

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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## NEWS DIGEST

**Mughal Road Closed For Five Hours**  
**SRINAGAR:** Authorities have restored Mughal road – connecting Poonch and Shopian districts – after halting the vehicular traffic movement along the thoroughfare on Thursday morning following snowfall on intervening Wednesday and Thursday night. **More On P10**

**Man Found Dead In Pulwama**  
**SRINAGAR:** A man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday. 30-year-old Ali Mohammad Bhat of Barsoo Awantipora was found dead by a passerby inside a. **More On P10**

**Truck Crushes Teenager To Death**  
**SRINAGAR:** A teenager was mowed down on Thursday by a truck in Damhal Hanjipora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district. 17-year-old Burhan Rashid was critically injured after his Scooty (JK18C-3955) was. **More On P10**

**Ishfaq Resigns As NC's District President**  
**SRINAGAR:** National Conference leader Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar on Thursday resigned from the post of district president Ganderbal. Sheikh, who was district president of NC for Ganderbal district has announced his. **More On P10**

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**Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927**

## At LoC, PM Calls For Boosting India's Military Capabilities

Press Trust Of India

**NEWSHERA:** Asserting that modern border infrastructure will enhance the country's military capabilities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that in a departure from earlier times, connectivity has been established in border and coastal areas, from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh and from Jaisalmer to Andaman Nicobar islands.

Addressing soldiers on the occasion of Diwali at Nowshera sector in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, Modi lauded the role played by the brigade here in the 2016 surgical strikes on militant launchpads across the LoC, and asserted that even though innumerable attempts were made after the strikes to disturb peace in the region, every time militancy was given a befitting reply.

He also asserted that India must enhance its military capabilities in line with the



changing world and modes of war, and noted that modern border infrastructure has been built to augment connectivity and troop deployment.

Hailing the valour of the soldiers, Modi said they were the 'suraksha kawach (protective shield)' of 'Maa Bharti (mother India)' and it was because of them that people of the country can sleep peacefully and there

is happiness during festivals. Hailing the role of the brigade here in the 2016 surgical strike, Modi said their role fills the people of the country with pride.

"I will always remember that day as it was decided that all soldiers will return before sunset and I was waiting anxiously for the call to know if all my jawans had returned. Without any. **More On P10**

### Celebrates Diwali With Soldiers

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met soldiers at Nowshera sector in the border district of Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Diwali. Since taking over as prime minister, Modi has made it a point to meet troops in a border region on Diwali, starting from a visit to Siachen in 2014. Official sources shared photographs of him at an Army post in Nowshera. Army chief General M. **More On P10**

### Soldiers From India, Pak Exchange Sweets on LoC

Indian and Pakistani armies Thursday held customary exchange of sweets in Teetwal and Uri sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) on the occasion of Diwali. An army official said that the two armies exchanged sweets at Kaman Aman Setu, Uri in Baramulla and Teetwal Crossing on Kishanganga River in Tangdhar in Kupwara. He said that all the necessary Covid-19 protocols were followed during the exchange. **More On P10**

**AFTER THE SURGICAL STRIKES**, innumerable attempts were made to disturb the peace in the region and attempts are still being made, but every time terrorism has been given a "befitting reply

## Internet Disruption To Check Usage By Militants: Div Com

Auqib Javed

**SRINAGAR:** For the past more than two weeks, residents in parts of the Kashmir Valley, including Downtown Srinagar, have been facing unaccounted for shutdown of telecom services that many have likened to the unscheduled power cuts that the region is prone to.

Officials on Wednesday admitted that the disruption was happening and said the move has been necessitated by the recent spate of target killings in Kashmir.

The Divisional Commissioner K. K. Pole confirmed to Kashmir Observer that the partial

internet shutdown was indeed in force in Srinagar city and some parts of South Kashmir beginning October.

"I want to make it clear that restriction on the internet has been imposed only in a few areas of Srinagar and some parts of Kulgam and Pampore [in south Kashmir]," Pole said. "In the rest of the Valley, the internet is working fine."

The Divisional Commissioner said that the decision was taken after security agencies thought the evening hours were being used by militants to target civilians.

"The killings in Srinagar occurred during evening hours. It. **More On P10**

## India Requests Pak Airspace For Srinagar-UAE Flight



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** India has requested Pakistan through diplomatic channels to allow Go First's Srinagar-Sharjah flight to use its airspace keeping in mind the larger interest of common people who have

booked the tickets on this service, government officials said on Thursday.

The development came after Pakistan on Tuesday had not allowed the Srinagar-Sharjah flight to use its airspace, forcing it to take a longer route and fly over Gujarat. **More On P10**

### Permission For Such Flights Denied: Pakistan

Pakistan said on Thursday that it has denied an Indian airline to use its airspace for operating flights from Kashmir to the United Arab Emirates. Pakistan on Tuesday did not allow the Srinagar-Sharjah flight of Go First, previously known as GoAir, to use its airspace, forcing it to take a longer route and fly over Gujarat to reach its destination in the UAE, according to officials in India. The Foreign. **More On P10**

## 95 More Test Covid Positive In J&K

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported 95 fresh cases of novel coronavirus even as no death due to the infection was reported from the Union Territory on the second consecutive day Thursday.

According to the officials, Kashmir Valley reported 81 new cases of coronavirus while the remaining 14 were detected from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 332651.

In the Valley, officials said that Srinagar reported highest 35 new cases of. **More On P10**

## Winged Visitors Keep Their Date With Kashmir

## 4 Lakh Migratory Birds Arrive In Four Wetlands Of Valley

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** Navigating with the help of stars, moon and peaks and maintaining a centuries-old tryst with Kashmir valley, the migratory birds have started to arrive here from far-off lands in an attempt to escape the harsh winter months of other countries for the relatively less harsh cold of Kashmir.

These hardy souls fly from Siberia, North-China, Philippines and North Europe to ward-off the extreme cold of their summer homes for their transitory habitat, Kashmir.

Rashid Naqash, Regional Wildlife Warden(Wetlands) told Kashmir Observer that these migratory birds have already started arriving in Kashmir's wetland and their numbers have reached to more than 4 lakh.

"By the middle of this month,



we are expecting large numbers of these avian visitors, who come here to spend the winter months to escape the extreme cold of their summer homes," Naqash said.

Having an upper hand over other states of India, J&K has four wetlands identified as Ramsar

Sites and the migratory destination for birds arriving from Siberia and other places. Wular Lake, Dal Lake, Hokersar and Mirgund Lake are among a few important wetlands of the valley where these migratory birds have been making a temporary shelter for the winter months.

"These are the transitory homes to different kinds of migratory birds like Greylag Goose, Brahminy Duck, Tufted Duck, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Common Pochard, Red-Crested Pochard, Ruddy Shelduck and Garganey are some of the migratory birds sighted in the wetlands of Kashmir during these winter months," the Regional Wildlife Warden said.

"The migratory bird species that have arrived in the valley so far include geese, mallards, pochards, gadwalls, pintails, waders, coots and the common teal. Every year more than 33 species of Ducks and other migratory birds arrive in Kashmir," he said.

He further added that, "At present, we have around a lakh migratory birds in Hokersar bird reserve, another lakh in Hygam and 50,000 in Shallabugh bird. **More On P10**

## Newly Wed Bride 'Runs Away' With Cash, Jewellery

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A newlywed bride has gone missing after allegedly running away with cash and gold from her in-laws house in Anantnag last week.

The husband has filed a police complaint against his newly-married wife (name withheld) at a nearest police station in the district, reports said Thursday.

The husband, identifying himself as Ashiq Hussain, a resident of Iqbal Pora Khriti in Lamoo, told a local news agency GNS that he got married on August 17, 18 this year. He maintained that his wife, a resident of Batote in Ramban district, went missing on October 31, while he was out for work.

"Sceptical of her going away stealthily, I at once checked the luggage", where I was shocked to found forty thousand rupees besides gold jewellery worth two lac fifty thousand missing", Ashiq said, adding. **More On P10**

## Nights Turn Colder In Kashmir, -2.8°C In Pahalgam

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Cold wave conditions continued across Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday as mercury dipped further with the tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir recording a low of minus 2.8 degree Celsius.

According to a meteorological department official, Srinagar recorded a low of 1.8 degree Celsius against 2.0 degree Celsius on the previous night. Qazigund recorded a minimum temperature of 0.6 degree Celsius against the previous night's 1.6 degree Celsius.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.8 degree Celsius against minus 2.0 degree Celsius on previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a

minimum temperature of 1.7 degree Celsius against 1.2 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of 0.7 degree Celsius against 1.2 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 2.5 degree Celsius against minus 1.6 degree Celsius on previous night, the official said.

Leh recorded a low of minus 7.6 degree Celsius against last night's minus 3.2 degree Celsius while mercury settled at 3.4 degree Celsius against previous low of 3.2 degree Celsius, the official said.

The temperatures have fallen considerably after record rainfall and snowfall in some plains and upper. **More On P10**





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Friday|05-11-2021| 2

## OFFICE OF THE ALPHA COACHING CENTRE SRIGUFWARA

### FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022 FOR CLASS 11TH AND 12TH

S.No	Name of Subject	Syllabus	Fee
1	Physics	Complete	12000/=
2	Chemistry	Complete	12000/=
3	Biology	Complete	12000/=
4	Math	Complete	12000/=
5	G.English	Complete	6000/=
6	Economics	Complete	6000/=
7	Pol- Science	Complete	6000/=
8	Geography	Complete	6000/=
9	Sociology	Complete	6000/=
10	E.Science	Complete	6000/=

For Class 9th And 10th

S.No	Class	Syllabus	Fee
1	9th	Complete	20,000/=
2	10th	Complete	20,000/=

### For NEET, JEE

NEET, JEE COMPLETE COURSE FEE, 30,000/=

Ph. No:- 6005150557,

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Fitness of my Vehicle Bearing Regd No:- JK03D-7440. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG. Within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name :- Sahil Bashir

S/o:- Bashir Ahmad Bhat

R/O:- Chandrigam Aishmuqam Anantnag

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## OFFICE OF THE ALPHA COACHING CENTRE SREIGUFWARA

### FACULTY LIST FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022

Name of Faculty	Qualification	Subject	Experience
1. Aijaz Ahmad Khan	M.Sc B.Ed	Physics	10Years
2. Sartaj Ahmad	M.Sc. B.Ed	Physics	08Years
3. Tariq Ahmad Tarray	M.Sc.B.Ed	Chemistry	05Years
4. Mohd Rafiq Ahanger	M.Sc. B.Ed	Botany	05years
5. Sareer Ahmad Mir	M.Sc.M.Ed	Zoology	04years
6. Sajad Ahmad Dar	M.Sc.B.Ed	Maths	04years
7. Bilal Ahmad Khan	M.Sc	Maths	1years
8. Mubashir Ahmad Ganie	M.A.M.Phill	G.English	03years
9. Ab. Rehman Bhat	M.A. B.Ed	Economics	10years
10. Sartaj Afzal Bhat	M.A.M.Phill	Pol- Science	07years
11. Shakir Ahmad	M.A.B.Ed	Geography	04years
12. Nisar Ahmad Tarray	M.A. M.Phill	Sociology	06years
13. Mohd Rafiq Ahanger	M.Sc. B.Ed	Environmen- tal Science	05years

Phone No:- 6005150553

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Sd/=   
Coordinator  
ACC Srigufwara

## LOSS OF SALE DEED

I have lost my original copy of sale deed of 1kanal land Bearing Khewat No 19 Khata No 62 and Khasra No 182min situated at mouza ranipora Anantnag. During travel from Mehendi Kadal to DC Office Anantnag if anybody found the original copy of deed may please contact below mentioned address also I have applied for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the Office of concern department within the period of seven days no objection will be entertained after stipulated time .And incase of miss use the said documents (SALE DEED) will not be our responsibility.

IMTIYAZ AHMAD KUCHAY & MUSHTAQ AHMAD KUCHAY

Sons of: MOHD YOUSUF KUCHAY

R/O: RANIPORA ANANTNAG.

Ph. No :- 7889873264, 7051526347

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Name :- S.S GUPTA S/O:- CHAMAN LAL GUPTA

R/O:- KASALI SOLAN HP

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## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

### JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.  
www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: List of candidates falling under consideration zone for various posts of Health and Medical Education Department advertised vide Advertisement Notification No.02 of 2021 dated: 26-03-2021 for which the CBT Examination conducted from 17th August, 2021 to 25th August 2021- regarding.

Whereas, the Health and Medical Education Department, J&K vide communication Nos HD/ Drug/24/2020 dated 25-09-2020 followed by HD/Drug/24/2020 dated 07- 01-2021, HD/Co-ord/63/2020 dated 25-09-2020, HD/ISM/62/2020 dated 25-09-2020 followed by HD/Co-ord/64/2020 dated 05-03-2021, HD/Coord/64/2020 dated 25-09-2020, ME/NG/83/2020 dated 28.09.2020 followed by ME/NG/83/2020 dated 08.03.2021, forwarded the indent for making recruitment to the 1444 posts, and;

2. Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JK SSB) vide advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2021 dated 26-03-2021, issued advertisement for 2311 Divisional/District cadre posts relating to various departments, and;

3. Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JK SSB), conducted Computer Based Written Test (CBT) examination for 1202 posts of Health and Medical Education Department, advertised vide aforesaid Notification No.02 of 2021 dated: 26-03-2021, in multi sessions/slots papers from 17.08.2021 to 25.08.2021 and;

4. Whereas, the Board vide Notice no SSB/COE/02/2021/5666-73 dated 17-08-2021, notified procedure for compilation of examination scores for multi session/slot papers (Normalization procedure based on PERCENTILE SCORE), and;

5. Whereas, JKSSB notified result/ score sheet based on the performance of candidates in the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) examination held from 17.08.2021 to 25.08.2021, for different posts of Health and Medical Education Department advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2021 (except for the post of Social Worker/ Medical Social Worker, Item No. 204, Division Cadre Kashmir) vide No. SSB/COE/Health/2021/7191-99 dated 21-10-2021 and SSB/COE/Health/2021/7307-15 dated 25-10-2021, and;

6. Now, therefore:

The Domain wise list candidates falling in consideration zone and figuring in Annexure "A" to this notice have been provisionally called for Counselling-cum Document Verification on the basis of final score/merit.

i. The candidates figuring in the aforesaid Annexure "A", in the numbers as will be deemed necessary, to appear before the Counselling Cum Document Verification Committee, on the dates which shall be notified, separately, by the J&K Services Selection Board, along-with the following documents in original:-

- Copy of Online Application form.
- D.O.B Certificate (10th Diploma / Marks card).
- Reservation category certificate, if applicable.
- Domicile certificate.
- 10+2 Marks sheet / Diploma.
- Bonafide certificate on the format prescribed by the Board duly issued by the Controller / Registrar of the concerned University in respect of candidates, who have obtained degrees from the Universities/ Colleges/Institutes outside the State of J&K, other than Central Universities
- Other documents as per prescribe qualification shown in the advertisement.

ii. Additionally, the candidates are also required to produce a self-attested photocopy of each document/certificate/Online application form on the day of Counselling -cum Document Verification.

iii. Candidates are figuring in reserved categories, purely on the basis of details they have incorporated in their data i.e online application form. Their respective claims on this account are further subject to production of valid reserved category certificate at the time of Counselling-Cum Document Verification, in addition to the normal process of verification indicated at para 06(ii).

iv. The list and subsequent selection shall be subject to outcome of any writ petition(s), if any, pending before the competent Court of Law.

By order.

DIPK-11842/21

No. SSB/COE/H&ME/2021/7477-84

Dated:- 02.11.2021

(Ashok Kumar) JKAS  
Controller of Examinations  
J&K Services Selection Board,  
Jammu.

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-tender NIT No.215 of 2021-22 issued under endorsement No.14815-24

Dated:02.11.2021

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

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs.In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class Of Contractor
1.	Construction of RCC Culvert (Covered Drain) at Dangerpora Lar under (State Sector).	Rs.03.63 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	State Sector	DEE
2	Construction of R/Wall opposite Agriculture Office Lar and other various spots on Lar Barsoo Manigam road (opposite Panchayat. Ghar Repora) under State Sector.	Rs.6.26 Lacs	Rs.300/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	State Sector	DEE/CEE
3	Balance portion for construction of road from PMGSY road to Fakeer Mohalla / Choudary Mohalla b.w.o construction of R/Wall, Laying of WBM G-II and RCC spun pipes at required spots under State Sector.	Rs.5.00 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	State Sector	DEE
4.	Balance portion of work for construction of cement concrete Drain and RCC Culvert and construction of R/Wall at yangoora and upgradation of road b.w.o cement concrete Drain and R/Wall at Kondbal under State Sector.	Rs.4.50 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	State Sector	DEE
5.	Construction of link road from benhama to pakhtoon Basti upto H/O Lal Khan Incl. link via H/O Gulshan b.w.o construction of road from Benhama to Pakhtoon Basti b.w.o P/L of GSB and WBM G-II (Balance portion) under State Sector.	Rs.4.55 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	State Sector	DEE
6.	Upgradation of Gazi Mohalla Bab-Canal link incl. its allied links, of road at Timri Mohalla, Gazi Mohalla b.w.o P/L GSB and WBM G-II (Balance Portion).	Rs.3.58 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	State Sector	DEE
7.	Construction of cement concrete Drain at Kalpora Safapora (Balance Portion) under State Sector.	Rs.1.53 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	State Sector	DEE

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

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02/11/2021 from 6.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	02 /11/2021 from 6.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	08 /11/2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	09/11/2021 at 10.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer Division R&B Division Ganderbal

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal.  
Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

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

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

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

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

- Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

- The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No.14815-24

Dated: -11-21

DIPK-11867/21

Sd/-   
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Ganderbal

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION KULGAM

NIT No. 125/2021-22/RnB/Kul/e-tendering7886-7906 dated 01-11-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Supply and filling of RBM in sub Base course from Nandimarg to Mogli mohallah (1.05 Kms).	6.61	300	07 days	State Sector	Cee & Dee

Position of AAA: Accorded vide

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

S. Particulars	Dated
No.	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents
3	Bid submission Start Date
4	Bid Submission End Date
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)
In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam	

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam (Major Head 0059-Rev:Misc) [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-65) Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam (Tender receiving Authority).

- All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

- The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

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

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

- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

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

- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

- Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

No: 7907-09

Dtd: 01-11-2021

DIPK-11837/21

Sd/-   
Executive Engineer  
(R&B) Division Kulgam





# CITY

## DAK Urges Admin To Start Heating System In Hospitals

KO NEWS SERVICE

**S**rinagar: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Thursday urged Jammu and Kashmir (JK) administration to start the heating system in Kashmir hospitals as the patients are suffering due to the chill.

