

# KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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**Quote!**  
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Action is the foundational key to all success  
- Pablo Picasso

## NEWS DIGEST

### British Army Chief Visits BB Cant

**SRINAGAR:** Chief of British Army General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith on Thursday visited Srinagar-based Chinara Corps of the Indian Army. "General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith, Chief of the General Staff, #BritishArmy visited #ChinaraCorps and interacted with Lieutenant General DP Pandey, GOC. **More On P10**

### New School Timings Announced

**SRINAGAR:** The School education Kashmir Thursday ordered change in school timings in Kashmir province from November 01 (Monday). In an order issued by the Director of School Education Kashmir, the new timing for all government and recognized private schools within Srinagar Municipal limits will. **More On P10**

### Soldier Slips From Mountain, Injured

**SRINAGAR:** A soldier sustained injuries after falling down a mountainous slope along Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector of Baramulla district, officials said Thursday. Lance Naik Mustafa of Unit-12 Jat slipped during a routine patrolling on Wednesday evening along the LoC in the north. **More On P10**

### Non-Local Found Dead In Budgam

**SRINAGAR:** An unidentified non-local was found dead on Thursday in Yusmarg area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. According to reports, the body of unknown man was spotted by the villagers in Sukhnag area of Yusmarg on Thursday morning. The villagers, reports said, instantly. **More On P10**

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**Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927**

## 11 Killed As Bus Falls Off Cliff In Doda



Press Trust Of India

**BHADARWAH:** Eleven people travelling in a mini-bus were killed and 14 injured when the vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down into a deep gorge on the Batote-Kishtwar highway in Doda district on

Thursday, officials said. The mini-bus, which was on its way from Thathri to Doda, fell into the gorge near Soi-Gwari, they added. The driver, who was also among the dead, reportedly lost control of the vehicle and it fell. **More On P10**

### PM, Amit Shah Condole Loss Of Lives

Expressing grief over the loss of lives in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of the deceased. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) tweeted Modi's condolence message, "Saddened by the road accident near Thathri, Doda in Jammu and Kashmir. In this hour of grief, I convey my condolences to the bereaved families. I pray that the people who have been injured recover at the earliest." **More On P10**

**MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS** for the families who have lost their loved ones. Have directed the District administration to provide immediate relief to families of deceased and best medical assistance to the injured."

### J&K Logs 98 Covid Cases, 1 Death

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 98 fresh cases of coronavirus, while 72 more people recovered from the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 91 new cases of coronavirus were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining seven from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in J&K to 331963.

Giving district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported highest 50 cases, Baramulla 17, Budgam 11, Kupwara 5, Ganderbal 4, Anantnag 3, and one new case each in Bandipora and Kulgam districts. No fresh. **More On P10**

## Govt Okays 524 Kanal Land For CRPF Camping Sites In Kashmir

122 Kanal Land Also Approved For IBHK Apartments For KPs

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday approved transfer of over 524 kanal land in favour of CRPF for establishing battalion camping sites to provide for safe and proper accommodation to paramilitary men and their families.

The decision in this regard was taken during the Administrative Council (AC) meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here on Thursday, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said, also approved the proposal of the Revenue department to transfer various parcels of land for public purposes.

### Militant Shot Dead In Baramulla

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Thursday claimed to have killed a "hybrid" militant in a shootout in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

During the intervening night of October 27-28, militants fired upon Area Domination Patrol party (ADP) of Police and army's 46RR in Cherdari area of Baramulla, a police spokesperson said Thursday. Alert joint party, he said, retaliated to the fire leading to the killing of one militant in a brief shootout.

The police spokesperson identified him as Javed Ahmad Wani of Kulgam.

As per police records, he said, the killed militant was a part of a group involved in killing of two non-locals in Wanpoh area of Kulgam along with another militant Gulzar who was neutralised on October 20.

The police spokesperson further said that incriminating materials, **More On P10**

### Not An Inch Of Agri Land Given To Outsiders: LG

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that not an inch of agricultural land has been given to an outsider in the Union Territory.

Sinha, who inaugurated the Apple festival 2021 at SKICC here on Thursday told the farmers that no agricultural land has been given to any outsider and to protect the land of Jammu and Kashmir is the responsibility of the government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The festival was attended by leading apple growers and farmers of Kashmir region.

## Arrested Kashmiri Students Heckled At Agra Court



Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Three Kashmiri students booked for sedition by Uttar Pradesh police for supporting Pakistan cricket team in the T20 World cup match against India, were roughed up on Thursday by the members of rightwing Hindu outfits outside

a court in Agra, reports said.

According to NDTV, the students, Arshid Yusuf and Inayat Altaf Sheikh, both residents Budgam and Showkat Ahmed of Bandipora, were roughed up by a mob of rightwing activists when they were produced in front of a magistrate in Agra city on Thursday. **More On P10**

### Now Technician Fired For Cheering Pak Victory

A health worker in Rajouri has been terminated from government service after allegedly posting messages on social media cheering Pakistan's victory over India in international cricket last Sunday. The employee, identified as Safiya Majeed, was engaged as an. **More On P10**

### Mehbooba Seeks Freedom Of Students

DP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday demanded immediate release of Kashmiri students arrested from a college in Agra for allegedly posting a WhatsApp status praising Pakistan players after victory against India in a. **More On P10**

### Sharp Dip In Night Temp Minus 3.4°C In Pahalgam

**SRINAGAR:** Night temperatures continued to record dip in Kashmir Valley even as sub-zero conditions prevailed in famous resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam, officials said on Thursday.

According to a Meteorological Department official Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 3.4°C against 4.2°C on previous night.

Qazigund, the gateway town of Kashmir, recorded a low of 2.8°C against previous night's 6.2°C, the official said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 3.4°C. **More On P10**

### CIVILIAN KILLINGS FALLOUT

## SKIMS Asks Non-Local Staff To Avail Campus Facility 'Stay Outside The Campus At Your Own Risk'

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** In what seems to be a ripple effect of recent civilian killings in the Valley, the authorities at the SK institute of medical sciences (SKIMS) on Thursday issued an advisory asking the non-local staffers to avail residential facilities of the hospital instead of private apartments outside, for security reasons.

According to reports, over 80 non-local staffers, including doctors, para-medics and technicians have been directed

by the hospital administration to avail the residential facility in the SKIMS campus and shift from the private apartments on residential areas.

The non-local staffers have been asked to contact the estates department of the institute for their accommodation within the Campus.

The SKIMS advisory comes into action a fortnight after several targeted killings of the civilians in Srinagar and other districts had flared up the Valley. **More On P10**

### Govt Begins Crackdown On Corrupt Officials

## 4 JKAS Officers Among 8 Fired For Graft, Misconduct

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a major drive against tainted officials in the administration, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday sacked eight employees, including four Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers on charges of corruption.

According to the official sources, the LG led dispensation invoked Article 226 (2) of the Jammu Kashmir Civil Service Regulations and terminated eight senior employees including four JKAS Officers for alleged corruption and misconduct.

Article 226 (2) of the Jammu Kashmir Civil Service

Regulations gives government power to retire an employee after completion of 22 years of qualifying service or attaining 48 years of age in public interest.

Well placed official sources told Kashmir Observer that Ravinder Kumar Bhat, Mission Director, RUSA indulged in corruption during his posting in different departments. The then vigilance department, now, Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB), had registered a corruption case against him in 2015.

"As the then Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Budgam, Bhat was involved in

irregular transfer of state land under Roshni Scheme and arbitrarily fixed the price of land lower than the prevailing market rate of the area and also incorrect application of rates, unauthorized change of classification of land from residential to agriculture etc. The officer while acting in league with the beneficiaries inflicted huge monetary loss to the government. Sanction prosecution was accorded against the officer in October 2019," sources said.



It is learnt that the officer was also involved in another corruption case when he was posted as a Director of the Rural Development Department. He allegedly made huge procurement without following the tender process. A joint surprise check by ACB had revealed the malpractices.

"The officer is also involved in cases related to embezzlement/ misappropriation which inter-alia casts doubt on the functioning of the officer and his abilities with regard to dealing of financial responsibilities," sources further added.

Another Officer dismissed on charges of corruption and misconduct is. **More On P10**

### In Kashmir, Afghan Man Demands Kabul Flight

Zaid Bin Shabir

Kashmir had a surprise visitor from Kabul on Thursday when a turbaned and moustached man walked in Srinagar's Press Enclave.

Arriving on the spot with his four kids and a young wife, Usman Hafiz Khan demanded deportation to his homeland.

"My family has been left hanging in the middle of nowhere," Khan said in a Pashtun-influenced Urdu.

"Government of India has left me here without any Visa and Passport. I want to travel back to Kabul."

Despite calling his homeland's situation a cause of concern, Khan apparently remains



the only Pashtun voice in the valley demanding deportation back to his war-torn country. "I'm a Pathan but

discriminating against someone on grounds of his tribe or homeland isn't a good thing," Khan said. "I'm. **More On P10**





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KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>  
Friday|29-10-2021

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## Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Sahi Tour & Travels Prop: Bilawar Shafi R/O Devi Angan Fateh Kadal (Transferor) and M. Amin Rather S/O Gh Mohammad R/O Kralpora Bagh-i-Mehtab (Transferee) for transfer of Taveera carriage route



Permit No 470 /AR/13 Covering Vehicle No jk01v- 0976  
Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.  
Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer.  
Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S \_GT. CO Namely Hilal Ahmad

NO: JK/RTOK /7730  
Dated: 27/10/2021

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Regional Transport Office,  
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## از نیابت کنزرو

مضمون درخواست طاریق احمدوانی ولد غلام نبی وانی ساکن لا پورہ برادو باگی  
DOB certificate  
نجن پسر گڑا راجہ وانی

اشیہا راجہ ادا گا ہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل نسبت حصول تاریخ پیدائش نجن پسر گڑا راجہ وانی 20-04-2010 کو زیر کار وانی ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو ملنے کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

az k r

## از نیابت چھانل

مضمون درخواست مناسبت منیرہ اختر خنجر غلام نبی الدین ماکر سے ساکنہ وایتھم تحصیل  
عنوان: بنجر غلام نبی RBA تحت 375/294/126SRO  
برادو باگی

اشیہا راجہ ادا گا ہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل خنجر غلام نبی زیر کار وانی ہے اس نسبت پنڈاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقد الا ات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل اساتذہ مشیخ وایتھم کا سکونت دار ہے کہ وہی مبادا آمدنی مبلغ 15000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ سکونت پذیر افراد پر مشتمل ہے  
غلام نبی الدین مزدوری 60 سال  
منصور احمد پسر گھریلو کام 55 سال  
مخدوری 35 سال  
مخدوری 30 سال  
مشتاق احمد پسر مزدوری 25 سال  
گزار احمد پسر مزدوری 20 سال  
منیرہ اختر خنجر زرتعمیم 32 سال  
منیرہ ساندہ خنجر گھریلو کام 04 سال  
شغاد پتی - 03 سال  
عماد پوتا شیرخوار 03 سال  
شاد پوتا گھریلو کام 30 سال

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

tang

## Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of license for my Travel Office under the name and style "Wet Land Holidays" If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office Dy Director Tourism Sriangar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Saleem Ahamed Paray S/o Mohammad Hamza  
R/O Bungam

msk

## Bright Future Academy

(Sagam Kokernag) Ph No 9596686478

Faculty List for session (2021-22) 11th & 12th

S. No	Name	Subject	Qualification
1	Arshid Ahamd	English	M.A., M.Phil., B.Ed
2	Sabzar Ahamed	Economics	MA., M.Phil
3	Syed Roomi	Pol. Science	M.A., M.Phil, B.ed
4	Wasim Qadri	Commerece	M.Com, M.BA
5	Manzoor Ahmad	Commerc	M.Com, M., Phil

### Fee Structure

11TH, 12TH Arts	6000/ Subject
-----------------	---------------

10% Reservation for orphan and Minority students  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly mentioned in my passport bearing No; L9503213 as Amina Javid while my correct name is Amina Rasool which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Passport Office Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Amina Rasool

W/o Javid Iqbal Chalkoo

H.BL

R/O Kralhar Ranispora Baramulla

## NAME CORRECTION

The father's name of my children has been incorrectly entered as Ishrat Amin Bahadur instead of Ashrat Amin Bahadur in the school records of my children :

1.Zaira Zareen D/o Ashrat Amin Bahadur R/o Lachmanpora Batamaloo : School; Mallinson girls school , Shaikh bagh Srinagar.

2. Muhmmad Ebrhim S/o Ashrat Amin Bahadur R/o Lachmanpora Batamaloo, School:Tyndale Biscoe School, Shaikh Bagh Srinagar. Now I want to correct the name as Ashrat Amin Bahadur instead of Ishrat Amin Bahadur.

If anybody has any objection in this regard, he may submit the same before respective school authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after the expiry of the said period.

inf

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-tender NIT No.197 of 2021-22 issued under endorsement

No.14321-26 Dated:27.10.2021

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

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class Of Contactor
2		3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction of Bathrooms near Masjid Sharief Noor under UDS	Rs.02.60 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	UDS	DEE
2.	Construction of drain near H/O. Mubashir Mehraj at Reshipora under UDS	Rs.0.90 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	UDS	DEE
3.	Construction of Lane from H/O. Jeelani Ahmad Mir to Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Rather via H/O. Mohd Ashraf Rather & Mushtaq Ahmad Dar and Construction of lane from H/O. Bashir Ahmad Rather to Mnazoor Ahmad Rather under UDS	Rs.02.00 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	UDS	DEE
4.	Construction of deep drain from shop of Mehraj din sofi to shop of Abdul Ahad Dar at Fatehpura under UDS	Rs.02.90 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	UDS	DEE
5.	Construction of Health Sub-Centre at Fraw (A) under PRI Grants	Rs.16.22 Lacs	Rs.800/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	20-Days	PRI Grants	CEE/BEE

Position of AAA:- Accorded, Position of funds:- Available.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27/10/2021 from 6.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	27 /10/2021 from 6.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	02/11/2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	03 /11/2021 at 10.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer Division R&B Division Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal.

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Ganderbal within 07 (seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.

2.2 Note:- All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division (tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically I by registered post / through courier before the date specified in Para-1.

6.6 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including Bid Security Declaration, tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

No.14321-26  
Dated:27-10-21

DIPK-11444/21

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Ganderbal

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B ELECTRIC DIVISION SGR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 154/e-tendering of 2021-22/R&B DATED: - 27.10.2021

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Rupees/lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Design, Fabrication, Assembly, Wiring, Supply and Installation of front Operated Cubical Type L T Panels for 500 Bedded Pediatric Hospital at Bemina Srinagar.	176.00 lacs	2600.00	45 days	06.11.2021	"A" class Electrical

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-10-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27/10/2021 10.00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	27/10/2021 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	05/11/2021 up to 4.00 P.M.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06/11/2021 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar-Budgam

02. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division , Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division , Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

03. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below) . The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of adv. Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

04. Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully.

AAA/TS = Accorded

Position of Funds = committed

DIPK-11458/21

Executive Engineer,  
(R&B) Electric Division  
Srinagar

No. 154/e-tendering/ERB/3177-84

## ARCHITECTURE& DESIGNS

### Archi Designs

Architecture, Structure ,Interiors designs  
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### Cash N Carry

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Jawahir Nagar Srinagar  
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Dalgate, Srinagar

Contact:-9419064835

## ELECTRONICS

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## Pleasure

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## Adnan Electronics

Furniture Market Babodhem Srinagar  
Contact:-8493957698

## Off Complus

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## Sunny Furniture

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### Closers (The Broker Network)

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### Media Stationers

Dalgate Near CD Hospital Srinagar  
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Idrees Bhat- 9908433040  
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Amriz Services- 7947411032  
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# ACB Arrests Manager And Other Employees Of FCI Srinagar

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:-** Several employees including Manager of the Food Corporation of India, Shaheed Gang, Srinagar have been arrested by Anti Corruption Bureau for demanding and accepting bribes for unloading the truck.

Anti Corruption Bureau received a written complaint alleging therein that employees of FCI Depot Srinagar are unnecessarily delaying to unload the Truck and issuance of challan thereof.

The complainant approached the ACB for taking legal action against Abdul Qayoom, Manager and other employees of the



FCI (Food Corporation of India), Shaheed Gang Srinagar. It was revealed that more than 200 vehicles per month are unloaded at FCI Shaheed Gang Srinagar. Manager and other officials use delaying tactics for unloading of vehicles and demand bribes for issuance of challan.

On receipt of the complaint Case FIR No. 32/2021 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 & 120 IPC was registered in this Bureau and investigation was taken up. During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted.

The team laid a successful trap and caught red-handed Abdul Qayoom, Manager and 03 other officials of FCI, Shaheed Gang Srinagar for demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs. 1500/- from the complainant. The accused were arrested and taken into custody by ACB team. Search was conducted.

Further investigation into the case has been initiated.

**ANTI CORRUPTION BUREAU RECEIVED A WRITTEN COMPLAINT** alleging therein that employees of FCI Depot Srinagar are unnecessarily delaying to unload the Truck and issuance of challan thereof.

## HED Signs MoU With ICAI At AAAM Degree College, Bemina



KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** To equip students with relevant skills to enhance their chances of employability, the J&K Higher Education Department today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICAI (Institute of Cost Accountants of India) for imparting skill based education to the students at Abdul Ahad Azaad Memorial (AAAM) Degree College, Bemina, here.

The MOU was signed by the Director Colleges on behalf of the UT Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir and CMA P. Rajulyer representing ICAI.

The institution after creating necessary infrastructure for the effective delivery of skill based education formally launched a Certificate course on GST (Goods and Services Tax) on 25 October, 2021 under the mentorship of ICAI being the mentor institution in the hub-spoke model for skill education in Commerce and Management.

