

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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## NEWS DIGEST

### Govt Shifts 3 Administrative Officers

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday ordered transfer of three senior officers, two of them Indian Administrative Service (IAS), with immediate effect in the interest of administration. According to an order issued here, Mandeep Kaur, (IAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration • **More On P10**

### Pak Repatriates Poonch Resident

**JAMMU:** A 35-year-old man who had inadvertently crossed over the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district over three years ago was repatriated by the Pakistan authorities, official sources said on Monday. The Pakistan Army handed over Saif Deen, a resident of Gargian village of the Mandi-Saujiyaan belt, to • **More On P10**

### Mehbooba 'Barred' From Visiting Anantnag

**SRINAGAR:** PDP president Mehbooba Mufti was on Monday put under house arrest to prevent her from visiting Anantnag to meet the family of a youth who was killed in cross-firing between government forces and militants last week, a party leader claimed. • **More On P10**

### CASO Underway In Gulmarg Forest

**SRINAGAR:** The government forces continued a cordon and search operation (CASO) for the second consecutive day Monday in a forest area in Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. According to official sources, the search operation launched by the soldiers • **More On P10**

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## Trouble Grows For Former Director Health Kashmir

**SC Sets Aside J&K HC Verdict Quashing Proceedings Against Saleem-Ur-Rehman, Others**

**Zaid Bin Shabir**

**SRINAGAR:** The Supreme Court of India has set aside the verdict of 2018 of Jammu and Kashmir High Court quashing criminal proceedings against former Director Health Services, Kashmir Dr Saleem-ur-Rehman and other officials for misappropriation of funds in purchase of the sub-standard medical kits under centrally sponsored National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). "It's (J&K High Court) dealing

## J&K Unemployment Rate Dips To 22% In October

**Zaid Bin Shabir**

**SRINAGAR:** Explaining the grim state of economic affairs, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) has recorded a back-breaking unemployment rate of 22.2 percent in Jammu & Kashmir for the month of October.

According to the CMIE's "30 day moving average" survey for the month of October, J&K's 22.2 percent unemployment rate is the third-worst recorded unemployment rate among other states & union territories in India. The erstwhile state's 22.2 percent unemployment rate was succeeded by the states of Rajasthan and Haryana where the unemployment rate stood at 29.6 percent and 30.7 percent, respectively.

Notably, at the beginning of 2021, J&K's unemployment rate was 21.9 percent which dipped to 14.2 per cent in February, 9.5 percent in March, 11.4 per cent in April, 11.9 per cent in May and 10.6 per cent in June, 15.4 percent in July and 13.6 percent in the month August.

Though the J&K's unemployment rate, as per CMIE, had witnessed a decline since January 2021 till August 2021, it took an ugly turn in the month of September when it surpassed the national average of unemployment. As per CMIE, for the month of October, the unemployment rate in J&K has been recorded at the highest since the beginning of this year.

Using the Consumer



File Photo

**6 IN THE JULY-SEPTEMBER 2019** quarter the unemployment rate in urban J&K was recorded at 4.8 percent, October-December 2019 at 7.3 per cent, January-March 2020 at 9.2 per cent and April-June 2020 at 10.1 percent."

Pyramids Household Survey machinery, CMIE has pegged India's unemployment rate at 7.7 percent which itself ascertains the fact that the erstwhile state of J&K has much higher unemployment rate than the national average.

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), the combined unemployment rate of J&K and Ladakh had hit the highest of 17.8 percent in October-December, 2020, against the national average of 7.11 percent.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy had put the unemployment rate at 12.13 percent in J&K in 2017 and since the 2018 fall of the coalition government of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the BJP in J&K, job availability has been significantly slackening.

Besides these official figures, the other data sources accessed by Kashmir Observer indicate the severity of unemployment in J&K. • **More On P10**

## LG Tells Officers: 'Serve People, Address Their Concerns Within Time'

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday directed officers of his administration to serve people, address their concerns within a reasonable time-frame besides ensuring all benefits of central and Union Territory schemes are delivered with total transparency.

The LG passed these directions to officers during "LG's Mulaqaat- Live Public Grievance Hearing" at Raj Bhavan through virtual mode, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, interacted with the randomly selected individuals from across the UT during the two-hour-long programme and issued on



spot directions for early redressal of the grievances of several complainants and directed the officials to expedite the process for removal of roadblocks to developmental works.

He further said that the LG passed explicit directions to the concerned Deputy Commissioners to provide immediate relief to all the farmers affected due to hailstorms and snow.

"It is imperative that money is transferred directly into their accounts on priority," Sinha said.

Laying special emphasis on proactive measures to resolve people's grievances through accountable and responsive governance, the official spokesperson said that the LG directed the District in-charge Secretaries to • **More On P10**

## BJP Asks Party Cadres To Gear Up For J&K Polls

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir BJP Monday asked its cadres to organise activities to prepare for assembly elections in the union territory. This direction was conveyed to party cadres by BJP state general secretary (Organisation) Ashok Kaul during a meeting of district office-bearers, district morcha presidents and mandal presidents at Ramban.

Kaul, while addressing the meeting, encouraged the BJP members to work with dedication and devotion for the nation and the party.

He said, "In accordance with the party principles of nation first, the party workers of this region have loved the nation beyond any limit at the cost of personal sufferings and losses."

Kaul lauded their role in mitigating the "vicious situations" that were fanned by the "certain vested interests for their petty political and personal gains". "But now • **More On P10**

## J&K Reports 4 Corona Deaths, 98 New Cases

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Coronavirus claimed the lives of four more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday while 98 fresh cases of infection were reported during the last 24 hours.

According to reports, three among the victims were residents of Srinagar and one from central Kashmir's Budgam district. With these deaths, the overall fatality count in J&K has reached 4436-2176 in Jammu and 2260 in Kashmir.

Also, the officials said, 98 fresh cases of novel coronavirus were reported • **More On P10**

## HAJJ 2022

### Online Application Process Begins

**MUMBAI:** The online application process for Hajj 2022 began on Monday with Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi announcing significant reforms and enhanced facilities for the pilgrimage.

While announcing Hajj 2022 at Hajji House in south Mumbai, Naqvi said the entire Hajj process will be 100 per cent digital/online.

The last date of applying for Hajj 2022 is January 31, 2022. People can also apply through the Hajj mobile app, a statement quoting the minister said.

Indian Hajj pilgrims will promote vocal for local' and go there with • **More On P10**

## J&K Declares Oct Rain, Snowfall As 'Natural Disaster'



File Photo

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** In a major relief to the farmers affected by the recent inclement weather, Jammu and Kashmir administration has declared heavy

spell of rainfall and snowfall on October 23 and 24 as state specific natural disaster under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms.

In an order, Nazim Zai Khan, Secretary, • **More On P10**

## Deadly October Claimed 45 Lives In Kashmir

**20 Militants, 12 Soldiers; 13 Civilians Killed In Militancy Related Incidents**

**Observer Monitoring Desk**

**SRINAGAR:** The month of October turned out to be the deadliest month for Kashmir Valley in which twenty militants, 12 security personnel besides 13 civilians lost their

lives in militancy related incidents, including encounters and targeted killings.

The killing of 13 civilians in a month, most of them non-locals, is the highest death toll in the last two years and the fourth-highest since 2012, reports said. Majid Gojri, of Chattabal was the first civilian to fall to bullets on October 2.

He was shot • **More On P10**


Vol:04 Issue:08

October 2021

# Khyen Chyen

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World's Food Guide To Kashmir



## Debut Of PAAN In The Valley

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# Long-Covid Symptoms May Be Caused By Fatigue

Agencies

LONDON: Long-term cognitive problems after a Covid-19 diagnosis may be a result of fatigue rather than pathological changes in the brain, finds a new study. An analysis of neuropsychological testing and 18F-FDG PET imaging showed that few or no objective impairments were observed in the cognition and brain pathology of long-covid patients; however, many of the group suffered from subjective complaints such as severe fatigue. The term "long-Covid syndrome" is used to describe symptoms that arise in the aftermath of a Covid-19 infection (usually defined as being present later than 12 weeks after the infection), including cognitive deficits—such as brain fog, memory loss and attention problems—as well as fatigue and exhaustion. The underlying cause of these symptoms is unknown, said the researcher, including Philipp T Meyer from the University of Freiburg in Germany. Previously published studies showed that patients needing inpatient treatment because of newly diagnosed Covid-19 have reduced glucose metabolism in the brain, which is associated with impaired cognitive function. For the study, published in The Journal of

**Mild deficits were observed in some patients on the single-subject level, however, mainly in regard to visual memory. 18F-FDG PET imaging was recommended to all patients who received counseling.**

Nuclear Medicine, the researchers conducted neuropsychological testing and cerebral 18F-FDG PET imaging. A small group of patients who sought counseling for persistent neurocognitive symptoms were included in the present study. Patients participated in a battery of neuropsychological tests and the results were analysed to determine cognitive impairment levels. Average group results of the testing showed no impairment. Mild deficits were observed in some patients on the single-subject level, however, mainly in regard to visual memory. 18F-FDG PET imaging was recommended to all patients who received counseling.



ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے  
ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ منظر کوڈ کی کاس ٹھیکہ داری کارڈ نکالنا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض پیرا منڈنگ انجیر آرائیڈ بیسرکل اینٹ ناگ / کوڈ کمپنڈیل کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
المشعر  
عادل حسین ایٹوولہ صیب اللہ اللہ  
ساکنہ اموا چیل اینٹ ناگ RNA

از نیابت لارنو با اجلاس منظور احمد ہرہ نائب تحصیلدار ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ دی جہا دل لارنو درخواست منجانب محمد جعفر گوہر کھانا ولد سعد گوہر کھانا ساکنہ نازنگ تحصیل لارنو ضلع اینٹ ناگ  
بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔  
اشہار برادر اگاتی ہر خاص و عام۔  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمہ میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر منڈا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔  
نمبر شمار نام و ولدیت عمر پیشہ آمدنی  
1 محمد جعفر گوہر کھانا ولد سعد گوہر کھانا 60 سال زمینداری  
2 شہ بانو زوجہ محمد جعفر گوہر کھانا 59 سال گھریلو کام  
3 مدر احمد گوہر کھانا ولد محمد جعفر گوہر کھانا 22 سال مزدوری  
4 نصرین اختر دفتر محمد جعفر گوہر کھانا 20 سال گھریلو کام  
5 عثمان احمد ولد محمد جعفر گوہر کھانا 16 سال زراعت  
6 اکرام احمد ولد محمد جعفر گوہر کھانا 12 سال زراعت  
7 اطہر احمد ولد محمد جعفر گوہر کھانا 10 سال زراعت  
اس طور پر ساکن کا کوڈ 07 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
نائب تحصیلدار RNA

**INVITATION CANCELLED**  
We regret to inform that due to untimely demise of our beloved **ALHAJ ZAKIR AGA SYED ABUL HASSAN MOSVI**, the marriage ceremony of our son Syed Muhammad Mudasar which was scheduled on **3rd & 4th November, 2021 stands cancelled**. However, Nikah ceremony will be performed in a simple manner  
**MRS. LATE AGA SYED MUJTABA MOSVI**  
Gulshan Botta Kadal Srinagar  
Cell No: 8491009918

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## AFFIDAVIT

I Nazir Ahamd Matta S/O Mohammad smail, Matta R/O S.D. Colony Batmaloo Srinagar do here by solemnly affirm and declare as under:-  
That I have purchased the Scooter bearing Reg No: Jk01Q 6638 from one Mushtaq Ahamd Sheikh S/O Gh Rasool Sheikh R/O I Bagh Sriangar In Sept, 2015 and have the full payment. That there is no any challan or any accident claims over the scooter and in case it is proved the seller is responsible up to Sept 2015 and I shall be responsible in future.  
Accepted by  
Mushtaq Ahamd Sheikh  
Deponent  
Nazir Ahamd Matta

Verification : Whatever has been stated above is true and correct the best of my knowledge and nothing has been concealed  
iko

## Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

### NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Bashir Ahamd Mir S/O Ab Gani Mir R/O Gund-I-Hado Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle bearing Regd. No. JK22A-7852 (Commercial/ Non Commercial ) covering under R/P NO: -----  
And  
Mr./ Mrs Lateef Hussain Awana S/o Muneer Hussain Awana R/O Check Shamsipora Shopian (Parti No 2nd ) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with Gh Mohd Mir S/o Abdull Ahad Mir R/o Mastpora Keller Shopian.  
Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned  
No any representation/ objection shall be enterretained after stipulated period.

No: ARTO/Spn/878-2021  
Dated 25-10-2021  
S/D Asst Regional  
Transport Officer Shopian  
ast

## Public Notice

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK01U- 2298 . Now I am applying 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 ARTO Srinagar within a period of 7 Days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Zubair Fayaz (Present Owner)  
S/O Fayaz Ah Wagay R/O Gund Hadoo Shopian  
AST

## Public Notice

This is inform general public that I have applied for pesticides license. In this regard any person having any objection He/She may contact office of the PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.  
**Name: MUDASIR AHMAD BHAT**  
**S/O: GHULAM AHMAD BHAT**  
**R/O: DIRHAMA**  
RNA

## Public Notice

I have applied for fertilizer license .If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She May contact office of the Chief Agriculture officer Anantnag within the period of 7 days .After that no objection will be entertained.

**NAME:MUDASIR AHMAD BHAT**  
**S/O:- GHULAM AHMAD BHAT**  
**R/O:- DIRHAMA**  
RNA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL)**  
**Sher-i- Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura Srinagar.**  
Notice Inviting E- Tenders  
NIT NO : SIMS/HEC/ET/40 of 2021-22 Dated: 28-10-2021.  
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor U.T Jammu & Kashmir, E – tenders are invited from class of contract  
“CEE & DEE” of contractors registered with PWD/CPWD/MES/RAILWAYS.  
S.No Name of work Adv. Cost Cost of T/ Document Earnest Money Class of contractor Time of completion  
01. Connecting V-shaped surface drain along newly macadamized roads in SKIMS. Rs. 10.00 lacs Rs. 600/= 20,000/= “CEE & DEE” 01 Months  
1. Major Head of Account M&R 2210  
2. Position of AA AA Accorded  
3. Technical Sanction T.S Accorded  
4. Position of funds Committed  
5. Downloading/uploading of bidding documents 03-11-2021 to 12-11-2021 upto 3 PM  
6. Submission of hard copy end date 13-11-2021 Upto 3PM (in the office of Executive Engineer SKIMS)  
7. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) 15-11-2021 at 11.30 AM (in the office of Executive Engineer SKIMS)  
8. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) 16-11-2021-2021 at 11.30 AM (in the office of Executive Engineer SKIMS)  
Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.  
1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, and bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).  
2. Bids must be uploaded with scanned copy of cost/fee of tender document & earnest money (Bid Security) in the shape of DD & CDR/FDR respectively pledged to Director Finance, SKIMS Soura Srinagar.  
3. Qualification criteria for the work and other terms & conditions are contained in the bidding documents, available on skims website  
Executive Engineer (Civil)  
Hospital Engineering Department  
SKIMS, Soura  
DIPK-NB-4651/21  
No: SIMS 139/108/2021-22-2214-21  
Dated: 28 -10-2021

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**ADMISSION NOTIFICATION NO. 04 OF 2021**  
It is notified for information of all the concerned that few seats have fallen vacant in the following Undergraduate/ Postgraduate programmes for the academic session 2021-22:  

Post-Graduate Programmes	Eligibility
<b>M.Sc. Statistics</b>	Bachelor's Degree with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Mathematics/ Statistics/ Applied Mathematics as one of the subjects throughout the graduation period <b>OR</b> B.Sc. Actuarial and Financial Mathematics.
<b>Master of Computer Applications - MCA (2-Year)</b>	Having passed BCA <b>OR</b> Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science & Engineering <b>OR</b> B.Sc. / B.Com. / B.A. with Mathematics as compulsory subject at 10+2 Level or at Graduation Level with a minimum of 50% marks from a recognized University/ Institution.
<b>Master of Science in Information Technology (M.Sc. IT)</b>	Degree with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution in any of the following: i. Bachelor's Degree in Relevant subject. ii. B.Sc. having Mathematics as one of the subjects at 10+2 level. iii. B.Sc. having Mathematics/ Physics/ Computer Science/ I.T. / or any relevant Computer related recognized subject as one of the subjects throughout the graduation period. iv. Four-year Bachelor's Degree in Engineering & Technology.
<b>M.A. International Relations (Peace &amp; Conflict Studies)</b>	Bachelor's Degree in any discipline with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/Institution.
<b>M.A. Journalism &amp; Mass Communication</b>	Bachelor's Degree in any discipline with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/Institution.
<b>M.A. Arabic Language &amp; Literature</b>	Bachelor's Degree or equivalent with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with Arabic as one of the subjects throughout the graduation period <b>OR</b> having Aalimayat/ Fazilah degree with 10+2 of the approved Madrasas.
<b>M.A. English Language &amp; Literature</b>	Bachelor's Degree or equivalent with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution with English as one of the subjects throughout the graduation period.
<b>Under-Graduate Programmes</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>
B.Tech. Food Technology	Having passed 10+2 from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics or Biology as compulsory subjects.
B.Sc. Actuarial & Financial Mathematics	Having passed 10+2 with a minimum of 45% marks from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with Mathematics as compulsory subject.

