

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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**Quote!**  
Be happy for this moment. This moment is your life  
—Omar Khayyam

## NEWS DIGEST

### 3 OGWs Held Over Grenade Attack

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Thursday claimed to have busted a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) module by arresting three militant associates involved in Palhallan grenade attack in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Police, along with Army and SSB personnel, established **More on P10**

### CASO Conducted In Bandipora

**SRINAGAR:** The government forces on Thursday carried out a cordon and search operation (CASO) in north Kashmir's Bandipora town, officials said. Army's 14 RR, Special Operation Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF launched the search operation after inputs about the presence of militants **More on P10**

### Youth Found Dead In Tral

**SRINAGAR:** Body of a 23-year-old youth was found in a field at Bagwani Tral area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday. A police official said that some passersby spotted the body in the field and informed the men in uniform accordingly. A scooter bearing **More on P10**

### Ladakh Reports 23 Fresh Covid Cases

**LEH:** With 23 fresh, Ladakh's COVID-19 tally has climbed to 21,601, while the number of active cases of the infection has gone up to 285 in the Union Territory, officials said on Thursday. Ladakh has registered 214 Covid-related deaths -- 156 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, they added. **More on P10**

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Contact Circulation Incharge:  
**Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927**

## Govt Mulls Crackdown On Unregistered NGOs

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Taking strong note about the reports of the alleged illegal adoption and sale of Covid orphans in south Kashmir's Pampore town, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday directed the home department to increase surveillance and inspect the orphanages, non-governmental organizations and hospitals.

These directions were passed by the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday while chairing a high level meeting to review the progress made in nabbing the culprits involved in the case involving alleged adoption and sale of Covid orphans in Pampore recently, an official spokesperson said.

Mehta, he said, also considered the administrative measures being taken by the Social Welfare Department and the law enforcement agencies to prevent occurrence of such incidents in future.



Representation Photo

Administrative Secretary, Home, Special Director Secretaries of Social Welfare and Law Departments, two Divisional commissioners and DIG, Central Kashmir Range and other senior officers attended the meeting.

According to the official spokesperson, DIG central Kashmir informed the meeting that the investigation under a DSP ranked officer is going on and it is expected that in about week's time, the

department will be able to get to the bottom of the case.

"He further informed that the case is under review and given the gravity of the case, more stringent sections of the law will be imposed on the accused going forward before the case reaches the trial stage," he said.

The Chief Secretary, as per the official spokesperson stated that the trafficking of children and women is an inhuman practice and is absolutely unacceptable. **More on P10**

## NGO 'Selling' Covid Orphans Sealed, 2 Held

Auqib Javed

**T**he Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday arrested two people and sealed their non-governmental organization (NGO) in south Kashmir's Pampore town over allegations of illegal adoption and "sale" of children orphaned by Covid-19 in Kashmir. The crackdown on 'Global Welfare Charitable

Trust' came shortly after Mission Director, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) Shabnam Kamili took cognizance of media reports claiming children orphaned by Covid-19 were being sold in Indian markets. Sub-Division police officer (SDPO), Pampore, Imtiyaz Ahmad told Kashmir Observer that two people were arrested and the office of the NGO was sealed by in Pampore on Thursday morning. **More on P10**

## Sedition Charged Kashmiri Students Move HC For Bail

Press Trust Of India

**PRAYAGRAJ:** Three Kashmiri students, studying engineering in an Agra college and arrested on sedition and cyber-terrorism charges, have moved the Allahabad High Court directly for bail, saying that lawyers in the Taj city have refused to take up their case for bail in the sessions court.

The three students were arrested in October this year for cheering Pakistan following the neighbouring country's victory in a T20 Cricket World Cup match against India.

In their bail pleas to the high court, the three students have also sought transfer of their trials to Mathura, saying that the entire bar of Agra is not ready to appear on behalf of the applicants before the court and defend the case".

A bail plea is first made to a magisterial court in the district and then to a sessions court and subsequently to the high court following its rejection by the lower courts.

The three Kashmiri students - Arsheed Yusuf, Inayat Altaf Sheikh and Showkat Ahmed Ganai are students of an engineering college in Agra and were arrested on October 27, 2021 by the Agra police.

They were booked under sections 124 A (sedition), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 505 (1) (B) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 66-F (cyber-terrorism) of the Information Technology Act for allegedly sending WhatsApp messages "against the country" after the match.

The matter will come for hearing in the high court in a few days. **More on P10**

## Kashmir Witnessing Brisk Tourism Season Over 1L Tourists Visited Valley In Nov, Highest Footfall In 7 Years

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** After bearing brunt of three back to back lockdowns, the tourism industry in Kashmir is witnessing a highest-ever tourist footfall in 7 years bringing much sought relief to the people associated with the industry.

After seven years, Jammu & Kashmir tourism sector has hit an emboldening number of tourists for the month of November, crossing more than a lakh number of travelers arriving till now in the valley. Early indications suggest that they have been trickling back to Kashmir, the top J&K destination city for both national and international tourists.

But many businesses that depend on tourism, including hotel operators and restaurants,



File Photo

see signs that even more tourists could start streaming in as the year-end winter season approaches, providing a badly needed boost as the valley's tourism stakeholders are still struggling to recover from the pandemic.

The tourism industry has

once again sought to increasingly become a pillar of Kashmir's economy. A record of 1, 27,605 travelers have visited the valley this November, and perhaps, their spending supported thousands of jobs, from restaurant **More on P10**

## PDP Attacks BJP Govt In First Party Newsletter

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday released the first issue of the party's internal newsletter 'Speak Up'.

It was released at Mehbooba's residence in the presence of senior PDP leaders Naem Akhtar, Abdul Rehman Veeri and Ghulam Nabi Lone.

The newsletter seeks to reach out to the PDP cadre about the party's stand on the current situation and political issues of Jammu and Kashmir.

"A little over two years have passed since Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of its special status. Since then, every decision taken by the current government has been with the sole aim of collective punishment and humiliation of Kashmiris," **More on P10**

## 'J&K Integral Part Of India'

## No Question Of Engaging With Any Third Party: LG

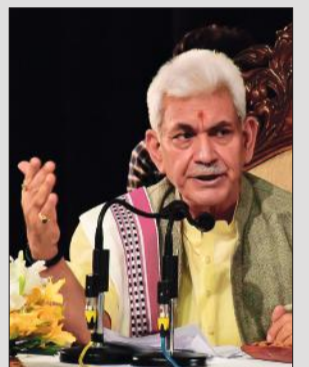
Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of the country and there was no question of engaging with any third party, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Thursday said that his administration and the government of India has a clear cut policy of engaging with the citizens of J&K

"UT administration and Gol has a clear cut policy of engaging with the citizens of J&K. J&K is an integral part of our country and there is no question of engaging with any third party, Sinha said.

He was replying to a question on dialogue with Pakistan in a television programme.

When asked about the termination of government employees over militant links, Sinha said that no government jobs and facilities will be given to anyone who is even remotely associated with militants and militancy activities. Speaking about the



political roadmap for J&K in Network 18 India's Chaupal Conclave, the LG said that the Union Home Minister during his recent J&K visit has already announced that elections will be held after the Delimitation exercise culminates and after that Statehood will be restored.

"Only Parliament can restore statehood. Both the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Home minister have spoken on this issue in detail in Parliament and to the country," he said.

When asked to spell out the benefits of Article-370 revocation, **More on P10**



**CERTAIN COMMUNITIES OF J&K (Khatris, Mahajans etc) were not allowed to purchase agricultural land, that has been changed now."**

## Decades Later, Bell Set To Toll In Kashmir's 'Oldest Church'

Syed Burhan

**M**ason Naseer Ahmad is busy repairing the old walls of the St. Luke's Church at Dalgate Srinagar. As he cements the dislodged bricks of the valley's "oldest Church", he's taken down the memory lane to his childhood days where he sees himself coming to the church out of curiosity to discover a Christian prayer.

"I've been brought up in this locality," says Naseer who lives in the adjacent Daesil Mohalla.

"During my childhood days, I remember myself coming here as a child and peeping through the entrance of the Church."

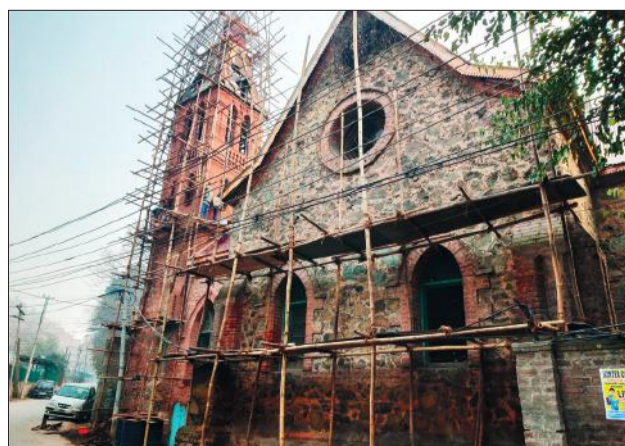
The St. Luke's Church served

as an important religious place for Protestant Christians. Setup by Church Missionary Society of England, the foundation stone was erected by Dr. Ernest and Dr. Arthur Neve.

"TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND AS A WITNESS TO KASHMIR" dedicated by "The Bishop of Lahore" on September 12, 1896 remains engraved on a marble stone on the inner wall of the church.

The J&K Tourism Department is renovating and restoring the church under the Smart City Project. Officials say the renovation of the church is in its last phase.

"Officials have told us to speed up the work," Naseer says. "We're doing our bit but it seems very unlikely to be complete by



Christmas. I have been working at Church for last one month."

For Naseer working at the

church has been exciting and a new experience in itself.

"In the past I have worked at



a Hindu temple but for the first time I am renovating a church. It is exciting and gives a different

feel. I think it is important to revive our old structures; they are part of our legacy."

For the miniscule Christian minority in Kashmir, it's a matter of happiness and joy. Rev. Eric, Priest in charge of All Saints Church expressed his happiness and gratitude to the government for the renovation work.

"There is excitement in the Christian community that our Church is getting renovated. We are thankful to officials who are helping us in getting the Church renovated," he said. "We could not have managed to do it on our own. The authorities took us on board and the Church is being to its original glory."

The Protestant Christian community consists of a handful number of families, all based in Srinagar. "If a congregation **More on P10**



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**2**

Friday | 03.12.2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

NAME: Parvaiz Ahmad Shergojri  
S/O:- Mohd Yaqoob Shergojri  
R/O:- Adigam Kulgam

RNA

**از نیابت زنیسیر پورہ یا اجلاس غلام محی الدین بیٹ صاحب**

مضمون درخواست پنجاب۔ عایشہ بیگم بیوہ محمد یوسف شیخ ساکنہ گوجا پورہ گانہ لغرض حصول لیگل ہیرسٹریٹکٹ۔ اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمہ میں سالانہ ایک درخواست لغرض حصول لیگل ہیرسٹریٹکٹ دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کا رہا ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سال کا شوہر شیرجہ یوسف شیخ مورخہ 29/10/2022 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ اور متنی کے دارغان جائزہ دیں ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	رشتہ تراہ متونی	پیشہ	عمر
01	عایشہ بیگم بیوہ محمد یوسف شیخ	بیوہ متونی	گھر بیو کام	65 سال

اسطوری متونی کا کہ ایک ہی افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اور ایک ہی وارث موجود ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ متونی کا کوئی وارث موجود نہیں ہے۔ اسطوری سالیہ وارث جائزہ طلب کرنے کی خواہش ہے۔ لہذا سرٹریٹکٹ مذکورہ کو حاصل کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتر ہی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزارنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(تقریر الصدمہ رائیگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول)

RNA

**از نیابت وند یو لگام با اجلاس سعید فیاض احمد نائب تحصیلدار وند یو لگام**  
درخواست پنجاب۔ سعید فہد گیانی ولد سعید احمد مسین ساکنہ تیکہ باک تحصیل کوکر ناگ لغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اریا RBA سرٹریٹکٹ۔

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمہ میں سالی نے ایک درخواست لغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اریا سرٹریٹکٹ دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کا رہا ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالی کا کہنہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	پیشہ	عمر	آمدنی
۱۔	سعید احمد ولد سعید عبدالکیر	مزدوری	50 سال	=/5000
۲۔	سعید رفعت زوجہ سعید احمد	گھر بیو کام	48 سال	
۳۔	سعید فہد گیانی ولد سعید احمد	زیر تعلیم	18 سال	
۴۔	سعید نقض ولد سعید احمد	زیر تعلیم	15 سال	

سالی کا کہنہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹریٹکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتر ہی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیاد گزارنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار۔

RNA

**از نیابت دیلگام با اجلاس نایب تحصیلدار دیلگام**

مضمون درخواست پنجاب: شیخ دانش نذیر شیخ، عدنان نذیر، مہک نذیر ولدیت نذیر احمد شیخ ساکنہ گنڈ پورہ تحصیل ضلع ہت ناگ لغرض حصول RBA سرٹریٹکٹ

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمہ میں سالیان نے ایک درخواست لغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اریا سرٹریٹکٹ دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کا رہا ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالیان کا کہنہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	نذیر احمد شیخ ولد سعید علی شیخ	50 سال	دوکانداری	=/8000 ماہانہ
02	مہک نذیر ولد سعید نذیر احمد شیخ	45 سال	گھر بیو کام	
03	شیخ دانش نذیر ولد نذیر احمد شیخ	23 سال	مزدوری	=/5000 ماہانہ
04	شیخ عدنان نذیر ولد نذیر احمد شیخ	21 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	مہک نذیر ولد نذیر احمد شیخ	21 سال	زیر تعلیم	
06	فضلاہ الدین ولد نذیر احمد شیخ	13 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کہنہ میں موجود نہیں ہے اور کہنہ کی ماہانہ آمدنی =/1,56000 ہے۔ اب سرٹریٹکٹ محرکہ کی اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزارنے کے بعد کوئی نذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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**PRESS RELEASE**

Subject: - Conduct of open Wrestling Championship of District Pulwama.

The District Wrestling Association Pulwama is organizing open tournament of District Pulwama from 06-12-2021 to 07-12-2021. At sports Stadium Pulwama. All interested players are requested to come and take part in the tournament.

1. Divisional Sports officer sports council Srinagar.
2. Manager Sports stadium Pulwama.
3. Secretary Wrestling Association Pulwama.
4. Office Record.

Sd/-

District Wrestling Association Pulwama

RNA

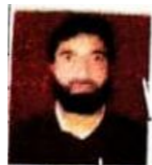
**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER SHOPAIN**

No: ARTO/S/IN/2021/980

Dated: 29/11/2021

**NOTICE**

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Zahid Yaqoob Bhat S/o Mohammad Yaqoob Bhat R/o Vehil Shopain (Party No. 1st) as transferor, (Seller) owner of the vehicle bearing regd No JK22B-3149 and Mr Mukhtar Ahmad Wani S/o Mohammad Yaseen Wani R/o Hardu-Tooru Kaiwariqam (Party No 2nd) as tranferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C and R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No 1st to 2nd and additional of hire purchase agreement with Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ratnipora. Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



Assistant Regional Transport Officer Shopain

TURRAY



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

**DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR**

Tel:0194-2315378, E-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject:- Grant of Registration of Restaurant under the name and style “Hukus Bukus” the cafe situated at Dalipora nagam chadoora, Srinagar.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas, Mr. Gulzar ahmad sheikh S/o Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh R/o Dalipora, Nagam Chadoora Budgam has approached this office (online) for grant of registration of his proposed unit as restaurant under the name and style of “Hukus Bukus the café” situated at Dalipora Nagam Chadoora Budam under the provisions of Registration of Tourist Trade Act/Rules 1978/82/2011/2012.

Whereas, applicant has submitted, Food Safety Certificate valid up to 21/09/2022, Certificate of Labor Department valid upto March 2023, State subject, Deed of Rent w.e.f 01/01/2020, intikhab, PHE/PDD bill, Character Certificate issued 28/09/2020, Adhar Card, Photo of unit, Pan card & Affidavit.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 10 of J&K Registration Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012 before effecting registration of the above mentioned Restaurant in favour of Mr. Gulzar ahmad sheikh S/o Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh R/o Dalipora, Nagam Chadoora Budgam the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/Organizations/Health Departments, etc. for objections if any, the same should reach to this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objection beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant shall be considered for registration of the above mentioned Restaurant after submission of all requisite documents.

No: - Reg. /R/001/473/DTK

SD/-

Dated: 29 /11/2021

Deputy Director Tourism, Registration Kashmir

DIPK-13950/21

Fax No. 0194-2479541

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY LABOUR COMMISSIONER, KASHMIR DIVISION,**

BEHIND GENERAL BUS STAND, BATAMALOO, SRINAGAR.

(dlckm786@gmail.com)

Subject: Conducting of Awareness Camp on Labour Laws.

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamps worth Rs. 10.00 are invited from the registered NGO's/other agencies having expertise in event management, who shall also possess following qualifications:

1. They shall be well versed with event management and shall have adequate and requisite infrastructure and suitable Public Address System.
2. They shall have good liaison and rapo with the Media, preferably Print and Electronic Media, so that wide coverage is given to the programme.
3. The items required for the Awareness Camp are Shamiyana/Tent (2 No's) Chairs, (50 No's) Table (2 No's) Light Refreshment, Mic System, Banners, Hoardings, Two Innova Vehicles, Public Address System, Video and Still Photography.

The tender should reach to the office of Dy. Labour Commissioner, Kashmir Division, Srinagar, near Bus Stand Batamaloo by or before 04.12.2021 up to 01:30 PM against tender documents which can be obtained up to 03.12.2021 from the office of Dy. Labour Commissioner, Kashmir Division, Srinagar, against the payment of Rs. 500/- . The tenders should be in two sealed covers containing technical and financial bids accompanied with CDR/FDR worth Rs. 1000/- , as earnest money, from any scheduled bank of India pledged to Dy. Labour Commissioner, Kashmir. The technical bid shall be opened on 07.12.2021 at 12:00 Noon in the office of Dy. Labour Commissioner, Kashmir in presence of the other members and tenderer(s) whosoever intends to remain present. Rates should be quoted both in words as well as in figures without overwriting, erasing or mutilation and covered with transparent tape. No tender shall be accepted after the last date. the tenders shall remain valid during the current financial year 2020-2021 and can be cancelled by the undersigned abintio without citing any reasons at any point of time. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any tender without giving any reason thereof.

No: DLCK/2021/1350-53  
Dated: 30.11.2021  
DIPK-13938/21

Sd/-

(Ahmad Hussain Bhat) KAS  
Dy. Labour Commissioner,  
Kashmir Division, Srinagar

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,  
NEW ENGINEERING COMPLEX, SILK FACTORY ROAD RAJ BAGH, SRINAGAR  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER JAL**  
**SHAKTI DEPARTMENT (PHE) KASHMIR**  
NEW ENGINEERING COMPLEX, SILK FACTORY ROAD RAJ BAGH, SRINAGAR  
TELE: 0194-2311832. TELE FAX: 0194-2311835, E-Mail: kmrphed@gmail.com, kashmirphe@yahoo.com



**CORRIGENDUM-II  
EXTENSION NOTICE**

Subject:- Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for hilly areas of Kupwara (Tangdar region) district for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works.