A total of 47 students from Commerce and Management disciplines already stand registered for the said course.

A brief ceremony was held at

AAAM Degree College, Bemina Srinagar (Hub institution) for the launch of skill/certificate course on GST.

Speaking at the event, Principal of the hub College Prof (Dr.) Manzoor Ahmad Lone stressed on the significance of imparting skill based education to our students.

ICAI Srinagar Chapter Head, CMA Bashir Masoodi in his speech highlighted the objectives and intended outcomes of the course. He also explained as to how the said course is going to improve the employability of the students. Coordinator skill development expressed his gratitude to all the parties directly or indirectly involved for successful launch of the course.

At the end, the Principal of the college formally declared the course open for students and the class room transaction began thereafter.

Among others, resource persons from ICAI, Coordinator skill development Dr. Sheikh Aftaab Ul Maroof, Members of the skill development committee, Faculty members of Department of Commerce and students registered for the course participated in the ceremony.

## Court Asks DSEK To Implement Its Order Regarding The Admission Of A Child

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Court of Sub-Judge Srinagar has asked the Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK) to enforce its orders regarding granting of admission to a student in class UKG who was denied admission last year in class LKG by the Presentation Convent School Rajbagh in Srinagar.

As per details, the father of the student whose elder daughter is already studying in the same school had gone to court to seek judicial intervention as the school had denied admission even after fulfilling all the criteria for admission process.

Meanwhile, the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Srinagar in its order had castigated the presentation convent school authorities for denying the admission to one Zainab Riyaz daughter of Dr Riyaz Ahmad Daga of Qamarwari area of Srinagar.

The CJM court in its order had directed the Presentation Convent School Srinagar to grant provisional admission to Zainab Riyaz in class UKG. "The school authorities as per father of Zainab did not implement the court orders."

Now the Court of Sub-Judge Srinagar has directed the DSEK to implement its order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir News Service (KNS), in letter and spirit.

The order, issued on October 27 by Sub Judge Srinagar Farooq Ahmad Bhat, has directed the

**I AM OF THE CONSIDERED opinion that the instant case is one in which implementation of the court order dated 11.10.2021 has to be carried out by the Director school education Kashmir , Srinagar. Therefore the director school education Kashmir Srinagar is directed to implement the court order dated 11.10.2021 in letter and spirit and report compliance on next date of hearing,"**

DSEK to implement the court order dated 11.10.2021 wherein the Court of Sub Judicial Magistrate (CJM ) Srinagar had directed Presentation Convent School to grant admission to Zainab Riyaz.

"I am of the considered opinion that the instant case is one in which implementation of the court order dated 11.10.2021 has to be carried out by the Director school education Kashmir , Srinagar. Therefore the director school education Kashmir Srinagar is directed to implement the court order dated 11.10.2021 in letter and spirit and report compliance on next date of hearing," reads the order.

Meanwhile, Dr Riyaz Daga told KNS that he has submitted the court orders before the Director School Education Kashmir and he is hopeful that justice will be done soon. (KNS)

## Auqaf Jamia Masjid To Organise Seerat Conference

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid Srinagar is going to organise a Seerat conference in connection with the blessed month of the birth of Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (SAW).

The Seerat conference would be held on 30 October 2021at the historic auditorium of the Islamia Higher Secondary School Rajouri Kadal Srinagar at 10:30 am in which the leading Islamic scholars and poets will participate and throw light on the blessed life and teachings of the Prophet of Mercy (SAW).

The aim of the conference is to propagate the universal teachings and the message of humanity as propounded by the Messenger of Islam (SAW), the Anjuman said in a statement. A magazine of Nusratul Islam "Paighambar-e-Hidaayat (SAW) Number 2021" will also be released on the occasion of the Seerat conference.

## National Art Camp Concludes At Srinagar

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The 5-day National Art camp, which began at the newly renovated Art Gallery at Sher Garhi Complex on Sunday, concluded here today.

As many as, 22 artists from across India participated in the camp and exhibited their unique artistic creations.

The event was organized by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages at the Art Gallery, Srinagar under the ongoing Iconic Week Festival being held as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration.

Pertinently, this Art Museum was inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor on 15th August this year at the newly renovated Old Assembly Complex where the historic Stone Building stands dedicated to art works on full time basis.

Noted theatre and TV personality, M K Raina termed holding of National Painting camp cum Exhibition at Srinagar as a step forward towards bringing Valley into limelight. He said that Jammu and Kashmir has a rich tradition of fine arts and holding of such camps would greatly augment the rich treasure trove of UT's art works.

Prominent among those who participated in the event from across India included Jagmohan Mathodya, K. Gill, Sanjay

## Unscheduled Power Cuts Irk Shahr-e-Khaas Residents



Image for representation

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:-** The residents of downtown Srinagar are facing sporadic power outages as there are unscheduled power cuts by the Power Development Department (PDD) as winter is yet to set in.

The locals are up in arms against unscheduled power cuts. The aggrieved residents have alleged that the Power Development Department (PDD) doesn't ensure regular power supply to them.

Amid the cold conditions, the government has pushed us to reel under darkness, residents said.

"We do not receive proper power supply as per schedule and frequent power cuts have become a daily Routine now," said a resident of Lal Chowk.

"Our exams are going on and due to shortage of Power Supply we have to face a lot of hardships. We have been repeatedly asking authorities to redress our problems; but to no avail," the students from the Habba kadal said.

Despite many higher class exams are undergoing nowadays, the fact is this that we have to wind-up books before the dusk starting falls, the good time for studying is after 6 pm but when there is no electricity we better sleep over reading for exams" said Sajad Ahmad, a class 12th student.

Administration has directed concerned officers to

ensure all facilities to people, but PDD department is turning a deaf ear, Residents said.

Residents urged P.D.D. authorities to strengthen the power supply infrastructure so that genuine grievances of the consumers will be redressed.

Every year, according to PDD, the Valley faces an electricity deficiency of around 800 MWs because only 1300 MWs of electricity is available against a demand of around 2100-2200 MWs, resulting in a deficiency of around 800 MWs.

Meanwhile, Chief Engineer, KPDCI, Aijaz Ahmad Dar said that as per the schedule devised, the non-metered areas will see a power curtailment of 4 to 5 hours in a day initially, and for metered areas it will be for 2 to 3 hours," he said.

"We are trying our best to minimize power curtailment hours, but people must cooperate with the department," Dar said, while claiming that "illegal use of power, hooking, theft, etc. continue".

"In winter, there is an additional 100 MWs of demand, which adds to the deficit. Curtailment is extremely difficult for an electrical engineer to plan. When demand increases, supply suffers because only 1300 MWs are available," Dar added.

The residents of the affected areas appealed to higher authorities to ensure an uninterrupted power supply to the consumers ahead of winters. (CNS)

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

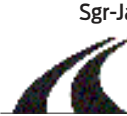


RAILWAYS



- 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 - (Closed)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

## This Day in History

- 1859 - Spain declares war on Morocco
- 1914 - Turkish warships storm Black Sea
- 1923 - Turkey declares independence (successor state to Ottoman Empire)
- 1923 - Mustafa Kemal officially confirms Turkey as a republic (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti), now commemorated annually as the Republic Day of Turkey
- 1945 - First ballpoint pen goes on sale, manufactured by Biro
- 1947 - Belgium, Luxembourg & Netherlands form Benelux Union
- 1947 Trial of art forger Han van Meegeren begins in Amsterdam
- 1948 - Israeli forces liberate Meron & Gush-Halev
- 1948 - Safsaf massacre, Israeli defence forces attack Palestinian village of Safsaf in the Galilee
- 1954 - Colonel Nasser disbands Muslim Brotherhood
- 1956 - International zone of Tangier returns to Morocco
- 1956 - Israeli paratroopers drop into Sinai to open Straits of Tiran
- 1964 - The United Republic of Tanganyika & Zanzibar renamed The United Republic of Tanzania
- 1966 - Lunar Orbiter 1 crashes on moon: 6.7°N 162°E
- 1966 - National Organization of Women founded
- 1997 - Iraq's Revolution Command Council announces that it will no longer allow US citizens and US aircraft to serve with UN arms inspection teams
- 1998 - Space Shuttle Discovery blasts off on STS-95 with 77-year old John Glenn on board, making him the oldest person to go into space.
- 2004 Arabic news network, Al Jazeera broadcasts an excerpt from a video of Osama bin Laden in which the militant leader first admits direct responsibility for the September 11, 2001 attacks and references the 2004 U.S. presidential election
- 2005 - 29 October 2005 Delhi bombings kill more than 60.
- 2015 - China announces the end of their one-child policy after 35 years



HIJRI  
CALENDAR

22

RABI  
-UL-  
AWWAL

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR

5: 25

ZUHR

12: 15

ASR

4:04

MAGRIB

5:45

ISHA

7:07

From KO Archives

## Fire Brand Asiya Urges Husband To Take More Wives

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR** – A top female separatist leader in Kashmir valley is pushing her husband' to take more wives.

For Aasiya Andrabi, the step is logical and humane given the huge number of widows created by the decade-old conflict in Kashmir.

"The jihad against India has left so many widows and orphans. A man has a responsibility to look after them," Aasiya said.

"Allah says a man can marry one, two, three or four wives but he must have the means to do justice to them all."

Aasiya's husband, Muhmmmed Qasim, was only recently released from prison after serving a six-year jail term for militant activities.

While polygamy is legal for Muslims. it is relatively rare in Muslim-majority Kashmir.

But then Aasiya, 37, has always stood out from the crowd.

She heads the Dukhtar-e-Millat, or Daughters of the Nation, a socio-political group that favours Kashmir's accession to Pakistan.

On one hand a vocal supporter of equal employment and educational rights for women, Aasiya insists on a strict Islamic dress code with women veiled and covered from head to foot.

"Women should be heard and not seen," she argues.

To people from the West, I may seem a contradiction, but I have never felt that this veil, this purdah has been an obstacle to my work."

Aasiya's activism is uncompromising and earned her a 13-month jail sentence in 1993.

On Pakistan national days, die raises the Pakistani flag around Siinagar, and has led many anti-Indian inarches through the city.

She has also led bands of similarly veiled women, armed with black paint, to brush over posters showing scantily clad film stars and berate those who choose not to wear the veil.

While rejecting as "Indian propaganda" claims by the authorities that she has been responsible for disfiguring acid attacks, she, has admitted to throwing coloured dye in women's faces.

Her ambition for her sons is that they should join the Mujahideen (freedom fighters) who 1 "have been waging an armed insurgency against Indian rule in Kashmir since 1989.

"I never dreamed that they should be doctors or prime ministers. Until we achieve our freedom, I want them to be mujahids who fight for the cause of holy Islam."

Aasiya and her husband Qasim, who belongs to the militant group Jamiat-ul-Mujahadeen, were arrested together at Srinagar airport after returning from Delhi in 1993.

She was allowed to keep her infant son, who she was still breast-feeding, with her in prison.

I remember my son, then a toddler, how he responded to the jail bells and still has a fear of the security forces."

While Aasiya has many detractors, she has won respect for her ceaseless campaign to ensure that Muslim women are properly educated.

(Kashmir Observer, October 29, 2000)



## Tehran Summit Calls For Formation Of Inclusive Gov’t In Afghanistan

### Agencies

TEHRAN: Leaders of Afghanistan’s neighboring countries gathered in Tehran on Wednesday, pledging support to the crisis-stricken country while reiterating call for formation of an inclusive government in Kabul.

In a joint statement following the summit, all participating countries emphasized the need for dialogue to evolve an “inclusive political mechanism” for resolving the crisis facing the country that sits at the crossroads of southern and central Asia.

It called on the Taliban government to implement “prudent domestic and foreign policies” as well as “restore or-

organized crime, drug and human trafficking and terrorism.

It also urged the Afghan authorities and the international community to address the “root causes of forced migration and displacement in Afghanistan” and work together to find a “lasting solution” to the Afghan refugee crisis.

The Taliban regained control of Kabul on Aug. 15 after the previous Western-backed administration collapsed and its officials fled the war-torn country.

### Strong message

Speaking to reporters, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said the day-long summit aimed at conveying a message that



der to society”, and not allow the Afghan territory to be used against neighboring countries.

The statement called for a “friendly approach to neighboring countries”, “respect for international law and human rights” as well as fight against

Afghanistan’s fate was important for its neighbors.

He warned that economic crisis could push Afghan youth toward terrorism, adding that Iran is trying to keep trade routes open to help delivery of aid to the war-torn country.

## Saudi Arabia Designates Hezbollah’s Financial Arm As ‘Terrorists’



### Agencies

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia has classified the Lebanon-based Al-Qard Al-Hassan association as a “terrorist” entity, citing links to activities supporting Lebanon’s Shia group Hezbollah, state media reported.

The association works on managing funds for the terrorist organisation (Hezbollah) and its financing, including support for military purposes,” the state news agency said on Wednesday, quoting a security statement.

The statement said that all assets belonging to the association inside the kingdom should be frozen and “it is prohibited to

carry out any direct or indirect dealings with or for the benefit of the association”.

In May, the United States had called on governments worldwide to take action against Lebanon’s Iranian-backed group Hezbollah.

The US Department of the Treasury imposed sanctions on seven Lebanese nationals it said were connected to the group and its financial firm, Al-Qard Al-Hassan.

Saudi Arabia has shunned Lebanon for years because of Hezbollah’s strong influence in Lebanese state affairs, which it also says has sent fighters to Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition fights another Iran-aligned group, the Houthis movement.



## Pak To Treat TLP As 'Militant Organisation' Amid Growing Unrest

Anurag Roushan  
Republic World

Islamabad: The Imran Khan-led Pakistani government has decided to treat outlawed Islamist group Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) as a “militant organisation” after many days of failed negotiations with the outfit. According to Dawn, the decision was made at a meeting of the country’s civil and military officials. Several clashes were reported in the country after the TLP attempted to resume its march on Islamabad in an attempt to put pressure on the government to meet its demands. On Wednesday, at least four cops were killed and more than 250 injured during the clashes, reported the news outlet.

Pakistan Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry announced at a press conference that the government has decided to treat the TLP as a militant organisation rather than a political party.

He informed that the decision was taken in a meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, which was attended by the military leadership, as well as members from intelligence agencies and other relevant authorities. “The cabinet has decided to regard the TLP as a militant organisation, and it will be suppressed in the same way the previous militant organisations have been. Pakistan has vanquished major terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda and the Taliban,” Chaudhry was quoted as saying by the Pakistani newspaper.

Pak govt to send Rangers to Punjab province to maintain law and order

Meanwhile, Pakistani Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid warned that the TLP’s action could lead to it being designated as a global terrorist organisation. He stated that the government has decided to send Rangers to Punjab for 60 days to help main-

tain law and order in the province, which includes Karachi. According to the minister, the TLP used automatic firearms against the police, who were limited to baton charges and tear gas shelling. Last week, hundreds of TLP members took to the streets across the country to put pressure on the government to release the party’s leader, Hafiz Saad Hussain Rizvi.

It is worth mentioning here that the TLP has been behind major anti-France protests which led to the embassy issuing a warning for all French citizens to leave the country earlier this year. The TLP supporters are now holding violent protests across Pakistan, especially in Lahore and Islamabad, urging PM Khan-led administration to release their leader. Notably, in the 2018 general elections, TLP emerged as the fifth largest political party and in terms of votes received in Punjab, it had surpassed the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP).

## India Is Concerned About Situation In Afghanistan

### Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India is concerned about the current situation in Afghanistan, a top Pentagon official has told US lawmakers in Washington.

“As I’m sure you’re aware, they (Indians) are concerned about the situation in Afghanistan. They’re concerned about the intersection between instability there and their counter-terrorism concerns,” Colin H Kahl, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee during a hearing on Afghanistan, South and Central Asia Security.

“They (Indians) want to work with us on those issues, sharing intelligence, cooperating where we can,” he said, adding that there is a tremendous convergence between US and Indian national interests right now

“It provides a lot of opportunity for us to cooperate with India, not just on Afghanistan and counterterrorism, but on broader regional security questions, in the In-

Our inability across multiple administrations to effectively deal with Pakistan is another example of the past being prologue. Managing the security relationship with Pakistan will remain important as we seek to successfully implement a regional counterterrorism strategy with other partners and allies

dian Ocean and as it relates to the broader Indo-Pacific,” Kahl said.

He was responding to a question from Senator Gary Peters.

“India’s policies towards Afghanistan have been conceived largely through the lens of competition and proxy conflict with Pakistan. So it stands to reason that New Delhi should be no less concerned about the possibility that a Taliban government

could benefit anti-Indian terrorist groups, especially those oriented towards Kashmir,” he said.

“In view of our commitment to joint cooperation and interoperability with this critical partner, and the fact that India is the only designated major defence partner of the United States, I believe it’s important for us to understand how its view towards Afghanistan has and will evolve,” Peters said.

Earlier this month, Kahl had co-chaired a US-India Defense Policy Group meeting.

Responding to another question from Senator Jack Reed, Kahl said Pakistan is a challenging actor, but it does not want Afghanistan to be a safe haven for terrorist attacks or external attacks.

“They continue to give us access to Pakistani airspace and we’re in conversations about keeping that airspace open and happy to talk about that more in the closed session. But for right now, counterterrorism cooperation with Pakistan is pretty good,” he said.

## 'Chinese Hypersonic Test Like A Sputnik Moment'

### Agencies

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon’s top general said on Wednesday that China’s recent test of an earth-circling hypersonic missile was akin to the Soviet Union’s stunning launch of the world’s first satellite, Sputnik, in 1957, which sparked the superpowers’ space race.

Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, confirmed for the first time the Chinese test of a nuclear-capable missile that would be very difficult to defend against.

“What we saw was a very significant event of a test of a hypersonic weapon system. And it is very concerning,” Milley told Bloomberg TV.

“I don’t know if it’s quite a Sputnik moment, but I think it’s very close to that,” he said.

“It’s a very significant technological event that occurred ... and it has all of our attention.” The Pentagon had previously declined to confirm the test, first reported by the Financial Times on October 16.

The newspaper said the August test launch caught the United States by surprise.

The missile circled the Earth at a low altitude and a velocity of more than five times the speed of sound, although it missed its target by more than 30 kilometers (19 miles), according to the Financial

Times.

Hypersonics are the new frontier in missile technology, because they fly lower and so are harder to



detect than ballistic missiles, can reach targets more quickly, and are maneuverable.

That makes them more dangerous, particularly if mounted with nuclear warheads.

The United States, Russia, China and North Korea have all tested hypersonics and at several others are developing the technology.

China unveiled a hypersonic medium-range missile, the DF-17, in 2019, which can travel around 2,000 kilometres and can carry nuclear warheads.

The missile mentioned in the FT story is a different one, with a longer range. It can be launched into orbit before coming back into the atmosphere to hit its target.

## Hamas Sentences 6 Israeli 'Informants' To Death

### Agences

Jerusalem: Hamas takes a rigid approach to collaborators with Israel, which has put the impoverished enclave under blockade since the Islamists took power in 2007

The Islamist movement Hamas that rules the Gaza Strip announced Thursday it had sentenced six alestinian “informants” to death for collaborating with Israel.



A Hamas rally in Gaza

The Hamas military court said it had issued sentences “against a number of informants, including six death sentences, other sentences varying between life terms and temporary hard labour, and one acquittal.”

Hamas takes a rigid approach to collaborators with Israel, which has put the impoverished enclave under blockade since the Islamists took power in 2007.

In 2018 a Hamas military court sentenced six people to death for espionage, including a woman.

The year before, three convicted in the assassination of a Hamas commander were hanged or shot by a firing squad in public. Hamas said Thursday that collaborators who turn themselves in will face more lenient terms, and said that the “judgements issued have fulfilled all legal procedures.”

Palestinian law requires approval from the Palestinian Authority president for the death penalty, but Hamas in Gaza has carried out a number of executions without permission from president Mahmud Abbas.

Rights groups in Gaza have urged Hamas to reduce its use of the death penalty.

Earlier this month the Gaza-based Al Mezan Center for Human Rights called for a moratorium on the death penalty, saying it was “gravely concerned about the incessant issuance of death sentences by the military judiciary” in the enclave.

## Saudi Arabia: Ali al-Nimr, Imprisoned As Teen, Released After Nine Years

Saudi Arabia has released from prison Ali al-Nimr, a protester whose arrest at age 17 and death sentence had provoked outcry internationally.

Nimr’s uncle, Jaafar al-Nimr, posted a picture of his nephew on Twitter shortly after leaving prison. “Ali al-Nimr to freedom... praise be to God for your safety,” he wrote.

Nimr’s father Mohammed also tweeted his thanks to friends and family members for supporting their struggle over the years.

He also thanked Saudi Arabia’s King Salman for “the historic decision in April 2020, which ruled to stop issuing and implementing death sentences against minors”.

Taha al-Hajji, a lawyer for the Nimr family and other political



Ali al-Nimr shortly after his release from prison

prisoners, told Middle East Eye that he welcomed Nimr’s release and hoped for “similar news” for other political prisoners.

“Ali and his companions did not commit a sin that deserves punishment or a crime, and our main demand is to rehabilitate them and compensate them for the

days of oppression, injustice and torture - but I cannot deny that this step is comforting,” he said.

“Although it does not do them justice, because participating in demonstrations and expressing opinions is a right and not a crime to be punished.”

### Mass executions

Nimr was arrested in February 2012 during anti-government protests inspired by the Arab Spring.

A member of the kingdom’s Shia Muslim minority, which has long been persecuted, the then-17-year-old is the nephew of influential cleric Nimr al-Nimr.

Nimr al-Nimr was executed in 2016, leading to a major international outcry and the Saudi embassy in Iran being torched.

## Harvard's Modern-Day Darwin Warns Against Humanity's Downward Slope

BOSTON: The Harvard University scientist who has called for setting aside half the planet as a nature preserve says the slope of human history will always be downward unless there is global cooperation to save existing species.

Edward O. Wilson, a 92-year old naturalist hailed as the Darwin of the 21st century, said humankind is not too polarized to save the planet, even as some of the world’s biggest polluters drag their feet on cutting carbon emissions and arresting global warming.

He sees preventing catastrophic climate change – the aim of UN climate talks starting in Scotland on Sunday – and saving biodiversity, or the variety of plant and animal species in the world, as two initiatives that must happen together.



“This is the most communal endeavor with a clear definable goal that humanity has ever had and we need to get the kind of cooperation and ethical harmony and planning in order to make it work,” Wilson told Reuters in an interview outside Boston on Oct. 21.

“Otherwise, the slope of

human history will always be downward.”

Today, species are going extinct at a rate not seen in 10 million years, with around 1 million currently on the brink. To limit the loss, the United Nations has urged countries to commit to conserving 30% of their land and water – almost double the area

currently under some form of protection - by 2030.

The so-called “30 by 30” target is in part inspired by Wilson’s Half-Earth Project. First outlined in 2016, it calls for protecting half the planet’s land and sea so there are enough diverse and well-connected ecosystems to reverse the course of species extinction.

“The point is that human nature has not changed enough. Our strongest propensities of a social nature tend to disfavor the lives of most other species,” Wilson said.

Humanity continues to solve problems by burning materials - coal and oil - left behind by ancient organisms, Wilson said, decrying the continued exploration and burning of fossil fuels, which amplifies the destruction of biodiversity.

### NEWS MAKERS



## LG Says Snow Affected Farmers To Get Compensation

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the government will provide full financial assistance to farmers for the losses caused due to adverse weather conditions.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Lt Governor Sinha virtually inaugurated an apple festival organised in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, an official statement said.

Speaking at the event, Sinha assured "full financial assistance would be provided to the farmers by the UT's administration for the loss caused due to adverse weather in Jammu and Kashmir."

He said it was the responsibility of the Jammu and Kashmir government to protect the land of the farmers in the Union Territory and the legal provision in this regard was in the interest of the cultivators.

The Lt Governor said the central and UT governments were working together for the upliftment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, with most of them being dependent on agriculture.

Sinha informed that various schemes have been implemented to double the income of farmers. He also requested the scientists to bring the benefit of their research from the lab to the land.

The agriculture minister highlighted that the central government was working with full force for the development of agriculture and allied sectors in the country and to increase the income of farmers.

Tomar appreciated the Jam-

mu and Kashmir government for doing speedy work for the development of agriculture in the Union Territory with help of funds provided under various central schemes.

The festival will provide a better platform to apple growers and other stakeholders, he said.

The apple festival under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' will prove to be a milestone in increasing the income of the farmers.

With an annual production of more than 2.2 million tonnes, apples from Jammu and Kashmir account for 87 per cent of the national production and are linked to the livelihood of about 30 per cent of the population of the UT, according to the statement.

Tomar also expressed satisfaction over high-density plantation being done in 2,300-hectare area under a special scheme in the UT.

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Kailash Choudhary said the agriculture budget of the Centre has increased to Rs 1.23 lakh crore from Rs 22,000 crore before the Modi government came to power.

Farmers are benefiting from measures like procurement on MSP (Minimum Support Price), and Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs 1 lakh crore, he added.

During the event, cheques and certificates related to various schemes were given to the farmers. A booklet on horticulture was also released.

Local public representatives, apple growers, farmers, entrepreneurs, agricultural scientists and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.



## Admin Launches Anti-Encroachment Drive At Hygam Wetland

AGENCIES

**SOPORE:** As part of the rejuvenation and restoration of Hygam Wetland administration conducted a massive anti-encroachment drive at Haritar village of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The anti-encroachment drive was launched on the directions of Divisional Commissioner during which illegal encroachment were demolished to retrieve state land.

Scores of structures had come up on the wetland over the past several years while hundreds of kanals of land were being used by encroachers illegally for cultivating paddy.

"We are not against development or progress. But we demand that administration should clear out what is to become of us or where we are to go," Bashir Ahmed, a local resident told KNS.

"When we come out to protest, they register FIRs against us," Bashir added.

Instead of providing poor people with housing, this

government is snatching the roofs over their heads.

"The living conditions of the people aren't good anyway and now they are to deteriorate further," said another local, who wished not to be named.

Pertinent to mention here that, the Hygam wetland has been encroached at many places which include Haritar, Hygam, Lolipora, Gohul, Tengpora and Goshbug.

Meanwhile locals demand immediate intervention of higher authorities into this matter.

LAND GRAB CASE

## CBI Files Charges Against Ex-Mantri Lal Singh's Wife

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI on Thursday filed a charge sheet against former BJP leader Lal Singh's wife and former MLA Kanta Andotra for alleged encroachment and illegal possession of land by an educational trust headed by her in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The charge sheet was filed in a special court in Jammu against Andotra, the then chairperson of R B Educational Trust, and Ravinder Singh, the then patwari of Muthi Hardo in Kathua, they said.

The agency had taken over the case on September 12, 2020 after a preliminary enquiry into the allegations of encroachment of huge tract of public, government and forest land in Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir by certain persons in violation of the J and K Agrarian Reforms Act in connivance with revenue and forest officials, CBI spokesperson R C Joshi said.

Searches were conducted three days later at 10 locations, including the premises of the accused.

"During investigation it was found that the then Chairperson of said Educational Trust allegedly entered into conspiracy with the then Patwari... in pursuance to the conspiracy, fards were issued by Patwari, without mentioning the details

in respect of ceiling imposed under Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976 and mutations were attested, thus facilitating illegal acquisition of land beyond ceiling limit by the Educational Trust, in gross violation of the...Act," Joshi said.

The trust runs a school, B.Ed and nursing colleges on the land, transactions of which are being probed by the central agency for alleged irregularities in its purchase, the officials said.

The preliminary enquiry by the CBI had alleged that the trust, a beneficiary of such alleged illegal acts, continues to be in possession of huge tracts of land in gross violation of the ceiling prescribed under the JK Agrarian Reforms Act, they said.

Lal Singh, a former Jammu and Kashmir minister, quit the BJP and floated the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan (DSS).

He and then industries minister Chander Prakash Ganga had resigned from the PDP-BJP dispensation in 2018 after questions were raised over their participation in a Hindu Ekta Manch rally organised in support of those arrested in connection with the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua that year.

The probe agency had in June, 2020 registered a preliminary enquiry (PE) on the allegations of encroachment of

a huge tract of land in Kathua.

"It was further alleged that the accused were involved in the conspiracy with the said educational trust through its chairperson to allow the trust to retain the land beyond the permissible ceiling limit of 100 standard kanal fixed in the Agrarian Reforms Act by deliberately giving the wrong exemption of 32 kanals of grazing land as per said Act and showing the land as "orchard", which was not an orchard as per revenue record," the CBI had said.

"It was further alleged that the accused were involved in the conspiracy with the said educational trust through its chairperson to allow the trust to retain the land beyond the permissible ceiling limit of 100 standard kanal fixed in the Agrarian Reforms Act by deliberately giving the wrong exemption of 32 kanals of grazing land as per said Act and showing the land as "orchard", which was not an orchard as per revenue record," it said.

It was also alleged that the educational trust, in connivance with the other accused, got wrong calculation done of standard kanal of the land measuring 316 kanal and 17 marlas to escape the ceiling imposed by the JK Agrarian Reforms Act, the CBI said. Kanal and marlas are traditional land measurement units.

## 2 SKUAST Scientists Make It To Stanford's Top 2% List

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Two Scientists from the SKUAST-Kashmir have figured in the "World Ranking of Top 2% Scientists" in 2021 database (published October 19, 2021) created by experts at Stanford University, USA in association with Elsevier BV and Plos Biology.

The analysis, conducted using research publications up to 2020 end, was published in PLOS Biology, a peer-reviewed scientific journal. The selection is based on the citation-score or



a percentile rank of 2% or above. SKUAST-Kashmir Scientists featured in the list include two young faces Dr. Shabir Hussain Wani, Genetics and Plant Breeding from MRCFC, Khudwani and Dr. Shabir Ahmad Ganai, from Division of basic Science and Humanities, FoA, Wadara.

## SKAUST-K Holds Zonal-Level Elocution Competition

Dr. Ambreen Hamdani of SKAUST-K secures 1st position



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Department of Student Welfare in collaboration with IDP-NAHEP on Thursday conducted a Zonal level Elocution competition under the theme "Energy & Agriculture: Challenges in 21st Century" under the chairmanship of Prof. J. P. Sharma Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir. The competition forms part of the National Level competition being held at BHU, Varanasi in the ensuing month. Two nominated students from eight Universities from Zone VI will participate in the event.

Prof. M. A. A. Siddiqui, Dean Students Welfare welcomed the guests & the participants who have been selected through a marathon activity conducted at all the universities of Zone-VI. He congratulated all the participants for making it to the zonal level competition and appreciated the efforts of all the organizing committee members of the event.

Director P&M Prof. N. A. Ganai motivated the participants by highlighting the importance of the

theme and need to think out-of-box in order to ensure sustainable agriculture.

Prof. J. P. Sharma in his inaugural address highlighted the importance of such competitions for developing the soft skills of the students which are highly desirable traits in today's world order. Prof. Sharma congratulated Dean Student Welfare, Director Planning and Student welfare officers (SWO) of SKUASTK for organizing such competitions in an immaculate manner.

He attended all the presentations throughout the day. He appreciated the efforts participants have put in preparing the presentations and presenting the same in front of the audience.

Two students were nominated from eight Universities of Zone-VI making it a total of 16 (sixteen) participants who did present their innovative idea to be developed based on the theme. The first position was secured by Dr. Ambreen Hamdani from SKUAST-Kashmir and the second position was secured by Gurkanwal Kaur from PAU, Ludhiana.

## Innoterra, PHDCCI Ink MoU AT SKICC

'To strengthen market linkage for farmer cooperatives'

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** PHDCCI Kashmir signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday with Innoterra, a Swiss-Indian food and tech platform company with commercial footprint in 14 countries. The MoU aims to build capacity and support farmers in the state through farmer cooperatives, aggregators and FPOs to bolster exports and improve market linkage.

The MoU was signed at the Apple Festival currently underway at Srinagar, with the aim to harness export potential of horticulture and processed food products from the state.

The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry will collaborate with food and tech platform company Innoterra to address the gaps in technology, skills, quality improvement and market access.

The MoU was signed by Baldev Singh Raina, Chair of PHDCCI-Kashmir and Suniti Gupta, Managing Director and CEO of InnoterraTech. The signing event was attended by Ajaz Ahmad Bhat (JKAS), Director General, Horticulture Department of Kashmir; Vishesh Mahajan (JKAS) Director, Horticulture Planning and Marketing and Nitin Puri, Head of

B2B Marketplace, Innoterra.

According to the MoU, the key areas of cooperation between the two entities include helping Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) access and secure right assistance under all Govt. of India schemes implemented through various departments. The MoU also envisages ensuring sustainability and growth of exports for cooperatives by facilitating technology adoption, building skills and quality, along with better market access.

Innoterra will also facilitate exports by the cooperatives, FPOs, partners and associates identified by PHDCCI and promoted by Horticulture Department, Agriculture Department, NABARD SFAC, NCDC and NAFED. PHDCCI and Innoterra will empower the cooperatives and FPOs to participate directly in global trade events, including B2B & B2C fairs organized in India and abroad. Both the organisations will collaborate to organize awareness programs, skill development programmes and workshops for the farmers at regional, state and national levels.

PHDCCI and Innoterra have also agreed to work in close coordination towards sustainable cluster development in various areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

## AC Strengthens Audit & Inspection Department

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Administrative Council (AC) on Thursday met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the strengthening of Audit & Inspection Department by creating 54 posts at various levels to ensure establishment of District Audit Offices in each district.

Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisors to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The decision is aimed at making the audit exercise more effective, decentralized and broad based to enhance the coverage of government offices and bring accountability in governance. Internal audit of various government entities will be held periodically in a phased manner.

The Audit and Inspection Department is an empowered arm of the Government for internal audit of government departments and autonomous bodies. The resources of the Department will be augmented to take follow up action on Audit Inspection Report (AIRs) by way of constituting Audit Analysis Monitoring and Follow up Cells (AMFC) at UT and Divisional level.

## EJAC Condemns Thrashing Of Naib Tehsildar Chilli Pingal Doda

Calls it unfortunate, unacceptable and condemnable

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** JK Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) has strongly condemned the thrashing and humiliation of Naib Tehsildar Chilli Pingal, Doda by a DDC member Mehraj Malik.

In a statement issued, President EJAC Mohd Rafique Rather on Thursday said that the way a government official is assaulted and humiliated by a DDC member in full public view has shocked entire employees fraternity of Jammu Kashmir, who feel insecure while working in such a hostile environment.

Rafique Rather said that in the video which has gone viral DDC member seems to be taking law in to his hands while catching the officials collar and dragging him in

presence of his subordinates which he called shameful and disgusting.

Rather said that DDC member need to understand that there is a law to deal with the laxity if any shown by a government official and there is no place for "gunda gardi" in a civilized society as displayed by the said DDC member and added that such a rude attitude is unacceptable and unfortunate as well.

Rafique Rather said that government employees are already stressed and overburdened by working in adverse working conditions during COVID and other wise and such uncalled for incidents will add to their stress and anxiety.