Eligible candidates who are desirous to apply are hereby informed to report to the **Office of the Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora** on any working day by or before **08-11-2021 (except on Saturday & Sunday)** and submit application form alongwith the following documents:  
1. Date of Birth Certificate. 2. Qualifying Marks Card. 3. Category Certificate (if available). 4. Application Fee of Rs. 500/-.  
5. Passport size photograph.  
**PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION:** Selection shall be based on the percentage of marks in aggregate obtained by a candidate in the qualifying examination. Queries, if any, can be made on **EPABX: 01933-247252 Phone: 9906400789 / 9858306455 Email ID: admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in.**  
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Dated: 29-10-2021  
DIPK-NB-4652/21  
Sd/-  
Assistant Registrar, Academics





**WOMEN'S WING** of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Monday staged a protest demonstration against the detention of Kashmiri students in Agra following the Indo-Pak Cricket match in the ongoing T20 Cricket World Cup. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## DC Reviews Winter Preparedness In City

KO NEW SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:--** The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Monday chaired a meeting of Sectoral Officers of various Departments to review the stock position of essentials and overall winter preparedness in the district.

The DDC took a review of overall winter preparedness in the district including power and water supply position, availability of ration, fuel, LPG and other essentials, besides measures taken for snow clearance.

While reviewing the status of power supply scenario in the district, the concerned Superintendent Chief Engineer informed that necessary buffer stock of transformers has been maintained at all Divisions and power is supplied to consumers as per schedule.

The DDC instructed the Engineers of KPDCI to keep men and machinery ready for restoration of power supply in case of disruption due to snowfall. He also stressed that fresh curtailment schedules should also be made public at an earliest so that consumers do not face any difficulty.

During the meeting, the DC set specific timelines for replacement of transformers in all the areas of the district.

With regard to Snow clearance, the DDC was apprised



that 25 hi-tech Snow clearance machines have been kept ready by the Mechanical Engineering Department in Srinagar out of which 22 machines have been deployed at 22 important installations and vital sites across the district, while 3 machines are kept in standby mode to meet any exigency during heavy snowfall.

The SMC authorities informed that Srinagar district has been divided into 9 zones and about 3000 SMC men are ready to clear snow from inner lanes and bylanes of the City.

The Assistant Director FCS&CA informed that sufficient stock of Ration is available to cater the needs of 2-3 months, while Petrol and Diesel supply is also in buffer stock for at least 15 days.

The DDC also stressed the Officers on readying men and machinery to ensure timely redressal of weather vagaries and subsequent interruptions of supply of water, electricity and road closure due to snow-

fall during the winter months.

The DDC also directed for setting up of a special Control Room in the district to redress the winter related complaints of the public on fast track basis. He also instructed to formulate a Joint Action Plan (JAP) by all concerned Departments in advance to mitigate any crisis or emergency like situation during winters.

He stressed concerned to ensure a prompt response system is placed to ensure hassle-free supply of essential services to the general public and instructed that reaction time should be minimized while facing any emergency like situations.

The DDC directed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure availability of medicine and sufficient stock of drugs, emergency medicine, ambulance services in all tertiary care hospitals in the City besides making proper functioning of the central heating system in all hospitals in the winter season.

Meanwhile, the DDC directed the Officers of Tourism, Culture departments YSS, and NYK to prepare a schedule of events for Sports, Cultural and other activities to be held during Winter Months.

Among others the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Superintendent Engineers of R&B, MED, PDD, SMC, Deputy Director Tourism, Chief Medical Officer and other officers.

## SMC To Conduct Snow Clearance Mock Drill

KO NEWS SERVICE

**S**rinagar Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mr Athar Amir Khan on Monday conducted several back to back meetings with all Senior Officers to review status of various functions including works wing and snow clearance preparedness.

The Commissioner reviewed the arrangements made for snow clearance.

According to a statement, he passed on directions that a mock drill is to be conducted for snow clearance tomorrow.

Commissioner SMC was informed that deployment of men and machinery/ equipment are in a state of readiness.

He also reviewed the deployment of staff for manual snow clearance and dewatering pumps for water logged areas on a standby to tackle any situation arising out of the snowfall, including dewatering was also reviewed.

In another meeting that was held with S.E Drainage, Executive Engineers and AEEs to review the status report of road works, Mr Athar passed on directions to immediately go for restoration and repairs of roads under approved allocations and also reviewed other approved works Program 2021\_2022.

He also took a detailed meeting on ABC - AR Dog sterilization Program to know its current status and further progress on work.

The review meeting was attended by all concerned officers of the SMC.



**COMMISSIONER SMC WAS** informed that deployment of men and machinery/ equipment are in a state of readiness.

## Vigilance Week: Sensitisation Programme Organised For Audit And Inspections Employees

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:--** In connection with celebration of Vigilance Awareness Week a Sensitisation Programme for employees was conducted at the Directorate of Audit and Inspections at Srinagar.

The officers from Jammu attended the programme in Virtual Mode. Director General Audit and inspection administered an Integrity Pledge to the participants.

The speakers emphasised on the significance of Vigilance week and responsibility of the Audit Organisation as an important stakeholder in the collective fight against corruption.

The Auditors were advised to exhibit the highest level of integrity while carrying out the audit assignments and also work as representatives of the Government to carry forward the message of zero tolerance for corruption.

## Kashmiri Journalist Bags Journalism Award

Agencies

**BENGALURU:** Mudassir Ahmad Kuloo (33), an independent journalist from Kashmir, has been awarded the 5th G Santha Teacher Memorial Journalism Award instituted by the Inspired Indian Foundation (IIF), Bengaluru.

The award will be presented on November 6 in Bengaluru, during the 5th Guru Kalam Memorial Lecture, an annual national event being organised by the IIF to commemorate the birth anniversary of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The IIF spearheads several missions of Dr Kalam in association with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Inter-

national Foundation, Rameswaram.

This year the award carries a specially-crafted stone memento made by noted mural artist MS Chandramouli from Karnataka in addition to Rs 25,000 as a cash component.

The 2021 jury included aerospace and defence scientists, writers, teachers and activists in addition to the trustees of IIF. Mudassir was chosen from a list of three shortlisted Indian journalists.

Mudassir pursued his Masters in Mass Communication and Journalism from University of Kashmir and has been a Senior Correspondent with The Kashmir Monitor for six years.

## Prof. Idrisa Pandit Bereaved

VsOID Condole Demise Of Her Mother

**SRINAGAR:** The Veterans of Information Department (VsOID), a group of officers and officials of Information Department (Retd), have expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of wife of one of the officers of the department, late Mohammad Amin Pandit, former Deputy Director of Information, Kashmir and mother of Mrs Idrisa Pandit, who died yesterday at her Nishat residence in Srinagar.

Extending their sympathies with the bereaved family, especially with Ms. Idrisa Pandit, they said that Mst. Hafeeza Begum was the sister of former Chief Secretary, Khawaja Ghulam Ahmad Shuntho.

Mst. Hafeeza Begum was the sister of former Chief Secretary, Khawaja Ghulam Ahmad Shuntho.

## Salary Of 63 Employees Withheld Over Unauthorised Absence From Work

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** On the Directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, a team of Senior Officers of District Administration today conducted a surprise inspection of different offices in Srinagar and checked the attendance of employees.

During the visit, the team found employees of various offices unauthorizedly absent

from duties.

Taking serious note of their unauthorized absence, the Deputy Commissioner has ordered withholding the salary of 63 employees. Further explanation was also sought from all the absent employees.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar reiterated that such inspections will continue in future also and dereliction of duty including un-

authorized absence will not be tolerated at all.

He also passed strict instructions to the concerned office heads against allowing any employee without permission. He asked them to adhere to the office timing to avoid inconvenience to the general public.

In the inspection held today, the inspecting senior officers also checked for the presence of Patwaris in a couple of Patwar Halqas.

### DIAL-EMMA



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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS



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

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

## This Day in History

- 676 - Donus begins his reign as Catholic Pope replacing Pope Adeodatus II
- 1327 - King Alfonso IV of Aragon crowned
- 1355 - English invasion army under King Edward lands at Calais
- 1642 - Second Battle of Breitenfeld, aka First Battle of Leipzig; victory for the Swedish army under Field Marshal Lennart Torstenson over Holy Roman Empire army under Archduke Leopold Wilhelm of Austria
- 1675 - A combined attack by the Plymouth, Rhode Island, Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut colonies attacks the Great Swamp Fort, owned by the Narragansetts during King Philip's War
- 1698 - Scottish settlers make landfall in Panama, establishing the ill-fated 'Darien Venture' colony
- 1772 - Boston: anti-English Committee of Correspondence forms
- 1783 - General George Washington, later 1st US President, bids farewell to his army after the American Revolutionary War
- 1835 - 2nd Seminole War begins in Osceola
- 1841 - Akbar Khan successfully revolts against Shah Shuja in Afghanistan
- 1861 - American Civil War: Western Department Union General John C. Fremont is relieved of command and replaced by David Hunter.
- 1868 - Time zone: New Zealand officially adopts a standard time to be observed nationally.
- 1880 - James A. Garfield (R) elected 20th US President
- 1898 - Theodor Herzl arrives in Jerusalem
- 1914 - Russia declares war on the Ottoman Empire
- 1914 - Great Britain declares the entire North Sea a military area: neutral ships will transit it at their own risk
- 1917 - Balfour Declaration proclaims support for a Jewish state in Palestine
- 1917 - Lansing-Ishii Agreement; US recognizes Japan's privileges in China
- 1920 - Warren G. Harding elected 29th US President
- 1942 - 11th day of battle at El Alamein: British assault on Tel el Aqqaqir
- 1948 - US President Harry Truman re-elected in an upset over Republican Thomas E. Dewey
- 1954 - Taiwan & US sign military pact
- 1956 - Hungary appeals for UN assistance against Soviet invasion
- 1956 - Israel captures Gaza & Sheham
- 1959 - The first section of the M1 motorway, the first inter-urban motorway in the United Kingdom, is opened between the present junctions 5 and 18, along with the M10 motorway and M45 motorway
- 1964 - Faisal succeeds Saud as king of Saudi Arabia
- 1966 - The Cuban Adjustment Act comes into force, allowing 123,000 Cubans opportunity to apply for permanent residence in the US
- 1972 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalatinsk USSR
- 1972 - Government of the Republic of Ireland introduce a bill to remove the special position of the Catholic Church from the Irish Constitution
- 1974 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1976 - Jimmy Carter (D) defeats Gerald Ford (R) for US President
- 1977 - Microbiologist Carl R. Woese and scientists from the University of Illinois announce the identification of methanogens, a form of microbial life (Archaea) dating back some 3.5 billion years
- 1978 - Crew of Soyuz 29 returns to Earth aboard Soyuz 31
- 1982 - Fire in Salung tunnel, Afghanistan, 1,000+ Russians die
- 1984 - Velma Barfield becomes the first woman executed in the United States since 1962
- 1988 - Computers virus strikes Pentagon, SDI research lab & 6 universities

## From KO Archives

## '1500 Militants Active In North Kashmir'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Around 1500 militants, mostly foreign mercenary-ies are operating in North Kashmir districts of Kupwara and Baramulla, a BSF official said.

There are 1500 active militants, mostly foreigners, in North Kashmir and the largest group belong to Pakistan based Lashker-e-Toiba, the local component is much less. Inspector General of BSF, B N Chattervedi told reporters at Baramulla, here yesterday.

He said though infiltration has declined in Kashmir region in view of stringent security measures adopted on the borders, militant activities have increased in Jammu region.

Chattervedi, who was briefing reporters about the seizure of big cache of arms and ammunition from a militant hideout at Mangdon forest, near line of Control (LoC), said the hideout here served as a transit camp for the militants.

The arms and ammunition which were being smuggled from Pakistan used to be dumped in the hideout and later distributed to other areas of the Kashmir valley, he said.

He said BSF troops raided the militant hideout on October 29 in which two militants including an Afghan mercenary was killed.

The search of the hideout led to the recovery of huge cache of arms and ammunition including eight kgs of RDX, three AK assault rifles besides, food materials.

(Kashmir Observer, November 02, 2000)



## COVID Global Death Toll Tops 5 Million In Under Two Years

Agencies

The global death toll from COVID-19 topped five million on Monday, less than two years into a crisis that has not only devastated poor countries but also humbled wealthy ones with better healthcare systems.

Together, the United States, the European Union, Britain and Brazil – all upper-middle or high-income countries – account for one-eighth of the world's population but nearly half of all reported deaths. The US alone has recorded more than 740,000 lives lost, more than any other nation.

tles among nations since 1950, according to estimates from the Peace Research Institute Oslo. Globally, COVID-19 is now the third leading cause of death, after heart disease and stroke.

The staggering figure is almost certainly an undercount because of limited testing and people dying at home without medical attention, especially in poor parts of the world, such as India.

Hot spots have shifted over the 22 months since the outbreak began, turning different places on the world map red. Now, the virus is pummeling Russia, Ukraine and other parts of Eastern Europe, especially where rumours, misinformation and



"This is a defining moment in our lifetime," said Dr Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist at the Yale School of Public Health. "What do we have to do to protect ourselves so we don't get to another five million?"

The death toll, as tallied by Johns Hopkins University, is about equal to the populations of Los Angeles and San Francisco combined. It rivals the number of people killed in bat-

trist in government have hobbled vaccination efforts. In Ukraine, only 17 percent of the adult population is fully vaccinated, while Armenia has managed to jab only 7 percent.

"What's uniquely different about this pandemic is it hit hardest the high-resource countries," said Dr Wafaa El-Sadr, director of ICAP, a global health centre at Columbia University. "That's the irony of COVID-19."

## SC's New Ruling: 'Can't Have Complete Ban On Firecrackers'



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday set aside the Calcutta High Court order banning firecrackers during Kali Puja, Diwali and other festivals this year to check air pollution amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

A special bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Ajay Rastogi also asked the West Bengal government to explore the possibility to ensure that banned firecrackers and related items are not imported in the state at the entry point itself.

The bench, which assem-

bled during the Diwali break to hear the matter, was hearing the pleas against the October 29 order of the high court banning the sale, use and purchase of all types of firecrackers in the state.

"The state should ensure that there is no use or display or bursting of firecrackers of any type at all during Kali Puja, Diwali celebrations as well as Chhath Puja, Jagadhatri Puja, Guru Nanak's birthday and Christmas and New Year's eve celebrations this year," the high court had said.

It had said that only wax or oil-based diyas may be used for the occasions.



## Over 120 World Leaders In Glasgow For "Last, Best Hope" Climate Summit

Agencies

London: More than 120 world leaders meet in Glasgow on Monday in a "last, best hope" to tackle the climate crisis and avert a looming global disaster.

"It's one minute to midnight and we need to act now," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was due to tell them, according to extracts from his speech.

"If we don't get serious about climate change today, it will be too late for our children to do so tomorrow." Observers had hoped a weekend meeting in Rome of leaders of the G20 nations, which between them emit nearly 80 per cent of global carbon emissions, would give a strong impetus to the Glasgow COP26 summit, which was postponed for a year due to the pandemic.

The G20 major economies committed on Sunday to the key goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels – the most ambitious target of the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement.

They also agreed to end funding for new unabated coal plants abroad – those whose emissions have not gone through any filtering process – by the end of 2021.

But this did not convince NGOs, the British prime minister or the United Nations.

"While I welcome the G20's

recommitment to global solutions, I leave Rome with my hopes unfulfilled – but at least they are not buried," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said on Twitter.