Reference:- This office e-NIT No: CE/PHE/KMR/ JSD/09 of 2021-22 Dated:- 03-11-2021 issued under endorsement No: CE/PHE/KMR/ JSD/25435-45 Date: 03-11-2021.

In view of inadequate response, the online Bid Submission End Date and Tender Opening Date in respect of this office e-NIT, referred above, is hereby extended up to 08-12-2021 4:00 P.M. and 10-12-2021 02:00 P.M, respectively.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No: CE/PHE/KMR/JSD/28682-92  
Date:- 29-11-2021  
DIPK-13951/21

Chief Engineer,  
Jal Shakti, (PHE) Department  
Kashmir.

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B SUB-DIVISION MAGAM.**  
**FRESH e-TENDER NOTICE FOR STAGE WISE SNOW CLEARANCE**

FOR THE WINTER SEASON 2021-22

(Single Cover System)

FRESH E-NIT No. 142/R&B/Magam/2021-22

Dt. 30-11-2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (In single cover system) are hereby invited for stage-wise snow clearance of roads for the winter season 2021-22 falling within the territorial jurisdiction of this division as per the details given below on %age basis:-

S.No	Name of the Sub Division	Stage No.	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	R&B Sub-Division Magam	Stage No. 15 & 25 of Annexure "A"	Rs. 2000/- per stage in shape of CDR/FDR	Rs. 200/- per stage	A,B,C,D	3054- SNOW clearance

The tender document containing qualifying information/ eligibility criteria, terms and conditions, BoQ etc. can be down loaded by the prospective bidder from Departmental Website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the time table given below:-

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-11-2021 11.00 AM
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01/12/2021, 4.00 P.M to 07/12/2021 4.00 P.M
3. Bid submission Start Date	01/12/2021 from 4.00 P.M
4. Bid Submission Last Date	07/12/2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5. Date, time & venue of opening of Bids (Online)	08-12-2021 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, (R&B) Circle Baramulla / Kupwara
6. Dead-line for receiving the hard copy (original e-Challan or T-Challan and CDR/FDR.	The successful bidder shall submit the original hard copy of the instrument towards cost of tender document and Bid Security within 3 days after financial evaluation of tenders.

1. e-Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-Challan/ Treasury Challan/Receipt (non refundable) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam / GDA Tangmarg (M.H 0059) and earnest money / bid security in the shape of CDR / FDR pledged to the Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Baramulla / Kupwara.
2. The Bids received upto due date and time shall be opened online on the scheduled date in the office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Baramulla / Kupwara. In the event the date of opening is declared as a holiday the e-tenders shall be opened on next working date;
3. Only percentage template BoQ shall be followed for the instant work. The intending bidder shall quote rate percentage above/ below or at par corresponding to J&K SSR 2020. The actual work done quantities shall be accordingly paid for depending upon the depth of snow and corresponding to Schedule Rates provided in the SSR 2020.
4. The bids shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening. A bid valid for shorter period shall be rejected;
5. The rates and prices quoted by the bidder shall remain fixed during the currency of contract and shall not be subject to adjustment on any account;
6. Currencies: All payments will be made in Indian Rupees;
7. The bidder among other documents shall upload the following documents with bid which shall form a part of technical bid;
8. A duly renewed copy of Enlistment Registration Card;
9. Scan copy of CDR and treasury challan.
10. Copy of GST registration with latest copy of return.
11. Verification certificate of Registration Card.
12. Scanned Copy of PAN Card.
13. Note: Date of CDR, Treasury Challan Shall be after the date of publishing date of NIT.
14. Single cover system: In the first instance technical evaluation of the bids as received shall be carried out to assess the technical responsiveness & non responsiveness of bidders who have participated in the bidding followed by comparison of financial part of bids of technically responsive bidders. The evaluation report, both technical & financial, shall be uploaded on the Departmental Website for the information of the bidders.
15. Any loss caused to the Department which is attributable to the contractor, shall be recovered from the contractor;
16. Snow clearance stage contractor is bound to do the snow clearance immediately as and when he is directed to do so. The contractor has to keep in close touch with the department / officers to be present in the stage allotted along with necessary tools, labour machinery etc., at the time of every snow fall so that there is no delay in clearance of snow. In case contractor fails to comply with these instructions, clearance work will be undertaken through other agency at the risk and cost of the Contractor without serving any notice.
17. In case contractor fails to carry out the snow clearance as per the scheduled period and to provide immediately motor paths, he shall bear the penalty of Rs. 3000/- (Three Thousand) for each day of delay along with other penalties including debarment from participating in bidding in (R&B) Deptt. for a period of atleast one year.
18. Depending upon the depth of snow, the snow clearance period is fixed as under:-
19. a. Average snow fall upto 12 inch depth of snow = (One day)
20. b. Average snow fall upto 24 inch depth of snow = (Two days)
21. c. Average snow fall upto 36 inch and ABOVE DEPTH of snow = (Three days)
22. The snow clearance of roads shall also include passing places to be provided as per norms;
23. The Earnest money in favour of unsuccessful / Non-responsive bidders shall be released only after submission of original instrument towards cost of Tender document Fee. Non submission of tender document fee shall constitute sufficient ground to initiate action against the Contractor;
24. In the event if one particular bidder bags more than one stage contract, contractual obligation to deploy adequate men and machinery at each site concurrently shall have to be ensured failing which penalty shall be imposed upon for each day of delay.
25. Payment to the contractor against work done quantities shall be made as per the rates applicable under JK SSR 2020 for particular depth of snow with contractors quoted rate percentage;
26. The payment against the work done quantities will be subject to release of funds by the Govt. under relevant head of account;
27. Pre-snow clearance and post snow clearance videography/ photography shall be made for reference & record. Each work done claim shall be supported with the photographs indicating date of snow fall, date of clearance and depth of snow, area/ locality / lane/ road /RD-wise with landmarks;
28. The subletting of the work wholly or partly shall not be permitted and will be treated as a breach of contract.
29. In case the snow plough or any other machines arranged by the department for a speedy clearance of snow is deployed, the stage contractor will have to supply the labour for clearance of snow left by the machines for which he will be paid as per the quoted percentage rate above/ below or at par as per SSR 2020.
30. The taxes as admissible shall be deducted from the contractors each claim. The contractors rates shall be deemed to cover all such taxes including GST, CST and nothing extra on this account shall be paid by the Deptt.
31. Insurance cover to the labour/ machinery by the Contractor shall be mandatory;
32. Arbitration: The Arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration procedure stated in J&K Conciliation & Arbitration Act No. XXV of 1997 issued vide SRO No. K03 vide Notification Dt. 11-12-1997 & latest amendments/ modifications thereto;
33. Termination of contract: The Employer may terminate the contract if the Contractor causes a fundamental breach of the Contract. Fundamental breach of contract will include;
34. a. Contractor is declared Bankrupt.
35. b. Any evidence of involvement of Contractor in corrupt practices.
36. c. Contractor delays the completion of work beyond stipulated time of completion.
37. d. Pursuant to the process of termination of defaulted contract, the Employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender for the balance work at the risk and cost of defaulter contractor.
38. Court jurisdiction: In case of any disputes / differences between Contractor and the Deptt. the jurisdiction shall be J&K High Court;
39. No advance payment or mobilization advance shall be given to the Contractor by the Deptt.
40. The terms and conditions as contained in the PWD Form 25 shall also be binding upon the Contractor and shall form part of the Contract Agreement.

Stage No	Name of the Road	Length (KMs)	Priority
15	Yaal to Bonbani via Krishama incld inner links at Yall & krishama, Inner links of Devbug, Katjan & Naid Chek Hardbani to Chek & Bonbani	8.00	I
	Total	1.50	II
25	Engagement of JCB for clearance of snow on Mechanised roads fallen from roof tops in built-up areas on roads as follows	9.50	
	Kunzer Hardshoora road KM 1st		
	Zangam Kunzer Yall road KM 1,8 & 12		
	Druroo Pandithpora road KM 1st		
	Chandilora Treran road KM 1st, 2nd		
	Batpora wahigund road KM 2nd		
	Ziran Hajibal road KM 3, 4		
	Chandilora Kalantara KM 1st		

No. R&B/Div/M/6716-36  
Dt. 30-11-2021  
DIPK-13940/21

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
(R&B) Sub Division Magam.



**IN VIEW OF THE RISING GLOBAL CONCERNS** over the new Covid of variant – Omicron - administration in Kashmir has set up three special quarantine centres for arriving international passengers, especially from 'at-risk' countries in Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Workshop On Oxford's Journalist Fellowship Programme

**SRINAGAR:-** Oxford Kashmir Forum (OxKF) is pleased to organise a workshop for Kashmiri journalists on the Journalist Fellowship Programme at the University of Oxford on Saturday, 4 December 2021 from 4.00 PM to 5.00 PM IST.

The Journalist Fellowship Programme at Oxford's Reuters Institute is one of the world's leading schemes for practising, mid-career journalists to take some time out from their day jobs to explore journalism in depth.

This workshop will be conducted by Mehraj D Lone, Senior Editor, Newslandry who is currently a Journalist Fellow at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford.

This workshop is for Kashmiri journalists (and journalist students) only. We encourage journalists from marginalized and/or underrepresented groups to attend.

### DIAL-EMMA

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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

### RAILWAYS

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

### HIGHWAY STATUS

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

## This Day in History

- 1834 - First US dental society organized (NY).
- 1835 - First US mutual fire insurance company issues first policy (Rhode Island).
- 1847 - Frederick Douglass publishes first issue of his newspaper "North Star".
- 1854 - Eureka Stockade: In what is claimed by many to be the birth of Australian democracy, more than 20 goldminers at Ballarat, Victoria, are killed by state troopers in an uprising over mining licences.
- 1863 - Confederate General James Longstreet abandons his siege at Knoxville, TN.
- 1878 - Settlers arrive at Petach Tikvah, Israel.
- 1910 - Neon lights first publicly displayed (Paris Auto Show).
- 1912 - Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, Greece & Bulgaria sign weapons pact
- 1912 - First Balkan War: The Naval Battle of Elli takes place.
- 1917 - The Supreme Allied War Council, meeting at Versailles to define war aim, fails to reach an agreement.
- 1920 - Turkey & Armenia agree to peace treaty.
- 1922 - First successful technicolor movie (Tall of the Sea), shown in NYC.
- 1934 - Italian colonial Tripoli & Cyrenaica annexed to Libya.
- 1943 - Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy begins.
- 1946 - US government asks UN to order dictator Franco out of Spain.
- 1948 - Chinese refugee ship "Kiangya" explodes in E China Sea killing 1,100.
- 1952 - Marcos Perez Jiménez elected president of Venezuela.
- 1956 - Britain and France pull troops out of Egypt.
- 1965 - USSR launches Luna 8; it crashes on the Moon.
- 1967 - 1st human heart transplant performed by Dr Christian Barnard in South Africa.
- 1967 - Former Indonesian president Sukarno placed under house arrest.
- 1971 - Indo-Pakistani War of 1971: India invades West Pakistan and a full scale war begins claiming hundreds of lives.
- 1973 - Pioneer 10 passes Jupiter (1st fly-by of an outer planet)
- 1985 - 23rd Shuttle Mission (61-B)-Atlantis 2-lands at Edwards AFB.
- 1989 - Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President
- George H. W. Bush, declare the Cold War over.
- 1991 - Hulk Hogan defeats Undertaker to become 4th time WWF champion.
- 1992 - UN Security Council votes unanimous for US led forces to enter Somalia
- 1992 - The Greek oil tanker Aegean Sea, carrying 80,000 tonnes of crude oil, runs aground in a storm while approaching La Coruña, Spain, and spills much of its cargo
- 1995 - England cricket wicket-keeper Jack Russell dismisses Clive Eksteen with his record 11th catch in 2nd Test v South Africa in Johannesburg



HIJRI  
CALENDAR

27

RABI  
-UL-  
SANI

1443

## PRAYERS

FAJR  
5: 53

ZUHR  
12: 20

ASR  
3:45

MAGRIB  
5:25

ISHA  
6:50

# MMU Aghast Over 'Sale' Of Kashmiri Covid Orphans Outside J&K

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu and Kashmir headed by the incarcerated Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has expressed serious concern over the media reports about some Kashmiri Covid orphans being sold in the markets of India by a local NGO, terming it extremely shameful and disgusting.

In a statement, MMU said that as per media reports, many children who became orphans during Covid-19 pandemic were



being sold outside Kashmir at 75,000 to 100,000 rupees.

MMU, which is a conglomerate of the leading religious, milli,

social and educational organisations of Jammu and Kashmir, this was revealed in a media investigative report on a man named Asrar Amin, who runs an NGO 'Global Welfare Charitable.

The MMU said that it is a matter of great sadness and shock that the Kashmir Valley which has been the land of saints and sages, such types of social evils and crimes against humanity are taking place here. "It is a moment of introspection for the entire nation of Kashmir in general and for the leaders and scholars, imams and conscious

citizens in particular."

The MMU strongly condemned such heinous acts and demanded strict action against the individuals and institutions involved.

"This is not a time to sit idle, but the need of the hour is to launch a full and organised campaign at all levels to accelerate overall reform and create awareness in the society in accordance with the teachings and guidance of sunnah," the MMU said, adding that society needs to be aware of such vices and counter them.

**THIS IS NOT A TIME TO SIT IDLE, BUT THE NEED OF THE HOUR IS TO LAUNCH A FULL AND ORGANISED** campaign at all levels to accelerate overall reform and create awareness in the society in accordance with the teachings and guidance of sunnah,"

## Legal Action Against Those Hiding Int'l Travel History: Govt

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:-** Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Thursday warned of legal action against people hiding their international travel history at the Srinagar airport amid the emergence of new virus variant Omicron.

Talking to the media this morning, Aijaz said that international travellers or domestic travellers who have had a travel history in the last two weeks if found to have hidden their travel history will face legal action and be fined Rs 20,000.

The DC said it has been observed that combination of vaccination and facemasks lessens



the chances of infection.

"If we have to save ourselves from earlier lockdown-like circumstances, then there is no alternative other than to adhere to Covid-19 SOPs religiously", he added.

## KU B-tech, Law Students Stage Protest, Demand Online Exams

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** B -tech and law students from Kashmir University on Thursday protested and reiterated their demand for the conduct of examinations online instead of the proposed offline mode by the varsity.

Scores of B-tech students from Institute of Technology Zakura campus and law students including boys and girls as per news agency— assembled while holding banners in their hands reading " We demand online exams", " Online exam unexpected", "and we want justice to press in favour of online exams.

The protesting students said that they are protesting against the decision of the Kashmir University as they have decided to conduct offline exams of all the students when 90 percent classes were conducted online.

"Before few days ago the university issued a notification for our examinations. Only a few days have been left, how is it possible for us to prepare for the exams within a short period of time," one of the B-Tech protesting students said.



"We are not ready for the offline exam as of now. We are demanding the Kashmir University to conduct our exams online," the student said.

"Everyone knows that Covid cases are increasing. How is it safe for us to attend offline exams. Why are they forcing us to put our lives at danger, the students said.

A student of 9th semester B.A.LLB said that their classes were conducted online and later a notification was issued

that fully vaccinated students can attend offline classes followed by notification that a single dose vaccinated won't be allowed in the campus.

"We appeal to the authorities to postpone our offline exam and roll out a new date sheet notification for online exams," the protesters said.

The students urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to personally intervene in the matter—(KNO)

## Erratic Power Supply In Noorbagh, Locals Aghast

KO NEWS SERVICE



**SRINAGAR:-** People in Guzarbal Noorbagh area of old city are aghast over the failure of the authorities to provide proper power supply to them during the prevailing cold weather conditions.

Locals alleged that in this digital age they are facing acute electricity shortage from the last one year.

A group of people said that usually these kinds of problems emerge in the area in winter months.

The locals alleged that REC techno, who has received contracts for the installation of transformers, wires and meters in the area, Failed to get the same done within stipulated time and no action has been initiated by the PDD officials.

"We have been in complete darkness for the last one year. It is pathetic. The administration has failed to provide the basic facilities to the people. Our children are suffering," locals said.

"The erratic power supply is more annoying than having no electricity at all," Javid Ahmad, a local resident.

They alleged PDD of ignoring their sufferings. "As soon as the winter approaches, the electricity starts playing hide and seek here in the valley, however our area has no electricity at all" Mudasir Gul, a shopkeeper said.

**WE HAVE BEEN IN COMPLETE DARKNESS** for the last one year. It is pathetic. The administration has failed to provide the basic facilities to the people. Our children are suffering,"

## Strategic Meeting On Himalayan Biodiversity Conservation Held At KU

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** A strategic meeting on 'Biodiversity: Current Status, Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation' was held at the University of Kashmir on Thursday.

The day-long meeting was organised under the aegis of J&K Chapter of Himalayan Knowledge Network (HKN) and was attended by academics from the University of Kashmir, some other universities in Kashmir and officers of several J&K government departments such as Forests, Wildlife, Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries

and WUMCA etc.

KU Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir chaired the inaugural session of the meeting and underscored how such important deliberations amongst key stakeholders will lead to better policy formulation on biodiversity in the Indian Himalayan Region.

Dr Mir said the university, under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad, is committed to generate an effective mechanism to feed the knowledge, information and research generated in the university into policy-planning on critical issues like biodiversity and water resources management.

Nodal Officer J&K Chapter of HKN Prof Zafar A Reshi outlined the objectives of the HKN. He said two major themes—biodiversity and water resources management—have been chosen for wider deliberations at the HKN forum, which shall cover a range of issues concerning these critical areas, including their current status, on-ground situation and future planning. He said the information and data so generated will be compiled in the form of a report to be submitted to Niti Aayog for incorporating the same in the policy formulation and planning in these areas

## From KO Archives

## US Steps Up Efforts For Kashmir Breakthrough

Azim M Mian

**NEW YORK:** Efforts for Musharraf-Vajpayee meeting have been accelerated, despite the Pakistan claim of no such invitation by India, sources told The News on Sunday.

According to these sources, the United States— whose quiet diplomacy has caused ceasefire along LoC during Ramazan — fully supports such a meeting.

They believed Pakistan will get the dividends of this move; and the IMF decision on loans for Pakistan is one example. Islamabad's acceptance of the ceasefire, coming a day after IMF's decision on loans, indicates the link they said. They claimed that a change in the White House would not affect the peace process in Kashmir.

