials said that 100 more patients have recovered—12 from Jammu Division and 88 from Kashmir.

Meanwhile, two more people died of coronavirus related complications in Jammu and Kashmir. So far 4428—2175 in Jammu and 2253 in Kashmir—have died due to the deadly

infection

#### Dubai To Invest

highlighted the significance of the day and said that with the signing of the MoU with Dubai Government, the world has started to recognize the pace with which Jammu and Kashmir is traversing on the development bandwagon.

"This MoU gives out a strong signal to the entire world that the way India is transforming into a global power, Jammu & Kashmir is having a significant role in that as well," the Union Minister said.

According to the official spokesperson, J&K Lieutenant Governor termed the occasion as a historic day for the Dubai-Jammu Kashmir friendship, and for the developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

Sinha, he said, stated that the MoU is the beginning of a new partnership between the Government of Dubai and J&K which will help the Union Territory to scale new heights in industrialization and sustainable growth.

"It is aimed at developing various economic activities including industrial parks, IT Towers, multi-purpose towers, logistics, medical college, super specialty hospital and many other projects," the LG said.

"Jammu & Kashmir has received a proposal worth Rs 30,000 crores in just a few months after the second wave of the pandemic and we hope to get the proposals of around Rs 60,000 crores in the coming times," Sinha said.

"This MoU is about Jammu Kashmir's prospects and I am confident it will set the pace in the business sector of the future that is key to the prosperity of people. It renews the foundation of cooperation and reaffirms the government's commitment to build Atma-Nirbhar Jammu Kashmir, which will immensely contribute to Atma-Nirbhar Bharat," he added.

"We have developed an ecosystem for incubating and unfurling start-ups in various sectors of the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir. With this MoU, the Government of J&K and Government of Dubai have drawn out strategy on future investments," Sinha said.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson also spoke on the deep relationship shared by Jammu Kashmir and Dubai based on the common values, mutual trust, respect and fair trade of popular products.

"The Government of Dubai is willing to explore the opportunity of potential cooperation with the government of Jammu & Kashmir. The presence of Hon'ble Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem in today's conference and our initiative to start the first International flight to Sharjah from 23rd October reflects our commitment to foster strong business cooperation," the LG said.

According to the official spokesperson, Group Chairman & CEO of DP World, Dubai expressed confidence that the MoU would bring many opportunities to transform the industrial sector in Jammu Kashmir.

Sulayem, he said, also informed that DP World is a leading provider of smart logistics solutions, enabling the flow of trade across the globe.

"Working on the lines of Make in India, J&K will be connected to all major ports in India for transporting the unique products and Agriculture, Horticulture produce across the country and the world," he said.

#### Int'l Flights to

The director the Airport Authority of India gave a presentation regarding layout plan for operation and regulation of activities at the airport, the spokesman said.

He said a threadbare discussion was held over the management of passengers during arrival and departure of domestic and international flights keeping the sensitivity of the Covid pandemic in view.

Arrangements for immigration and customs were also discussed, the spokesman said.

Pole directed officers to execute arrangements meticulously, including the management and regulation of passengers, segregation of domestic and international passengers, conduct Rapid PCR at airport for international passengers besides mandatory RTPCR test for Covid before 48 hours.

The meeting also discussed the issue of brick kilns within the eight kilometer radius of the Srinagar International Airport and alternative approach road besides other issues, the spokesman added

#### Day 8: Army

eighty day at the break of dawn.

"As per inputs, 3-4 terrorists are engaged in the gunfight," the sources said.

Paratroopers were inducted on Saturday to take on the heavily-armed militants hiding in the forests as the union territory witnesses one of the deadliest encounters post abrogation of Article 370 removing special status to the erstwhile state.

Official sources said the joint team of Army, police, para military troops along with elite commandos were already searching the Nar Khas forests of Mendhar. Helicopters are also being used to track down the militants.

"The terrorists are holed up in a dense forested area and firing intermittently which is effectively being retaliated by the search parties," they said.

Army personnel have been advancing cautiously as the militants, who are heavily armed, appear to be well entrenched in the forests, the sources said.

In the week-long gunfight that started on October 11, so far nine Army personnel, including two Junior Commissioned Officers have been killed.

