

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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**Quote!**  
Every action has its pleasures and its price  
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## NEWS DIGEST

### Applications Invited From Hajj Trainers

**SRINAGAR:** The Haj Committee of India on Wednesday invited online applications from the Muslim government employees of Jammu and Kashmir for imparting orientation/ training to the Pilgrims of Hajj-2022. According to an official spokesperson, the **More on P10**

### LG Pays Tributes To Sikh Guru

**JAMMU:** The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday paid humble homage to Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji on his 'Martyrdom Day'. Sinha, according to an official spokesperson said that Guru Ji's sacrifice for upholding the principle of freedom of conscience and his vision for **More on P10**

### BSF Officer Dies Of Heart Attack

**SRINAGAR:** A Border Security Force (BSF) officer on Wednesday died after suffering a heart attack in Mankote area of the mountainous Poonch district. Inspector Madan Lal suffered a massive heart attack at the paramilitary force's fifth battalion headquarters in Uchhad area of Mankote sector **More on P10**

### Electric Shock Injures PDD Employee

**SRINAGAR:** A Power Development Department (PDD) employee on Wednesday was hospitalized after he received an electric shock in Mawer Bala area of Handwara. Nazir Ahmad Bhat, a local resident was repairing a power transformer and during the course of time received a high voltage electric shock and fell down, officials said. **More on P10**

## 96 Civilians Killed In Kashmir Post Art-370: Govt Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** At least 96 civilians have been killed in Kashmir post the abrogation of Article 370 while 366 militants have been killed by government forces, the government informed Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

In a written reply, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also said that "no Kashmiri Pandit/Hindu has been displaced from the valley" post the repeal of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

"However, recently some Kashmiri Pandit families, mostly women and children, living in Kashmir have moved to Jammu region.

"These families are of govt. employees, many of whom, move to Jammu **More on P10**

## Journalists In J&K Not Stopped From Reporting: GoI Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government on Wednesday informed Parliament that the Jammu and Kashmir government has not issued any order under which journalists can be stopped from reporting if their work threatens peace and public tranquility.

Minister of state for home affairs Nityanand Rai stated this in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

"The government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir has informed that no such order has been issued," he stated.

He was asked if the J&K administration has issued orders under which journalists can be stopped from reporting if their work threatens peace and public tranquility, **More on P10**

# CDS Rawat, Wife; 11 Others Killed In IAF Chopper Crash



Press Trust Of India

**COONOOR (TN):** Gen. Bipin Rawat, India's first Chief of Defence Staff and who had a vast experience across a wide spectrum of conflict and terrain profiles, was among the 13 people killed on Wednesday when the military helicopter they were travelling in crashed in a hilly area in apparently foggy conditions near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu, the Indian Air Force

(IAF) and state officials said.

The Mi-17V5 helicopter carrying Gen. Rawat, the 63-year-old tri-services chief who would have completed two years at the end of this month in the new post after serving as the Army chief, crashed killing 13 of the 14 people on board including his wife and 11 other armed forces personnel, the officials said. The lone survivor, Group Captain Varun Singh, Directing Staff

at DSSC, is currently under treatment at a military hospital in nearby Wellington, the IAF said.

Gen. Rawat, an outspoken General with his remarks sometimes kicking up a controversy, was on a visit to the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington (Nilgiri Hills) to address the faculty and student officers of the Staff Course

The IAF said a Court of Inquiry has **More on P10**

## LG Shocked Over Rawat's Demise

**J**ammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday expressed deep shock over demise of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu. "Deeply shocked at tragic demise of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, his wife, and 11 other Armed Forces Personnel in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu," Sinha said in a tweet. "The nation has lost one of its bravest sons. My thoughts and prayers are with bereaved families in this hour of grief."

## Senior Pak Army Officials Condole 'Tragic Death'

**P**akistan's top military brass on Wednesday expressed condolences over the "tragic death" of India's Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 others who died in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu. Pakistan Army's spokesman in a short statement posted on Twitter said that Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) General Nadeem Raza and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa expressed condolences. "General Nadeem Raza, JCSC & General Qamar **More on P10**

## Burning Bodies Numb People With Disbelief

**A** kind of a thud and 'something' whirling from nowhere was the first sign that something has gone seriously amiss. Humble tea estate workers, in their serene Western Ghats village in Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu were quickly overwhelmed with a sense of foreboding. Soon, it was sheer disbelief that gripped them in their modest hillside colony when they saw a

frightening bright blaze emerging from the misty woods amid clanking of metal objects. Though it was a little past noon, fog still shrouded the hills on Wednesday. Although neither workers nor their family members could comprehend what was unfolding, they and some local people were the first to reach the location, where the Air Force helicopter, with Chief of Defence **More on P10**

## J&K Tired Of 'Dictatorship', Needs Popular Govt: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Accusing the BJP-led government of renegeing on its promise of completing the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir by March next year, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said the people had enough of dictatorship and desperately needed a democratically elected government that could address their issues.

Alleging that that the press was not free to write against the government, he demanded a legislation in the Parliament to ensure media houses function free of fear.



We have been promised delimitation followed by (Assembly) elections and the commission was told to complete the exercise positively by March 6 Now, they have told the parliament **More on P10**

## 3 Militants Killed In Day-Long Shopian Encounter

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Wednesday claimed to have killed three local militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in a day-long firefight in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Police, army's 34 RR and the personnel of CRPF 178 battalion launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Check Cholan village of the district on the basis of specific input suggesting presence of militants, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. The hiding militants, he said, were given repeated opportunities to surrender as



their presence got ascertained. "However they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated

leading to an encounter," he said. In the ensuing encounter, he said, three militants of Lashkar (TRF) were **More on P10**

## Omicron Scare: Govt Directs Rigorous Screening Of Foreign Travellers



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday directed an intensified surveillance network with

rigorous screening and follow-up of all the international travellers coming from all entry points to Kashmir division.

These directions were issued by the Divisional **More on P10**

## DoT To Deactivate Extra SIM Of Subscribers

**Users In J&K Holding 6 Sim Connections To Be Re-Verified**

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued an order to re-verify the SIM of subscribers holding beyond nine connections across India and six connections in the case of Jammu and Kashmir, North East and Assam and disconnect in the case of non-verification.

The subscribers will be given the option to choose the connection they want to retain and

## Chill Intensifies Across Kashmir

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Cold wave conditions prevailed in Kashmir as mercury settled below the freezing point across the Valley on Wednesday, officials said here.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.0 degrees Celsius, the coldest in the valley, they said.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, up by one degree from the previous night, the officials said.

They said Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius.

Mercury at Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a minimum of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, officials said. (with PTI inputs)

## Police Seize 75 Vehicles Used In 'Militant Activities'

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday accorded sanction for the seizure of a truck used for militant activities, taking the number of such seizures under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) to 75 this year, police said.

Five residential houses, six shops, land and cash have also been seized under the act till date, a police spokesperson said.

Quoting an order issued by the police headquarters here, he said sanction was accorded for the seizure of a truck, which was used by its owner to give shelter to a militant who was arrested along with a huge quantity of explosive substances and other arms and ammunition from the vehicle on the outskirts of Srinagar recently.

The spokesperson said the evidence collected during the course of investigation, following the arrest of the militant, revealed that the truck has been sold thrice to different persons before being purchased by Mohd Shafi Dar and was being used for harbouring the militant.

The Truck has been used to facilitate and promote militant activities and is accordingly liable to be seized. In exercise of powers conferred by section 25 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, DGP J&K has accorded sanction for seizure of this vehicle, the spokesperson said.

He said a total of 75 vehicles, mostly four-wheelers and two-wheelers, **More on P10**

## J&K Received Investment Proposals Worth Rs 31,000 Cr

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed the Rajya Sabha that investment proposals worth Rs 31,000 crore have been received in Jammu and Kashmir after Article 370 was repealed

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai stated that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir had received investment proposals worth roughly Rs 31,000 crore since the repeal of Article 370.

The Government has notified the New Central Sector Scheme

for Industrial Development of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) on February 19, 2021, to attract capital investments in Jammu and Kashmir, according to MoS Home Nityanand Rai in a written reply to Rajya Sabha on the question of MP Narayan Dass Gupta.

The J&K Industrial Policy, J&K Private Industrial Estate Development Policy, and J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy have all been included to this.

"These initiatives have elicited a positive reaction, with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir reporting that it has received bids for investments worth roughly **More on P10**









## Won't Compromise With The Quality Of Education In Coaching Centres : CCA

Syed Mohammad

SRINAGAR: General Secretary of Coaching Centre's Association Kashmir Riyaz Majid on Wednesday said that teaching is a noble and Prophetic profession and attempts were being made to compromise the dignity of teachers.

He made these comments while addressing a press conference in Srinagar. During the presser, he was flanked by other members of the Association.

He said the association was brought into existence to restore the dignity of teaching and people associated with teaching. "We are part and parcel of the society and we will ensure that our children get quality education" he said. We are ready to help the government to streamline the educational setup in Kashmir. He added.

He said the Association was opening a grievance cell to cater to the problems of students. "The association will have a grievance cell that will respond to all the complaints of students and parents, for this purpose we will use all the technological facilities like website and social media handles to establish communication and coordination with the parents".

He further said the association will make sure that

the students get the best quality education from coaching systems and no centre will be allowed to deceive and cheat students in any way.

He appealed to the government to provide financial assistance to the teaching faculty involved in community teaching as they have been suffering due to unprecedented situations.

"The government should come up with a supportive financial package for the coaching sector as this sector has been providing employment to several thousand educated youth".

He also briefed the media about the recently held elections of the association. During the elections he said, Hamid Mufti was elected president, Muneer Alam Vice President, Riyaz Majid as General Secretary and Hafiz Bhat as Treasurer respectively.

President Coaching Centre's Association Hamid Mufti said the corporate sector in Education making inroads in the valley should not generate ugly competition. Moreover, the government should keep a check on them in the same way as it is doing effectively with the non-corporate institutions. We will discourage any sort of exploitation of the youth by any institution whether local or corporate. He said.

## Share Grab Case CBK Files Chargesheet Against Two Sgr Residents

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: The Crime Branch Kashmir (CBK) produced a chargesheet against two persons for allegedly intending to grab the share of a person in the property, which comes under road widening at Safriyar Habakadal.

According to a statement, the CBK produced a charge-sheet in a case under FIR number 59/2016 under section 420, 423, 193, 120-B RPC before the Court of City Judge Srinagar against the accused Mohd Yaqoob Halwaie, son of Gh Ahmad Halwaie of Habba Kadal and Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, son of Ab. Ahad Bhat of Zaldagar Srinagar, for intending to grab the share of complainant (Nazir Ahmad Halwaie) in the house/land, which come under road widening at Safriyar Habakadal.

"The CBK received a complaint from Nazir Ahmad Halwaie S/o Gh. Ahmad Halwaie R/o Kharyar Habakadal Srinagar, alleging therein that the suspect Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, Mohd Yaqoob Bhat residents of Haba Kadal Srinagar and Patwari Mohd Sultan in league with each other have hatched a criminal conspiracy and by falsification of revenue records have denied the complainant of his due share of compensation in the house/land which has come under road widening showing the suspects as owners and possessors of land/house in question and on the strength of these fake documents have successfully in awarding the compensation in their favour and

denied the complaint of his due share of compensation. Accordingly, the instant case was registered under sections 420, 468, 471 RPC and investigation started."

During investigation it was found that the complainant Nazir Ahmad Halwaie and accused Mohd Yaqoob Halwaie are real brothers who had purchased four storied building from Prithvi Nath Sadhu and others at Safriyar Habakadal in the year 1985. The complainant and accused Mohd Yaqoob Halwaie took the possession of the said building in equal shares, it said.

"During passage of time the whole structure came under road widening and the Govt. sanctioned an amount of 42 lacs in favour of the dwellers of the said structure. The accused Mohd Yaqoob Halwaie deprived the complainant of his legitimate compensation share so sanctioned by hatching a criminal conspiracy with his relative Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat (Brother-in-Law). In furtherance of criminal conspiracy he resorted to the falsification of affidavits reflecting therein that the accused Mohd Yaqoob Halwaie and Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat are the owners of the said property instead of complainant."

During the course of investigation, the spot verification was conducted by then Patwari Halqa Habbakadal and it was found that the house/land in question is Abadi-Deh & the accused are in joint possession of the said residential house situated at Safriyar Habbakadal.

## HC Questions Grounds Of Appointment Of SMC Commissioner

'Show the authority under which you are holding the post'

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has asked the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Athar Amir Khan to show the authority under which he is holding the post.

According to a Srinagar based news agency, three Srinagar Municipal Corporation Corporators have filed a petition against the Commissioner in the High Court through their lawyer Advocate Shuja Ul Haq challenging the appointment of Khan as SMC Commissioner and claiming that he lacks the eligibility for the



post.

Citing Section 45 of SMC, the petitioners have claimed that the Commissioner lacks eligibility for the post.

As per Section 45 of the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation

Act, 2000, Commissioner of Municipal Corporation can be appointed by the Government by issuing a notification in the Government Gazette and the person/s to be appointed must be Class (1) officer of the Govern-

ment, having the service of not less than 15 years.

"It is pointed out by the learned counsel for the petitioner that the respondent No. 4 is an IAS officer of 2016 batch and, therefore, having service of less than 15 years in the Government," the Court observed.

The court said that Prima facie, this Court finds substance in the submissions made by the learned Counsel for the petitioner.