This has been confirmed by a much-controversial figure, Mansoor Ijaz, who has played role in the US track-II policy on Kashmir. "we are making every effort for a meeting between General Musharraf of Pakistan and Atal Behari Vajpayee of India- and hope these efforts would bear fruit,"

Mansoor Ijaz said in a telephonic interview with the Pakistani newspaper, The News. Known for his articles in the US media, Mansoor claimed his visits to Delhi Islamabad and Srinagar, and his meetings with Atal Behari Vajpayee, General Musharraf, Farooq Abdullah and others were fully supported by the Clinton administration.

He said that the peace proposal for Kashmir carried by him to South Asia was fully endorsed by President Clinton. The US administration too never denied Mansoor's much-publicized claims of Clinton's backing. Rather his article carried by International Herald Tribune in its November 22 issue is a good way of knowing current political developments in Kashmir.

I welcome the announcement by Pakistan who has put the ball in the Indian court by responding positively to the Indian offer of ceasefire in Kashmir. India has been running a public relations campaign against Pakistan on Kashmir.

Pakistan's Gen Musharraf has effectively countered the India move by his announcement of the ceasefire," Mansoor, currently in the Middle East, said. He also said that he had carried a letter from Hizbul Mujahideen leader, Commander Salahuddin addressed to President Clinton seeking his support and confirmation for the peace process in the held region.

(Kashmir Observer, 03 December, 2000)

UN Projects Soaring Humanitarian Needs In World In 2022



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The United Nations is predicting that a record 274 million people who together would amount to the world's fourth most-populous country will require emergency humanitarian aid next year in countries like Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Syria and Yemen which face a raft of challenges including war, insecurity, hunger, climate change and the coronavirus pandemic.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in its annual overview of future needs, is projecting a 17% jump in the number of people who will need urgent assistance in 2022, and is appealing to donors to provide a record \$41 billion to help 183 million people who are the most in need.

The climate crisis is hitting the world's most vulnerable people first and worst. Protracted conflicts grind on, and instability has worsened in several parts of the world, notably Ethiopia, Myanmar and Afghanistan, said Martin Griffiths, the head of OCHA. The pandemic is not over, and poor countries are deprived of vaccines.

The appeal pulls together needs from an array of UN agencies and their partners, and is likely to fall short of its ambitions. This year, donors provided over \$17 billion for projects in last year's Global Humanitarian Overview from OCHA, but funding has been less than half of the UN request for 2021.

This year, Griffiths said, "We reached 70 percent of the people that we wanted to. We're aware that we're not going to get the \$41 billion, much as we will try hard."

The overview lays out country-specific plans for 30 countries, half of

them in Africa, and most of the rest in the Middle East or Latin America.

Griffiths cited estimates by the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation that 45 million people are at risk of famine, in dozens of countries.

Humanitarian aid matters, said Griffiths. We were able to stop famine affecting half a million people in southern Sudan...we delivered health care to 10 million people in Yemen...we've helped vaccinate millions in Myanmar."

OCHA says more than 24 million people require life-saving assistance in Afghanistan, driven by conflict, political turmoil, the coronavirus, economic shocks and the worst drought in more than a generation.

We never left Afghanistan. And we are there now with a projected programme for 2022, three times the size of the programme for 2021 because of the various needs and circumstances that you know so well, he said.

That appeared to be an allusion to the ouster of the internationally-backed Afghan government by Taliban fighters in August, and surge of humanitarian needs in the country including the fight against famine and hunger since then.

Griffiths said the situation in Ethiopia, where the government has been battling fighters from the Tigray region, is the most worrying in terms of urgent, immediate need and said he was very worried about a possible siege by fighters on the capital, Addis Ababa.

The capacity to respond to an imploded Ethiopia is almost impossible to imagine, he said.

I think Ethiopia is the most concerning, Griffiths said, adding: It's a terrible thing to have to choose between, you know, places of such great need in the world.



MOST INFECTIONS STEM from travelers carrying the disease across borders.

Omicron Widens, Reaching Nations From US To South Korea

Agencies

The omicron variant of Covid-19, first identified in South Africa, has now been detected in countries from the U.S. to South Korea, underscoring the difficulties of curtailing contagious new strains.

Most infections stem from travelers carrying the disease across borders. Israel, for instance, said a confirmed case who arrived from Malawi rode on a bus from Tel Aviv. Italy's first case traveled around the country for days before testing positive. The first omicron case was confirmed in the U.S. in a person who returned from South Africa, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Researchers worldwide are racing to understand the full impact of the new strain, and governments have banned travelers from South Africa and nearby countries on concerns omicron could evade the protection of vaccines and fuel new surges.

Here's how far omicron has reached:

**South Africa:** Early PCR test samples showed that 90% of 1,100 new cases reported midweek in the province that includes Johannesburg were caused by the variant. The daily number of new confirmed cases almost doubled to 8,561 infections, according to

**RESEARCHERS WORLDWIDE** are racing to understand the full impact of the new strain, and governments have banned travelers from South Africa and nearby countries on concerns omicron could evade the protection of vaccines and fuel new surges.

**U.K.:** Five cases, the two latest cases are not connected to each other and not related to the previous three confirmed infections linked to travel in South Africa

**Germany:** Two cases in travelers who arrived at Munich airport from South Africa, AFP reported, citing regional officials.

**Netherlands:** 13 cases detected among travelers from South Africa

**Denmark:** Two cases in arrivals from South Africa

**Belgium:** One case

**Israel:** One confirmed case and other suspected ones, as of Nov. 27.

**Italy:** One case who moved around the country before testing positive

**Czech Republic:** One case, according to local media

**Austria:** One confirmed case

in Tyrol for person arriving from South Africa. Authorities reviewing another 30 suspected cases

**Switzerland:** Three cases. People are in isolation

**France:** Thirteen suspected cases, according to a government spokesman

**Portugal:** Preliminary tests of 13 cases "strongly" suggests they're all related to the omicron variant. One of the cases involves a person who had a recent trip to South Africa.

**Spain:** One case, according to Madrid's health ministry

**Sweden:** One case, according to the country's Public Health Agency

**Hong Kong SAR:** Four imported cases confirmed, two of them related to South Africa and the others to Nigeria

**Australia:** Six cases in New South Wales state. The sixth case was a fully vaccinated traveller who had recently visited southern Africa, according to NSW Health

**Japan:** One confirmed patient, who returned from Namibia. A second case was recorded in a person arriving from Peru

**Canada:** Five cases, including a first case in Quebec who had traveled from Nigeria, according to Reuters, citing Ottawa Public Health

**Brazil:** Two cases. Spotted in samples from a married couple who had recently arrived from South Africa

Negative Covid Test 1 Day Before Travel: Tough US Rules From Next Week

Agence France-Presse

**Washington:** President Joe Biden will announce Thursday a winter campaign against Covid-19, with new testing requirements for travelers and a surge in vaccination efforts -- but no clear path to defeating the pandemic he was elected to confront.

Biden has brought steady leadership after the chaotic Donald Trump years, but the mutating coronavirus continues to defy him, helping drive his approval ratings deep underwater.

In a speech from the National Institutes of Health research center outside Washington, Biden is set to list a raft of actions designed to tamp down Covid-19 during the winter as the latest Omicron variant spreads worldwide.

The first US case was detected on Wednesday.

Top of the list will be an announcement that toughened rules on testing for travelers will take effect within days, a senior administration official said.



Biden will "announce that we are further strengthening our testing requirements so that starting early next week, all international travelers will be required to test negative within one day of their departure to the United States," the official told reporters.

This will apply to all travelers, both US and foreign, regardless of whether they have been vaccinated, the official said.

For domestic travelers, Biden will announce he is extending a mask mandate on airplanes, trains and other public transport through mid-March.

The barrage of measures is partly meant to reassure Americans that Biden is doing everything possible to prevent the pandemic from derailing the impetuous US economic recovery -- and the Christmas holidays.

Biden and his aides have repeatedly stressed in recent days that there will be no return to mass shutdowns.

But the White House also faces the stubborn fact that many Americans are not receptive to Biden's appeals for collective action.

Despite ever-more creative attempts to lure people to get their shots, about 40 percent of the country has yet to be fully vaccinated.

About 100 million people who are eligible to get booster shots have still not taken the opportunity.

Iran Says Nuclear Deal 'Within Reach' If West Shows Goodwill



Agencies

Iran's top diplomat says an agreement to revive his country's nuclear deal with world powers was "within reach" but that this depended on the goodwill of the West.

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Twitter on Thursday that negotiations in the Austrian capital, Vienna, were "proceeding with seriousness" and that the removal of sanctions was a "fundamental priority".

"Good deal within reach if the West shows good will. We seek rational, sober and result-oriented dialogue," said Amir-Abdollahian.

The talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and several world powers -- Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States -- resumed on Monday after Iran paused them in June following the election of President Ebrahim Raisi.

The US, which unilaterally pulled out of the deal in 2018, is only participating in the talks indirectly at Iran's insistence.

The goal of the deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is to make it practically impossible for Iran to build an atomic bomb while allowing it to pursue a ci-

vilian nuclear programme.

Under the pact, Tehran limited its nuclear programme in exchange for relief from US, EU and UN economic sanctions.

**Iran submits proposals**

Separately on Thursday, Iran provided the European powers involved in the deal with two drafts on sanctions removal and nuclear commitments, Iran's top nuclear negotiator said.

"We have delivered two proposed drafts to them ... Of course they need to check the texts that we have provided to them. If they are ready to continue the talks, we are in Vienna to continue the talks," Ali Bagheri Kani told reporters.

A European diplomat confirmed draft documents had been handed over.

Al Jazeera's Ali Hashem, reporting from Vienna, said the proposals seemed to indicate "solid" progress at the talks.

"We understand from an Iranian diplomatic source that one of these proposals will be about lifting the sanctions, and the other will be on Iran rolling back the measures it took after the United States withdrew from the nuclear deal," he said.

"The elements of these proposals are going to be built upon what was agreed on in the past six rounds of talks between Iran and the world powers.

US Defence Chief Slams China's Drive For Hypersonic Weapons



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said Thursday that China's pursuit of hypersonic weapons increases tensions in the region and vowed the US would maintain its capability to deter potential threats posed by China.

Austin made the remarks in Seoul following annual security talks with his South Korean counterpart that focused on challenges from China and North Korea and other issues facing the allies.

We have concerns about the military capabilities that the PRC continues to pursue, and the pursuit of those capabilities increases tensions in the region, Austin said while discussing China's latest hypersonic weapons test in July and using the abbreviation for the People's Republic of China, the country's official name.

"It just underscores why we consider the PRC to be our pacing challenge," said Austin, referring to how China's advancing military capabilities raise threats to US defense strategies.

We'll continue to maintain the

capabilities to defend and deter against a range of potential threats from the PRC to ourselves and to our allies," he said.

China's growing military muscle and its drive to end American pre-dominance in Asia has triggered unease in Washington. The Chinese push was highlighted by its July test of a hypersonic weapon capable of partially orbiting the Earth before reentering the atmosphere and gliding on a maneuverable path to its target. Experts say the weapons system is closely designed with a purpose of evading US missile defences, although China insisted it was testing a reusable space vehicle, not a missile.

Last month, Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the US is also working on hypersonic weapons. But there is concern in Washington that it is lagging behind China and Russia in pursuing these types of weapons. Russia said Monday its navy had successfully tested a prospective hypersonic cruise missile in the latest launch of the weapons system.

Hypersonic weapons, which fly at speeds in excess of Mach 5, or five times the speed of sound, could potentially pose crucial challenges to missile defense systems because of their speed and maneuverability. But some experts argue that hypersonic weapons would add little to America's ability to deter war and worry that they could trigger a new, destabilizing arms race.

NEWS MAKERS

Victory For Meghan Markle As UK Tabloid Loses Appeal In Privacy Case

Agencies

**LONDON:** A British court dismissed an appeal by a tabloid paper against a ruling that it had breached the privacy of Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, by printing parts of a handwritten letter she wrote to her estranged father.

The Mail on Sunday newspaper was seeking to overturn a High Court ruling that it breached Meghan's privacy and copyright by publishing parts of the letter she sent to her father Thomas Markle in August 2018, three months after her wedding to Prince Harry, Queen Elizabeth's grandson.

The decision spares Meghan from having to appear at a trial in

which her father would also have given evidence.

The appeal was launched after high court judge Mark Warby earlier this year ruled in Meghan's favour, concluding the paper should print a front-page apology and pay her legal bills.

After her original court victory, Meghan said the paper and its publisher had been held accountable for their "illegal and dehumanizing practices".

"The damage they have done and continue to do runs deep," she said.

Lawyers for the Mail argued that Meghan, 40, had penned the letter knowing it could become public, a suggestion she rejected.

During the hearings at the appeal court last month, the paper's legal



team produced a witness statement from her former communications chief Jason Knauf which they said cast doubt on her account.

Knauf's statement also showed she and Harry had discussed providing assistance to authors of a biography about the couple, something she had previously denied. That led to the duchess apologising but said she had not intended to mislead the court.

Meghan penned the five-page letter to Markle following a collapse in their relationship in the run-up to her wedding, which her father missed due to ill health and after he admitted posing for paparazzi pictures.

The paper, which published extracts in February 2019, argued Markle wanted the letter public to respond to anonymous comments by Meghan's friends in interviews with the U.S. magazine People.

Bangladesh Mayor Arrested For Refusing Mural Of PM's Father

Bangladesh mayor who has refused to permit a mural depicting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's father on religious grounds has been arrested, police say.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was independent Bangladesh's first leader and since his daughter took power in 2009, authorities have erected more than 1,000 murals and monuments to venerate him.

Dozens of people have also been charged for defaming him under the country's notorious internet laws, which rights groups say have been used by Hasina to silence dissent.

Abbas Ali, the mayor of western Rajshahi city, found himself in the spotlight last month after an audio clip of his comments against a



proposed Mujib mural went viral.

"This is not correct according to Islamic sharia," he had said. "That's why I won't keep it. I will build everything as it's planned, except for this last part."

Doctrinal traditions forbid depictions of people in murals or statues as part of the religion's

restrictions against idolatry.

The mayor's comments triggered protests in his home town. He initially claimed the clip was fake, but later apologised on Facebook and fled town.

Police arrested Ali from a hotel in the capital Dhaka on Wednesday, spokesman Khandaker Al Moin told the AFP news agency.

"He admitted he made the comment. He was absconding in different hotels in Dhaka since November 23. We had information that he's planning to flee the country," he added.

The case follows last month's sacking by Hasina of Zahagir Alam, the mayor of the industrial city of Gazipur after he allegedly defamed Rahman. **AFP**

## 93 Internet Suspension Orders Issued in J&K After SC Ruling

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has issued 93 orders for confirming suspension of internet services in the Union Territory after the Supreme Court directed it to publish all such orders in January 2020.

In its report, the parliamentary panel on Communications and Information Technology has revealed that J&K Government submitted that 93 orders were issued by the competent authority to confirm the decisions of suspension of internet services in the UT.

"UT of J&K in their written submission stated that since issuance of the directions by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a total of 93 orders, including 76 orders issued by the competent authority to the effect of confirming the directions by the authorized officers, have been issued," reads the report.

"All these orders are in the public domain and can be accessed on the official website of the Home Department," it further states.

On January 10, 2020, the Apex Court directed competent authorities to publish all orders in force and any future orders under Section 144 CrPC and for suspension of telecom services, including internet, to enable the affected persons to challenge it before the High Court or appropriate forum.

The committee has also expressed its concern about the prolonged internet shutdown in Kashmir after August 5, 2019. "While the Committee expressed concern about the prolonged internet shutdown in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government indicated that this was undertaken for reasons of national security," the report states. The report was tabled in the Parliament on Wednesday.

## May Require Additional Books for Class I to 7 Students: J&K Govt

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K government has said that it may require additional books for the students of classes' I-VII in view of an increase in fresh enrollment.

The School Education Department in this regard had issued a notification to all Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of Kashmir division, as per reports.

"Since enrolment drive is in full swing in all the schools of the division which has resulted in the additional demand of books in addition to the figures already projected by your district earlier," reads the notification issued by the Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK).

The director said that most of our new enrollment falls in pre-primary classes for which the DSEK has already issued K G Kits for newly enrolled children on a pro-rata basis.

"Besides, the additional requirements can be met out of a school grant recently released by Samagra Shiksha. However, for classes I-VIII there is also a considerable increase in new enrolment for which more books will be required," it reads.

DSEK advised the CEOs to furnish the details of additional requirement of books for classes I-VIII to the DSEK office immediately so that the matter would be taken on priority with JKBOSE authorities

## IUST's Nursing Colleges Commemorate World AIDS Day



### Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA/ CHARARI SHARIEF:** Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) on Wednesday celebrated 'World AIDS Day' themed as "End Inequalities, End AIDS, End Pandemics" organised by its constituent Nursing Colleges at Awantipora and Charari Sharief campuses under the banner of Red Ribbon Club programmes in line with this year's theme by UNAIDS.

Seminar-cum-Workshops were organised by Syed Mantaqi Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMCN&MT), Awantipora and Alandar Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (AMCONMT) Charari Sharief Budgam in collaboration with Jammu Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS) and Jammu and Kashmir Paramedical Council.

Registrar IUST Prof. Naseer Iqbal, who was also the Chief Guest AT IUST appreciated the constitu-

ent Nursing Colleges of IUST for regularly organising events aimed at creating awareness in the society. While emphasizing the importance of World AIDS Day, he stressed on the importance of educating general public about this deadly disease and also encouraged to play their role as responsible citizens and able nursing professionals of tomorrow.

Assistant Director (JKACS), Department of Health and Medical Education, Dr. Rumisa Shawl in her address emphasized the importance of this day and highlighted its role in generating an understanding about its epidemiology and also realising the prevalence of inequalities among AIDS patients. She discussed the work done by health workers at JKACS and said, "JKACS is already providing all the facilities for AIDS patients at PHCs, CHCs and District hospitals further these facilities will be available at dispensaries and small rural areas for free of cost."

# Omicron Threat: DHSK Sounds Valley Wide Alert

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather on Thursday chaired a meeting with health officials including Chief Medical Officers, NHM officials, Medical Superintendents of hospitals to discuss the Covid-19 scenario.

A spokesperson of the Directorate of Health Services said that the Director reviewed all the Covid-19 related arrangements and discussed measures being put in place in view of the Covid variant Omicron, classified as a Variant of Concern by the WHO.

He directed all the Chief Medical Officers and Medical Superintendents to remain in an alert situation and keep the hospitals in ready mode in case of any kind of eventuality.

The Director directed the officials to keep at least 20 beds available in district hospitals and keep the Covid-19 related supplies available in hospitals for any kind of eventuality.

Dr Mushtaq stressed on IEC activities and awareness should be increased among the general public and said that adherence to SOPs, Covid Appropriate Behavior, social distancing and wearing of masks are the first line of defense of any

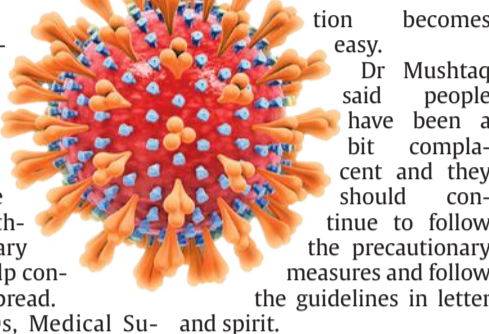


kind of variant.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the director appealed to the general public to follow the SOPs besides other precautionary measures to help contain the virus spread.