President EJAC said that public representatives ought to help government

officials in dealing with the public issues instead of assaulting and humiliating them for their undue personal benefits. He said that EJAC will not be a mute spectator to such unruly behaviour and will come on roads to protest against such arrogant so called public representatives who are hell bent to disturb the smooth working in government offices by resorting to high-handedness.

Rafique Rather said that entire leadership of EJAC and employees fraternity of Jammu Kashmir vehemently express displeasure and condemn the act strongly.

Rather urged JK Government to initiate legal action against the erring DDC member so that such incidents are not repeated in future.

## Financial Commissioner Reviews State Taxes Department

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** A review meeting for evaluating the performance of State Taxes Department (STD) Kashmir Division was held in the conference hall of Excise and Taxation complex Srinagar on October 28. The meeting was chaired by Atal Duloo (Additional Chief Secretary) Finance, Financial Commissioner of JKUT and was attended by all officers of State Taxes department that includes Showkat Aijaz Bhat Commissioner (STD) JKUT, Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat Additional Commissioner (STD) Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner recovery, Deputy Commissioner Appeals, Deputy Commissioner Analytic wing & IT, Deputy Commissioner Enforcement central, Deputy Commissioner Enforcement South, Deputy Commissioner Enforcement North and State Taxes officers.

### JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

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**Subject: Conduct of the Written Test for the post of Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies in Cooperative Department.**

**NOTICE**  
**DATED: 28.10.2021**

It is for the information of all eligible candidates who have applied for the post Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies in Cooperative Department, that the Written Test for the said post shall tentatively be held in the 2nd Week of December, 2021. However, the final date for the said examination shall be notified separately.

(Vinay Samotra), JKAS  
Deputy Controller of Examinations  
Dated :28.10.2021

No:- PSC/Ex-Secy/2021/47  
DIPK-11466/21

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that my father's name has wrongly mentioned as Mohd Yaseen, while as per matriculate certificate my father's name is Mohd Yaseen Shah. Now I want to keep my father's name in my three years engineering diploma certificates as Mohd Yaseen Shah. Anybody having any objection in this regard shall report his/her objections within week time before the competent certificate issuing authority, commencing from the date of its publication, there after no objections will be entertained.

Name: Tajamul Yousuf  
S/o: Mohd Yaseen Shah  
R/o: Babagund Khansahab

INFOR



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Not By Development Alone

Home minister Amit Shah's three day visit to Kashmir was perhaps the longest than any of his predecessors must have spent in J&K. In a packed schedule, the home minister made sure he pays close attention to the problems of the former state. He interacted with diverse delegations. The visit was primarily not political in nature. The home minister tried to keep the focus on the development of J&K. Almost all his statements were more or less about improving the economy of the union territory and providing employment to the youth. He didn't, however, announce any big-ticket economic or political initiative as is otherwise expected from a high-profile visit like that of a home minister. And that too as powerful as Amit Shah. In fact, the visit even dampened the expectations of talks with Pakistan.

In response to a statement by the former J&K Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah that India should talk to Pakistan to resolve bilateral issues, the home minister said he would rather talk to the youth of Kashmir than Islamabad. This coming from the home minister of India means that India has no plans to talk to Pakistan in near future. It is true, in the last over two years New Delhi has tried to cleanse Kashmir of its Pakistan and separatist discourse. And it has so far been successful in that. Though there had been some back-channel contact between the two neighbours towards the end of the last year which culminated into a re-affirmation of ceasefire in February this year, the dialogue failed to move on after India apparently refused to reverse the revocation of Article 370. And ever since the two countries have drifted apart. Their relations have become tense again. And it is unlikely that the neighbours can negotiate their way out of this dead-end unless there is a minimum level of mutual confidence between them. In the current circumstances, it seems unimaginable how this confidence could be restored.

That said, the home minister's visit which came immediately in the wake of the killings of civilians including those of the members of the minority community was also to bring back a sense of security. He defended the internet and security curbs in the Valley saying they were necessary to save the lives. During his stay, he highlighted what he said was the redeeming difference made by the withdrawal of J&K autonomy. The visit has also come in for some criticism with political opponents of the BJP saying that the situation in Kashmir had only deteriorated over the last two years. However, the truth of Kashmir is more nuanced. One can only hope that the situation from hereon gets better.

O T H E R O P I N O N

What Will Success  
Look Like In Glasgow

The lack of progress since Paris invites cynicism — at the very least, wariness — about Glasgow. Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide have since risen above annual averages of 400 parts per million, long seen as a dangerous threshold. In 2019 the world logged the most annual greenhouse gas emissions ever recorded, equivalent to more than 60 billion tons of carbon dioxide, a figure that includes methane and other climate-warming agents. The economic downturn caused by the Covid pandemic hardly moved the needle.

With only a week to go before the clamor begins in Glasgow, China, Australia, Russia and India have yet to make new pledges to cut their emissions. The Washington Post recently reported that Brazil and Mexico have put forward weaker targets than they submitted in Paris five years ago. Many of those that have submitted new pledges have promised rather vaguely to reach a goal of net-zero emissions by midcentury, which on paper would help keep warming within manageable limits but in practice will not do so unless followed up with real policies aimed at sharply reducing the use of fossil fuels, switching to cleaner sources of energy, electrifying cars and buildings and doing whatever else is necessary to decarbonize the world.

The question now is whether the delegates in Glasgow can rise above this pessimism and surprise us all with truly meaningful steps. Gloomy predictions to the contrary, several things have happened since Paris that should inspire everyone. For starters, the science of climate change has become tighter, tougher and more terrifying. In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a truly scary warning — what one U.N. official described as “a deafening, piercing smoke alarm going off in the kitchen.” The gist of it was that if the world had any hope of meeting the 1.5 degree threshold and thus avoiding ecological and social calamity, it must radically transform its energy systems not on any sort of leisurely glide path but in the next 12 years, which meant cutting greenhouse gas emissions nearly in half by 2030 and zeroing them out by 2050.

New York Times

Pushback On Pegasus



For Representational Purposes only

Apar Gupta

THE CONSTITUTION of this committee provides hope. At the same time, any honest assessment should consider the more challenging tasks ahead. These include the functioning of the committee and the cooperation of government witnesses, the publication of the report so as to ensure public confidence and, ultimately, the directions and remedy provided by the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of India has appointed a committee presided by Justice (Retd.) R V Raveendran to inquire into the Pegasus revelations.

The judgment comes at a time when the principal author of the judgment and the Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, has noted, in the context of institutional independence, that when there is “a lot of discussion about the pressure from the executive, it is also imperative to start a discourse as to how social media trends can affect institutions.”

Here is a tacit acknowledgement of a general environment in which public trust is lacking in the judiciary. In this backdrop, the order of the court constituting the committee attains significance for three clear reasons.

The first is the court's continuing insistence on transparency and disclosure by the Union government. When the batch of petitions came for active hearing before the Supreme Court of India in August, the Union government first sought time to study them, and thereafter refused to provide any meaningful response.

Editorial JSC has done the right thing by refusing to accept the Centre's stonewalling on Pegasus

The only filing made in court was a limited affidavit, containing short paragraphs of generalised denials and the sole annexure of a statement by the Minister for Electronics and IT before Parliament. Immediately, the Supreme Court pointed out that these are inadequate and provided further time. However, till date this is the only written statement filed in court by the government.

Such a legal stratagem can obstruct a fair judicial determination, but it is far from novel. As noted by the court in the Anuradha Bhasin judgment on the internet shut-down in Jammu and Kashmir, “the State initially claimed privilege, subsequently dropped the claim and produced certain sample orders, citing difficulty in producing all the orders before this Court.

In our opinion, this is not a valid ground to refuse production of orders before the Court...” This trend is unbecoming of the seriousness of constitutional adjudication, and the Supreme Court notes with dismay a similar tactic in oral arguments when, “the learned Solicitor General suggested that many of these

reports are motivated and self-serving”. As per the court, “such an omnibus oral allegation is not sufficient...” It further noted, “There has only been an omnibus and vague denial in the limited affidavit”.

Hence, it is clear from a reading of the judgment, that the court has accurately assessed the need for disclosures by the Union government on Pegasus, beyond bald denials and ad hominem attacks.

The second reason is the Supreme Court's firm approach towards the national security submissions by the Union government. There are two aspects to this argument that are unbundled by the judgement. The first relates to the refusal to provide any information to the court. Here, the court states, “we had made it clear... we would not push... to provide any information that would impact national security”.

The court correctly applied the settled convention on legal pleadings and affidavits by asking the government to, “necessarily plead and prove the facts which indicate that the information sought must be kept secret as their divulgence would affect national security concerns.”

However, as noted above, this was not done. The second aspect of the national security argument is how the court balances it with the fundamental right to privacy. Here, drawing from the framework of the K S Puttaswamy judgment on the right to privacy, where the standards of legality, necessity and proportionality are prescribed, the court specifically states that, “national security cannot be the bugbear that the judiciary shies away from, by virtue of its mere mentioning” and, “mere invocation of national security by the State does not render the Court a mute spectator”.

These are significant observations that, when followed as precedent, will bolster confidence in constitutional adjudications especially when courts demand evidence on arguments of “national security” to avoid generalised statements made to evade accountability.

The third and final feature of the judgment is rejecting the suggestion by the Solicitor-General to constitute a government committee of experts.

Here, the court correctly notes that even though the Pegasus revelations were first made on November 1, 2019 (WhatsApp confirms:

Israeli spyware was used to snoop on Indian journalists, activists', IE), there has been little movement on any official inquiry.

It also records the genuine apprehension of the petitioners, many of whom are victims of Pegasus, that since the sale of this malware can only be made to governments, they fear the involvement of state agencies. The court strikes a fine balance by constituting an independent committee, “taking into account the public importance and the alleged scope and nature of the large-scale violation of the fundamental rights of the citizens of the country”.

The court's terms of reference include queries on, “What steps/actions have been taken by the Union of India after reports were published in the year 2019 about hacking of WhatsApp accounts”, and, “Whether any Pegasus suite of spyware was acquired by the Union of India, or any State Government, or any central or state agency for use against the citizens of India”. The constitution of this committee marks an important step towards accountability for the victims and the larger public on the use of Pegasus.

At the same time, it is important to be measured in public response. The Supreme Court has, by any objective assessment, observed fidelity to constitutional adjudication. It comes at a time when there exists a perceptible disenchantment with institutional responses to violations of rights and threats to our democracy.

Hence, the constitution of this committee provides hope. At the same time, any honest assessment should consider the more challenging tasks ahead. These include the functioning of the committee and the cooperation of government witnesses, the publication of the report so as to ensure public confidence and, ultimately, the directions and remedy provided by the Supreme Court. Just as public confidence is not broken by a single action, repairing it will be a long road.

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

The author is an advocate practising in Delhi. The article was originally published by The Indian Express

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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Cold Big Houses

Newly built houses in Kashmir are relying on architectural designs from outside the valley as they seem more hip and happening. Why else would one want such high and empty ceilings in a cold place like Kashmir?

More and more people are also opting for different kinds of floorings like marble, tiles and wood flooring instead

of carpets which were better for a place with low temperatures most of the year barring two or three months.

Additionally, we haven't even cared much about the snow that falls over our houses in winters as we've probably moved past the concept of architectural integrity. Our roofs are designed to seek attention. Rest assured, they wouldn't hold much snow but at least they make a statement?

Old houses, as bad as the adjective “old” sounds — had wisdom behind their design. They were built to be such that winters wouldn't feel as harsh as they do in our new out of place mansions.

It's probably time that we use some of our debating skills to introspect and leave our borrowed hangovers behind. There's no shame in embarrassing what is indigenous. Infact, there's beauty and uniqueness in preserving a

past that is so distinct and bringing it into our future.

With our inhabitable mansions, we are only going to make a transient statement. But with the old dearly adopted, we will make a statement that would stay for years and makes much more sense.

Tania Saeed  
Tanias@rediffmail



# Mindful Fridays

## Psychiatrist or Clinical Psychologist

# Your Go-To For Depression?

**Wasim Kakroo**

Everyone experiences sad feelings sometimes, but depression is different. It lasts for a long time and can lead to a number of other symptoms. Clinical depression, also called major depression, can have a range of ongoing symptoms. While any of these symptoms can occur at any moment, a mental health professional (a psychiatrist or a clinical psychologist) will only diagnose depression if a specific cluster of symptoms appears and persists for two weeks or longer.

**Some of the most common symptoms include:**

Feelings of sadness, irritability, hopelessness, or guilt, losing interest in activities you once enjoyed, Feeling tired or restless, preferring isolation, difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much and significant weight gain or weight loss.

If you experience depression symptoms and are looking for professional help, it can be tough to know where to start. Main mental health professionals i.e., psychiatrists and clinical Psychologists both treat patients with depression but there are distinctions in their education, experience, and approach to various mental health issues and their treatment that should be considered before choosing a professional.

Here's what you need to know if you're wondering if a psychiatrist or a clinical psychologist is better for patients with depression:

**Who is a psychiatrist?**

Psychiatrists are mental health professionals who have done MBBS, completed a year of medical internship, and three years of residency in the assessment and treatment of mental health diseases. Psychiatrists typically treat patients with mental health conditions that require medication, such as moderate to severe levels of mental health issues such as major depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, PTSD, and schizophrenia, in private practises, hospitals, university medical centres, prisons, rehabilitation centres, and a variety of other settings.

**Who is a clinical psychologist?**

Clinical psychologists in India are required to hold a masters degree in psychology and then typically undergo a two-year M.phil programme in an Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) registered institute in hospital based set-



**A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST MAY** be a suitable choice if you want to spend time talking about and working through an issue in a one-on-one setting. If you want to take psychiatric medicine for symptomatic relief from a mental health problem, you should first consult with a psychiatrist

**IF YOU EXPERIENCE DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS AND ARE LOOKING FOR** professional help, it can be tough to know where to start. Main mental health professionals i.e., psychiatrists and clinical Psychologists both treat patients with depression but there are distinctions in their education, experience, and approach to various mental health issues and their treatment that should be considered before choosing a professional.

tings, but they are not medical doctors and cannot prescribe medications for mental health conditions. Clinical psychologists often receive some training in understanding how the body, particularly the brain, influences behaviour, although this is not their specialisation. For clinical psychologists, the emphasis is on mental processes such as cognition (thoughts), mood and emotion, and behaviour, as well as comprehending people in the context of their surroundings, particularly in their interpersonal relationships.

Clinical psychologists focus on how to change the approach of an individual towards their thoughts and hence help them change their behavior to improve functioning, or how to bring out and clarify an individual's deeper or repressed thoughts and feelings for better understanding and awareness. Clinical Psychologists, like psychiatrists, work in many of the same settings and use talk therapy, cogni-

tive behavioral therapy and many other therapeutic modules to assist patients understand their symptoms and learn how to control them. Their curriculum includes understanding biological, psychological, cognitive and social influences on behavior, as well as training in psychological assessment and diagnosis. Practicing clinical psychologists use a number of therapeutic approaches to help patients in dealing with stress, healing from trauma, and managing the symptoms of mental health issues. When treating children, psychologists frequently employ play therapy to acquire insight through observation of behaviors and patterns.

**Should you first consult a clinical psychologist or a psychiatrist?**

Seeking treatment for those who are struggling with their mental health is a vital step toward living a mean-

ingful life. However, knowing which type of practitioner will deliver the most successful treatment is not always straightforward. The good news is that experienced mental health professionals have the essential skills and understanding to assist clients in making an informed decision about the course of their therapy. Patients are frequently referred to one another by psychiatrists and clinical psychologists. But, in general, here are some things to think about before deciding whether to see a clinical psychologist or a psychiatrist first.

A clinical psychologist may be a suitable choice if you want to spend time talking about and working through an issue in a one-on-one setting. If you want to take psychiatric medicine for symptomatic relief from a mental health problem, you should first consult with a psychiatrist. If the issue you want to address is one of relationships, such as a problem at

work or with a family member, a clinical psychologist may be able to help.

A psychiatrist may be an excellent place to start with if you are having debilitating mental health symptoms that are interfering with your everyday life.

Psychiatrists and clinical psychologists, as previously said, are both concerned with assisting people in optimising their mental wellness, and both are frequently trained in a range of treatment approaches. You don't have to know everything about these two professionals before you ask for assistance. The greatest place to begin is with a practitioner with whom you feel at ease. They will listen to your reasons for seeking help, assess your symptoms, try to understand your medical, psychiatric, and family history, and assist you in deciding on a next step. Also, keep in mind that many patients visit more than one mental health practitioner before finding the ideal fit.

**Who should you see for treating your depression?**

The type of mental health expert you see will be determined by a number of factors, including the severity of your disease and your choices for depression treatment. A psychiatrist will be able to rule out any other medical disorders and provide medicine that can be customized and fine-tuned to your unique needs if you have severe depression. If you are going through a difficult period and want to focus on better understanding of your thoughts and behaviors, a clinical psychologist can help you with it and medication may not be necessary. A clinical psychologist can work on the sources of emotional disturbance in your life by trying to analyze the major parts of your life such as childhood experiences, adolescence, relationship with key figures in life, satisfaction with job and sexual life, the deficits in meaning in life and the influence of personality issues on your depression. All these areas are very important to understand in order to have a proper psychotherapeutic plan for effective recovery from depression. However in cases with severity of depression beyond moderate levels that affects a person's daily functioning significantly, combined treatment including pharmacotherapy as well as psychotherapy is considered a best approach for recovery.