Khan, who is a 2016 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan Cadre was deputed in February this year by centre government to JK UT and posted as Commissioner SMC. (KDC)

## Government Medical College, Srinagar

10-Karan Nagar, Srinagar Kashmir, 190010  
Phone No. 0914-2504114 Fax No 0194-2503115

Advertisement Notice No. 09 of 2021

Dated: 09-12-2021

Applications on the prescribed format are invited from the (in-service/ Non-PSC doctors) eligible candidates for the post of Registrar/Demonstrator on (tenure basis) in the following disciplines. However, the services of Non PSC candidates shall be hired on Academic Arrangement basis under s.o. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27-11-2020 and the psc confirmed candidates shall be governed by the relevant rules as envisaged in the J&K civil service Rules 1979, initially for a period of one year extendable upto 03 years subject to better performance of the candidate during their 1st and 2nd years of engagement, which can be obtained from the respective hods after completion of 1st and 2nd year of Registrarship/ Demonstratorship, as the case may be:

S. NO.	Name of Discipline	Essential Qualification
1.	Anesthesiology	MD/MS/DNB/DM Diploma from an institution duly recognized by the MCI in the concerned discipline
2.	Physiology	
3.	Obsts & Gynae	
4.	ophthalmology	
5.	Blood Bank	
6.	Surgery & its Allied	
7.	Pharmacology	
8.	psychiatry	
9.	Medicine	
10.	Forensic Medicine	
11.	pediatrics	
12.	Microbiology	
13.	Radiotherapy	
14.	Neurology	
15.	Nephrology	MD Medicine from an institution duly recognized by the MCI. dm Neurology/DNB Neurology shall be given preference.
16.	Cardiology	MD Medicine from an institution duly recognized by the MCI. DM Nephrology /DNB Nephrology shall be given preference.
17.	Endocrinology	MD Medicine from an institution duly recognized by the MCI. DM Cardiology/DNB Cardiology shall be given preference.
18.	Pediatric Surgery	MD Medicine from an Institution duly recognized by the MCI. DM Endocrinology /dnb Endocrinology shall be given preference
19.	urology	M S Surgery from an Institution duly recognized by the MCI. M.CH Pediatric Surgery / dnb pediatric Surgery shall be given preference MS Surgery from an Institution duly recognized by the MCI. M.CH Urology / dnb Urology shall be given preference.

Candidates interested in applying for Registrar/Demonstrators posts at Government Medical College, Srinagar should download the respective application form from Government Medical college, Srinagar Website <http://www.gmcs.edu.in/> between 06-12-2021 to 31-12-2021 or the same may be collected from the Photostat Section of Government Medical College, Srinagar. The application forms should be accompanied with a non-refundable bank receipt of Rs 300/- (Rupees three hundred only) from J&K Bank, GMC, Srinagar (account No. 0349040100007655). Application forms complete in all respects should reach the office of the Registrar Academics upto 31-12-2021.

Terms & Conditions:-

1. Incomplete application form(s) in any respect or not attached with relevant certificates shall be rejected without further communications.  
2. Conditions for PSC/ Non-PSC Candidates:-

For in-service (PSC confirmed) candidates:-

- The In-service doctor shall be paid salary as per their LPC.
- Applicants working in Health and Medical Education Department are required to submit their application forms along with No Objection certificate from their parent Department without which their application forms shall not be entertained as envisaged in Government order No. 164-HMC of 2012 Dated. 02.03.2012.
- Those PSC confirmed doctors who have already completed their tenure as Registrar/Demonstrator in any discipline need not to apply and their application forms shall not be considered.

For Non-PSC candidates..

- The Non PSC doctors shall be paid stipend as per under s.o. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27-11-2020.
- The application forms should be accompanied with the following self attested copies of the documents:-
  - b. internship certificate.
  - c MCI/State Medical Council Registration certificate
  - d physical active field service certificate after PC/Rural service prior to PC certificate issued by the Director, Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir in respect of in-service doctors.
  - e. Attempt certificate 1st, 2nd, pre-final and Final MBBS examinations issued by the university of Kashmir concerned.
  - f. Distinction/National Scholarship/Honors/Medals/Academic Merit certificates.
  - g. House Officer (House job) experience certificate issued by the principal concerned or equivalent recognized authority.
  - h. Diploma certificate/postgraduate degree certificate.
  - i. Date of Birth certificate
  - j. Professional publications in a standard medical journal, if anv.
- 4. The candidates has to produced an Affidavit duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate declaring that:-
  - . the applicant has not done Registrar-ship/Sr. Residency earlier within or outside J&K Union Territory (only for PSC confirmed candidates).. he/she is a Non-PSC candidate (the information if found wrong he/she shall be punished under Rules) (only for Non-PSC candidates).
- 5. The selected candidate has to submit an affidavit to the effect that he/she is not on the rolls of any Medical Colleges/Institutions of the country which is pre-requisite in terms of MCI norms.
- 6. Maximum age for eligibility to apply shall be 50 years as on 31-12-2021
- 7. The Competent Authority reserves the right of any amendment, cancellation and changes to this advertisement as a whole or in part without assigning any reason or giving notice.
- 8. The decision of the competent authority regarding selection of candidates will be final and no representation will be entertained in this regard.
- 9. Separate application form is to be filled for each post and fee is to be deposited separately for each post, applied for.
- 10. In case of any declaration by the candidate is found false or if the candidate has willfully suppressed any material/information relevant to his/her appointment, his/her selection will be cancelled ab-initio liable for action as warranted under rules.
- 11. candidates meeting the eligibility criteria and producing all the prescribed documents will be interviewed.
- 12. The selected candidates shall have to execute an agreement that he/she will not leave the Department before the completion of Registrarship/ Demonstratorship term, however abandoning/terminating of the arrangement in the specialty will require one month prior notice on either side failing which the salary shall not be paid for one month to the incumbent which shall always remain in deposit with the Department and shall be released on completion of sanctioned term.
- The selection of the candidates will be made on the basis of combined academic merit and performance at the interview.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in interview.

DIPK-14401/21

NO: AR/MC/R/D/Adv/2489-2509/MC DATED 07-12-2021

Principal/Dean  
Government Medical Collège  
Srinagar

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI  
CALENDAR

04 Jumada al-awwal  
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 54

ZUHR 12:22

ASR 3:45

Magrib 5:25

ISHA 6: 50

## This Day In History

- 1910 - French troops occupy Moroccan harbor city Agadir.
- 1917 - British forces under General Allenby capture Jerusalem.
- 1918 - French troops occupies Mainz.
- 1924 - Netherlands & Hungary trade treaty signed.
- 1931 - Japanese army attacks Chinese province of Jehol.
- 1931 - Spain becomes a republic.
- 1941 - 1st US WW II bombing mission in Far East, Luzon, Philippines.
- 1941- China declares war on Japan, Germany & Italy.
- 1948 - UN General Assembly unanimously approves Convention on Genocide.
- 1951 - West German voters approve merger of 3 states to form Baden- Wurttemberg.
- 1957 - 1st Japanese ambassador to Israel.
- 1961 - SS-Obersturmbannführer (lieutenant colonel) Adolf Eichmann found guilty of war crimes in Israel.
- 1961 - Tanganyika gains independence from Britain, takes name Tanzania.
- 1962 - Tanganyika becomes a republic within British Commonwealth.
- 1965 - Nikolai Podgorny replaces Anastas Mikoyan as president of Soviet Praesidium.
- 1968 - NLS (a system for which hypertext and the computer mouse were developed) is publicly demonstrated for the first time in San Francisco.
- 1970 - OPEC meeting in Caracas establishes 55 percent as minimum tax rate and demands that posted prices be changed to reflect changes in foreign exchange rates.
- 1973 - Arab oil ministers announce a further production cut of 5 percent for January for non-friendly countries.
- 1975 - Jelena Bonner receives Andrei Sacharov's Nobel Prize.
- 1975 - Iraq completes nationalization by taking over the BP, CFP, and Shell shares of the Basrah Petroleum Company.
- 1978 - Pioneer Venus 2 drops 5 probes into atmosphere of Venus
- 1983 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site.
- 1984 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site.
- 1984 - Iranian commandos end day hijack of Kuwaiti plane.
- 1987 - Palestine uprising begin in Israeli-occupied West Bank.
- 1990 - Gunda Niemann skates ladies world record 3k ladies (4:10.80).
- 1994 - 5m meteor 1994 XM1 passes within 100,000 km of Earth.
- 2006 - Moscow suffers its worst fire since 1977, killing 45 women in a drug rehabilitational center.
- 2012 - 13 people are killed and 10 are injured after a bus rolls of a cliff and falls 100 meters in Taiwan.
- 2012 - Incumbent Ghanaian president John Mahama wins the general election amidst allegations of fraud.
- 2012 - The Social Liberal Union Party and Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta win by a landslide in the parliamentary elections.
- 2014 - CIA Torture Report released, detailing the CIA's use of torture on detainees between 2001-2006.
- 2015 - Attack on Kandahar airport by Taliban forces kills at least 37 before Afghan forces retake control.

From KO Archives

## American FBI team arrives in Sgr

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: A two-member team of US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) today left for Srinagar in connection with the mysterious disappearance of the four foreigners kidnapped in 1995, official sources said.

The sources said this was a routine visit by the FBI officials as per the requirement of the United States laws where they have to submit a report every quarter.

Six foreigners — John Childs and Donald Fred Hutchings (both US nationals), Paul Wells and Keith Mangan (UK nationals), Dirk Hasert (German) and Hans Christian Ostro (Norwegian) — had been kidnapped in July 1995 from Pahalgam hills in South Kashmir.

The group responsible for kidnapping identified itself as Al-Faran. While Childs managed to give a slip to his abductors, the head of Norwegian abductee was found severed near Anantnag in August 1995.

The fate of other four hostages despite hectic search operation carried by the government and later by German and British police remains unknown.

(Kashmir Observer, 09 December, 2000)

### The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education District Office Lal Mandi Srinagar

Attention Please

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost his Marks certificate of class 12th issued BY BOSE with following Particulars:-  
Name Name Asif Khursheed  
Parentage Khursheed Ahamd Rather  
Class 12th (Hr. Sec. Exam Part-II)  
Roll No: 8130232 Year/Session 2016



Now the candidate has applied for their duplicate. Anybody (if) having any objections in this regard may please file the same before the undersigned within (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides the above referred Marks Certificate treated as cancelled

Sd/- Assistant Secretary  
Examination -III KD

INF



## 20 Bangladesh Students Sentenced To Death For Brutal Murder Over Facebook Post

### Agencies

A Bangladesh court sentenced 20 university students to death on Wednesday for the brutal 2019 murder of a young man who criticised the government on social media.

The battered body of Abrar Fahad, 21, was found in his university dormitory hours after he wrote a Facebook post slamming Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for signing a water-sharing deal with India.

He was beaten with a cricket bat and other blunt objects for six hours by 25 fellow students who were members of the ruling Awami League's student wing, the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

"I am happy with the verdict," Fahad's father Barkat Ullah told reporters outside court after the verdict. "I hope the punishments will be served soon."

Prosecutor Abdullah Abu told AFP that the remaining five perpetrators were sentenced to life imprisonment.

All those handed death sentences were between 20 and 22 years old and attended the elite Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology alongside Fahad.

Three of the defendants are still at large while the rest were in the courtroom.

A lawyer for the defendants said the sentence would be appealed.

### 'Highest punishment'

Fahad had put up a post on Facebook that went viral hours before his death.

In it, he criticised the government for signing an accord that allowed India to take water from a river that lies on the boundary the two countries share.

Fahad had been seen — in leaked CCTV footage that went viral on social media — walking into a dormitory with some BCL activists.

About six hours later, his body was carried out by the students and laid on the ground.

The BCL has earned notoriety in recent years after some of its members were accused of killing, violence and extortion.

In 2018, its members allegedly used violence to suppress a major anti-government student protest. Those protests were sparked by anger over road safety after a student was killed by a speeding bus.

Protesters have called for the attackers to be harshly punished and for the BCL to be banned.

Hasina vowed soon after the attacks that the killers would get the "highest punishment".

Death sentences are common in Bangladesh with hundreds of people on death row. All executions are by hanging, a legacy of the British colonial era.

In August, a court sentenced six religious extremists to death for the brutal murders of two gay rights activists.



**A CHILD STANDS OUTSIDE HER HOME** in a neighbourhood where many internally displaced people have been living for years, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec 7. — AP

## Hunger Could Kill More Afghans Than All The Bombs And Bullets Of The Past Two Decades, Warns US Think Tank

### Agencies

A US-based think tank has called on the international community to ease restrictions on Afghanistan to avoid "state failure and mass starvation", according to a report issued on Monday.

"International actors must ease restrictions to avoid state failure and mass starvation in Afghanistan," said the report issued by Washington-based transnational think tank, International Crisis Group (ICG).

It warned that hunger and destitution in the wake of the Taliban's takeover could "kill more people than all the bombs and bullets of the past two decades".

ICG projected that up to one million Afghan children could die of starvation this winter if not helped, urging the US, Europe, and other donor nations to find ways to keep Afghanistan from imploding without endorsing the Taliban regime.

Other relief agencies have also warned that providing only humanitarian aid to Afghanistan was like a band-aid at best and that economic engagement with Afghanistan was necessary to prevent a collapse of the Afghan state.

ICG, other think tanks and relief agencies have asked for a "humanitarian-plus" approach to

**IF THE TALIBAN** are looking for a deeper relationship with the international community, including the US, it's their conduct that we will look to in terms of devising what that might look like,

prevent the collapse of the Afghan state. The suggested "humanitarian-plus" initiative includes providing salaries for doctors and teachers, sending hospital supplies and restoring electricity.