With temperatures dipping, DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan said patients are shivering with cold as the heating system of hospitals has not been started yet.

“The bone-chilling cold in hospitals is making life difficult for ailing patients,” he said.

The DAK President said tertiary care and peripheral hospitals are without heating putting lives of patients at risk.

“Cardiac and Stroke patients in hospitals are at increased risk of death as cold thickens blood and constricts the arteries,” he said.

“Even the condition of Asthmatics and patients with Chronic Obstructive Lung Diseases worsens in hospitals because of cold conditions,” he added.

Vice-President DAK Dr Mir Mohd Iqbal said the icy conditions in hospitals increase the risk of expectant mothers having premature delivery.

“Children and elderly are especially prone to hypothermia that can lead to respiratory and cardiac dysfunction and even death,” he said.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said it is difficult for doctors, nurses and paramedical staff to work in icy-cold conditions especially during night hours when temperatures reach close to freezing point.

“The majority of the peripheral hospitals are without inbuilt central heating systems and they rely on traditional heaters without vent which do more harm than good to patients,” he said. Spokesperson DAK Dr Riyaz Ahmad Dagga said hospital administrators seem to be insensitive to the sufferings of patients.



City gets a ‘paint brush’ under the Srinagar Smart City Project launched by India’s Ministry of Housing and Urban Development in collaboration with Srinagar’s Municipal Corporation PIC :Abid Bhat

## Paramilitary Forces Take Over Marriage Halls In City, Locals Aghast

Agencies

Srinagar: Locals of various areas of Srinagar city expressed their anger after CRPF men allegedly ‘occupied’ marriage halls in city parts. The locals urged the administration to provide safe accommodations to CRPF men stating that keeping security forces personnel in civilian areas will pose a threat to locals.

As per reports, CRPF men occupied a marriage hall in Shutrashahi area of Srinagar where locals staged protest, as per news agency. The locals said that children would play in the premises of marriage halls while marriage func-

tions and other functions are held in these halls.

“We were shocked to see CRPF men in large numbers camping in the marriage hall. Normally such things happen during election time, but this time around, there is no election on cards. We were totally surprised to see CRPF men along with their belongings occupying the marriage hall,” said a local resident of Shutrashahi area of Srinagar, adding that “occupying marriage hall will pose a great risk to locals living in the area.”

“This area is already congested and the marriage hall is just a few hundred meters

away from the civil secretariat and District Police Lines (DPL) Srinagar. Keeping CRPF men in a marriage hall has already triggered fear among locals living here,” said another resident. The locals appealed to the LG Manoj Sinha led administration to provide alternate accommodation to the CRPF men instead of lodging them in marriage halls.

Locals of Ilahibagh-Malbagh area of Srinagar outskirts also alleged that CRPF men were lodged in a marriage hall in their locality adding that the government is putting the local population at great risk by accommodating CRPF men in marriage halls.

“Marriage halls are for locals, not CRPF men. We fail to understand that despite having huge infrastructure at its disposal, why marriage halls were chosen for accommodating CRPF personnel,” said an elderly local resident.

CRPF spokesman in Srinagar Abhiram Pankaj said that first of all, CRPF has no authority to occupy any government or private building. Administration may have used these places (marriage halls) for the short and temporary stay of CRPF men,” he said—(KNO)

## Soz Urges Admin To Rescue Houseboat Owners From Penury

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar:- Former union minister and Congress leader prof Saifuddin Soz on Thursday wrote to Jammu and Kashmir Governor Manoj Sinha, urging him to provide a special financial package to Kashmir’s houseboat industry that has been battered by continuous curfews and lockdowns over the last two years.

“I feel extremely sad that Kashmir’s traditional houseboat industry is facing extremely bad conditions. The houseboat owners have got reduced to very bad economic conditions due to falling numbers of domestic and foreign tourists. The Pandemic has further deepened their misery,” Soz said

on Thursday.

“I have approached the J&K’s Lt. Governor Shri Manoj Sinha through a letter today, requesting him to please take notice of this now-dilapidated industry. I have urged the Lt. Governor to sanction a package for this industry with a view to provide aid for reconstruction of the houseboats and financial help to houseboat owners,” he added.

The industry has suffered heavily due to Covid-19 pandemic and reduction in the number of domestic and foreign visitors.

Prof Soz has also requested Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to meet the houseboat owners in person to listen to their grievances and understand their plight.

## KU To Offer Free Coaching To Meritorious Civil Service Aspirants

Agencies

Srinagar:- Kashmir University’s Centre for Career Planning and Counselling (CCPC) is going to offer coaching to meritorious civil service aspirants this year with 100 percent scholarship.

Director CCPC Prof Mohammad Ishaq Geer said the Centre aims to attract the best talent and provide them the best possible coaching to crack IAS/KAS examinations next year.

Starting next month, the 10-month coaching programme will be non-residential and full-time.

“It will be offered in physical/off-line mode, however, if the need arises, a quick transition shall be made to the online mode depending upon the COVID-related circumstances and containment guidelines,” Prof Geer said.

A tuition fee of Rs 50,000 shall be collected from all the aspirants selected on the basis of a written test to be conducted by the University’s Directorate of Admissions and Competitive Examinations. However, top 50 students selected on the basis of their merit obtained in

the written test, continuous assessment of their performance and monitoring of their attendance on a regular basis, will be provided free coaching.

“This fee waiver will be enabled through financial assistance received by the CCPC from a central council,” Prof Geer said.

He said application forms can be downloaded from CCPC’s official website (ccpc.uok.edu.in).

The last date for receiving the duly-filled hard copies of the application forms, along-with a demand draft of Rs 500 towards application-cum-entrance fee favouring Director, Centre for Career Counselling and Planning, is November 13, 2021. The date of entrance examination will be communicated later.

“For further details, interested candidates can contact us on 0194-2272265 or 9796182264 during office hours,” Prof Geer said.

Pertinently, five trainees of the CCPC have recently emerged successful in JEE-MAINS examination whose results were declared recently, he said. (KNS)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,  
Department of Culture, J&K  
Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar.

**Subject:- Appointment of candidate against Class-IV post.**

Reference:- OM No.GAD/MTORBI/63/2021-09-GAD dated 19-10-2021 & 23-10-2021 from General Administration Department and letter No.SSB/Secy/56/Class-IV/2021/7705-II dated 18-10-2021 of Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board.

**Government Order No. 47 - JK (Cul) of 2021.**  
**Date d: 02-11 - 2021.**

Pursuant to the selection made by J&K Services Selection Board of candidates against Class-IV posts and also on the basis of the CID verification received from the concerned Deputy Commissioner, the below mentioned candidate is hereby appointed as Class-IV employee in the pay level of SLJ (14800-47100) in the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K:-

S.No.	Name & Category	Parentage	Address
1.	Sushil Kumar (SC).	Surjit Kumar, Ward No.5, Mokhey, Suchetgarh, R.S.Pura, Jammu.	

The appointee shall report for joining in the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K, at Lal Mandi, Srinagar.  
The appointee shall be allowed by the Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K, to join only on production of the following certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently:-  
i) Academic qualification certificate.  
ii) Matriculation/Date of birth certificate  
iii) Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.  
iv) Domicile Certificate.  
v) Certificate from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counselling Centre to the effect that no loan under the self-employment scheme has been availed by the appointee.  
vi) Relevant category certificate.  
The appointment of the above candidate shall be governed by "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24-12-2009 and his probation shall be governed by the Jammu and Kashmir Probationer (Condition of Service, Pay and Allowances) and Fixation of Tenure Rules, 2020 notified vide S.O 102 of 2020 dated 17-06-2020. The inter-se seniority of the appointee shall be drawn in accordance with the merit secured by the appointee in the selection list prepared by the J&K Services Selection Board.  
The appointment shall also be cancelled ab-initio if it is found that the candidate is having higher qualification than the prescribed one at any stage later on and he will also be liable for criminal prosecution. Further, if on verification the qualification certificate, reserved category certificate or any other certificate is found forged, false or fake by the concerned issuing authorities, the appointee shall have no claim for appointment and his services shall be deemed to have been terminated ab-initio.  
The order issued by the appointing authority of J&K Services Selection Board shall not be changed under any circumstances by any authority/Department.  
The candidate shall join within a period of 21 (twenty one) days from the date of issuance of the appointment order. shall forfeit his right to appointment which shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.  
The appointment of the above candidate shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before any competent Court of law/Tribunal, etc.  
By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-  
(Samad Hafeez),  
IAS, Secretary to the Government,  
Department of Culture

No. Cul-Adm/Secy/130/2021-01  
Dated 02-11-2021

DIPK-11876/21

### DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 245222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI

CALENDAR

29 Rabi-ul-Awwal

1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 30

ZUHR 12:15

ASR 4:58

Magrib 5:38

ISHA 7: 01

## This Day In History

- 1556 - Akbar (14) succeeds his father Humajun as Sultan of Delhi
- 1556 - Battle at Panipat: Mogollegers beat hindu leader Hemu
- 1605 - Gunpowder Plot: Catholic conspirator Guy Fawkes attempts to blow up King James I and the British Parliament. Plot discovered, Guy Fawkes caught, tortured and later executed along with seven others.
- 1678 - Brandenburg troops occupy Greifswald in Sweden
- 1725 - Spain & Austria sign secret treaty
- 1757 - Battle at Rossbach (7 year war/French & Indian War)
- 1838 - Honduras declares independence of Central American Federation
- 1862 - Battle at Barbee's Crossroads, Virginia: 51 casualties
- 1873 - Due to the fallout from the Pacific Scandal, John A. Macdonald resigns as Prime Minister of Canada
- 1881 - French government-Ferry resigns
- 188 - 11,600 police and volunteers attack Mori settlement at Parihaka in western Taranaki which had become the symbol of protest against the confiscation of M ori land, New Zealand
- 1900 - Under US military control since the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Cuba now calls its own constitutional convention
- 1911 - Italy attacks Turkish North-Africa (Libya), takes Tripoli & Cyrenaica
- 1912 - Democrat candidate Woodrow Wilson is elected President of the United States, defeating Republican incumbent William Howard Taft and Progressive candidate Theodore Roosevelt
- 1913 - Ludwig III crowned king of Bavaria
- 1914 - Britain declares war on Turkey and annexes Cyprus, occupied since 1878; the immediate reason is to keep it from being taken by Turkey
- 1916 - Emperors Wilhelm II (Germany) and Franz Josef I (Austria-Hungary) establish the kingdom of Poland
- 1916 - Second Chamber accept initial impetus to general males/female suffrage
- 1916 - The Everett Massacre takes place in Everett, Washington as political differences lead to a shoot-out between IWW organizers and local police.
- 1917 - Gen Pershing & US troops see action on Western Front for 1st time
- 1921 - Soviet Russia signs a treaty with Mongolia, temporarily supporting the new government against China and Japanese incursions
- 1925 - Mussolini disbands Italian socialist parties
- 1930 - Nobel for literature awarded to Sinclair Lewis for "Babbitt"
- 1933 - Spanish Basques vote for autonomy
- 1937 - Adolf Hitler informs his military leaders in a secret meeting of his intentions of going to war
- 1940 - Franklin D. Roosevelt is re-elected President of the United States for an unprecedented third term, defeating Republican candidate Wendell Willkie
- 1941 - Japanese naval staff officers Suzuki and Maejima leave Pearl Harbor.
- 1943 - Vatican in Rome bombed by unknown source
- 1944 - Allied troops reach Zouteleland, Walcheren
- 1944 - Canadian & British troops liberate Dinteloord
- 1953 - Nobel prize for physics awarded to Fredrik Zernicke
- 1956 - Britain and France land airborne forces at Port Said in Egypt, escalating the Suez Crisis
- 1964 - US launches Mariner 3 toward Mars; no data returned
- 1967 - ATS-3 launched by US to take first pictures of full Earth disc
- 196 7 - US troops conquer Loc Ninh South Vietnam
- 1967 - Yemen president Sallal flees
- 1975 - British government sends troops to Belize
- 1978 - Iranian PM Jaafar Sharif-Emami resigns to Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi
- 1979 - Iran government of Bazargan resigns
- 1979 - Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini declares US "The Great Satan"
- 1983 - Orbiter Discovery (OV-103) moves overland to Dryden
- 1988 - France performs nuclear test
- 1994 - Space probe Ulysses completes 1st passage behind the Sun
- 1995 - STS 73 (Columbia 18), lands
- 2006 - Saddam Hussein, former president of Iraq, and his co-defendants Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti and Awad Hamed al-Bandar are sentenced to death in the al-Dujail trial for the role in the massacre of the 148 Shi'as in 1982.
- 2007 - China's first lunar satellite, Chang'e 1 goes into orbit around the Moon.
- 2009 - US Army Major Nidal Malik Hasan (US Army Medical Corps) killed 13 and wounded 43 at Fort Hood, Texas in the largest mass shooting ever at a US military installation.
- 2012 - 50 Syrian military personnel are killed by a suicide car bomb in Hama.
- 2014 - New Zealand Prime Minister John Key rules out sending troops to fight against Islamic State, but claims there are 40 New Zealanders on 'terror watchlist'

From KO Archives

## Zindabad, Murdabad

Observer News Service

**S**RINAGAR- That the killing of Agha Syed Mahdi had touched a raw nerve was more than manifest in the slogans raised by thousands of mourners who flocked to Budgam today to attend his funeral, presenting in a microcosm the bewilderment Kashmiris are going through. The zindabads were reserved for Islam and Hussainiyat. The other slogans heard were Pakistan hai hai, Hurriet Conference murdabaad, National, Conference murdabaad, STF murdabaad, etc.etc.

(Kashmir Observer, November 05, 2000)



Europe Could See "Another Half A Million Covid Deaths" By February: WHO



**Agence France-Presse**  
**COPENHAGEN:** The rising number of cases of Covid-19 in Europe is of "grave concern" and the region could see another half a million deaths by early next year, the World Health Organization warned on Thursday. "The current pace of transmission across the 53 countries of the European Region is of grave concern," WHO Europe director Hans Kluge told a press conference, adding that one reliable projection would mean "another half a million COVID-19 deaths," by February if the current trajectory continued. The WHO's European Region spans 53 countries and territories and includes several nations in Central Asia.

**THE CURRENT PACE OF TRANSMISSION** across the 53 countries of the European Region is of grave concern," WHO Europe director Hans Kluge told a press conference, adding that one reliable projection would mean "

US Allows Boeing Satellite Grid To Provide Internet From Space

**Agence France-Presse**  
**WASHINGTON:** Boeing on Wednesday gained US authorization for a project to launch satellites that will provide internet services from space. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) said in a statement it had approved a license for the aerospace giant "to construct, deploy, and operate a satellite constellation" that will "provide broadband and communications services for residential, commercial, institutional, governmental, and professional users in the United States and globally."

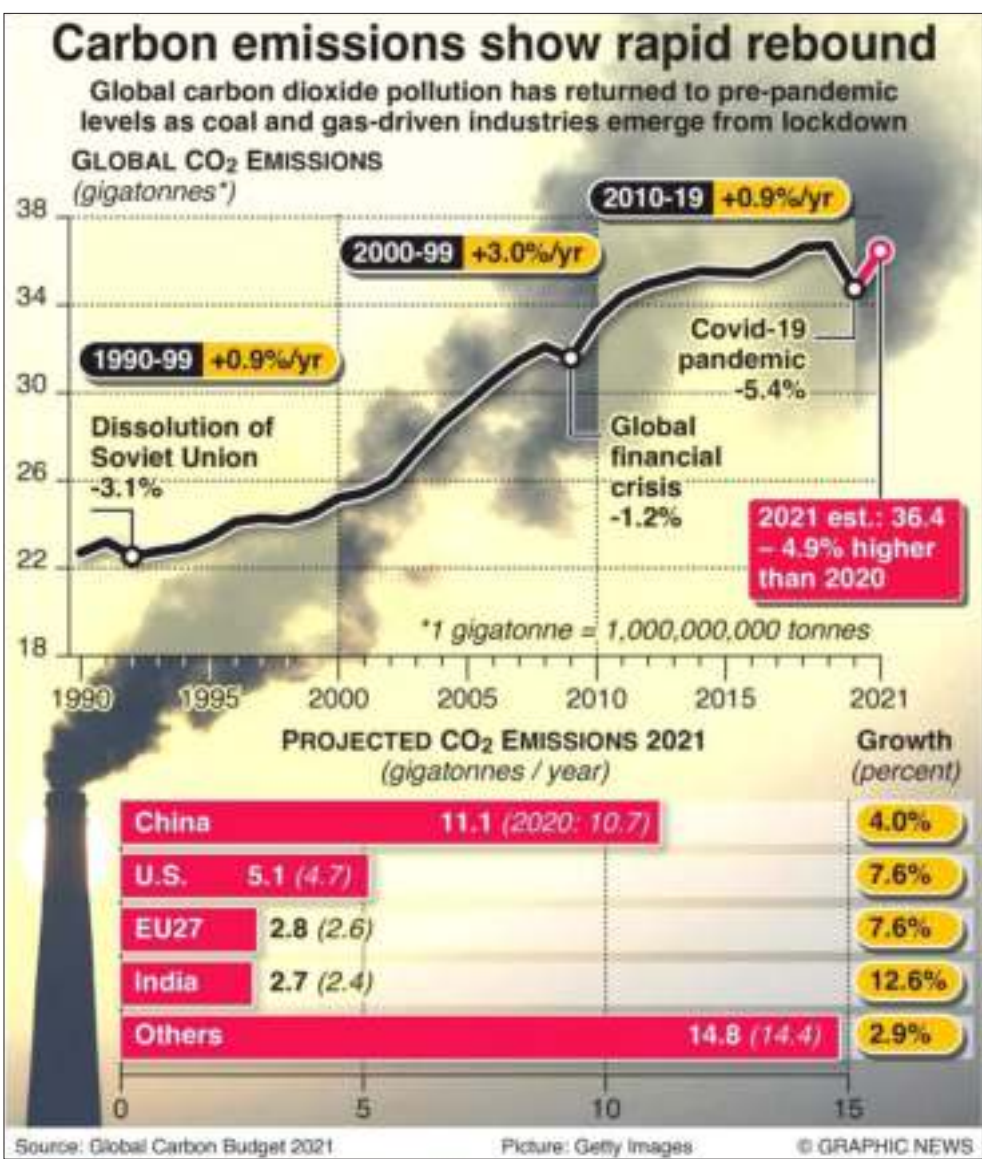


"Advanced satellite broadband services have an important role to play in connecting hard-to-serve communities," said Jessica Rosenworcel, the FCC chairwoman. The FCC gave the green light for 147 satellites, the vast majority of which will be in low orbit: 132 could be placed at an altitude of about 600 miles (1,000 km), and 15 would be much higher, between about 17,000 and 27,000 miles. The service will first be available to clients in the United States and then around the world.