The operation to flush the militants out has proved to be tough, especially due to the difficult terrain and dense forests thus prolonging the gun battles.

Security forces as per sources, have also detained two persons for allegedly providing logistics support to the militants.

"During searches on the basis of intelligence inputs, two persons have been detained for providing food and shelter to a group of heavily armed terrorists," the sources said. The detainees were being questioned for more details.

The National Highway 144-A, connecting Poonch district headquarter with Rajouri and Jammu was partially opened on Monday after remaining closed between Bhimber Gali and Jarran Wali Gali till Sunday. (Agencies)

#### Shah Reviews

Killing of civilians in Jammu and Kashmir, in a meeting with state police and central armed police forces chiefs here on Monday, officials said.

Shah chaired the concluding session of the "National Security Strategies Conference" at the Intelligence Bureau (IB) headquarters here and the deliberations held were "detailed and expansive", a spokesperson of the ministry said. The DGPs of all states and Union Territories, and chiefs of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) participated in the meeting.

"The conference deliberated on various internal security challenges and discussed ways to tackle them firmly," the spokesperson said.

Official sources said the overall security situation in the country and various law and order issues, including the recent incidents of targeted killings of civilians in Kashmir, were discussed in the meeting.

A spate of civilian killings have taken place in Kashmir in which non-local labourers have been shot dead by suspected militants over the last few days.

In the meeting, the home minister also reviewed the current Left Wing Extremism (LWE) scenario in various Naxal-affected states and discussed busting of terror modules across the country, the sources said.

The meeting is part of the exercise initiated by the home minister to meet the top police

brass once in six months.

#### Army Chief Reviews

an update on security situation and operational preparedness, the Indian Army said on Monday.

The Indian Army said on Twitter on Monday: "General MM Naravane, COAS (Chief of Army Staff) is on a two day visit to Jammu Region

wherein GOC White Knight Corps will give an update on security situation and operational preparedness."

"COAS will visit forward areas and interact with troops and commanders on ground," it added.

#### Strong Intensity'

in south Kashmir, had 13.0mm of rain and recorded a minimum of 9.8 degree Celsius, the official said.

Kupwara had 13.2mm of rain while the north Kashmir town recorded a low 8.3 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, also received rain of 33.2mm and recorded a minimum of 2.6 degree Celsius, the official said.

#### Soldier Sent

sent Dar to Central Jail Srinagar to face trial.

Advocate said that there were three accused in the massacre. Dar was second accused in the case who has been brought to book. The first accused Wali Mir was sent to judicial custody by the court in March 2019 while the third accused Abdul Rashid Parray, alias Rashid Billa, a notorious government gunman, was shot dead by suspected militants near his residential house at Hajin on April 16, 2017.

#### Scared, But Not

to buy his own house in a few years.

"I work as a carpenter and my wife is a house help. The earnings and savings are enough... I should be able to buy my own house in Sahanpur (Uttar Pradesh) in two to three years," Ahmad said.

Is he scared following the killings? "Darr to lagta hai par bhook say zyada darr lagta hai (I am scared but i fear hunger more than death)," he said as he pointed to his kids adding "back home we won't be able to find two square meals".

In the latest of the five killings, two non-locals were shot dead by militants in Srinagar and Pulwama districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

They were Arvind Kumar Sah from Bihar and Saghir Ahmad from Srinagar.

#### 2 Rohingyas

Barī Brahmana, were picked up outside the Army installation at Purmandal Sunday evening, they said.

The duo was handed over to the special operations group of local police for questioning after the scrutiny of their mobile phones revealed contact numbers from Pakistan and Myanmar.

Both of them were carrying valid identity cards issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, officials said.

The Rohingyas are a Bengali-dialect speaking Muslim minority in Myanmar. Following persecution in their country, many of them entered India illegally through Bangladesh and took shelter in different parts of the country.

#### LG Greets People

the people of all faiths, and deepen the bond of unity and communal harmony, an official spokesperson said Monday.

The LG, he said, prayed for the well-being and happiness of the people of the UT.

"May this auspicious occasion bring sustained peace, development, and prosperity in J&K," Sinha said.

#### Gurez Road Closed

some other higher reaches in Kashmir including Z-Gali, Peer ki Gali, Sadhna top and Zojila also received light snowfall while the weather remains inclement in the plains

#### Man Absconding

absconder, who is evading his arrest from the last 15 years, a statement said.