All the CMOs, Medical Superintendents and other officials were given the latest guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, which were revised afresh in view of the Covid variant Omicron.

During the meeting, the Director focused on testing and directed the hospital administrators that testing should be increased so that case detec-



tion becomes easy.

Dr Mushtaq said people have been a bit complacent and they should continue to follow the precautionary measures and follow the guidelines in letter and spirit.

The director said showing some disregard towards established SOPs could have disastrous consequences and can be very detrimental in our fight against the virus.

He said the department is ready and all the measures related to oxygen supplies and availability of medicines besides other arrangements have already been put in place to face any eventuality.

## CS Directs Macadamization Of 8,000 Km's By March 2021

### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Public Works (R&B) Department and take stock of progress made under the flagship programme, 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' (PMGSY).

Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department and the concerned officers of the Department were present in the meeting.

It was informed that presently the Department is maintaining 41,584 km road length across Jammu and Kashmir which includes National Highways, PMGSY, R&B roads and 1343 bridges.

Under PMGSY I & II, sanction was given to 3463 schemes including 241 bridges covering a length of 19,078.34 km to connect 2144 habitations at an estimated cost of Rs. 12,592.46 crore.

It was informed that so far the Department has completed 2400 schemes including 132 bridges, with a length of 15,802.34 km and connected 2026 habitations.

In the current financial year, the Department has completed 272 schemes with a length of 1500 km to connect 69 habitations and will also target completion of additional 880 schemes and 2000 km of road length in the next four months.

The Chief Secretary asked the Department to focus on providing connectivity to all habitations with population of over 1000 as per the 2011 cen-



sus through the time-bound implementation of PMGSY and NABARD projects in the road sector by March 2023.

To ensure hassle-free and time-bound shifting of various utilities, the Chief Secretary directed the constitution of a standing committee comprising the Administrative Secretaries and officers of the departments of Jal Shakti, Power Development, and Public Works (R&B). The committee will formulate a mechanism and accordingly draw a road map to ensure resolution of issues hampering the process of utility shifting.

The Department was also asked to keep a check on the quality standards of new constructions and ensure the creation of high quality infrastructure, besides undertaking routine inspections with focussed attention on maintenance work. It was further asked to focus on developing proper drainage and camberage for surface water drainage so as to prevent road damage during heavy rainfalls.

Moreover, the Department was asked to prioritize blacktopping of roads towards developing and maintaining pot-hole-free roads in Jammu and Kashmir. The Department will

be macadamizing 8,000 km of road length during 2021-22 during this financial year.

Under the 3rd phase of PMGSY, the PWD Department has submitted a proposal identifying 1,750 km of rural roads to be developed in the next financial year.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed issues related to un-awarded works, forest clearances, land acquisition, quality standards, and utility shifting.

Over the years, the Public Works Department has been registering progressive achievements under the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana. The Department has achieved completion of 1500 km of rural road in the first three quarters of current financial year which far exceeds the achievement of 1325 km registered in the financial year 2019-20.

The Department completed approximately 1785 km road length (under 89 schemes) in the financial year 2016-17, 1804 km (under 151 schemes) in 2017-18, 1622 km (under 226 schemes) in 2018-19, 1325 km (under 214 schemes) in 2019-20, 3167 km (under 272 schemes) in 2020-21, and is likely to surpass last year achievement this year.

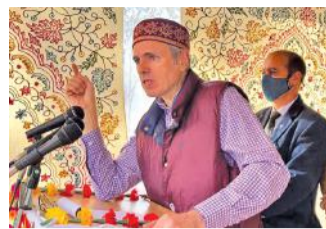
## J&K Youth Find Themselves Surrounded by Darkness: Omar

### Observer News Service

**RAMBAN:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Party Vice President Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that J&K youth find themselves surrounded by darkness in view of the very limited employment opportunities, shrinking further for them.

He said this while addressing a public gathering at Ramban. Among others Party General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, Provincial President Jammu Ratan Lal Gupta, senior leaders Khalid Naezeb Suharawardy, Sajad Kitchloo, Tanvir Sadiq, Aijaz Jan, Sajad Shaheen, Chaman Lal, Jagveer Dass were also present on the occasion.

In his address Omar said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have been the most hit due to the decisions of 5 August 2019. "The government jobs which should have been given to our youth are going to outsiders. It is the youth of Jammu, Kashmir, Chenab and Pir Panjal regions who should have the first rights over the employment generated in their region. The situation in Chenab is much worse; ideally much of the employment generated in local power and road infrastructure projects initiated by NC governments in this region should have gone into the hands of local educated, skilled youth of Chenab region. It is not. On the contrary, the outsourcing of jobs and contracts have rendered our youth in this



region, and elsewhere hopeless. It is against this injustice that we are fighting against," he said.

On BJP's claims of fostering development and progress in Jammu and Kashmir post 5th August 2019, he said, "Promised dawn of development, jobs for youth and much touted investment remains to be a distant dream. Far from putting the region on a path of development, the ruling dispensation has liquidated the hard-earned dividends of previous NC led governments in bridging the gulf between the people and the government. We are fighting to bridge that gulf by fighting for the restoration of their abridged constitutional rights," he said.

Incumbent ruling dispensation in New Delhi is looking at the Muslims of the country and Jammu and Kashmir with profound mistrust, he said adding, "People of J&K particularly the Muslims and the NC cadre have been consistent in their faith in Indian Constitution. We have cherished our bond with the country and given supreme sacrifices to defend it. We in NC have shouldered the bodies of our colleagues, and workers who gave their lives in protecting this bond."

## JKPCC Observes National Pollution Prevention Day



**JAMMU:** Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee observed National Pollution Prevention Day by organizing an awareness workshop for dairy farmers and Gaushala operators to ensure scientific disposal of cattle dung and other dairy waste and adopt best available technologies to minimize pollution and utilize the valuable dairy farm resource to maximum possible extent.

The awareness workshop was organized in line with the theme of National Pollution Prevention Day to raise awareness about the importance of pollution control and educate stakeholders on how to prevent pollution.

The workshop started with the inauguration of cattle dung log making machine. The cattle dung log making unit having a capacity of processing approx. 200 kg of cow dung and producing 50-60 logs per hour has been procured with the efforts of the Pollution

Control Committee through M/s Indian Oil Gas Corporation, Jammu. Responsibility of the smooth operation of the machine has been handed over to volunteers of Disha organization.

Inaugural ceremony was followed by detailed deliberations regarding compliance of guidelines for environmental management of dairy farms and gaushalas, standard methods to be adopted and followed by interaction with stakeholders to address the issues being confronted by them.

Satpal, Regional Director, J&K PCC, formally welcomed all the dignitaries and participants in the workshop. He thanked the Management Committee of Gaushala for providing the space and other logistics for running the machine and taking this initiative towards on-site waste management that will help in production of eco-friendly logs that may be used for cremation, as fuel / briquettes in hotel tandoors etc.

## Implementation Of District Good Governance Index Reviewed

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Director General, J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (J&K IMPARD), Saurabh Bhagat and Commissioner Secretary, Planning and Monitoring Department, Mandeep Kour, Thursday reviewed progress on fidelity check of data sets for publication of District Good Governance Index (DGGI) for twenty

districts of the UT during a meeting held in this regard.

Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta, had approved the innovative DGGI for comparing the performance of districts in 10 sectors and 58 parameters.

It was informed in the meeting that the Director General, Economics and Statistics, shall publish the indicators in the district statistical handbook which shall form the basis of DGGI.

## INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CARPET TECHNOLOGY SRINAGAR



Baghi-Ali-Mardhan-Khan, Nowshera, Srinagar

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### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations, affixed with Rs. 5/- revenue stamp, are invited from registered dealers for the supply of following items required by the Institute for Implementation of various interventions sanctioned under Technology Up-gradation Scheme sponsored of National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India:

S. No	Items	Description	Quantity
1	Spun Silk Yarn	2/60 Average Fibre length = 95 to 100 mm Strength = 1.4 N Composition = 100% Silk (Sample Required)	80 Kgs
2	Polyster Thread	100 Pcs/Box	40 box
3	Comb Beater (Panja)	Panja (Pure Masala with finished 20 Dents) (Sample Required)	40 No.
4	Carpet Knife (Khoor)	Khoor (Pure Masala/Farwav Masala with Standard Size) (Sample Required)	40 No.

The quotations accompanied with earnest money in the shape of CDR 2% of the quoted amount pledged to Director IICT, Srinagar must reach this Institute by or before 10-12-2021 till 1.00 p.m. The tenders shall be opened on the same day at 2.30 p.m. The Director, IICT reserves the right to accept/reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPK-NB-5517/21

Sd/-  
Project Coordinator

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD SPILL CHANNEL DIVISION NARBAL

Fax/Phone: 01951-260223

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[exentscnarbal@fckkashmir.com](mailto:exentscnarbal@fckkashmir.com)

No. FSCDN/CS/5827-31

Dated: 30/11/2021.

### (FINAL NOTICE)

**Sub:** Construction of crate protection bund to Nallah Doodganga from Upper Hajam Mohalla Check Sursyar to lower Chana Mohalla Check Sursyar at different spots.

**Ref:** 1. Allotment order No. FSCDN/12 of 09/1021.  
2. Assistant Executive Engineer, FSC Sub-Division Chadoora's letter No. FSC/CSD/Corrs/307, dated: 24/11/2021.

Where as the above subjected work was allotted to you vide this office allotment No. FSCDN/12 of 09/2021.

Where-as you were supposed to start the work within three days & complete the work within the stipulated time.

Where as you have been asked by the Assistant Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Sub-Division Chadoora and this office as well to start and complete the work.

Whereas notices were issued to you by this office, hence giving you ample time to start the work, but you have utterly failed to comply the directions of Assistant Executive Engineer as well as by this office.

Where-as you have failed to start the work till date.

Keeping in view the above facts this office has left with no option but to initiate action against you. Now you are finally directed to start the work within 03 days from the date of issue of this final notice, failing which your CDR for the work will be forfeited and action for debarring you for participating the tenders for a period of two years, shall initiated against yiu, which you note.

Executive Engineer,  
Flood Spill Channel Division,  
Narbal.

DIPK-13947/21

## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### K O V I E W

## Pre-Emptying Omicron

In a welcome decision, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has decided to make RT-PCR testing mandatory for all foreign travellers to the Union territory at airports to tackle the coronavirus variant Omicron's threat. The travellers will be allowed to enter J&K only if they test negative. If the report is negative, the travellers will be sent to home quarantine for seven days and re-tested on the eighth day. And those who test positive will be sent to institutional isolation centres for 15 days and their samples sent for genome sequencing at ICMR-approved laboratories.

The decision follows the sudden advent of the new Covid-19 strain Omicron in South Africa which the World Health Organization has described as a variant "of concern." This has already persuaded the union government to review its strategy of letting in foreign travellers. In a two-hour long recent meeting with senior officials, Prime Minister Narendra Modi directed officials to review plans for easing of international travel restrictions. The PM said travellers must be tested on arrival as per guidelines and called for a particular focus on countries identified "at risk". He laid emphasis on increasing coverage of the second dose of the vaccine so that adequate immunity is achieved against fresh infections. The PM also urged people to adopt masking and social distancing to prevent the infection from spreading.

Meanwhile, Omicron poses a serious threat to the world economy which was beginning to rebound from the lockdowns of the last one and a half year. The new strain is believed to be deadlier than the previous strains including the Delta. A South African communicable diseases expert has said that Omicron "will outcompete Delta". Even though, the countries are putting strict checks in place for the fresh visitors, some infected persons are slipping through the checks. Saudi has confirmed its first case of Omicron variant coming from a north African country. So, there is fear that the new strain will be difficult to contain despite the restrictions.

For now, however, India has no cause for alarm. On Wednesday, India reported reported just 8,954 new coronavirus cases and 267 related fatalities. The national recovery rate currently stands at 98.36 per cent, which is the highest since March 2020. The active cases in the country stand at 99,023 or 0.29 percent of the total cases. But the country can't afford to let its guard down. So, while strict restrictions should be in place for the travellers at the airports, the union and the state governments have to also enforce SOPs to ensure there is no fresh surge in delta related cases.

### O T H E R O P I N O N

## Road To Recovery: On Sustaining Growth

The latest GDP and GVA estimates from the National Statistical Office have affirmed that the economy is now on the path to recovery after last fiscal's record contraction. Second quarter gross domestic product expanded 8.4%, rebounding from the year-earlier period's 7.4% contraction. While the statistical advantage from the base effect surely aided the expansion, the economy appears to have gathered just enough momentum for GDP to post a marginal 0.3% growth even when compared with the second quarter of the pre-pandemic 2019-20 fiscal year. The gross value added figures, which capture the extent of activity across the eight major formal sectors of the real economy, too underscore the improvement, with the July-September 2021 GVA figure of 32.89-lakh crore registering a 0.5% expansion from the July-September period of 2019. Five of the eight sectors posted growth not just from the year-earlier quarter but also surpassed the pre-COVID-19 performance. Manufacturing, which has the second-largest share of GVA, appears to have regained traction and was the bulwark of GVA, logging a 3.9% expansion from the pre-pandemic second quarter of fiscal 2020. The key employment-providing services categories, however, are yet to fully recover from the pandemic's devastating impact, and along with construction, another major provider of jobs, lagged pre-pandemic levels by a cumulative 77,000 crore. With the potential impact of the Omicron variant a big unknown, the outlook here may stay hazy for now.

A disaggregated view of the GDP data also reveals areas of concern that could undermine the recovery. Private final consumption expenditure that measures spending on everything from essentials to luxury goods and the entire gamut of services by all consumers, and has the largest share of GDP at 55%, is still treading water. The uncertainty induced by the pandemic, coupled with reduced or lost incomes, continues to depress demand and is mirrored in consumer spending still remaining 3.5% shy of the pre-COVID level. Government consumption spending, which has often been a reliable alternative source of demand with a capacity to serve as a multiplier, is also well below the fiscal 2020 second quarter, possibly by design as the Centre seeks to consolidate its fiscal position. Unless aggregate demand strengthens, the heartening uptick in business investment, as reflected in the 11% year-on-year jump in gross fixed capital formation, could come to naught with capacity additions remaining underutilised and corporate captains yet again tightening their purse strings. Manufacturing PMI data by IHS Markit has another salutary warning: rising input costs could force manufacturers to raise prices adding to the general inflationary pressures in the economy and undermine the recovery. Policy makers need to ramp up demand-supportive measures including increasing government spending to ensure that the recovery sustains and gains traction.

The Hindu

# The Inflation Conundrum

From The US And Brazil To Turkey And India, Growing Price Pressures Are Leaving Policymakers Facing Some Difficult Decisions. Unlike In Many Previous Global Inflationary Episodes, What Is Remarkable This Time Is How Different The Cross-Country Experiences Have Been.



OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, rising prices have cornered a lot of attention, both globally and in India.

KAUSHIK BASU

**INDIA FACES AN ESPECIALLY tricky inflation problem. Retail inflation is elevated but not at the level seen in many other economies. It rose to 4.5% in October, up slightly from 4.4% in September, and has been hovering around this range. But wholesale price inflation, is getting out of hand**

ITHACA – Until a few months ago, talk of inflation was little more than a murmur: dry data from the statistical office, reports tucked away in the newspaper, and an occasional commentary. Now the discussion is urgent and anxious, as news of rising price levels comes in from economies around the world, including Argentina, Brazil, Turkey, India, and, most important, the United States.

The surge in inflation in the US, the world's largest economy, is causing the greatest concern because its spillover effects are invariably far-reaching. The trouble is that – in a debate bookended by Paul Krugman and Olivier Blanchard – no one fully understands what is happening. Krugman thinks the current inflationary pressure is a short-term episode triggered by supply-chain disruptions, while Blanchard sees it as the result of the large spending under President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan, and as a prelude to a longer battle.

Unlike Krugman, I believe that rising US inflation, currently at a 30-year high of 6.2%, is caused by this big spending package. But I also believe, contrary to Blanchard, that Biden's policy intervention was right, and that higher inflation is a price worth paying for the benefits the rescue plan has brought, particularly to the most vulnerable Americans.

This relief is reflected in the latest US data. During three months preceding September, the US saw higher wage increases than any time in the last 20 years. Workers have gained a stronger bargaining position, and have even stayed away from the labor market when their wage demands have been unmet.

To be sure, US policymakers will have to navigate some difficult terrain ahead, because the COVID-19 crisis has left many open wounds. A recent University of Michigan survey found that one-quarter of Americans expect their financial situation to worsen in the near term, a level of pessimism not seen since the Great Recession of 2008-09. All this is cause for global worry, because a US slowdown with elevated inflation will have adverse effects worldwide.

The US Federal Reserve will likely have to raise interest rates more sub-

stantially than it is currently indicating (which no doubt reflects a desire to discourage speculative dollar appreciation). But the US has expertise enough to pull out of this inflationary period, and its monetary and fiscal policies are broadly on the right track. Other important economies, such as Turkey and Brazil, face a direr situation. Turkey currently has an alarming annual inflation rate of 19.9%. Making matters worse, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has strong (and wrong) views about how to control inflation. He believes the right response is to reduce interest rates. This can very occasionally be the right policy, such as when there is a lot of carry trade. But it is not the correct response now. It is thus not surprising that the Turkish lira has been losing value sharply, prompting some to warn of a currency meltdown.

Brazil has recently joined the list of countries with double-digit price growth, with annual retail inflation of 10.7% causing huge hardship for the poor. Moreover, inept policymaking by President Jair Bolsonaro's government – the Economist recently criticized its "fiscal incontinence" – has stoked fears that the economy is on the verge of a technical recession.

Unlike in many previous global inflationary episodes, what is remarkable this time is how different the cross-country experiences have been. The reason is probably that, while the current inflationary trends have a common cause, namely, the rebound from the pandemic-induced slowdown, countries' diverse responses to this novel crisis have led to varied economic performance.

India, for example, faces an especially tricky inflation problem. Retail inflation is elevated but not at the level seen in many other economies. It rose to 4.5% in October, up slightly from 4.4% in September, and has been hovering around this range for several months. But wholesale price inflation, which increased sharply to 12.5% year on year in October, from 10.7% in the previous month, is getting out of hand and has reached its highest levels since the late 1990s.

This poses an unusual policy challenge. The wide divergence between wholesale and retail infla-

tion is evidently squeezing small manufacturers, the self-employed, and workers. Those who buy from the wholesale market and sell on the retail market are seeing their profits tumble. They are cutting back on production and this, in turn, is adversely affecting workers.