**AS THE DEMAND FOR SATELLITE** communications grows, diversity will be required across orbital regimes and frequencies to satisfy unique customer demands, and we see V-band as helping to provide some of that diversity,"

"Boeing sees a multi-orbit future for satellite technologies," the aerospace company said in a statement.

"As the demand for satellite communications grows, diversity will be required across orbital regimes and frequencies to satisfy unique customer demands, and we see V-band as helping to provide some of that diversity," Boeing added. Other satellite constellation projects are already being rolled out by competing companies. US billionaire Elon Musk, head of the space company SpaceX, has already put more than 1,500 satellites into orbit to create the Starlink network, while Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has a similar project called Kuiper.



LAC Stand-off Gave China 'Operational, Tactical Experience': US

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**WASHINGTON:** China has been taking "incremental and tactical actions" to press its claims at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India and has unsuccessfully sought to prevent New Delhi from deepening its relationship with the US during and subsequent to the standoff, the Pentagon has said in a major report on China's military modernisation. The Pentagon report comes amid heightened tensions between the US and China over the issue of Taiwan and was published hours after the most senior US general, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley issued a stark warning about China's military progress. The Pentagon has repeatedly referred to China as the "pacing challenge" for the US. "The PRC (People's Republic of China) seeks to prevent border tensions from causing India to partner more closely with the United States. PRC officials have warned US officials to not interfere with the PRC's relationship with India," the Department of Defense told the US Congress on Wednesday. The Pentagon regularly reports to the Congress on the India-China military standoff in eastern Ladakh. The Department of Defense has categorically said China is indulging in aggressive and coercive behaviour with its neighbours, India in particular. Chinese officials, through official statements and state media, had also sought unsuccessfully to prevent India from deepening its relationship with the United States during and subsequent to the standoff, while accusing India of being a mere "instrument" of US policy in the region, the Pentagon said.



**THESE AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE** development efforts along India-China have been a source of consternation in the Indian government and media,"

Beginning in May 2020, the Chinese Army launched incursions into customarily Indian-controlled territory across the border and has concentrated troops at several standoff locations along the LAC, the Pentagon said. The Pentagon said despite the ongoing diplomatic and military dialogues to reduce border tensions, China has continued "taking incremental and tactical actions" to press its claims at the LAC. As of June 2021, China and India continue to maintain large-scale deployments along the LAC and make preparations to sustain these forces while disengagement negotiations have made limited progress, it said. In addition, a substantial reserve force from the Tibet and Xinjiang Military Districts were deployed to the interior of Western China to provide a rapid response, the Pentagon report said. The acute tensions and clashes along the border with India in 2020 resulted in significant PLA force build-up and establishment or enforcement of forward positions along the LAC. "These tensions likely provided the PLA with valuable real-world operational and tactical experience," it said. According to the report, at the height of the border standoff between China and India in 2020, the Chinese Army installed a fiber optic network in remote areas of the western Himalayas to provide faster communications and increased protection from foreign interception. The PLA field commanders view near-real-time intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance and situational data as well as redundant and reliable communications as essential to streamlining decision making processes and shortening response timelines, it said. The June 2020 skirmish in Galwan Valley, which led to the deaths of 20 Indian soldiers, marked the first loss of life on the LAC since 1975. In February 2021, China's Central Military Commission (CMC) announced posthumous awards for four PLA soldiers, though the total number of Chinese casualties remains unknown, it said. In 2020, China built a large 100-home civilian village inside disputed territory between the Chinese Tibet Autonomous Region and India's Arunachal Pradesh state in the eastern sector of the LAC.

Kashmiri Leader Tipped To Be Next Pak Envoy In US



**WASHINGTON:** Sardar Masood Khan, President of Pakistani part of Kashmir is likely to be appointed as next ambassador of Pakistan in Washington. Pakistan may soon send a new envoy to Washington as the country's current ambassador, Asad Majeed Khan, will soon complete his tenure, Dawn quoting diplomatic sources reported on Thursday. The reports say that Islamabad has already started the selection process and the 27th president of Pakistan controlled Kashmir tops the list of candidates. "It is interesting to note that someone who as president has held the highest political office in AJK, now plans to accept the post of ambassador to Washington", Dawn said. Earlier this month, US President Joe Biden also nominated a new ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Armin Blome, an expert on Middle East affairs. He is currently the US ambassador to Tunisia. **IT IS INTERESTING** to note that someone who as president has held the highest political office in AJK, now plans to accept the post of ambassador to Washington", Masood Khan is a retired diplomat who twice served as Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva and New York and as ambassador to China. After retirement, he headed the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad before returning to his native Kashmir as president. Diplomatic observers in Washington point out that his nomination "would send a strong signal to Washington, that Pakistan now wants to highlight the Kashmir issue", according to the Dawn report. Significantly the change takes place soon after Kabul's fall to the Taliban on Aug 15.

Emirates To Launch Daily Dubai-Tel Aviv Flights

**Agencies**  
Low-cost carrier Flydubai launched the first commercial flights between Tel Aviv and Dubai just a few months after last year's agreement. Abu Dhabi-based airline Etihad and Israeli carrier Arkia now also offer regular flights. The UAE's normalisation of its relations with Israel, in a deal brokered by then-US president Donald Trump's administration, the new service would also link Israel seamlessly with its global route network. broke with decades of Arab consensus and infuriated the Palestinians and their supporters.



Climate Impacts Getting Worse: UN

**A** new report by the United Nations says that some impacts from climate change are already irreversible, and the global efforts to adapt are lagging. "Even if we were to turn off the tap on greenhouse gas emissions today, the impacts of climate change would be with us for many decades to come," said Inger Andersen, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme. The report named "The Gathering Storm: Adapting to climate change in a post-pandemic world" came at a time when world leaders are meeting in Glasgow for trying to curb planet-warming emissions.

**EVEN IF WE WERE TO TURN OFF THE** tap on greenhouse gas emissions today, the impacts of climate change would be with us for many decades to come,"

NEWS MAKERS

Pakistan PM Imran Khan Extends Diwali Greetings

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan and leaders of the main opposition parties on Thursday extended greetings to the country's minority Hindu community on the occasion of Diwali, the festival of lights. "Wishing all our Hindu community a happy Diwali," Mr Khan tweeted both in Urdu and English languages. Diwali is one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus across the globe. More than 4 million Pakistani Hindus also celebrate the festival with religious devotion. Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry, Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar and Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari also extended the Diwali greetings to the Hindu community.



the Diwali greetings to the minority community members. Leader of the Opposition and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Shehbaz Sharif also wished the Hindu community in Pakistan and around the world on the occasion. "May the festival of lights be the source of peace, love and joy around the world!" he tweeted. Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto also extended Diwali greetings to the Hindu community.

**WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE** message of Diwali, which teaches us that no matter how powerful evil is, its defeat at the hands of unwavering determination and constant struggle is inevitable,"

"We need to understand the message of Diwali, which teaches us that no matter how powerful evil is, its defeat at the hands of unwavering determination and constant struggle is inevitable," he said in a statement. The PPP chairman said the philosophy of his party is also "to fight against darkness, injustices and inequality in the country." Pakistani Hindus are celebrating Diwali across the country with zeal and fervour, with families decorating their houses and temples with colourful lights. Special poojas (worship) will be held in different temples while sweets will also be distributed among people during the observance of the religious festival, Geo News reported. Apart from Karachi, Lahore, and other major cities, festivities will also be held in Matiari, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Jamshoro, Badin, Sanghar, Hala, Tando Adam, and Shahdadpur, it added. Hindus form the biggest minority community in Pakistan. The majority of Pakistan's Hindu population is settled in Sindh province where they share culture, traditions and language with their Muslim fellows.

Indian-Tibetan Aftab Pureval Elected Mayor Of US City Cincinnati

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**WASHINGTON:** Aftab Pureval, an Indian-Tibetan has been elected as Mayor of Cincinnati city in the US state of Ohio, making him the first member of the community to be elected for such a position. Pureval, 38, a son of a refugee Tibetan mother and an Indian father, defeated his rival David Mann to win the Mayoral election. "Words can't express how honoured and excited I am to be the next Mayor of Cincinnati. Tonight, we made history! Let's get to work!", Pureval, who unsuccessfully ran for the US House of Representatives last year, said this after his impressive electoral victory. Aftab Karma Singh Pureval is the first Tibetan-American and the first Asian-American Pacific Islanders (AAPIL) mayor in the city's history. Pureval, a Democrat, had formerly served as Hamilton County clerk of courts. "Today, AAPIL Victory Fund celebrates Aftab Pureval's historic win as the first Indian-Tibetan American mayor of a major city, who has a bold vision to move Cincinnati forward," AAPIL Victory Fund founder and chairman Shekar Narasimhan said a day after the historic election of Pureval. In March of this year, AAPIL Victory Fund had endorsed Aftab as "a necessary progressive voice that has been able to achieve success with Democrats and Republicans alike" in its slate of mayoral candidates. "This is a triumph for not only Aftab Pureval but also for the AAPIL community nationwide. Aftab's victory is a major step forward for AAPIL political representation.





## Chief Secretary Pulls Up Officials Over Delay In Setting Up Farmer Training Centres

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta has taken a strong note of the delay in the setting up of farmer training centres (FTCs) in Jammu and Kashmir and directed the concerned officials to complete the process of allotment of land at the earliest.

Mehta took note of the shortcomings during the 4th Union Territory Level Bankers Committee (UTLBC), as per the minutes of the meeting.

The issue of setting up FTCs in the Jammu and Kashmir divisions respectively by the Jammu and Kashmir Bank (JKB) and the Punjab National Bank (PNB) came up for discussion during the UTLBC meeting which was chaired by Union Minister of State of Finance, Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, at the mini-secretariat in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

The participants of the meeting were informed that as per the information received from the Punjab National Bank Memorandum of Understanding cum Agreement for the transfer of



land measuring 49 kanals and five marlas for the FTC Jammu has been signed on September 10, 2021.

About setting-up the FTC in Kashmir, the participants were informed that the district administration Pulwama has identified alternate land measuring 60 kanals under survey Nos. 408 min (two kanals 02 marlas) and 409 min (57 kanals 18 marlas) recorded as State land situated in estate Sethergund tehsil Kakapora.

"DDC Pulwama has recommended allotment of land for FTC Kashmir to divisional commissioner Kashmir and allotment order is awaited," the record note further reveals.

## Diwali Celebrated Across Jammu And Kashmir



**SRINAGAR:**Diwali in Kashmir was celebrated with love and brotherhood on Thursday, as sweet shops and markets in Srinagar witnessed a good rush, with people from Hindu and Sikh community were busy in shopping and lighting their houses.

According to a local news agency Muslims in Kashmir greeted and celebrated Diwali with the minority communities.

"This festival brings peace and prosperity, may almighty bring happiness in our lives too, and bring unity among us. Current politics is trying to create a rift in our brotherhood but we wish peace and unity in Kashmir," he said.

"I want to give a message to all those politicians who are trying to create a rift in between our brotherhood in the name of religion and politics, now that time has passed, we all are one, we celebrate Eid with our Hindu brothers and they celebrate Diwali with us," he said.

A Kashmiri Pandit from Baramulla said that Hindus and Muslims have been living in harmony in Kashmir for decades.

"We always back each other. I wish that it will remain like this forever. We were celebrating every festival together. I pray this kind of brotherhood will remain as it is," he said.

A Pujari from Hanuman Mandir Aamira Kadal HSHS said that on this occasion of Deepawali they are going to have Puja of Baghwati Mahalaksmi and will light up the Mandir with Deepak

(clay lamps).

"We will also share sweets and will pray for peace, health, wealth and prosperity for all Kashmiris irrespective of their religious belief," he said.

In the Jammu region, temples and neighbourhoods across the city were illuminated with clay lamps and string lights and fire-crackers were burst as soon as the sun set.

The directions of the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (PCC) on disallowing the bursting of non-green crackers and the limitations on bursting "green" crackers for just two hours between 8pm and 10pm were sparsely followed.

There was a huge rush of devotees to the temples.

Army and other security personnels also observed diwali with enthusiasm at their locations along the border with candle lights and diyas at various places. As a peace gesture, both India and Pakistan on Thursday exchanged sweets and greet each other on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also extended greetings to the public. "May this joyous occasion bring joy, happiness, peace and prosperity to the people," he said. "It is a celebration of the triumph of light over darkness and of hope over despair. The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil and reflects the true spirit of our composite culture."

## Fears Of Covid Third Wave Abound, JK Admin Mulls Reopening Schools

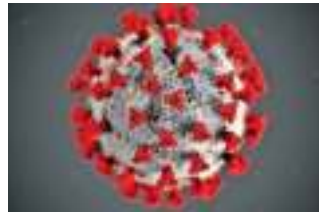
Authorities Considering Reopening Schools In Few Weeks For Lower Classes In 'Staggered Manner'

**SRINAGAR:** Vaccination still unapproved for children and fears of the third wave of Covid-19 notwithstanding, the Jammu and Kashmir administration is considering physical attendance for students in lower classes in a staggered manner.

The administration, as per a local news agency, is closely monitoring the spread of the pandemic and a final call over the reopening is expected this month, a local news agency reported. "Over the next two to three weeks final call will be taken on reopening of schools for lower classes in staggered manner," officials said.

An official told a local news agency that the Directors School Education and Commissioner Secretary School Education will take a call "if parents give positive feedback about the same."

"Over the last three weeks, there is a slight increase in positive cases of Covid-19 and we are closely monitoring the situation, so that we will be prepared beforehand to tackle the third wave of Covid-19," he said.



Schools in Kashmir have been shut since July 2019, ahead of the abrogation of JK's special status and statehood even as activities remained normal in the Jammu division. Educational institutions were briefly reopened before the pandemic forced another region-wide shutdown beginning 2020.

Physical classes were restarted for high and higher secondary students keeping in view the board examinations of 10th and 12th classes this year. "50% attendance has been carried out for both these classes so that studies could be continued along with Covid appropriate behaviour," the official said.

Stating that all district education officials have submitted data regarding the current Covid scenario in their respective areas, the official said that a

decision would be taken according to their reports.

The official said that the non-vaccination of children had delayed the reopening of schools in the region. "Children are unvaccinated so they are vulnerable to Covid-19," he said. "That's the main hindrance because if vaccination of children gets approved then administration can take a decision regarding reopening of schools."

Whenever the positivity rate of Covid in the population decreases, the administration will allow phase wise reopening, the official told a local news agency. "It might be possible to reopen schools in staggered manner," the official added. "Commissioner Secretary along with Director of school education can always talk with the parents for their feedback regarding reopening of schools or not."

In case positivity rates rise, as is feared, in the wake of a third wave of the pandemic, the official said that the administration would again shut down all educational institutions as was the case when the schools were briefly reopened last year.

## Reopen Schools Immediately: JK Education Chamber

**Srinagar:** The Jammu Kashmir Education Chamber, an amalgam of private schools associations of J&K, in a statement on Thursday called on the administration to immediately reopen schools across the region.

The JKEC said that the schools in Kashmir have been closed since 2019 and the administration had failed so far in coming out with a roadmap for the reopening of educational institutions.

"Every expert and educationist says that there is no al-

ternative to brick and mortar classrooms and online classes are creating huge problems," they said. "If the schools are not opened any time soon, the future of our students is at stake."

Pertinently, private schools have run into controversies with parents accusing them of "exploitation". Despite closure of campuses, private schools have continued to charge parents for transport and other unused facilities.

Amid the controversy and public demand for regulation and oversight on exorbi-

tant fees charged by private schools for profits, the administration had set up the Fee Fixation & Regulation Committee (FFRC).

The JKEC said the committee was "creating problems" for private school owners. They said that school owners are "fully cooperating" with the committee, which in turn is sluggish in its pace.

Defending its own interests, the JKEC also raised questions over the JK administration, saying that the committee was "a one-sided affair."



INDIA AND PAKISTAN ARMIES on Thursday exchanged sweets at the Line of Control.

## DC Rajouri Reviews Implementation of PM Awas Yojana

KO NEWS SERVICE

**RAJOURI:** The District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Rajesh K Shavan chaired a meeting of the concerned officers to review the progress on the houses being constructed under PM Awas Yojna(U) in the urban areas of the district and also to resolve the issue of lack of coordination between sponsoring and financing agencies.

Shavan said that PMAY-U is an ambitious scheme of the Government, which intends to provide housing for all urban dwellers by the year 2022.

"On one side we talk of the development of all sections of the society but on the other side, the lack of interdepartmental coordination between the sponsoring and financing agencies in this scheme creates a hindrance in the developmental process", Shavan said while chairing a meeting to review the status of cases sponsored by the Departments.

The meeting was informed that 141 cases of the BLC beneficiaries under PMAY-U have been sponsored by the JK Housing Board and are pending at different branches of the J&K Bank for financing. Shavan asked the bank authorities to make sure that all the sponsored cases are

sanctioned in seven days. He also asked the concerned officers to work together in a mission mode for the successful implementation of the scheme on the ground level and ensure that the benefit of the scheme is provided to the last beneficiary.

About the progress on the houses constructed under PMAY-U in the district, the meeting was informed that a target of constructing 1530 houses has been set and work is on.

Shavan also sought a detailed report from the concerned officers about the status of geo-tagging, houses attached with MIS, payment made to date, who in turn briefed about the same. He asked the concerned officers to ensure that all the PMAY-U houses are geo-tagged and are attached with MIS. He also directed to ensure the timely payment of PMAY-U installments to the beneficiaries so that the people don't suffer.

The DDC also directed the concerned officers to ensure that quality material is used for the construction purpose and also the target is achieved within the shortest possible time.

The meeting was attended by the CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; LDM, Jyoti Prakash Sharma; EO Municipal Council and Municipalities and Branch Managers.

## Bijbehara Villages Face Water Crisis, Locals Appeal Admin To Intervene

KO NEWS SERVICE

**BIJBEHARA:** Residents of Wopzan, Kandipora along with the adjacent areas in Bijbehara hamlet of Anantnag district are up against the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department for failing to provide them drinking water since last two weeks.