The arrested absconders identified as Aman Verma, son of Moti Lal of Kathua, wanted in a case under FIR number 14/2006 under section 392/ RPC of PS Kishtwar, the statement said.

Thereafter, the said absconder has been produced before the Court in Kishtwar for further course of action.



## T20 World Cup: Bat-Tracking Technology Set For Debut



AGENCIES

**DUBAI:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed that this year, cricket fans across the globe will witness "unparalleled" coverage of the T20 World Cup that will take place in Oman and the UAE.

The ICC revealed that for the first time ever, fans will also see tracking off the bat.

"For the first time in cricket, we'll also see tracking off the bat, which will be provided by Hawk-Eye in select matches, in addition to their ball tracking and edge detection services," reads a post on the ICC's website. Providing details of the event's coverage, it said viewers will witness the action with cable-suspended camera system Spidercam and other features.

The ICC has promised to broadcast 10,000 hours of live action from the Council's broadcast partners across 200 countries and more. Match highlights, key moments and other video clips will also be shared from the ICC's official Facebook and Instagram pages and the official T20worldcup.com website and T20 World Cup app.

Former England player and commentator Nasser Hussain praised the ICC's coverage of the

tournament.

"This is going to be a massive tournament with the world's top players in action in the fastest evolving format of the international game," he said.

"Not only do we get to see the leading teams, but we also get a chance to see the emerging teams fancying their chances in the T20 format. I can't wait for the tournament to begin and I'll enjoy working on these mouth-watering contests."

Former South African fast bowler Dale Steyn was equally excited for the action to begin.

"It's an honour to be part of the commentary team at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup and a pleasure to be watching all the action from close quarters. The game has changed a lot in recent times and there is some really exciting talent out there waiting to make its mark," he said.

Cricket fans and professional cricketers now expect Hawk-Eye's verdict on LBW appeals. Hawk-Eye's latest innovation UltraEdge uses vision and audio to detect if a batsman has hit the ball, whilst the SMART Replay technology records all camera feeds and makes them available in real-time to enable third umpires to make quick decisions on key incidents such as run-outs, stumpings and no-balls.

## Mentor Dhoni Joins India Squad For T20 WC Campaign



PRESS TRUST OF INDIAN

**DUBAI:** The iconic Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Sunday joined the Indian team camp as its mentor for the T20 World Cup, two days after leading Chennai Super Kings to their fourth IPL title here.

Dhoni was appointed in the new role last month.

"Extending a very warm welcome to the KING Crown @msdhoni is back with #TeamIndia and in a new role!" the BCCI tweeted with two pictures of the legend alongside Team India coaching staff, including head coach Ravi Shastri, bowling

coach Bharat Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar.

Dhoni, regarded as one of India's best-ever captains, led an ageing CSK brigade to its fourth IPL title, beating Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs in the IPL final on Friday night.

The 40-year-old Dhoni's new role as mentor of Team India is limited to the T20 World Cup.

Dhoni is the most successful captain in white-ball cricket with all 3 ICC titles — 2007 T20 World Cup, 2011 World Cup, 2013 Champions Trophy — in his cabinet. He's led CSK to victory in the IPL in 2010, 2011, 2018 and 2021.



## Premier League: ARCO FC, JKPCDC XI Register Wins

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The JKFA Khyber Premier Division Football League 2021 witnessed two matches played on Monday at Synthetic Turf, TRC here.

ARCO FC beat Kashmir Avengers 2-1, while Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPCDC) XI defeated Food & Supplies (F&S) XI 2-0.

The first match between ARCO and Avengers proved to be a tight affair between the two teams. ARCO's Mehraj gave his team the lead in 29th minute. ARCO then scored their

second goal through Kashif in the 42nd minute of first half.

ARCO defended astutely, but Kashmir Avengers pulled a goal back in the 74th minute through Kelvin. The goal put some pressure on their opponents, however, ARCO held on to win the match 2-1. Mehraj of ARCO FC was declared man of the match.

In the second Premier League match of the day, Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPCDC) XI defeated Food & Supplies (F&S) XI by two goals to nil.

The match between the two departmental teams proved to

be a one sided affair, as JKPCDC managed to score a goal in each half to comfortably ride out the game.