'Going to be very difficult'

"We've inched forward (at the G20). We've put ourselves in a reasonable position for COP in Glasgow but it's going to be very difficult in the next few days," Johnson said Sunday, before warning: "If Glasgow fails, then the whole thing fails."

The Glasgow gathering, which runs until November 12, comes as an accelerating onslaught of extreme weather events across the world underscores the devastating impacts of climate change from 150 years of burning fossil fuels.

The current commitments of the signatories of the Paris agreement – if they were followed – would still lead to a "catastrophic" warming of 2.7 Celsius, according to the UN.

COP26 marks the "last, best hope to keep 1.5C in reach", summit president Alok Sharma said as he opened the meeting on Sunday.

"If we act now and we act together, we can protect our precious planet," he said.

Climate advocacy groups expressed disappointment at the statement released at the end of the G20 summit. "These so-called

leaders need to do better. They have another shot at this: starting tomorrow," said Namrata Chowdhary from the NGO 350.org.

Eyes on India

While China, by far the world's biggest carbon polluter, has just submitted to the UN its revised climate plan, which repeats a long-standing goal of peaking emissions by 2030, India is now at the centre of expectations.

India has yet to submit a revised "nationally determined contribution" but if Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces new efforts to curb emissions in his speech Monday, it could put more pressure on China and others, said Alden Meyer, a senior associate at climate and energy think tank E3G. "If he feels confident enough that there's going to be financing and technology assistance from Europe, the US, Japan and others, he might signal that India is willing to update its NDC," Meyer said.

Another pressing issue is the failure of rich countries to cough up \$100 billion a year starting in 2020 to help developing nations lower emissions and adapt – a pledge first made in 2009.

This goal has been postponed to 2023, exacerbating the crisis of confidence between the North, responsible for global warming, and the South, which is the victim of its effects.

## 'Tractors Will Reach Delhi Borders From November 27': Tikait Issues Ultimatum

Press Trust Of India

Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Monday said the Centre has time till November 26 to repeal the contentious farm laws, after which farmer protests around Delhi would be intensified.

November 26 would mark one year of the ongoing farmers' protests at Delhi's border points of Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur.

The protests are led by farmers' collective Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM). The BKU, whose supporters are encamping at Ghazipur on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border, is also a part of the SKM.

"The Central government has time till November 26, af-



(File) Rakesh Tikait holding a spade and raising slogans at the Ghazipur border | PTI

ter that, from November 27, farmers will reach the border at the movement sites around Delhi on tractors from villages and strengthen the tents at the movement site with solid fortifications," Tikait, the BKU national spokesperson, tweeted in Hindi.

Hundreds of farmers are encamped at the three Delhi borders since November 2020 with a demand that the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020, be rolled back and a new law made to guarantee MSP for crops.

The Centre, which has held 11 rounds of formal dialogue with the farmers, has maintained that the new laws are pro-farmer, while the protesters claim they would be left at the mercy of corporations because of the legislations.

## Four Get Death For Blasts At Modi's 2013 Rally In Patna

Press Trust Of India

Patna :A special NIA court in Patna on Monday sentenced to death four of the nine persons it had held guilty of carrying out bomb explosions during then NDA Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi's 'Hunkar Rally' in Gandhi Maidan in 2013.

The special National Investigation Agency court had on October 27 convicted nine out of 10 accused.

Out of the other convicts, two have been given life sentence, two others 10 years imprisonment, and one 7 years imprisonment.

Gurvinder Singh Malhotra, the special judge of the NIA court, announced the quantum of punishment 8 years after the serial bomb blasts that shook Patna on October 27, 2013 during the Hunkar rally. The case was transferred to the NIA on November 6, 2013.

The four convicts who have been awarded the death penalty are Imtiaz Ansari, Haider Ali alias Black Beauty, Noman Ansari and Muzibullah Ansari. Umar Sidiqqi and Azaharuddin Kuresi have been given life imprisonment, while Ahmed Hussain and

Feroz Aslam were awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment and Iftikhar Alam has been given a 7-year jail term.

The court said the charges of sedition, criminal conspiracy, murder, attempt to murder and UAPA levelled by the NIA have been proven.

Narendra Modi came to Patna to address a rally for the 2014 parliamentary elections. While he was addressing the rally, serial bombs exploded in Gandhi Maidan, the venue of the rally as well as at Patna railway station. Six persons died and over 89 persons were injured in the blasts.

One accused Fageuddin was acquitted by the NIA court for lack of evidence. All those convicted are suspected members of the Indian Mujahideen and the Student Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

The convicts had detonated 7 Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) while 10 others did not explode at the rally venue.

The NIA recorded the statements of over 250 witnesses in the case since it took over on November 6, 2013. All the convicts are currently lodged in Patna's Beur jail. IANS

## Lebanon Crisis Rooted In MBS 'Fear' Of Yemen Loss: Hezbollah

Agencies

Riyadh: A high-ranking Hezbollah official says the diplomatic crisis between Lebanon and Saudi Arabia is rooted in Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS)'s "fear" of the liberation of the Yemeni strategic city of Ma'rib amid Beirut's support for Yemenis during the Saudi war.

Hashim Safi al-Din, head of the Executive Council of Hezbollah, said in a statement that it is not "reasonable" to think that the diplomatic crisis is related to remarks made by the Lebanese information minister "but rather it is greater than that."



"What is happening in Saudi Arabia is a major thing, as the Saudis and the [Persian] Gulf [countries] in general, who have followed the path of forming relations with Israel, cannot bear a voice from Lebanon and others who will criticize them in the future over the Saudi-Israeli relations, which will be made public in the coming days," he added.

The senior Hezbollah official said that the Saudi Crown Prince lives in a state of "dilemma and anxiety" and will have to face a great situation after the fall of Ma'rib, emphasizing that MBS is fearful of losing all his illusions. He warned that all those who work to interrupt the Lebanese government, undermine the country's stability, and mount US and Saudi sanctions to destroy Lebanon, highlighting Hezbollah's sacrifices "in order not to lead our country to internal clashes, and for this, we [have striven to] resolve the economic and internal problems of the Lebanese people." Safi al-Din emphasized that those who are pushing to fabricate security, diplomatic and political crises in Lebanon are the ones that are working to sabotage the country.

He said that the future of Lebanon is not in the hands of the Saudis "but in the hands of God and thanks to those who sacrificed for the dignity of the country." Saudi Arabia will not tolerate any criticism in the future, especially after its relations with the Israeli regime will be public in the coming days, he added.

The Saudi-Lebanon row began after George Kordahi, who currently serves as Lebanon's information minister, said during a television program, which was aired last Monday, that the 2015-present Saudi Arabia-led war on Yemen was an act of aggression by Riyadh and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the kingdom's most significant ally in the military campaign.

## NEWS MAKERS

Mumbai: A special court here while granting bail to Aachit Kumar last week in the drugs-on-cruise case said merely on the basis of WhatsApp chats, it cannot be gathered that he had supplied drugs to co-accused Aryan Khan, the son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, and Arbaaz Merchant.

The court in its detailed order, a copy of which was made available on Sunday, also raised questions on the veracity of the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) panchnama records said they were fabricated and seemed suspicious.

Special Judge V V Patil, designated to hear cases related to the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, granted bail to 22-year-old Kumar on Saturday.

The court in its detailed order observed that because the WhatsApp chats with Aryan Khan, there is no evidence to show Kumar was indulging in

## In Aryan Khan Case, WhatsApp Chats Not Proof Enough, Says Court



such activities.

"Merely on the basis of WhatsApp chats, it cannot be gathered that the applicant (Kumar) used to supply contraband to accused No 1 and 2 (Aryan Khan and Arbaaz Merchant), especially when the accused No 1, with whom

there are WhatsApp chats, has been granted bail by the High Court," the order said.

Aryan Khan and Merchant, who were arrested in the cruise drugs case on October 3, were granted bail by the Bombay High Court last Thursday.

The special court also noted that there was no evidence against Kumar to connect him with any of the other accused in the case.

"The panchnama is fabricated and was not prepared on the spot and therefore, the recovery shown under the panchnama is suspicious and cannot be relied upon," the court said.

"There is no evidence on record showing that the applicant (Kumar) supplied drugs to accused No 1 (Aryan Khan) or to anybody and therefore, the applicant is entitled to be released on bail," the order said.

Kumar, the accused No. 17 in the case, was arrested on October 6 by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) based on the statement given by co-accused Aryan Khan and Arbaaz Merchant.

The NCB had claimed to have recovered 2.6 grams of ganja from Kumar's residence. According to the anti-drugs agency, Kumar used to supply ganja and Charas to Aryan Khan and Merchant.

## US White House Press Secretary Tests Positive For COVID-19

Washington: White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Sunday she has tested positive for COVID-19, after deciding not to travel to Europe with US President Joe Biden when members of her family contracted the virus.

Psaki said in a statement that though she had tested negative several times last week, her test came back positive on Sunday.

"While I have not had close contact in person with the president or senior members of the White House staff since Wednesday - and tested negative for four days after that last contact - I am disclosing today's positive test out of an abundance of transparency," Psaki said in a statement.

"I last saw the president on Tuesday, when we sat outside



more than six feet apart, and wore masks."

Psaki said she had mild symptoms, for which she credited the Covid-19 vaccine, and said she was working from home. She added that she would quarantine for 10 days before taking another test and eventually returning to the White House.

Biden, 78, was in Rome on

Sunday for the G20 summit and will be in Glasgow on Monday for the COP26 climate summit. He received a Covid-19 vaccine booster shot in September.

Many Americans are still resisting vaccinations, with only 58 per cent of the population fully immunized. The United States has recorded more than 745,000 deaths from Covid-19.



## NEET Results Finally Out

J&K Lad Among The Toppers

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

**SRINAGAR:** A teenager from Jammu has scripted history by becoming the first from Jammu and Kashmir to be the national topper of the highly competitive National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

18-year-old Tanmay Gupta from Jammu scored 720 out of 720 and secured All India Rank 1 among more than 16 lakh students who appeared in national-level test held on September 12.

Three students have shared the top rank in the medical entrance exam NEET-UG, results of which were announced on Monday, according to the National

Testing Agency.

Telangana's Mrinal Kutteri, Delhi's Tanmay Gupta and Maharashtra's Karthika G Nair shared the top rank scoring full marks.

A tie-breaking formula will be used at the counselling stage for these three candidates, an NTA official said.

Fifteen candidates were identified using unfair means during the exam and their result has been cancelled, the official added.

The NEET-UG exam was held on September 12 with over 95 per cent of the registered candidates appearing for the medical entrance exam. (With PTI inputs)



## Over 2,000 Teachers In JK Lack Professional Qualifications: GoI

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** In Jammu and Kashmir, over 2000 'untrained' teachers posted in Government Secondary Schools lack the requisite professional qualifications to teach the students, the Government of India has said.

According to the official documents accessed by Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Ministry of Education (MoE) for the GoI and officials of Jammu and Kashmir in an Project Approval Board Meeting (PAB) 2021-22 held earlier this year has said, "There are 2061 untrained teachers in Government Secondary Schools based on UDISE 2018-19 who do not meet the requisite professional qualifications."

In the meeting, the GoI advised the Jammu and Kashmir government to roll out a policy to enroll such teachers in teacher's education institutions to complete the professional course without having minimum qualifications.

"All untrained teacher's need to professionally train so as to be compliant with National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)

regulations," GoI said.

The GoI also informed the JK government that during the current year, all left out untrained teachers, masters and lecturers of the School Education Department shall be enrolled in the B.ed course through IGNOU.

Besides, the authorities from the Jammu and Kashmir government in the meeting informed GoI that the learning outcomes document developed by NCERT New Delhi was printed by Samagra Shiksha and distributed to all primary school teachers.

"Learning Outcomes posters have been pasted in classrooms of Government schools from class 1-8 which serve as a benchmark for the teachers to know the level of learning outcome to the children," reads the response of the government.

The documents further reveal that "In JK, at least 8156 Upper Primary Schools were provided learning resource kits to build scientific temperament among the children and 41,000 Early Mathematics kits were distributed among all primary schools across UT to upgrade numerical skills of the children."—(KNO)

## Army's Western Command Gets New Commander

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant General Nav K Khanduri on Monday assumed the charge of GOC-in-C, Western Command. A defence spokesman said that he has the distinction of being the first Air Defence Officer to be appointed as an Army Commander.

On assuming the appointment of Army Commander, Lt Gen Khanduri laid a wreath at the Veer Smriti paying homage to the soldiers who have fallen in the line of duty.

The newly appointed commander was given the Guard of Honour at the Western Command Headquarters.

An alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun and the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, the General

Officer passed out with 73rd Regular Course from the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun and was commissioned into 27 Air Defence Regiment (Amritsar Airfield) on December 17, 1983.

He is an alumnus of the prestigious Defence Services Staff College, College of Defence Management and the National Defence College, officials said.

In a career spanning over 38 years, Lt Gen Khanduri has served across a wide spectrum of operational areas and has tented a host of important Command, Staff and Instructional appointments. The General has the unique distinction of commanding an Air Defence Brigade in Operation "Rakshak" and later a Mountain Brigade in Operation "Falcon". (KINS)



## Police Summons Kargil Politician Over Tweet on Tripura Violence

Prove Veracity Of Violence In Tripura, Officials Tell Sajad Kargili

AQUIB JAVEED

**SRINAGAR:** The Ladakh police has summoned prominent Muslim political activist Sajad Kargili over his tweets on the violence against Muslims in Tripura.

Kargili was summoned to the Baroo Police Station over a tweet highlighting the violence in the north eastern state.

Kargili told Kashmir Observer that he has been booked under sections 107: to commit a breach of the peace or disturb, and 151: disturbance of the public peace, of the Indian Penal Code and was produced before the Tehsildar Kargil on October 31.

"The Tehsildar asked to respond to the notice on 2nd November," he said.

The show cause notice by the Kargil Police on October 29, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, reads that Kargili "has tweeted a post wherein you have written that in Tripura since last week Muslims are being targeted by Hindutva mob their houses, Mosques are being vandalized and burnt etc with two photographs depicting fire incidents."

The notice further says his tweet on Tripura has a tendency to create an impression among the common people "that such an occurrence" has taken place and therefore is likely to spread hate / dislike against members of a particular community as a result it may disturb peace and tranquility in the area."

On October 27, Kargili had tweeted: "Very sad news is coming from #Tripura for a few days, since last week Muslim are being targeted by Hindutva mob, their houses, mosques are being vandalised and burnt. Strongly condemn these non stop attacks on Muslims in Tripura."

A day later Kargili, who had contested the 2019 general elections from the Ladakh con-



stituency and given a close fight to the BJP, had condemned the violence and called for police action against the mobs

"Let's condemn the brutal attack on Muslims in Tripura. Hate crimes against Muslims are on Rise (sic) in Tripura. Arrest the culprits & stop the violence immediately," Kargili had tweeted, along with a link to a news report.

Meanwhile, the show cause notice further stated that "Since Kargil district has lots of visitors from other parts of the country comprising members of different religious communities and such tweet by you may result into harassment of such visitors."

The violence against Muslims in Tripura has largely been played down by the National media. The Ladakh police, going a further step ahead, has directed Kargili to prove that the violence ever took place and accused him of spreading hatred.

He has been directed to "produce reliable, trustworthy and concrete evidence to show that such an incident has actually taken place to establish veracity and genuineness of the news and your intention of spreading hate in the District."

Tension are high in Tripura following the razing down of several mosques and Muslim-owned properties by Hindu mobs, according to reports in the BBC. The violence followed clashes between Hindu groups and the police as well. Security has been tightened and restrictions on gatherings have been

enforced in the affected areas.

The summon also stated that the content of Kargili's tweets "may be a big threat to the tourists coming from different parts of the country particularly the members of Hindus and Buddhist communities who are in minority in District Kargil."

Kargil is a Muslim majority district in the Ladakh union territory that was carved out from Jammu and Kashmir state after the abrogation of the region's special status and it's bifurcation in August 2019.

"Why action warranted under law of the land may not be taken against you? The contents of your tweet may have resulted in the harassment of visitors / Tourist and Local populace of minority community in District Kargil in particular and UT Ladakh in general and other parts of the country," the summon notice adds.

Anayat Ali Chowdhary, SP Kargil refused to comment on the summon. He told Kashmir Observer that Kargili was booked by the Tehsildar and not by the police.

Reacting to the summons, CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said that it "is a glaring example of how the UT administration of Ladakh wants to silence those who speak against the violence, Ladakh Union Territory administration must understand that by such acts genuine voices can't be suppressed."