The report includes a statement by a UN health official in Afghanistan who warned that "stopgap solutions" will run out of money in early 2022.

"It is misleading to suggest that financial support to teachers, health care or food security workers in state institutions is somehow not entirely humanitarian," the UN official argued.

But the report noted that a United States' diplomat disagreed with the suggestion, saying "funding with ancillary benefits to the Taliban government remains out of bounds."

The report pointed out that "the principal arbiter of Kabul's economic relationship with the world remains the United States"

and the Biden administration was "searching for, and not yet identifying, assistance options that will entirely circumvent the country's Taliban rulers".

Other donors, the report added, were waiting for signals from Washington. ICG identified three main points of leverage that gave "the US an outsized role in shaping the policies of Western donors toward the Taliban regime: frozen assets, sanctions and influence in multilateral settings".

The US holds most of Afghanistan's \$9.4 billion in overseas assets — a major form of US leverage over a government whose central bank held few reserves locally and depended on US cash shipments.

Taliban officials told ICG that they were "negotiating" with the US for access to the frozen assets, but US officials said their conversations with the Taliban on the topic had been brief, as they "bluntly informed" the Taliban that the assets will stay out of their reach.

Noting that the US and its allies wielded substantial influence at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the report said that "the donors must decide whether [and how] to continue supporting the basic services financed by international aid for the past twenty years."

## WHO: Highly Unlikely Existing Vaccines Will Fail Against Omicron

### Agencies

Omicron does not appear to cause more severe disease than previous Covid variants, and is "highly unlikely" to fully dodge vaccine protections, a top WHO official told AFP on Tuesday.

Speaking to AFP, the World Health Organization's second-in-command, said that while a lot remained to be learned about the new, heavily mutated variant of Covid-19, preliminary data indicated it did not make people sicker than Delta and other strains.

"The preliminary data doesn't indicate that this is more severe. In fact, if anything, the direction is towards less severity," WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan said in an interview, insisting though that more research was needed.

"It's very early days, we have to be very careful how we interpret that signal."

At the same time, he said there was no sign that Omicron could



fully sidestep protections provided by existing Covid vaccines.

"We have highly effective vaccines that have proved effective against all the variants so far, in terms of severe disease and hospitalization," the 56-year-old epidemiologist and former trauma surgeon said.

### 'Best weapon'

Ryan acknowledged it was possible that the existing vaccines might prove less effective against Omicron, which counts more than 30 mutations on the spike protein that dots the surface of the corona-

virus and allows it to invade cells.

But he said it was "highly unlikely" it would be able to evade vaccine protections altogether.

"We have to confirm if there's any lapse in that protection, but I would expect to see some protection there."

"The preliminary data from South Africa wouldn't indicate that we will have a catastrophic loss of efficacy. In fact, the opposite at the moment."

In the fight against all Covid variants, he said, "the best weapon we have right now is to get vaccinated."

Two weeks after first being identified, Omicron has been found in dozens of countries around the world.

Early data from South Africa indicates that the new variant is likely more transmissible than previous variants, Ryan said, adding that this was not a surprise.

### Same rules

The fast-talking Irishman said one could expect Omicron to gradually replace Delta as the dominant strain.

## France Arrested Wrong Man Over Khashoggi Murder: Saudi Arabia

French police on Tuesday arrested a man suspected of involvement in the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but Saudi officials claimed that they were holding the wrong man.

Investigators were seeking to confirm that the man carrying a passport in the name of Khalid Alotaibi was indeed the suspect by the same name sought by Turkey and sanctioned by the US over the gruesome killing of Khashoggi that unleashed a wave of global anger.

The Saudi embassy in Paris issued a statement late Tuesday saying the man arrested "has nothing to do with the case in question" and demanded his immediate release.

A security source in Saudi Arabia added that "Khaled Alotaibi" was a very common name in the kingdom, and that the Alotaibi the French thought they were holding was actually serving time in prison in Saudi Arabia along with "all the defendants in the case".

The man was detained by border police on the basis of an arrest warrant issued by Turkey as he was about to board a flight to Riyadh from Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport, judicial and airport sources told AFP, asking not to be named.

A man named Khalid Alotaibi is one of 26 Saudis charged in absentia by Turkey over the killing in a trial that got underway in October 2020. If convicted, he could face life imprisonment.

Two of the 26 being tried in absentia in Turkey are former aides to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. No Saudi official has ever faced justice in person in Turkey for the killing.

Alotaibi is also one of 17 people that the US Treasury designated for sanctions in 2018 over their role in the murder.

### Identity being confirmed



A source close to the case said that the Interpol Red Notice issued at Turkey's request came up as the traveller was passing through passport control.

Checks were still underway on Tuesday evening to ensure his identity is correct and that the arrest warrant applies to him, another source close to the case added, noting that his detention can last up to 48 hours.

If confirmed as the suspected assassination team member, he will appear before French prosecutors.

He would have the right to challenge extradition to Turkey. If he does, the French judiciary must decide whether to keep him in detention pending a formal Turkish extradition request, or to free him on condition that he does not leave France. It can typically take several weeks for a court to rule on whether to hand him over to Turkey against his will.

In September 2020, a Saudi court overturned five death sentences issued after a closed-door trial in Saudi Arabia, sentencing the accused to 20 years in prison instead.

Khashoggi -- a prominent Saudi who lived in self-exile in the United States and wrote for The Washington Post -- entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018 to file paperwork to marry his Turkish fiancée. **AFP**

## Mountaineer Gets Half Of The Gems He Found At Air India Crash Site On Mont Blanc



### Agencies

In 2013, a French mountaineer climbing Mont Blanc, the highest peak in western Europe, discovered a box with an assortment of precious stones. The gems—which included emeralds, sapphires and rubies—were valued at about \$340,000.

The gems were believed to have been from the wreckage of an Air India flight, named Kanchenjunga, which crashed on Mont Blanc in 1966.

Recently, French media reported that the local government in Chamonix, where part of Mont Blanc is located, had split the gems between itself and the mountaineer.

The mountaineer had handed over the box to authorities after discovering it. The local government attempted to find the rightful owners of the gems but was unsuccessful.

Eric Fournier, the mayor of Chamonix, was quoted by reports as saying the stones had been shared in equal lots valued at \$169,000 each. Fournier also praised the mountaineer for his honesty.

Some of the gems will be put on display at a museum in Chamonix when it reopens on December 19.

The mountaineer, whose identity was not revealed, had been informed last year he would be given some of the stones. He had told Le Parisien newspaper then he did not regret being honest and turning over the stones to police. He claimed he would use some of the money to renovate his apartment.

The crash of the Kanchenjunga, which was en route from Mumbai to New York, killed 117 people. On board the flight was nuclear scientist Homi J. Bhabha, widely regarded as the father of India's nuclear programme. Another Air India flight, named the Malabar Princess, had crashed on Mont Blanc in 1950. Wreckage and human remains from the crash sites has been discovered in recent years due to the Bosson Glacier on Mont Blanc receding due to global warming.

In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the opening of a memorial in France dedicated to victims of the two Air India crashes.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Pak Driver And Assistant Suspended For Halting Train To Buy Yogurt

**LAHORE:** A Pakistani train driver and his assistant have been suspended from service after he stopped the train to purchase yogurt near a railway station in Lahore, according to a media report on Wednesday.

Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati on Tuesday suspended the driver and his assistant after a video went viral on social media showing the train driver stopping the train near the Kahna Kacha railway station in the provincial capital to buy yogurt, the Dawn newspaper reported.

After the video clip invited criticism of the rail-



ways department, which has been in trouble of late due to various issues like accidents, passenger safety and declining revenue, the minister took action and ordered the Pakistan Railways Lahore administration

to suspend driver Rana Mohammad Shehzad and his assistant Iftikhar Hussain, it said.

"I will not tolerate such events in the future and allow anyone to use national assets for personal use," the minister

warned in a statement.

Earlier in December, a ban was imposed on the use of mobile phones by locomotive drivers and assistants while on a journey, the report said.

They had also been barred from taking selfies, recording video and audio messages on their phones in all trains (passenger and goods), it added.

Respective divisional heads had also been directed to keep tracking crew members of a train (especially drivers and their assistants) and take prompt action if someone was flouting the orders. —PTI

## Dozens Of Camels Barred From Saudi Beauty Contest Over Botox

**DUBAI:** Saudi authorities have conducted their biggest-ever crackdown on camel beauty contestants that received Botox injections and other artificial touch-ups, the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported on Wednesday, with over 40 camels disqualified from the annual pageant.

Saudi Arabia's popular King Abdulaziz Camel Festival, which kicked off earlier this month, invites the breeders of the most beautiful camels to compete for some \$66 million in prize money.

Botox injections, face lifts and other cosmetic alterations to make the camels more attractive are strictly prohibited. Jurors



decide the winner based on the shape of the camels' heads, necks, humps, dress and postures.

Judges at the month-long festival in the desert northeast of the Saudi capital, Riyadh, are escalating their clamp down on artificially enhanced camels, the official news agency reported, using "specialized and advanced" technology to detect tampering.

This year, authorities discovered dozens of breeders had stretched out the lips and noses of camels, used hormones to boost the beasts' muscles, injected camels' heads and lips with Botox to make them bigger, inflated body parts with rubber bands and used fillers to relax their faces.

"The club is keen to halt all acts of tampering and deception in the beautifica-

tion of camels," the SPA report said, adding organisers would "impose strict penalties on manipulators".

The camel beauty contest is at the heart of the massive carnival, which also features camel races, sales and other festivities typically showcasing thousands of dromedaries. The extravaganza seeks to preserve the camel's role in the kingdom's Bedouin tradition and heritage, even as the oil-rich country ploughs ahead with modernising mega-projects.

Camel breeding is a multimillion-dollar industry and similar events take place across the region. —AP



## Engineer Who Served 18-Year in Jail Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Farooq Khan, a Kashmiri engineer, who was acquitted of militancy charges after 18 long years of imprisonment, died after suffering a cardiac arrest in Sopore town of Baramulla district early this week.

Khan, a mechanical engineer, died of a cardiac arrest at his rented accommodation in Sopore town on Sunday afternoon, his brother Ashiq told Kashmir Observer.

He was later laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard in Anantnag town of south Kashmir on Monday after legal-medico formalities were carried out by police. Khan's funeral was carried out under constant watch of police, family sources said.

"Farooq was running his business of solar panels in north Kashmir for a few years. He was doing well and was gradually expanding his business in remote villages of Baramulla," Ashiq said.

Pertinently, Farooq was arrested on May 23, 1996 by the Special Task Force of police on charges of triggering bomb blasts in New Delhi and Jaipur. After his arrest, Farooq was lodged in different jails within and outside the state.

The Delhi court acquitted him off all the charges after 14-year long trial, while the Additional District Court, Bandhikui, Jaipur also cleared his name after a lengthy trial. However, four other



Kashmiri prisoners-Abdul Gani Goni, Mohammad Ali Bhat, Mirza Nisar and Lateef Ahmad Waza, were awarded life by the court for their alleged role in militancy.

After his return, Farooq, a resident of Anantnag joined Shabir Shah led Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party. However, after the mass arrests following abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status, Farooq was convinced by his family to shift his base to north Kashmir and start a business.

Farooq Khan, whose family has a long association with separatist politics, had completed his aeronautical engineering from Chennai and higher studies from London before joining the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department of the state government in 1991. He served the government as a junior engineer for five years, before he was arrested by police on charges of militant activities.

## J&K gets 14 More DNB Seats in GMCs, DHs

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The National Board of Examinations has accredited the General Medicine Department of Sub District Hospital (SDH), Kupwara, with approval of two seats in Medical Sciences (NBEMS).

In addition, NBEMS has approved 14 more seats for Government Medical Colleges and District Hospitals of Jammu and Kashmir raising the total P G seats approval for the UT to 140 which is above the DM/MCH and MD/MS courses already being run here.

The Government Medical Colleges of Kathua and Doda besides Community Health Center, Kupwara, have received approval for 2 seats each in General Medicine department while Government Medical Colleges Anantnag and Rajouri have got approval four seats each in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Besides, SKIMS Soura has received approval for 2 seats in the department of emergency medicine.

Mission Director National Health Mission, Yasin Choudhary, while giving details about the development

said that a total of 164 applications have been submitted by various health institutions under Diplomat of National Board (DNB) programme in the UT, out of which, 53 applications have been approved till date against which 140 seats have been granted to the accredited departments. This has been possible consequent to the hard work of the administrative department H&ME, NHM and the team of health institutions being monitored by Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Department, Vivek Bhardwaj, he added.

Pertinently, the DNB courses have been introduced in District Hospitals and new Government Medical Colleges besides old GMCs and SKIMS in order to strengthen the institutions, decongest the GMCs and address the shortage of specialists in J&K.

The DNB courses are expected to improve the healthcare services in far flung districts of the UT besides improving services in the tertiary care institutions. This is also expected to bring down the referral from the far flung districts to already overburdened tertiary care institutes of J&K.

## Farooq Slams Extensions Of J&K Delimitation Commission

Agencies

**JAMMU:** National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah slammed the Centre for deviating from its promise and assurance that there will be no extension to the Delimitation Commission beyond March 6, 2022 for submitting its report to enable elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

"Being members of the Commission, we were neither invited nor shown any preliminary report", Dr Farooq Abdullah said while addressing a daylong Convention of JKNC OBC Cell at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan here.

Dr Abdullah said the people of Jammu and Kashmir cannot wait anymore as there is no alternative to the popular government. The people have lost their patience due to bad governance and bureaucratic rule. There can be no substitute to elections and the way the government is delaying the delimitation report, it appears they have no intention to hold polls in near future, he said .The NC

President also rubbished the claims of normalcy in the Valley, saying they central government remained in denial over the leaving of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir in the wake of recent civilian killings. They are also misleading about the tourism revival.