The first goal was scored by Mehran Dar in the 8th minute, while Zaffar doubled JKPCDC's lead in the 47th minute. F&S did create opportunities but failed on capitalise on any of them. Adil Hussain Mir of F&S XI was named man of the match for his brilliant performance.

The JKFA Premier Division League is broadcast live on ANN News channel. The League is organised by J&K Football Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

## J&K Team For National Women Hockey Championship Flagged Off

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Secretary, J&K Sports Council on Monday flagged off the J&K Senior Women Hockey team at Jammu Tawi Railways Station to compete in the 11th Hockey India Senior Women National Hockey Championship 2021, set to be held at Jhansi (UP) from October 21 to 30, 2021.

Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, while speaking to players said that women are the power of the future of India. She urged the team to perform with discipline and give their best. She asked coaches and players to strictly observe discipline and follow the rules of Hockey India.

President Hockey J&K, Rajeev Sharma thanked the Secretary and said her words will boost the morale of the team and will improve their performance. He added that with her efforts a day will come when J&K will shine like a star in the sky of sports in India. Dr. Taran Singh, General Secretary Hockey J&K



was also present on the occasion along with the parents of the players.

The 21 days rigorous training camp of the team concluded recently and was organized by Hockey J&K and supported and sponsored by J&K Sports Council. The training was given in two

sessions, morning one began at 6 am to 9 am while evening session at 4 pm to 6 pm daily.

Jagjit Singh, Coach, and Priyanka Singh, Manager will accompany the team comprising of 18 players from the whole of J&K. The team will reach Jhansi on October 19.

## Solskjaer Feels Heat At United As Champions League Resumes

AGENCIES

**LONDON:** The main talking points for the third round of matches in the group stage of the Champions League:

### SOLSKJAER PRESSURE

Losing at Young Boys last month created new doubts over Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's suitability to manage Manchester United. A 4-2 loss at Leicester on Saturday only magnified them, with United unable to benefit significantly yet from the return of Cristiano Ronaldo by picking up only one point in nine in the Premier League. Things do not get any easier for United, which hasn't won a trophy since the Europa League in 2017, as Atalanta arrives at Old Trafford for the Group F game on Wednesday before Liverpool visits on Sunday.

### SCRAPPY PSG

Paris Saint-Germain has won 10 of its 12 games overall this season but there are serious questions being raised about the level of play. PSG again looked laborious in a league game against Angers on Friday night and scraped another late win courtesy of a controversial penalty from striker Kylian Mbappe. At least PSG will have Lionel Messi and Neymar back from international duty for

the home game against Leipzig on Tuesday, but midfielder Leandro Paredes is out with a thigh injury. Messi scored a brilliant first goal for PSG against Manchester City in the previous Group A game and netted his 80th for Argentina during World Cup qualifying.

### CITY UNCERTAINTY

Pep Guardiola will make a late decision on whether goalkeeper Ederson and forward Gabriel Jesus should play in Manchester City's match at Club Brugge on Tuesday after being unable to prepare with the team due to a prolonged period on duty with Brazil. City, which reached the Champions League final last season, slipped to third in Group A after losing to Paris Saint-Germain in the French capital last month.

### MALDINI DYNASTY

Daniel Maldini is the third member of his family to play for AC Milan. The 20-year-old attacking midfielder has gradually claimed a starting position this season, following in the footsteps of his grandfather Cesare and record-breaking father Paolo. Milan's current sporting director. Daniel scored his first Serie A goal last month and now could get his first start in the Champions League when Milan visits Porto on Tuesday in



Group B. Daniel came on for the final seven minutes of Milan's 3-2 loss to Liverpool last month.

### MORE GOALS, PLEASE

Although Jonathan David is in fine form with Lille, the other forwards are not scoring enough. Timothy Weah — son of Liberia President George Weah — failed to score again when Lille lost on Saturday. David only came on in the second half so should be fresh to face Spanish side Sevilla on Wednesday in Group G. He has six league goals but is yet to score for Lille in the Champions League.

### BARCELONA IN DANGER

Sitting in last place in Group E, Barcelona needs a home win against Dynamo Kyiv to have a realistic chance of

advancing to the knockout stage. The Catalan club made it past the group stage every season since 2001-02. Barcelona opened with 3-0 losses to both Bayern Munich and Benfica. It is a point behind third-place Dynamo and four behind second-place Benfica. Bayern leads the group with six points from two matches.