Tarigami further said that the recent violence in Tripura has "created an atmosphere of hatred in the region." Tarigami added that "some communal elements are fanning passions against the minority community in Tripura under the garb of communal violence in Bangladesh" and accused the Tripura government of inaction. "The Tripura BJP government is not doing anything against those, who are disturbing communal harmony there," he said.

## Jammu BJP Leader's Call for Violence Against Kashmiris Sparks Outrage

Citizens Demand Legal Action

AQUIB JAVEED

**SRINAGAR:** Senior BJP Leader and former legislator from Jammu, Vikram Singh Randhawa on Sunday called for "skinning Kashmiri Muslims" and "cancelling their citizenship" in a now viral video.

In the video, Randhawa is heard demanding the cancellation of degrees earned by Kashmiri students before calling for direct violence. He also called Kashmiri Muslims "katmulla", a derogatory slang for Muslims used in many states of India.

The comments have caused outrage on social media with many political and social activists calling for action against the BJP leader's "hate speech".

Jammu based senior advocate Shakeel Ahmad urged the

Jammu and Kashmir Police to take action against the former lawmaker. "The speech has hurt the sentiment of the Muslim community," he said. "I request IGP Jammu to book Randhawa for hate speech. He also used derogatory remarks against Muslim women."

Several Kashmiri students in Srinagar were booked under anti-terrorism laws and some were expelled by their colleges in other states over celebrations following Pakistan winning the October 24 match.

Amid the outrage, the BJP's disciplinary committee issued a show cause notice to Randhawa's "absolutely reckless and hatred promoting remarks against particular Community."

The letter stated that his remarks are "unacceptable to

party and has brought disrepute and embarrassment to the party. Such type of conduct is likely to dent the public image of party. As a senior leader and former legislator it is expected of you to conduct yourself in public in a manner which is as per party principles."

The committee directed Randhawa to explain his position within 48 hours and also advised him to "immediately issue a public apology" and barred him from speaking to the press. No apology was issued until the filing of this report.

Meanwhile, on the basis of a complaint by advocate Muzaaffar Ali Shah, the police in Jammu have registered a case under sections 295-A / 505 (2) of the Indian Penal Code at the Bahu Fort Police Station.

## New Delhi Creating Faultlines To divide and disempower J&K: PDP

Mehbooba Mufti Chairs Party Meeting

**SRINAGAR:** The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has expressed serious concerns over New Delhi's renewed efforts to create and foster new fault lines between the people of Jammu & Kashmir aimed at dividing and further disempowering the people.

The Political Affairs Committee (PAC) of the party that met here with the party President Mehbooba Mufti in chair observed that resorting to naked communalism and pitting people against each other on the basis of religion, cast, sect and ethnicity are the only tools of the BJP to cover-up its failure in governance hence divisive policies are gaining fresh ground and are being promoted unabashedly.

This, the meeting observed, is being done to further divide the people so as to accomplish the agenda of "complete disempowerment" of the people of J&K & cautioned people to not fall prey & give in to such plans. People should collectively rise in unison to defeat such plans, the meeting observed.

The meeting further observed that all the regions of J&K, apart from being robbed of their constitutional & democratic rights are slowly witnessing the catastrophic ramifications of the BJP- RSS plans in sectors like business, employment, right to natural resources etc. Initially, some people had fallen to the false narrative of "empowered Jammu" as a lam justification for all that the Government of India has been doing since August 5,

2019 but it is evident and accepted now that Jammu region is also paying a heavy price for the misadventures and nefarious acts of the BJP government, the meeting observed.

As a whole, the abject failure of the BJP government has given J&K the dubious distinction of having the highest unemployment rate in the country.

In a statement issued by the Party Chief Spokesperson Syed Suhail Bukhari, the PAC resolved that the party would redouble its efforts to fight the designs of dividing and disempowering the people of Jammu & Kashmir and would give voice to the concerns and aspirations of all the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Expressing anguish over the spree of recent arrests and initiation of action against students within and outside J&K, the PAC termed the government action as uncalled-for and resolved that the party would explore and extend all possible help, including legal, to the victims of such action.

The meeting also reiterated the party's demand of immediate release of all political prisoners and speedy and impartial investigations into the cases of recent civilian killings. PAC also condemned the government's arbitrary actions against employees including a recent spree of illegal terminations. The meeting also expressed grave concern over the deteriorating security situation and spike in violence levels. (KNS)

## World Bank To Fund Road Connectivity in North Kashmir

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Rs 31.89 crores are being spent on the strengthening of the inter-district road connectivity between Baramulla and Bandipora districts in North Kashmir under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP).

The Integrated Road Upgradation Project (IRUP)-Reexecuted under the component -Be construction of Roads and Bridges of JTFRP involves the upgradation of 12.68 km Hamrey- Sultanpora-Nowgam, 6 km Shadipora-Khanpeth Sumbal road (District Baramulla/Bandipora) and 7.186 km Hajin-Ajas via Saidnura (District Bandipora).

The work on the road upgradation project is being executed by J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency and as part of the routine monitoring of the works, Er. Shak-ti Sagar, Director, Kashmir, JKERA today inspected work on the road upgradation project.

Er. Syed Zahoor Hussain , Project Manager, Transport, JKERA, Kashmir while giving details of the project informed that work on the integrated road upgradation project includes upgradation of road from single lane to the intermediate lane configuration in (Shadipora-Khanpeth-Sumbal ) and (Hajin -Ajas) and strengthening of existing Hamray-Sultanpora-Nowgam road with the laying of GSB (granular sub-base), WBM (wet bituminous macadam) , BM (bituminous macadam) and construction of drainage structures and protection works wherever required.

Project Manager, Transport further informed that JKERA has already completed black topping on

the 7.186 km Hajin-Ajas and 6 km Shadipora-Khanpeth roads under the project and work on the protection works is underway.

He added that work on the Hamrey-Sultanpora-Nowgam road section had been impacted due to the issue over supply of the construction materials which has now been sorted out and works on the strengthening of the road surface and protection work is underway in full swing and black-topping of the road will be taken up during the forthcoming working season.

Director, ERA asked Project Manager, Transport, JKERA to further expedite the pace of work on the project and ensure full compliance to all the quality control parameters. He also directed Project Manager to immediately start the construction of one of the dilapidated culverts on Hajin-Ajas road after seeking no objection certificate from the Irrigation and Flood control department.

The integrated road upgradation project will benefit around 1.5 lac souls living in the more than 30 villages along both the sides of the road and will provide them with all-weather road connectivity with improved riding surface and improved access to market for their agricultural produce and better access to health, education etc.

The villages to be benefitted include Koshum Bagh, Rakhi Hajin, Sadurkote, Sadunara, Gund Prang, Ajas, Hamray, Trambgund, Rakhi Hygam, Wussan, Gundi Jehangir, Sadatpora, Sumbal, Tangapora, Bulagam, Shadipora, Rakhi Shilvat, Najin, Tirmang, Gund Khalil, Parihaspora, Turgam, Khanpeth etc.

## Aim To Bring Down Transformer Failure Rate By 15%: Admin

PDD Signs MoU With IIT Jammu For Technical Advice

**JAMMU:** The Power DISCOMS JPDCI and KPDCI will aim at reducing the transformer failure rate by at least 15% in the current year. This target was set by Principal Secretary Power, Rohit Kansal at a meeting held at IIT Jammu today.

He was presiding over the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU between Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited, JPDCI, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited, KPDCI and IIT Jammu here today. The MoU was signed by MD JPDCI, Gurmeet Singh and MD KPDCI Basharat Qayoom on behalf of the two corporations respectively. The IIT Jammu was represented by its Director Manoj S Gaur. The Chairman JPDCI, Jagmohan Sharma and other senior officers were also pres-

ent on the occasion.

Under the MoU, IIT Jammu would help in providing an end to end solution for procurement, analysis and maintenance of Distribution transformers. The institute would incorporate smart technologies and data analyses to provide preventive maintenance, data-intensive monitoring, damage analysis and smart metering technologies for end consumers. Real time monitoring and e-governance facilities would also be provided under the agreement. It would also facilitate capacity building of engineers of both distribution companies and also provide smart technological interventions.

The agreement provides for undertaking research and consultancy projects, and for developing course modules for training of engineers

in addition to internship opportunities for IIT students. Nominated members from the engineering institute and the distribution companies would also form Joint Working Groups for implementation of the MoU. Experts and IT tools from the UT administration would also be provided to augment the joint efforts under the MoU.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal Secretary hailed the MoU as an excellent example of Academia-government interface. He said that while the DISCOMS would benefit from a massive reduction in infrastructure damage rate, and in identifying vulnerabilities in the overall power infrastructure, the staff and students at IIT would be enriched by exposure to real life problems.

## Newborn Burnt, Dumped In Garbage Outside GMC Rajouri

KO NEWS SERVICE

**Jammu:** Authorities on Monday discovered the burnt body of a newborn outside the gates of the Government Medical College in Jammu Division's Rajouri district.

The body is suspected to be of a child born within the last 48 hours and was found lying in a garbage dump by passersby who reported it to the police, officials said.

A police officer confirmed the recovery to a local news agency and said that a case has been registered under which further investigations will be taken up. (GNS)

## Bank Security Guards Protest Salary Cut in Jammu, Srinagar

**JAMMU:** Hundreds of security guards employed with banks in Jammu and Kashmir staged a protest against salary cuts. The protests were held simultaneously in Srinagar and in Jammu.

In Srinagar, security guards associated with Jammu and Kashmir Bank staged a protest against Chandigarh-based Delta Company over what they termed a huge pay cut. There are around 3500 skilled and unskilled security guards working at different banks and ATMs in Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam.

Scores of security guards assembled at Press Enclave Srinagar and registered their protest. "This protest is not against JK Bank but against the Chandigarh based Delta Company that despite being paid by JK Bank in advance has resorted to a pay cut," Tahir Ahmed, one of

the protesters, told a local news agency.

He added: "Earlier JK Bank had given a contract to Chandigarh based 'Para-Green' Company. The Para Green Company was paying Rs 11,250 to skilled guards and Rs 7,500 monthly to unskilled security guards. Now JK Bank has given the contract to another Chandigarh based 'Delta Company', that shortly after getting the contract resort to reduction in monthly salaries."

The new company will pay Rs 9,000 to skilled guards and Rs 5,500 to unskilled guards. Besides, it has asked the security guards to pay Rs 15,000 from their own pockets so that uniforms and other things can be arranged for them. The protesters said that JK Bank pays Rs 18,000 per security guard to this private security company

but instead of spending a major portion on hapless and poor security guards, this company is intending to exploit them and keep the major chunk of money with itself.

The protesters appealed to the JK Bank to take up the issue with the 'Delta Company'.

Meanwhile in Jammu, hundreds of security guards, including ex-servicemen, working for a private company engaged by a bank, protest against salary cuts without any notification. The guards providing protection to Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs), cash vans and bank branches assembled outside the zonal office of J&K Bank at Bahu Plaza and staged a sit-in, seeking intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the bank management to ensure proper wages to them.



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K O V I E W

New Delta Strain

There is a new virus variant Delta AY.4.2 strain that has emerged in parts of India. The variant is believed to be more transmissible than the earlier delta variant which wrought such havoc in India early this year, leading to thousands of deaths. However by June, the pandemic had been brought very much under control. Though ever since India has been anticipating and preparing for the third wave, it mercifully has not come to pass so far. The largescale vaccination has certainly played a role in arresting the spread of infections. India's Covid vaccination count has already crossed the 100 crore-mark. Even the World Bank president David Malpass has congratulated India on a successful vaccination campaign against the Covid-19 pandemic as he met the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in October and appreciated India's international role in vaccine production and distribution.

India's total caseload is now under 13000, of which Kerala alone accounts for 7,427 cases. The country's overall active caseload has gone way below 2 lakh after more than seven months. This shows a steady decline in numbers. If this trend continues, India seems on way to be rid of the pandemic in a month or two.

But the Delta AY.4.2 strain could cause some serious problems if not controlled in time. Or if it is observed to be somewhat unchecked by the vaccination. As many as 17 cases of the strain have been found in India. In Karnataka, the government is mulling fresh guidelines to combat the strain. A sub-lineage of the Delta variant of COVID-19, AY.4.2, has earlier been detected in the United Kingdom, China, and Russia.

So, India needs to get its act right. At the same time the world has to work together to stamp out what is otherwise an abating pandemic. Addressing the first session of the G20 summit in Rome, "Global economy and global health", Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the need for a collaborative approach to fight the COVID-19 pandemic covering scientific communities and governments.

Over the last two years, the world has certainly acted in concert in so far as the vaccination is concerned which has brought the pandemic under control. That said, the governments in the different countries have to stick to complementing the vaccination with the upgrading of healthcare and strict enforcement of adherence to SOPs in public. In India, this is more critical in view of the emergence of new delta strain. This alone will help stave off more outbreaks in various parts of the country which, if unchecked, could create conditions for a third wave.

OTHER OPINION

The Captain's Knock

Nobody said it better than Virat Kohli. The captain Saturday stood up for his teammate Mohammed Shami after the latter was attacked on social media after the loss to Pakistan in the T20 World Cup match. His words need reiteration, so here they are: "To me, attacking someone over their religion is the most pathetic thing that a human being can do. Everyone has the right to voice their opinion over what they feel about a certain situation, but I personally have never ever even thought of discriminating (against) anyone over their religion. That's a very sacred and personal thing to every human being. People take out their frustrations because they obviously have no understanding of what we do as individuals. They have no understanding of how much effort we put on the field. They have no understanding of the fact that someone like Shami has won India a number of matches in the last few years and he has been our primary bowler with Jasprit Bumrah, when it comes to making an impact in games. If people can overlook that and his passion for his country, honestly, I don't even want to waste one minute of my life to give any attention to those people, and neither does Shami and neither does anyone else in the team. We stand by him fully. We are backing him 200 per cent, and all those who have attacked him can come with more force if they want to. Our brotherhood, our friendship within the team, nothing can be shaken."

The clarity of Kohli's statement, its refusal to duck behind pieties and euphemisms, has enormous significance. While former cricketers had sought to defend Shami by excusing a rare "off day", they chose to elide the communal nature of the abuse Shami faced. Kohli looks this brand of divisiveness in the eye, and calls it out for what it is. His assertion of solidarity and brotherhood is not just relevant to cricket. It ripples out to the larger world of politics and culture, where every day the right to take offence is being weaponised to polarise, where micro-contestations over language, advertisements, art and cinema, are used to prise open the bonds that have held communities together and to hand over the freedoms of Indians to moral police and digital mobs. In this environment, Kohli's words draw a line and say: Enough.

They also break a long silence. For a while now, the defence of tolerance and secularism — the inheritance from the freedom struggle, the default settings of a diverse nation — is framed as a political shibboleth, anti-this or pro-that. Too many celebrities and public figures, who both think and know better, from all walks of life, do a cost-benefit analysis and decide to shut up rather than speak up and call out hate and bigotry. But that one of India's biggest celebrities, whose talent, achievement and voice reach out to vast numbers of India's young, chooses to do so marks an important moment. Like Olympian Neeraj Chopra before him, Kohli calls the bluff of those ever ready to sound the dog-whistle and twist sport into the service of polarisation. It is for the rest to listen and learn from Captain Kohli.

The Indian Express

A Powerful Home Minister's  
Low-Key Kashmir Visit

In Hindsight, There Was Little About Amit Shah's Three-Day J&K Stay That Could Be Termed As A Big-Bang Policy Or A Political Announcement



RIYAZ WANI

**IN HINDSIGHT, THERE WAS little about the visit that could be termed as a big-bang policy or a political announcement. If anything stood out about the visit, it was its context. It was Shah's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. It came when relations with Pakistan are arguably at the lowest point in their bilateral relationship. The standoff with China along the Line of Actual Control has only grown more ominous. The successive killings of security personnel by militants in Poonch signals the expansion of militancy into Jammu. And in the run up to the visit, a series of civilian killings not only pushed Kashmir to the edge but also threatened an exodus of the remaining Kashmiri Pandits, including those of the migrant labourers**

As "powerful" as the home minister Amit Shah is, his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was relatively routine. The visit seemed more like a break from his hectic schedule than something geared towards some major policy or political objective. The home minister chaired a high-level security meeting which assumed some importance in view of the recent civilian killings including those belonging to minority communities. Shah met delegations and reviewed the implementation of development schemes and some important projects. He inaugurated a Houseboat Festival organised by J&K's tourism department at the famous Dal lake terming it "a mesmerising experience." He paid obeisance at the Mata Kheer Bhawani temple at Tulmulla in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Shah shared "breathtaking pictures" of the Pir Panjal mountain range that he captured from the air on his way back.