Talking to a local news agency, locals from the area said they are facing acute shortage of drinking water from the last two weeks as authorities have failed to restore the supply.

"We were getting drinking water supply regularly, but from the last 15 days we haven't received a single drop of water," they said.

Locals from Wopzan and Kandipora said that they had many times brought the issue to the notice of authorities but their

repeated promises proved just hoax on ground.

"There are over a thousand households residing in twin villages who are facing water scarcity. We have many times protested against the PHE department for its failure to provide us drinking water," they said.

"We once again request Chief engineer PHE to look into the matter at an earliest so that we may not suffer further," local said.

Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Department division Bijbehara Mohammed Haneef said that there was some gravity issue in the line which has been restored now.

"I will still check with the officials in case the water supply has not been restored yet," he said

## Advisor Farooq Khan visits NEET Topper Tanmay Gupta

KO NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan today visited NEET topper, Tanmay Gupta's residence in Jammu and congratulated him on topping the highly competitive exam.

Khan expressed happiness over Tanmay's performance and hoped that the NEET topper shall continue to strive towards excellence in his future endeavours as well.

While interacting with the family Khan told them that the success of their son would act as motivation for many other aspirants. He praised them for raising Tanmay the way that he

succeeded in bringing laurels not only to his parents but to the whole J&K.



Advisor Khan appreciated the support of Tanmay's teachers and family that helped him realise his dream. "Tanmay's achievement shall serve as an inspiration for all the students and encourage them to achieve their goals and strive for excellence in their respective fields" Khan added.

## 20-Year-Old MBBS Student From Srinagar Dies Mysteriously In Jammu

KO NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** A 20-year-old MBBS student from Srinagar has died of 'unascertained' cause in Jammu, officials said on Thursday morning.

They said that one Yameen, 20, pursuing his MBBS degree from ASCOMS Batra, putting up at Asarabad Flat Sidhra was brought to GMC in unconscious condition on Wednesday evening. However the boy was declared dead on arrival by the doctors there, they said adding the cause of death was however not immediately ascertained, a local news agency reported..

The deceased is said to be a resident of Peer Bagh Srinagar.

Confirming the death of the student, Police Post Incharge Sidhra Jammu Shakil Ahmad said that an Inquiry Officer has been deputed for verification into the incident. "Investigations are on to ascertain the cause of death of the student", the official said.

## Work Orders Worth 1.29 Crore Given In Kulgam

KO NEWS SERVICE

**KULGAM:** The Fisheries Department today distributed work orders to the tune of Rs 1.29 crore for establishment of trout fish units and construction of houses under PMMSY among beneficiaries in Kulgam district.

The work orders were handed over to the beneficiaries by the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din-Bhat during a distribution function which was held here at Mini-Secretariat.

Under these works, construction of trout fish units in the private sector shall be taken up for the beneficiaries, besides 19 houseless fishermen to get benefited under PMMSY for the year 2021-2022.

The main objective of the scheme is to provide sustainable livelihoods to the educated unemployed youths and also houses to the houseless registered fishermen.

Present on the occasion were ADC, Showkat Ahmad Rather and other officers.

## Sopore Accident: Injured Motorcyclist Succumbs More Than A Week Later

**SOPORE:** A motorcyclist from Bandipora, who had sustained critical injuries after being hit by a car in Warpora area of north Kashmir's Sopore town on last Monday, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital on Thursday.

A police official told a local news agency that a biker met with an accident at Warpora on Monday. He was rushed to SDH Sopore wherefrom he was referred to SKIMS Soura Srinagar. He was undergoing treatment at SKIMS since Monday. However, the official said that the injured succumbed to his injuries today at the hospital.

The deceased has been identified as Shabir Ahmed Sofi, son of Habibullah Sofi of Ayathmulla Bandipora district. He said that after all medical legal formalities, the body of the deceased was handed over to his family for last rites. The official said that a case has been registered and further investigation has been taken up.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF HANDICRAFTS & HANDLOOM, KASHMIR KASHMIR HAAT, EXHIBITION GROUNDS SRINAGAR Email: dir.handicraft@jk.gov.in

### NOTICE

All those Artisans/ Weavers/ Craftsperson who have applied for UT Level Award competition for the year 2021 and whose entries have been inspected and cleared by the designated Inspection Committee of the Department are informed to submit their Award Entries (Artifacts in School of Designs, Kashmir Haat, Srinagar by or before 15.11.2021 for evaluation/ selection by the designated UT Level Selection Committee.

Sd/-  
Publicity & Exhibition Officer,  
Handicrafts & Handloom  
Kashmir

DIPK-11917/21



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Climate Crisis

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched the Green Grids Initiative—One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG), the first international network of global interconnected solar power grids, jointly with his UK counterpart Boris Johnson, at COP26 summit in Glasgow. Addressing a session on clean technology at the summit, PM Modi said 'one sun, one world, one grid' can be crucial to re-establishing the environmental balance. He said this creative initiative will not only reduce carbon footprints and energy cost but also open a new avenue for cooperation between different countries and region.

Major world leaders congregated in Glasgow to make their respective climate commitments in view of the creeping climate change that is threatening to pose a grave danger to the world. US president Joe Biden warned that none of us can "escape the worst that's yet to come if we fail to seize this moment". He said this would be the "decisive decade" in which to prove that the goal of limiting global warming to just 1.5 degrees Celsius could be met.. UN chief António Guterres in hisstark message used very stark words in describing the climate change saying "we are digging our own grave" and should stop "treating nature as a toilet."

The COP26 followed the recent grim report by a UN-appointed panel that warned of the far-reaching effects of climate change if no immediate measures were taken to remedy the damage already done. The world, said the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released in August, will cross the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming mark in the 2030s, earlier than some past predictions. The report further said that human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2,000 years. Emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities alone are responsible for approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming since 1850-1900 and the temperatures could continue to rise until 1950. The report revealed that the past decade was most likely hotter than any period in the last 1,25,000 years when sea levels were as much as 10 meters higher.

The report caused a global alarm after its release. There is thus an urgent need for the world to come together and take remedial measures to pre-empt the catastrophe and the COP26 summit would certainly play an important role in this direction. In Kashmir too, the climate change has led to considerable changes in weather patterns. Triggering alarm bells is the slowly shrinking Kolahai glacier, the biggest in Valley, which is the source of Lidder and Sindh, two major streams of river Jehlum.

If the recession of the Himalayan glaciers goes on at this rate, the discharge in the former state's rivers would substantially go down, leading to a catastrophic situation, not least because it will severely impact Pakistan too. Though we can do nothing about the larger, global scale changes in the climate, we certainly need to address the local man made causes that re-inforce their impact on us. It is time that our government becomes serious on this score.

O T H E R O P I N O N

On Global Hunger Index

India's rank in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) has fallen from 94 out of 107 countries in 2020 to 101 out of 116 in 2021, a steep fall for a crucial indicator of social welfare. Even the 94th rank was a mark of ignominy and should have caused concern in government, but the further slide in position means that the country has joined the ranks of the poorest 15 countries, such as Yemen and Somalia. In South Asia, only war-wracked Afghanistan has a worse ranking than India. The peer-reviewed report, prepared by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welthungerhilfe (WHH) calculates the GHI score on four indicators -- undernourishment, child wasting (low weight for height), child stunting (low height for age) and child mortality.

India has the highest child wasting rate among all countries. It increased from 17.1% in 1998-2002 to 17.3% in 2016-2020. There were some improvements in the other three categories. The country's overall GHI score of 27.5 puts it in the "serious" category, and the hunger situation is "alarming." Childhood malnourishment has a serious impact on health in later years. Child and maternal malnutrition contribute to disease burden. GHI reports are annual reminders of failures in the country's development programmes and social welfare schemes such as the Poshan Abhiyan scheme. The irony of the country with the world's fifth-largest economy and wishing to be recognised as a superpower having the largest poor, undernourished and hungry population should not be lost on anyone. This, when India is one of the top producers of food in the world.

The government's responses to the report have been entirely negative. As usual, it sees a conspiracy against India and has questioned the methodology of the index and alleged that India's rank has been deliberately lowered. It also said the ranking was based on an opinion poll. WHH has refuted the criticism and explained the data source and methodology used to arrive at the indicator. The government's denial of a problem that clearly worsened during the pandemic and lockdowns is unhelpful. Worse, it is the government that has suppressed unfavourable information and fabricated figures in many areas in the past. Even the National Family Health Survey (2019-20) has shown that the percentage of stunted, wasted and underweight children has increased or remained the same in most states. Equity in the distribution of food, nutrition and care of young mothers and children is a serious issue. The country has to face the truth and act on them, instead of seeing a conspiracy behind every unflattering report and index.

Deccan Herald

Calling It Like Kohli



BY LINKING THE ABUSE SHAMI Received With His Performance, You Almost Provide It Some Kind Of Legitimacy

Sidharth Monga

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE CRICKET community to acknowledge and repeat it - over and over again - that Shami was abused for being a Muslim and not for having an off day. There is often a tendency to be coy with the description of such events, which only empowers the perpetrators

He needn't have. Virat Kohli had expressed his generic anger at generic social-media hatred already, which would probably have more than sufficed in the world we live in as a token response to the vile abuse Mohammed Shami received, for being a Muslim Indian cricketer losing a match to Pakistan. Kohli needn't have even given that generic response, because the BCCI media officer started the press conference reminding everyone "we shall only take questions purely on cricketing merit".

Kohli disregarded the diktat twice. When the media officer tried to quash the second question, which specifically focused on Shami's religion, Kohli was aware of the nuance he had missed out on in his first answer.

What followed was one of the more important statements in Indian cricket. A captain not only stood by, and stood up for, his team-mate, he also called out the abuse for what it was: an attack on Shami's religion. He called it the act of pathetic, spineless lowlifes.

In the week that has gone between India's match against Pakistan and this press conference, many a cricket personality - even Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir, while still in possession of their dog whistles - came out in support of Shami. This is not to doubt the intentions of all of them. Some can be genuinely naïve. But what they said might have ended up doing more harm than good.

They have all spoken of how proud they are of Shami, of how he is a committed and a world-class bowler, of how he shouldn't be abused for having just one bad day. It was like all the cricketing personalities were feeling the gaze of the public on them and felt they needed to react, and quickly filed it under "over-reaction to an off day" and moved on.

Yuvraj Singh is one of the cricketers who tweeted similarly. "One bad day cannot define you as a sportsman," he said. He should know. He had a bad day in the 2014 T20 World Cup final himself, and received a lot of abuse for it.

It is horrible, really.

However, nobody called Yuvraj a traitor. Nobody told him to go back to the Punjab across the border or to a non-existent Khalistan or Canada. If you are a farmer and of Yuvraj's faith and ask for your rights today, you might just be told those things, but back in 2014, Yuvraj was not abused based on religion.

It is important for the cricket community to acknowledge and repeat it - over and over again - that Shami was abused for being a Muslim and not for having an off day. There is often a tendency to be coy with the description of such events, which only empowers the perpetrators. By linking the abuse Shami received with his performance, you almost provide it some kind of legitimacy. Almost as if some enthusiastic, harmless cricket lovers went overboard with their criticism.

This is still better than what happened earlier this year when the home of Vandana Katariya, an India women's hockey player, faced casteist abuse when India lost a match in the Olympics. The perpetrators burst crackers - see the irony? - outside her family home in Uttarakhand and celebrated India's defeat to Argentina, telling her family that this is what happens when people of their caste get into the national team.

The reporting around the incident didn't even mention what caste Katariya is, what lowly occupation befits her community, according to these bigots, and why there is caste discrimination in India. Apart from her captain Rani Rampal, who managed to mention casteism despite being at the mercy of government-run bodies like most non-cricketing sportspersons in India, other reactions were not too different from the cricket community's reaction to Shami's abuse.

As long as we don't come face to face with the national shame, we can't hope to eliminate it. As long as we don't share that shame, the only person suffering is the victim. That is why it was important that a captain whose every word the public hangs on to spelt it out clearly. No pussyfooting around safe terms.

Kohli could have said this sooner on his own social media, he could have resisted listing Shami's achievements because you needn't be an elite performer to deserve rights and respect, but what he has said still remains seminal. We might want cricketers to be more vocal and uphold everything that is right, but in the real world they work in monopolies, which make taking unpopular positions hazardous. And, scary as it may sound, Kohli's might just be an unpopular position in today's India. We can't fully appreciate what these cricketers stand to lose by saying even this much and that too only when someone so close to them has been targeted. The board that employs Kohli has

the son of the home minister of India as its secretary. Even the board president, a man credited with bringing down divides when he was captain of the national team, has been tellingly silent. It is a board that chose to look the other way when Wasim Jaffer was communally targeted in Uttarakhand, or when Daren Sammy spoke of racial abuse in the IPL. The BCCI makes zero effort to achieve representation for the scheduled castes and tribes of India, and it failed to discipline or educate an India player when he used a caste name as a putdown for a fellow upper-caste player.

Kohli is perhaps too big a star to have to fear repercussions. He is comfortable and confident in his cricketing achievements. He is not from a minority that can be targeted. Which is why it is important for such big names to lead the way.

This was a week in which India's defeat to Pakistan and Quinton de Kock's refusal to take the knee dragged cricket into the real world. Not just in India and South Africa, but Pakistan too. When Waqar Younis can manage to project this as a religious triumph, imagine how horrible it must have been in his country when they lost 12 World Cup matches to India.

Some good has come out of it on all fronts. Waqar has been forced to apologise, even if with the usual rider of "if I offended someone". Quinton de Kock has been forced to realise the irony in his fear that his rights were being taken away when told to make an overt gesture against racism, an institution whose very existence relies on denying a vast majority of humans their rights. That process of resistance and realisation has hopefully made him aware of his entitlement.

In another country, where the choice of supporting a sporting team is being forced on its people, Kohli's impassioned defence of a friend and a team-mate has ended up turning the gaze on the perpetrator. Kohli has told people Shami doesn't need their pity or support, but it is the abusers who deserve unequivocal derision. If it makes the fans of Indian cricket squeamish, add one to Kohli's 70 centuries.

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

The author is the Assistant Editor at ESPNcricinfo. The article was originally published in ESPNcricinfo



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

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In Response To KO Facebook Live Show

Yesterday, your newspaper enlightened the audience about the topic, "Career and Kashmiri Youth". I wish to congratulate the organisation for holding this discus-

sion as it is very relevant especially as it is the season of 10th and 12th standard exams. As rightly pointed out by the guest Ms Samer, the world has changed and so have trends about employability. Kash-

miri students along with their parents who thrust a say in the matter should take a cue from this discussion and explore these winds of change to make the right decision. Gone are the days when we would

chase only a Btech or an MBBS at a prestigious university. The world wants more. Industries want performers. Eligibility is ability.

Muneeb Farukh



# Mindful Fridays

## What Is Positive About Negative Emotions?

Wasim Kakroo

From homes to schools to work-places, we are taught that everyday negative feelings and experiences such as fear of failure or sadness about daily life events, should be treated or removed. It is communicated that it is not good to be unhappy.

I don't think that radical hedonism or removing bad feelings is the way to a good life. I want to make it clear that I'm not referring to medical conditions like clinical depression, anxiety, or trauma. I'm referring to the sadness and misfortunes that come with living a daily normal life.

People are facing more than just normal unpleasant sensations right now, since the world is still trying to recover from the COVID pandemic. Many people have lost their careers and loved ones as a result of this once-in-a-lifetime tragedy. Even for those of us who haven't faced any major incident, the pandemic has been a particularly trying time in our lives. However, during these times, we have an opportunity here to evaluate the benefits of bad feelings and experiences—and how we may use them for personal growth rather than trying to get rid of them.

Let's start with a rather apparent point: negative emotions are there to keep us safe. Sadness, anger, fear, and contempt are the primary negative emotions. We feel them automatically in reaction to negative events. You don't think to yourself, "Hey, I think I'll feel afraid now," you just experience fear and react with fight or flight response, which can save your life. Similarly, another emotion, disgust that we feel when we see something dirty, alerts us automatically to potential infections. Shame and guilt in moderation, urge us to do the right thing and correct our wrongs. Certainly, your brain might be hyperactive—you can have a difficulty with anger management or be overly fearful—but the larger point is that, while such emotions are unpleasant, however, they are very important for us to feel. We would not be where we are as a species if these emotions did not exist. All of these emotions are something to which we must be sensitive in order to survive and flourish. While they may appear to be negative, they all have a positive intention, a cause for existence.

Negative emotions might help us be more efficient and effective in our daily activities. The evolutionary psychologists Paul W. Andrews and J. Anderson Thomson claimed in an influential 2009 article in the journal *Psychological Review* that sadness—and even depres-



Illustration Credits: Graphic by Eva McCord '21

**MANY OF LIFE'S MOST MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES ARE RATHER PAINFUL.**  
To build meaning in our lives, we must open ourselves up for experiencing hurt; disappointments and rejections, at times even from our loved ones. Those who keep themselves guarded from experiencing negative emotions cannot experience life at a deeper level.

sion—have continued to be there and have not been eliminated by evolutionary pressures because they provide cognitive benefits. Research has shown that sadness appears to improve our ability to assess reality in social contexts. Sadness can even help us be more effective at work by improving our focus and helping us to learn from our mistakes. This is how failure, and the negative emotions that arise from it, can pave the way for eventual success.

Many of life's most meaningful experiences are rather painful. To build meaning in our lives, we must open ourselves

up for experiencing hurt; disappointments and rejections, at times even from our loved ones. Those who keep themselves guarded from experiencing negative emotions cannot experience life at a deeper level. They may live their whole level avoiding situations and experiences that are negative because they try not to experience negative emotions but as I said, we build true meaning of our life only when we open ourselves up for the whole range of emotions, including negative emotions as well.

Finally, experiencing negative emotions strengthens us in the event of a

serious crisis. According to research, "stress inoculation training," in which people learn to cope with anger, fear, and anxiety by being exposed to stimuli that produce these emotions, is beneficial in developing emotional resilience. It's easy to envision that attempting to eliminate terrible feelings from daily life could result in a kind of "emotional allergy"—that when difficult times arrive and someone experiences grief or fear that can't be ignored, that person won't have the tools to deal with these feelings.

Now let us now focus on more difficult emotion such as depression and anxiety

that may definitely impair a person's life. When we are out of sync with our natural and optimal way of being, we experience negative emotions as warning signs that we are on the wrong path as if they are there to tell us, "Hey, listen up, something isn't right here, you're getting off track,".