*The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) at Kashmir Life Line and can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com*

# Schools To Shoulder

## Things Schools Should Do To Help And Educate Students With Mental Health

**Damein Page**

Mental health needs to be integrated into the school curriculum, which will help increase understanding and reduce stigma around issues. Without this, pupils may not be aware their mental health is deteriorating and feel silenced or shamed when seeking help. If both pupils and teachers have more open discussions about mental health, issues will also be easier to identify early on, and this will help to build students' knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Ideally, mental health needs to be talked about the same way physical education or healthy eating is, because research has found that when schools adopt a comprehensive approach to discussing mental health it supports all pupils – including those who are experiencing mental health difficulties already.

**Create a safe space**

Students do better in schools when they feel safe – this means ensuring that bullying incidents are low and addressed, including the rising incidents of cyberbullying. The evidence also shows that when students feel a sense of belonging, have

**STUDENTS DO BETTER IN** schools when they feel safe – this means ensuring that bullying incidents are low and addressed, including the rising incidents of cyberbullying.

good peer and teacher relationships, and feel listened to when they raise concerns, also helps to support positive mental health in schools.

**Support for all**

Everyone in schools from the teachers to the teaching assistants, the school lunch staff to the school nurse, all have a role to play in improving the school environment – and making it more open to discussions around mental health. But they can do only do this if they are supported and healthy themselves. Looking out for the well-being of staff will itself have a positive impact on the



students. And research shows that when staff are trained in mental health they are more confident in supporting their students. The same research also showed that this additional mental health training even helped to boost staff's own resilience and job satisfaction.

**Make sure teachers know how to help**

Headteachers should demand mental health training for all new teachers. And before a school takes on a new or trainee teacher, they should ask to see what mental health training they have. This could include an understanding of the risk and resilience factors for their students, how to spot the signs of mental ill health, along with how to support and get help for students at risk.

This will ensure that all new teachers have a basic understanding of the mental health challenges they will face, and will make it easier for them to help pupils in need.

**Recognise that it takes a village**

Looking after children's mental health isn't just something that can be done on a small scale, it involves a shift in the way everyone not only works together, but also communicates on issues.

The good news is there are lots of additional things schools are already doing in this area, including working with parents and having staff as mentors for vulnerable students. Many schools have also introduced peer mentoring, where children are partnered up with older children who can look out for them.

Running extracurricular social activities for pupils has also been shown to help have a positive impact on students, by providing a space for them to work through their emotions and develop strategies to address their challenges.

*The author is Dean of The Carnegie School of Education, Leeds Beckett University. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation*



# Not All Acne Is Equal! Scientists Reveal Strains Of Acnes That Promote Skin Health

**Agencies**

Cutibacterium acnes, bacteria that are known to cause acne, are also widely spread on people with healthy skin. Recent advances in gene sequencing have shown that differences in the genetic background between strains of bacteria may lead to differing roles in the skin.

A new study published in Microbiology Spectrum of the American Society for Microbiology shows that the nonpathogenic strain of C. acnes improves the skin's resistance against the infection-causing bacteria Staphylococcus aureus.

"It is likely that C. acnes maintains skin health by inhibiting common pathogens like S. aureus from invading skin tissue," said lead author Ayano Tsuru, a graduate student at the Graduate School of Human Life Science, Osaka City University. "Instead of using mammals, we explored

this with Caenorhabditis elegans, a one mm nematode that has basic animal parts like a nervous system, muscles, and digestive tract, as well as a body surface barrier equivalent to human skin."

In this joint study between the Osaka City University and Okayama University, researchers used C. elegans to investigate the biological effects of several strains of C. acnes isolated from human skin.

Results showed that ribotype (RT) 4 and 8 strains, a classification of bacteria strains based on polymorphisms in rRNA, which are often detected in the skin of individuals suffering from acne, shortened the lifespan of the nematode, while RT6 strains that are often found in the skin of people without acne, did not.

"This means that," explains supporting author Yumi Hamazaki also a graduate student at the OCU Graduate School of Human Life Science, "ribotype strains of C. acnes that cause acne in humans correlated with

virulence, or a shortening the C. elegans lifespan."

The team further clarified this finding by investigating the effect of healthy skin-associated strains of C. acnes on the nematode's susceptibility to S. aureus. Results showed the survival period of nematodes infected with the pathogen to be longer than the control group.

Also, RNA sequencing analysis of changes in the gene expression revealed that strains of C. acnes behind healthy skin activated a group of genes related to innate immunity and biological defense responses in C. elegans. "Further analysis of nematode gene mutants" states Professor Shuta Tomida of the Center for Comprehensive Genomic Medicine at Okayama University Hospital, "suggests this resistance to S. aureus was mediated by TIR-1 and p38 MAPK pathways that are responsible for innate immunity and not by suppressing the growth of the S. aureus pathogen.



By focusing on ribotypes related to the absence of acne, this study revealed there are beneficial aspects of acne bacteria, which have had a generally negative image.

As advisor to the study, Eriko Kage-Nakadai, professor at the OCU Graduate School of Human Life Science puts it, "this reminds us that when evaluating the biological effects of certain bacteria, there is a need for a discussion at the strain level. Also," the professor continues, "the fact that we succeeded in detecting the effects of skin indigenous bacteria using C. elegans illustrates the usefulness of this nematode as an alternative model in the field of epidemiology."

Lastly, in the landscape of probiotic research currently dominated by bifidobacteria and lactobacillus, the team is excited at the expectation that this study may lead to the application of healthy skin-related strains of C. acnes as a "non-drinking probiotic".

## Covid test results may vary based on time of day: Study



Washington: The test sensitivity of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, may vary based on the time of the day and the our body's biological clock, according to a study.

The research, published in the Journal of Biological Rhythms on Tuesday, found that people were up to two times as likely to have an accurate positive test result if they tested in the middle of the day compared to at night. The finding supports the hypothesis that Covid acts differently in the body based on our natural circadian rhythm, which has also been implied by studies of other viral and bacterial infections, the researchers said. — PTI

## Men, women ride same emotional roller coaster: Study

**Agencies**

Contrary to widely held gender stereotypes, women are not more emotional than men, according to researchers at the University of Michigan.

Feelings such as enthusiasm, nervousness, or strength are often interpreted differently between the two genders. It's what being "emotional" means to men vs. women that is part of a new University of Michigan study that dispels these biases.

For instance, a man whose emotions fluctuate during a sporting event is described as "passionate." But a woman whose emotions change due to any event, even if provoked, is considered "irrational," says the study's senior author Adriene Beltz, U-M assistant professor of psychology.

Beltz and colleagues Alexander Weigard, U-M assistant professor of psychiatry, and Amy Loviska, a graduate student at Purdue University, followed 142 men and women over 75 days to learn more about their daily emotions, both positive and negative. The women were divided into four groups: one naturally cycling and three others using different forms of oral contraceptives.

The researchers detected fluctuations in emotions in three different ways, and then compared the sexes. They found little-to-no differences between the men and the various groups of women, suggesting that



**“We also didn't find meaningful differences between the groups of women, making clear that emotional highs and lows are due to many influences- not only hormones**

men's emotions fluctuate to the same extent as women's do (although likely for different reasons).

"We also didn't find meaningful differences between the groups of women, making clear that emotional highs and lows are due to many influences- not only hormones," she said.

The findings have implications beyond everyday people, the researchers say. Women have historically been excluded from research

participation in part due to the assumption that ovarian hormone fluctuations lead to variation, especially in emotion, that can't be experimentally controlled, they say.

"Our study uniquely provides psychological data to show that the justifications for excluding women in the first place (because fluctuating ovarian hormones, and consequently emotions, confounded experiments) were misguided," Beltz said.

## Study Finds Polyphenol-Rich Diets Improve Leaky Gut Syndrome In Elderly

**Agencies**

The increase of intestinal permeability is associated with factors such as ageing, food allergies and intolerances and unhealthy diets.

According to a new study, a polyphenol-rich diet can improve intestinal permeability in old people.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Clinical Nutrition'.

The study is led by Cristina Andres-Lacueva, professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences and head of the Research Group of Biomarkers and Nutritional Metabolomics of Food of the University of Barcelona and the Biomedical Research Center of Fragility and Healthy Ageing (CIBERFES), also part of the Catalan Food Innovation Network (XIA).

This European study, conducted within the framework of the Joint Programming Initiative - A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life (JPI HDHL), was carried out in people aged over sixty who underwent a polyphenol-rich diet for eight weeks.

The results have shown that including up to three daily portions of apple, cocoa, dark chocolate, green tea, cranberries, oranges or pomegranate juice, improves intestinal permeability when making specific changes in the intestinal microbiota.

According to the experts Gregorio Peron and Tomas Merono (UB-INSA



and CIBERFES), "we studied the existing relationship between the metabolism of the elements of the diet, microbiota and intestinal permeability, by analysing the changes that are caused by a polyphenol-rich diet in the microbiota of the participants in our study and testing the resulting improvement of their gut barrier."

The analysis of plasmatic and faecal samples showed an increase of the serum metabolome related to the polyphenol intake.

"For instance, theobromine and methylxanthine - derived from cocoa and green tea- are positively correlated with butyrate-producing bacteria (a fatty acid in the intestinal flora), and inversely with zonulin, a protein related to the intestinal permeability", noted the authors.

According to Professor Cristina Andres-Lacueva, "the study of the relationship between intestinal permeability, microbiota composition and food metabolism has to be the base

for establishing customized diets for every life stage, especially for the elderly".

In short, changes in lifestyle and food are decisive as a prevention strategy for intestinal permeability associated with ageing and chronic diseases.

"A higher intake of fruits, vegetables and foods such as those described in this paper provide fibre and polyphenols that could help counterbalance the damaging of permeability due to ageing", noted Andres-Lacueva.

**“We Studied The existing relationship between the metabolism of the elements of the diet, microbiota and intestinal permeability, by analysing the changes that are caused by a polyphenol-rich diet in the microbiota of the participants in our study and testing the resulting improvement of their gut barrier**

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Fee Structure Of Different Streams

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost the RC & Insurance of my Vehicle Alto-K10 bearing Regd No: JK03F-8640. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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D/O :-GULZAR AHMAD WANI  
R/o:MUNIWARA Anantnag**

RNA

**آز نیابت اچھیل با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ دیچاواول - اچھیل**  
**درخواست منجانب:-** عامر گلزار ولد گلزار احمد تھام ساکنہ محلہ تحصیل و ضلع اننت ناگ  
**بغرض حصول OBC سرٹیفکیٹ**

اشتہار برآوا دکاتی ہر خاص و عام  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار آگاہ کیا جاتا ہے کہ ساکنان نے ایک درخواست نسبت اجرائی سرٹیفکیٹ OBC پیش کی ہے جو کہ دفتر مذکور میں زیر کاروائی ہے پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ اور یو نیور یکاڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس کی رو سے تفصیل افراد کوئذ بعد درج ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولد نیت	پیشہ	عمر	آمدنی
01	غلام محمد ولد عبدالرحمان تھام	ملازمت	45 سال	LPC
02	حسینہ بیگم زوجہ غلام محمد تھام	گھریلو کام	44 سال	
03	عامر گلزار ولد گلزار احمد تھام	زیر تعلیم	24 سال	
04	سہرش گلزار دختر گلزار احمد تھام	زیر تعلیم	20 سال	
05	جانہ بیگم بیوہ عبدالرحمان تھام	عمر رسیدہ	50 سال	

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کوئذ میں موجود نہیں ہے اور کوئذ کی مابین امدانی مقررہ سے کم ہے اب سرٹیفکیٹ مذکورہ کی اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر مذکور میں پیش کریں۔ معیار و گذارنے کے بعد کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائبہ تحصیلدار۔

RNA

**انتقال پر ملال**

انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ یہ خبر دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ مرحومہ خواجہ غلام نقی ڈانگر و ساکنہ علمگری بازار سرینگر طویل علالت کے بعد مورخہ 27 اکتوبر 2021ء بروز بدھوار اس دارالفانی سے رحلت کر گئی۔ (اناللہ وانا الیہ راجعون)۔ مرحومہ ایک نیک سیرت، پارسا، شریف النفس اور محب اہلیت خاتون تھیں۔ اللہ تبارک و تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو جوار رحمان میں جگہ نصیب فرمائے۔ (آمین)

موجودہ حالات کے پیش نظر اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی مرحومہ کے آبائی مقبرہ بابا مراد علمگری بازار پر آج انجام دی جائے گی۔ بعد ازاں تعزیتی مجلس دن بھر مرحومہ کے گھر پر جاری رہے گی۔

**سوگواران**  
علی محمد ڈانگر و۔ جاوید حسین ڈانگر و منظور احمد ڈانگر و



## Centre Committed To Improve Agriculture Sector Of J&K: Union MoS



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SHOPIAN:** The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Kailash Choudhary Thursday said that the Central Government is committed to improve the agriculture sector of Jammu and Kashmir and suggested the use of latest technology to increase agricultural productivity.

The Minister during his visit to Shopian district, as part of the Union Government's ongoing Public outreach programme, said a lot of schemes have been introduced to improve the overall performance in Jammu and Kashmir and a target has been set to provide every possible help to boost the agricultural sector.

The Minister appreciated the District Administration for achieving and completing all the developmental projects within the shortest possible time frame.

Later, the Minister interacted with public delegations who raised several demands and issues pertaining to their respective areas. The Minister assured the delegations of timely resolution of their grievances on priority basis.

Interacting with the delegations, the Minister said that the central Government is implementing various developmental plans for the overall development of J&K and urged people to take benefit from various schemes launched in this regard.

Sharing the vision of the Prime Minister, he said the "Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas" slogan by the prime minister is not merely a slogan but a mission that will ensure the paradigm shift in the socio-economic condition of the people who belong to the weaker sections of society. He said the special hand-holding of the under-privileged communities will help in making the lives of the people better.

## Two Day's Conference On Tourism of Southern Regions Begins In Bengaluru



AGENCIES

**BANGALORE:** Union Minister of Tourism, Culture & DonER G. Kishan Reddy addressed the inauguration session of two days' conference of Tourism and Culture Ministers of the Southern Region today in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Minister of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and MoS in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan; Minister of State, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Bhagwanth Khuba and Minister of State for Tourism, Gol Ajay Bhatt also graced this event.

Secretary Culture, GOI Govind Mohan, Senior Officials from various Central Ministries, State Governments, Union Territory Administrations (UTs), Media and industry stakeholders were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Reddy said that under the Prime Minister's guidance and leadership it took them only 281 days to administer 100 crore COVID vaccine doses. There can be no bigger confidence booster for the revival of tourism than vaccination, he said.

"This conference was called to discuss and deliberate on the tourism development strategy for the region in line with the Prime Minister's idea of Cooperative Federalism - where the Government of India and the state governments

come together to find solutions for a better India", Reddy added.

He further said that he truly believes that the Southern Region is unique in its offerings and the Ministry has laid special emphasis on developing infrastructure, on-ground capacity, and skills.

Reddy informed that under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, which focuses on integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits, the Ministry has sanctioned 15 projects in Southern States worth Rs. 1088 crores. "Under the PRASHAD scheme (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive), the Ministry has sanctioned 6 projects in the region that amount to 15% of the entire scheme budget", he added.

Reddy said that recently, the Ministry of External Affairs on the request of the Ministry of Tourism has appointed dedicated 20 Tourism Officers in Indian Missions abroad.

"This will enable us to widely promote Indian tourism in countries such as Australia, Canada, USA, France, Germany, and Gulf Countries," he said adding that "India's civilisation heritage goes back to many thousands of years and this Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is also an opportunity to pay a tribute to all those people that fought for the preservation of our heritage", he added.

## Lt Governor Inaugurates Apple Festival-2021 At SKICC

Collective efforts will take horticulture and agriculture in J&K to new heights: Union Agri Min

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Thursday inaugurated two-day long Apple Festival-2021 at SKICC, in presence of Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar (through virtual mode) & Union MoS Kailash Choudhary.

Addressing the farmers, the Lt Governor said that the UT administration is extending all possible support to the famers and introducing new reforms to make J&K a leading region in Horticulture and Agriculture production.

Recent heavy rain, hailstorm and snow affecting the crops have been declared a natural calamity and UT-specific disaster. Government will provide relief to all the farmers, who have suffered damages, the Lt Governor added.

Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare while addressing the gathering, said that the Apple of J&K contributes to 87 % of the national production with an annual production of more than 2.2 million metric tonnes, and is linked to the livelihood of about 30 % of the population of Jammu and Kashmir.

With collective efforts of agricultural scientists, government and all stakeholders, we will take the horticulture and agriculture sectors in J&K to new



heights, said the Union Minister.

The Lt Governor highlighted the impact of the initiatives like Apple festival that brings farming community, scientists and buyers together.

Seller-Buyer meets, awareness and technical sessions during the two-day festival will bring all stakeholders to a common platform, he said.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are making our best efforts for transforming Agriculture, Horticulture & Allied sectors, providing viable linkages to the Rs.10,000 cr apple market. The government is committed to ensure optimum returns to improve the lives of farmers of the UT. After decades, Apple Growers are getting the highest price for their produce, said the Lt Governor.

Despite producing around 90% of the country's apples, this kind of apple festival is happening for

the first time after 75 years of independence and I would like to congratulate the Horticulture Department for this initiative, the Lt Governor added.

The UT Government is paying special attention to High Density Plantation and Fungicides for quality and production of apple which has yielded excellent results this year, he observed.

I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister for taking initiatives to connect maximum farmers of J&K with High Density Plantation through Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor asked the famers to be aware of those who are spreading and creating illusions that people will lose their agricultural land. During the address of the Hon'ble Home Minister Amit Shah at SKICC just a few days ago, the people present there gave a befitting reply to those spreading such lies.