If the government allows this divergence to persist on the grounds that consumers are not being badly hit, growth will likely decline as small businesses, already under strain, reduce output and cut employment – and possibly shut down. On the other hand, if the government tries to narrow the gap by letting retail inflation rise, consumers will be hit hard. Given that India was among the world's worst-affected economies during the pandemic and is only now beginning to recover, this would be a huge setback for many citizens. The only reasonable way out is for policymakers to tackle wholesale price inflation directly. This will require a combination of fiscal and monetary measures, like reducing the high tax on fuel that helps to fund government expenditures and slashing all non-essential spending (while supporting those hit hardest by the pandemic). It may also be time for the Reserve Bank of India to consider hiking interest rates.

Inflation management is no easy task. We do not fully understand the links between the world of money and liquidity, on one hand, and that of goods and services on the other. Policymakers must therefore rely on a combination of science – based on the regularities observed in the vast amounts of data available to central banks and treasuries – and judgment. But there is one thing we do know: politics must be kept out of it.

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

*The article was originally published by Project Syndicate*

*The author is a former chief economist of the World Bank and chief economic adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution*



OBSERVER  
MAIL

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

► MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
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## Dear Editor,

Being a student, I am unable to comprehend the policy of the government. In villages, I see students attend daily classes, while in the city, students are disallowed. It means that there is a confusion among the parents about what to do. Those institutions which follow the government guidelines, are forced by the parents to reopen schools. However, a new variant of Covid-19 has come to the surface. Consent letters are fraudulently signed by the students without bothering to show them to their parents. Why doesn't the government make matters clear?

Regards,  
Syed Mustafa Ahmad  
Hajibagh, Zainakote

## Dear Editor,

Ed exams 3rd & 4th semester are already one month late at Degree College Gbl. We, the students of 3rd and 4th semester, request for our centers to be allotted in district Gbl either in degree college or in any preferred higher secondary rather than on the outskirts. The inclement weather is approaching in Kashmir i.e. chillai kalan which is considered terribly cold and life threatening as well to the people of Kashmir. This usually commences from

21st Dec to 29th January every year which is a period of 40 days. It is inescapable that we usually face several problems in Kashmir in the winter months owing to the drastic change in weather conditions due to western disturbances. In harsh winters, the transport problem is the main issue due to bad weather and the dilapidated condition of roads which create many problems to the students who have to come from far flung areas to reach the centre on time. I personally know many of my batch mates who re-

side in far flung areas like Gund Kangan. They had to change two buses to reach the Girls higher Tulmulla which was one of the examination centres last year. They faced a lot of problems in 1st and 2nd semester in the month of December due to unavailability of transport.

We request you to address the matter in time.

Thanking you in anticipation  
B.Ed Batch 2018  
Mudasir Nazar

Mindful Fridays

# Shy Or Socially Anxious?

Wasim Kakroo

Does your child or adolescent find it challenging to socialize with other kids or join in groups? Is it difficult for them to have a small group of friends? Do they tend to avoid social situations in which they might be the centre of attention or stand out from the crowd, such as asking or answering questions in class? In social situations, do they appear withdrawn and take other's comments too seriously especially in social situations?

If this is the case then your child or adolescent may be developing or has developed social anxiety.

It's easy to miss signs of social anxiety especially among preschoolers or those who have recently joined school. This is due to the fact that in preschool or school, children with social anxiety are often quiet and obedient. They may not express their fears or concerns and thus social anxiety may remain unnoticed.

Physical symptoms of social anxiety include nausea, stomach aches, flush-



ing, and trembling.

Social anxiety disorder affects some children and teenagers. This is when a child's social anxiety has been present for more than 6 months and has a substantial impact on their life. SAD is characterised by intense fear and anxiety in social situations, resulting in considerable levels of distress. A child or adolescent with SAD is afraid of offending others, shame from exhibiting anxious symptoms in public, and public scrutiny and negative evaluation. SAD patients often have a high level of distress that is out of proportion to their actual social situation.

**WHEN A CHILD EXPERIENCES**

a fear, a parent's natural reaction is to acknowledge the fear and protect the vulnerable child from harm. However, protecting children from fear-inducing, ambiguous situations might stifle social development and increase fear. Overprotection, while well-intentioned, may prevent a youngster from being exposed to new and challenging social situations. Although there are no perfect formulas for parenting a child with social anxiety risk factors, a balance must be struck between warmth and excessive care

tory of numerous physician sessions and evaluations in response to these somatic complaints. Children as young as four years old might be diagnosed with social anxiety disorder.

#### Signs Among Adolescents

Excessive concern before a social function or excessive preparation for a class presentation may be the earliest signs of social anxiety disorder in teens. Avoidant behaviours (e.g., refusing to attend school, refusing to attend parties, refusing to eat in front of people) may be present in the teen's life.

Adolescents with Social anxiety disorder are afraid of embarrassing themselves in front of their classmates by providing the wrong response, saying something inappropriate, becoming ashamed, or even vomiting. In certain circumstances, social anxiety disorder may develop as a result of a humiliating event. Children may refuse to chat on the phone or even leave the house in extreme circumstances. Symptoms of SAD can interfere with all aspects of a child's life, including relationships, friendships, educational pursuits etc.

## Social Anxiety Behind The Scenes

SAD usually manifests in infancy or adolescence. The cause and maintenance of SAD are influenced by a number of interconnected factors such as genetic predisposition, temperament, parental factors, and environmental impacts.

#### Genetic Factors

There are genetic factors that might contribute to the development of SAD. A positive association has been found between development of SAD in children who have parents with SAD. When occurring at important developmental phases of life, such as infancy or adolescence, environmental stresses such as child abuse, parental separation, or early trauma may alter genetic expression of anxiety. As a result, a kid or adolescent may have important periods of susceptibility to unique environmental stresses in addition to inheriting genetic inclinations for SAD.

A growing body of evidence suggests that early personality traits are linked to the development of social anxiety later in life. Behavioral inhibition is a personality trait that makes a child feel distressed and worried in new situations. Shyness around strangers and withdrawal from new places are examples of behavioral inhibition in children. High behavioral inhibition has been found to be strongly linked with an increase in social anxiety symptoms in children. Behavioral inhibition can be seen in newborns and toddlers, and it lasts for a long period. As toddlers get older, they learn to react more rationally to new events and individuals. However, some children and adolescents will exhibit anxious behaviors throughout

their lives and well into adulthood.

The fear of anxiety-related physical sensations is known as anxiety sensitivity. Children and adolescents with SAD may show higher levels of anxiety sensitivity and may be more likely to see events with unclear social threats as anxiety triggering. Children and adolescents with social anxiety disorder feel that physical symptoms of anxiety would be noticed by others, resulting in embarrassment, mental incapacitation, illness, or higher anxiety level. Individuals with anxiety sensitivity not

including physical punishment and verbal aggression such as severe criticism or humiliation, has been linked to insecure attachment and an increased likelihood of social anxiety.

Research has found a pattern of maternal overprotection, paternal rejection, and decreased emotional warmth linked to SAD. Overcontrol by mothers has been linked to greater levels of social anxiety symptoms and increased chances of SAD rates during adolescence. Other negative parenting practices (for example, lack of affection, poor communica-

**ADOLESCENTS WITH SOCIAL ANXIETY DISORDER ARE AFRAID**

of embarrassing themselves in front of their classmates by providing the wrong response, saying something inappropriate, becoming ashamed, or even vomiting. In certain circumstances, social anxiety disorder may develop as a result of a humiliating event. Children may refuse to chat on the phone or even leave the house in extreme circumstances

only exaggerate the significance of physical anxiety sensations, but they also create increasing mental scenarios in which they feel helpless.

#### Family Factors

Family is an important set up in the learning, growth, and development of children. In addition, the family is a very significant source of recreation and social connection. A large body of research exists about the role of parenting and family in the development of SAD.

#### Parenting

When a child has a stable and trustworthy relationship with his or her parents, they are more likely to become independent, trust other people, and overcome difficult childhood events. Insecure parental attachment, on the other hand, leads to poorer levels of social competence in areas such as social skills, peer interactions, and social status. An insecurely attached youngster learns that they can't rely on their caregiver to be available or responsive. Insecure attachment is characterised by a wide range of negative emotion expressions, displeasure with touch, clinging, and obsession with the parent. Infants born to mothers who themselves suffer from social anxiety have higher rates of insecure attachment. Research has found that high levels of behavioral inhibition and insecure attachment significantly predicted social anxiety in teenagers. Social anxiety can be exacerbated by the separation of the mother, father, or both parents throughout childhood due to illness or marital problems. Children who repeatedly experience that their parent is unavailable or untrustworthy develop a maladaptive attitude toward future interpersonal situations or relationships based on the belief that others will not meet their demands.

Harsh parenting by either parent,

tion, limited autonomy, and a lack of humour) contribute to social anxiety in teenagers by inducing low self-esteem and inefficient ways of handling emotions.

Parents who themselves suffer from SAD may unwittingly contribute to their children's social anxiety. Maternal overprotection induced by their own anxiety can increase social anxiety in adolescents, whereas parental emotional warmth due to a stable emotional atmosphere can reduce chances of SAD among children and adolescents. Parental rejection and poor family climate all contributed to loneliness and decreased friendship quality and hence more chances of SAD.

Though children who are subjected to abuse may suffer from a variety of mental health issues, however, emotional abuse (defined by being screamed or yelled at, outright shaming, being put down or humiliated, or being made to feel unimportant) has been particularly found to be a significant predictor of the development of social anxiety.

Higher degrees of parental social support and acceptance have been linked to reduced levels of social anxiety, in contrast to negative parenting styles. Adolescents who have a strong bond with their mothers and fathers have reduced levels of social anxiety. It has been found that fostering open communication, including children in personal activities, and reinforcing positive behaviors can help parents reduce anxiety sensitivity in their children.

When fathers use strategies to push their young children's boundaries playfully, encourage them to step outside of their comfort zones, and employ innovative ways to play with toys, it may lead to a higher sense of self-esteem and, hence, a lower risk of social anxiety later in life.

Adolescents have been found to have lower levels of social anxiety when their parents provide ex-

impacting the development of SAD would be incomplete. Childhood stressors with a significant social component, such as family interpersonal conflict, can contribute to the development of social anxiety symptoms. Conflict between the parents has been demonstrated to enhance social anxiety symptoms in children, potentially affecting their peer relationships. Witnessing violence, family mental illness, significant injury or illness of a parent, parental divorce, relocation to a different school, and separation from one or both parents have all been found to have an impact on the development of SAD. Children or adolescents who have had numerous stressful life experiences or a single, severe experience during childhood are more likely to develop SAD. Adolescents who do not have a solid family environment or who have bad parental ties are more likely to engage in conforming behaviours with their peers, which can lead to victimisation, rejection, and heightened social anxiety. Emotional intimacy and frequent interaction with family members, especially immediate family members, grandparents, and other relatives, has been shown to protect children and adolescents from developing SAD. Peer acceptance and support has been demonstrated to reduce social anxiety. In adolescence, higher teacher support has been linked to reduced chances of social anxiety and more assertive behavior with peers. Finally, providing cumulative emotional support to children and adolescents across many contexts such as family, friends, and school has been identified as a method for reducing loneliness and social anxiety.

*The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He works at Kashmir Life Line, a free mental health counseling service. Author can be reached at wasimkak-roo21@gmail.com*

Vaccines? Booster Jabs?  
Economic Crisis? What's  
Next For Covid Pandemic

Agencies

The world could see the Covid pandemic begin fading next year into an endemic disease like others humanity lives with, unless glaring inequality in vaccine access drags it out and worse variants emerge.

Even as countries scramble to address a new worrying virus variant and Europe battles a winter resurgence, health experts say that taming the pandemic over the next year is possible.

All the know-how and tools needed to bring the virus under control exist, with ballooning stocks of safe and effective vaccines and new treatments becoming available.

But it remains unclear if we will make the hard choices needed, or allow the pandemic to continue to rage, potentially opening the way to a far worse situation.

"The trajectory of this pandemic is in our hands," Maria Van Kerkhove, the World Health Organization's top expert on the Covid crisis, told reporters recently.

Can we "reach a state where we have gained control over transmission in 2022? Absolutely," she said. "We could have done that already, but we haven't."

A year after the first vaccines came to market, more than 7.5 billion doses have been administered globally.

And the world is on track to produce some 24 billion doses by next June -- more than enough for everyone on the planet. But a dire lack of vaccines in poorer countries and resistance among some to get jabs where they are available have left nations vulnerable as new, more transmissible variants like Delta have sparked wave after wave of infection.

And so the scenes of intubated patients in overcrowded hospitals and long lines of people scrambling to find oxygen for loved ones have continued.

Images of improvised funeral pyres burning across a Delta-hit India have epitomised the human cost of the pandemic.

Officially, more than 5.1 million people have died worldwide, although the



WHO says that the actual toll is likely two to three times that figure.

In the United States, which remains the worst-affected country with close to 800,000 deaths, the constant flow of short obituaries on the FacesOfCovid Twitter account include many who did not have the jab.

"Amanda, a 36-year-old math teacher in Kentucky. Chris, a 34-year-old high school football coach in Kansas. Cherie, a 40-year-old 7th-grade reading teacher in Illinois. All had an impact in their communities. All deeply loved. All unvaccinated," read a recent post.

'Part of the furniture'

Two years after the virus first surfaced in China, countries are still bouncing between opening up and re-imposing restrictions.

Anti-vax protests are rocking a number of countries in Europe, once again the pandemic epicentre, amid fresh lockdowns and looming mandatory vaccination.

Despite such scenes, many experts suggest the pandemic phase will soon be over.

Covid will not fully disappear, but will become a largely controlled endemic disease that we will learn to live with, like the flu, they say.

It will basically "become part of the furniture", Andrew Noymer, an epidemiologist at the University of California in Irvine, told AFP.

Top US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci has also said increased vaccination should soon get us to a point where Covid "might occasionally be up and down in the background but it won't dominate us the way it's doing right now".

'Myopic'

But glaring inequity in vaccine access remains a towering challenge.

About 65 percent of people in high-income countries have had at least one vaccine dose, but just over seven percent in low-income countries, UN numbers show.

Branding the imbalance a moral outrage, the WHO has urged wealthy countries to refrain from providing booster shots to the fully vaccinated until the most vulnerable everywhere have received their first jabs -- but to no avail.

Health experts stress that allowing Covid to spread unabated in some places dramatically increases the chances that new, more dangerous variants could emerge, placing the entire world at risk.

Putting such fears even more in focus was the emergence last week of Omicron, a new concerning Covid variant first detected in southern Africa.

The WHO has warned it poses a "very high" risk globally, although it remains unclear if it is more contagious, dangerous or better at dodging vaccine protections than previous variants.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR(UT)

E-mail:- mbttdivision@yahoo.com

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B TRUCK TERMINAL DIVISION SRINAGAR.

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No TTD-06 of 2021-22

Dated:- 29 /11/2021

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

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	M.H
1	Restoration of damaged approach road surfaces to newly Bus stand Parimpora connecting NH-44 by way of GSB filling G-II in patches /stretches	Rs.2.99 lacs	Rs.200/-	15Days	"DEE"	District Capex

Position of AAA Accorded vides DDC Srinagar's order No:- 230/DDCS OF 202 DDSCS/Dev/Plan/21-22 /4591-97 Dtd: 10/11/2021

Position of TS =Accorded Position of funds: Available/Committed

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date giv en below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-11-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 30 -11-2021 2:30. PM to 06 -12-2021 04.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	30 -11-2021 from 2:30. AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	06-12-2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	07-12-2021 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Truck Terminal Division Srinagar
	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7 days of receipt of LOA.(The bidder has to provide 3% of advertized Cost as Performance Security within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid)

Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall if any found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected

Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectt. Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd. 07-06-2018 which reads as under :-

- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of E-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared Ist Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids .
  - The Cost of tenders should be collected by uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/ Receipt.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and BID Securing Declaration On Stamp Paper Duly notarized in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Truck Terminal Division Srinagar showing clearly the name of work along with NIT No. & S.No. failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly.

No: TTD/NIT/2096-2104

Dtd:- 30 - 11-2021

DIPK-13955/21

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
R&B Truck Terminal Division Srinagar



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

PIR PANJAL FOREST DIVISION, BUDGAM

e- NIT NO.: 07 of 2021-22 DATED:- 29-11-2021

Name of Work:- Supply of Soil, Humus and Sand and preparation of potting mixture in the ratio of 3:2:1 after sieving soil, humus and sand, separating pebbles and other undesirable material and mixing net quantities together in desired ratio & volume followed by filling up of bags, preparation of beds and placement of such bags in suitable nursery beds for raising of nursery stock.

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./ Central Govt. Organizations for the following work: -

Particulars of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion
1. Supply of potting material consisting of Soil, Humus and Sand for filling up of nursery bags. Soil (3 Parts): Humus (2 Parts): Sand (1 Part) = 8304cft	7.57	BSD Form	" C & D " Class PWD Contractor/ Forest Contractor (Excluding JKFDCC Contractor)	Rs. 300/=	One calendar month.
2. Preparation of potting mixture by sieving soil, humus and sand and removing pebbles and other undesirable material and mixing net quantity in the ratio of 3:2:1 & followed by filling up of bags, preparation of beds and placement of such filled bags in suitable beds of nursery for raising of nursery stock. No. of Polypots=130000 No.'s Note: Polybags shall be supplied departmentally. Name of Forest Nursery: Shiekh ul Alam Nursery Kanidajan Location of Nursery: Kanidajan. Range: Doodganga Range. Division: Pirpanjal Forest Division, Budgam.	2.33	BSD Form	" D " Class PWD Contractor/ Forest Contractor (Excluding JKFDCC Contractor)	Rs. 200/=	One calendar month.
1. Supply of potting material consisting of Soil, Humus and Sand for filling up of nursery bags. Soil (3 Parts): Humus (2 Parts): Sand (1 Part) = 3194cft	2.91	BSD Form	" D " Class PWD Contractor/ Forest Contractor (Excluding JKFDCC Contractor)	Rs. 200/=	One calendar month.
2. Preparation of potting mixture by sieving soil, humus and sand and removing pebbles and other undesirable material and mixing net quantity in the ratio of 3:2:1 & followed by filling up of bags, preparation of beds and placement of such filled bags in suitable beds of nursery for raising of nursery stock. No. of Polypots= 50000 No.'s Note: Polybags shall be supplied departmentally. Name of Forest Nursery: Raithan Nursery. Location of Nursery: Raithan. Range: Raithan Range. Division: Pirpanjal Forest Division, Budgam.					