'Milder' Frustration, apprehension, or irritability can all be early warning signs that something isn't working for you. If you leave those alone for a long enough period of time, they will begin to become louder. Perhaps you'll develop feelings of anger, resentment or fear. If you leave such feelings unattended for too long, they will become out of control, causing you to experience, rage, anxiety, and depression.

Most of the times my client's come to visit me with the whole aim of "eliminating such negative emotions" such as anxiety and depression. I give them a non judgmental space wherein I encourage them to express their opinion about such emotions so that they feel less burdened by them. However, as the sessions progress, I tell them that if they keep working on understanding their emotions and the source of their severity, a time will come when they may thank God for making them experience such emotions in their life because had they not felt such emotions, they would have never felt a need to visit a therapist and hence would never have had an opportunity to revisit their attitude and restructure their way of thinking and hence correct their way of living. Without tasting many of such emotions they would have lived their whole life sub-optimally while maintaining the status quo. Many of such clients eventually come to realize that God's plan of setting them right by making them experience emotions such as depression and anxiety was in their favor. Such emotions helped them to understand life at a deeper level by having a healthier perspective about relationship with self and others.

To summarize, if we desire a life full of deep meaning, true love, and emotional vigor, we must accept the danger (and, in many cases, the reality) of discomfort, conflict, and loss. This implies that there will be feelings of sadness, fear, anxiety, depression and disgust; however, we will be poorer and weaker if we eliminate bad feelings and events from our lives and try to experience only positive emotions.

*The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) at Kashmir Life Line, a free mental health counseling service. Author can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com*

Ernest Hemingway famously said that writers should "write hard and clear about what hurts". Although Hemingway may not have known it at the time, research has now shown that writing about "what hurts" can help improve our mental health.

There are more than 200 studies that show the positive effect of writing on mental health. But while the psychological benefits are consistent for many people, researchers don't completely agree on why or how writing helps.

One theory suggests that bottling up emotions can lead to psychological distress. It stands to reason, then, that writing might increase mental health because it offers a safe, confidential and free way to disclose emotions that were previously bottled up.

However, recent studies have begun to show how an increase in self-awareness, rather than simply disclosing emotions, could be the key to these improvements in mental health.

In essence, self-awareness is being able to turn your attention inward towards the self. By turning our attention inward, we can become more aware of our traits, behaviour, feelings, beliefs, values and motivations.

Research suggests that becoming more self-aware can be beneficial in a variety of ways. It can increase our confidence and encourage us to be more accepting of others. It can lead to higher job satisfaction and push us to become more effective leaders. It can also help us to exercise more self-control and make better decisions aligned with our long-term goals.

Self-awareness is a spectrum and, with practice, we can all improve. Writing might be particularly helpful in increasing self-awareness because it can be practised daily. Rereading our writing can also give us a deeper insight into our

thoughts, feelings, behaviour and beliefs.

Here are three types of writing which can improve your self-awareness and, in turn, your mental health:

### Expressive writing

Expressive writing is often used in therapeutic settings where people are asked to write about their thoughts and feelings related to a stressful life event. This type of writing aims to help emotionally process something difficult.

Research shows that expressive writing can enhance self-awareness, ultimately decreasing depressive symptoms, anxious thoughts and perceived stress.

### Reflective writing

Reflective writing is regularly used in professional settings, often as a way to help nurses, doctors, teachers, psychologists and social workers become more effective at their jobs. Reflective writing aims to give people a way to assess their beliefs and actions explicitly for learning and development.

Writing reflectively requires a person to ask themselves questions and continuously be open, curious and analytical. It can increase self-awareness by helping people learn from their experiences and interactions. This can improve professional and personal relationships as well as work performance, which are key in-



## Writing As Remedy

Christina Thatcher

**CREATIVE WRITING ENCOURAGES**  
people to choose their words, metaphors and images in a way that really captures what they're trying to convey. This creative decision-making can lead to increased self-awareness and self-esteem as well as improved mental health

dicators of good mental health.

### Creative writing

Poems, short stories, novellas and novels are all considered forms of creative writing. Usually, creative writing employs the imagination as well as, or instead of, memory, and uses literary devices like imagery and metaphor to convey meaning.

Writing creatively offers a unique way to explore thoughts, feelings, ideas and beliefs. For instance, you could write a science fiction novel that represents your concerns about climate change or a children's story that speaks to your beliefs about friendship. You could even

write a poem from the perspective of an owl as a way to represent your insomnia. Writing creatively about challenging experiences, like grief, can also offer a way to communicate to others something which you feel is too complicated or difficult to say directly.

Creative writing encourages people to choose their words, metaphors and images in a way that really captures what they're trying to convey. This creative decision-making can lead to increased self-awareness and self-esteem as well as improved mental health.

### Writing for self-awareness

Self-awareness is a key component for good mental health and writing is a great place to start.

Why not take some time to write down your feelings about a particularly stressful event that has happened during the pandemic? Or reflect on a difficult work situation from the last year and consider what you have learned from it?

If you prefer to do something more creative, then try responding to this prompt by writing a poem or story:

*Think about the ways your home reveals the moment we are currently in. Is your pantry packed with flour? Do you have new objects or pets in your home to stave off loneliness or boredom? What you can see from your window that reveals something about this historic moment?*

Each of these writing prompts will give you a chance to reflect on this past year, ask yourself important questions, and make creative choices. Spending just 15 minutes doing this may give you an opportunity to become more self-aware – which could lead to improvements in your mental health.

*The author is a Creative Writing Lecturer, Cardiff Metropolitan University. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation*



# Study Finds Women Are More Reluctant Than Men To Ask For Deadline Extensions

Agencies

A new research has found that women are less likely than men to ask for more time to complete projects with adjustable deadlines at work or school.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences'.

Compared to men, women were more concerned that they would be burdening others by asking for an extension, and that they would be seen as incompetent, the study showed.

Prior research has shown that women feel more time stress than men do, and feeling uncomfortable about asking for more time to complete projects may be one important reason why, said Grant Donnelly, co-author of the study and assistant professor of marketing at The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business.

"Women understandably feel like they have too many things to do and not enough time to do them. We found that not asking for more time to complete tasks undermines women's well-being and also their performance. But we also found a possible solution: Women were as likely to ask for deadline extensions as men when organisations had formal policies on making deadline extension requests," Donnelly said.

Donnelly conducted the research with Ashley Whillans, Jaewon Yoon and Aurora Turek of the



Harvard Business School.

The research involved nine studies with more than 5,000 participants, including online panels of working adults and undergraduate students.

Donnelly said that for him, one of the most compelling of the nine studies was one conducted in his own class.

He assigned a discussion paper that was worth 20 per cent of the grade to 103 students in an undergraduate business course. All students were given one week to submit the paper but were told they could email Donnelly to request an extension without penalty.

Male students were more than twice as likely as female students to request an extension for the assignment (15 per cent of female vs. 36 per cent of male students).

Not asking for an extension could hurt students, the findings showed. A teaching assistant who rated the papers gave better scores to those who had asked for an extension. (The assistant did not know who wrote the papers and whether they asked for extensions or the purpose of the study.)

"What we found is that when students requested an extension, they made good use of that time and performed better on the task. Women may hurt themselves by not requesting additional time," Donnelly said.

Several other of the nine studies by the researchers involving working adults showed that women's focus on other people and their needs played a big role in why they were uncomfortable asking for deadline extensions.

In these studies, participants imagined they were assigned to submit a proposal for an upcoming event that was due the next day but needed more time. In this scenario, they could ask for an extension from their supervisor.

Participants were asked a variety of questions about how asking for an extension might affect themselves and their team, and how it might affect how they were viewed by others.

Results showed that women believed they would be seen as less competent if they asked for an extension. But that wasn't the main reason that women were reluctant to request more time.

"It was their concern about burdening their team and manager with more work that most strongly predicted women's discomfort with asking for more time on adjustable deadlines. Perceived burden and emotions like shame, embarrassment and guilt explained why women experienced more discomfort with asking for extensions than men did," Donnelly said.

And these feelings have real-life implications. Consistent with prior research, women in this study reported feeling more time-pressed and experienced more burnout than men.

But the good news from the findings is that organisations can level the playing field - resulting in women and men asking for more time on projects at nearly the same rate - by creating a formal way to request deadline extensions.

## Climate change will stir up global agriculture within next decade, study finds

Agencies

A study has predicted "deep changes" in global agriculture within a decade if the current global warming trends continue.

The findings of the study by lead author Jonas Jagermeyr, a crop modeler and climate scientist at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), The Earth Institute at Columbia University in New York City, and at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) were published on the website 'Nature Food'.

As per the study, due to the severe changes the present breadbasket regions across the globe are experiencing, the farmers require to adapt to new climate realities now.

"We see that new climate conditions push crop yields outside of their normal range in more and more regions. Human-made greenhouse gas emissions bring higher temperatures, shifts in rainfall patterns, and more carbon dioxide in the air. This affects crop growth, and we find that the emergence of the climate change signal - the time when extraordinary years become the norm - will occur within the next decade or soon after in many key breadbasket regions globally," explains Jagermeyr.

"This means that farmers need to adapt much faster, for example by changing planting dates or use different crop varieties, to avoid severe losses, but also to realize gains in higher-latitude regions," he added.

The study also revealed a likelihood of decline of maize crop yields by almost a quarter by the end of the

century, while that of wheat could potentially see global yield increases of about 17 per cent.

By combining a set of new climate projections and various state-of-the-art crop models, the team of researchers found significant changes already in the very near future, and across the most important growing regions.

The findings of the study reveal: "Maize is grown in a wide range of latitudes, including sub-tropical and tropical countries where higher temperatures will be more harmful than in cooler high-latitude regions. North and Central America, West Africa, Central and East Asia will potentially see maize yields decline by more than 20 per cent in the coming years."

Wheat, which grows best in temperate climates, may, in turn, see productivity increase in current growing areas under climate change, including areas in the Northern United States and Canada, and China, it added.

"One effect the data show clearly is that poorer countries are likely to experience the sharpest declines in yields of their main staple crops. This exacerbates already existing differences in food security and wealth," says Christoph Muller, co-author and also a researcher at the Potsdam Institute.

Further, it was revealed that the wheat gains in the global North do not make up for maize losses in the global South. "Poor countries and of course the affected smallerholder farmers themselves often lack the means to procure food on the world market. The projected fundamental change in agricultural production patterns could hence in some regions become a risk for food security, while others profit," the study read.

## Joining social media before age 11 associated with problematic digital behaviour: Study

Agencies


A new study has suggested that using Instagram or Snapchat before age 11 is significantly related to more problematic digital behaviours, compared to those who joined these platforms when they were older.

The study published in Computers in Human Behavior also found that parental restrictions on phone use and checking social media ameliorated some of the negative effects.

"Social media sites all require a minimum age of 13 to register, but the reality is that many users are younger than that: one-third of our sample had already started using social media at age 11 or 12 and another one-third had begun at age 10 or younger," said the study's lead author Linda Charmaraman, PhD, director of the Youth, Media and Wellbeing Research Lab at the Wellesley Centers for Women (WCW).

"This study helps us understand the risks and benefits for kids and teens so that parents and policymakers can make decisions that prioritize their wellbeing."

Charmaraman and her co-authors surveyed 773 middle schoolers in the Northeast U.S. about their social media initiation, digital behaviours, and parental restrictions on digital use. The researchers found that joining social media platforms like Instagram or Snapchat before age 11 was significantly associated with having online friends or joining social media sites parents would disapprove of, more problematic digital technology behaviours, more unsympathetic online behaviours, and greater likelihood of online harassment and sexual harassment victimization. Some of these effects were lessened when parents restricted phone use and limited how often their kids checked social media.



**The J&K State Board of School Education**  
Sub Office Baramulla


The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost original marks card of class 10th issued by J&K BOSE with particulars following particulars:

**Name :** Faiz Manzoor  
**Parentage** Manzoor Ahmad Dar  
**Roll No:** 328284 session Annual Reg 2010

Now the candidate has applied for duplicate marks card before the same is processed and issued to the candidate. Anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before undersigned in writing within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides the original marks card be treated as cancelled.

Sd/-  
Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Baramulla

LC



**The Jammu And Kashmir State Board of School Education**  
SUB OFFICE BARAMULLA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th & 12th under Below mentioned particulars

**Name:** Saifullah Manzoor Dar  
**Parentage :** Maqnoor Ahmad Dar

**Details of Marks Certificate lost**  
1. Secondary School Examination (class 10th )  
Roll No 327285 Session /Year Annual /REG 2012  
2. Higher Secondary School Examination part ii (class 12th )  
Roll No 3126251 Session /Year Annual /REG 2014

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
Sub Office Baramulla

LC



**Jal Shakti, Public Health Engineering, Department.**

**Standard Bidding Document**  
For  
**Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Pulwama district for Execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works.**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e- NIT No. CE/PHE/KMR/JSD OF 04 OF 2021-22, Dated: 31-10-2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Pulwama district for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works", details of which are given below. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover I<sup>st</sup> consisting of Pre-Qualification Bidding, tender fee, earnest money, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Lacs)	Earnest money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1.	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Pulwama district for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of:- i. Construction of water supply schemes by way of filtration plants, pump houses, service reservoir, Overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains.	Work/scheme wise details given in Section II of tender document	1000/-	0.25	180 days	45
Group II		Above 15 lacs up to 50 lacs				

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)  
The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.  
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Note:-

In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, a helpdesk shall be established at the Direction office level as well as district level for encouraging and facilitating the intending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.

**Key/critical Dates:**


i.	Publish Date	01.11.2021 9:00 AM
ii.	Document Download/sale start Date	01.11.2021 9:00 AM
iii.	Clarification start date	02.11.2021 9:00 AM
iv.	Bid submission start date	05.11.2021 9:00 AM
v.	Clarification end date	20.11.2021 4:30 PM
vi.	Pre-bid Meeting date	13.11.2021 2:30 PM
vii.	Document Download/sale end Date	22.11.2021 9:00 AM
viii.	Bid submission end date	22.11.2021 4:30 PM
ix.	Date and time of Bid opening	25.11.2021 11:30 AM

- Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the websites <http://jtenders.gov.in>
- The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, PHE Department, through virtual/online mode.
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jtenders.gov.in>
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jtenders.gov.in>.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
  - Bid Security to be pledged in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti PHE Department. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/ FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall have to be valid for at least one year after last date of submission of Bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than as specified above will be rejected.
  - The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD /TR/e challan in favour of FA/ CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
  - The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as LI and others after opening of financial cover.
  - The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
  - Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jtenders.gov.in>.
  - Queries by email if any should be made at [kmphehd@gmail.com](mailto:kmphehd@gmail.com)

No:CE/PHE/KMR/JSD/24930-42  
Date:31.10.2021

**DIPK-11874/21**

Kashmir, Jal Shakti, PHE Department.



**Jal Shakti, Public Health Engineering, Department.**

**Standard Bidding Document**  
For  
**Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Pulwama district for Execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works.**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e- NIT No. CE/PHE/KMR/JSD/03 OF 2021-22, Dated: 31-10-2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Pulwama district for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works", details of which are given below. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover I<sup>st</sup> consisting of Pre-Qualification Bidding, tender fee, earnest money, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs)	Earnest money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1.	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Pulwama district for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of:- i. Construction of water supply schemes by way of filtration plants, pump houses, service reservoir, Overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains.	Work/scheme wise details given in Section II of tender document	1000/-	0.35	180 days	30
Group I		Up to 15 lacs				

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)  
The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.  
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Note:-

In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, a helpdesk shall be established at the Direction office level as well as district level for encouraging and facilitating the intending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.

**Key/critical Dates:**

i.	Publish Date	01.11.2021 9:00 AM
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- Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the websites <http://jtenders.gov.in>
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- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
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  - The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
  - Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jtenders.gov.in>.
  - Queries by email if any should be made at [kmphehd@gmail.com](mailto:kmphehd@gmail.com)

No:CE/PHE/KMR/JSD/24917-29  
Date:31.10.2021

**DIPK-11871/21**

Kashmir, Jal Shakti, PHE Department.



## Excise Duty Cut On Fuel To Cost Rs 45,000 Crore To Exchequer: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The excise duty cuts on diesel and petrol will cost the exchequer Rs 45,000 crore and lead to a 0.3 percentage point widening on the Centre's fiscal deficit, a foreign brokerage said on Thursday.

Going by the overall consumption, the costs of the surprise move—which came after months of concerns over high payouts at filling stations—for the entire fiscal will come at Rs 1 lakh crore or 0.45 per cent of GDP, economists at Japanese brokerage Nomura said in a report.

For the remaining months of the ongoing FY22, the cost will come at Rs 45,000 crore, which leads to an upward review of the fiscal deficit target.

The brokerage said it now expects the fiscal deficit to come at 6.5 per cent as against the earlier expectation of 6.2 per cent and underlined that it will still be lower than the budgeted 6.8 per cent target.

The Central government on Wednesday announced a cut in excise duty on petrol by Rs 5 per litre and diesel by Rs 10 per litre on the eve of Diwali. The move only partly reverses the hike in duties in 2020 by Rs 13 per litre for petrol and Rs 16 per litre on diesel, following a steep drop in oil prices, and comes on the heels of higher crude prices pushing retail prices to record



highs, it said.

The brokerage said "parsimonious" spending by the government so far this fiscal has helped limit fiscal deficit in H1FY22 to 35 per cent of the budgeted target, compared with a 15 per cent overspend of budget in H1FY21.

The tax cuts should lower headline CPI inflation by 0.14 percentage points due to direct effects and up to 0.3 percentage points, if indirect effects are included. There are offsets from elevated input costs, reopening pressures and an ongoing energy crunch, it said.

Politically, high inflation remains one of the top concerns on the minds of voters, it said adding that the moves will help keep voter discontent at bay.

The timing ahead of the move will also help consumption, the brokerage said, retaining its 9.2 per cent real GDP growth for FY22.

It will also reduce the burden on monetary policy at the margin, but with inflationary pressures broadening amid the continued growth recovery, the central bank will continue with its normalisation efforts, it said.

## Paytm Raises Rs 8,235 Crore From Anchor Investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Digital payments and financial services firm Paytm on Wednesday raised Rs 8,235 crore from anchor investors ahead of its initial share sale.

The anchor investor round saw participation from Blackrock, CP-PIB, Birla MF, GIC and other blue-chip funds, leading to 10 times oversubscription of the shares, as per a stock exchange filing.

Blackrock invested Rs 1,045 crore, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board Rs 938 crore and GIC Rs 533 crore.