## LG's Advisor Appeals Farmers To Go For Crop Insurance

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, today conducted a day long visit of various areas of Jammu and Samba districts for on ground assessment of crop losses due to recent incessant rains and hail storm.

Advisor visited Jourian, Marh, R S Pura, Bishnah, Ramgarh and adjoining areas and evaluated the crop losses, especially Basmati rice, occurred in these areas due to recent heavy rains and hailstorm.

At Jourian, Advisor interacted with farmers who apprised

him about the quantum of damages occurred to their paddy crop by incessant rains, hail storm and water stagnation. He was informed that both standing as well as harvested paddy has suffered adversely due to inclement weather.

Advisor visited various villages including Devipur, Jourian, Ghari Nanda, Tartoti, kanachak, Galwaday Chak, Marh, Flora, Sangrampur, Dableher, Balachak, Rathana, Salehar, Pasgal, Jagtuchak, Pandorian, Gandli, Khour Salarian, Chak Shatakka and Chak balotra of Tehsil Jourian, Akhnoor, Marh, RS Pura and Bishnah

of Jammu district and Tehsil Ramgarh of Samba district respectively.

DDC Chairman and its members besides PRI representatives of concerned areas informed about the immense losses caused to their crops including paddy, maize, vegetables, pulses, potato, fodder and oil seeds with request for timely compensation for the same. Besides, the farmers demanded seeds, fertilizers and other inputs in view of anticipated losses to Rabi crops due to excessive moisture in soil leading to delayed sowing for damaged produce.

## Petrol Prices Continue To Rise, Crosses ₹108 in Delhi, ₹114 In Mumbai

AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** Petrol and diesel prices increased for the second consecutive day to touch an all-time high across the country.

With a hike of 35 paise a litre, the price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 108.29 a litre. The price of diesel also saw a hike by 35 paise and took the fuel's rate to Rs 97.02 per litre in the national capital.

Mumbai also reported a surge in fuel prices as compared to yesterday. The petrol in retail cost stands at Rs 114.14 per litre whereas diesel costs Rs 105.12 per litre today in Mumbai.

As for Kolkata, the price of petrol is Rs 108.78 per litre, while diesel is Rs 100.14 per litre.



tre. In Chennai, petrol and diesel cost Rs 105.13 and Rs 101.25 per litre respectively.

Petrol and diesel prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of value-added tax.

Meanwhile, the Central government is in talks with several oil-exporting countries on the issue of supply and demand of oils but there is no possibility of immediate relief in prices.

Earlier, a source told ANI that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recently raised concerns about the matter of pricing, supply and demand of oils to the major oil-producing countries.

"As crude oil prices rise internationally, the petroleum ministry has called on the energy ministries of many countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Russia and others," said the source.

## Indian Used Car Market To Grow 12-14% In Next Few Years



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian used car market is expected to reach a size of over 70 lakh vehicles by 2025-26, up from 38 lakh in 2020-21, growing at around 12-14 per cent over the next few years, according to a study.

The pre-owned car industry is expected to clock a growth rate of 15 per cent in FY22 as the COVID-19 pandemic, digitalization, changing demographics and aspirations, first-time buyers, and availability of financing options acting as growth drivers, as per the OLA Autos-CRISIL Study 2021.

"The pre-owned market has been outpacing the new car market, and the industry is expected to clock a healthy growth rate of 15 per cent in FY22," OLA Autos said in a statement.

"The prospects continue to be bright on the longer horizon, with a 12-14 per cent CAGR expected over the next few years, taking the size of the market to more than 7 million vehicles by FY26, from 3.8 million units in FY21," it added.

The study found that with many people preferring socially-distanced personal mobility,

during and because of the pandemic, the pre-owned car market is expected to continue to be a sunrise sector.

Commenting on the findings, OLA Autos India CEO Amit Kumar said, "The preference for personal mobility has propelled a huge swing in favour of used-car sales that are expected to reach a phenomenal '1.5x' more than that of new car sales over the next five years."

He further said, "The digital switch has been highly transformative, bringing in its wake increased transparency, trust and a huge choice of new generation vehicles to the consumer. The unique customer insights from the study will introduce further innovation in the sector."

According to the study, the pandemic has had an impact on the market and consumer behaviour, bringing back the interest for owning personal vehicles and "this trend is unlikely to abate in the near term."

Earlier, with the emergence of shared mobility players like OLA and Uber, many customers had deferred purchasing personal vehicles, especially in metro cities, it added.

## India's Gold Demand Bouncing Back To Pre-COVID Levels: WGC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MUMBAI:** India's gold demand has seen a 47 per cent year-on-year jump in the July-September quarter to 139.1 tonnes, following strong rebound in economic activity and recovering consumer demand, the World Gold Council said in a report.

According to the World Gold Council (WGC), gold demand in India is bouncing back to pre-COVID levels and going forward the outlook looks bullish.

The country's overall demand stood at 94.6 tonnes during the September quarter of 2020, the WGC's Q3 Gold Demand Trends 2021 report said, adding that in terms of value, India's third quarter gold demand went up by 37 per cent to Rs 59,330 crore, compared to Rs 43,160 crore a year ago.

"This reflects a combination of low base effect and return of positive trade and consumer sentiments. This is primarily driven by what appears to be a firm grip on the pandemic with higher vaccination rates and falling infection rates, leading to a strong rebound in economic activity," WGC Regional CEO, India, Somasundaram PR told PTI.

Going forward, imports might not be very significant in the fourth quarter as little bit of stocking up for the festive season has already taken place during the third quarter of 2021, he stated.

"Looking ahead with restric-



tions being gradually lifted across the country, retail demand is bouncing back to pre-COVID levels. With the upcoming festive and wedding season, there is all the more enthusiasm towards gold demand, and we anticipate it to be the busiest gold-buying season since the start of COVID," said Somasundaram.

He further said that demand for digital gold has also increased manifold, innovative tech initiatives, tie-ups with digital gold and UPI platforms by leading jewellers has brought about a substantial increase in volume of buyers and investors preferring online purchases.

"In the months ahead, soaring commodity prices and logistical costs are expected to impose further pressures and the RBI has already adjusted its inflation expectations higher. Rising inflation tends to drive gold demand.

As per the report, total jewellery demand in India for the quarter under review increased by 58 per cent to 96.2 tonnes, compared to 60.8 tonnes during the July-September quarter of 2020.

### SHORT TAKES

#### 'Inform Farmers About The Post Harvest Management Of Crops'

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** To assess the on ground scenario of saffron and other crops in the hailstorm affected areas of Pulwama, the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Thursday visited Patalbagh, Samboora, Chandhara and Lethpora areas of the district.

During the visit, the Director held interaction with the farmers of different areas. He said the Department is committed to take all the necessary steps to minimize the post hailstorm impact to different crops.

He asked the concerned officers and field staff of the Department to work in close coordination with the farming community and guide them with respect to different situation warranted interventions. He asked the concerned field officers to inform the farmers about the post harvest management of different crops. He ensured the farmers that the department is with them in all the circumstances.

#### Water Tycoon Is China's Richest As Wealth Crackdown Batters Jack Ma

**SHANGHAI:** Bottled-water tycoon Zhong Shanshan has become China's wealthiest person, according to an annual ranking released on Wednesday, as a government campaign to rein in the super-rich took a big bite out of the fortunes of perennial front-runners like Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma.

Zhong, in his late 60s, has seen his fortune swell following the stock listings last year of his Nongfu Spring mineral water and separate pharma company Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise, which has tapped into massive demand for Covid-19 test kits.

He is worth \$60.5 billion, according to the Hurun Rich List, up seven percent.

Ranked third last year, Zhong was propelled to the top spot as the Communist Party government's drive to redistribute wealth in the name of equality sliced billions from the fortunes of other tycoons. Ma, last year's richest, dropped to fifth as his fortune shrank 36 percent to \$39.6 billion. (Agencies)

#### Tata Motors Unveils 21 New Commercial Vehicles Across All Segments

**NEW DELHI:** Tata Motors on Thursday unveiled 21 new commercial vehicles, including trucks and buses, to cater to evolving needs of cargo and people transport across segments.

The company has unveiled seven products in the medium and heavy commercial vehicles (M&HCV) segment and five products in the intermediate and light commercial segment (4-18 tonne GVW) with CNG powertrains.

Besides, the auto major has unveiled four new LCVs (Light Commercial Vehicles) to improve last-mile delivery efficiency and reduce operational cost. It includes Ace with a petrol engine and Winger Cargo for the growing needs of e-commerce distribution.

Tata motors also unveiled five passenger commercial vehicles including buses for intra-city transportation requirements.

"The engines of infrastructure development, consumer consumption and e-commerce powering the Indian economy require continued transportation support to run seamlessly. (PTI)

#### 4-Day Umeed Women's Haat Concludes With Good Business

**SRINAGAR:** The first of its kind, "Umeed Women's Haat", organized by Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), concludes here today. The Women's Haat was earlier e-inaugurated by Union Home Minister, Amit Shah on October-25.

"Umeed Women's Haat is a first of its initiative by Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) giving opportunity to more than 4.5 lakh SHG members to showcase and sale their products at an ease" MD, JKRLM, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar.

Speaking further the MD said that the aim of the women's Haat is to ensure market facilities for rural entrepreneurs and provide opportunity to them to sell their products through Business to Business (B2B) and Business to consumers (B2C) mode.

Dr Sehrish added that Jammu & Kashmir has long been the producer of many traditional arts & crafts that are highly admired and valued world over.

#### Wipro's Azim Premji Donated Rs 27 Crore Per Day In FY21

**MUMBAI:** Software exporter Wipro's Azim Premji donated Rs 9,713 crore or Rs 27 crore a day to retain his top rank among Indian philanthropists in FY21.

Premji, the founder chairman of the company, increased his donation by nearly a fourth during the pandemic year, as per the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021, which had HCL's Shiv Nadar at second place with contributions of Rs 1,263 crore towards upliftment causes.

Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries, India's richest man by a distance, came third on the list with a Rs 577 crore contribution and was succeeded by Kumar Mangalam Birla with Rs 377 crore.

The second richest Indian Gautam Adani is eighth on the givers' list with a donation of Rs 130 crore towards disaster relief.

Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani's ranking improved to fifth with a Rs 183 crore donation with "societal thinking" being identified as the primary cause. (PTI)



## J-K Admin Approves Renaming Public Infrastructure After Martyrs, Eminent Persons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday approved the renaming of public infrastructure after martyrs and eminent persons as part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.

The 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an initiative of the Union government to mark 75 years of India's Independence.

"The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the naming of schools, roads and buildings after martyrs and eminent persons under the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations," a spokesperson said.

He said Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, advisors to the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, and Nitishwar Kumar, the principal secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

"As a mark of respect and acknowledgement of the exceptional contributions towards the security and development of the Union territory, the identified infrastructure will be renamed after the martyrs and living legends from Jammu and Kashmir," the spokesperson said.

## FARMERS' PROTEST

# Delhi Police Starts Removing Barricades At Tikri Border Point

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Police on Thursday night started removing roadblocks placed at the Tikri border point where farmers have been protesting against the Centre's three farm laws, with sources indicating that one carriageway of the road will open in the coming days.

The move comes days after a Supreme Court hearing that saw farmer unions arguing that the police were responsible for the blockade at the Delhi borders.

The police had put multiple layers of barricades on the roads, complete with giant nails and huge concrete blocks as thousands of farmers had tried to cross Delhi borders in November last year.

Four out of the eight layers of barricades at the Tikri border have been removed. However, the cement barricades are still there and the road remains closed for commuters, an officer said.

In videos doing the rounds on social media, JCB machines were seen removing blockades at the Tikri border.

Sources in the Delhi Police said that such exercise is likely to be launched at Singhu and Ghazipur border points in the coming days.

Thousands of farmers have been camping at the three



borders points --- Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur --- protesting the Centre's three farm laws since November 26, 2020.

About the removal of blockades at the Tikri Border on Thursday night, a senior police officer said some layers of barricades that were placed by the police have been removed.

"The arrangement at the Tikri border in terms of infrastructure has been reduced. Seven to eight layers of different types of barricades were placed earlier and we have removed some of them," the officer said.

This is done as a move to open the road for traffic soon, he said. "At present, there is no

traffic flow as the roads are closed. Barricades will be completely removed soon to slowly ease the flow of traffic," the officer added.

The Supreme Court on October 21 had said farmers protesting at Delhi borders against the three farms laws have the right to agitate but they cannot block roads indefinitely even as the farmer unions and the government got embroiled in a blame game.

While the farmers' unions alleged that the police were responsible for the blockade as it suits them to allow a feeling among citizens that farmers are blocking the road, the Centre said there was an

oblique purpose behind the protests.

After the court hearing, the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU), whose supporters and office-bearers led by Rakesh Tikait are camping at Ghazipur on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border since November 2020, had said the barriers at the protest site have been put by the Delhi police and not farmers.

Tikait, the national spokesperson of the BKU, said protesters at Ghazipur have cleared the path on a service lane leading to the national capital but Delhi Police's barricades were still present there.

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## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 11 Killed As

downhill on the banks of the Chenab river, the officials said, adding that the incident occurred early in the morning.

Police, Army and SDRF personnel, assisted by locals, launched the rescue operation. The injured people were rushed to the GMC hospital in Doda, where doctors declared nine of them "brought dead".

Superintendent Associate of the hospital Dr Yudhvir Singh said of the 25 people brought to the hospital, nine were declared dead and two succumbed to the injuries subsequently.

Seven of the nine who were brought dead were identified as Ghulam Hussain Shah (60), his son Shabbir Ahmed (30), Rihit Sharma (19), Jammal din (23), Mohammad Latief (65), Annari Devi (55) and Bahadur Singh (65), the hospital authorities said, adding that Santosh Kumar (22) and Rajesh Kumar (24) died at the hospital.

Two bodies are yet to be identified, they said. Six of the injured people were airlifted to the GMC hospital in Jammu for specialised treatment as their condition was critical, the authorities said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed deep anguish over the tragic road accident in Doda. He also visited government medical college hospital (GMC) Jammu to enquire about the condition of those injured in the accident, officials said.

Sinha directed the health administration to provide best treatment to them for early recovery, they said.

"My thoughts and prayers for the families who have lost their loved ones. Have directed the District administration to provide immediate relief to families of deceased and best medical assistance to the injured," he said in a tweet.

The LG said the Jammu and Kashmir administration will ensure the treatment of those injured in the tragic road accident.

"Rs 2 lakh to be given to next of kin of deceased from LG's discretionary fund & Rs 1 lakh from road victim fund as immediate relief. I am monitoring situation & every possible assistance to grieving families will be extended," he said in another tweet.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh also condoled the loss of lives in the accident.

### PM, Amit Shah

He also announced Rs 50,000 each for the injured.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday spoke to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha after a road accident in Doda district left nine people dead.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha after a road accident in Doda.

"Saddened by the road accident in J&K's Doda. I express my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the accident. I have spoken to Lt Governor @manojsinha\_ji. The administration is providing all possible help and treatment to the injured. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," Shah tweeted in Hindi.

### Militant Shot

arms and ammunition including 1 pistol, 1 loaded magazine and 1 Pak branded grenade was recovered from the killed militant's possession.

"On the basis of preliminary investigation, IGP Kashmir said that the killed terrorist was hybrid type and was on mission to target one shopkeeper in Baramulla," he said.

Police has registered a case in this regard and

further investigation is going on.

### Arrested Kashmiri

Videos from outside the court show a group of men heckling the students and shouting slogans while the police try to escort them to a police vehicle and take them away. The group can be heard shouting "Pakistan Murdabad" (Down with Pakistan) and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" (Long live India).

Earlier, the UP police booked the trio for sedition, while the court in Agra remanded them in 14-day judicial custody.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath earlier in the day had said the sedition law will be invoked against those celebrating Pakistan's victory against India in the recent T20 World Cup match.

"The three students were arrested on Wednesday after an FIR was lodged against them at the Jagdishpura police station. They were accused of raising pro-Pakistan slogans in the wake of an India-Pakistan T20 cricket match and posting celebratory messages on social media after Pakistan's victory," a police official said.

On Thursday, they were produced in a magistrate's court in Agra, which remanded them in 14-day judicial custody, the official said.

"The FIR was initially registered under IPC Sections 153A (promoting enmity between groups) and 505 (creating or publishing content to promote enmity). Section 124A (sedition) of the IPC was included on Thursday in the case," the police official said.

The trio studies in Raja Balwant Singh Management Technical Campus in Agra.

On Wednesday, various organisations, including right-wing outfits, protested at the Collectorate premises here and demanded action against the students.

They also submitted a memorandum to officials concerned in this connection.

According to faculty members of the college, members of right-wing outfits barged into the college campus on Tuesday and staged a protest against the college and its students.

Dr Pankaj Gupta, the institute's director of administration and finance, said they forcefully entered the campus at around 3.45 pm on Tuesday when classes were being held and they also tried to gain access to the students' hostels.

"Their act was inappropriate and unacceptable. They did not even try to contact the college management and when they were stopped from entering the hostel premises, they began raising slogans against the college," Gupta said.

"The college has suspended the three students. But they still raised objectionable slogans to defame the college," he said.

In protest to the incidents inside the college, its management said it has decided to indefinitely shut all its educational institutions and demanded action against the groups responsible. (With inputs from PTI)

### Now Technician

operation theatre technician in the Government Medical College and Allied Hospital in Rajouri.

"Whereas a viral video has come to the notice of undersigned from different media platforms and also from DySP HQ, Rajouri who sent the same via WhatsApp in which Miss Safiya Majeed OT Technician, engaged and working as OT Technician in GMC & AH Rajouri seems to have posted her whatsapp status showing celebration of defeat of Indian Cricket Team against Pakistan in T-20 World Cup 2021, the activity which seems to be disloyalty towards nation," reads an order issued by the Principal, GMC Rajouri, Brij Mohan.