Strongly advocating the demand of reservation for the Other Backward Communities, Dr Abdullah said this is imperative for providing level playing field to the marginalised segments of the society to grow and prosper. The reservation for their youth is necessary as they too have the right to contribute towards the nation by becoming doctors, engineers and high ranking officials like similarly placed reserved categories are availing. He said the socio-economic conditions of the weaker sections of the society call for out of box measures for them to flourish. He also supported a one-time category certificate for the eligible OBC population and called for streamlining the procedure. He lauded the initiatives taken

during the government led by Omar Abdullah for upliftment of weaker sections and said the sagacious decision of constituting the OBC Board will go a long way in improving the quality of life of these segments of the society.

Dr Farooq Abdullah also pitched for political empowerment of women and said their role in decision making is imperative for harmonious growth of the society. He said the women should get equal opportunities and openings in the democratic institutions as also other fields as they are second to none. He also urged women to come forward and play their crucial role in the decision making.

Earlier, the Convention adopted three resolutions, seeking rollback of the revocation of Article 370 to Jammu and Kashmir and restoration of statehood, issuance of one-time category certificate to OBCs and political reservation for these communities on the analogy of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

## Expedite Installation Of Smart Meters, Reduce Losses: CS To PDD

**Jammu:** A dynamic, responsive, efficient, and people-friendly power department remains the objective of the government. This was stated by the Chief Secretary Dr. Arun K Mehta here today. He was chairing a meeting to review the power sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary Power Development Department, Shiv Tayal, MD Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Basharat Qayoom, MD Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited and Chief Engineers and other senior officers of various wings of the corporations from both Jammu and Kashmir attended the meeting.

The meeting was informed that a record number of 264 works costing Rs 2360.27 crores were slated for completion this year. This was by far the highest number of works ever completed in any single year. In the distribution sector, KPDC and JPDCL have already completed 35 and 44 projects, respectively, and will be completing 23 and 46 additional projects by the end of this financial year. All these projects are being completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 1160.73 crore.

Under the IPDS and PMDP (U) schemes, 3621 distribution transformers were installed,



864 CKM HT lines and 2482 CKM LT lines were laid to add 1294 MVA capacity. Similarly, in rural areas, 2854 distribution transformers were installed, 1524 CKM HT lines and 3050 CKM LT lines were laid to add 587 MVA capacity under the DDUGYJ and PMDP(R) schemes.

It was further informed that Jammu and Kashmir has seen a significant leap of 150% in transformation capacity with the addition of 3806 MVA to the existing 8394 MVA, over a period of 2 years. While the transmission capacity addition at 132 KV level saw an increase of 305% during 2021-22, the 220 KV level capacities grew by 398% in the same period.

Further, the Department implemented tight enforcement and crackdown on power theft. Over the past few months, it conducted 5434 inspections resulting in 41781 disconnections, 2276 connection regularization. Subsequently, the Department recovered Rs. 44.38 crore as

penalties and fees.

To improve power distribution performance, the Power Development Department digitized the database of distribution transformers and allotted unique identification numbers to each for seamless management of transformer damage and repair. Additionally, transformer repair workshops were modernized and preventive repairs were carried out to ensure standardized transformer health.

The Chief Secretary asked the Department to focus on enhancing the billing efficiency through the expeditious installation of pre-paid/ smart meters and prioritized metering of non-metered areas, besides intensifying the inspection drives. The Department was advised to devise an installation strategy to streamline the metering of non-metered areas through spare meters from the areas being covered by the pre-paid/smart meters.

## District Hospital Budgam Faces Dearth of Staff, Patients Suffer

Agencies

**BUDGAM:** The district hospital in Central Kashmir's Budgam district is facing dearth of doctors and medical officers' putting the lives of patients living in the area at risk.

According to Kashmir News Observer, the hospital has more than half-a-dozen unfilled doctor posts and around three dozens of Para-medical staff.

The Public Information Officer of the concerned hospital in a reply to Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the activist, M M Shuja has revealed that the hospital has a deficiency of at least of seven doctors.

"Besides, the district hospital Budgam has a deficiency of 36 Para-medicos," the PIO said.

In a RTI application, on asking

as to whether the hospital was designated for COVID-19 centre, the PIO has said that the hospital was not designated as the COVID-19 centre but the authorities were managing to treat the patients at early stage and later were being shifted to major COVID-19 centres.

"The hospital was not dedicated to COVID-19 patients from October-01-2021 onwards, however the COVID-19 patients were managed in the hospital for early treatment and later on shifted to dedicated COVID-19 hospitals of the Valley," reads the RTI reply.

The PIO said, "Further, two emergency rooms with High-end Paediatric ward and Dialysis unit have been established in the past three years in the hospital. The existing trained staff has been utilized for the same."

## Parliamentary Panel for Establishment of NABL Labs in J&K

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A parliamentary panel has recommended establishment of adequate National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) labs and testing centres in Jammu & Kashmir for quality testing of products being exported to different countries.

In its report, which was tabled in both Houses of the Parliament on November 30, the department-related parliamentary standing committee on commerce has recommended setting up of adequate National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) labs and testing centres in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the report, a copy of which is lying with Kashmir News Observer, these facilities would play a vital role in enhancing the quality of products in line with international standards.

The committee suggested that

the administration of the Union Territory and the Department of Commerce should actively engage under the scheme of Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) to develop certification and testing infrastructure in the region.

The Committee, according to the report, was informed that due to absence of quality testing and certification facilities in Srinagar, the export products such as pashmina shawls, carpets, etc., from Srinagar are being sent to Delhi or Mumbai.

The panel was informed that the exporters have to bear the additional costs and time in exporting their products.

The committee visited J&K and Ladakh Union Territories from August 24 to 28 and had interactions with various stakeholders as well as representatives of the UT administrations of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh on "augmenting infrastructure facilities to boost exports.

## Declare Class 8th results on Dec 11: SSCERT

**SRINAGAR:** The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT)-Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday directed the authorities to declare Class 8th results of Kashmir division on December 11, 2021.

According to a letter issued to Principal DIET, a copy of which lies with the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Joint Director SCERT-J&K Srinagar has direct-

ed to declare results of Class 8th of Kashmir division on December 11 instead of December 09.

Apropos to the subject cited above, your goodself is informed to declare the result of Class 8th Term II, annual regular session 2021 on 11th December, 2021 instead of 9th of December, 2021 in all districts of Kashmir division," the letter under number SCERT/KD/ERSA/966-973 reads.

## A Bridge Too Far in Ganderbal

**GANDERBAL:** The work on Babsipora Watalbagh Bridge in district Ganderbal is complete but is yet to be inaugurated which has agitated the local populace. The 285 metre span bridge was built by JKPC and was completed after much delay. The approach road from Babsipora remained pending for the land compensation besides the footpath on both sides of the bridge.

The population of several villages, dependent on this bridge has to travel a long distance to reach other areas across the bridge. The bridge was long pending demand of people who are disappointed with the negligent approach of the concerned department.

"It has been more than three years now that the bridge got completed but due to no one inaugurating it, the bridge remains non-functional," locals said.

## NOTICE

I Saba Ashraf D/o Mohammad Ashraf Bhat R/o Rawalpota Srinagar have changed my name to Saba Adeel Rajput W/o Adeel Ahmad Rajput R/o Housing Colony Bemina Srinagar and shall hereafter be known as Saba Adeel Rajput. if any one has any objection kindly inform on the below mentioned address and mob no within a period of 7 days from publication of this notice:

Saba Adeel Rajput  
R/O Housing Colony Bemina Srinagar  
Mob No: 8968385449

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER STATE TAXES (ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT) KASHMIR EXCISE & TAXATION COMPLEX, SOLINA RAMBAGH SRINAGAR-190008

ادفتر ایڈیشنل کمشنر ٹیکس (ایڈمنسٹریشن و انفرمیشن) کشمیر  
ایم اے ایف ٹیکس کمپلکس سولینا رام باغ سرائیناگر

Ph: 0194-2313231 | GST Helpline: 0194-2310595

Website: [www.jkcomtax.gov.in](http://www.jkcomtax.gov.in) | [accktashmir2011@gmail.com](mailto:accktashmir2011@gmail.com)

**Sh. Kanav Mahajan Jr. KAS,** **No: PF-Adm/ACSTK/1200**  
**State Taxes Officer,** **Dated: 07 / 12 / 2021.**

**Subject: Final Show Cause Notice.**

Whereas, the J&K Govt, through Finance Department under Govt. Order No. 252 - FD of 2021 dated 17-09-2021 posted you as State Taxes Officer, Circle-Q, Snnagar.

Whereas in compliance to above Govt. Order, you joined as State Taxes Officer, Circle-Q, Srinagar on 27-09-2021.

Whereas you left the Circle office in the afternoon on 27-09-2021 without any intimation to undersigned and remained unauthorizedly absent from your legitimate duties

Whereas this office vide No. PF-Adm/946-47/ACSTK dated 07-10-2021 issued you an explanation where under you were directed to attend your duties immediately and also explain your position for remaining unauthorizedly absent from duties.

Whereas, in pursuance to said explanation, you filed a leave application on medical grounds with further submission that you had left the office in the after-noon on 28-09-2021 but not on 27-09-2021. The leave applied for was accordingly sanctioned in your favour on Medical Grounds for a period of 25 days w.e.f 29-09-2021 to 23-10-2021.

Whereas, after expiry of your leave, you were supposed to join the duties on 24-10-2021, however you didn't and continue to remain unauthorizedly absent since then.

Whereas in view of your unauthorized continuous absence after the expiry of the above leave this office issued a memo vide No. PF-Adm/1024-25/ACSTK dated 01-11-2021 where under you were directed to report to your duties immediately but you didn't and continue to remain unauthorizedly absent till date.

Whereas your continuous unauthorized absence from duties was accordingly reported to Commissioner State Taxes, J&K Govt, vide this office No. PF-Adm/1077/ACSTK dated 13-11-2021

Whereas, the Commissioner, State Taxes J&K Govt vide office No. PF-Adm/683-84/CST dated 26-11-2021 has desired to issue a final show cause notice to

Therefore, in pursuance to above direction of Commissioner State Taxes, the undersigned through the medium of this final show cause notice direct you to report to your legitimate duties within a week's time and also explain your position for your unauthorized absence from duties. Incase, you again fail to join your duties immediately, the department will proceed against you in terms of J&K Civil Service (Classification, Control And Appeal) Rules 1956/ Civil Service Regulations.

Additional Commissioner,  
State Taxes Department,  
(Administration & Enforcement) Kashmir.

DIPK-14446/21

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SHER-I-KASHMIR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE SRINAGAR

Notice Inviting E-Tenders

**Fresh e-NIT No. 20 SKICC of 2021-22**

**Dated 03/12/2021**

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tender/s (in single cover system) is/are invited from approved and eligible Contractors/Registered/Reputed Dealer/Supplier registered with J&K, UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Department on item rate basis registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railway and other State Central Governments for the below mentioned work/s.

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (Calendar days)	Class of Contractor	Ref. to Auth/AA	Ref. to T. S	Major head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Stage Contract for emergent nature of Electric Works (as and when required BASIS) for the year 2021-22. (Job work)	500/-	3% of the contract value	One year	Authorized Registered Electric Agency/ Dealer	Accorded	Obtained	Non-Plan

Position of funds: - Committed

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below: -

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	03-12-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03-12-2021
3	Bid submission start date (on line)	03-12-2021
4	Bid submission End date (on line)	17-12-2021 (upto 4.00 P.M)
5	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	18-12-2021 (at 11.30 A.M) office of the Ex. Engineer, SKICC

Note: The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded soft copies.

Any short fall found in the soft copy will render the Bid rejection.

As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No. OM No. A/ 24 (2017)-651 dated 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 declared 1st (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- The cost of tender document should be collected in the shape of Demand Draft (DD) pledged to Executive Engineer, SKICC and uploading a copy of DD.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in shape of demand draft (non-refundable) in favour of the Executive engineer SKICC, Srinagar (Tender inviting/Receiving Authority). The date of the DD should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date.
- All the bidders have to submit bid Security Declaration form instead of earnest money as per circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of the (Advertise Cost) as performance security in the shape of FDR/ CDR within three days before after opening of tender/s.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened on line on same web site by the Executive Engineer SKICC.

No: SKICC/EE/21/493-98  
Dated 03/12/2021  
DIPK-NB-5642/21

S/d  
Executive Engineer  
SKICC



**KASHMIR  
OBSERVER**

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K O V I E W

Return Of Politics?

The recent past has witnessed politics return to the Valley in a modest way. After the PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's tour of Jammu where she attended several rallies and led protests, the National Conference working president Omar Abdullah also addressed a rally in Chenab Valley. Omar was very combative in his speech. In his speech, Omar slammed the centre for "revival of militancy" in Kashmir. He said the new militancy in the Valley was the result of the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 which, according to him, had angered the youth forcing them to take up arms. Significantly, the former chief minister said the militancy was now made up of local youth, ruling out Pakistan's role in fomenting it as the union government believed. Omar, who is also the vice president of National Conference said the centre had lied that the militancy will end post Article 370 purge.

Mehbooba, on the other hand, is now routinely on the road. She has been sharply critical of the union government's approach. However, her primary political campaign is against the withdrawal of Article 370, a far-reaching decision she wants reversed "with interest". In a recent address at Banihal, Mehbooba called on the centre to restore J&K autonomy if it wanted "to keep Kashmir." She said people wanted return of "our identity and honour."