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA: Accorded

Publishing Date:-	29-11-2021
Download Start Date :	29-11 - 2021 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	29-11 - 2021 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	11-12 -2021 Up to 04.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	12-12 -2021 at 11:30 AM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle, Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be notified separately

Position of TS: Accorded

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in). To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act. Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of Bid Security Declaration form duly filled in with time period prescribed and addressed to Divisional Forest Officer. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e BSD Form, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2021-22, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

No:- DFO/PP/Actt/2021-22/814-23

Dated:- 29/11/2021

DIPK-13924/21

Divisional Forest Officer,  
Pir Panjal Forest Division, Budgam

COMPOSITE REGIONAL CENTRE

For Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

कौशल विकास, पुनर्वास एवं द्रव्यांगजनसशक्तिकरण हेतु संयुक्त क्षेत्रीय केंद्र

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities / द्रव्यांगजनसशक्तिकरण विभाग

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Government of India / सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय

Bemina Bye-Pass Srinagar, J&K-190018 / बेमिना बाई-पास श्रीनगर, जम्मू एवं कश्मीर-190018

Email / ईमेल: [dir-crcjk-depwd@gov.in](mailto:dir-crcjk-depwd@gov.in), [directorcrckj20@gmail.com](mailto:directorcrckj20@gmail.com) Phone / दूरभाष: 0194-2495039

PUBLIC MESSAGE ON THE EVE OF WORLD DISABILITY DAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DEC. 2021

All of us must realize that Almighty Allah has made us equal and therefore, we all must be treated equal. Subsequently let us be more responsible and aware of people with disabilities. One disability does not have the power to make a person weak. They deserve to be a part of our society with respect and love. Therefore we must not consider them less just because they have some kind of disability.

The theme World Disability Day 2021 is 'Leadership and Participation of Persons with Disabilities towards an Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post COVID-19 World' emphasizing the importance of nurturing an inclusive culture and responding to the urgent needs of people with disability in all aspects of society.

- On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we must wake up to the fact that we all are equal and we all deserve equal opportunities.
- On this day we must pledge to the rights and well-being of Persons with Disabilities at every level of society, development and raise awareness with regard to the rights of Persons with Disabilities in all aspects life.
- On this day we must pledge to reinforce the importance of securing the rights of people with disabilities so that they can participate equally and effectively in the society with others and face no barriers in their lives.
- Let us celebrate the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we must come together and work for the betterment of the people with disabilities.

My warm greetings on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 2021.

Ref: CRC-Sgr/P/N/121

Date: 02-12-2021.

DIPK-NB-5553/21

Sd/-

Director  
CRC Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PDA, PAHALGAM

Ph. / Fax No: 01936-243125

Email :- [ceopdapahalgam@gmail.com](mailto:ceopdapahalgam@gmail.com)

Subject:- Extension Notice - 1<sup>st</sup>

Reference:- This office E- NIT SI NO EE/PDA/22 of 2021-22 dated 12-11-2021.

1. Corrigendum issued vide NO EE/PDA/ 1477-872 dated 30-11-2021

In light of the change in specifications, terms and conditions issued by this office vide above referred corrigendum the last date for submission of on line bids as well as the date of opening the on line bids of above referred NIT is hereby extended and re-scheduled as under;

SNO	Original date	Extended / rescheduled date
03	On line bid submission last date	11-12-2021 up 4.00 pm
04	Date and time of opening of on line bids	13-12-2021 at 12.00 Noon

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per NIT referred to above.

NO.EE /PDA / 1483-87

Dated 30 -11-2021

DIPK-NB-5509/21

Executive Engineer,

Pahalgam Dev. Authority,

Pahalgam

## Central GST, IT Departments Organize Joint Programmes In Kashmir

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As Part of outreach initiative of Union Ministry of Finance, the Central GST and Income Tax departments organized joint programmes at Kulgam, Shopian, Anantnag and Kupwara districts.

The initiative is aimed at reaching out to representatives of small and medium industries, business professionals, local business bodies and associations, start-ups, women entrepreneurs and others to collect feedback on budget expectations and other aspirations. The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation of all stake holders.

Joint Commissioner, CGST, Vivek Gupta, gave a brief introduction about GST explaining that rollout of GST in 2017 was a major reform wherein cascading effect of the taxes was mitigated. Under the initiative, many of the state and central taxes (C. Ex. Duty, ST, VAT, Purchase Tax, Entry Tax Luxury tax etc) subsumed into one tax, i.e., GST and now it is One Nation One Tax as tax is levied on supply of goods or services at a uniform rate throughout the country, he maintained.

He informed that there are Nil GST rates or low rates for goods required for basic consumption such as grains, salt, jaggery, vegetables, fruits and related items. To ensure transparency and accountability, every communication sent by the Central Tax officers to the taxpayers has

a system generated Document Identification Number (DIN), he informed.

Deputy Commissioner, Daanish Inder Singh Gill, Assistant Commissioners, Amandeep Talwar and Ravikesh Tripathi elaborated various aspects of GST like composition levy scheme, e-invoicing, benefits for MSMEs, amnesty schemes, relaxation in compliances, Budgetary Support Scheme and COVID relief measures. They also shared contact details and useful link to CBIC website with the trade.

Later, traders were invited to express their grievances and demands regarding GST reforms.

The trade associations raised their concerns like difficulties encountered in filing various returns on the GST Portal and requested for organizing more awareness programmes about GST and Income tax, in which people should be taught about TDS, GST Returns, IT Returns etc. They also demanded a suitable time window beyond due date of filing of returns, free of late fee, in view of internet connectivity issues in Kashmir.

Joint Commissioner, CBDT, Rajiv Gubgotra, informed the traders about various reforms of Income tax like faceless assessment of income tax returns, introduction of new format of income tax portal to make it more user friendly and several other related measures. He also addressed the grievances of the participants regarding TDS, IT returns filing.

## Taxpayers Awareness/ Outreach Programme Held At Anantnag, Kupwara



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** A Taxpayer Awareness cum Outreach programme titled "Mulaqaat" of the officers of the Income Tax Department and the Central GST Department with the locals of Anantnag and Kupwara districts was held on Thursday.

The "Mulaqaat" programme was held under the supervision of Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar, M.P. Singh. In Anantnag, the programme was conducted at the Dak Bungalow, Khanabal where along with the District Magistrate, Dr. Piyush Singla, Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, Abhishri and officers of the CGST department were present.

In Kupwara, the programme was conducted at the Town Hall where along with joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Rajiv Gubgotra and officers of the CGST department, the ADC of the District, was also present.

During the programme, the interaction was held with the representatives of the local youth, dry fruit shop owners, willow bat manufacturers and other small shopkeepers & businessmen in large numbers. Feedback from the people was taken by the officers regarding taxation issues and their aspirations from the Union Budget.

Mushtaf, a young trader from Anantnag, requested that awareness and educational camps be

continued to be held in their district extensively to educate the public about the same. He insisted that the locals wanted to pay taxes but they needed guidance with respect to the same to encourage voluntary compliance.

Shaukat Mansoor, Secretary Trade Federation of the Kupwara district requested establishment of a dedicated ASK (Aayakar Seva Kendra) centre at Kupwara. Wasim, a local CA from Anantnag requested that the jurisdictional Income Tax office for Anantnag be located closer to the district headquarters for facilitating the taxpayers there.

The President of the Municipal Council of Anantnag and Ashfaq, a businessman from Kupwara requested that extension for filing of returns be granted to the people of the valley keeping in mind the unique challenges faced by the locals here.

The local traders and small shopkeepers were also informed about sections of the Income Tax Act, 1961, under which they can avail of the presumptive taxation scheme. With regard to the Union Budget, the locals gave their ideas and suggestions, based on their local issues.

### RC LOST

This is for the information to the general public that I Danish Ahmad Sankar S/o Nazir Ahmad Sankar R/o Bemina Hamdaniya Colony Sector No 5 have lost the RC of my Bike R15 bearing RC No JK01AF 6968 somewhere between BEMINA TO CHATTABAL. Now I intend to get its duplicate. If anybody have any objection he/she may file the same with RTO Srinagar within 7 days. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

RAJZER

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform general public that I have applied for pesticides license. In this regard any person having any objection He/She may contact office of the PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Name: Parvaiz Ahmad Shergojri  
S/O: Mohd Yaqoob Shergojri  
R/O: Adigam Kulgam

RNA

## JKTPO, J&K Bank Sign MoU For Promoting Women Entrepreneurship In J&K

HAUSLA: An Initiative by JKTPO enters its phase 2

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion organization (JKTPO) organized one day comprehensive workshop cum felicitation ceremony for Hausla—"Inspiring her growth" held at Jammu and virtually at Srinagar for catalyzing Women Entrepreneurship in J&K. This workshop has eventually led to start of second stage of HAUSLA program which will include one to one mentoring of women entrepreneurs. In this workshop all the partners of JKTPO conducted sessions on capacity building and credit facilitation.

Further the session launched a HAUSLA credit scheme specially curated by J&K bank in association with JKTPO in presence of Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce as chief guest and Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary, CEO, mission Youth J&K as guest of honor.

Also, JKTPO and J&K Bank joined hands by Signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for promotion of Women Entrepreneurship in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at an event held on Wednesday.

"Jammu and Kashmir Government under the leadership of LG, Manoj Sinha is committed to continue its support to women entrepreneurs of J&K with market linkage and assistance, access to finance, outreach through exhibitions and fairs."

Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce, in his special address highlighted the importance of workshop and hausla program in providing opportunities to women to spread their wings and assured that department of I&C is committed to empowering women entrepreneurs. He said that "presence of women entrepreneurs here kindles my confidence of prosperous future for the Union Territory."



perous future for the Union Territory."

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, CEO Mission Youth J&K in its tie up with "HAUSLA" will ensure full support to the women entrepreneurs in their journey of becoming inspiration for Women across J&K. COVID may have slowed down a few entrepreneurs, but it has clearly not dented the spirit of entrepreneurship in this country. Tejaswani and all such schemes will support Women entrepreneurs.

Ms. Ankita Kar, Managing Director, JKTPO while welcoming the participants highlighted the Journey of HAUSLA Program and its important role in Development of effective leadership skills, Acquisition of efficient management practices, exploration of external growth opportunities.

Ritu Singh chairperson FICCI for JKL chapter explained to the audience various prospects and methods of getting better industrial connects and called on the hausla participants for widely participating in future program.

Training and mentoring partner India SME forum and Nim-sme, gave a detailed understanding of training programme so far conducted and mentoring programme to be contacted.

Flipkart also conducted informative session for immediate on boarding of all women entrepreneurs on Samarth platform.

The workshop was also attended by officers from Department Industries & Commerce and was graced by more than 100 women entrepreneurs.

On 29th of June 2021, Lt. Governor, J&K Manoj Sinha launched this initiative with an aim to provide training and support to selected Women entrepreneurs to overcome financial, legal, social and marketing challenges in their business ventures. Hausla is an ambitious scheme with a realistic end to end approach wherein JKTPO has curated the program not simply as a Skill Development program but also included the other aspects that are required for up scaling of any enterprise i.e. Credit support, marketing support and mentorship.

## Maruti Suzuki, Audi To Hike Vehicle Prices From January

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Thursday said it is planning to increase vehicle prices from January next year to offset the impact of the rise in input costs.

The price increase would vary from model to model, the auto major said, without sharing the details.

"Over the past year, the cost of company's vehicles continue to

be adversely impacted due to increase in various input costs.

Therefore, it has become imperative for the company to pass on some impact of the above additional costs to customers through a price hike," MSI said in a regulatory filing.

The price rise has been planned for January 2022, and the increase shall vary for different models,

it added.

The company sells a range of models, starting from hatchback Alto to S-Cross SUV in the country.

Meanwhile, German luxury carmaker Audi also announced a price increase of up to 3 per cent across its entire model range, effective from January 1 next year, owing to a rise in input and operational costs.



## A Beginner's Guide To How Cryptocurrencies Work - Part 3

Charlotte Hu | Popular Science



With Bitcoin, there is a limited amount of bitcoins in the system (21 million) and the rewards for mining decrease over time, although miners are still incentivized because they can receive a portion of the transaction as a fee. "The ideal goal of Bitcoin was one vote per CPU. That has ultimately been subverted," says Juels. "People are using specialized mining hardware to participate in the system." As bitcoin mining heated up, people developed and burned through specialty hardware, guzzling up electricity and creating tons of waste.

"Proof-of-work still functions according to the original principle of requiring an investment of resources in order to participate in the system to mine blocks," Juels notes.

Meanwhile, in proof-of-stake systems, you pay to play, and have to stake tokens as a resource investment to participate, like putting in a security deposit that you get back once the transactions you added to the blockchain are approved by the network. The system chooses a staker who is online at the time randomly and they get to validate the transactions and receive the rewards. Because it doesn't require solving puzzles, in theory, it should use less energy.

"In Bitcoin, your participation in the system is proportional to the amount of computation you do," says Juels. "In a proof-of-stake system, it's proportional to the amount of cryptocurrency you hold in the system."

"Typically the way that [both proof-of-work and proof-of-stake] systems work is that the rights to create the next block is determined randomly in a kind of lottery where your chances of winning the lottery are proportional to your resources," he adds.

While Ethereum said that it was transitioning to a proof-of-stake system, that jump has not yet happened. The existing cryptocurrency projects that use proof-of-stake have their own variations of it. For example, Cardano uses a proof-of-stake system called "Ouroboros" that incorporates stake delegation and stake pools. And Solana, a blockchain that you can also build smart contract programs and other decentralized apps on, combines proof-of-stake with another consensus algorithm called proof-of-history to incorporate timestamps on transactions.

Despite proof-of-stake being faster and more energy

efficient, many experts have concerns about its stability and the barriers to entry. "In Bitcoin, you can just start mining, in principle, with your laptop. You wouldn't do very well, but you can join the system without any type of previous investment of resources," says Juels. "In the case of these proof-of-stake systems, you need to go buy some coins to participate, or be assigned the coins at the outset of the protocol. There are some people who object to the need to obtain coins in order to participate to begin with, but that is a necessity."

Alternatively, a cryptocurrency project called the XRP ledger uses a consensus protocol unlike proof-of-stake or proof-of-work that's almost democratic—but validators do not receive any rewards.

**What about proof-of-storage?**

There's another concept to know, too. Proof-of-storage (otherwise known as proof-of-space) is where you're committing an amount of space for storage in the network. "The idea initially was digital preservation—we want to record everything, so at least we can use the disk space for a good purpose. It turns out it's less needed than we thought," says Christin. "There's a need for digital preservation but it doesn't scale as quickly as a currency would." Juels proposes that these systems could potentially be useful for storing data from NFTs. One project testing out this concept is Filecoin.

Ultimately, despite gaining ground with large finance platforms like PayPal, Mastercard, and Robinhood, the future of cryptocurrency is still uncertain—looming federal regulations could dramatically reshape the community and the ecosystem. And the value of currencies like bitcoin remain volatile and represent risky investments. Wherever the next chapter of cryptocurrency leads, it's indisputable that the popularity of this new wave of technology has already forced large financial institutions to evolve their thinking on how people want to interact with money, and with each other using money.

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

Tele/Fax 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)  
website: <http://www.jkbopee.gov.in/www.jakbopee.org>, email: [helpdesk@jkbopee@gmail.com](mailto:helpdesk@jkbopee@gmail.com)/[coejkbopee@gmail.com](mailto:coejkbopee@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Conduct of allotment counselling (physical) for admission to M.Sc. Nursing courses-2021.  
**Reference:** i) Notification No: 98-BOPEE of 2021 dated 28-09-2021.  
ii) Notice No: 071-BOPEE of 2021 dated 13-10-2021.  
iii) Notification No: 116-BOPEE of 2021 dated 03-11-2021

**NOTIFICATION No: 136 -BOPEE of 2021  
DATED: 01-12-2021.**

In pursuance of Notification No. 116-BOPEE of 2021 dated 03-11-2021, where under the Board has notified Provisional Merit list of candidates, who have applied for admission to M.Sc Nursing Courses 2021 wherein candidates have been advised to submit their objection/deficient documents physically at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar up to 08-11-2021. In response to this, the Board received objections/ documents which were examined and the merit list was accordingly updated which forms Annexure "A" to this Notification and is available on official website of BOPEE [www.jkbopee.gov.in](http://www.jkbopee.gov.in) only.

Now, it is hereby notified for information of all the eligible concerned candidates that the Board shall conduct Physical Round of Counselling for candidates who figure in Annexure "A" to this Notification and shall be held as per the following schedule: -

Date	Counselling Schedule
Tuesday, 07-12-2021	Rank 01-172

NOTES: -

- Candidates shall have to report at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar physically for registration/ attendance & fulfilment of other formalities between 12:00 'O' Clock to 01:00 P.M on above day/ date.
- Candidates are advised to bring their Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority along with other relevant Certificates/documents as applicable which are to be presented at the time of Counselling.
- The Board reserves the right to notify any changes as may become necessary in view of any technical difficulty or the reasons beyond its control.
- All the candidates who will report for physical counselling at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar are advised to adhere strictly to the SOP's/ guidelines issued by the Government of J&K from time to time regarding COVID-19.
- The seat matrix shall be uploaded separately in due course of time before counselling.
- For latest updates related to the counselling and availability of seats, the candidates are advised to remain in touch with the website of the Board([www.jkbopee.gov.in](http://www.jkbopee.gov.in)).

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

E & O E

Dated: 01-12-2021.  
No: BOPEE/Exam-21/2021  
DIPK-NB-5540/21

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

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU -180001

website:<http://jkpsc.nic.in>

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Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530

Srinagar. 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

**Subject: Conduct of J&K Prosecuting Officer (Main) Examination, 2021**

**Notification No. PSC/Exam/202 1 /62**

**Dated: 29.11.2021**

In continuation to this office notice dated: 22.11.2021, it is for information of all the concerned candidates, who have been declared to have qualified for admission to the J&K Prosecuting Officer (Main) Examination, 2021 vide notification no. PSC/Exam/2021/51 dated: 09.09.2021, that the Jammu & Kashmir Prosecuting Officer (Main) Examination, 2021, shall be held w.e.f 27th of December, 2021, as per the following schedule:

Date/Day	Time : 12:00 Noon to 03:00 PM
27.12.2021 (Monday)	(Qualifying Paper) English
28.12.2021 (Tuesday)	(Paper-I) Legal drafting and Pleading
29.12.2021 (Wednesday)	(Paper-II) Constitutional Law
30.12.2021 (Thursday)	(Paper-III) Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
03.01.2022 (Monday)	(Paper-IV) Indian Penal Code, 1860
4.01.2022 (Tuesday)	(Paper-V) Indian Evidence Act, 1872
05.01.2022 (Wednesday)	(Paper-VI) Special Laws 1
06.01.2022 (Thursday)	(Paper-VII) Special Laws II

Note: The venue(s) of the examination shall be notified separately.

No: - PSC/DR/PO/22/2020

Dated:29.11.2021

DIPK-14034/21

(Vinay Samotra), JKAS

Deputy Controller of Examinations,

J&K Public Service Commission

## Russia Sends Missiles Near Pacific Islands Claimed By Japan

**Moscow:** The Russian military has deployed coastal defense missile systems near Pacific Islands also claimed by Japan, a move intended to underline Moscow's firm stance in the dispute.