### SUÁREZ REUNION

Striker Luis Suárez will meet former club Liverpool for the first time since joining Atlético Madrid from Barcelona. Suárez scored 82 goals in 133 games for the English club. His last match against Liverpool was a 4-0 loss with Barcelona in the 2019 semifinals. For Tuesday's Group B game, Atlético coach Diego Simeone is expected to count on a couple of players who

had been doubtful because of injuries — midfielder Marcos Llorente and defender José María Giménez.

### SHAKHTAR'S MOMENTUM

Shakhtar Donetsk will try to make it three straight group-stage victories against Real Madrid after consecutive wins last season. Madrid is hoping to rebound from its shock home loss against Moldovan league club Sheriff at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium. The Group D game is on Tuesday.

### BAYERN BACK ON FORM

Bayern Munich returned to form with a 5-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga on Sunday, bouncing back from a rare loss to Eintracht Frankfurt in its previous game. Next up is Benfica away on Wednesday in Group E. Bayern won its opening two games and a third victory over the second-place Portuguese team would go a long way to securing qualification. Borussia Dortmund has star striker Erling Haaland back to face Ajax on Tuesday in Group C after a muscle injury. The other German team in the Champions League, Leipzig, has had a disastrous start to its European campaign with two defeats and will be up against it at PSG in Group A on Tuesday.

T20 WORLD CUP 2021

## Pakistan Defeat West Indies By 7 Wickets In Warm Up Match

AGENCIES

**DUBAI:** The Babar Azam-led Pakistan squad beat West Indies by seven wickets through an all-out team effort in their warm-up match for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Fakhar Zaman and Babar were impressive with the bat as they scored 46 and 50, respectively, while the Pakistani bowlers had also picked up timely wickets to restrict West Indies to 130.

West Indies had won the toss and elected to bat first against Pakistan in the first warm-up match between the two sides.

West Indies' Ravi Rampaul had sent Mohammad Rizwan packing early at 13, while Hayden Walsh had taken the wicket of Babar (50), and Mohammad Hafeez — who went for a duck.

Pakistani bowlers put up a strong showing against an aggressive West Indian side. The Windies never looked comfortable batting first, losing wickets at regular intervals and only managing to finish their inning at 130/7 from their 20 overs.

Hassan Ali remained the pick of the Pakistani bowlers, picking up two wickets (Fletcher and



Pooran) while giving away only 21 runs from his four overs.

Right-arm pacer Haris Rauf gave away 32 runs from his four overs but managed to pick up the two prized wickets of Keiron Pollard and Chris Gayle while Shaheen Afridi managed to take two scalps as well but gave away an expensive 41 runs from his four overs.

Shaheen Afridi took the scalps of Shimron Hetmyer and Lendl Simmons. Left-arm bowler Imdad Wasim put in an impressive performance with the ball as well, giving away only six runs from his three overs at an economy rate of two runs per over. He also managed to take the scalp of Roston Chase.

## Kashmir Chess Championship From Oct 22

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The All J&K Chess Association on Monday issued a statement revealing its intention to organise Chess Championship 2021- 22 for Kashmir division from October 22.

The Association in a statement said that the championship will be held under the aegis of J&K State Sports Council, for senior, junior sub-junior age groups for both boys and girls will be held from October 22-24, 2021 at Indoor Sports

Complex Polo View Srinagar.

The Championship will also feature selection for the upcoming State Chess Championship 2021-22, the statement said.

"All the interested players of Kashmir Division are welcome to participate in it and register themselves up to October 20, 2021, at Indoor Sports Complex Polo View, Srinagar. For further details contact: 7006401589, 7006070128, 9682123338, 7006452296," the statement added.

T20 WORLD CUP

## Bangladesh Find Themselves In Must Win Situation Against Oman



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**AL AMERAT:** Handed a rude shock in their T20 World Cup opener, Bangladesh will have to sort some self-confessed batting problems and play as per their reputation in a must-win game against upbeat hosts Oman here on Tuesday.

Bangladesh came into the tournament as the sixth-ranked team which had beaten New Zealand and Australia at home.