"Whereas no employee of this institution

shall be allowed to be disloyal to the nation," the order further read. "Therefore keeping in view above facts and circumstances, it is hereby ordered that the services of Miss Safiya Majeed OT Technician engaged on Academic Arrangement Basis under SRO-24 (now read as S.O 364 dated 27-11-2020) stands terminated with immediate effect."

The termination comes days after police booked medical students in Kashmir under anti-terrorism laws, students in two Punjab colleges were faced with mob violence, and three students in Uttar Pradesh's Agra were suspended from college and arrested by the police

### Mehbooba Seeks

T20 World Cup cricket match.

The students of Raja Balwant Singh Management Technical Campus in Uttar Pradesh's Agra were arrested on Wednesday evening following an FIR lodged against them at the Jagdishpura police station, a police official had said

"Crackdown on Kashmiri students both within J&K & outside is reprehensible. Situation in J&K after two years of suppression should've been an eye opener for GOI & lead to course correction. BJP's pseudo patriotism disregards the idea of India. Release these students immediately," the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president tweeted.

The former chief minister also tagged a media report quoting Agra college authorities, which claimed that there were no anti-national slogans raised on the campus.

The report also claimed that the college authorities had complained against BJP workers for allegedly "putting pressure on them". (PTI)

### Not An Inch

reforms for the welfare of the people of J&K," Sinha said.

"Today, Jammu and Kashmir is at the fifth place in terms of farm income across the country. The multifold increase in the income of the farmers of the UT is the result of the government's commitment to work for the betterment of the farming community," he added.

Shortly after the culmination of the function, Manoj Sinha in response to a question said that the government has already declared the recent damages caused to apple orchards due to snowfall as natural calamity and those who have suffered will be compensated.

He said several 'anti farmer' laws in Jammu and Kashmir have been changed to boost the horticulture activities.

### Sharp Dip In

against minus 1.1°C on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 2.3°C against 2.4°C on the previous night, the official said. It had rainfall of 1.4mm last night, the official said.

Kupwara town of north Kashmir recorded a low 1.0°C against 2.4°C on the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg ski resort in north Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 0.6°C against previous night's minus 1.4°C, the official said. It had 0.4mm of rainfall overnight, the official added.

The temperatures have fallen considerably after record rainfall and snowfall in some plains and upper reaches.

The MeT office has forecast mainly dry weather over Jammu and Kashmir till November 2.

### J&K Logs 98 Covid

case was reported in twin districts of Shopian and Pulwama in south Kashmir.

Similarly, the officials said, Jammu reported 3 cases, Doda 2 and Rajouri and Reasi districts

one new case each of coronavirus. Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch and Ramban districts reported no fresh cases.

Also, officials said that one more person succumbed to virus in Kashmir Valley on Thursday taking the fatality count in J&K to 4432-2176 in Jammu and 2256 in Kashmir.

"Moreover, 72 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 15 from Jammu Division and 57 from Kashmir Division," the official spokesperson said.

### Govt Okays 524

appointed under the PM's Development Package," the official spokesperson said.

### SKIMS Asks

creating a fear-psychosis among the non-locals.

The targeted killings, as police had claimed, had also augmented an exodus like situation among the non-locals including thousands of migrant labourers who started leaving the Valley in fear of getting killed.

SKIMS spokesperson, Kulsum Nizam told Kashmir Observer that as a precautionary measure in the aftermath of the recent incidents, the hospital administration has decided to allocate a temporary accommodation to non-local staffers inside the campus.

"Some of our non-local staffers had approached the hospital administration asking for temporary and safe accommodation inside the campus," Kulsum said, adding "So, after a proper meeting of the hospital administration, we have decided to provide them the same".

She further added, "If some of them choose to stay outside, then their stay will be completely at their own risk."

The SKIMS spokesperson further said that the institute has made arrangements after the J&K administration issued an advisory for the hospital asking it to shift non-local staffers inside the campus.

"If they have any query with the accommodation, they will need to contact the estates department who have arranged for their accommodation," she said.

"There are about 80 non-local students and resident doctors in SKIMS, who're currently staying outside the campus and the administration has made arrangements for all of them," she added.

### 4 JKAS Officers

Mohammad Qasim Wani, JKAS, Regional Director, Survey and Land Records, Srinagar.

Sources said Wani as District Programme Officer, ICDS, Kupwara had procured sub-standard material on highly exorbitant rates for ICDS project. An FIR under prevention of corruption act was filed against Wani. Sanction for prosecution was accorded by the government in 2020 and a charge sheet has been filed against him by ACB before the trial court.

"Wani had purchased huge properties in the name of his wife. He has made a fortune misusing official positions, clearly indicating his doubtful integrity," sources said.

Noor Alam, Deputy Secretary, ARI & Training Department has also been dismissed after scrutiny of corruption cases of the tainted employee. During his posting in different departments, Alam amassed huge wealth, misusing his official position.

ACB had registered a case against Alam in 2019 to investigate his illegal assets and subsequently attached four of his properties- A house in Jammu, A plot measuring 10 marlas in Jammu, A plot of land measuring 3 kanals in Jammu and another plot measuring 10 marlas in Jammu.

"Apart from these assets, he has raised

various other properties in the name of his wife and other family members and also owns several vehicles including commercial vehicles."

An employee, Mohammad Mujibur Rehman Ghassi, JKAS, who has been dismissed is currently under suspension. Ghassi during his tenure in the Cooperative Department had allegedly facilitated a loan amount of Rs. 223 Crore in favor of a non-existent Cooperative Society, these sources said.

Sources said the government has also expedited the identification of officials facing corruption charges and wrongdoings.

### In Kashmir, Afghan

told that I am here to capture Kashmir. This is an insult to me and my tribe."

Apart from civilians, Khan claims that he's facing discrimination from cops as well.

"If the Indian Government knows that you're in Kashmir, they'll die of fear," the Kabul native recalled the words of a cop.

"What's this behavior? Isn't this wrong?" he asked. "Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and MK Gandhi were close friends but today, the Indian Government is playing politics with Afghan refugees."

On August 15, when Taliban overtook Kabul in a bloodless coup, Khan like other Afghan refugees became fearful of the full-scale offensive in his country.

But while the transition of power went smooth in Kabul, Khan is compelled to fight his case in Kashmir.

"I don't ask the government to provide any free help," the Afghan man said.

"I'm a Pathan, I've an honour. I'll work as a labourer. I want to educate my children but the government isn't ready to accept that."

Despite repeated assurances from New Delhi, he said, the rehabilitation process for Afghan refugees is still not seeing the light of the day.

"If the government fails to provide us with the legal rights, then I'll go back to my war-torn country," Khan said with a sense of anguish.

"I'm a former Afghan army personnel, I'll stand face to face with the Taliban. In the end, they're my own people but I will never accept being treated as a slave in India."

### British Army Chief

#ChinarCorps and local commanders," the Army said on its official Twitter handle.

There were no details provided about the visit of the British Army Chief to Kashmir.

General Carleton-Smith is on a four-day visit to India. On Tuesday, he held talks with Army Chief General M M Naravane in Delhi with a focus on enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two armies.

### New School

be from 10 am to 3 pm.

The schools outside the municipal limits of Srinagar and other areas of Kashmir province will remain function from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm.

### Soldier Slips From

Kashmir district, they said. The

The injured soldier, they said, was evacuated to a hospital where from he was referred to 92 Base Hospital in Srinagar by special QRR for preferential treatment. (GNS)

### Non-Local Found

informed the police about it.

An official said that a Rs 100 note was recovered from the pocket of deceased, who is believed to have died of severe cold. "The body has been recovered from the spot and further details and medico-legal formalities are on," he added. (KDC)



## Saqlain Mushtaq Wants India-Pakistan T20 WC Final



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** Pakistan coach Saqlain Mushtaq on Thursday said it would be a "great thing" if his team gets to square off against India in the T20 World Cup final and lauded the two sides for sending a message of friendship during their earlier clash in the ongoing tournament.

Pakistan defeated India by 10 wickets in the match on Sunday and, according to Saqlain, the sporting conduct of players on both the sides sent a strong message of humanity.

Asked if he would want another game with the traditional rivals in the final of the marquee tournament, Saqlain said, "If India makes the final, it would be a great thing because I feel, and this is not because we have beaten them, they are a strong team, everyone considers them a favourite."

"Do match khelenge to relation aur acche ho jaenge (playing one more match would only better our relations)."

"In the previous game, the way Virat Kohli, (MS) Dhoni and even our own players conduct-

ed themselves, it sent a strong message that we are all humans, we all love each other, it is just a game," he said.

"Hats off to the players for sending the message. Dosti ki jeet ho, dushmani ki haar ho (friendship should triumph, enmity should lose)," he said.

The question was thrown at him during a press conference ahead of the match against Afghanistan here on Friday.

Saqlain said he also considers England, Australia and South Africa as strong contenders.

"Jab aap aate hain to become a world champion, then you don't look at opponents, you focus on your own game. England is a favourite, Australia plays tough cricket. South Africa also. I believe, commitment, attitude and process are in your hands, not the results."

"You should be able to execute the plans, no matter who you are playing. If India makes finals, the ICC will be happy, fans will be happy," he said.

India are due to take on New Zealand in their second Super 12 match on Sunday.



## Premier Division: 2 Matches Played See Goals Galore

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Two matches of the ongoing JKFA Khyber Premier Division League 2021 witnessed a total of 10 goals scored on Thursday at Synthetic Turf, TRC here.

In the first match, JKPCD XI defeated SCFA XI 4-1, while in the second match of the day Kashmir Avengers FC routed Food & Supplies (F&S) XI 5-0.

SCFA took the lead against PDC XI in the 26th minute through Parvez, which they maintained till the end of first half. The sec-

ond half of the match witnessed a goal fest as PDC came out of the blocks flying. Hyder Yousuf scored the leveller in the 46th minute, and gave his team a 2-1 lead in the 49th.

Mehran made it 3-0 for the JKSPDC in 50th minute, while Hyder scored his hat trick and team's fourth goal in 67th minute. The young SCFA side tried its best to score, but the defensive lines of PDC XI thwarted all their attempts. At the end of the match, the score line read 4-1 in favour of the PDC XI.

In the second match of

the day, Kashmir Avengers slammed 5 goals past the Departmental team of F&S XI. Moses, Aanis, Farhan Pathan, Shariq and Ishfaq Ahmad scored one goal each for the winning team.

The Avengers made the F&S team look helpless. The F&S forwards were seemed off colour and hardly made any pressure on the opposite goal post. The 5-0 margin in favour of Kashmir Avengers FC team was a fair result considering the quality of the football displayed by them.

## JK Football Association Announce Santosh Trophy Trials

Clubs imitated about selected players

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Football Association on Thursday announced that it will conduct selection trials for the National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy 2021 to be held at Chandigarh from November 21 to 29, 2021.

"The selection trials will be held on October 30, 31 and November 1, 2021 at Gindun Ground Rajbagh, here from 10:00 AM onwards. The players who have been selected by the Spotters/Selectors of the Association during the Premier UT League, Professional League, Positive Kashmir KO Football Tournament, and Khyber Premier League 2021 held at Srinagar, are informed to present themselves for the trials on the given date and time," the JKFA said in a press release. "The

names of the selected players for the trials have been sent to managers of the respective clubs for the information of the players," the Association statement added.

"JKFA has also said that certain conditions have to be fulfilled by the participating players."

**This include:**

"1) The players who are fully vaccinated (Two Doses) should bring Vaccination Certificate. Only those with the certificate will be allowed to attend the trials as per the guidelines issued by AIFF."

"2) Those players who fall under-21 age group should bring with them the Original DOB Certificate issued by the Competent authority. Players who are born on or after Jan 1, 2002, and have completed 18 years of age will be allowed in U-21 age group.

## J&K Bank Physio Selected For U-16 Nationals

**Dr. Shahnawaz Gazi,** physiotherapist of J&K Bank football team has been selected as the physio of Indian U-16 National Men's Football team, presently based at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The JKFA congratulated Dr. Gazi and said in a press release, "It is a matter of honour and great pleasure for the fraternity of footballers and J&K Football Association that Mr. Gazi has been selected for the Indian U-16 National Men's Football Team. The Association wishes him very best for his future endeavours and is hopeful that he will come up to the expectations of AIFF for the job assigned to him."



## I Am Not Racist: De Kock Says Fine With Taking Knee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SHARJAH:** South African star Quinton de Kock on Thursday made himself available for his team's remaining matches of the T20 World Cup, saying he is fine taking a knee if it "educates others" and that he was deeply hurt at being called a racist for refusing to make the gesture earlier.

The wicketkeeper-batter pulled out of South Africa's Group 1 Super 12 stage match against the West Indies in Dubai on Tuesday, his decision coming after the Cricket South Africa ordered players to take the knee before every game. The stunning move had led to widespread speculation about his playing future.

"I am deeply sorry for all the hurt, confusion and anger that I have caused. I was quiet on this very important issue until now. But I feel I have to explain myself a little bit," he said in a statement posted by CSA. "There always seems to be a drama when we go to World Cups. That isn't fair. I just want to thank my teammates



for their support, especially my captain, Temba (Bavuma)."

In his long statement, de Kock asserted that Black lives mattered to him due to his family background and not because of an international campaign.

"If me taking a knee helps to educate others, and makes the lives of others better. I am more than happy to do so," he asserted.

De Kock explained that he did not take a knee before Tuesday's match because of the manner in which the diktat was issued to the players.

"I won't lie. I was shocked that we were told on the way to an important match that there was an instruction that we had to follow, with a perceived 'or else.' I don't think I was the only one," he said.

## Barcelona Sack Koeman, Name Barjuan As Interim Coach

AGENCIES

**MADRID:** Barcelona have named their 'B' side coach Sergi Barjuan as interim manager following the departure of Ronald Koeman, the LaLiga club said in a statement on Thursday.

Dutchman Koeman was sacked after Barca's 1-0 loss to Rayo Vallecano on Wednesday, their fourth defeat in six games in all competitions.

"(Barjuan) shall be taking provisional charge of the technical management of the senior squad. His interim position as first team head coach shall end as soon as the club has hired full-time head coach to replace the dismissed Ronald Koeman," the club said in a statement.

Former midfielder Xavi, who enjoyed a trophy-laden 17-year career at the club and is currently head coach of Qatari side Al Sadd, is widely tipped to take over on a permanent basis.

Barcelona said president Joan Laporta would officially introduce Barjuan to the first team squad later on Thursday at the club's Ciutat Esportiva



training ground.

Barjuan will be presented to the media on Friday before concentrating on the task of preparing the side for the LaLiga clash with Alaves in which the Catalan club will be seeking to avoid a third successive league defeat.

They are ninth in the standings with 15 points from 10 games while in the Champions League they face a crucial match away to Dynamo Kiev on November 2 when defeat would leave them in serious danger of failing to reach the knockout phase.

While Barjuan has been entrusted with steadying the

ship, it looks increasingly likely that Barcelona have earmarked former Spain international Xavi as Koeman's replacement.

He was a key player in a golden era for the club before leaving in 2015 to play for Al Sadd, then taking over as head coach in 2019 after hanging up his boots.

In April, the 41-year-old led the team to the Qatari domestic league title while remaining unbeaten. He lifted his seventh trophy as Al Sadd boss just a few days ago as his team beat Al Rayyan 5-4 on penalties to win the Emir Cup.

Xavi is under contract with Al Sadd until 2023.

## Ganguly Quits ATKMB To Avoid 'Conflict Of Interest'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has stepped down from the Board of Directors of the Sanjiv Goenka-owned ISL club ATK-Mohun Bagan as it could have caused a conflict of interest situation after the business tycoon successfully bid for IPL's Lucknow franchise.

Ganguly has been a part of Atletico-Kolkata since the start of the Indian Super League in 2014. The club was rechristened ATK (Amar Kumar Kolkata) before it merged with legacy club Mohun Bagan. Goenka's RP-SG Group clinched the IPL Lucknow team for a whopping ₹7090 crore on Monday.

"Yes, Sourav Ganguly has already sent a letter to ATK-Mohun Bagan management and intimated them that he will no longer be able to have a seat among club's Board of Directors as RP-Sanjiv Goenka group are now owners of IPL team and it could be a case of Conflict of Interest," a senior IPL source told PTI on Thursday.

"Once the IPL bid was over, it was a formality and Ganguly has done the needful. Till RP-SG bid successfully, there was no case of Conflict of Interest as they were not a part of IPL," the source added.

Earlier, Goenka had told CNBC-TV18 that the former India captain



will step down from his Board of Director role.

"Well, I think he is going to step down from Mohun Bagan completely... I think today," Goenka told the business television network. "It is for Sourav to make the announcement. I mean, sorry. I think I preempted it."

The rule 38 (iv) with regards to direct or indirect Conflict of Interest states: "When the BCCI, a Member, the IPL or a Franchisee enter into contractual arrangements with entities in which the individual concerned or his/her relative, partner or close associate has an interest."

"This is to include cases where family members, partners or close associates are in position that may, or may be seen to compromise as individual's participation, performance and discharge of roles."

T20 WORLD CUP

## Can Afghanistan Batters Handle Pakistan Attack?



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** Their confidence sky-high after two consecutive victories, Pakistan's razor-sharp attack will test the prowess and maturity of Afghanistan's impressive batters when the two teams clash in a Super 12 Group 2 match in the T20 World Cup here on Friday.

The impressive wins over India and New Zealand has made Pakistan the team to watch out in this tournament but the unpredictability factor that has always surrounded this team is something what their Asian neighbours can benefit from.