The Hyderpora encounter also brought local politics to the fore. Mehbooba led a protest in Jammu, Omar Abdullah held a protest outside his residence and Sajad Lone wrote a letter to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Prime minister Narendra Modi. And it did work. The government was forced to return the bodies of the two civilians killed in the encounter to their families.

The political activity can thus be expected to gather momentum in near to medium term. More so, if the government decides to be more accommodative of the dissent. It will also depend on whether the centre chooses to hold the election in the union territory or delays it further till some 'conductive' time. There is, however, hope in the way the local politics is tentatively hurtling to the foreground again. This is needed to fill in the political vacuum that has developed in the region over the last one and a half year.

Government's main concern seems to be the form the response of these leaders to the withdrawal of Article 370 will take. The leaders have opposed the repeal of the state's special status and vowed to fight for its restoration. In the run up to the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, all mainstream parties had closed ranks against such an occurrence but to no avail. But much water has flown down the Jhelum since. The story has become much complex now. There are parties now which are seeking to play down the loss of autonomy. But it is good that politics is picking up again. It would go a long way to fill in the deep political vacuum in the Valley.

O T H E R   O P I N O N

Nagaland Or Kashmir, More 'Kills' Shouldn't Be The Forces' Goal

Why should the primary objective of the armed forces in areas of insurgency be to kill rather than capture and prosecute those identified as terrorists? That's the question we should be asking – and asking vigorously – in the wake of the tragic killing of innocent civilians in Nagaland.

Early on, the argument used to be that terrorists got killed in firefights because it was tough to capture them in the heat of battle. But we've reached a stage now when it is taken for granted that the outright objective is to go in with guns blazing.

The miners who were killed in Nagaland on Saturday were unarmed and posed no immediate threat to anyone. Yet, they were gunned down mercilessly. Such operations sometimes give the impression of being like a medieval hunt for wild animals. It's about killing, rather than capturing insurgents, or others who may be labelled as terrorists, in order to prove their guilt in a court of law.

The fact that no one wants to confront is that incentives have been placed across the entire apparatus of counter-insurgency to encourage what is quite blatantly called 'kills'.

One hears in Kashmir, for instance, of one or another police officer getting several promotions over a relatively short period, because 'he had a lot of kills'.

Those in forces that undertake a lot of counter-terrorism operations not only get out-of-turn promotions for 'kills' but also, in some places and some forces, special pay and perks – plus medals and citations often accompany 'kills'. But Positives Are Instead Mocked.

I have argued for years that there should instead be incentives for officers in whose areas of operation (in an otherwise insurgent area) there are no incidents or no terrorists, or a decrease in alienation and violence. But such positive trends are not only not rewarded, senior officers at times even deride officers whose areas remain peaceful, calling them unsuccessful, and challenging them to show more 'kills'.

In Kashmir, there have been periods during the past 30 years when there has been a sort of competition among unit commanding officers to show more 'kills'.

This only makes the cycle of violence turn faster – especially when, as is manifestly evident right now in Nagaland, the killing of innocents increases public anger and alienation....

—David Devadas in The Quint

The “Power” Crisis  
Years For Experience, Months For Preparation, Unbundling After Abrogation And Proposals For Privatisation Later; Our Power Department Still Seems Expectedly Unprepared



PHOTO OF WIRES PRECARIOUSLY held by a wooden pole in DOWNTOWN, Srinagar. Over the years, winters have always brought with them electricity woes and the early arrival of increased scheduled power cuts has only made the fears of yet another tough winter, more concrete. Pic by Author

Nousheen Minam

“IT IS THE administration and the power department that has the resources and capital to assess and mitigate this crisis in time. Individual efforts can rarely culminate into some substantial results. Nonetheless, as responsible citizens, we must ensure that our hands are clean as well.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration served a notice to a Forest Department employee for criticising poor supply of electricity. The employee had uploaded a video on Facebook flagging the electricity crisis in Winters and linking it with its impact on the online education of students in the Valley. The employee, according to the notice, had to furnish a reply explaining his critique which the administration felt amounted to, “misconduct and violation of Section 18 of J&K Government Employees (Conduct Rules) 1971.

The administrations' reprimand is a reminder that in Kashmir, it is always the my-way-or-highway attitude that rules. When it comes to being prompt with penalty, we see proactive participation. However, the same enthusiasm dies down from tall promises of steady electricity to clarifications on why there are more power cuts than ever.

Winters are hardly new to Kashmir. So, it is quite disappointing to have the KPDCCL wake up to these months, as though from a slumber. In November, the corporation had announced a curtailment of 1.5 hours in metered areas and that of 3 hours in non-metered areas. However, the new schedule now brings twice or thrice the power cuts. As per the revised curtailment schedule, the load shedding hours in metered areas are now 4.5 to 6 hours and those in non-metered areas are 6 to 7.5 hours. This crisis has remained even after repeated claims have been made to ensure self-sufficient and steady supply of electricity in Kashmir. Interestingly, in January this year, an MoU was signed with the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation which was deemed to be instrumental in inviting investment upto 35,000 crores and ensuring a 24 hour supply of electricity in the UT.

Years for experience, months for preparation, unbundling after Abrogation and proposals for privatisation later; our Power department still seems expectedly unprepared. Unscheduled power cuts have irked residents in the valley. Even the new schedule with prolonged power cuts has enraged residents as it makes life inhabitable in a place like Kashmir. Many are agast at the cuts even before Chilai Kalan has even started. Businesses are facing problems. Students too have to schedule their education around power cuts. Due to Covid-19, even professionals working for firms outside of Kashmir are facing problems as all their work is done through their laptops remotely. This has also affected their performance reviews. Many health equipment also run on electricity, especially in winter months which brings a lot of health problems for residents here.

PDD has argued against these complaints. According to Chief Engineer, KPDCCL, Aijaz Ahmad Dhar, the department had ensured a 15% increased supply of energy which has done little as electricity demands have risen exponentially in Kashmir. It seems that the department is supplying more than the promised load agreement of 860

MW for the valley. Instead, it is supplying 1700MW which is still not able to meet the unrestricted power demand of 2800 MW this year.

The power department has blamed people for power theft and claims that electricity is not being used responsibly.

It is true that the department should do assessment and arrangements before hell breaks loose every year. It is the administration and the power department that has the resources and capital to assess and mitigate this crisis in time. Individual efforts from individuals can rarely culminate into some substantial results.


Nonetheless, as responsible citizens, we must ensure that our hands are clean as well. We have all encountered power thefts in our neighborhoods. Even in metered areas where checks are conducted, people still manage to find their way to steal electricity. In winters, it is these people who then take the liberty of using heating appliances without a care for energy. The Power department is not wrong in calling out power theft. It not only leads to immediate fallouts but cultivates in households, an irresponsible attitude towards use of energy. As a result, some households have all their geysers on throughout the day. They don't care for energy efficient bulbs and wouldn't strain a nerve to switch off the lights. As long as the meter isn't reading consumption, they feel as though they can use electricity recklessly.

The power department had cautioned against the reckless use of electricity and had promised a steady supply of power if it were used judiciously. As responsible consumers, we need to find sustainable alternatives. Even if you aren't doing electricity theft and have no care in the world for the bill as well, you should still look at alternatives. If you can afford it, you should encourage the use of Hamams which have been traditionally considered trustworthy partners in winters. Kangris are also good alternatives. These may not be too kind on the environment but might distribute the burden that we've put on a single source.

It needs to be reiterated here that responsible use of electricity, while necessary, can only do so much. A place like Kashmir needs better plans to increase generation of electricity. The proposals for privatisation of electricity will not do anything more than increasing the burden on residents. Why is it that we're always in this mess of a situation? Those responsible need to ensure that our future doesn't resemble winters of the past. This year too, the administration should put all hands on deck to ensure that unscheduled and prolonged power cuts are avoided at all costs. If the PDD deems that residents have a huge role to play, they can issue Dos and Don'ts. The issue needs to be dealt with cooperation. The administration too should not take residents here as villains who need to be put behind bars for raising concerns over something as fundamental as a steady source of electricity.

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

The author is an Engineer stationed in Kashmir and working remotely for a private firm based in Bangalore

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

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Competitive Grade Inflation Warping College Admissions

When entry to college courses takes place via marks around 100% scored in school exams, this is both a result of several distortions and a creator of new distortions. This year at Delhi University even as the first-list cutoff of 100% spread to 10 undergraduate courses, so did controversy about how Kerala board students had an unfair edge over students of CBSE and other state boards, which had been less liberal in handing out scores. But other boards will only up Kerala's ante next year, as long as the system outright incentivises runaway grade inflation.

University of Mumbai has also experienced both 100% cutoffs and anxieties that Maharashtra board students are at a disadvantage because of "unrealistic percentage competition" from other boards. While such cut-throat competition in part reflects poor supply of good higher-education options, surely there should be a better way of judging desperate competitors than various school boards throwing marks about like sacks of onions and potatoes. Therefore, signs that UGC will implement a common entrance test (CET) for all central universities beginning next year, with state and private universities also having the option to join in, are very welcome.

CET will be conducted by the National Testing Agency, which already helms JEE and NEET exams. This multiple-choice, computer-based exam will likely have one general aptitude test to gauge language proficiency, numerical ability etc and a second subject-specific test for assessing domain knowledge. Critics are right to ask how such a centrally set paper would be fair to children from diverse regions and socio-economic backgrounds. But we have to adopt and fine-tune solutions, instead of passively letting the situation worsen every year. And schools have to return to improving learning outcomes for real, rather than just padding marksheets.

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Health And Well Being

# Hormones And Hygiene

Discussions On Hormonal Changes Often Ignore Oral Health



Hafsa Shah

**INDIVIDUALS BORN WITH A WOMB,** (women, non-binary individuals, transgender men among others) experiencing hormonal changes may be more susceptible to oral health problems. These hormonal fluctuations may include puberty, menstruation, or when using oral contraceptives, during pregnancy and at menopause. The people experiencing such biological cycles need to pay extra attention to their oral health during these stages as hormones affect the body's response to toxins that result from plaque build up leading to the development of periodontal disease



**H**ormonal fluctuations and its effect on the physiology of the individuals has often been discussed in news-rooms and newspapers. However, less attention has been paid to the subject of oral health, which is equally important, during such discussions. It thus becomes pertinent that some time is spent delving on what hormonal changes imply for certain sets of individuals, in particular. Individuals born with a womb, (women, non-binary individuals, transgender men among others) experiencing hormonal changes may be more susceptible to oral health problems. These hormonal fluctuations may include puberty, menstruation, or when using oral contraceptives, during pregnancy and at menopause. The people experiencing such biological cycles need to pay extra attention to their oral health during these stages as hormones affect the body's response to toxins that result from plaque build up leading to the development of periodontal disease. For example, during Puberty- raging hormones can leave a teenager's gums red, swollen and bleeding. This is known as gingivitis. Some teenagers may also find themselves developing canker sores which usually heal on their own.

For menstruators, there is an increase in levels of hormone progesterone due to which some individuals may experience oral changes that can include bright red swollen gums, swollen salivary glands, and development of canker sores or bleeding gums. Menstruation gingivitis usually occurs a day or two before the start of period and clears up shortly after period has started.

On the other hand, birth control pills (hormonal contraceptives) contain progesterone, which increases the level of that hormone in the body. These hormone changes can bring about an inflammatory response in the gums leading to sore, swollen or bleeding gums.

According to Journal of ADA (American Dental Association) women who use oral contraceptives are nearly twice as likely to experience dry socket after having a tooth extracted.

However, Pregnancy continues to remain one of those biological periods when a mentruator's body is in hormonal hyperdrive. Changing hormonal

levels accentuates the gingival response to plaque. Nearly 60-75% of pregnant people have gingivitis that occurs when gingival becomes red and swollen and sometimes has a raspberry like appearance. There is an increased tendency to bleed, however it is usually painless. In some cases, the inflamed gingival forms discrete tumour-like masses which are referred to as pregnancy tumours. It is most common between second and the eight months of pregnancy (first and third trimester respectively). Partial reduction in severity of gingivitis occurs by 2 month postpartum, and, after 1 year, the condition of the gingiva is comparable to that of patients who have not been pregnant.

Approximately 40% of pregnant women have some form of periodontal disease (inflammatory disease of tissues surrounding and supporting the teeth). They may also be at risk for cavities due to changed eating habits.

Further, during menopause, the usual rhythmic hormonal fluctuations of the menstrual cycle end. There is a huge change in menstruating individual's lives, and this has direct implications for oral health. The oral symptoms include altered taste, burning sensation and increased sensitivity to hot and cold foods. The gingival and remaining oral mucosa are dry and shiny, they vary in colour from abnormal paleness to redness, and they bleed easily.

There are two critical changes to be aware of: Dry mouth and Bone loss. Dry mouth, also known as xerostomia, can result in the development of tooth decay and gum disease because saliva is not available to moisten and cleanse the mouth. It is important to know that dry mouth can also result from many prescription and over-the-counter medications.

The gradual loss in estrogen that occurs with menopause also puts older individuals at risk for loss of bone density (a condition called osteoporosis) which can lead to tooth loss. Receding gums, which expose more of the tooth surface to potential tooth decay, can be a sign of bone loss in the jawbone.

## RELATION OF ORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS TO OTHER HEALTH PROBLEMS

Mouth is a gateway to the body. A healthy mouth can help you maintain a healthy body. Researchers have discovered a connection between declining

oral health and underlying systemic conditions. Oral bacteria and the inflammation associated with a severe form of gum disease known as periodontitis might contribute to various diseases and conditions, including Endocarditis, Cardiovascular diseases and Diabetes as research shows that people who have periodontitis have a harder time controlling their blood sugar levels. Regular periodontal care can improve diabetes control.