The round saw participation from pension funds, superannuation funds as well as sovereign wealth funds like Government of Singapore, CPPIB, ADIA, APC, City of New York, Texas Teachers Retirement, NPS Japan, University of Texas, NTUC Pension out of Singapore and University of Cambridge.

The largest dedicated emerging market investors like Standard Life Aberdeen, UBS and RWC have also invested. With this, Paytm has already secured 45 per cent of its Rs 18,300 crore initial public offer (IPO).

Paytm's anchor round's size alone can be termed as the eighth-largest private company IPO in India. One97 Communications, which operates under the Paytm brand name, has announced the country's biggest initial public offer, opening on November 8, in the price band of Rs 2,080-2,150 per share, implying a valuation of around Rs 1.48 lakh crore.

The Rs 18,300 crore-offer, if successful, will be the biggest in the country after Coal India's IPO back in 2010 wherein the state-owned company had garnered Rs 15,200 crore.

The IPO—which will close for subscription on November 10—comprises issuance of fresh eq-



uity shares worth Rs 8,300 crore and offer for sale (OFS) by existing shareholders to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore. The company's IPO price band values it in the range of \$19.3-19.9 billion. At current exchange rates, the enterprise value is Rs 1.44 lakh crore to Rs 1.48 lakh crore.

The company skipped the pre-IPO funding round to expedite launch of the initial share sale. Through the OFS, One97 Communications Managing Director and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma will offload shares worth up to Rs 402.65 crore while Antfin (Netherlands) Holdings will sell shares to the tune of Rs 4,704.43 crore.

Besides, Alibaba.com Singapore E-Commerce will sell shares worth Rs 784.82 crore, Elevation Capital V FI Holdings Rs 75.02 crore, Elevation Capital V Ltd Rs 64.01 crore, Saif III Mauritius Rs 1,327.65 crore, Saif Partners Rs 563.63 crore, SVF Partners Rs 1,689.03 crore and International Holdings Rs 301.77 crore, as per its offer document.

In the financial year 2021, the company reported gross merchandise value of Rs 4 lakh crore. According to research firm Red-seer, Paytm has mobile payments transaction volume market share of approximately 40 per cent, and wallet payments transaction market share of 65-70 per cent in India as of FY 2021. As per the offer document, demonetisation in 2016 also played a role in pushing merchants to accept payments digitally and led to growth in products like QR and wallets.

## Petrol Price Cut By Rs 5.7-6.35, Diesel By Rs 11.16-12.88 Across Country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Petrol price on Thursday was cut in the range of Rs 5.7 to Rs 6.35 per litre across the country and diesel rates by Rs 11.16 to Rs 12.88 as oil companies passed on a record reduction in excise duty rates to consumers.

Buckling under pressure, the government had on Wednesday cut excise duty on petrol by Rs 5 per litre and that on diesel by Rs 10 a litre to give reprieve to consumers battered by record high retail fuel prices.

Since states charge local sales tax or VAT not just on the base price but also on the excise duty levied by the Centre, the total incidence of price reduction is higher. The reduction was larger in states with higher VAT.

In Delhi, the reduction in petrol price was Rs 6.07 per litre and that on diesel was Rs 11.75, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The lowest reduction in petrol price was in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu where rate was cut by Rs 5.7. Rajasthan saw the biggest drop of Rs 6.35 a litre.

For diesel, Chennai had the lowest reduction of Rs 11.16 per litre while Odisha had the biggest at Rs 12.88 a litre.

In addition, half a dozen BJP-ruled states have announced a cut in VAT rates but a formal notification has so far been issued only in case of four. Puducherry saw an additional Rs 7 a litre reduction in both petrol and diesel price because of the cut in value added tax (VAT).

Goa saw an additional Rs 5.47 a litre cut in petrol and Rs 4.38 on diesel.

Gujarat too had an additional reduction of Rs 5.65 a litre on petrol and Rs 4.32 on diesel. Uttarakhnad saw an additional 81 paise reduction in petrol price because of VAT cut.

Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tripura and Bihar too have announced VAT reduction but a formal notification was not issued till Thursday morning and so no additional price reduction has been effected, industry sources said.

Petrol will cost Rs 103.97 per litre in Delhi against Rs 110.04, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Diesel rates accordingly will reduce to Rs 86.67 per litre



from Rs 98.42.

In Mumbai, petrol price has been cut by Rs 5.87 to Rs 109.98 and diesel by Rs 12.48 to Rs 94.14. Kolkata saw the price of petrol being reduced by Rs 5.82 to Rs 104.67 and that of diesel by Rs 11.77 to Rs 89.79.

Petrol price in Chennai has been reduced by Rs 5.26 to Rs 101.40 and diesel by Rs 11.16 to Rs 91.43.

VAT rates differ from state to state, leading to differential rates of fuel.

The excise duty cut announced on Wednesday night was the highest-ever reduction in excise duty. It rolls back a part of the Rs 13 and Rs 16 per litre increase in taxes on petrol and diesel effected between March 2020 and May 2020 to avoid passing on to consumers the sharp fall in international oil prices at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

That hike in excise duty had taken central taxes on petrol to their highest level of Rs 32.9 per litre and that on diesel to Rs 31.8 a litre.

Reducing the excise duty, the union government also urged states to commensurately reduce VAT on petrol and diesel to give relief to consumers.

The tax cut follows an unrelenting hike in international oil prices pushing pump rates across the country to their highest-ever levels. While petrol soared to above Rs 100-a-litre-mark in all major cities, diesel had crossed that level in more than one-and-a-half dozen states.

The total increase in petrol price since the May 5, 2020 decision of the government to raise excise duty to record levels had totalled Rs 38.78 per

litre. Diesel rates have during this period gone up by Rs 29.03 per litre.

The relentless increase in fuel prices had been severely criticised by Opposition parties, particularly Congress which had demanded that the government reduce its excise duty.

Based on April to October consumption numbers, the loss of revenue to the government due to the excise duty cut will be Rs 8,700 crore per month. This totals to an annual impact of over Rs 1 lakh crore, industry sources said. For the remainder of the current fiscal, the impact would be Rs 43,500 crore.

Data available from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in the Union Ministry of Finance showed excise duty collections during April-September 2021 surged to over Rs 1.71 lakh crore, from Rs 1.28 lakh crore mop-up in the same period of the previous fiscal.

For the full 2020-21 fiscal, excise collections were Rs 3.89 lakh crore and Rs 2.39 lakh crore in 2019-20, the CGA data showed.

After the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, excise duty is levied only on petrol, diesel, ATF and natural gas. All other goods and services are under the GST regime.

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rammeswar Teli had in July told Parliament that the union government's tax collections on petrol and diesel jumped by 88 per cent to Rs 3.35 lakh crore in the year to March 31, 2021 (2020-21 fiscal) from Rs 1.78 lakh crore a year back.

Excise collection in pre-pandemic 2018-19 was Rs 2.13 lakh crore.

## Excise Duty Cut On Petrol, Diesel Will Give Common Man Relief: Amit Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel is a very sensitive decision by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and it will not only bring relief to the common man but also reduce inflation.

The BJP-ruled state governments, under the leadership of Modi, have also done a commendable job of providing more relief to the people by further reducing the prices of petrol and diesel, he said.

"Prime Minister @naren-



dramodiji has given a big relief to the general public on Diwali by reducing the excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10 respectively.

"The relief given even after prices increased internationally is a very sensitive decision.

I thank Modiji for this," Shah said in tweets in Hindi.

The home minister said this "Diwali gift" by the prime minister to the country would not only bring relief to the common man but also reduce inflation.

The Centre on Wednesday cut excise duty on petrol by Rs 5 per litre and that on diesel by Rs 10 a litre to give reprieve to consumers battered by record high retail fuel prices.

Several BJP-ruled states and Bihar, where the BJP is part of the ruling coalition, also reduced VAT rates, giving further relief to consumers.

## Asia Tourism Reopens With Big-Spending Chinese Stuck At Home



AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** Asia's gradual easing of international travel curbs is proving a welcome relief for the region's hard-hit tourism operators slowly opening up to visitors from around the world - with one giant exception.

China, previously the world's largest outbound tourism market, is keeping international air capacity at just 2% of pre-pandemic levels and has yet to relax tight travel restrictions as it sticks to zero tolerance for Covid-19.

That has left a \$255 billion annual spending hole in the global tourism market for operators such as Thailand's Laguna Phuket to try and fill.

Managing director Ravi Chandran says Laguna Phuket's five resorts have shifted their marketing focus to Europe, the United States and United Arab Emirates to make up for the loss of Chinese visitors, who accounted for 25%-30% of its pre-Covid business.

"Up to today, we have not done significant marketing or promotion in China ... because we don't feel anything coming our way," Chandran said.

The pandemic has cost Thailand an estimated \$50 billion a year in tourism revenue and Chinese were above-average spenders based on tourism ministry data.

Thailand hopes to receive 180,000 foreign tourists this year, a fraction of around 40 million it received in 2019, as it

opened places beyond Phuket to tourists on Monday.

Many experts expect China to keep such stringent measures such as up to a three-week quarantine for those returning home until at least the second quarter of next year and possibly then open gradually on a country-by-country basis.

"Destinations have to identify new source markets and learn how to market and cater to different cultures," Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Chief Executive Liz Ortiguera said, citing the Maldives as a rare example of a successful pivot during the pandemic.

**China tourism evolves**

Travel data firm ForwardKeys estimates it will take until 2025 for Chinese outbound travel to recover to pre-pandemic levels. That will also force airlines to re-evaluate their routes given its data shows 38% of Chinese tourists took foreign carriers in 2019.

Even as Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia's Bali gradually open up for international travellers, Thai Airways and Garuda Indonesia are drastically shrinking their fleets as part of restructuring plans amid the absence of Chinese tourists.

When China does open its borders, industry surveys show a reluctance by many to travel internationally due to Covid-19 fears.

There has also been a boom in domestic holidays to Hainan Island which now offers duty free shopping in a threat to future visits to nearby destinations such as Hong Kong and South Korea.

## Air India Has Outstanding Dues Of Rs 2000 Crore For Landing, Parking: AAI

AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** Air India has to pay outstanding dues of Rs 2,000

crore to the Airport Authority of India (AAI) related to landing, parking and other charges, said the Chairman of AAI.

Speaking to ANI, Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman of AAI, said, "It's not the fact that there is lots of debt on airlines. I don't think there is much debt except Air India... I think it's over 2000 crores dues and we are fairly confident that we would recover the past dues from them."

"Other airlines are also carrying debt but not very much like Air India. Apart from Air India, no significant dues from other airlines are pending. One or two isolated disputed amount is where the airlines and airport might have some difference of opinion and it must be raised their various forum either legal proceeding or negotiations," the

AAI Chairman added.

Recently, the Centre successfully divested a 100 per cent stake to Tata Sons of Air India, but



pending dues by Air India need to be noted to the new owner.

Talace Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, has won the bid for acquiring Air India, marking the end of the process to privatise the national carrier with the government approving its disinvestment.

The CCEA-approved Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) approved the highest price bid of Talace Pvt Ltd for the sale of 100 per cent equity shareholding of the Government of India in Air India along with equity shareholding of Air India in AIXL and AISATS.

## Toyota Lifts Forecast Despite Pandemic's Supply Chain Damage

**TOKYO:** Japan's top automaker Toyota reported Thursday a 33% jump in second fiscal quarter profit, as it raised its full year forecast despite supply chain woes related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Toyota Motor Corp. recorded a 626.65 billion yen (\$5.5 billion) profit for the July-September period, up from 470.5 billion yen the previous year. Quarterly sales rose 11% to 7.5 trillion yen (\$66 billion).

Supply chain disruptions in computer chips caused by the pandemic's impact have hurt all the world's automakers.



Toyota has also been forced to reduce production because of the problems.

Toyota officials said production was recovering, and the company was revving up to meet the strong demand for its models, including sport

utility vehicles and other offerings with solid profit margins.

Toyota expects a profit of 2.49 trillion yen (\$22 billion) for the fiscal year through March 2022, up 11% from 2.2 trillion yen the previous year. (PTI)

## USTR Tai, Goyal To Take 'Comprehensive Look' At Bilateral Trade Ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**WASHINGTON:** US Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal have agreed to take a "comprehensive look" at ways to expand the bilateral trade ties and also shared perspectives on how to reach "meaningful outcomes" at the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference.

The virtual meeting between Tai and Goyal took place on Wednesday, ahead of Tai's two-day visit to India from November 22.

"Ambassador Tai and Minister Goyal looked forward to their upcoming meetings in New Delhi (November 22-23), and agreed to take a comprehensive look at ways to expand the bilateral trade relationship and ensure the future success of the U.S.-India Trade Policy



Forum," according to a statement from the Office of the USTR after the meeting.

"They also shared perspectives on how to reach meaningful outcomes at the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12)," the statement added.

The World Trade Organisation ministerial conference will be held from November 30 to December 3 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Last month, the Office of the United States Trade Representative announced that Tai and

Deputy United States Trade Representative Sarah Bianchi will travel to Tokyo, Seoul, and New Delhi to meet with government officials and stakeholders to discuss the enduring U.S. commitment to the Indo-Pacific region and to strengthen trade and economic relationships with key allies and partners.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first in-person meeting with US President Joe Biden in September, the two leaders said they looked forward to reconvening the India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum before the end of 2021, to enhance the bilateral trade relationship by addressing trade concerns, identifying specific areas for increased engagement and developing an ambitious, shared vision for the future of the trade relationship.

## Muhurat Session: Indices Make Healthy Gains, Sensex Up 420 Pts

AGENCIES

**MUMBAI:** Faster pace of vaccinations along with vastly improved economic scenario boosted India's key equity indices during the initial phase of the special "Muhurat" trade session on Thursday.

A special hour-long session held every year on Diwali day - the Muhurat trade - marks the start of the Hindu New Year for the domestic equity market.

The initial trade saw the key equity indices - S&P BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 -- make handsome gains. Consequently, the Nifty50 of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) gained 115.65 points, or 0.65 per cent around 6.25 p.m., to trade at 17,944.85 points from its previous 17,829.20 points.

Similarly, the 30-scrip Sensex made gains during the initial period of the trade session.

It was at 60,192.36 points, up 420.44 points, or 0.70 per cent, from its previous close at 59,771.92 points.





# Delhi Gasps For Air On Diwali Night As Cracker Ban Goes Up In Smoke, AQI 'Severe'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The air in Delhi and surrounding areas hung heavy with acrid smoke as people burst firecrackers on Diwali in a blatant disregard to the government's ban on it amid a sharp increase in fumes from farm fires.

Continuing its upward trend, the city's air quality index, which stood at 382 at 4 pm, entered the severe zone around 8 pm as low temperature and wind speed allowed the accumulation of pollutants.

The neighbouring cities of Faridabad (424), Ghaziabad (442), Gurgaon (423) and Noida (431) also recorded 'severe' air quality with cracker bursting peaking after 9 pm.

People from several parts of

the city and its suburbs complained of itchy throat and watery eyes, as a layer of smog, the first episode this season, lingered over the region.

Residents of Lajpat Nagar in South Delhi, Burari in North Delhi, Paschim Vihar in West Delhi and Shahdara in East Delhi reported incidents of firecracker bursting as early as 7 pm, despite the blanket ban in the national capital till January 1, 2022.

A substantial dip in cracker bursting in the evening seemed a break from tradition. But it did not take long for the sound of explosions to pierce the silence, a resident of Kailash Hills said.

Several incidents of high-intensity cracker bursting were reported from Gurgaon and Faridabad.

The Haryana government has also imposed a ban on the sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers in 14 of its districts in the National Capital Region, while curbs were put in other parts.

Experts said the air quality turned severe owing to unfavourable meteorological conditions -- calm winds, low temperature and low mixing height -- and a poisonous cocktail of emissions from firecrackers, stubble burning and local sources.

Earlier in the day, the city reported its first episode of fog which lowered visibility at the Indira Gandhi International Airport and the Safdarjung Airport to the range of 600-800 metres in the morning.

It continued to remain in the

poor range of 800-900 meters throughout the day due to calm wind conditions, senior IMD scientist R K Jenamani said.

The first episode of smog coincided with the share of farm fires in Delhi's pollution increasing to the season's highest at 25 per cent.

Gufran Beig, the founder-project director of SAFAR, said the PM2.5 pollution will shoot up rapidly by Friday early morning with the AQI even crossing the 500 mark.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the 24-hour average PM2.5 concentration in Delhi-NCR rose from 243 micrograms per cubic meter at 6 pm to 263 micrograms per cubic meter at 9 pm, more than four times the safe limit of

60 micrograms per cubic meter.

The capital's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 382 on Thursday, up from 314 on Wednesday. It was 303 on Tuesday and 281 on Monday.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

According to SAFAR model forecasts, stubble burning share may increase to 35 per cent on Friday and 40 per cent on Saturday with the wind direction changing to northwesterly.

Northwesterly winds carry smoke from farm fires in Punjab and Haryana towards the national capital.

## Cops Recover 'Tiffin Box Bomb' Hidden In Fields Near India-Pakistan Border In Punjab

**CHANDIGARH:** The Punjab Police has said it foiled a possible attempt of a terror attack after it recovered an explosive-filled tiffin box hidden in an agricultural field near the Indo-Pak border in Ferozepur district on the eve of Diwali. The recovery was made in Ali Ke village on Wednesday following interrogation of three people arrested earlier this week in connection with the Jalalabad blast case. Director General of Police (DGP) Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota said the Ludhiana Rural police on Monday had arrested two persons for allegedly providing shelter and logistical support to Ranjeet Singh alias Gora, an accused in the Jalalabad blast case being investigated by the NIA.

The two people arrested were Jaswant Singh alias Shinda Baba, a resident of village Jhugge Nihanga

Wale in Ferozepur, and Balwant Singh of village Walipur Khurd in Ludhiana. Ranjeet Singh alias Gora too has been arrested, the DGP said. According to an official statement, one "tiffin bomb", two pen drives and Rs 115 lakh in cash were recovered from the trio earlier.

During the course of investigation of the case, it came to light that the accused were in possession of another "tiffin bomb" which they had kept concealed in agriculture fields.

"Following revelations of the accused persons, a joint search operation was carried out by teams of Counter Intelligence (of Punjab Police), Ferozepur and Ludhiana and CIA (crime investigation agency) Jagraon at village Ali Ke in Ferozepur on Wednesday and the tiffin bomb was recovered, the DGP said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### At LoC, PM Calls

casualty, all the bravehearts returned and came out as winners," Modi said.