"Kashmir, the Jewel in India's crown, is all set to welcome tourists. Do visit this beautiful part of India," Shah wrote as a caption to the pictures.

In hindsight, there was little about the visit that could be termed as a big-bang policy or a political announcement. If anything stood out about the visit, it was its context. It was Shah's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. It came when relations with Pakistan are arguably at the lowest point in their bilateral relationship. The standoff with China along the Line of Actual Control has only grown more ominous. The successive killings of security personnel by militants in Poonch signals the expansion of militancy into Jammu. And in the run up to the visit, a series of civilian killings not only pushed Kashmir to the edge but also threatened an exodus of the remaining Kashmiri Pandits, including those of the migrant labourers.

But the home minister sought to steer strictly clear of these chal-

lenges - at least, in his public statements. The effort was to project a hunky-dory picture of the former state. The statements that made it to the media highlighted youth clubs, the development and the investment in last two years - Rs 12,000 crore investment in the past six months compared to a total of Rs 15,000 crore in the past seven years - and pointed to the increased arrivals of tourists - 1.13 lakh visited Kashmir from January to March as against 36,000 that visited in 2020.

Shah refused to acknowledge that there was militancy in Kashmir. He said that terrorism and stone-pelting had disappeared in Kashmir and those who wanted to disrupt peace would be dealt with an iron hand.

There was an odd political statement though. While it seemed incidental to the general thrust of the home minister's visit, it reflected the government's stance on the political aspect of Kashmir: 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, Shah said he would rather talk to the youth of Kashmir than Islamabad. This coming from the home minister of India meant 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 last year, which culminated in a reaffirmation of ceasefire in February this year, the dialogue did not move forward after India apparently refused Pakistan's demand that Article 370 be reversed. And ever since the two countries have drifted further 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.

And another important statement that Shah made was about the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir which, he said, would follow the completion of the delimitation exercise and the subsequent Assembly elections.

While the delimitation seems like a proper process, it will end up changing the political landscape of J&K like never before. It could very well pave the way for a future chief minister who is from Jammu, a longstanding political plank of the BJP. And once that is done, there is little guarantee that statehood would be the next logical step. Or whether the statehood to be granted would be full or a truncated one - one that resembles a Delhi-type arrangement where the real power remains vested with the governor. Such an arrangement would hardly be enough to make a redeeming difference to the existing state of affairs in J&K, as fundamentally there wouldn't be much that would change on the ground.

As of now, this is the reality. And this is unlikely to change as long as the BJP is in power at the centre. The difference between BJP and other parties in India is an important one: The BJP no longer sees Kashmir as a political conflict as we know it: a dispute between India and Pakistan going back to Partition and the one arising from a decades-long separatist struggle in the region. There is no plan underway to talk to Pakistan or to the dissenting political and militant groups in J&K to arrive at a solution. On the contrary, the effort is to enforce a unilateral solution - a merger of J&K into India and its gradual pacification- without taking Kashmiris or Pakistanis on board.

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer

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

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Curb Domestic Violence

THE National Crime Record Bureau data have pointed out that the number of cases registered under section 498A of IPC for 'cruelty by husband or his relatives' recorded an increase of 21.3 per cent in 2019 compared with 2018. Moreover, the

number of cases registered under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDV) Act reflected a decline of 4.5 per cent in 2019 over 2018. The reasons for the under-reporting of cases were personal, societal, and institutional. The Parliamentary Committee on Home

Affairs has recommended that the Home Ministry advise states and union territories to conduct sensitization and briefings of ground-level officials dealing with the PWDV Act so that women facing domestic violence could be better equipped to access justice. The awareness

programs at the grass-root level, fast-track courts, and rehabilitation facilities can be helpful in curbing domestic violence.

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# Ayan Gets Justice After 3 ½ Years

Work Done By Selfless Child Rights Activists Is Appreciable

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

**O**n August 24th last year, a landmark order was passed by the court of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities New Delhi. The commission which works under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment gave justice to Ayaan Zaffar, a 12-year-old child from Srinagar who is visually impaired and suffers from loco-motor disability as well. Ayaan who is enrolled as a student in Special Education Need (SEN) department of Delhi Public School (DPS) Srinagar was hit by a school bus in DPS Srinagar campus in June 2019.

As already reported by the media, Ayaan's parents and some social workers working for the rights of children in Kashmir had been raising this issue for a while now. The school authorities were reluctant to accept the fact that Ayaan was hit by a school bus and secondly the management failed to take care of his medical expenses as well.

The court of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities New Delhi recommended that school authorities take care of the expenses that were incurred on his treatment post accident. In addition to it, the commission recommended that the victim should be given a full scholarship. The school authorities were also directed that on no account should the child be dismissed from the school or harassed by the respondents. However, DPS Srinagar management didn't implement the orders of the commission for more than a year.

#### NCPCR's directions to DC Srinagar

When Ayaan was not provided the compensation by Delhi Public School, some social activists, who were already assisting Ayaan's family in this legal battle for more than 3 years brought this issue into the notice of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) last year in October. After several hearings, the commission issued an order on August 24th 2021, asking Deputy Commissioner Srinagar to implement the order of the court of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

Following this, DPS Srinagar on the intervention of DC Srinagar, finally agreed to implement the order. The school management handed over a compensation amount cheque of Rs 4 lakhs before the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar recently and also made a commitment to provide scholarship to Ayan till he passes class XII.

#### Background of the Case

Ayaan was hit by one of the school

## DISABLED PEOPLE

continue to be ignored by society. Many of them live in isolation, segregation and poverty. The children who have disabilities are the worst victims. In a place like Kashmir, they face barriers that prevent them from enjoying their educational and other rights

buses in DPS campus on June 19th 2019. First, he was taken to Ahmad hospital Nowgam, where according to parents, the cause of injury was not revealed. In view of the serious injury which had damaged his lower limbs, the visually impaired boy was taken to Bones & Joints Hospital Barzulla Srinagar. From there, he was further referred to Sher e Kashmir Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) in view of serious injury to his right lower limb which had damaged the nerves and veins plus muscles having been bruised severely.

As Ayaan could not recover, his parents decided to take him to Kokila Behan Hospital in Mumbai in the month of October 2019. On account of the injury being very severe, the hospital management advised Ayaan's parents to take Ayaan to Tamil Nadu for a specialized treatment but doctors in Tamil Nadu also failed to treat him. Finally, in February 2020, after spending a lot of money, time and energy, his parents came back to Srinagar.

#### Activists Who Assisted Family

After feeling demoralized and dejected, Ayaan's parents Dr Zaffar and Shayesta came in contact with three Srinagar based child rights activists Dr Chintanjeet Kour, Zaheer Jan and Mudassir Shaban. They tried to approach the management of DPS Srinagar with the request to give com-



pensation to the victim, in vain.

All the three were thus forced to file a complaint before the Court of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in June 2020 and the matter was disposed of within 3 months.

While responding back to the Commission, the school management said that they were providing scholarships to the Ayan. The case was listed several times and finally on 24th August 2020, the Commission issued a detailed order directing school management to reimburse all the money which was spent on Ayaan's treatment plus the scholarship. But the school authorities didn't implement the order for more than a year.

#### Court Order

The Disability Commission heard the case through video conferencing on several occasions. Advocate Waseem Aslam appeared on behalf of the victim along with his parents Dr Zaffar ur Rehman and Shayesta. The court of chief commissioner observed

en and Child Development Simriti Irani whose office through an official communication No: CW-I-13/2/2017-CW-I(27953) Dated: 23.10.2020 directed the Director General Women and Child Development J&K Govt to intervene. In addition to it a copy was sent to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights as well. Zaheer Jan and his colleagues Dr Chintanjeet Kour and Mudassir Shaban also approached the Child Rights Commission. This commission sent a communication to District Magistrate Srinagar asking him to act. The DC office Srinagar on 27.10.2020 directed the Principal DPS Srinagar to implement the orders passed by the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. A compliance report was sought by the DC office within a week's time, but the school management didn't act at all until the National Child Rights Commission had to intervene.

#### Conclusion

Disabled people continue to be ignored by society. Many of them live in isolation, segregation and poverty. The children who have disabilities are the worst victims. In a place like Kashmir, they face barriers that prevent them from enjoying their educational and other rights. We don't have schools for such children. As a society we seem to have become dis-able to address these issues. If a reputed educational institution who teaches moral values and ethics can't even take care of medical expenses of a specially abled child who was a victim of their negligence and also fail to respect the orders of the court of Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities, what can we expect from Govt and other public authorities? I appreciate the work done by three selfless child rights activists who guided Ayan's parents to fight this legal battle. The work done by people like Advocate Roma Bhagat, Bharti Ali, Poonam Dinshaw, Ruby Singh, Pankaj Muru, Akil Paul, Jasmeet Arora is also of great significance. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 is now operational in J&K post article 370 abrogation. I appeal to the Govt and NGO's to create more awareness about this legislation so that people suffering from various disabilities can get benefited as per the provisions of this law.

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

## COP26: Barren Climate Finance Pledges

Melanie Pill

**T**he make-or-break United Nations climate talks in Glasgow have begun. Much attention so far has rightly focused on the emissions reduction ambition each nation is taking to the negotiations. But another key goal of the talks is to dramatically scale up so-called "climate finance" for developing nations.

Climate finance is money paid by wealthy countries (which are responsible for most of the historic emissions) to developing countries to help them pay for emissions reduction measures and adaptation. Climate finance should be in addition to standard development aid.

At the 2009 Copenhagen climate talks, wealthy nations promised US\$100 billion a year in climate finance to developing nations by 2020. But that goal has not been met.

A new climate finance plan, developed by Germany and Canada, has been proposed. Reports suggest it will propose meeting the US\$100 billion annual target by taking an average of the finance provided from 2020 to 2025, instead of in single years.

The renewed focus on the plan is welcome. But it must be robust enough to tackle the mammoth task ahead, not just an exercise in shuffling figures. Time is running out – if developing nations can't afford to reduce emissions, we won't hit global climate goals and everyone will suffer.

#### Failing to commit enough climate finance puts us all at risk

At COP26, intense pressure will be applied to developed countries to provide adequate climate finance.

The promised US\$100 billion a year is not nearly enough. The IPCC estimates



US\$2.4 trillion is needed annually for the energy sector alone until 2035 to limit global warming below 1.5°C to prevent catastrophic consequences.

The cost for inaction is high and livelihoods are at stake. Crop failures, water shortages, and poor health outcomes due to pollution in major cities are all on the cards.

Wealthy nations such as Australia are also affected by such issues – but they often have a far greater capacity to prepare and respond than developing nations.

#### Other sticking points

COP26 will also likely see "Article 6" of the Paris Agreement come into effect, and produce more detail on how this would work in practice.

This article establishes a market mechanism which would encourage emission reductions by means of carbon trading. It could mean companies have to buy allowances to continue emitting CO<sub>2</sub>.

This carbon trading will provide a funding stream for climate finance. In an ideal world, it generates climate cash that poor countries can use to reduce emissions and adapt.

Another topic expected to be fiercely negotiated at COP26 is the so-called "third pillar" of climate change action: loss and damage caused by human-induced climate change.

Loss and damage can be, for example, slow onset events such as sea level rise or prolonged droughts. It could be ex-

## IF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DO NOT RECEIVE

financial assistance to reduce emissions, it is unlikely we will meet the commitment of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Clearly, helping developing nations pay for the expensive work of emissions reduction and adaptation benefits everyone on the planet

treme weather events such as floods and cyclones.

Other impacts include economic damage to livelihoods and personal "non-economic losses" such as cultural heritage or loss of loved ones. Loss and damage goes beyond what we consider "normal weather".

Increased human migration and displacement also fall under "loss and damage" if caused by climate change impacts. Between 2008 and 2014 and average of 22.5 million people were displaced because of extreme weather and climate-related disasters. This figure does not include migration due to sea level rise, desertification or environmental degradation.

Loss and damage has been a highly sensitive topic in international negotiations. Wealthy countries fear being made liable and opening themselves up to compensation claims from poorer countries due to climate inaction, human rights violations because of forced migration or other issues related to climate injustices.

After several previous attempts to include loss and damage in convention text, it was finally recognised under Article 8 in the Paris Agreement in 2015.

However, the document's fine print ensured Article 8 does not provide any basis for liability or compensation. Finance to address loss and damage was also not identified.

The Alliance of Small Island Developing States, the Least Developed Countries and the Africa Group make up over half the world's nations and currently take the brunt of climate damage. These groups have banded together and are

expected to negotiate hard on loss and damage at COP26.

#### Failing on climate finance means failing the planet

The risk of legal consequences from climate inaction is increasing. Court cases against fossil fuel companies are on the rise.

Governments are no longer immune either. In 2015, an environmental group called the Urgenda Foundation joined with 900 citizens to sue the Dutch government for not doing enough to prevent climate change.

The law suit was successful. The court found the Dutch government's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions was insufficient.

In the US, 21 young Americans recently sued the government for violating their constitutional rights by exacerbating climate change. While unsuccessful, the Biden administration agreed to symbolic settlement talks.

And just over a month ago, Vanuatu asked the International Court of Justice to weigh in on what rights current and future generations may have to be protected from climate change.

If developing countries do not receive financial assistance to reduce emissions, it is unlikely we will meet the commitment of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Clearly, helping developing nations pay for the expensive work of emissions reduction and adaptation benefits everyone on the planet.

By Arrangements with The Conversation



# Palestinians unveil huge mosaic at Jericho desert castle

JERICHO: Palestinian authorities on Thursday unveiled one of the largest floor mosaics in the world, in the occupied West Bank city of Jericho, after years of restoration.

Resembling a fine carpet, the vast mosaic covers 836 square metres (8,998 square feet) at the Hisham Palace, an Ummayyad Islamic desert castle dating from the eighth century.

The images, seen on dozens of panels, include a lion attacking a deer to symbolise war and two gazelles which symbolise peace, as well as delicate floral and geometric designs.

Hisham Palace had lain forgotten for centuries until it was rediscovered in the 19th century, and explored in the 1930s. It was then that the mosaic was uncovered beneath the dust.

But it still remained neglected until five years ago when the site was closed to visitors as a \$12 million Japan-funded restoration effort was launched.

"This mosaic contains more than five million pieces of stone from Palestine which have a natural and distinctive colour," Saleh Tawafsha, the under-secretary at the Palestinian tourism and antiquities ministry, said during the unveiling ceremony.

He said he hoped that the restoration will draw tourists to Jericho, which lies in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The Hisham Palace near the Dead Sea covers about 150 acres (60 hectares) and comprises baths and an agricultural estate. The Ummayyad Dynasty lasted from 660 to 750 AD.



A view of one of the largest mosaic panels in the world. It was unveiled following a multi-year restoration project at Hisham's Palace, in the West Bank city of Jericho. — AFP

# Ten great films about writers and writing

Agencies

It is hardly ever easy to breathe life into the writing process on the screen. The day-to-day routines and rituals that are so deeply rooted in the creative process may fall completely flat on camera; sitting at a table and typing away is after all not very dramatic. And writers

ture writers and their methods:

**The Hours**  
The story of how the novel "Mrs. Dalloway" affects three generations of women, all of whom, in one way or another, have had to deal with depression and suicide in their lives.

80s, starring Mickey Rourke and Faye Dunaway in the lead roles.

**Capote**  
In 1959, Truman Capote learns of the murder of a Kansas family and decides to write a book about the case. While researching for his novel In Cold Blood, Capote forms a relationship with one of the killers, Perry Smith, who is on death row.

**Barton Fink**  
A renowned New York playwright is enticed to California to write for the movies and discovers the hellish truth of Hollywood.

**The Wife**  
A wife questions her life choices as she travels to Stockholm to see her husband receive the Nobel Prize for Literature.

**The Savages**  
A sister and brother face the realities of familial responsibility and literary capabilities as they begin to care for their ailing father.

**The End of the Tour**  
The story of the five-day interview between Rolling Stone reporter David Lipsky and acclaimed novelist David Foster Wallace, which took place right after the 1996 publication of Wallace's groundbreaking epic novel, 'Infinite Jest.'