Further, pregnant individuals with periodontal diseases have been reported to be at increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes, including preeclampsia, preterm delivery and low birth weight. There is a two-fold increased risk for preeclampsia (hypertensive disorder) in the presence of periodontal disease and it is a major cause of perinatal and maternal morbidity and mortality. Other conditions that might be linked to oral health include pneumonia and other respiratory disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, eating disorders and an immune system disorder that causes dry mouth (Sjögren's syndrome).

## PREVENTION OF ORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

Hormones are a fact of life, but they don't have to interfere with an individual's ability to maintain a healthy smile at every age and stage of life. The best ways to keep your teeth and gums healthy involve basic care habits like brushing your teeth at least twice daily (preferably with a fluoride toothpaste). Floss your teeth at least once a day, clean your tongue to remove bacteria at least once a day, rinse mouth with antiseptic mouthwash at least once a day. When it comes to diet, decrease intake of sugars and eat a high-fibre, low fat diet that includes plenty of fruits and vegetables; drink fluoridated water, avoid tobacco products; replace toothbrush every three to four months; have your teeth cleaned by a dental professional every six months.

Taking everything into account, the broader societal impact of improving oral systemic health cannot be over-emphasized. We need to only educate ourselves and implement small logical changes in our practice.

The Author works as an Intern at Government Degree College, Srinagar, Kashmir

**RESEARCHERS HAVE DISCOVERED A** connection between declining oral health and underlying systemic conditions. Oral bacteria and the inflammation associated with a severe form of gum disease known as periodontitis might contribute to various diseases and conditions, including Endocarditis, Cardiovascular diseases and Diabetes as research shows that people who have periodontitis have a harder time controlling their blood sugar levels



# Well-Timed Meals Decrease Risk Of Glucose Intolerance Despite Improper Sleep: Study

Agencies

According to a study by Brigham and Women's Hospital, night-time eating can lead to glucose intolerance, while daytime meals can help regulate bloodstream glucose levels.

The research has been published in the 'Science Advances Journal'.

Night-time eating appeared to cause a misalignment between the body's central and peripheral circadian "clocks" -- natural timekeepers that regulate physical, mental and behavioural changes over a 24-hour cycle.

"These results indicate that meal timing was primarily responsible for the reported effects on glucose tolerance and beta-cell function, possibly due to the misalignment of central and peripheral 'clocks' throughout the body," said co-corresponding author Frank A.J.L. Scheer, PhD, MSc, of the Department of Medicine and the director of the Medical Chronobiology Program in the Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders at the Brigham.

"While the central circadian 'clock' was still on Boston time, the endogenous circadian glucose rhythms suggest that some peripheral 'clocks,' as perhaps those in the liver, had dramatically shifted to a time zone in Asia," Scheer added.

Glucose intolerance led to high glucose levels and often preceded type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), a condition in which the body is less



able to absorb sugar from the bloodstream into its tissues. T2DM is prevalent among night shift workers who typically sleep during the daytime and eat during the night-time. Previous laboratory studies showed increased levels of blood glucose in both non-shift workers and shift workers who underwent simulated night work, said co-corresponding author Sarah L. Chelappa, MD, PhD, formerly of the Medical Chronobiology Program and now of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Cologne in Germany. They added that shift workers, while frequently exposed to mistimed meals, are not necessarily "immune" to their adverse effects.

This study, a randomized controlled trial, involved 19 healthy young participants who underwent

a 14-day controlled laboratory protocol. During the study, participants stayed awake for 32 hours in a highly controlled, dimly lit environment, where they kept constant body posture, consumed identical snacks every hour, and had no time cues -- conditions that are part of a constant routine protocol. After that, the participants underwent simulated night work and followed one of two eating schedules: one group ate during the night-time to simulate a schedule typical among night-shift workers, while the other group ate during the daytime, thus aligning their meal schedule to the 24-hour cycle of the central circadian "clock." Subsequently, participants followed a second, 40-hour constant routine protocol to assess the after-effects of the meal schedules on their endogenous circadian rhythms.

cadian rhythms.

According to the research, participants who ate during the night-time showed increased blood glucose levels, while those who ate only during the daytime showed no significant changes. In addition, night-time eating decreased pancreatic beta-cell function compared to no observable changes in those eating only during the daytime. Beta cells produce insulin, a hormone that escorts glucose into body tissues. Furthermore, night-time eating caused a misalignment between the central circadian "clock," estimated from the endogenous circadian rhythm in core body temperature, and the endogenous circadian glucose rhythms. In stark contrast, these rhythms remained aligned when participants ate meals only during the daytime despite their mistimed sleep.

"Of the participants studied, those with the biggest disruption of their circadian system -- here quantified as the misalignment between their central circadian 'clock' and their endogenous circadian glucose rhythms -- showed the largest impairment of glucose tolerance," said Scheer.

The study's take-home message indicated that daytime eating, despite mistimed sleep, maintained internal circadian alignment and prevented glucose intolerance. The authors noted that more research needs to be conducted to find practical interventions to implement daytime eating in real-life shift workers.

# Scientists developing chewing gum that could cut Covid transmission

Press Trust Of India

Scientists are developing a chewing gum laced with a plant-grown protein that serves as a "trap" for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19, reducing viral load in saliva and potentially lowering transmission.

The researchers noted that people who are fully vaccinated can still become infected with SARS-CoV-2 and can carry a viral load similar to those who are unvaccinated.

"SARS-CoV-2 replicates in the salivary glands, and we know that when someone who is infected sneezes, coughs, or speaks some of that virus can be expelled and reach others," said Henry Daniell at the University of Pennsylvania in the US.

"This gum offers an opportunity to neutralise the virus in the saliva, giving us a simple way to possibly cut down on a source of disease transmission," said Daniell, who led the study published in the journal Molecular Therapy.

Prior to the pandemic, Daniell had been studying the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) protein in the context of treating hypertension.

His lab had grown this protein, as well as many others that may have therapeutic potential, using a patented plant-based production system.

This system has the potential to avoid the usual obstacles to protein drug synthesis: an expensive production and purification process, the researchers said.

The receptor for ACE2 on human cells also happens to bind the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, which the virus uses to infect the cells, they said.

Previous research has shown that injections of ACE2 can reduce viral load in people with severe infections.

Another line of work by

Daniell and colleague Hyun Koo has involved research to develop a chewing gum infused with plant-grown proteins to disrupt dental plaque.

Pairing his insights about ACE2 with this technology, Daniell wondered if such a gum, infused with plant-grown ACE2 proteins, could neutralise SARS-CoV-2 in the oral cavity.

To test the chewing gum, the team grew ACE2 in plants, paired with another compound that enables the protein to cross mucosal barriers and facilitates binding.

The researchers incorporated the resulting plant material into cinnamon-flavoured gum tablets.

Incubating samples obtained from nasopharyngeal swabs from COVID-positive patients with the gum, they showed that the ACE2 present could neutralise SARS-CoV-2 viruses.

They then modified viruses, less-pathogenic than SARS-CoV-2, to express the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

The scientists observed that the gum largely prevented the viruses or viral particles from entering cells, either by blocking the ACE2 receptor on the cells or by binding directly to the spike protein.

Finally, the team exposed saliva samples from COVID-19 patients to the ACE2 gum and found that levels of viral RNA fell so dramatically to be almost undetectable.

The research team is currently working towards obtaining permission to conduct a clinical trial to evaluate whether the approach is safe and effective when tested in people infected with SARS-CoV-2.

If the clinical trials prove the gum is safe and effective, it could be given to patients whose infection status is unknown, to reduce the likelihood of passing the virus to caregivers, the researchers added.

# This Humanoid Robot Makes Perfect Human-Like Faces

Agencies

As robots evolve to do more work around us, the UK-based humanoid robot manufacturer Engineered Arts has infused more human-like facial expressions into one of its robots, which may leave you with an eerie feeling.

In a video posted on YouTube, the robot called 'Ameca' displays various human expressions, like

appearing to "wake up" from sleep, as its face shows confusion and frustration when it opens its eyes.

Once awake, 'Ameca' starts looking at its hands and arms, opens its mouth and raises its eyebrows, just like a human does.

At the end of the video, Ameca smiles and holds a welcoming hand out towards the viewer.

According to Engineered Arts, the humanoid bot is currently unable to walk and it is working to-

wards giving it the ability in the near future.

"Designed specifically as a platform for development into future robotics technologies, 'Ameca' is the perfect humanoid robot platform for human-robot interaction," says the company.

The 'Ameca' hardware is a development based on its own research into humanoid robotics and built on its advanced 'Mesmer' technology.

Engineered Arts is slated to put 'Ameca' on display at the CES 2022 conference in Las Vegas in the US in January.

"Human-like Artificial Intelligence needs a human-like artificial body. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning systems can be tested and developed on Ameca alongside our powerful 'Tritium' robot operating system," the company posted on its website.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

Fresh NIT Sl. No: 142/2021-22/RnB/Kul/e-tendering/9091-9111 dated 04-12-2021

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Time of completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of 02 Mtr RCC Culvert and construction of Edge Wall on Padderpora link road at Kanipora	10.03	600	20 days	State Sector	Bee, Cee & Dee
2	Construction of 02 Mtr RCC culvert on Redwani Babapora Frisal road in Km 2nd	5.82	300	20 days	State Sector	Cee & Dee
3	Restoration of Eroded road formation width in Km 1st RD 762 at sheganpora (L.H.S) of Kutbrari Shiganpora Naid Hanjan road.	10.67	600	15 Days	State Sector	Bee, Cee & Dee
4	Construction of road from Qaimoh Shrine to Danew Wazipora (Part -3rd) by way of Providing/Laying of RCC Pipes and RBM with WBM Gr-II (under Various Tehsil Roads at Qaimoh)	8.09	300	15 days	State Sector	Cee & Dee
5	Construction of Irrigation Channal near house of Ashiq Hussain Shah to onwards at Ward No. 4 of MC Yaripora	0.99	200	07 days	UDS	Dee

+Position of AAA= Accorded

1.

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04 -12-2021
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 04-12-2021 (10.00 AM) To 10-12-2021 (04.00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 04-12-2021 (10.00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 10-12-2021 (04.00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	10-12-2021 (04.30 PM)

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam (Major Head 0059-Rev:Misc) (Tender Inviting Authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. Q.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam (Tender receiving Authority).

2.

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

3.

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

4.

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

5.

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

6.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a.

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

b.

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

c.

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

d.

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

e.

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

f.

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

Note:-

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

7.

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

8.

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

9.

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

10.

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

11.

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

12.

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

No. 9112-14

Dtd 04-12-2021

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

DIPK-14388/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No. 182 of R&B/ 12180-90 of 2021-22

Dated: 06/12/2021 (E-tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, 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 works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of Completion (days)	MH of Account	TS NO & DT	Class of Contractor
1	Upgradation of Road from Green Avenue Enclave to Machowa by way of Khak Bajri/Nallah Muck filling and P/L of WBM G.II.	3.61	200.00	07	3054 M&R	Awaited	DEE
2	Construction of Cement Concrete Drain at Link Road Dar Mohalla Bahrampora	4.19	200.00	07	4059-SS (UT)	Sanctioned	DEE
3	Upgradation of inner links at Chattergam, Kutipora, Khanda by way of Nallah Muck Providing / Laying of WBM G II. Protection of link from PMGSY Road to Stadium/ Hospital at Gowherpora Nambal.	9.82	600.00	15	4059-SS (UT)	Sanctioned	C/D
4	Upgradation of Kuzwara, Mugraypora, Wagoora, Suthsoo Kalan, Suthsoo, Agar Link Roads by way of Nallah Muck Providing / Laying of WBM G.II.	10.00	600.00	15	4059-SS (UT)	Sanctioned	C/D
5	Protection Work/ Drain on Bahrampora Road by way of Construction of Breast Wall cum Drain.	8.49	600.00	15	4059-SS (UT)	Sanctioned	C/D
6	Upgradation of Dar Mohalla Link Road at Nowbugh by way of GSB filling, P/L of WBM G.II Construction of Cement Concrete Drain.	4.06	200.00	07	3054 M&R	Awaited	DEE

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06/12/2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06/12/2021
3	Bid submission Start Date	06/12/2021
4	Bid Submission End Date	13/12/2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	13/12/2021 at 4.10 PM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora.

2.

All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)

3.

The 1<sup>st</sup> lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

4.

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

5.

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

6.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1.

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

6.2.

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

6.3.

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

6.4.

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

6.5.

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

In case of any typographical error or confusion found in the BOQ, the items/ units / rates / quantities shall be deemed as per the proposed estimate / SSR of 2020.

DIPK-14431/21

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Chadoora

No: 12180-90

DT: 06/12/2021



## 'Retail Inflation Expected To Ease To 5% Next Fiscal'



Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Retail inflation is likely to ease to around 5 per cent next fiscal on the back of government measures to ease supplies, reduction in fuel prices and prospects of good crops, the Reserve Bank of India said on Wednesday.

For the current fiscal year to be ending on March 31, 2022, retail inflation is expected to be around 5.3 per cent, the RBI said.

The reduction of excise duty and VAT on petrol and diesel will bring about a durable reduction in inflation by way of direct effects as well as indirect effects operating through fuel and transportation costs, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the bi-monthly policy decision.