However, they were found wanting against a spirited Scotland on Sunday and lost the game by six runs due to an ordinary batting performance.

Bangladesh were expected to run away with it after reducing Scotland to 53 for six but the pressure of the big stage perhaps got the better of them.

Skipper Mahmudullah blamed the batters for the unexpected loss and said they must perform better against Oman, who thrashed Papua New Guinea in their opener.

Bangladesh need to win on Tuesday to keep themselves in contention for a spot in the Super-12 stage.

"As a batting unit, we have disappointed ourselves, so it's a big concern, and we need to see things where we have made those mistakes and probably need to try not to repeat those mistakes in the next game," said Mahmudullah.

Bangladesh bowlers were brilliant at the start of the game but should not have allowed their opponents to score 140 from the very precarious situation.

With pitches expected to remain on the slower side, stroke making will not be easy and the batters will have to find a way to get the boundaries and those quick singles.

More will be expected from Bangladesh openers Liton Das and Soumya Sarkar who failed on Sunday.

Star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was far from his best with the bat and will be expected to find his rhythm against Oman.

Tournament co-hosts Oman, on the other hand, enjoyed a near perfect start to their World Cup campaign with a 10-wicket rout of PNG.

Captain Zeeshan Maqsood led from the front taking a four wicket haul with his left-arm spin.

Oman will be high on confidence against the much more experienced Bangladesh.

Indian-origin Jatinder Singh was the star with the bat, smashing an unbeaten 73 off 42 balls to take his team to an emphatic win.

Talking about the Bangladesh challenge, Maqsood said: "Definitely every game is a tough game and yeah, we won the game, and it doesn't mean we should take rest and feel easy and comfortable."

"Bangladesh is a Test side, and they have plenty of good players. They have more experience to play in such a big stage. And we have to just take this win as a positive note and we have to play every game day-by-day, what is in front of us, we can't say."



## Jaishankar In Israel On 5-Day Visit To Bolster Strategic Ties

Agenceis

**JERUSALEM:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday said he was looking forward to a "great visit" as he arrived here on a five-day official trip during which he will hold talks with the country's top leadership to mutually prepare a roadmap for further enriching the strategic ties besides exploring new areas of bilateral collaboration.

Jaishankar began his visit by laying wreath at a cemetery for Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in the region during the World War I in Talpote, Jerusalem. About 900 Indian soldiers are interred in cemeteries across Israel in Jerusalem, Ramle and Haifa.

Jaishankar, who is on his first visit to the country as the External Affairs Minister, laid wreath at the Talpote Cemetery.

"I am deeply honoured to pay homage to the valiant sons of India who fought with bravery and courage in this land during WWI, bringing glory to themselves, their comrades and their motherland," Jaishankar wrote in the visitors' book.

Describing Israel as one of India's "most trusted and innovative partners", Jaishankar urged Israeli business, including from the defence sector,

to invest in the country and take advantage of its business-friendly policies.

Speaking at the India-Israel Business Roundtable, he said, "There is an enormous effort of change happening in India since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office and people have heard bits and pieces of that change."

The Indian Army commemorates September 23 every year as Haifa Day to pay its respects to the three brave Indian Cavalry Regiments — Mysore, Hyderabad and Jodhpur Lancers — that helped liberate Haifa following a daring cavalry action by the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade.

During his visit, Jaishankar will call on President Isaac Herzog, PM Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid during his standalone visit. — PTI

To hold talks with US, Israel & UAE FMs

New Delhi: Heralding new alignments, Foreign Ministers of US, India, Israel and UAE will hold a virtual meeting on Monday, announced the Israeli Government. India's addition takes place five days after Foreign Ministers of the US, UAE and Israel had held an in-person trilateral in Washington on Wednesday, TNS

## Highest Post-Pandemic Domestic Air Traffic Seen On Sunday: Scindia

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Due to constructive policies of the Centre, domestic air traffic reached its highest level on Sunday since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Monday.

A total of 3,27,923 passengers travelled on 2,372 flights within India on Sunday, he noted.

Before the pandemic struck, India's daily domestic air traffic was approximately 4.25 lakh passengers.