**Can You Ever Forgive Me?**  
When author Lee Israel falls out of step with current tastes, she turns her art form to deception.

**Quills**  
In a Napoleonic era insane asylum, an inmate, the irrepressible Marquis De Sade, fights a battle of wills against a tyrannically prudish doctor.



themselves are not always the most unreserved people, nor are they particularly skilled at separating their personal lives from their artistic pursuits. Thus, great movies about writers and their craft are naturally far and few in between.

Here are our picks for the best films that have managed to deftly cap-

**Adaptation**  
A lovelorn screenwriter becomes desperate as he tries and fails to adapt "The Orchid Thief" by Susan Orlean for the screen.

**Barfly**  
The story of successful poet Charles Bukowski and his exploits in Hollywood during the 60s, 70s, and

# Study finds wild Himalayan fig may be used as natural pain reliever

Press Trust Of India

The wild Himalayan fig, commonly known as 'Bedu' in Uttarakhand's Kumaon region, may be used as a safer alternative to synthetic pain relievers like Aspirin and Diclofenac, according to a study conducted on lab rats.

An international team, led by researchers at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Punjab, noted that the popular fruit in the Himalayan region also has many other medicinal benefits such as curing skin diseases and wound infections.

Over a period of three years, the researchers studied the analgesic effects of extracts from the wild Himalayan fig, which were tested on experimental rats.

Scientifically known as 'Ficus Palmata', the wild Himalayan fig contains two major components Psoralen and Rutin, the researchers said.

In the study, Psoralen helped to block an enzyme called 'Cyclooxygenase-2' (COX-2), which is also blocked by pain relievers such as Diclofenac while Rutin helped bind the mu-opi-

oid, a major binding site in Morphine.

The research, published in the journal Plants, concluded that the wild Himalayan fig has potential analgesic effects at different doses in general and at a 400 milligrammes per kilogram (mg/kg) dose in particular.

"Wild Himalayan fig aka Bedu are an excellent and safe plant-based alternative to the synthetic pain relievers like Aspirin and Diclofenac," said Devesh Tiwari, Assistant Professor at LPU, who led the study.

"Our research is the first, to establish wild Himalayan fig as a natural pain reliever. Traditionally, this fruit was used for curing backaches in the rural areas. So far, there was no study available on the analgesic effects of Ficus Palmata," Tiwari told PTI.

The authors of the study noted that the most widely used drugs for reduction of pain and inflammation are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

However, analgesic drugs like opiates and NSAIDs are not believed to be useful in all cases due to their low potency and adverse effects, they said.

"Both opiates and NSAIDs possess

potential side effects like opiate poisoning, gastrointestinal disturbance and hepatic dysfunction," the authors wrote in the journal.

"Medicinal plants can serve as a potential alternative source due to the presence of a diverse and complex variety of chemicals from which the discovery of novel analgesic agents is possible," they added.

Apart from LPU, the team included researchers from Kumaon University, Uttarakhand, Ganpat University in Gujarat, Sharda University in Greater Noida, Messina University in Italy and Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, both in Iran.

In the future, the researchers plan to carry human trials on the fruit for many other therapeutic potentials as this is a widely consumed wild fruit in the Himalayan region.

"The current study is focused on fruits alone. However synergistic effects can be evaluated in future studies and it may further improve their effectiveness," Tiwari added.

# 'Courageous' Women's Beauty Salon, 'A Bubble Of Freedom' In Taliban's Kabul



Kabul: It is one of the last places in Kabul where women can meet outside their households, a bubble of freedom and even frivolity away from the gaze of men.

Mohadessa has kept her beauty salon open despite threats from Afghanistan's new rulers.

Since the Taliban seized Kabul in mid-August, many women have disappeared from public spaces, driven into private areas out of fear and sometimes very real threats.

But Mohadessa's beauty salon has, for now, remained a place where women can relax among themselves outside the household and share their woes -- or forget them in favour of fun and fashion.

The oasis of feminine industry provides income for the staff and moments of indulgence for the clients, but its days may be numbered.

"We don't want to give up and stop working," the 32-year-old entrepreneur told AFP over the hubbub of women getting ready for a wedding celebration.

"We love that we have a job, and it is necessary for women to work in Afghan society-many of them are the breadwinners for their family."

Customers are dropped off outside and whisked past posters advertising fashion and beauty brands that are now blotted out with white paint.

They quickly disappear into the shop through a heavy curtain.

Once inside, the women shed their headscarves and outer garments and their excited voices compete with the hum of hair-dryers as they choose their new looks.

## Screaming mob

The last time the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, between 1996 and the US-led intervention of 2001, women were obliged to wear the all-covering burqa.

Under the Islamist movement's interpretation of Islamic law, beauty salons were banned outright.

Just having painted nails meant a woman could risk having her fingers cut off.

But since the Taliban returned to the capital and declared their Islamic Emirate, the movement has been at pains to present a more liberal face to the world.

Keen to secure international finance to head off economic disaster that could undermine their war gains, they have not rushed to reimpose restrictions on daily life.

That is not to say Mohadessa has not received threats.

A Taliban mob has shouted abuse outside

her shop, but she has made use of the legal limbo to continue.

"I can say that the women at this salon are courageous because they come to work with fear," she said.

"Every day they open the salon, they come in, and they continue to work, despite this fear."

**Message of 'resistance'**

On the day AFP visited, around 30 women had braved the climate of fear to come to the shop and prepare for a wedding, where the sexes are traditionally segregated during celebrations.

The women were clearly enjoying the rare chance to dress up and pamper themselves, with elaborate hair and eyelash decorations complementing a colourful make-up palette.

The bride's sister, English teacher Farkhunda, gazes at the results of an hour-long makeover.

"Yes, it's nice. It's beautiful. It's my first real day out since the end of August," she said cheerfully.

But under the splash of glittery eye-shadow, one of her pupils is immobile, taken during a gun and bomb attack when she was a teenager.

"You see my eye? I lost it on my way to school when the Taliban attacked us. But I am not scared of them. I don't want to talk about them. Today is for celebration," she said.

The light-hearted mood is as fragile as the delicate bejewelled hair bands. At every movement of the curtain hiding the door to the outside world, the women stiffen and briefly fall silent.

But none of the clients want to tone down their look, a stylised, ultra-feminine rebuke to the Taliban's looming curbs on free expression: dense foundation, long false lashes, dazzling colours and a China doll finish.

And 22-year-old Marwa, not her real name, with her asymmetric haircut exposing an ear dotted with piercings and decorative chains, sees a message of "resistance" in the stylings.

"We are not people with blue burkas. We are not people with black burkas. That's not who we are," she said.

**'Knife to my throat'**

Some of the women dream of leaving, others of change.

Farkhunda hopes she can get back to work while Mohadessa, determined to stay open, fears for her life.

She showed AFP a letter she believes comes from the Taliban's new Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, warning her to close down.

Her response: "Until they come and put a



## Govt Announces New Rules to Shield Honest Bank Staff



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Seeking to protect honest bank employees, the government has come out with the 'staff accountability framework' under which officers concerned will not be hauled up in case bonafide decisions involving loans up to Rs 50 crore go wrong.

The framework will cover only genuine decisions and not those involving malfeasance or malafide intentions, according to the norms issued by the finance ministry.

It specifies details and the procedures to be followed for scrutinising such acts of omission and commission on the part of bank officials concerned.

To save them from unnecessary hassle, the framework also provides for resolution of such cases against bankers.

"Banks must initiate and complete staff accountability exercise within six months from the date of classification of the account as NPA," the ministry said.

In the past, several senior bankers have been arrested in loan default cases.

The latest being the arrest of former SBI Chairman Pratip Chaudhuri in a case where the loan turned into a Non-Performing Asset (NPA).

## High Taxes Hampering Growth Of Luxury Car Segment In India: Audi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** A high taxation regime is restricting growth of the luxury car segment in India and the government should look at lowering the levies in order to help the sector grow, according to German automaker Audi.

Luxury car volumes account for less than 2 per cent of the overall passenger vehicle sales annually and the sector has been more or less at the same level for the past decade.

"We haven't been able to utilise our capacities here to the fullest primarily because the luxury segment hasn't grown in the country.

"While the volume segments have been growing all these years, the luxury segment went up to 40,000 units a year and stayed in that range and this year we can end up even lower than that," Audi India head Balbir Singh Dhillon told PTI in an interaction.

Hefty taxes have ensured that the segment has remained in the slow lane over the years.

"The luxury segment has remained less than 2 per cent of

The fear of 3Cs -- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and Comptroller and Audit General (CAG) -- often prevented bankers from taking commercial decisions which have probability of going bad.

The government and other stakeholders are taking steps to dispel the fears.

The framework, dated October 29, gives detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed for different category of NPAs, depending on the amount.

As per the guidelines, these accounts have been divided into three categories -- NPA up to Rs 10 lakh, Rs 10 lakh - Rs 1 crore and accounts above Rs 1 crore up to Rs 50 crore.

In NPA accounts having total outstanding above Rs 50 crore, staff accountability is to be examined as per extant guidelines, it said.

Commenting on the framework, Punjab & Sind Bank Managing Director S Krishnan said it is a well drafted framework and it will go a long way in instilling confidence in bankers.

The guidelines will help push credit growth as it helps to dispel doubts from the minds of bankers, he said.

## Go First Signs Pact With UAE-Based Lulu Group To Transport Cargo From Srinagar To Sharjah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SRINAGAR:** Private airline Go First here on Monday signed a pact with the UAE-based Lulu Group to transport cargo from Srinagar to Sharjah.

Go First was the first airline to start direct international connection from the Kashmir Valley and has now also become the first airline to start the international cargo services from the sector.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Go First Head (Corporate Affairs) Mohit Dwivedi and Lulu Group Director Salim M A, in the presence of Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce, and Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Ranjan Thakur.

The Lulu Group director said there were immense export opportunities in Kashmir.

"On behalf of the Lulu, I am very thankful to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir as well as the Government of India for giving us the opportunity to come to Kashmir. We are quite surprised to see the immense opportunities that we have for the exports from here.

"As Lulu, we will be able to take a lot of fruit, vegetables and antique and craft and a lot more items. We assure you that we will do our best to export goods from Kashmir," Salim M A said.

The Go First expressed happiness over becoming the first airline to transport the cargo from here to the Gulf countries.

"On behalf of Go First, I would like to thank the Jammu and Kashmir government, Lulu



Group and the Government of India, for giving us this opportunity for taking up the cargo for gulf countries. We are happy with this agreement," Go First's Dwivedi said.

He said the airline will start the operations from December this year.

Describing the MoU as a historic opportunity, Thakur said Lulu is the biggest retailer in the Gulf region and its presence will benefit the farmers, growers and artisans here.

"This MoU is a further development to the J&K's MoU with the Dubai government. The Lulu Group will source a lot of horticulture, agriculture products and handicrafts from J&K. They will follow it up with many more in the future," he said.

Thakur added that this will provide an opportunity to our farmers, growers, weavers and our artisans to access a large market and Lulu will get a good product to sell to their customers. "This is a win-win situation. The logistics support has been provided by Go First and the Lulu Group will do the market-

ing. We are only the facilitators."

He said the purpose is to have the farmers earn profits.

"This will get a better price in a short term transit on a long term basis, with easy access. This is the world opening up to J&K. For the time being, the cargo will be taken in the daily flight, but we can deploy a freighter as well when the time comes," he said.

Thakur said the Go First flight between Srinagar and Sharjah, which is currently operating four days a week, will soon become a daily flight and it will enable a bridge between J&K and the Gulf region and in particular to Dubai and Sharjah regions.

"We will get many opportunities through their (Lulu) retailers. The Lulu group was already exporting apples. Their foray into J&K indicates our seriousness and our efforts.

"I must congratulate the people of J&K and look forward to a much more meaningful relationship in the future also. We also hope that the Lulu Group will have a permanent presence in J&K," he said.

## J&K To Participate In Upcoming Surajkund Craft Mela

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a major development, the J&K UT is participating as a theme region in the upcoming Surajkund Mela through the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir.

The Surajkund Mela has been a big hit with respect to the handicrafts exhibition and this year the United Kingdom is joining as a Partner Nation for the event.

The Modalities for this upcoming event were discussed with the Surajkund Mela Authority and the Mela is scheduled to commence from 4th February, 2022. During the year 2020, this craft mela received a footfall of 13 lakh.

Participation in other exhibitions like HGH India 2021, ICE Delhi and Spring Fair, Gurgaon were also discussed and participation confirmed, in addition, Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir is also participating in DOMOTEX 2022, Hannover Germany.

The aim of such departmental interventions is to display and exhibit the handicrafts and handloom products of Jammu and Kashmir besides enabling the artisans to increase their market presence by bringing the exhibitors and visitors from all over the world to connect with them.

In addition to the above said scheduled events, the department will also hold exhibitions



in the metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai. The objective of this exercise is to provide the marketing opportunities to the artisans and manufacturers to dispose their inventory which has piled up due to the COVID-19 pandemics.

In order to finalize the marketing opportunity for the artisans, a series of meetings were conducted by the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir with officials at Delhi. Exhibition space at Delhi Haat for the coming winter was booked with the Development Commissioner Handicrafts and Development Commissioner Handloom Delhi.

In order to deliberate upon the upcoming India International Trade Fair (IITF) scheduled from 14th November,

2021 at Pragati Maidan, detailed discussion was held with the Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO). IITF happens to be a very important event with reference to handicrafts and this event could not take place last year because of the venue construction, now as the building has been completed and the ITPO venue is ready to host its 40th edition of IITF.

The department of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir is booking about 300 m2 space at the venue and is also hosting JK Evening during the event.

This 14-day exhibition is expected to receive a lot of footfall and it is expected that the artisans are able to market their products through this platform. This year the main focus of the event will be on the Geographical Indication (GI).

## Economic Recovery: GST Collection In October Crossed Rs 1.3 Lakh Crore



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection remained above Rs 1 lakh crore for the fourth month in a row at over Rs 1.30 lakh crore in October, indicating the impact of festive buying.

This is the second-highest collection of GST since its implementation on July 1, 2017.

The tax collections last month on goods sold and services rendered was 24 per cent higher than in October 2020.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of October 2021 is Rs 1,30,127 crore of which CGST is Rs 23,861 crore, SGST is Rs 30,421 crore, IGST is Rs 67,361 crore (including Rs

32,998 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 8,484 crore (including Rs 699 crore collected on import of goods)," the finance ministry said in a statement.

CGST refers to Central Goods and Services Tax, SGST (State Goods and Service Tax) and IGST (Integrated Goods and Services Tax).

This is very much in line with the trend in economic recovery, it said, adding "this is also evident from the trend in the e-way bills generated every month since the second wave".

The revenues would have still been higher if the sales of cars and other products had not been affected on account of disruption in supply of semiconductors, it added.

## Over 50% Of Workforce Likely To Return To Offices Thrice Per Week By Jan: Report



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Both employees and employers are equally interested in making a comeback to the workplace in a hybrid setup with 50 per cent of the workforce likely to return to offices for up to 3 days a week starting next year, according to a report by Nasscom and Indeed.

Also, junior and senior management, workforce under the age of 25 and above 40 years, are eager to return to the workplace as compared to the middle management.

The report was developed on the basis of return to workplace surveys conducted by the IT industry body, focused on both tech employees and tech employers on their plans on return to offices.

The report aimed to understand the expectations, key considerations, and preparedness on both fronts (employers and employees) for return to the workplace and further analyse different future operating models emerging in a hybrid setup.

The survey stated that though over 81 per cent of organisations expressed that employee health and safety remains the key consideration for them while re-opening the offices, 72 per cent of organisations said they are looking at operating at a maximum of 50 per cent employee capacity starting next year itself.

In the post-pandemic era, companies are looking forward to implementing newer work operating models.

Today, the hybrid work model is the preferred choice by over 70 per cent of organisations, as per the report.

Nasscom President Debjani Ghosh said over the last one and a half years, the way tech organisations have run business operations, has undergone a massive transformation.

"The industry is now prepared to gradually re-open and is looking at perfecting a hybrid operating model which brings in the best of both onsite and remote operating models. We encourage tech companies to process the reopening in a phased and safe manner while keeping the employee's health and safety as the topmost priority," she added.

Sashi Kumar, Head of Sales (India) at Indeed.com, said since the pandemic hit businesses across the globe, pushing employees indoors, many believed that the future of work is 'remote'.