"After the surgical strikes, innumerable attempts were made to disturb the peace in the region and attempts are still being made, but every time terrorism has been given a "befitting reply", the prime minister said.

India had conducted surgical strikes on September 29, 2016, on militant launchpads across the Line of Control (LoC) as a response to a militant attack on an Army base in the Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

Modi said the responsibility of protecting the freedom of the country vests with everyone and today's India, in the Amrit Kaal of freedom, is aware of its capabilities and resources.

He also underlined the importance of the growing 'Atmanirbharta' (self-dependence) in defence resources as opposed to the earlier period of dependence on foreign countries and the long time taken for defence procurements.

He said 65 per cent of the defence budget is being used inside the country and noted that a list of 200 products that will be procured only indigenously has been prepared.

The list is going to be expanded soon, he said.

Modi also talked about the seven new defence companies launched on Vijaya Dashmi and noted that defence corridors are also coming up.

He also highlighted that India's youth are involved in vibrant defence related startups.

All this will strengthen India's position as a defence exporter, he added.

Modi asserted that modern border infrastructure will enhance the country's military capabilities.

How work was done with regard to connectivity of border areas is known to people, he said.

"Today, connectivity in border and coastal areas from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh, from Jaisalmer to Andaman Nicobar (islands) has been established," he said.

In the border and coastal areas where normal connectivity was lacking, a network of roads, tunnels and optical fibres is being established, leading to unprecedented improvement in troop deployment capability and convenience for soldiers.

Hailing the brigade here, Modi said the region has stood strongly against aggressors and encroachers, he said paying rich tributes to the heroes of Nowshera -- Brigadier Mohd Usman and Naik Jadunath Singh who made the supreme sacrifice while defending the motherland.

He also saluted Lt R R Rane and other bravehearts who set unprecedented examples of valour and patriotism.

Talking about his meetings with soldiers on Diwali, Modi said everyone wants to celebrate the festival with their family and that he had not come there as a prime minister but as a family member.

He also said the fast-changing technology landscape has demanded new changes and that is why it was critical to ensure coordination in the integrated military leadership.

The Chief of Defence Staff and Department of Military Affairs are steps in that direction, he said.

The PM also expressed happiness that the participation of women in the country's defence is touching new heights. After being deployed on the frontlines in Navy and Air Force, now women's role is being expanded in the Army also, he noted.

Along with opening up permanent commission, NDA, National Military School, National Indian Military College for women, the PM also recalled his Independence Day announcement of opening up Sainik Schools for girls.

Modi said in the armed forces, he not only sees boundless capabilities but also unwavering service spirit, strong determination and incomparable sensitivity.

This makes the Indian armed forces unique in the world, he said.

"Empires come and go but India was eternal thousands of years ago, remains so today and will remain eternal thousands of years later. We don't perceive the nation as government, power or empire. For us, it is living, present soul, defending this is not limited to defending just the geographical boundaries. For us national defence means defending this living national vibrancy, national unity, and national integration," he said.

### Celebrates Diwali

M Naravane had carried out an aerial reconnaissance of forward areas, including Rajouri, on Wednesday and he was briefed about the prevailing security situation along the Line of

Control (LoC) in the Jammu region.

An Army operation against militants has been going on through the forest belt in the Poonch-Rajouri area. This has been the longest such operation in the recent past and it entered the 26th day on Thursday.

Meanwhile, when Modi left his residence in the morning, there were minimal security arrangements in place and no traffic route was deployed to minimise any inconvenience, official sources said.

### Soldiers from India

of sweets by the two sides. "It was done as a gesture for promoting peace, harmony and compassion in the true spirit of the festival," the official added.

### Petrol Gets

the government had announced to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by a record Rs 5 and Rs 10 per litre to help bring down rates down from their highest-ever levels.

The excise duty reduction is effective from November 4 when petrol price will come down from the current rate of Rs 110.04 a litre in Delhi to Rs 105.04. Diesel rate will be reduced from Rs 98.42 per litre to Rs 88.42.

"Government of India has taken a significant decision of reducing Central Excise Duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10 (per litre) respectively from tomorrow. Prices of petrol and diesel will thus come down accordingly," the finance ministry said in a statement.

This is the highest-ever reduction in excise duty and rolls back a part of the Rs 13 and Rs 16 per litre increase in taxes on petrol and diesel effected between March 2020 and May 2020 to avoid passing on to consumers the sharp fall in international oil prices.

That hike in excise duty had taken central taxes on petrol to their highest level of Rs 32.9 per litre and that on diesel to Rs 31.8 a litre.

The statement said states are also being urged to commensurately reduce VAT on petrol and diesel to give relief to consumers.

The reduction follows an unrelenting hike in international oil prices pushing pump rates across the country to their highest-ever levels. While petrol is above Rs 100-a-litre-mark in all major cities, diesel has crossed that level in more than one-and-a-half dozen states.

The total increase in petrol price since the May 5, 2020 decision of the government to raise excise duty to record levels now totals Rs 38.78 per litre.

Diesel rates have during this period gone up by Rs 29.03 per litre.

### Internet Disruption

was also found that some apps were used in these areas by the militants," Pole said. "So as a precautionary measure we restricted the internet during non-online class hours i.e. from 3 PM onwards."

He further said the online classes for students usually take place from 10:00 AM to 3:PM in the late afternoon during which there are no restrictions.

The telecom services shutdown and the extra judicial seizure of two wheelers from civilians began after eleven civilians were killed by militants in Kashmir in the first week of October. It coincided with the first visit of the Home Minister Amit Shah to Kashmir after the abrogation of J&K's special status in 2019.

The police chief Vijay Kumar had then said that the "Seizing some bikes and shutting down the internet of some towers is purely related to terror violence. It has nothing to do with the visit" of the home minister.

However legal experts say, the continued unaccounted shutdown of telecom services -- primarily the internet -- in parts of the Valley is in violation of the Supreme Court of India's directives.

Pertinently, the administration has so far not issued in public record a single order under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules of 2017, the legal tool empowering the authorities to cut off the public's access to the internet and other telecom services, they said.

The practice is also in direct violation of the Supreme Court of India's judgement in the Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India case amid the "longest shutdown of internet" in 2020, in which the country's top court had outlawed indefinite suspension of telecom services without any review.

The court had stated that "competent authorities are directed to publish all orders in force and any future orders under Section 144, CrPC and for suspension of telecom services including the Internet to enable the affected persons to challenge it before the High Court or appropriate forum."

It further directed that "any order suspending

the internet issued under the Suspension Rules, must adhere to the principle of proportionality and must not extend beyond necessary duration" and must be "subject to judicial review."

Habeel Iqbal, a Shopian-based lawyer, said that "neither the letter nor the spirit of Anuradha Bhasin Judgment is followed while imposing internet restrictions in parts of Kashmir over the last two weeks or so."

Iqbal said that the "Supreme Court has clearly said that the order imposing a ban on the internet has to be published for the public which is lacking in these cases. These restrictions seem to be disproportionate and unnecessary and thus amenable to judicial review."

Home Secretary Shaleen Kabra didn't respond to calls and texts from Kashmir Observer. The General Administration Department website also didn't have a single TSTS order in the last two weeks.

Meanwhile, residents in several parts of Kashmir said that the internet shutdown was "unannounced" and occurred frequently throughout the day as well. They also complain of frequent call drops.

The shutdown is being reported from several parts of South Kashmir's Kulgam and Pulwama districts. In Srinagar, the areas include Maharajgunj, Nowhatta, Safa Kadal, Bohri Kadal, Eidgah in the downtown and Qamarwari, Soura and Buchpora in its vicinity.

"I had to travel 7 kilometres every day to be able to use the internet for my online classes," said Aadil Lateef, a student of 9th standard from Srinagar's Noorbagh. Lateef is compelled to travel to the city's outskirts -- to Zainakote -- to access the internet to attend online classes.

"Even if the internet works sometimes, the speed is too low to even download a small picture," said another student, Mohammad Rasib from Srinagar's Soura, another affected area.

### India Requests

to reach its destination in the UAE.

Go First, previously known as GoAir, had started direct flights between Srinagar and Sharjah from October 23 and the service was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his visit to the Valley last month.

According to the officials, till October 31, the Srinagar-Sharjah-Srinagar service was going through Pakistan airspace.

However, Pakistan on Tuesday did not allow the flight to pass through its airspace, and therefore, the service had to take a longer route, going over Gujarat, adding around 40 minutes to the flight time on the onward journey as well as the return journey, they said.

Longer route means higher fuel consumption, which may push the airline to increase the ticket prices or turn this non-stop service to one-stop service.

Therefore, the officials said that India has requested Pakistan through diplomatic channels to grant the overflight clearance to this flight keeping in mind the larger interest of common people who have booked the tickets on this service.

The Pakistan government is yet to give any specific reason for refusing the permission to the flight, they said.

According to the officials, the flight, which operates four times a week, did not face any issue when it used Pakistan airspace between October 23 and October 31.

Go First has not issued any statement or comment on this matter as yet.

The airline's Srinagar-Sharjah-Srinagar service is the first service between Jammu and Kashmir and the UAE after 11 years. Air India Express had started a Srinagar-Dubai flight in February 2009 but it was discontinued after some time due to low demand.

Reacting to Pakistan's action, former J&K chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Wednesday had tweeted "very unfortunate. Pakistan did the same thing with the Air India Express flight from Srinagar to Dubai in 2009-2010. I had hoped that @GoFirstairways being permitted to overfly Pak airspace was indicative of a thaw in relations but alas that wasn't to be".

Blaming the Centre, PDP chief and former J&K chief minister Mehbooba Mufti in a tweet had said, "Puzzling that Gol didn't even bother securing permission from Pakistan to use its airspace for international flights from Srinagar. Only a PR extravaganza without any groundwork."

Inaugurating the flight, Shah had said that the commencement of Srinagar-Sharjah services would boost tourism.

"There are many people from Srinagar and Jammu who are settled in the Gulf countries. There are many tourists who want to come from the Gulf countries to Jammu and Kashmir. The tourism of J-K is going to get a big boost with the commencement of Srinagar-Sharjah

flights," he added.

The officials said the Srinagar-Sharjah flight takes around 3 hours and 40 minutes, while the return flight takes approximately 3 hours to reach the capital of Jammu and Kashmir if Pakistan airspace is used.

With Islamabad refusing to allow the flight through its airspace, it adds around 40 minutes time during the onward journey as well as during the return journey, raising fuel and ticket costs, they mentioned.

The Pakistan government, however, had allowed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special flight to Italy to use its airspace on Friday to attend the G20 summit. His return flight from Italy was also allowed to use the Pakistan airspace on Wednesday, the officials added.

### Permission For

Office spokesman, Asim Iftikhar Ahmed, was asked at the weekly media briefing here on Thursday whether Foreign Office was taken on board when Pakistan permitted these (Srinagar-Sharjah) flights and when these permissions were cancelled.

"The over-flight permission for such flights has been denied," he said, adding that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) would have technical details.

"There are various aspects to this issue and the concerned authorities are fully seized of it, he said.

"As a long outstanding dispute, it (Kashmir) remains on the agenda of the UN Security Council pending its resolution and final disposition in accordance with UNSC resolutions, he said.

To another question about the Indian Home Minister during his visit to Kashmir announcing Rs 500 billion worth of development plan, he said the reported investment and development projects were an effort by India to divert international attention from its alleged human rights violations.

When asked about the UAE's planned investment in infrastructure and other projects in Kashmir, the spokesman said, we continue to sensitise our friends and remain in touch with them.

He said that Pakistan values the significance of the Kartarpur corridor and "remain strongly committed to its functioning, and supports its early reopening. We hope India will respond positively."

The movement of pilgrims to Pakistan through the Kartarpur corridor has been suspended since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the neighbouring country banned all travel from India citing the surge in cases in April this year.

Ties between India and Pakistan nose-dived after a militant attack on the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016 by militant groups based in the neighbouring country. Subsequent attacks, including one on an Indian Army camp in Uri, further deteriorated the relationship.

The relationship dipped further after India's war planes carried out airstrikes at Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp deep inside Pakistan on February 26, 2019 in response to the Pulwama attack in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed.

The relations deteriorated after India announced withdrawing special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the state into two union territories in August, 2019.

India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 was its internal matter. It also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda. (PTI)

### 95 More Test

virus, Baramulla 14, Budgam 13, Kupwara 6, Pulwama, Bandipora and Ganderbal 4 each and Shopian one new case of Covid-19. The twin districts of Anantnag and Kulgam in south Kashmir reported no new cases.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of eight new cases, Kathua 3, Doda 2 and Poonch 1 fresh case of infection. The six districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Samba, Kishtwar, Ramban and Reasi registered no new cases of coronavirus on Thursday.

"Moreover, 60 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, five from Jammu Division and 55 from Kashmir," officials said.

Also, the officials said that the death toll due to pandemic remained 4438--2176 in Jammu and 2262 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

### 4 Lakh Migratory

reserve. "In addition, there are 20,000 birds in Chathum, 30,000 in the Wular Lake, and over a lakh in the Dal Lake in Srinagar."

Notably, as the yearly arrival of these winged

visitors starts in the valley, the threat of them being poached and hunted by the ongoing human intervention has also augmented.

"Inside the bird reserves like Hokersar, Hygam and Shallabugh, where permanent staff of the department is posted, we have no threat of poachers," Naqash said.

"But, the real threat of these birds falling prey to poaching becomes a problem in unprotected and isolated wetlands where there's no availability of Department provided permanent staff," he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that killing of these migratory birds has been an offence under the local laws of J&K, enacted in 1978 that were later repealed and replaced by the Indian wildlife Protection Act of 1972, when the special status of J&K was abrogated and the erstwhile state was downgraded into two Union Territories.

"Last year, around 10 lakh migratory birds had arrived in Kashmir and we're sure by February next year, the number will be much higher than their last arrival in the valley," Naqash told Kashmir Observer

### Newly Wed Bride

he lodged a complaint on the very same day and was asked to record my statement the following day.

"Though the police have assured me that they are collecting the details to trace the woman, I would urge them to expedite measures to locate her", he further said.

### Nights Turn Colder

reaches during October 23-24.

The meteorological department has said that there was no forecast for any major snowfall till November 10.

"Widespread intermittent light to moderate rain/ snow (over higher reaches) is most likely during 4th Night & 5th. It may lead to temporary disruption of surface transportation on Zojila, Mugal road, Banihal-Ramban axis, Sinthan Top etc. due to snowfall and Low temperature," he said, adding, "there is no forecast for any major Snowfall till November 10." (With GNS inputs)

### Mughal Road

in the region.

DTI Mughal road said that the snowfall caused slippery conditions, which forced them to close the road for vehicular traffic. Men and machinery were in the meantime pressed into service and the road made through after five hours, the official said.

Meanwhile the official citing rough weather conditions over the terrain has issued an advisory, asking anyone intending to take a journey on the thoroughfare, to cross the Mansar Morh (Peer Ki Gali) along the thoroughfare between 10 am - 4 pm unless otherwise revised.

### Man Found

paddy field in Batnoor Shahoorra area of Pulwama district on Thursday morning, reports said.

Subsequently the police was informed which reached the spot soon after and took the corpse into possession, reports said.

Meanwhile, a police official confirming the recovery of the body said that based on documents found in his pocket, he has been identified as Ali Mohammad Bhat (30) of Barsoo Awantipora.

The official said that a case has been registered under relevant sections of law and investigations are underway to ascertain the cause of death. (GNS)

### Truck Crushes

hit by a truck (JK05E- 5457) at Kousarbal area of Damhal Hanjipora on Thursday afternoon, an official said.

"The scooty rider sustained critical wounds," the official said, adding that was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The official identified the truck driver as Yaseen Hakeem of Zoonimar Srinagar

"A case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigations initiated," the official added.

### Ishfaq Resigns

resignation from the post through a tweet.

However, he said that he will continue to carry forward the mission of Sher-e-Kashmir for which the people of J&K have sacrificed.

"I'm resigning from the post of District President @JKNC. Ganderbal & I will continue to carry forward the mission of Sher-e-Kashmir for which the people of J&K have sacrificed @OmarAbdullah," he tweeted.



## Game Against Kiwis Is Quarter-Final For Us: Rashid Khan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**ABU DHABI:** Coming off a thrashing at the hands of India, Afghanistan's premier leg-spinner Rashid Khan has no doubt that their upcoming T20 World Cup game against New Zealand is a virtual quarterfinal for them.

Afghanistan, who have played four games in the Super 12 stage, are sitting at the second spot, with four points and a net-run rate of +1.481.

Pakistan have already qualified for the semi-finals from Group 2.

Asked if the 66-run loss to India will have an impact on the team's momentum going into the last game, Rashid responded in the negative.

"I don't think it's going to make a big difference to us as a team. We know India is one of the best teams, but still, the preparation remains the same, the mindset remains the same and we know the process.

"That (New Zealand match) could be a quarterfinal for us, as well. If we win, we know we have a good run rate so we could be the team to be in the semi-finals. So just to go out there, enjoy your skills, enjoy your cricket.

"As long as you are enjoy-

ing, I think there is (are) more chances you could perform," Rashid, who was taken to task by the Indian batters, said at the post-match press conference on Wednesday night.

The Afghanistan-New Zealand game, which will take place on Sunday in Abu Dhabi, is also significant for the Indian team.

If Afghanistan defeat the Kiwis, then the Virat Kohli-led team has a chance to make the semifinals. They will of course also need to win their remaining two Super 12 games to be in the fray.

Rashid was also asked if Afghanistan were thinking about their net run-rate after they lost wickets early against India.

"Definitely, that's the kind of thing we had in mind after losing a few wickets. As a team we planned to go there and score as many runs as possible.

"... Just to focus more on the run rate, and that might play a main role in the last game when we're playing against New Zealand. That could be a big difference at the end.

"Yeah, the message was clear, just go play smart cricket and play 20 overs and get as many as possible, so that was the mindset of the players," the 23-year-old said.



## Asif Ali, Wiese, Shakib Nominated For ICC Player Of Month Award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** Big-hitting Pakistan batter Asif Ali was on Thursday nominated for the ICC Player of the Month award along with Bangladesh's star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and Namibia's David Wiese for the month of October.

In the women's category Ireland all-rounder Laura Delany and batter Gaby Lewis made the cut along with Zimbabwe captain and all-rounder Mary-Anne Musonda.

Asif Ali played a key role in Pakistan's victories over New Zealand and Afghanistan in the ongoing T20 World Cup.

He scored 27 not out off just 12 balls against New Zealand and hit four sixes in the next game against Afghanistan in the 19th over.