The Centre had suspended all scheduled domestic flights from March 25, 2020, to May 25, 2020, as part of the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

"Owing to the constructive policies of the government, domestic air traffic has seen the highest level, post the onset of the pandemic," Scindia tweeted on Monday.

"The civil aviation sector in India thrives amidst



unprecedented challenges, whilst we make every effort to return to normalcy as early as possible," he added.

When the government resumed scheduled domestic services on May 25, 2020, it permitted airlines to operate just 33 per cent of their

pre-Covid domestic flights.

This capacity was gradually increased with time. Ultimately, on October 12, the Centre announced that airlines can operate domestic flights without any capacity restriction from October 18 onwards.

## Red Alert For 10 Dams, Kakki Dam Opened, Sabarimala Pilgrimage On Hold: Kerala Govt

**PATHANAMTHITTA:** With water levels rising due to heavy rains in the catchment areas, a red alert was issued in respect of 10 dams in Kerala, two shutters of Kakki dam here were opened and pilgrimage to Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala has been put on hold for now, state Revenue Minister K Rajan said on Monday.

After a review meeting held at the Pathanamthitta district collectorate here to assess the situation, Rajan and state Health Minister Veena George said at a press conference that it has been decided to open the Kakki dam to release around 100-200 cumex water which would increase the water level of Pampa river by around 15 centimetres.

They said the decision was taken in view of the water level in the dam increasing beyond the danger levels and also taking into consideration the heavy rainfall expected from October 20 which might worsen the situation if some water is not released now.

In view of the expected worsening of the weather from October 20 till October 24, according to IMD information, they said it would not be possible to permit pilgrimage to the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala for the Thula Masam poojas for which the shrine had been opened from October 16.

The ministers said there is "no other option" but to stop the pilgrimage for now, as otherwise it would be difficult to safely rescue everyone if water levels in the nearby Pampa river were to rise further due to the heavy rains predicted from October 20.

They said the Kakki dam's two shutters were being opened as part of the measures to normalise the situation on the ground, while the rains have subsided temporarily, before the expected heavy downpour from October 20.

They also said that preparations have been made to evacuate or shift people living along the banks of the Pampa river to relief camps set up in the district.

Presently, there are 83 camps in the district where over 2,000 people are housed, Rajan said and added that one NDRF team has been deployed here and an airlift team is standing by to assist in relief operations if the need arises.

There is no need to panic presently and people should not spread messages on social media which could cause panic among the general public, the minister said.

However, people need to be alert and move away from areas where risk of flood or landslides were great, George said at the press conference.

Rajan said red alert has

been declared for 10 dams, which include, Kakki, Sholayar, Matupatti, Moozhayar, Kundala and Peechi, most of which are located in Pathanamthitta, Idukki and Thrissur districts of the state.

Besides that an orange alert has been declared in respect of eight other dams, he said.

Earlier in the day, due to rising water levels in various dams due to heavy rains in the catchment areas and the eastern hilly regions of the state, the Kerala government issued alerts to the public that shutters of certain dams will be raised, resulting in increase in water levels of rivers in south and central Kerala.

With water level in the Idukki reservoir, one of the highest arch dams in Asia, having risen to 2,396.96 feet Monday, an Orange alert has been issued. The full reservoir level of Idukki dam is 2,403 feet.

As the water level in various dams including Sholayar, Pamba, Kakki and Idamalayar was rising, the state government called a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to take stock of the situation.

The low-lying areas of Cherikal, Poozhikadu, Mudiyoorkonam and Kurambala regions near Pandalam, along the banks of Achankovil river, have been flooded.

Shiv Sena Leader to SC

## Probe NCB, Violation Of Aryan Khan's Fundamental Rights

Agenceis

In a significant development, a senior Shiv Sena leader urged the Supreme Court to order a probe by a sitting judge of the apex court into the affairs of Narcotics Control Bureau and violation of fundamental rights of Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan.

Making the plea under Article 32 of the Constitution, Kishore Tiwari, accorded the Minister of State (MoS) status, has urged Chief Justice NV Ramana's 'top priority' intervention into the manner in which the 'biased' NCB is hounding film personalities, models and other celebs since the past nearly two years with 'malafide motives'.

He said that under Article 32, the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of India (CJI) are duty-bound to take cognisance of every matter pertaining to the fundamental rights violation, as guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution, which the NCB is flouting.