"However, organisations and employees gradually realised that remote work is an outcome of the pandemic and not an evolved approach to workplace planning. In fact, Indeed's last hiring tracker indicated that employees are looking for more 'flexible' workplaces that will enable work-home balance," Kumar added.

Kumar noted that 'NASSCOM Return to Workplace Survey' reflects a similar sentiment as more than half of employers and employees favour returning to office in a hybrid model, "making it clear that the future of work is hybrid".

### SHORT TAKES

### Commercial LPG Cylinder Price Hiked By Rs 266

**NEW DELHI:** The petroleum companies have hiked the price of commercial Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders by Rs 266 from Monday onwards.

Commercial cylinders of the 19 kg in Delhi will cost Rs 2,000.50 from Monday onwards which was costing Rs 1,734 earlier. However, there is no increase in rates of domestic LPG cylinders.

Earlier, the prices of LPG cooking gas cylinders across all categories including subsidised gas on were hiked by Rs 15 per cylinder last month. This was the fourth straight increase in prices in less than two months. Subsidized and non-subsidised LPG rates were hiked by Rs 25 per cylinder on October 1.

The increase in subsidised LPG price now has taken the cumulative rate hike since January 1 to Rs 205 per cylinder. The two main factors that determine the prices of LPG cylinders in India are global crude oil prices and the dollar-rupee exchange rate as crude prices are denominated in US dollars. (Agencies)

### Whatsapp Banned Over 2.2 Million Indian Accounts In Sept: Report

**NEW YORK:** More than 2.2 million Indian accounts were banned by WhatsApp while 560 grievance reports were received by the messaging platform in September, according to its compliance report. In its latest report released on Monday, WhatsApp said 2,209,000 Indian accounts on the platform were banned in September.

An Indian account is identified via a '91' phone number, it added.

"WhatsApp is an industry leader in preventing abuse, among end-to-end encrypted messaging services. Over the years, we have consistently invested in Artificial Intelligence and other state of the art technology, data scientists and experts, and in processes, in order to keep our users safe on our platform," a WhatsApp spokesperson said.

In accordance with the IT Rules 2021, WhatsApp has published its fourth monthly report for the 30-day period of September 1-30.

### Maruti Suzuki Sales Decline 24% To 1,38,335 Units In Oct

**NEW DELHI:** The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Monday reported a 24 per cent decline in sales at 1,38,335 units in October.

The company had sold 1,82,448 units in October last year, MSI said in a statement. Domestic sales slipped 32 per cent to 1,17,013 units last month as against 1,72,862 units in September 2020, it added.

"While the shortage of electronic components continued to affect the production of vehicles during the month, the company took all possible measures to minimise the impact. Accordingly, the company sold more vehicles than the sales volume expected at the start of the month," the auto major stated.

Sales of mini cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, fell 23 per cent to 21,831 units as compared with 28,462 in the same month last year.

### India's Exports Surge 42.33 Pc To Usd 35.47 Bn In Oct

**NEW DELHI:** India's merchandise exports in October surged 42.33 per cent to USD 35.47 billion on the back of good performance by the engineering and petroleum sectors, as per provisional data released by the government on Monday.

The exports stood at USD 24.92 billion in October 2020 and USD 26.23 billion in October 2019.

"India's merchandise exports in October 2021 was USD 35.47 billion, an increase of 42.33 per cent over USD 24.92 billion in October 2020 and an increase of 35.21 per cent over USD 26.23 billion in October 2019," as per an official statement.

The merchandise imports surged 62.49 per cent to USD 55.37 billion from USD 34.07 billion in October 2020. It was USD 37.99 billion in October 2019. As per the data, the trade deficit in October 2021 was USD 19.9 billion as gold imports almost doubled to USD 5.1 billion. The gap between imports and exports have totalled USD 98.71 billion during April-October 2021.

### Dir Agri Reviews Implementation Of CSSs

**SRINAGAR:** The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Monday reviewed the implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and flagship programs in the twin districts of Anantnag and Kulgam.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that the agriculture sector is changing globally and in this changing scenario an innovative approach is needed to reach to the farmers and address their issues. He said farming is now gaining ground in all the sections of the society and the need of the hour is to modify strategy in consonance with the prevailing circumstances.

Addressing the officers of twin districts, the Director said that taking into consideration one of the best agro climatic conditions for the vegetable cultivation, we have to focus on bringing more and more area under the cultivation of vegetable crops including both traditional and exotic varieties.



# WhatsApp Banned Over 2.2 Mln Indian Accounts In Sep

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: More than 2.2 million Indian accounts were banned by WhatsApp while 560 grievance reports were received by the messaging platform in September, according to its compliance report.

In its latest report released on Monday, WhatsApp said 2,209,000 Indian accounts on the platform were banned in September.

An Indian account is identified via a '+91' phone number, it added.

"WhatsApp is an industry leader in preventing abuse, among end-to-end encrypted messaging services. Over the years, we have consistently invested in Artificial Intelligence and other state of the art technology, data scientists and experts, and in processes, in order to keep our users safe on our platform," a WhatsApp spokesperson said.

In accordance with the IT Rules 2021, WhatsApp has published its fourth monthly report for the 30-day period of September 1-30.

"This user-safety report contains details of the user complaints received and the corresponding action taken by WhatsApp as well as WhatsApp's own preventive actions to combat abuse on our platform," the spokesperson said.

Previously, the Facebook-owned company had stated that more than 95 per cent of the ban was due to the unauthorised



use of automated or bulk messaging (spam). The global average number of accounts that WhatsApp bans to prevent abuse on its platform is around 8 million accounts per month.

WhatsApp, in its latest report, said it received 560 user reports spanning across account support (121), ban appeal (309), other support and in product support (49 each) and safety (32) during September.

During this period, 51 accounts were actioned based on the reports received.

WhatsApp explained that "Accounts Actioned" denotes remedial action taken based on the reports.

Taking action denotes either banning an account or a previously banned account being restored as a result of the complaint.

Also, reports may have been reviewed but not included as 'Actioned' for many reasons, including the user needing assistance to access their account or to use some features, user-requested restoration of a

banned account and the request is denied, or if the reported account does not violate the laws of India or WhatsApp's Terms of Service.

About 2 million Indian accounts were banned by WhatsApp while 420 grievance reports were received by the messaging platform in August.

The new IT rules -- which came into effect in May -- require large digital platforms (with over 5 million users) to publish compliance reports every month, mentioning the details of complaints received and action taken.

Previously, WhatsApp had emphasised that being an end-to-end encrypted platform, it has no visibility into the content of any messages.

Besides the behavioural signals from accounts, it relies on available unencrypted information, including user reports, profile photos, group photos and descriptions as well as advanced AI tools and resources to detect and prevent abuse on its platform, it had said.

# Closed Trial Of Ousted Myanmar Leader Suu Kyi Continues

AGENCEIS

Bangkok: Ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi testified in court for a second time Monday, addressing charges that she violated coronavirus pandemic restrictions during the 2020 election campaign.

A person with knowledge of the proceedings said she denied breaking the restrictions when she waved to a campaign convoy for her National League for Democracy party in front of her house in Naypyitaw, the capital.

She was questioned both by her lawyers and by prosecutors after giving her account, said the source, who could provide no additional details and spoke on condition of anonymity for

fear of angering the authorities by providing the information.

All her defense lawyers, who previously had been able to speak with the media, have been barred by a gag order from providing details of the court proceedings.

The court sessions are closed to journalists and the public, the prosecutors do not comment on them, and the state-controlled media have not reported directly on them.

Suu Kyi has been detained since February 1, when the army seized power and stopped her and her party from beginning a second five-year term in power after a landslide victory in last November's polls.

The military says it acted because there was large-scale

electoral fraud, an allegation that does not appear to be well-supported.

The two counts of breaking pandemic restrictions are among the less serious charges against her.

The same court is trying her on the charge of incitement -- spreading false or inflammatory information that could disturb public order -- and illegally importing walkie-talkies and unlicensed use of the radios. Suu Kyi testified in the sedition case last week.

In separate proceedings, she is accused of corruption, which is punishable by up to 15 years in prison, and violating the Official Secrets Act, which carries a maximum term of 14 years.

Her supporters say the

charges were concocted to discredit her and legitimise the military's seizure of power.

Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, the spokesman for the military government, said last month that the gag order was imposed on Suu Kyi's main lawyer because he had incited local and foreign media to spread false information that could destabilize the country.

Opposition to the army's takeover is widespread and takes the form of peaceful civil disobedience as well as armed resistance. Security forces suppressed initial non-violent protests with deadly force, killing more than 1,200 civilians according to a detailed list compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.(AP)

# Ex-Chairman Of SBI Jailed For Alleged Fraud In Loan Default Case

AGENCEIS

Jaisalmer (Rajasthan): Former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Pratip Chaudhari was on Monday sent to 14-day judicial custody after his arrest for an alleged fraud involving the sale of a hotel when the company defaulted on a loan. The Chief Judicial Magistrate's court here rejected his bail plea.

"We have presented former SBI chairman Pratip Chaudhari before the court from where he was sent to judicial custody today," Jaisalmer Sadar SHO Karan Singh said.

Garh Rajwada, a hotel project in Jaisalmer, was financed by the bank in 2007, the SBI said in a statement. The

project remained incomplete for over three years and the account slipped into a non-performing asset (NPA) in 2010, it stated.

Police said a case was registered against Chaudhari in 2015 for allegedly seizing the premier hotel property in the loan settlement case and selling it at a throwaway price through fraudulent means to an asset reconstruction company (ARC).

They said Chaudhari later joined as a director of the board of the company that had bought the hotel.

In its statement, the SBI said that all due process was followed while making the sale. The bank claimed that the

court does not appear to have been briefed correctly on the sequence of events.

It said that SBI was not a party to the case and there was no occasion for the views of the bank being heard as part of the proceedings in court.

The bank has already offered its cooperation with law enforcement and judicial authorities and will provide further information, if required, the statement said.

All the directors of the ARC, including Chaudhuri, who joined their board in 2014, have been named in the case, SBI said. He had retired from the bank's service in September 2013, the statement added.

# Govt issues FAQs on IT rules; says norms consistent with right to freedom of speech, expression

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The government on Monday said the new IT rules are consistent with the right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by the Constitution, and do not place additional obligations on users.

Releasing a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) around the intermediary guidelines, IT ministry said the rules have a clear focus on protecting online privacy of individuals, and that even with regard to identification of the first originator of messages, safeguards are in place to ensure that privacy of users is not violated.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 22.2 % In October:

As per the National Statistical Office (NSO)'s latest report, "Annual Report, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)," for the Quarter 3 of Financial year 2020, J&K had the highest unemployment rate followed by Kerala at 16.7 percent and Jharkhand at 16 percent.

The report has also revealed that the unemployment rate in J&K was highest among the women compared to the men. For women, the report noted, the rate was recorded at 13.1 per cent whereas the unemployment rate among men in the region was recorded at 9.5 per cent during October-December Financial year 20-21.

The report also revealed that last year the unemployment rate for women in J&K was recorded at 9.8 percent and 7.3 per cent for men.

"In the July-September 2019 quarter the unemployment rate in urban J&K was recorded at 4.8 percent, October-December 2019 at 7.3 per cent, January-March 2020 at 9.2 per cent and April-June 2020 at 10.1 percent," the report says.

It is pertinent to mention here that NSO has surveyed 231 villages of rural J&K where more than 8900 persons were surveyed and in 1400 households of 175 blocks in Urban J&K, where over 6300 persons were surveyed for the compilation of the report.

### J&K Reports

from J&K. While 84 new cases were detected from Kashmir Valley, the remaining 14 were confirmed from Jammu division, thus taking the total number of people infected by the virus in J&K to 332347.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 56 cases followed by Baramulla with 10, Ganderbal 8, Kupwara 5, Budgam 4 and Bandipora. No fresh case of virus was reported from the four south Kashmir districts of Pulwama, Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian.

In the winter capital, officials said Jammu reported a maximum of seven new cases, Doda two and one new case each from Udhampur, Rajouri, Kishtwar, Ramban and Reasi. Kathua, Samba and Poonch registered no new cases of Covid-19.

"Moreover, 97 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 17 from Jammu Division and 80 from Kashmir," officials said.

### Online Application

indigenous products, Naqvi said.

Haji pilgrims used to buy bed sheets, pillows, towels, umbrellas and other items in Saudi Arabia in foreign currency but this time, most of these goods will be bought in India in Indian currency.

These goods will be available at almost 50 per cent lower prices in comparison to their cost in Saudi Arabia and will be given to pilgrims at their respective embarkation points in India.

India sends 2 lakh Haji pilgrims every year and this arrangement will help save crores of rupees of Indian Haji pilgrims, the minister said.

The selection process of Haji pilgrims will be done as per coronavirus protocols and norms to be decided by Indian and Saudi Arabian governments, he said.

The embarkation points have been reduced

from 21 to 10 for Hajj 2022, Naqvi said. These are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Cochin, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai and Srinagar. Over 3,000 women had applied for Hajj 2020 and 2021 under the without Mehram (male companion) category, he said. Their applications will be eligible for Hajj 2022 also, he said, adding other women can also apply for Hajj 2022 under the without Mehram category, under which they will be exempted from the lottery system. PTI

### J&K Declares

Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, said a total of nine districts six in Jammu and three in Kashmir would be covered under the state specific calamity for the purpose of providing relief to the affected families and departments from SDRF.

Sanction is hereby accorded to declare the spell of heavy rainfall/heavy snowfall during the period of 23rd and 24th of October, 2021 as 'State Specific Calamity' in terms of para 3 (ii) of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for purpose of providing relief to the affected families and departments from SDRF, Khan said in his order late Sunday evening.

The order said Jammu, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Reasi, Samba and Kathua in Jammu division and Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian in Kashmir are the districts, which would be covered under the declaration.

Heavy rains accompanied by hailstorm lashed wide parts of Jammu division on October 23, causing massive damage to the standing crops, while orchardists in south Kashmir districts suffered immense loss due to untimely snowfall.

### Deadly October

dead from point blank range near Madina Complex in Karan Nagar area of the city. Hours later, PDD employee Muhammad Shafi Dar was shot dead by unknown gunmen in SD Colony Batamalo.

Two days later, three more people were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Srinagar and Bandipora districts.

Among the deceased was prominent pharmacist Makhan Lal Bindroo, Virendra Paswan, a street vendor from Bihar and Muhammad Shafi alias Sonu, the president of Sumo Stand Hajin.

On October 7, Supinder Kour and Deepak Chand, both government school teachers, were killed in a brazen broad daylight attack in the Eidgah area of the Old city.

A day later, 28-year-old youth Parvez Ahmad of Larnoo, Kokernag was shot dead by the CRPF personnel at Monghal Bridge in Anantnag district. Barely a week later, Arvind Kumar Sah, a street vendor from Bihar, was shot dead in Eidgah Srinagar, while Saghir Ahmad, a carpenter hailing from Uttar Pradesh, was killed in Pulwama district.

Raja Reshi Dev and Jogindar Reshi Dev, both natives of Bihar were shot dead by suspected militants a day later.

On October 24, Shahid Aijaz Rather, as per the police, was killed in cross-fire between militants and CRPF personnel in Babapora area of Shopian district.

The spate of targeted killings, mostly of non-locals, led to exodus of hundreds of migrant labourers and their families hailing from north

India's Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Bihar states. The killing also prompted the security agencies to beef up security apparatus across the Valley.

In the last month also, 12 soldiers, including two junior commissioned officers (JCOs) were also killed in one of the longest and biggest search operations in border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, where according to police an under-trial militant Zia Mustafa was also killed in militant firing.

The month of October also proved more deadly for militants.

The army, police and CRPF in joint operations killed 20 militants of various outfits in Srinagar, Shopian, Baramulla, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam, Bandipora and Pulwama districts. (With agency inputs)

### LG Tells Officers

review the respective districts and also directed them to make sure officers on the ground serve people, and address their concerns within a reasonable time-frame, besides ensuring that all the benefits of central and UT schemes are delivered with total transparency.

He said that Rehana Batul Commissioner/Secretary, Public Grievances briefed the LG about the progress and status of grievances received on Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS).

"The Lt Governor took a detailed assessment of the progress made on JK-IGRAMS and sought public's feedback on the administration's efforts in redressing the grievances of the applicants," he said.

He further said that the LG also enquired about the action taken report on the grievances put forth in the previous LG's Mulaqaat.

"The concerned officers briefed the Lt Governor in response to the issues and grievances raised by the applicants pertaining to Health, Civic Bodies, repair of roads and bridges, drinking water supply, power supply, and irrigation facilities," he added.