"The inflation trajectory is likely to be in line with our earlier projections, and price pressures may persist in the immediate term. Vegetable prices are expected to see a seasonal correction with winter arrivals in view of bright prospects for the rabi crop. Cost-push pressures continue to impinge on core inflation, though their pass-through may remain muted due to the slack in the economy," Das said.

Taking into consideration all these factors, CPI inflation is projected at 5.3 per cent for 2021-22; 5.1 per cent in Q3; 5.7 per cent in Q4 of 2021-22, with risks broadly balanced, the RBI Governor said in his policy statement.

CPI inflation is then expected to ease to 5 per cent in Q1 FY2022-23 and stay at 5 per cent in Q2 as well, Das added.

The Reserve Bank has kept the repo rate -- at which it lends money to the banks -- unchanged at 4 per cent for the 9th time in a row, committed to continue supporting economic growth amid uncertainty over the impact of the Omicron strain of the coronavirus on the economy.

Das said RBI's monetary policy stance is primarily attuned to the evolving domestic inflation and growth dynamics.

He said the supply-side interventions by the government have limited the fallout of continuing high international edible oil prices on domestic prices.

Even as crude oil prices have seen some correction in the recent period, a durable containment of price pressures would hinge on strong global supply responses to match the pick-up in demand as pandemic restrictions ease, said the apex bank chief.

"Cost-push pressures continue to impinge on core inflation, though their pass-through may remain muted due to the slack in the economy. Over the rest of the year, inflation prints are likely to be somewhat higher as base effects turn adverse; however, it is expected that headline inflation will peak in Q4:2021-22 and soften thereafter," Das added.

## RBI Keeps Interest Rates Unchanged At Record Low

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday kept borrowing costs at a record-low for the ninth consecutive time as it decided to continue supporting economic growth amid uncertainty over the impact of the Omicron strain of the coronavirus on the economy.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which has paused rate changes since August last year, unanimously decided to keep the benchmark repurchase rate at 4 per cent and voted 5-1 to retain its accommodative policy stance as long as is necessary, reflecting a continued bias to support economic growth given that inflation was not a big worry.

The reverse repo rate -- the level at which it absorbs excess cash from lenders -- was kept unchanged at 3.35 per cent.

It kept the GDP growth projections unchanged at 9.5 per cent for the current fiscal and retained the inflation forecast of 5.3 per cent for the full year.

While the Indian economy has literally hauled itself out of one of the deepest contractions in April-June, it is not yet strong enough to be self-sustaining and durable.

"Given the slack in the economy and the ongoing catching-up of activity, especially of private consumption, which is still below its pre-pandemic levels, continued policy support is warranted for a durable and broad-based recovery," Governor Shaktikanta Das said. "Our motto is to ensure soft landing that is well-timed."

There, however, has been no guidance on the rate trajectory.

RBI had slashed the repo rate by a total of 115 basis points (bps) since March 2020 to soften the blow from the coronavirus.

Das said the central bank will continue rebalancing liquidity conditions and will use VRRR (Variable Rate Reverse Repo) auction as the primary tool for liquidity management, shifting away from the fixed reserve repo rate.

The RBI will raise the amount of cash it absorbs through the 14-day VRRR to Rs 6.5 lakh crore on December 17 and subsequently to Rs 7.5 lakh crore on December 31.

At the same time, the auctions will have a higher proportion of 28 days vis-a-vis the primary tenor of 14 days.

Excess cash in the banking system hovered at around Rs 9.2 lakh crore, close to a record high.

The surplus liquidity is seen as a risk to consumer prices, already under pressure from a rise in vegetables and fuel costs.

More steps are being taken to normalise the excess liquidity by reducing the additional quantum that was eligible under Marginal Standing Facility (MSF). Further, banks have been permitted to prepay any of their Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTROs) withdrawals to optimise their liquidity position.

"The MPC regarded the accentuation of headwinds emanating from global developments as the main risk to the domestic outlook, which is now somewhat clouded by the omicron variant of the COVID-19," he said.



## Sarmad Discusses Tourism Promotion At Untapped Destinations With Travel Operators

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Sarmad Hafeez, Wednesday held an interaction with the travel operators at SKICC to chalk out strategy for promotion of tourism activities in untapped tourist destinations of the valley as well as winter tourism.

Director Tourism, G N Itoo, officers of tourism department and Youth Services and Sports and members of various travel and tour associations, winter sports associations and hotelier associations were present on the occasion.

Secretary informed that seventy five new tourist destinations with huge potential are being tapped in Jammu and Kashmir, of which, thirty eight destinations are in Kashmir. He said that tourism department is installing hoardings displaying tourist and adventure areas



of Kashmir at airports, metro stations and metropolitan cities of the country to attract domestic as well as international tourists.

Sarmad said the tourism department is promoting visibility of tourist destinations by utilizing the social media and bloggers which can play an effective role to further boost the tourist influx to the UT.

He impressed upon the participants to make their contribution which will make huge impact on boosting tourism. He invited them to provide

innovative suggestions and ideas that would amplify and promote tourism potential of famous destinations as well as new untapped areas.

Secretary added that skiing will soon be started at Sonamarg and funds have been provided for building skiing lifts there.

## Fitch Cuts India GDP Forecast For FY22 To 8.4%

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Fitch Ratings on Wednesday cut India's economic growth forecast to 8.4 per cent for the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2022, saying the rebound after the second wave of COVID infections has been subdued than expected.

Fitch, which had previously forecast a GDP growth of 8.7 per cent in 2021-22 (April 2021 to March 2022), however, raised the economic growth projection for the next financial year (FY23) to 10.3 per cent from previously forecast 10 per cent.

The economy had contracted by 7.3 per cent in the 2020-21 fiscal as restrictions imposed to curb spread of coronavirus pummelled business activity.

"India's economy staged a strong rebound in 3Q21 (July-September 2021) from the Delta variant-induced sharp contraction," Fitch said in its Global Economic Outlook (GEO).

The GDP rose a sharp 11.4 per cent when compared to the preceding April-June quarter when it had slumped 12.4 per cent.

"However, the bounce was more subdued than we expected in our September GEO. The rebound in the services sector was weaker than hoped for," it said.

Nevertheless, business surveys and mobility data point to activity growing robustly in 4Q21 (October-December 2021). Growth in the manufacturing sector is constrained by ongoing supply shortages, but the supply bottlenecks are expected to ease in the coming months.

Carmakers are signalling a ramp-up of production while domestic coal production is increasing to make up for shortages.



Fitch said it expects the services sector to show a strong reading amid the lifting of most restrictions.

"We have cut our FY22 (financial year ending March 2022) GDP growth forecast, to 8.4 per cent (-0.3pp). GDP growth momentum should peak in FY23, at 10.3 per cent (+0.2pp), boosted by a consumer-led recovery and the easing of supply disruptions," it said.

An increasing share of the population being fully vaccinated has reduced the risk of future disruptive outbreaks and will support consumer confidence.

But, "risks to the recovery remain, especially in the near term, given that less than one third of the population is fully vaccinated. The newly discovered Omicron variant has added to risks," it said.

On inflation, Fitch said price rise are largely driven by domestic factors. Inflation rate has consistently hovered above the upper-band of the Reserve Bank of India's 2 per cent-6 per cent target since the onset of the pandemic, initially pushed up by pandemic-related disruption to local supply chains, boosting food prices.

Core price pressures (excluding food and energy) have been gradually rising: core inflation has hovered around 6 per cent in recent months.

## 3 Day Workshop On Sustainable Farming Inaugurated

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Mission Director, Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar, Wednesday inaugurated a three day workshop for the officials of the Mission regarding formulation of a framework for promoting sustainable agricultural practices in Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop, being organized by JKRLM and a team of experts from Union Ministry of Rural Development, shall impart training to District Programme Managers, Block Programme Managers and livelihoods coordinators of the Mission.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sehrish emphasized upon the field officials to develop a mechanism for encouraging sustainable agricultural practices among the farming community. She asked them to work in an integrated manner in order to promote women farmers into agri entrepreneurs' besides encouraging value addition in their agri products.

Mission Director stressed upon the officials for adoption of sustainable agricultural practices including seed treatment, soil treatment, pre and post harvest cultivation practices in their respective blocks. She added that sustainable agriculture is an eco-friendly form of farming and is also economically viable through which we can preserve our land resources for generations to come.

Dr Sehrish said that the main objective of organizing this workshop was to address, focus, discuss and deliberate upon the agri-eco system which will be operated in blocks through a pool of livelihood CRPs who will provide last mile support to the women farmers in sustainable agricultural practices and livestock management.

MD further applauded the whole team of Mission and that of members of MoRD for chalking out modalities for this programme.

## Agri Deptt Exploring Scope For Integration Of Technology In Public Sector Farms



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare and Horticulture Wednesday held a meeting with IFFCO-Kisan Agritech to explore the possibility of long term partnership with such agencies to shape the biggest transformation in the farming sector by integrating technology across the agri value chain in J & K UT.

The meeting was chaired by Director AP & FW, Jammu, K. K. Sharma here at Krishi Bhawan Jammu. Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak was also present as special invitee.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director Agriculture emphasised on adopting such latest technology in the public sector farms on experimental basis which can later be extended to farmer's field. He enjoined upon the IFFCO-Kisan team to suggest the measures to transform the agriculture into smart farming right from sowing to marketing. He also sought suggestions on use of ICT technology in Integrated/Diversified farming and particularly in hassle free migration of Bee Colonies.

Director horticulture stressed that the said technology can be used initially on private horticultural farms and also to develop the

strategy for marketing of walnuts, Amla and other fruit crops.

Head, IFFCO-Kisan Agritech, Mourup Namgail said that they are looking forward to setting up a centre of excellence/ smart farming partnership with FPOs and cooperatives to drive capacity building among small and marginal farmers.

The IFFCO Kisan Agritech Team threw light on latest technological interventions developed by them including remote sensing, hyperspectral imagery, digital profiling, and portable soil testing facilities which can help in providing high tech local solutions for farming related issues in J&K. The Team also shared its expertise in creating market linkages for marketing of local fruits and vegetables to other parts of the country.

Those who attended the meeting included Joint Director (Inputs), A. S. Reen, Joint Director (Apiculture & Mushroom Development), Iqbal Singh, Joint Director (Marketing), Mahesh Verma, Agriculture Chemist, Subash Chander Sharma, Agronomist (Vegetables), J. C. Rina besides other senior officers from Agriculture and Horticulture Department.

**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.  
Toll: 01933-247954/247955 Website: www.iust.ac.in

**Extension in last date of Submitting Tender for binding of books/Journals**

The last date of receiving the bids against the tender notice No: IUST/Lib/B-34/21/719 Dt: 18-11-2021 is hereby extended upto **16-12-2021 (2:00 pm)**. The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as mentioned in the tender notice.

No: IUST/Lib/B-34/21/ 741 Sd/-  
Dated: 07 -12-2021 I/C Librarian

DIPK-NB-5699/21

**GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER**  
**SRINAGAR**  
**General Notice**

**Subject:- Ex-gratia Assistance to NOK"s of the deceased by Covid-19.**

**Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir vide order No. 33-JK (DMRRR) of 2021 dated: - 29-11-2021 has sanctioned the adoption of the scheme for granting ex-gratia Assistance under SDRF for which an official link [www.srinagar.nic.in](http://www.srinagar.nic.in) - ex-gratia Assistance claim [death due to Covid-19] has been created.**

**Now Through the media of this general notice NOK's who have not submitted the following required documents, so far are asked to submit it on the above created link immediately for speedy disposal of the cases.**

- 1- Death Certificate (due to Covid-19)
- 2- Aadhar Linked Account No with IFC code of the claimant
- 3- Copy of Aadhar card of the claimant
- 4- Address proof of the claimant
- 5- Legal Heirship certificate or adoption deed issued by competent Authority) for establishing kinship with the Covid-19 deceased.

No: DCS/R/Covid-19/2021 /130 Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar  
Dated: 08-12-2021 (Chairman District Disaster Management Authority)  
DIPK-14484/21

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**  
**FOOD & DRUGS ADMINISTRATION,**  
**CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K**  
*Phone No. 0194-2506484 (Sgr) 0194-2506485 (Sgr) 0191-2572889 (Jmu)*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**The Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006, and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder, provide for regulation of activities like manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale and import of food items by Food Business Operators, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.**

**Section 31 of the aforesaid Act, inter-alia, envisages that no person shall commence or carry on any food business except under a License or Registration issued by the Competent Authority. Further, section 63 of the said Act prescribes for punishment for carrying out a Food Business without a valid FSSAI licence with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months and also with a fine which may extend upto five lakh rupees.**

**It has come to the notice of the department that some Food Business Operators are carrying out their Food Business without obtaining the food license/registration, as mandated under the aforesaid Act.**

**Now,therefore, through the medium of this notice, all the Food Business Operators carrying their business without a valid food licence/registration are hereby advised to obtain the mandatory food license/registration by applying online at <https://www.foscoss.fssai.gov.in>. by or before 15th December, 2021, failing which action as warranted under aforesaid Act & Rules made thereunder shall be initiated without any further notice by the empowered authorities.**

No: FADA- Tech/2/202, -05-0/0 CF&DA J&K (Shakeel-Ur-Rehman)  
Dated: 07-12-2021 Commissioner  
DIPK-14447/21 Food & Drugs Administration



# Bangladeshi court sentences 20 university students to death for murder

AGENCEIS

**DHAKA:** A Bangladeshi court on Wednesday sentenced to death 20 students for beating to death a fellow second-year student inside a dormitory over a Facebook post criticising the government two years ago.

The students studied in the elite Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

They will be hanged by neck until they are dead, Judge Abu Zafar Mohammad Kamruzzaman of speedy trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka pronounced

while he simultaneously sentenced five other BUET students to life imprisonment.