The Bastion systems were moved to Matua, a deserted volcanic island in the middle of the Kuril Islands chain. Japan claims four southernmost islands.

Russia's Defense Ministry posted a video Thursday showing massive missile carriers moving ashore from amphibious landing vessels and driving along the coast of the volcanic island to take firing positions as part of drills.

The ministry said the deployment involved setting up living quarters for personnel, hangars for the vehicles and other infrastructure.

The Bastion is capable of hitting sea targets at a range of up to 500 kilometres (270 nautical miles).

The deployment followed a series of moves by Russia to beef up its military presence on the Kuril Islands.

In 2016, it stationed the Bal and the Bastion coastal defense missile systems on two of the four southernmost Kuril Islands. In the following years, it

followed up by sending top-of-the-line air defense missiles systems there and setting up an air base on the Iturup Island where fighter jets were deployed.

Japan asserts territorial rights to the four southernmost islands of the Kuril chain and calls them Northern Territories.

The Soviet Union took the islands in the final days of World War II, and the dispute has kept the countries from signing a peace treaty formally ending their hostilities.

The oval-shaped, 11-kilometre-long (6.8-mile) island where the Russian missiles were deployed hosted a Japanese military base during WWII.

After the Soviet takeover of the Kuril Islands, Matua was home to a Soviet military base that was closed amid funding shortages in the wake of the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

Asked about the missile deployment, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Russia has a sovereign right to deploy its military forces wherever it deems necessary on its territory.

At the same time, he noted that Russia values relations with Japan and remains committed to efforts to negotiate a settlement of the dispute.

## Back In Spain, Ancelotti Has Madrid Back On Title Track

### AGENCIES

**MADRID:** Relying on Karim Benzema's feet and Thibaut Courtois' hands, Real Madrid is back on course to winning titles in its second stint under veteran coach Carlo Ancelotti.

Madrid's 1-0 victory over Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday increased its lead of the Spanish league to seven points over defending champion Atlético Madrid and surprise chaser Real Sociedad.

On Saturday, Ancelotti's side travels to San Sebastián with the mission of leaving Sociedad even further behind and adding to its streak of seven consecutive victories across all competitions.

"The fact that we've won seven games in a row doesn't come down to luck," Ancelotti said. "When we can't use our quality in one area we can use another quality."

Benzema's goal just before halftime took his league-leading tally to 12 in 14 games. Courtois did the rest by making several good saves to frustrate a Bilbao side that outplayed Madrid



in the second half.

"Courtois is playing out of his mind," said Ancelotti, comparing him to other great goalies the Italian has coached in his long career.

"We've got Courtois and we should relish that," Ancelotti said. "It's difficult

to say who is the best goalkeeper I've played with. I've got a list of great goalkeepers: (Iker) Casillas, Diego López, (Gianluigi) Buffon, (Manuel) Neuer and (Petr) Cech. Courtois is right up there at the moment."

It was a mild surprise

in June when Madrid president Florentino Pérez picked Ancelotti to replace Zinedine Zidane following the team's first trophyless season in more than a decade. Pérez fired Ancelotti in 2015, a year after he led Madrid to its 10th European Cup. Since then he appeared to have fallen out of the European coaching elite with his last job being at Everton.

Despite an embarrassing home loss to Moldavian side Sheriff in the Champions League, Ancelotti has so far succeeded in getting Madrid back on track.

The visit to Sociedad will start an intense run of three games in eight days for Madrid. Madrid will host Inter Milan on Tuesday to determine which will advance as the winner of their Champions League group. The following weekend Atlético visits the Santiago Bernabéu in a Spanish capital derby that promises to prove important to the domestic title fight.

"It's non-stop," Courtois said, "and we're going to try to get some rest as we look to keep on winning."

## Israel Halts Controversial Tech To Track Omicron Variant

### Agenceis

**JERUSALEM:** Israel said Thursday it was halting the use of a controversial phone tracking technology to trace possible cases of the new coronavirus variant.

Earlier this week, the government approved travel restrictions and authorised the country's internal security agency to use the phone monitoring technology for contact tracing, people infected by the omicron variant in Israel.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's office said in a statement that emergency measures authorising cellular monitoring "of people who are infected by omicron, and those who might have been in contact with those cases, would expire at midnight."

The decision to reverse course on the Shin Bet's tracking came after the Cabinet approved the practice under an emergency measure on Tuesday. A government ombudsman had spoken out against implementing the technology, arguing that it was ineffective. Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz said on Twitter that from the beginning I noted that use of this tool would be limited and brief for a few days, in order to get urgent information to halt infection with the new, unknown variant.

He said that alongside protecting health, we must protect privacy and human rights, even in a time of emergency."

Israeli rights groups had decried the use of the technology, which can track where a person has been and whom he has met, as a violation of privacy rights. The Supreme Court ruled earlier this year that its use be limited.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Govt Mulls Crackdown

There should be zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and forced labour and added that the government will pull out all stops in ridding the UT of this menace.

Mehta, he said, also stated that human trafficking almost always has a narco/drug dimension, which has been seen to have linkages with terrorism in the UT.

Expressing his concern at the incident, Dr Mehta, as per the official spokesperson directed that joint teams of social welfare education department, Magistrates from DC office and police be set up to verify the records of nari ashrams, bal ashrams, concerned NGOs and trust and orphanages and asked the social welfare department to coordinate the synergised departmental response in the matter.

He said that the Secretary, social welfare department informed that the matter has been taken up with IGP, Kashmir to ensure immediate legal action under the relevant laws.

"It was further informed that child welfare committees have been asked to meet Covid orphans identified by the department and submit a report to the department," the official spokesperson said.

Mehta, he said, directed social welfare department to conduct audit of the human resource and the accounts of these centres for the last 5 years.

"He asked the social welfare department to obtain the report regarding the welfare of covid orphans from the field and share it with his office by Thursday evening," he said.

"The Chief Secretary asked the Home department to ensure that every such centre was inspected by the nearest police station in the UT and a report shared by them with the Home department by evening," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, Director I&C, Jammu informed the meeting that there are around 6000 such NGOs registered in J&K that deal with child and women welfare in the UT.

He said it was further informed that post reorganisation of the J&K State into UTs of J&K and Ladakh, the department has begun the process of re-registering these societies under the central act.

"So far less than 1000 societies have been re-registered and their details are also available on the Darpan portal," the official spokesperson said, adding "Dr Mehta also advised the I&C department to share the list of all NGOs operating in the space with the SWD and police department."

The Chief Secretary, as per the official spokesperson also directed that the SWD should get the verification of 6000 NGOs done in concert with district administration and PRIs within a month and shared the findings with the government.

"The Chief Secretary asked the I&C department to put all those NGOs, which have not re-registered, on notice stating that if they do not re-register within 15 days, they will no longer be allowed to operate," he said.

"He also directed I&C department to share the details of those NGOs, which don't re-register, with the district and divisional administration so that appropriate law enforcement action is initiated against them," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the Chief Secretary asked the SWD to take steps in consultation with the health department to verify all the children's hospitals/gynecological sections/ neonatal sections of the hospitals in the UT within the next fifteen days.

Mehta, he said, also directed the Law Department to seek details of the trusts operating in the space for the last 10 years from the judiciary for the purpose of their verification.

"The Chief Secretary laid emphasis on tracking cases of child/women trafficking in the cyber domain and asked the Home department to ensure proper cyber surveillance though anti trafficking units of the police department in both the divisions," he said

"Stating that begging and trafficking

syndicates can't be allowed to have a free run in J&K, he directed to maintain special watch on placement agencies, organisations scouting young girls and boys for talent hunt programmes, beauty pageants, escort services etc. so that incidents of child and women trafficking do not happen in future," he added.

### NGO 'Selling' Covid

He identified the arrested men as Aijaz Ahmad Dar of Pampore and Asrar Amin of Bemina, Srinagar.

"We have also seized some documents from the office before sealing it. It's not an orphanage but a trust where the accused would collect donations in the name of orphans," Ahmad said.

Police, he said, have also filed an FIR 153/2021 under section 370 IPC (Buying or disposing of any person as a slave) 120B (criminal conspiracy) 81 juvenile justice act (Sale and procurement of children for any purpose) on Wednesday and started investigations to probe the sensational case.

"No child has been sold so far by the accused and no one was recovered from the trust. However, the accused were about to open an orphanage and were seeking donation for the same," the SDPO, Pampore said.

"We are also investigating under which circumstance the video was shot and where it was taken," he added.

Pertinently, India Today ran a sting operation showing Amin offering children orphaned by coronavirus pandemic in the Valley against a considerable amount of cash. The IT sting operation and the reports in the local media following the expose, set alarm bells ringing in the administration.

Social Welfare Department Secretary Sheetal Nanda took up the issue with IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar for immediate action in the matter.

The government also constituted fact finding committees for Jammu and Kashmir divisions in order to ascertain the number of orphans/ Covid orphans and their well-being in all the districts of J&K.

### 177 New Covid

Ganderbal 5, Pulwama 4 and Kulgam 2. Shopian was the only district in the Valley where no new case of virus was reported.

In the winter capital, officials said, Reasi reported a maximum of 18 fresh coronavirus cases, Jammu 15, Poonch 2 and one new case each in Udhampur and Kathua districts. No new case surfaced in Rajouri, Doda, Samba, Kishtwar and Ramban.

"Moreover, 167 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 36 from Jammu Division and 131 from Kashmir," officials said.

Also, the death toll in J&K, officials said remained unchanged at 4477-2185 in Jammu and 2292 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

### Cold Wave

24 hours earlier.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district also recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius while the mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 3.3 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag's minimum temperature settled at minus 1.4 degrees Celsius.

The meteorological office said the weather will most likely remain dry but cold till December 3.

A weak western disturbance is likely to hit the region towards the weekend, officials said, adding the precipitation will end the dry spell of weather in the valley.

The wintry conditions in the valley set-in much ahead of the beginning of extreme harsh weather conditions which usually start around the third week of December.

"Chillai Kalan", the 40-day period of harsh winter in Kashmir, begins on December 21 every year. (With PTI Inputs)

### No Question Of

the LG claimed that reservation benefits have percolated to all eligible communities who remained deprived since long. Besides, he said, Forest Rights Act has been implemented in toto, marginalised communities are being brought into mainstream and domicile rights to women have been restored after 370 abrogation.

"Certain communities of J&K (Khatir, Mahajans etc) were not allowed to purchase agricultural land, that has been changed now," he said.

Replying to another related question as to what has changed in J&K since August 2019; the LG said that 11000 candidates have secured government jobs in the most fair and transparent recruitment process in the history of J&K. He also said that average income of farmers in J&K is around Rs 19000, which is fifth highest in the country.

"In 2018-19, after spending Rs 67000 crores less than 10000 projects were completed, whereas in 2019-20, we have completed more than 21000 projects after spending only Rs 63000 crores. Executing more projects with comparatively less expenditure is what has changed in J&K," Sinha said.

In road construction, the LG said, 3 years back J&K used to be at 11th, 12th in the whole country and in the last two years, J&K has graduated to 3rd place achieving road construction 2.5 times the previous years.

Giving more details, he said, in comparison to an average 2500-2600km road that used to be macadamised in a year, last year his administration macadamised 5600 kms and this year a target to complete 8000 kms has been set. Besides, he said, 25 national Highways are under construction in J&K

"More domestic flights in J&K and International flights to Sharjah started from Srinagar," Sinha said.

The LG also spoke of new Industrial Policy saying that the proposed investment that the government has already received has crossed Rs. 31,000 Cr, double than expected. He also said that proposals worth Rs.15000 Crore have already been approved.

"Tourist footfall increased manifold in the UT during winter months. From 1935 tourists in June 2020, the number increased to 128572 in September 2021. Winter season witnessing 100% high-end-hotel occupancy in Srinagar and at prominent tourist destinations," the LG said.

Speaking about the recent targeted killings in the Valley, the LG said that the civilian killings were a result of frustration, reaction to growing peace, progress, prosperity and normalcy in the valley.

"We have eliminated all those who were responsible for civilian killings as I had promised. Work on to eliminate the entire terrorism ecosystem. Our strategy is not to eliminate terrorists only but demolish the entire terror ecosystem," he said.

Replying to a question on the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, Sinha said that the PM employment package has been implemented fully and 6000 vacancies have almost been filled.

Also, he said, out of 6000 houses, 3500 houses are under construction, while rest within a year. He also said that encroached Migrant properties are being restored to original owners across the valley.

The LG also said that mainstream political parties have full freedom and security for conducting political activities. The Constitution of India, he said, gives freedom to everyone.

"All political parties participated in the last DDC elections. It was totally free and fair, without violence," Sinha said, adding that the DDC polls witnessed more voting than assembly and parliament elections.

Sinha also highlighted the first ever widespread celebrations on Independence Day in Jammu and Kashmir

"Tricolor was hosted for the first time in all schools, colleges, panchayats across Kashmir,"

he said.

When asked how he sees 'Naya J&K', the LG said that it will be fear-free, corruption-free, democratic, and developed J&K contributing for a developed India.

### Kashmir Witnessing

workers to cab drivers to Hoteliers.

As per the data available with Kashmir Observer, it is for the first time since 2015 that the numbers of tourist arrival for the month of November has reached a record 1, 25,605. As per the data, in 2015 the numbers were recorded at 64778 and 23569 in turmoil gripped November 2016.

The data further suggests that in 2017, the tourist footfall in November was recorded at 1, 12,300. In 2018, the footfall was recorded at 33720 and in 2019, it was 12086.

As per the data, the lowest tourist footfall was recorded in the pandemic year of 2020 for the month of November, the numbers stood at 6327.

Notably, the surge in tourist arrivals to the Valley has been assessed due to the hard yards put in by the Tourism Department. In a bid to attract more tourists to the Valley, the Department had took several initiatives and organised various festivals in collaboration with stakeholders associated with the tourism industry.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez said that various programmes and festivals were organised this year by the Tourism department in a bid to attract tourists across the country and the department is likely scheduled to organise various programmes and events in winter months also.

"The J&K administration identified 75 off-beat locations to promote them as destinations to visit, besides, the Tourism Directorate in Kashmir organised several programmes and festivals to attract the tourists and to bring these destinations on tourism map," Hafeez said.

"This year all the other tourists' destinations besides Gulmarg will be kept open for tourists and for the first time, Sonmarg will also remain open for tourists in winter," he said.

He further added, "This has been finalized only after the stakeholders in Pahalgam and Sonmarg have updated their hotels with better warmth providing equipments and we're sure the number of tourists in winter months will also increase."

### PDP Attacks BJP

the editorial of the newsletter read.

"Our economy lies in tatters, the security situation is grim and the pervasive feeling of disquiet, and anger simmers," it read.

In ordinary circumstances there would have been an outrage but these are no ordinary times, the editorial read.

"Dissent has been criminalised. Jammu and Kashmir has been turned into an open air prison. This period has also been marked by a steep decline in press freedom and journalists have been threatened with anti-terrorist laws," it added.

The editorial said that one is not punished for breaking the law but stating the inconvenient truth.

"It is, therefore, imperative that we continue raising our voice," it read.

### Decades Later,

takes place at Gulmarg Church, people from Srinagar travel to Gulmarg in a bid to take part in the rituals," Rev. Eric said. "But the renovation of this church will change that."

Churches in Kashmir come under the Church of North India, Diocese of Amritsar. At present the Protestant Christian community has four Churches in Kashmir — The St. Church at Sonwar, St. Luke's Church at Dalgate, St. Mary's Church at Gulmarg, St. John's Church at Pahalgam. They are headed by P K Samantary, Bishop, Diocese of Amritsar, Church of North India (CNI). Former Priest In charge at the All St. Church,

Rev. Yonatha Paljor recalled his fond memories of attending the prayer services at the Dalgate Church before its closing.

"I have fond memories of attending prayer services during my years as a student," Paljor, a nagenarian, said. "Prayer services were held regularly and Christmas and Easter celebrations were a regular feature. Unfortunately the Church had to close down due to unavoidable circumstances."

Before the partition of 1947, while the All St. Church at Sonwar was used by the British bureaucrats, the St. Luke's Church at Dalgate was the only worshipping place for the local Christian community. Indians were allowed at All St. Church, Sonwar after the region was free from the British influence.

In addition to the St. Luke's Church, the Chest Diseases Missionary Hospital was built on the outskirts of Srinagar to treat dreaded diseases, like Tuberculosis.

But mostly Christians working at the hospital left due to the deteriorating situation in the valley during nineties. The staff left the hospital and eventually the Church remained abandoned for three decades.

Meanwhile, Taniya Rigzin, a local Christian, expressed her happiness over the reopening of the Church.

"I am exhilarated to witness the renovation of St. Luke Church, Dalgate," Taniya said.

"The opening of this heritage church on Christmas seems ideal for those who would want to go there to offer prayers on this auspicious day."

### 3 OGWs Held Over

a joint motor vehicle checkpoint at Wussan in Pattan area of Baramulla district intercepted three suspicious individuals who tried to flee from the spot after noticing the joint party, a police spokesperson said.

He said the three were apprehended by a joint team. They were identified as Asif Ahmad Reshi, Mehrajuddin Dar and Faisal Habib Lone, all the residents of Gund Jehangir in neighbouring Bandipora district.

"Investigation and technical leads revealed that the arrested persons are working as terror associates of LeT and were involved in a recent grenade attack at Palhallan on November 17, 2021," he said.

The spokesperson said on the disclosure of the arrested persons, two grenades were recovered.

"Investigations also revealed that the arrested persons were given instructions by the terrorists across the border and aim behind the attacks was to create an atmosphere of fear and chaos and to draw reaction against Kashmiri youth outside the UT," he added.

### CASO Conducted

in the main town, officials said.

The CASO later concluded peacefully in the evening after no contact was established," they said. (KNO)

### Youth Found

registration number JK03F-9340 was also found there, he said. The body was taken in custody for medico-legal formalities, he said. Later police identified the deceased as Farhan Ahmad Kar son of Nisar Ahmad Kar of Nayibasti Tral.

The official said that investigations have been launched.

### Ladakh Reports

Fourteen patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Leh in the last 24 hours. The total number of recoveries in the Union Territory now stands at 20,102, the officials said.

All the 23 fresh coronavirus cases were reported in Leh, they added.

A total of 1,198 sample reports were found negative for the infection in Ladakh in the last 24 hours, the officials said.

Of the 285 active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh, 259 are in Leh and 26 in Kargil.

## All Staff Inter College Cricket Tournament Begins In Anantnag

### DC Anantnag Inaugurates The Tournament

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla on Thursday inaugurated an All Staff Inter College Cricket Tournament organised under the aegis of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan at GDC Khanabal, here.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Singla emphasized the need to eradicate the drug menace from

the society. He said that engagement of youth in sports helps to shape their personality and inculcates team spirit. He interacted with the participating teams and had words of encouragement for them.