The Babar Azam-led side will certainly go into this contest as favourites but Afghanistan is not a side that can be taken lightly now. A mix of powerful strikers and world-class spinners make them an exciting unit. Afghanistan batters dominated the Scotland bowlers with their power-hitting but now they have to contend with an attack which is one of the most dangerous in this event.

They will have to show maturity and treat the balls on merit. Going after the attack blindly is not an option against Pakistan.

If Hazratullah Zazai, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Najibullah Zadran can muscle the ball around, the world-class spinners in Rashid Khan and Mujeeb-Ur Rahman make Afghanistan a very balanced side.

Bowling first looks the best option for them since Rashid and Rahman have the ability to stop even the best in the world. The batters can then devise a strategy around the chase since they do not lack the killer instinct but are still inexperienced to handle big-stage pressure matches. The way pacers Shahin Afridi, Hasan Ali and Haris Rauf have troubled the batters thus far, it's highly unlikely that the Pakistan pace trio can be put under the pump by Afghans.

Add to that the experience of off-spinner Mohammed Hafeez and the guile of Imad Wasim and Shadab Khan, it's no mean task for Afghanistan to dictate this side.

So, putting pressure on Pakistan batters is the best chance for Afghanistan if they have to win this contest.

For Pakistan to do well, their top-order, manned by the skipper Azam himself and Mohammad Rizwan, who has been in good touch, needs to perform. Fakhar Zaman and Mohammad Hafeez would be required to do the job, should the openers fail.

A hat-trick of wins will enhance Pakistan's chances to make the knockout stage from this group since they'll just be left to deal with a struggling Scotland and debutants Namibia. The win against Scotland served as tonic for Afghanistan and it remains to be seen how they perform when they clash with formidable sides.

## Windies Vs Bangladesh Must-Win Situation For Both

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SHARJAH:** Their campaigns thrown haywire by back-to-back losses, defending champions West Indies and Bangladesh would be locked in a do-or-die battle when they square off in a crucial group 1 Super 12 match of the T20 World Cup here on Friday.

While the West Indies lost to England and South Africa, Bangladesh were defeated by Eoin Morgan and Co. after going down to Sri Lanka. Both teams need a win to keep their semi-final hopes alive.

The West Indies desperately need to sort out their batting woes. In their campaign opener against England, they were bowled out for 55 and all their batters were guilty of throwing away their wickets going for big shots instead of rotating the strike and building the innings.

In the second game, the two-time champions, West Indies lost

eight wickets for 64 runs between the 11th and 20th over to put up a below-par target.

The West Indian bowlers have also looked ordinary with not enough runs to defend. Only left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein has been impressive.

Additionally, the UAE conditions do not suit West Indies' "big-hitting" style of play.

They are yet to register a win in seven outings, including the two warm-up games played ahead of the tournament.

On the other hand, Bangladesh are familiar with the sluggish sub-continent tracks and yet they have failed to exploit it.

A lot was expected from Bangladesh, having come into the tournament as the sixth-ranked team which had beaten the likes of New Zealand and Australia. But the Mahmudullah-led side has been inconsistent throughout the tournament.



AGENCIES

The temporary move to give teams the option of making five substitutions per game instead of three should take effect on a permanent basis, soccer's lawmakers recommended Wednesday.

The measure was introduced in May 2020 so teams could cope better with the congested schedule when soccer resumed following a suspension due to the coronavirus. In May, it was extended for a further 18 months, until the end of 2022, when the World Cup in Qatar will be completed.

The International Football Association Board's advisory panel said there had been "a number of requests from confederations, associations, leagues and other key stakeholders for this option to be introduced permanently."

Competitions can decide if they want to increase the number of substitutes from three to five "according to the needs of their football environment," an IFAB statement read following a virtual meeting chaired by FIFA.

The Premier League was one of the few leagues to decide against using five substitutions for the 2020-21 campaign, reverting instead back to three. That remains the case for the current season after clubs voted on the issue.

IFAB also recommended that the current number of opportunities to make a substitute — three, as well as at halftime — should stay the same.



## Supreme Court Permits NTA To Declare Results of NEET 2021



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday permitted the National Testing Agency to declare the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) results for admission to undergraduate medical courses across the country.

A bench comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao, Sanjiv Khanna and B. R. Gavai stayed the Bombay High Court's recent order asking the NTA not to declare the NEET results and conduct re-examination for two aspirants whose question papers and OMR sheets had got mixed up at a centre in Maharashtra.

We stay the high court judgement. The National Testing Agency can announce the results, the bench said after taking note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who represented the NTA.

We will decide what happens to the two students upon re-opening (after Diwali vacation). In the meanwhile, we issue

notice and file a counter. But we cannot hold the results of 16 lakh students, the bench said.

In an unprecedented order, the Bombay High Court on October 20 directed the NTA, set up in 2018 for conducting NEET for admission to undergraduate medical courses, to hold a fresh exam for the two students and declare their results along with the main results of the test conducted on September 12.

The high court had taken note of the fact that the test booklet and OMR sheet of two medical aspirants -- Vaishnavi Bhopali and Abhishek Shivaji got mixed up at the examination centre before the start of the test and ordered that they be given fresh opportunity to appear.

The NEET Entrance Exam was conducted on September 12, for "16,14,777 candidates, involving 3,682 centres in 202 cities, 9,548 Centre Superintendents/Deputy Superintendents, 5,615 Observers, 2,69,378 Invigilators and 220 City Co-ordinators," the NTA said in the plea.

## How An Astronaut Saw This Year's Climate Disasters From Outer Space



Agenceis

**PARIS:** From his perch 400 kilometres above Earth, French astronaut Thomas Pesquet has had a unique perspective on the climate-fuelled natural disasters that have swept the planet over the past six months.

Pesquet recently finished up his second mission at the International Space Station, an experience that made him appreciate Earth's fragility like never before.

He spoke to AFP ahead of the UN climate summit kicking off on October 31, sharing his hopes and fears for the planet.

**What images strike you the most?**

The massive storms, and the forest fires. I have never seen anything like it, incredibly huge fires with plumes of smoke visible from space for days and days.

It was striking to think about the energy it gave off and the damage it caused for people unfortunate enough to be in its path.

We had never seen so many extremely impressive tropical storms -- you could practically see into the eye of the cyclone. They're walls of clouds with phenomenal power, coming more and more often and causing more and more destruction.

**Does the Earth seem fragile?**

Yes, absolutely. Seeing the planet from the window of your space craft makes you think. You only have to see it once; you can spend two days in space and just getting that distance, seeing

the fragility of the atmosphere, that thin bubble that makes life possible in the vacuum of space, that incredible oasis -- it changes your life.

When you see changes over the long term -- sometimes you need more than five years to see it -- you can't help but feel concerned.

That's why I became an ambassador for the (UN's) Food and Agriculture Organization, and an advocate for many environmental causes.

**What worries you the most?**

The idea that we might not succeed in reaching an agreement at an international level, and that economic concerns dominate over environmental ones.

It's a completely short-sighted approach. Over the long-term, profits are directly threatened by climate change. When you see the Great Barrier Reef not included on the list of endangered sites because of Australian government pressure, you think the priorities are wrong and we're in trouble.

The first thing to do is listen to the experts who have dedicated their lives to providing solutions on a local, regional, national and global level. We have to try to put solutions in place.

The most urgent task at hand is to decarbonise. You have to prioritise renewables and carbon-free energy. And that takes restrictive measures and international commitments for which countries can be held accountable. That's what COP26 is all about.

## CRUISE DRUGS CASE

# 25 Days After Arrest, Aryan Khan, 2 Co-Accused Granted Bail By HC



Agenceis

**MUMBAI:** Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, was on Thursday granted bail by the Bombay High Court, 25 days after his arrest by the NCB in the case of seizure of banned drugs aboard a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast earlier this month, a drugs bust that triggered a series of controversies and put the central agency and its officials under the spotlight.

However, Aryan Khan is not likely to walk out of the Arthur Road jail, where he is currently lodged under judicial custody, immediately as the court is yet to give its operative order on the conditions imposed while granting bail.

A single bench of Justice N W Sambre also granted bail to his co-accused Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha.

"All three applications are allowed. I will pass detailed orders by tomorrow evening," Justice Sambre said even as Aryan Khan's counsel Mukul Rohatgi was putting forth his arguments.

Aryan Khan's advocates then sought permission to submit cash bail to which the court refused and said surety is to be given. Hearing on their bail applications started on Tuesday.

"I could have given the order tomorrow also. But I gave it today," Justice Sambre said.

The legal team of the 23-year-old Aryan Khan will now try to complete the formalities for his release by Friday or Saturday.

Justice Sambre said he would pass a detailed order assigning reasons later. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh, appearing for the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), commenced his arguments at 2.58 pm and completed the

same a little after 4.10 pm.

After the NCB, Rohatgi, a former Attorney General, started his rejoinder arguments which went on for about 15 minutes.

His arguments were cut short abruptly by Justice Sambre, who tossed the case related papers towards his staff and said, "All three applications are allowed."

This led to a scramble in the courtroom among media persons and lawyers to exit the room.

While hearing the NCB's arguments, Justice Sambre sought to know on what basis the anti-drug agency was saying that Aryan Khan had dealt with commercial quantity of drugs.

To this, Singh said Aryan Khan had made an attempt to deal with commercial quantity.

"WhatsApp chats show this. The NCB has also obtained a certificate under section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act to authenticate that the electronic evidence has been collected from the accused's phone," he said.

Singh argued that the NCB had got "secret information" that around 11 persons were going to consume drugs on the cruise, which was raided by the central agency on October 2.

"At the time of raid, out of the 11 persons, eight were apprehended and most of them were found with drugs. This cannot be a coincidence. This is why the NCB is saying it is a conspiracy," Singh said.

The court then asked if the NCB's case is that of cumulative effect.

Singh agreed and said, "Aryan Khan and Merchant are connected with drug peddlers and hence cumulative effect attracts section 28 and 29 of the NDPS Act."

Aryan Khan, his friend Arbaaz Merchant and Dhamecha, a

fashion model, were arrested by the NCB on October 3 and booked under relevant sections of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) for possession, consumption, sale/purchase of banned drugs, conspiracy and abetment.

The NCB opposed their bail pleas and argued that the case attracted conspiracy and abetment charges.

Aryan Khan's counsel Rohatgi, however, said conspiracy means there has to be a "meeting of minds". "Aryan does not know any of the other accused in the case except Arbaaz Merchant. There is absolutely no material to show conspiracy," Rohatgi argued.

So far, 20 persons have been arrested in the drugs case.

Singh argued that Aryan Khan and Merchant are habitual consumers of drugs.

"Our record shows that Aryan Khan has been procuring drugs in bulk and commercial quantities. These are hard drugs. He (Aryan) has been in contact with drug peddlers," the ASG argued.

"There is a chance of tampering with evidence or witnesses in the case. This is NCB's apprehension based on the affidavit filed by one independent witness in the case," Singh said.

He further opposed Aryan Khan's arguments that there was no drug recovery from him and said there was conscious possession as he was aware that Merchant was carrying charas which was meant to be for consumption during journey on the Goa-bound cruise ship.

Singh also said there was no need for the NCB to conduct a medical test on the accused to check for drugs as the agency's case is not that they had

## Crazy How People Have Problem With It Javed Akhtar On FabIndia's 'Jashn-e-Riwaaz' controversy

Agenceis

Veteran screenwriter Javed Akhtar on Thursday said he "fails to understand" how a section of people took offence over the name of clothing brand FabIndia's latest collection 'Jashn-e-Riwaaz' as the Urdu phrase simply meant "a celebration of tradition".

The brand was accused of "defacing" the Hindu festival of Diwali by naming its festive collection Jashn-e-Riwaaz (celebration of tradition). It eventually withdrew the promo after backlash from right-wing groups.

In a tweet, Akhtar wondered what the point of conflict was. "I failed to understand why some people have any problem with FabIndia's Jashn-e-Riwaaz. Which in English means nothing but 'a celebration of tradition.' How and why anybody can have problem with that. It is crazy (sic)" the 76-year-old writer wrote.

Earlier, actor Swara Bhasker had slammed the calls to boycott the brand by tweeting, "Jashn-E-Bewakoofi (celebration of stupidity)."

After the brand posted about the Jashn-e-Riwaaz collection on October 9 on Twitter, FabIndia was trolled on social media for what some said was "unnecessarily uplifting secularism and Muslim ideologies" in a Hindu festival, claiming it hurt their religious sentiments.

BJP Yuva Morcha President Tejasvi Surya was also among those who targeted the advertisement, calling it "Abrahamisation of Hindu festivals" and tweeted that brands like FabIndia "must face economic costs for such deliberate misadventures".

The company, however, insisted that it was not its Diwali collection, which will be soon launched under 'Jhilmil si Diwali' (A sparkling Diwali) promo.



'Jashn-e-Riwaaz' is a phrase in Urdu, a language that was born in India.

The ethnic retail behemoth joins a list of brands that have recently faced the right-wing wrath.

An advertisement featuring superstar Aamir Khan for tyre maker Ceat Ltd, where he is seen advising people not to burst crackers on the streets, was objected by Karnataka BJP MP Anant Kumar Hegde, who asked the company to also address the problem of blocking roads in the name of Namaz and noise emitted from mosques during Azaan.

Consumer goods giant Dabur also withdrew an advertisement for Karwa Chauth that celebrated inclusivity, equality and a progressive view of marriage featuring a lesbian couple.

Tata Group's jewellery brand Tanishq too was forced to withdraw an advertisement that showed an interfaith couple at a baby shower organised for the Hindu bride by her Muslim in-laws. The company withdrew the advertisement after trolling soon graduated to physical threats to company employees and stores.

Clothing brand Manyavar found itself at the receiving end of vitriol on social media when its advertisement featuring Bollywood star Alia Bhatt in wedding attire, appeared to question an old tradition.

## India Tests Ballistic Missile With 5,000-Km Range



Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** India has tested a ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead up to 5,000 kilometers, the defense ministry said, in what media called a "stern signal" to China as the two remain locked in a border spat.

The Agni-5 missile blasted off from Abdul Kalam Island off India's east coast late Wednesday and splashed into the Bay of Bengal.

"The successful test ... is in line with India's stated policy to have 'credible minimum deterrence' that underpins the commitment to 'No First Use' [of nuclear weapons]," a defense ministry statement said.

The 17-meter-tall missile has been tested several times before, but not at night, and local media said that the timing was aimed at sending a signal to Beijing.

Tensions with China have been running high since 20 Indian soldiers died in clashes on their disputed Himalayas border in June 2020.

The nuclear-armed neighbors have since reinforced the frontier with tens of thousands of extra troops.

India has deepened defense cooperation with Western

countries in recent years, including in the Quad alliance with the United States, Japan and Australia.

New Delhi is also a major buyer of Russian military hardware, and ordered Moscow's S-400 missile defense system despite the threat of US sanctions over the \$5.4 billion deal.

The Financial Times reported this month that China had tested a hypersonic missile that circled the Earth at low orbit before descending toward, but missing, its target. Beijing denied the report, insisting it was a routine test of a reusable space vehicle.

Hypersonics are the new frontier in missile technology, because they fly lower and are harder to detect than ballistic missiles, can reach targets more quickly, and are maneuverable.

The United States, Russia, China and North Korea have all tested hypersonic missiles and several others are developing the technology -- including reportedly India.

According to the Times of India, New Delhi is working on enabling the Agni-5 to carry several nuclear warheads at once so they can split up and hit different targets.

## Ind-Pak T20: Adityanath Says Sedition Charges Against Those Celebrating Pak's Victory

Agenceis

**LUCKNOW:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered the UP police to register a case of Sedition against those who were celebrating Pakistan's victory over India in the T20 Cricket World Cup match that took place on October 24, informed the Chief Minister's Office on Thursday.

"Those celebrating Pakistan's victory will face sedition charges: CM Yogi Adityanath," said the CMO in a tweet with a snippet of a newspaper clipping reporting the above-mentioned order passed by



the Uttar Pradesh government. Uttar Pradesh Police has booked seven people in a total of five districts and taken four people

in custody for allegedly raising Pro-Pak slogans or celebrating Pakistan's victory over India in the T20 Cricket World Cup.

## Tata Motors Unveils 21 New Commercial Vehicles

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Tata Motors today unveiled an extensive and comprehensive range of 21 new products and variants. Designed and engineered to cater to the evolving needs of cargo and people transport across segments and applications, these state-of-the-art vehicles further enhance Tata Motors' established 'Power of 6' benefit proposition to address specific usage and applications while delivering higher productivity and lower total cost of ownership (TCO).

Vehicles that were unveiled



included 7 Construck, Tractor-Trailer and Rigid truck range with higher fuel efficiency, 5 new vehicles of 4-18 tonne GVW with CNG powertrains, increased deck length and Ultra Sleek cabins, 4 multiuse vehicles providing more agility

in last-mile delivery and 5 new vehicles, including an E-bus, with segment-first features and holistic solutions for passenger transportation.

Unveiling the 21 vehicles, Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors said, "The engines of infrastructure development, consumer consumption and e-commerce powering the Indian economy require continued transportation support to run seamlessly. Being the leader in the commercial vehicles, we continue to deliver superior value proposition to customers by introducing smarter, future-ready products

and services. The 21 feature rich vehicles that we are introducing today are designed to fulfil the evolving needs of India's economy and its growing demand for efficient transportation. Every aspect of these vehicles has been purposefully augmented to cater to both varied duty cycles as well as special applications. Incorporating the latest advances in technology, refined powertrains and upgrades in comfort and convenience, our vehicles are ideal to fulfil the customer need of high vehicle utilization for more revenue with lower costs for more profits."