Shakib Al Hasan, who played six T20Is last month, has been

ruled out of the T20 World Cup due to an injury.

He scored 131 runs with a strike rate of 109.16 and took a total of 11 wickets with an economy rate of 5.59.

Impressive Namibia all-rounder batter Wiese has had a spectacular T20 World Cup so far. He played eight T20Is, scoring 162 runs with a strike rate of 132.78 and took seven wickets with an economy rate of 7.23.

His match-winning performances helped Namibia qualify for the Super 12s stage of the tournament, where he scored a 66 not out against the Netherlands and 28 not out against Ireland, while also contributing with the ball.

An independent ICC Voting Academy and fans around the world will now vote to decide the winners, which will be announced next week.



## Premier Division Semifinal Fixtures Announced

J&K Bank Vs J&K Police, AG's XI Vs Kashmir Avengers

R. ELAHI

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association on Thursday announced semifinal fixtures for its Premier Division League 2021.

The first semifinal will take place Saturday, November 6 between Kashmir Avengers FC and J&K AG's XI at 2:30 PM. While the second semifinal will see J&K Bank XI clash with J&K Police XI on Monday, November 8 at 2:30 PM.

The final of the PDL 2021 will be played on November 10. The four semifinalists were the top two teams in their respective

groups during the league stages of the competition.

The JKFA announced Srinagar Super Division and A-Division League final fixtures as well.

In Super Division final, Galaxy FC will take on Jehlum FC on November 9 at 3:00 PM. While the Srinagar A-Division League final will be played between Yahya Warsi FC and Haroon FC on November 9 at 1:00 PM.

The final matches will be played at the Synthetic Turf TRC here.

Meanwhile, the last match of the league stages of Premier Division was played Thurs-

day at the TRC turf. JKSPDC XI defeated Iqbal Sports FC by 3 goals to nil.

The match was the 56th fixture of the PDL 2021. Zaffar gave PDC XI the lead in 38th minute. Hayat Bashir doubled PDC's lead in the 50th minute, while Immad scored the third goal in the final minutes of the match. Hayat Bashir of PDC XI was named man of the match.

Kashmir Valley's 2021 domestic football season is nearing its end and fans expect nothing but top-quality football from all the teams and officials involved.

## Real Kashmir FC Ready For I-League Campaign

‘Want more local players in team,’ say coach and owner



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Coach David Robertson-led Real Kashmir FC kick started their I-League campaign with a warm up match at Synthetic Turf, TRC here.

Real Kashmir FC rewrote the history in 2018 when it became the first ever football club from the valley to represent Kashmir in the top tier of Indian football.

Being the lone I-League team from Jammu and Kashmir, RKFC has struck gold for local players like Danish Farooq (a J&K Bank academy trainee) who is currently playing for Bengaluru FC in the ISL. That became possible only after RKFC provided him with a platform to showcase his talent at the highest level of Indian football.

Real Kashmir FC is also profoundly involved in the grass-root football development in Kashmir and operates a robust academy. In order to provide opportunities and exposure to local youth, RKFC has announced free and open trials for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. The trails are believed to be held in upcoming days.

"We definitely like to see more Kashmiri players in our team," David Robertson said.

RKFC is leaving no stone unturned in bringing forth the local talent. For that it has been launching many outreach programs. The result so far has been great as many players even from the remote areas of Kashmir like Bandipora have come to put their talent on display and thus become a part of the club.

The club aspires to place them in national tournaments so that they can see a future for themselves in football. One of the players from Bandipora district of central Kashmir is currently in I-League squad 2021-2022

"Kashmir has way more talent than said and I believe that there is still a lot to come," Robertson added.

RKFC management is keeping a keen eye on the ongoing warm up matches so that the players from other local clubs may also be identified and given a bigger platform.

"We want more local players to join in," Sandeep Chattoo, the owner of Real Kashmir said.

## T20 WC: Zampa Takes 5 As Australia Hammer Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** Leg-spinner Adam Zampa returned a career-best five-wicket haul in the shortest format as Australia crushed Bangladesh by eight wickets to take their second spot in Group 1 and keep their semifinals hopes alive in the T20 World Cup here on Thursday. Bangladesh innings fell like house of cards as neither the batters could contend with the Australian pacers nor they negotiated the spinners well and were all out for just 74 in 15 overs after being asked to take first strike.

Zampa (5/19) maintained splendid line and length throughout to trouble the batters, who found it difficult to read him. Fast bowlers Mitchell Starc (2/21) and Josh Hazlewood (2/8) shared four wickets between them while Glenn Maxwell (1/6) dismissed one batter. Already out of the semifinal race, Bangladesh could not apply themselves even as the ball was coming nicely on to the bat. They could not win a single game, losing all five matches. Australia knocked off the required runs in just 6.2 overs to replace South Africa in the second spot.

They now have six points, same as that of Proteas but the massive win boosted their Net-Run-Rate (1.031), which is now better than Temba Bavuma-led side (0.742). Skipper Aaron Finch (40) and David Warner (18) added 58 runs in five overs for an explosive start. Mitchell Marsh (16 not out) and Glenn Maxwell (0) took the side past the finish line. Earlier, Starc provided the first wicket as Liton



Das (0) dragged one back on to the stumps while Josh Hazlewood got rid of Soumya Sarkar (5), who also played on to the stumps.

Maxwell trapped Mushfiqur Rahim (1) while Zampa had Afif Hossain (0) caught in the slip region. Hazlewood got his second victim in opener Mohammad Naim (17), who was caught by Pat Cummins at square leg when the batter miscued a pull shot. Bangladesh were struggling at 33 for five and needed skipper Mamudullah and Shamim Hossain to repair the innings. Mahmudullah (16) found two boundaries off Starc while Shamim too took on the same pacer for his first boundary. Shamim also lofted Zampa confidently for a six over deep square leg. He was stroking the ball fluently but could not convert his good start into a substantial knock.

Zampa had the left-hander caught behind when he tried to play a cut shot and trapped Mahedi hasan in the next ball to be on a hat-trick. When he returned to bowl, wicket-keeper Matthew Wade dropped a catch to deny his colleague the hat-trick milestone.

## West Indies To Tour Pakistan For White-Ball Series In Dec: PCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**KARACHI:** The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday confirmed that the West Indies will play three T20 Internationals and as many ODIs in Karachi from December 13-22.

The tour to Pakistan will be the first for the Caribbean side since April 2018 when they played three T20Is, albeit, with a depleted side as most of the main players opted out of the tour.

"After missing out on home internationals in September and October, the West Indies tour will formally kick-off an exciting and entertaining season of men's international cricket in Pakistan with the Pakistan Super League 2022 and Australia's first full series to follow," PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja said.

"I am hopeful that the NCOC will support this series by allowing maximum crowds so that the fans can watch live in action their favourite players and back both sides."

The confirmation by the West Indies board will come as a relief for the PCB after the abrupt

withdrawal of the New Zealand team from a white ball series in September when they returned home without playing a match.



England and Wales Cricket Board also opted out of a short tour to Pakistan.

The West Indies will be playing ODIs in Pakistan for the first time since December 2006.

The ODIs are part of Pakistan's fourth series in the Super League, which will see the top seven sides and the event host India qualify directly for the ICC men's World Cup 2023.

The remaining two sides will progress from the qualifying event.

**SCHEDULE**

13 Dec — 1st T20I, Karachi  
14 Dec — 2nd T20I, Karachi  
16 Dec — 3rd T20I, Karachi  
18 Dec — 1st ODI, Karachi  
20 Dec — 2nd ODI, Karachi  
22 Dec — 3rd ODI, Karachi.

## Dravid Will Bring His Own Work Ethic With Him: Gavaskar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The legendary Sunil Gavaskar feels Indian cricket will go ahead under new coach Rahul Dravid, who will bring not only vast experience to the team but also the work ethic he embodied in his playing days.

The BCCI announced the appointment of former captain Dravid as the head coach of the national team on Wednesday. He will replace Ravi Shastri, who formed a successful partnership with skipper Virat Kohli.

"Indian cricket should be going ahead and ahead. He will bring his vast experience, the work ethic that he embodied when he played the game, the deep thinking about tactics and so on," Gavaskar told India Today.

With a commanding 66-run win over Afghanistan, the Indian team has kept its slim chances of making the T20 World Cup semifinals alive.

Gavaskar said in the remaining two matches, Dravid can assess a few things for outlining his future plans.

India are set to take on Scotland (Friday) and Namibia (Monday) in their last two matches. Their qualification will depend on winning these matches as well as re-



sults of contests between other teams.

"You need to have some instinctiveness during matches but you also need to be able to plan and I think this and the win over Afghanistan is probably the best news Indian cricket has had over the last one week or so," said Gavaskar.

"After this tournament is over, you've got to have a new coach and the earlier he is appointed, the better it is because he will also get time to plan.

"There are still two more matches that India have to play. Right now it is time for Dravid to take stock of the situation after watching the matches and he will then decide what is best for Indian cricket," added the respected analyst.

## Barcelona Negotiates With Al-Sadd For Coach Xavi



AGENCIES

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona is in negotiations with Qatari club Al-Sadd for the release of Xavi Hernandez so the former midfield great can return to Camp Nou as coach.

"The two clubs are in conversations and we don't know how it will end," Xavi told Catalan public television station TV3 on Wednesday. "It is very exciting. I don't know what will happen."

The former Spain midfielder said coaching Barcelona would be "an exciting step" in his career. "I am a very positive person. I believe that common sense will prevail and there will be an agreement," Xavi said. "Both clubs know my position, and I hope this can be resolved soon. "We are all very eager. It would be spectacular." Al-Sadd appears not as eager to let him go.

In a statement, Xavi's current em-

ployer said it "welcomed the visit of the administrative delegation" from Barcelona. But Al-Sadd CEO Turki Al-Ali added: "The club's position is clear from the beginning — we are committed to keeping our coach Xavi with us and we cannot have him leave at this sensitive time of the season."

Al-Sadd leads the Qatari league by three points after nine games.

Barcelona has played two games under caretaker coach Sergi Barjuan, who took over following the firing of Ronald Koeman with the team struggling both in the Spanish league and the Champions League.

Barcelona's next game is Saturday at Celta Vigo.

The 41-year-old Xavi left Barcelona in 2015 after helping the club win 25 titles in 17 seasons, including four European Cups. He was also key to Spain winning the 2010 World Cup and European Championships in 2008 and 2012.

## Liverpool, Ajax Cruise Into CL Knockout Rounds



AGENCIES

**GENEVA:** Liverpool and Ajax extended their perfect winning records in the Champions League on Wednesday to advance into the round of 16 — which is starting to take a 1970s throwback look.

Liverpool cruised past Atlético Madrid 2-0 at Anfield and Ajax hit 10-man Borussia Dortmund with late goals in a 3-1 comeback win in Germany.

The four teams with four straight wins — after Bayern Munich and Juventus sealed their places Tuesday — have already given the knockout lineup a nostalgic feel. Ajax, Bayern and Liverpool combined to win all eight European Cup titles from 1971-78.

Liverpool had never opened a Champions League group stage with four wins, though it was rarely troubled against Atlético in Group B after Diogo Jota and Sadio Mané scored in the first 21 minutes. Atlético dropped to third in the group behind Porto, which was held to a 1-1 draw at last-place AC Milan.

Ajax is having a standout Champions

League campaign after being ignored by the Super League founders from England, Italy and Spain when they lined up their ill-fated project several months ago.

The Dutch champion made it back-to-back big wins over Dortmund, which had veteran defender Mats Hummels sent off in the first half.

Second-place Dortmund trails Ajax by six points in Group C with two rounds left. Dortmund is level on points with Sporting Lisbon, which routed Besiktas 4-0 and hosts the German side next on Nov. 24.

Real Madrid and Inter Milan — two of the 12 Super League clubs — have taken control of Group D from upstart Sheriff after important wins Wednesday.

Karim Benzema's goals ensured Madrid beat Shakhtar Donetsk 2-1 and lead the standings by two points from Inter. The Italian champion made it two straight wins over Sheriff, 3-1 away to the champion of Moldova.

Manchester City overpowered Club Brugge 4-1 and was rewarded with top spot in Group A after late drama at Leipzig where Paris Saint-Germain drew 2-2.



# I Was On Phone Waiting For Last Soldier To Return: Modi On Surgical Strike

Agenceis

**JAMMU:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday said that across the line of control (LoC) surgical strike in 2016 signified great professionalism and capability of the Indian army and that he was constantly on phone to ensure the last soldier returned home safely.

The Prime Minister arrived in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district to celebrate Diwali with the soldiers on Thursday.

He laid a wreath at the war memorial as a tribute to the soldiers who have laid down their lives for the country in J&K.

Addressing the soldiers, Modi said the 2016 surgical strike on the militant camps across LoC signified great professionalism and capability of the Indian army.

"I was constantly on the phone at the time of the surgical strike. I wanted to ensure that each soldier, who was part of the strike, should return safely."

"All the soldiers who carried out the surgical strike made me feel proud by returning to their unit safely", he said.

"Many efforts were made to disrupt peace in J&K after the surgical strike, but our soldiers kept their morale high and defeated all such moves by giving a befitting reply," Modi said.

He said that while the entire country celebrates Azadi Ka Amrut Mahatsav



to mark the 75 years of Independence, the government has new targets and new challenges ahead.

"There was a time when our forces were fully dependent on foreign arms."

"Our soldiers would wait for the spare parts of defence equipment from the foreign countries. It would take years to receive such consignments. The army officer who would sign the procurement deal had to wait till his retirement to receive the same."

"Today, country's 65 per cent defence budget is being spent within the country to manufacture the equipment. Today, we manufacture Arjun tanks and Tejas aircraft within the country."

"More than 200 items including spare parts and other equipment are being made in India itself."

"This way, we have reduced our dependence on foreign arms", the Prime Minister said.

He said that from now onwards women would get admission in all defence schools, colleges and academies.

"Our army is different from the forces of other countries. It is because of your age old custom, tradition, great professionalism, and commitment towards your motherland."

"You worship your motherland and this is not seen in any other country. This is what makes you different from others."

"I am feeling privileged to be with you on the special occasion of Diwali", the Prime Minister said adding that he will light a Diwali lamp to pay tribute to great valour, courage, discipline, professionalism and commitment of the country's soldiers."

## Diwali: Delhi's Air Quality On Brink Of Turning 'Severe'

With the share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution rising to 25 per cent on Diwali, the highest this season so far, authorities have said that the air quality in the city may turn "severe" by midnight and shoot up rapidly by Friday morning if firecrackers are burnt.

The PM2.5 pollution in the capital may enter the "severe" zone by midnight even if there is 50 per cent of firecrackers emissions as compared to last year, said Gufran Beig, the founder project director of SAFAR.

The PM2.5 pollution will shoot

up rapidly by Friday early morning with the AQI even crossing the 500-mark, he said.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board's data, the capital's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 382 on Thursday, up from 314 on Wednesday. It was 303 on Tuesday and 281 on Monday.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The extremely calm wind

conditions in Delhi and 25 per cent stubble share (fire count 2,293) are two major factors today, SAFAR said.

According to SAFAR model forecasts, the stubble burning share may increase to 35 per cent on Friday and 40 per cent on Saturday with the wind direction changing to north-westerly. Northwesterly winds carry smoke from farm fires in Punjab and Haryana towards the national capital.

"Relief is expected only from the evening of November 7 but AQI will fluctuate within 'very poor' range," the air quality forecast agency said.

# Be Prepared To Take Booster Dose To Complete Fight Against COVID: Doctors

Agenceis

According to doctors, people, especially those vulnerable to the Covid-19 infection in India, should be mentally prepared to take a booster dose of Covid-19 vaccine to protect themselves from new variants and help complete the fight against the virus.

While India is on track to fully vaccinate its adult population, advanced nations like the US are preparing ground to administer a booster dose to ensure new variants of Covid-19 virus do not mutate and emerge into a major cause of worry. Doctors presume there could be newer varieties of this virus which would germinate in the society, and vulnerable groups must be prepared to take a booster dose of the vaccine to ensure the fight against the virus is complete.

"According to various studies,

immunity against coronavirus developed by vaccination might wane over time. While the younger and healthy sections of the population might have a lower risk, those in the high-risk category must be well prepared to tackle the danger. Many in India took their second dose more than six months back, which is a considerable time to reassess antibodies levels among them. No vaccine manufactured to date has assured 100 per cent protection against this virus, and like in the West, Indians too must be prepared to take an additional booster dose if necessitated," said Dr. M Sai Sudhakar, Chief Interventional Cardiologist, Gleneagles Global Hospital.

India recently achieved the remarkable feat of administering over one billion Covid-19 vaccine doses to its citizens. While nearly 80 per cent of the

adult population received at least one shot, approximately 40 per cent of the population has received both doses of either Covishield or Covaxin.

This is a remarkable achievement in the fight against deadly pandemic, positive result of which can be seen in the ever-falling numbers of daily infection cases in the country.

While research into the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines longer-term is still being carried out, there has been some suggestion that protection levels against infection begin to deteriorate after around six months, although levels of protection against serious illness from the virus decline at a slower rate. According to Britain's ZOE Covid-19 study, the effectiveness of the Pfizer jab against infection in the months after the second dose

fell from 88 per cent to 74 per cent at around the five to six-month mark. For those who received the AstraZeneca jab, protection levels against infection fell from 77 per cent to 67 per cent in the same period.

"The existing evidence suggests that the vaccines administered currently are holding up extremely well to protect against severe disease, hospitalization, or even death. Though there is no strong evidence leading to a need to provide a third dose for people who have already been vaccinated; there is nothing wrong in staying mentally prepared to take a third dose as and when the healthcare community feels a large section of the population would require a booster dose to protect against a possible spread of virus in future," said Dr. Aarathi Bellary, HoD - Internal Medicine, SLG Hospitals.


## Earlier Public Money Was Spent On 'Kabristan', BJP Govt Using It For Redevelopment Of Temples: UP CM

Targeting previous governments in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday that earlier public money used to be spent on 'kabristan' but under the BJP dispensation, funds are being used for redevelopment of temples.

Addressing an event organised at the Ram Katha Park by the Uttar Pradesh government as part of Deepotsav celebrations, he also announced that beneficiaries of the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna will continue to get free ration till Holi next year.

He said the scheme, which was rolled out to provide free ration to the poor during the COVID-19 pandemic, was set to expire in November this year but his government decided to extend it till Holi (March) next year as the "pandemic is not yet over."

Under this scheme, he said, beneficiaries will get salt, sugar, dal and oil along with wheat and rice.



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