He appreciated the college authorities for conducting the tournament and suggested that the college should organize more such events to spread the message among the masses.

Principal, GDC Khanabal thanked the DC for gracing the occasion and assured him that many such events will be organized in the near future.

## Hope To Get Clearer Picture Soon: Kohli On Omicron-Hit South Africa Tournament



Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** India captain Virat Kohli on Thursday said he expects to get a clearer picture on the upcoming tour of South Africa in the next couple of days after it was thrown into uncertainty following the emergence of the new Covid-19 variant – Omicron.

Kohli was addressing the media on the eve of the second and final Test against New Zealand here from Friday.

"We have been talking to the BCCI. We need to have more clarity, and hopefully, in next couple

of days we will know more. Rahul (Dravid) bhai (coach) has spoken to all senior players. It is important that we are not left in a confused situation or spot," Kohli said.

He added, "We are not playing in normal times anyway. We have spoken to all the members of the squad."

The India seniors, during a nearly seven-week assignment starting December 17, are scheduled to play three Tests, three ODIs and four T20 Internationals across four venues – Johannesburg, Centurion, Paarl, and Cape Town.

## Anju Bobby George Wins World Athletics' Woman Of Year Award

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Legendary Indian long jumper Anju Bobby George has been bestowed with the Woman of the Year Award by World Athletics for grooming talent in the country and advocating gender equality. (More Sports News)

The 44-year-old Anju, the only Indian to have won a medal in the World Championships with a long jump bronze in the 2003 edition, was named for the award in the world body's annual awards night held virtually on Wednesday.

She is the first Indian to be honoured by the sport's world body during its annual awards function.

The award is given to recognise a woman who has dedicated her life to the sport of athletics. Anju is the second recipient of the prestigious award, which was started in 2019, after Ethiopia's double Olympic champion Derartu Tulu.

Sprint legend PT Usha was honoured by the world athletics body with the Veteran Pin in 2019, in recognition of her contribution to the growth of sport.

From 2014 to 2018, a similar honour called 'Women in Athletics Award', which recognised outstanding achievements and contributions made to develop, encouraged and strengthened the participation of women and girls at all levels of the sport, was given.

"The former international long jump star from India is still actively involved in the sport. In 2016 she opened a training academy for young girls, which has already helped to produce a world U20 medallist," World Athletics said in a release.

"A constant voice for gender equality in her role as Senior Vice President of the Indian Athletics Federation, Bobby George also mentors schoolgirls for future leadership positions within the sport."

## Germany Slashes Sports Attendance To Max. 15,000



Agencies

**BERLIN:** German politicians agreed on Thursday to slash the maximum attendance at outdoor sports events to 15,000 people, though some states still plan to have empty stadiums.

Rising infection rates in recent weeks and the emergence of the new omicron variant of the coronavirus caused concern ahead of the talks between the state and federal leaders.

The decision to play a Bundesliga soccer game in Cologne last week in front of a crowd of 50,000 provoked particular ire ahead of plans for 67,000 to attend Borussia Dortmund's game against Bayern Munich on Saturday.

That game will likely be played

in front of a much smaller crowd. Dortmund anticipated that decision and said on Wednesday it would cancel and refund all the tickets it sold, and reissue some of them. On Thursday, Dortmund opened part of its stadium as a vaccination centre.

Smaller stadiums will be capped at 50% of capacity if the total capacity is under 30,000.

Indoor sports such as basketball, handball and ice hockey will have to contend with a maximum attendance of 5,000 people.

The eastern state of Saxony, which has Germany's highest infection rate, barred spectators entirely last month. Bayern Munich's home state of Bavaria also plans to have empty stadiums despite the national decision.

### COOCH BEHAR TROPHY 2021-22

## J&K Lose By An Innings & 210 Runs To Karnataka

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Under-19 cricket team on Thursday slumped to an innings and 210 runs defeat in their opening Elite Group E match of Cooch Behar Trophy 2021-22 at Kandukuri Cricket Academy, Vizag.

J&K is one of the six teams in the Group E, along with Karnataka, Mumbai, Haryana, Baroda, and Pondicherry. The Cooch Behar

matches are played on a 4-day format.

Batting first J&K was bundled out for a paltry 114 in the first innings. In reply, Karnataka made a mammoth 517/4 (declared). J&K scored 193 in their second innings to cap a dismal performance. Karnataka batter Vishal Onat scored 252 not out to help his team reach the huge total.

J&K captain Mohammad Manzir was the pick of the players for J&K as he scored 68 and 41 in his two

innings while also taking a wicket for his team.

J&K Playing XI: Dhruv Singh Parmar, Nityam Abrol, Ranjot Singh, Akshit Gandral, Shivansh Sharma (W), Basit Bashir, Moomin Muzaffar, Gursimran Singh, Sarvashish Singh, Mohammad Manzir (C), Yuvraj Saini. J&K will next play Pondicherry on December 6, and Mumbai on December 13. The matches start at 9:00 AM.

## District Level Football Competitions Begin From Budgam

Follow Activity Calendar With Utmost Seriousness: Gazanfar Ali

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K is organising competitions in different sports disciplines across J&K.

In central Kashmir's Budgam District, inter zonal District level competitions were kick started with an under-14 boys football knockout tournament. Teams from twelve zones of Budgam district are set to participate in the tournament.

District Youth Services & Sports Officer Budgam, Masrat Jan inaugurated the event. She was flanked by other senior officers of DYSS Budgam. Pertinently in a recent communique, Director YSS Gazanfar Ali stressed upon the officers and officials of the Department to follow the already circulated activity calendar with utmost seriousness. While acting upon



these directions, sports activities are being organised in all the 20 districts of J&K with a

special focus on the maximum participation of school-going children.

### IND VS NZ, 2ND TEST PREVIEW

## Series On The Line, Virat Kohli Returns To Lead India

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Virat Kohli's return after a well-earned break couldn't have come in a more unenviable setting as he needs to tread the fine line between tough and prudent in his selection calls when India take on New Zealand in the second and final Test at the rain-soaked 'Maximum City' from Friday.

After an anti-climactic end to the first Test where New Zealand escaped with a creditable draw defying the Indian spinners on a slow turner, the home team under its regular captain would certainly go for a slight rejig in the combination.

Also, at the Wankhede, the hosts may only get four days to enforce a positive result due

to heavy rains that could be a dampener on day one and the underlying moisture which will also bring an extra Black Caps pacer Neil Wagner into the equation.

Kohli will be a straight replacement for Agarwal. The question then arises on who will open alongside Gill.

It either has to be Cheteshwar Pujara or wicketkeeper batsman K S Bharat.

Pujara could turn out to be a poor choice given his current form, while Andhra man Bharat has the requisite experience at the first-class level with a highest score of 308.

Bharat replacing Wriddhiman Saha, who has been suffering from stiff neck, could actually save the team management from actually

taking tough calls for the match.

For the Kane Williamson-led New Zealand, they missed Wagner badly in Kanpur where his presence could have spelt more trouble for India in the second innings. The rain and a pitch devoid of sunlight could mean that both pacers and spinners would be in equation.

New Zealand's three-pronged attack could spell trouble for India on a spiced up track and Will Somerville, who played a gutsy knock in Kanpur, might have to sit out.

India may bring in Mohammed Siraj into the equation with Ishant Sharma looking completely out of rhythm but with turn expected, three spinners may be persisted with.

## Pakistan Leave Sarfaraz, Hasan Out Of Squad For West Indies Series

### Both Squads Will Be Led By Babar Azam, With Shadab Khan As Deputy

Agencies

**KARACHI:** Former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed and seamer Hasan Ali have been left of the squads for this month's white-ball series at home to West Indies, the country's cricket board said on Thursday.

Pakistan are due to host West Indies for three Twenty20s and three one-day internationals, all in Karachi, starting from December 13.

Selectors named a 15-member squad for the T20 matches, also leaving out all-rounders Shoaib Malik and Imad Wasim.

Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah and Mohammad Wasim Jr were included in the 17-member ODI squad, with Abdullah Shafique named a travelling reserve. Both squads will be led by Babar Azam, with Shadab Khan as his deputy.

West Indies announced their visit to Pakistan last month after



New Zealand and England called off scheduled tours to the Asian country in September due to security concerns.

Squads:

T20: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan, Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shahnawaz Dahani, Usman Qadir.

ODI: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan, Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imam-ul-Haq, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Mohammad Hasnain, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shahnawaz Dahani, Usman Qadir.

## Alex Carey To Make Test Debut For Australia As Wicketkeeper



Agencies

**BRISBANE:** Cricket Australia has confirmed the pre-Ashes speculation and named Alex Carey to make his test debut as the replacement wicketkeeper for former captain Tim Paine.

The 30-year-old Carey was added Thursday to the 15-man squad for the first two Ashes tests against England – the first beginning Dec. 8 at the Gabba in Brisbane.

Carey was chosen ahead of England-born Josh Inglis.

Paine made himself unavailable for selection following a sexting scandal that saw him resign as the Australia test captain two weeks ago. Paine has since been replaced as captain by fast bowler Pat Cummins, with former skipper Steve Smith as his vice-captain.

Carey has played 83 matches for Australia but only in the one-day and Twenty20 formats. He stood in as one-day international captain during Australia's series against West Indies earlier this year.

"I am incredibly humbled by this opportunity," Carey said. "It's an exciting build-up for what is a huge series."

Australia holds the Ashes. Other test matches are scheduled for Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth.

Australia squad: Pat Cummins (captain), Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, Jhye Richardson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, David Warner.

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<b>DDE ADMISSIONS – 2021-22</b>			
<b>M B A</b>	♦Tourism ♦Marketing ♦International Business ♦Operations & Supply Chain Management	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sem Fee</b> <b>₹9,925/-</b> (Incl. Admission Fee)	<b>M A</b> ♦English ♦Sociology ♦Hindi <b>1<sup>st</sup> Year Fee</b> <b>₹7,425/-</b> (Incl. Admission Fee)
	♦Hospital Management	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sem Fee</b> <b>₹18,000/-</b> (Incl. Admission Fee)	<b>M.Com. (Finance)</b> <b>Special Features under Distance Mode:</b> ♦Degree from a Central University ♦Quality printed course materials ♦Most Affordable tuition fee ♦Unique technological platform/ tools ♦Personal Contact Programme classes in selected Centres <b>Fee Concession:</b> → 100% Tuition fee concession to Differently Abled Persons. → 50% Tuition Fee Concession to: ♦Defense Personnel serving in Indian Armed Forces and Para-Military Forces ♦Prisoners ♦Deserted Women ♦Widows ♦Transgender ♦Non-Teaching Employee of Pondicherry University and their wards (Group B, C & D only) <b>Scholarships:</b> → The SC/ST students admitted into the DDE programs can avail various scholarships of the respective State/UT Governments.
<b>B A</b>	♦History ♦Economics ♦Sociology ♦English ♦Political Science ♦Journalism & Mass Communication	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year Fee</b> <b>₹4,975/-</b> (Incl. Admission Fee)	
<b>B.Com. &amp; B.B.A.</b>			
Admissions will be given on “First come, first served” basis <b>For further details: Visit at: <a href="https://dde.pondiuni.edu.in">https://dde.pondiuni.edu.in</a></b> <b>Address: The Director, Directorate of Distance Education, Pondicherry University, Kalapet, Puducherry-605014; Email: <a href="mailto:director.dde@pondiuni.edu.in">director.dde@pondiuni.edu.in</a>; Phone: 0413-2654441/717/439/445</b>			
<b>Admissions are given twice a Year</b> <b>Last Date for Online Admission</b> <b>15.12.2021</b>			

## Father's Responsibility Of Child Continues Till Adulthood: Supreme Court

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that in a dispute between husband and wife the liability and responsibility of the father to maintain the child continues till the son attains the age of majority.

The top court, which exercised its plenary power under Article 142 to confirm the divorce decree awarded to the husband and wife by the family court and the High Court directed that the child be provided 50,000 maintenance by the father.

It also noted that the estranged couple has not been staying together since May 2011 and therefore it can be said that there is an irretrievable breakdown of the marriage between them.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and AS Bopanna said, "therefore, in the facts and circumstances of the case and in the exercise of powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India, the decree passed by the Family Court, confirmed by the High Court, dissolving the marriage between the appellant-wife and the respondent-husband is not required to be interfered with on account of irretrievable breakdown of marriage".

It said that at the same time, the husband, an Army officer, cannot be absolved from his liability and responsibility to maintain his son till he attains the age of majority.

"Whatever be the dispute between the husband and the wife, a child should not be made to suffer. The liability and responsibility of the father to maintain the child continues till the child/son attains the age of majority. It also cannot be disputed that the son has a right to be maintained as per the status of his father", the bench said.

The top court noted that the mother is not earning anything and she is residing at her parental house at Jaipur and therefore, a reasonable/sufficient amount is required for the maintenance of her son including his education and other expenses which shall have to be paid by the husband, irrespective of the decree of dissolution of the marriage between the wife and the husband.

It further noted that the amount which was being paid under the order passed by the Army authorities on November 15, 2012, has also been stopped by the respondent-husband since December 2019.

"The respondent-husband is directed to pay Rs.50, 000 per month with effect from December 2019 to the appellant-wife towards the maintenance of the son as per the status of the respondent herein. The arrears @ 50,000 per month from December 2019 to November 2021 shall be paid within a period of eight weeks from today", it said.

## Delhi Schools To Be Closed Till Further Orders Due To Pollution

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday said physical classes in schools in the national capital would be suspended from Friday till further orders in view of an increase in the air pollution levels.

The decision came after the Supreme Court on Thursday pulled up the Delhi government for resuming physical classes in

schools amid a rise in the air pollution levels in the city.

"We had reopened schools considering the forecast that air quality would improve. However, the air pollution levels have increased again and we have decided to shut schools from Friday till further orders," Rai said.

After remaining shut since November 13, physical classes in schools, colleges and other educational institutions had resumed from Monday. PTI

## Govt Decides Not To Resume Scheduled Int'l Flights From Dec 15

Agenceis

The government on Wednesday decided not to resume scheduled international flights from December 15, less than a week after announcing the decision in the wake of rising concerns over the coronavirus variant Omicron.

Aviation watchdog DGCA said the effective date for resumption of scheduled commercial international passenger services will be notified in due course. Scheduled international flights remain suspended since March 23, 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The latest move also comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 27 asked officials to review the plans for easing international travel restrictions amid concerns over Omicron.

In a circular on Wednesday, DGCA said in view of the evolving global scenario with the emergence of new Variants of Concern, the situation is being watched closely in consultation with all stakeholders.



"...an appropriate decision indicating the effective date of resumption of scheduled commercial international passenger services shall be notified in due course," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

The watchdog also referred to its circular issued on November 26 wherein it was decided that scheduled international flights will resume from December 15.

On November 28, a day after the Prime Minister's directions regarding the easing of international travel curbs, the

government had said the decision to resume the services will be reviewed.

While no cases of Omicron have been reported in India so far, the authorities have put in place stricter norms for international passengers.

On November 29, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said the situation was being closely monitored and reviewed in consultation with other ministries regarding "any further decision" on resuming scheduled international passenger services.

## In-Person Student Attendance In Schools May Drop By 14 Per Cent Due To Omicron Threat

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Schools in India are likely to see a 14 per cent drop in students attending in-person classes due to concerns sparked by 'Omicron', the new variant of coronavirus, according to a nationwide survey.

The findings of a nationwide survey conducted by online platform LocalCircles indicate the number of parents not sending their ward to school for in-person classes are likely to rise.

"In a week, over 25 countries have reported the presence of Omicron with scientists confirming that it is more transmissible than the Delta variant and could evade vaccines up to some extent.

"The survey, which received 15,875 responses from parents residing in 308 districts of India, finds that schools in the country are likely to see a 14 per cent drop in students attending in-person classes," it stated. The survey mentioned that doctors in South Africa, where the 'Omicron' variant was first reported, have found a higher number of Covid cases of the new variant in the population aged under 25 years.

The World Health Organisation has designated the new SARS-Cov-2 variant as a 'variant of concern'.

According to the survey findings, 58 pc of parents will be sending their children for in-person classes till this week.

The remaining 32 per cent are parents mostly with younger children and for about 10 per cent of parents, schools that their children go to have not resumed in-person classes yet, it said.

Furthermore, of the 58 per cent of parents sending children to school, 14 per cent will stop doing so because of the Omicron threat.

"While no case of Omicron has been traced in India yet, once the first case is reported in India, another five per cent of parents are likely to stop sending children to school. Once multiple cases are reported another five per cent are likely to do so leaving only 34 per cent of parents still sending children to school.

## India Hits Out At UN Body For Comments On Khurram Parvez

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** India on Thursday hit out at the UN human rights body for its "baseless" allegations against it over the arrest of an activist in Jammu and Kashmir, and asserted that the comments "betray" a complete lack of understanding of the security challenges in the region in view of cross-border terrorism.

Arindam Bagchi, the spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said authorities in India act against violations of law and not against legitimate exercise of rights.

Bagchi's comments came in response to a statement made by the Spokesperson of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) over the arrest of Kashmiri rights activist Khurram Parvez.

"We have seen the statement made by the spokesperson of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on specific incidents in Jammu and Kashmir.

The statement makes baseless and unfounded allegations against law enforcement authorities and security forces of India," he said.

On Wednesday, OHCHR spokesperson Rupert Colville expressed deep concern over the arrest of Parvez and even called for "prompt, thorough, transparent" investigations into the recent incidents of killings of civilians in J and K.

"We are deeply concerned at the arrest of Kashmiri human rights defender Khurram Parvez under Indian counter-terrorism legislation, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)," Colville said in a statement.

Rejecting the comments by the UN official, Bagchi said as a democratic country, with an abiding commitment to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens, India takes all necessary steps to counter cross-border terrorism.

"It also betrays a complete lack of understanding on the part of the OHCHR of the security challenges faced by India from cross-border terrorism and its impact on the most fundamental human right, 'the right to life' of our citizens including in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

"Referring to proscribed terrorist organisations as 'armed groups' demonstrates a clear bias on the part of OHCHR," the MEA spokesperson said.

Bagchi said national security legislations, like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) were enacted by Parliament to protect the sovereignty of India and ensure the security of its citizens.

"The arrest and subsequent detention of the individual referred to in the statement was done entirely as per provisions of law," he said.

## Army To Introduce New Combat Uniform From Next Year

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** The Army is set to introduce a light and more climate-friendly combat uniform for its personnel from next year, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

The new camouflage uniform will be based on a "digital disruptive" pattern and they are expected to be showcased at the Army Day parade on January 15, they said.

It is learnt that the new combat uniform has been finalised after wide-ranging discussions and

analysis of military uniforms of several countries, the people said.

They said the new uniform will be much more durable as well as comfortable in both summers and winters.

The uniforms, which will feature a mix of colours including olive and earthen, have been designed taking into considerations aspects like areas of deployment of the troops and climatic conditions in which they operate.

The Navy had rolled out a new camouflage uniform last year.



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