### Trouble Grows

on October 29.

It is pertinent to mention here that a case was lodged against Director Health Services, Kashmir along with some other accused persons for the misappropriation of Government funds during 2010-11 in purchase of the sub-standard medical kits under central government's National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Issuing a final judgement in this case, in May 2018, the J&K High Court called for a quashing of the case against the accused persons in the FIR No. 32/2012 under section 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, 2006 and Section 120B of the Ranbir Penal Code.

In the same case, the Supreme Court had said that the apex court was aggrieved and dissatisfied with the impugned judgment passed by the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir at Srinagar.

"By the impugned judgment and order, the High Court has quashed the entire criminal proceedings initiated against the respondent for the aforesaid offences," reads the Supreme Court order.

The apex court has said that the FIR and criminal proceedings in the case registered for the alleged offences are to be investigated and proceeded further by the authorised officer expeditiously.

"There is a non-compliance of the mandatory provision under Section 3 of the J&K PC Act, 2006 in as much as no special and separate reasoned order was passed by the authorising officer while conferring authority on a non-designated officer as per second proviso to Section 3," the double bench declared.

The bench of Justice M.R.Shah and A.S.Bopanna has also said that the High Court of J&K had committed a "Grave error" in quashing the entire criminal proceedings by holding that a Magistrate has provided authorisation to a non-designated officer to investigate the FIR for the alleged offences under the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, 2006 was "Bad in Law".

"It is submitted that authorisation in the present case by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Vigilance Organisation is clearly covered by and falls within the scope of the second proviso to Section 3. It is submitted that the High Court has not advertised the distinct features of the second provision to Section 3. It is submitted that the second proviso does not demand the requirement of giving reasons for conferring authority on a non-designated officer to conduct investigation." The court said.

Pertinently, the top court had allowed a plea filed by the state of Jammu and Kashmir and others challenging the May 2018 judgement of the high court which had quashed the criminal proceedings in the FIR against Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman.

The J&K High Court had also quashed the November 2012 entrustment order passed by the senior superintendent of police authorising an inspector to investigate the FIR in the case.

"We are of the opinion that in the facts and circumstances of the case and considering the authorisation read with the second proviso to section 3 (of the Act), authorisation cannot be said to be illegal and/or invalid," the bench said in its verdict.

In its verdict, the apex court has also noted that it cannot be said that there was "any non-application of mind" on the part of the senior superintendent authorising the inspector, Nisar Hussain to enquire into the FIR.

"In the present case, the offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act is a substantive offence and the investigation in respect of the offence under the PC Act, when considered and coupled with the offence of conspiracy, there is no requirement of prior sanction of the magistrate," the court said.

### BJP Asks Party

the scene has been changed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led NDA government at the Centre by its plethora of public welfare policies," he said.

He asked all the party leaders to launch their activities to seek the best results for the party in assembly elections.

He asked them to complete the booth committees at every Shakti Kendra and asked to involve more youths in the party.

### Govt Shifts 3

Department, has been posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, relieving Ms. Sushma Chauhan (IAS), Administrative Secretary, Higher

Education Department of the additional charge of the post.

Vijay Kumar Bidhuri (IAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, relieving Shaleen Kabra (IAS), Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department of the additional charge of the post.

In a separate order, Mehmood Ahmad Shah (JKAS), Director, Handloom & Handicrafts, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir, with immediate effect, relieving Ms. Tazayun Mukhtar, JKAS, Joint Director, Industries and Commerce (S&M), Kashmir of the additional charge of the post.

"He shall also hold the charge of the posts of Director, Handloom & Handicrafts, Kashmir, Executive Director, J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute and Director, J&K EDI, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," the order added.

### Pak Repatriates

the Indian Army and civil authorities at the Poonch-Rawalakote crossing point in the district, they said.

Saif had entered the Pakistan-controlled Kashmir in June 2018 and was sent back on "humanitarian grounds", they said. (PTI)

### Mehbooba 'Barred'

The Peoples Democratic Party leader claimed that the police have locked the main gate of Mehbooba's house.

A police official said the PDP chief was not allowed to visit Anantnag due to security reasons.

Shahid Ahmad was killed in an exchange of fire between Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel and militants in Shopian district on October 24, according to police.

Mehbooba was put under house arrest at her Fairview residence in Gupkar locality of the city here and not allowed to move out, the PDP leader claimed.

She was to visit the family of slain youth Shahid Ahmad in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. She wanted to offer her condolences to the bereaved family, but was not allowed to move out of her residence, the party leader said.

According to the PDP leader, the police have locked the main gate of Mehbooba's house. A police vehicle has been stationed just outside the gate to disallow any movement.

Ahmad's death had evoked strong reactions from mainstream political parties in the Valley and they had demanded a probe into it.

Mehbooba had said it was sad that the armed forces "operate with such impunity" in Kashmir. PTI

### Mehbooba 'Barred'

from 1/5 GR, 15 MAHAR, and 5 JAT continued for the second running day Monday in the forest area of Bota Pathri Gulmarg and its adjacent forest areas of Boniyar.

The operation was launched on Sunday on the basis of information suggesting the presence of militants in the woods. However, no contact was established with suspected militants till the last reports came in. (KNT)



## Kashmir Panthers Win 1st Edition Green Valley Cup



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The final match of the 1st Edition Invitational Green Valley Cup was played on Monday at GVEI grounds, here.

Kashmir Panthers FC defeated Downtown Heroes FC in a tie-breaker to lift the trophy.

The high intensity match

was played between two well matched teams. At full time the score between the two clubs remained 0-0. A tie-breaker in the form of penalties decided the outcome of the match in which the Panthers won 1-0.

GVEI Chairman distributed the awards among the players and appreciated their playing spirit.

## Athlete Rakshanda Receives Jubilant Reception At Jammu Airport



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Rakshanda Mehak and her coach were accorded a jubilant reception at Jammu Airport on their arrival here after winning bronze medal in the World Deaf Judo Championship held at Paris Versailles, France.

Rakshanda was part of Indian team for deaf which clinched bronze medal in the International tournament.

The judoka and her coach were received at Jammu Airport by Ranjeet Kalra, Sports Administrator, Waseem Raja, OSD to Advisor on

behalf of Advisor Farooq Khan, Divisional Sports Officer, Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports, members of Judo Association, family members and sports enthusiasts.

The duo was taken in an open jeep from Jammu Airport via Gujar Nagar to MA Stadium where thousands of young sports persons welcomed them amid thunderous applause.

Pertinently, Advisor Farooq Khan had asked the administration to ensure all arrangements for a warm welcome of the duo on their success in the world championship.

### T20 WORLD CUP

## Pakistan Primed To Secure Semi-Final Berth, Face Namibia Next

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**ABU DHABI:** Pakistan will aim to maintain their remarkable consistency against a spirited Namibia and seal a semifinal spot in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

After a chaotic build-up to the World Cup with England and New Zealand pulling out of Pakistan tours, the Babar Azam-led side has defied the odds and has become the team to beat in the tournament.

Following a historic win over India, Pakistan showed a few

chinks in their armour against New Zealand and Afghanistan but that could not stop them from recording re-sounding wins.

If their in-form openers Babar and Mohammad Rizwan don't fire, Pakistan can rely on their middle-order and even if that is not enough, six-hitting machine Asif Ali will win the game for them on his own. However, the team would be expecting more runs from veteran Mohammad Hafeez's bat. He is the only one to have not made a significant contribution in the top six.



## Defeat To Pakistan 'Hurt Too Much': Asghar Afghan On His Decision To Retire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** A teary-eyed Asghar Afghan said his decision to retire in the middle of the ongoing T20 World Cup was triggered by the pain that he and his teammates endured after Afghanistan's heart-breaking loss to Pakistan in their previous match.

Afghanistan suffered a five-wicket loss in their Super 12 match against Pakistan in which Asif Ali smashed four sixes in the penultimate over, with the team requiring 24 off the last two overs, to end the contest.

Less than 24 hours after the match, former skipper Afghan, who holds the record of most T20I wins as captain, announced his decision to retire after the match against Namibia.

"In the last match, we were hurt too much, and that's why I decided to retire," Asghar, who has led Afghanistan in 115 matches, said wiping his tears during a chat after the end of the first innings.

"There are plenty of memories, it's difficult for me, but I have to retire."

The 33-year-old played six

Tests, 114 ODIs and 75 T20Is, including the Namibia match, in a creditable career, scoring 4246 runs across formats.

"I want to give chance to youngsters. I think this is a good opportunity for that. Most people are asking me why now but it's something I cannot explain," said Afghan, who scored a 23-ball 31 on Sunday.

Afghanistan will next play India on November 3 and New Zealand on November 7.

The team is playing at the ICC event at a time when the country itself is in turmoil following the Taliban takeover.

The future of Afghan cricketers is also uncertain due to the drastic changes in the political landscape. The Taliban have already barred women from playing the game.



## Premier League: Ali Jana, F&S XI Secure Wins

R. ELAHI

**SRINAGAR:** Two matches of the JKFA Khyber Premier Division League 2021 were played Monday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The Premier Division's league round is nearing its end stages as the 16 teams, divided into two groups of 8 teams each, have completed 5 to 6 matches. Each team has to play 7 matches in total.

J&K Police XI lead Group A with 15 points, followed by Downtown Heroes FC with 14. Both the teams have played 7 matches. Third-ranked AG's XI has 10 points from 5 games and will look to climb to the top of the Group A table.

The first Premier League match on Monday was a Group

A clash between Ali Jana FC and Real Kashmir FC (Reserves). Both teams were playing their final league stage matches, and a win was equally important for both to stay in the upper half of the table. Many fans expected a hard-fought victory for RKFC (R). However, Ali Jana blew the Snow Leopards away by winning 4-1.

Shafqat of AJFC scored the first goal in the 11th minute. In the 24th minute, Yasir doubled AJFC lead. The first half ended 2-0 in favour of AJFC. In the 2nd half, Shayik of AJFC scored his team's third goal in 45th minute, and in the 75th minute, Raghav made it 4-0 for his team. RKFC scored a late consolation goal from Zahid.

The second Premier Division

League 2021 match was played between Food & Supplies (F&S) XI and Iqbal Sports FC. The match was won by F&S XI by a solitary goal. Shariq scored the game's only goal in the 15th minute. Waseem of F&S XI was named man of the match.

The game was a Group B clash between its bottom two teams. Leading Group B is J&K Bank XI with 15 points from 6 games. Following them in second is ARCO FC with 11 points from 6 games. Kashmir Avengers FC are in third position, having played 5 matches and taking 10 points from them.

The Premier Division will soon enter its knockout stages and all the teams and fans are gearing up for the battles ahead.

## Shunglipora Win Village Level KO Cricket Tournament



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The final of Village Level Knockout Cricket Tournament 2021 was played between Shunglipora and Lawaypora on Monday at Palpora, Sonwar here.

Shunglipora defeated Laway-

pura by 6 wickets to lift the tournament title.

Lawaypora batted first and were bowled out for 93 runs. Adil 'Ganguly' took 4 wickets for Shunglipora in his four overs, giving away 16 runs.

Chasing the target, Shungli-

pura scored the required runs with 6 wickets in hand. Adil 'Ganguly' again performed well with the bat, scoring an unbeaten 39. Adil was named Man of the Match for his all-round efforts.

Mohammad Asif was adjudged Man of the Series.

## DYSS Organise 'Run For Unity'



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Department of Youth Services & Sports J&K organised sports activities across Jammu and Kashmir UT on Sunday, in connection with National Ekta Divas.

Director DYSS along with Secretary J&K Sports Council, DYSSO Srinagar and other senior officers jointly flagged off a cycle rally from Gindun Ground Rajbagh.

125 young cyclists participated in the mega rally. Simultaneously in district Pulwama of south Kashmir massive motorcycle and cycle rallies were flagged off by senior officers of district administrations and the officials of DYSS.

In other districts of the UT, about 3012 girls and boys from different private and government schools actively participated in these rallies. Banners and placards with the messages

and captions like "Unity is Itself A Power- Don't Underestimate it", "United We Stand, Divided We Fall" etc were displayed by the enthusiastic participants on motor bikes and cycles.

While talking about the events, Director DYSS said, "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas reminds us of the great and crucial role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel." He said, "As India celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, it is our responsibility to build the India envisioned by our national leaders. In this journey towards Atmanirbhar Bharat, NMDC is playing a pivotal role in meeting the infrastructure needs of the country."

Secretary JK Sports Council, in her address, stated that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's will and determination, his excellent negotiation skills and various strategies enabled to unite the 565 self-governing princely states post-independence into a unified India.

## 'Disappointed' Cricket Fraternity Questions Team India's Tactics



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** India have been pushed to the brink of elimination after Virat Kohli and his men slumped to their second loss of the ongoing T20 World Cup and the cricket fraternity is struggling to make sense of the insipid performance.

A seemingly jaded India endured an eight-wicket loss to a clinical New Zealand in Dubai on Sunday night.

It was their second straight defeat after being handed a 10-wicket thrashing by arch-rivals Pakistan in their tournament opener to Pakistan at the same venue.

Pegged as favourites going into the tournament, the defeat against the Black Caps has put India in serious danger of losing out on a semi-final berth.

Here's how a stunned cricket fraternity reacted to India's loss, questioning their tactics, intent and techniques of their batters:

**\*Virender Sehwag:** Very disappointing from India. NZ were amazing. India's body language wasn't great, poor shot selection & like few times in the past, New Zealand have virtually ensured we won't make it to the next stage. This one will hurt India & time for some serious introspection #IndvsNZ

**\*Irfan Pathan:** In any big tournament you can't change the playing 11 in just one game and get desired results. Players need stability And I'm surprised this is happening with some big names taking decisions. #ind

Well done NZ you were too good today. And for team India, they need to get together and perform miracles. Time is running out. #indvsnz

**\*VVS Laxman:** This defeat should hurt Team India. Tentative with the bat, their shot selection was questionable. New Zealand bowled superbly, but India made their task easier. With their net run rate also taking a beating, a semifinal spot looks a distant dream #INDvNZ #T20WorldCup

**\*Sunil Gavaskar:** I don't know if it is a fear of failure but I know that whatever changes they made to the batting order today did not work. Rohit Sharma is such a great batsman and he has been sent in at No.3. Kohli himself, who has made so many runs at No.3 demotes himself to No.4.

A young player like Ishan Kishan has been given the responsibility of opening the batting. Ishan Kishan is a hit-or-miss player and it is better if a batsman like

him walks in No.4 or No.5.

**\*Madan Lal:** It is unfortunate because India have looked more impatient than they normally do in both these matches. If you don't make runs then you won't come into the match. A target of 111 can be defended only if a miracle happens. India were outclassed in both the matches. In this format if you don't get in front early, it becomes difficult.

**\*Harbhajan Singh:** Let's not be harsh on our players, yes we know them for better cricket. Sabse jyada players ko hurt hota hai after such results, but well done to @BLACKCAPS NZ for winning that match. They were fantastic in all departments

**\*Michael Vaughan:** India should take a leaf out of all other countries. Allow their players to play in other leagues around the World to gain experience #India #T20WorldCup

Let's be honest For all the talent & depth in #India cricket they under achieved massively for years in white ball Cricket #Fact #T20WorldCup

**\*Shahid Afridi:** India still have an outside chance of qualifying for semis but with how they have played their two big games in the event, it will be nothing but a miracle to see them qualify. @T20WorldCup

**\*Azhar Ali:** It's not looking good for India.. but we all want India to stay in the tournament. This early exit of India won't be good for the event. Pensive face #INDvsNZ #ICCT20WorldCup

**\*Shoaib Akhtar:** Disappointing performance by India. Really expected a better & strong performance! The Indian team looked clueless tonight I really don't know why.

Why did you send that kid Ishan Kishan to open, Hardik Pandya is bowling in the end. He should have bowled before.

They played really bad cricket. India looked in so much pressure. I have no idea what policy, game plan India was following. It was a lost squad. No planning, everybody pressed their panic button, Kohli not batting at his position, Rohit too.

**\*Mohammad Amir:** I still believe India is a best team its just a matter of having good time or bad time but abusing player's and their family is such a shame don't forget end of the day it's just a game of cricket.

**\*Nick Compton:** I just don't understand how Kohli's prickly relationship with Ashwin is allowed to keep him out of Indian teams? Do you think Captains should be allowed such autonomy?



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