Referring to the Special NDPS Court (Mumbai) deferring the verdict in the bail plea of Aryan Khan and other accused till October 20 citing public holidays, the plea said this has subjected the accused "to big humiliation

at Wankhede, the plea said the officer's wife is trying to make big in Bollywood, and that's why only leading names in the film industry, their families, national-international models, producers-directors are brought under the NCB lens.

"Starting with the probe into the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, the probe has been 'totally diverted in an unrelated direction' ... The alleged NCB seizures are 'miniscule jokes' compared to the Mumbai Police achievements, or the DRI which last month seized 3000-kgs drugs from Mundra Port in Gujarat," Tiwari said in the plea.

When the law has been settled by the highest court of the country, the NCB and the Special NDPS Court have "failed to give due regards" by depriving Aryan Khan and others bail, which could be done right away, even on public holidays, and thus there is 'total miscarriage of justice'.

"With the recent shocking exposure on NCB by Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik, its high time the NCB Mumbai and all India must be probed by an SC judge to unravel the rackets and the truth...It's a fit case for immediate intervention by the SC," Tiwari demanded, among other things.



and kept in jail in an undemocratic and illegal way" for 17 nights.

This is in utter disregard to the fundamental Right to Life and Liberty as enshrined in the Constitution and the question of 'bail is the norm, jail is the exception', which has been upheld and settled by SC many times, as reiterated by former Attorney General of India Mukul Rohatgi.

Accusing the NCB and its officials of 'vendetta' by targeting select celebs, Tiwari demanded a probe into the role of the central narcotics agency and the Mumbai Zonal Director (Sameer Wankhede), whose wife is a well-known Marathi filmstar, in direct competition with the other stars and celebs being hounded.

Pointing a needle of suspicion

Contending the NCB's grudge and autocratic style are even more glaring, the Sena leader added that no contraband drugs were recovered from Aryan Khan, there was no medical examination proving consumption, etc., yet he has been shunted into different types of custody since October 3, echoing former Attorney General of India Rohatgi.

After the NCB swooped on a luxury cruise ship to bust an alleged rave party on October 2, Aryan Khan, along with 7 others were detained, arrested on October 3 and have remained in NCB and judicial custody since for the past 17 days, with their bail order likely to be delivered by Special Judge VV Patil on Wednesday (October 20).

## Ram Rahim Gets Life In Jail for Murder

Agenceis

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and four others were sentenced to life imprisonment by a special CBI court on Monday for the murder of sect manager Ranjit Singh in 2002.

Ram Rahim Singh, who was in 2017 sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for raping two disciples, is currently lodged in Rohtak's Sunaria jail.

The Special Court in Haryana's Panchkula had convicted him and four others — Krishan Lal, Jasbir Singh, Avtar Singh and Sabdil — in the murder case on October 8. The court has given the life sentence to five, CBI special prosecutor H P S Verma said after the hearing was held amid tight security.

The CBI had sought capital punishment for them.

Verma said the Dera chief was also fined Rs 31 lakh and half of the amount will go to the victim's family as compensation.

Reacting to the verdict, Jagseer Singh, son of Ranjit Singh, said it was a big day for the family as they got justice after a long wait. Jagseer, who was eight years old when his father was murdered, said he was satisfied with the verdict, though his family was seeking death

sentence for Ram Rahim Singh.

The Dera chief, who enjoyed a large following, had frequently courted controversies and after his conviction in the rape case in 2017, violence had broken out in Panchkula and Sirsa leaving over 40 dead.

Police had tightened security in Panchkula and Sirsa, where the sect is headquartered, ahead of the hearing. In Panchkula, prohibitory orders under Section 144 were clamped.

Former Dera manager Ranjit Singh, who was also a follower of the sect, was shot dead on July 10, 2002 at Khanpur Kolian village in Haryana's Kurukshetra.

According to the CBI charge sheet, the Dera chief believed that Ranjit Singh was behind the circulation of an anonymous letter and hatched a conspiracy to kill him.

The letter narrated how women were allegedly being sexually exploited by the sect head at the Dera headquarters.

The five were convicted under relevant sections, including 302 (murder), 120 B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC. Over two years back, the sect head was also awarded life imprisonment for the murder of journalist Ram Chander Chhatrapati.

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