Twenty-two of the 25 convicts were escorted to the dock under a heavy police guard ahead of the judge's appearance in the crowded courtroom.

The verdict said their brutality forced the court to hand them down the capital punishment to deter repetition of such incident in future.

The court found none of the total 25 accused innocent but three of them were tried in absentia as they were on the run since the murder of 21-year-old

Abrar Fahad after October 6, 2019.

All the convicts belonged to the ruling Awami League's student front Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), which, however, had expelled them from the organisation while the BUET authorities cancelled their studentship as well soon after the incident.

They visibly killed Fahad in cold blood suspecting him to be an activist of Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of rightwing Jamaat-e-Islam after he criticised the ruling Awami League over the water sharing issue in

common rivers with India.

The battered body was found in his university dormitory on the next morning while investigations found he was beaten to death with a cricket bat and other blunt objects for long six hours by the 25 fellow students.

"I am happy with the verdict," Fahad's father Barkat Ullah told reporters outside the court after the verdict while his mother expected the punishments to be served soon while the defendants' lawyers said they planned to challenge the verdict in the higher court.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 96 Civilians Killed

in winter as part of movement of officials and the winter vacation in educational institutions," the minister stated.

Replying to another question, Rai said a total of 96 civilians, 81 security forces personnel and 366 militants were killed in Kashmir since the repeal of Article 370 till this November.

### Journalists In J&K

and which directs unauthorised/unregistered journalists to complete their registration or obtain approval of the administration before they can be allowed to perform their duties.

### CDS Rawat, Wife



been ordered into the accident.

Mi1-7V5 is an advanced military transport chopper that has been with the IAF since 2012. Manufactured by Russian Helicopters' subsidiary Kazan, it has an onboard weather radar and is equipped with the latest generation of night vision devices.

"With deep regret, it has now been ascertained that Gen Bipin Rawat, Mrs Madhulika Rawat and 11 other persons on board have died in the unfortunate accident," the IAF said in a tweet at around 6 pm. Earlier, the Nilgiris Collector SP Amrith confirmed to PTI that 13 persons were killed in the crash while there was one survivor.

The helicopter carrying Rawat and others had left Sulur IAF station in nearby Coimbatore around 11.48 am and was supposed to land at DSSC in Wellington at Udhagamandalam about 45 minutes later, official sources said, adding the mishap occurred at 12.22 pm. The CDS had earlier reached the IAF station from Delhi by an Embraer aircraft at 11.34 am.

The other victims, all from the armed forces, were identified as Brigadier LS Liddar, Lieutenant Colonel Harjinder Singh, Wing Commander PS Chauhan, Squadron Leader K Singh, Naik Gursewak Singh, Naik Jitender Kumar, Lance Naik Vivek, Lance Naik B S Teja, Havaldar Satpal, JWO Das and JWO Pradeep, according to official sources.

The accident site presented a gory picture as rescue personnel were seen picking up charred, severed limbs strewn around.

The mangled and burnt remains of the ill-fated IAF copter at the accident site in Nilgiris bore a grim testimony to the tragedy that shocked the nation. The site remained out of bounds for civilians.

The mortal remains of the victims will be taken to New Delhi from Coimbatore on Thursday by air, after a wreath-laying ceremony scheduled tomorrow morning at Wellington, police and Defence sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and several chief ministers were among leaders across the political spectrum who condoled the death of Gen. Rawat and hailed him as an outstanding soldier. "Gen Bipin Rawat was an outstanding soldier. A true patriot, he greatly contributed to modernising our armed forces and security apparatus.

"His insights and perspectives on strategic matters were exceptional. His passing away has saddened me deeply. Om Shanti," Modi tweeted in his condolence message.

The prime minister-led Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) was also briefed about the helicopter crash.

Besides Modi, the meeting was attended by Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, official sources said.

Singh, who earlier briefed the prime minister about the crash, also visited the residence of Rawat in the national capital and spoke to his younger daughter. Gen. Rawat is survived by two daughters. Singh said he was "deeply anguished" by the sudden demise of Gen. Rawat and others in the "extremely unfortunate helicopter" accident.

According to accounts of official sources and a local eyewitnesses in Coonoor, the

helicopter was flying at a low altitude in the foggy conditions when it crashed into a valley near Coonoor, before falling through trees.

Fire engulfed the helicopter by the time it crashed on the ground. The helicopter crashed in the Katteri-Nanchappanchathram area in the hilly Nilgiris district.

Although the chopper brushed a house during its fall, there was no human casualty or injury since the residents were not at home. The building, however, suffered damage. Two persons, who were ablaze, fell down from the helicopter, Perumal, an eyewitness said.

The copter crashed in the forest area, reducing trees to pieces of logs and ashes due to resultant fire, even as the local people turned



first responders to try and save the injured. However, they could not help the victims due to the raging flames and informed authorities.

Apparently, a major tragedy was averted as the crashing helicopter fell at some distance away from the human habitation, averting possible mass casualties.

Flames from the helicopter engulfed the wooden logs and smoke billowed while the locals and rescue personnel scurried to douse the fire by using buckets and a water hose.

Gen. Rawat, who hailed from Pauri in Uttarakhand, had last visited his native village in 2018 and had plans to build a house there after his retirement, his uncle recalled after news broke out about the death of the quintessential military commander.

His uncle Bharat Singh Rawat (70) had gone to Kotdwar for some work but returned home as soon as he heard about the accident. It is only the General's family that lives at Saina village of Dwarikhal block.

The General's uncle said teary-eyed people from nearby villages offered condolences to the family.

He said Bipin Rawat had offered prayers to their "kuldevata" during his last visit to the village in 2018.

The General left on the same day and had said he would build a house in the village after his retirement, Bharat Singh Rawat recalled.

As CDS, Gen. Rawat was overseeing the implementation of an ambitious tri-services modernisation plan to bring synergy among the armed forces and enhance their overall combat capabilities. He had also prepared plans for jointness of the Armed Forces.

Gen. Rawat had served as the Chief of the Indian Army from December 17, 2016, to December 31, 2019. He was appointed as India's first Chief of Defence Staff on December 31, 2019.

Army Chief Gen MM Naravane and all ranks of the force also expressed their condolences.

"The dynamic and inspiring leadership of General Bipin Rawat shall remain eternally etched in our memories. The #IndianArmedForces will forever remain indebted to his invaluable contributions," the army tweeted.

### Senior Pak Army

Javed Bajwa, COAS express condolences on tragic death of #CDS General #BipinRawat, his wife and loss of precious lives in a helicopter crash in India," Pakistan Armed Forces spokesperson Major General Babar Iftikhar tweeted.

The Indian Air Force said that the copter carrying Gen Rawat and his entourage crashed in apparently foggy conditions, killing the 13 people on board. One person survived the crash and is being treated at a hospital.

### Burning Bodies

Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 other people on board, crashed. However, they could not get very close as the fire raged destroying all that it could in the wooded vicinity. The location of the mishap is a forest area, close to a tea estate and mountain chain and valleys.

Eyewitness accounts said hearing 'something like a boom' and then 'clanking of objects,' while the fire raged for well over half an hour, destroying the copter, killing its occupants and reducing huge trees to ashes.

"The helicopter crashed in a forest area, pretty close to a tea estate. The main, motorable route to this area is only through the tea estate. It was the local people and workers who saw what happened immediately after the crash," a senior state police official in Chennai told PTI quoting preliminary inputs.

"The Defence authorities could throw light on the crash," he added.

Eventually, when some people managed to reach close by, they could just not believe what they saw.

When they spotted a 'burning thing' they initially thought that it could be the branch of a tree, and on inching closer, the stench of the flesh that was still ablaze made them realise what it was a 'burning and burnt' body of a man crushed under the heavy branch of a huge tree that fell down in the impact of the crash.

When they saw another partially burnt body near bushes, apparently of a young soldier, they got an indication of the gravity of the situation. With only some shreds of his olive green uniform over a part of his upper torso, he was just lying flat on the ground, lifeless.

Another army man, who apparently sustained severe burns was lying in a prone position and was obviously dead. People, however, had no clue about the identity of the victims.

According to local people, some occupants of the helicopter may have got thrown out in the impact of crash, which they say happened "as the rotor blade of the chopper hit a huge tree due to poor visibility while on the ascend."

People in Nilgiris district are accustomed to man-animal conflict and wild animals entering villages and destroying crops and even killing people.

The spectacle of burning bodies, and the stench of flesh and helicopter crash is something they have neither seen nor could easily forget for many years to come. PTI

### Police Seize 75

have been seized under the UAPA this year.

### 3 Militants Killed

killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

The police spokesperson identified the trio as Amir Hussain Ganie of Check Cholan, Rayees Ahmed Mir of Kapran in Shopian and Haseeb Ahmad Dar of Khudwani in neighbouring Kulgam district.

As per police records, he said, all the three killed militants were categorized and were part of groups involved in several "terror" crime cases including attacks on security forces and civilian "atrocities".

Hussain, the police spokesperson said was active since Sept last year and was involved in several cases, including an attack on police and government forces in village Rakhma on October 1, this year.

"He was also involved in luring gullible youth to join terror folds," he said.

About Rayees, the police spokesperson said that he was active since June-2021 and was involved in several attacks on police and government forces including the one in village Rakhma. Haseeb, he said, was also involved in similar "terror" activities in the areas of Kulgam.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 1 AK 74 rifle and 2 pistols were also recovered from their possession. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," he said.

The police spokesperson also quoted IGP Kashmir as congratulating the joint teams for carrying out the operation in a professional manner without any collateral damage.

"Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at the encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

### J&K Tired Of

that there is no time frame set for the completion of the exercise. Maybe, they want it to continue for six years, Abdullah said at a meeting of his party workers here.

He said though the National Conference MPs are part of the delimitation exercise, we were not called for a meeting till date or shown any report and we do not know what they are doing.

Emphasizing that public issues can only be solved by a popular government, Abdullah said, People cannot be patient for long as we have had enough of dictatorship, bureaucratic rule, Lt Governor rule...

The former chief minister accused the BJP of peddling lies about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the people were dying on the one hand while on the other, the BJP had been claiming peace and revival of tourism while nothing was happening on ground.

He said the current situation in the Union Territory was so bad that had the Farooq Abdullah government in power, the BJP would have invited

## Delhi University seeks Rs 100 crore from UGC for three BTech programmes

AGNECEIS

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi University has sought Rs 100 crore from the University Grants Commission (UGC) for starting three BTech programmes—Computer Science, Electronics and Communications and Electrical Engineering—under its Faculty of Technology for setting up infrastructure facilities.

According to a proposal submitted by the university to the UGC, it has requested that positions for teaching and non-teaching staff be sanctioned at the earliest so that the programmes can be initiated.

"In order to implement this

initiative and further the cause of implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) through introduction of the Btech courses mentioned above, the university would require Rs 100 crore as financial support to set up infrastructure facilities in terms of state-of-the-art laboratories, classrooms and other attendant facilities.

The university would require Rs 25 crore annually for next four financial years with effect from 2021-22," according to the proposal.

In line with the NEP, the BTech programmes will have multiple exit options with students being awarded a certificate on exit after completion of one year of study, diploma

on exit after completing two years, advance diploma on exit after completing three years and BTech degree on exit after completing four years of study. The three BTech programmes by the university would require a total of 72 teaching positions and 55 non-teaching staff.

The Delhi University had constituted a committee under Professor D S Chauhan, former vice-chancellor of Uttar Pradesh Technical University and Uttarakhand Technical University, to deliberate upon establishment of departments under Faculty of Technology in the emerging areas of engineering and technology.

general public in Kashmir so that people can further be benefitted by such immunity boosters.

"In the meeting it was further decided that all the Chief Medical Officers of Kashmir division will share the information regarding the availability of Covid Management Kits to the Divisional Administration in the shortest possible time," he added.

### J&K Logs 151

in Kashmir Valley and the remaining 44 from different parts of Jammu division.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered the highest 47 fresh cases of coronavirus, Baramulla 18, Ganderbal 15, Budgam 14, Kupwara and Bandipora 6 each and Anantnag 1 new case of Covid-19. The three districts of Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama reported no new cases of virus.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 22 new cases of infection, Poonch 9, Kathua and Samba 4 each, Rajouri 2 and one new case each in Udhampur, Doda and Reasi. No cases were registered in the twin districts of Kishtwar and Ramban.

"Moreover, 11 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 16 from Jammu Division and 95 from Kashmir," officials added.

### DoT To Deactivate

connections from the database that are not in use as per the rule.

### Applications Invited

applications should be submitted online till December 20 and the applicants must have performed a Haj preferably during the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 and should generally not be more than 58 years of age.

"Applicants of age 25-58 years as on 31 December, 2021 are eligible to apply online. They must have gotten two (2) doses of approved vaccine against Covid-19," he said.

Apart from this, the official spokesperson said that the applicants must be fully conversant and fluent in English/Urdu/Hindi/ local language/ dialects and computer literate besides being efficient enough to receive/transmit latest information/messages through email/WhatsApp and other available sources of E-Media.

"The applicants must possess thorough knowledge of the logistics and rituals of Hajj and Umrah. They must be mentally and physically fit, capable of addressing/ giving lectures to relatively large gatherings and in a position to spare time for imparting training," he said, adding that any applicant having

Criminal records against him/her in any Court of Law shall not apply.

Also, the official spokesperson said that the desiring applicants can apply Online through Haj Committee of India website [www.hajcommittee.gov.in](http://www.hajcommittee.gov.in).

He advised the applicants to upload the requisite documents at the time of filling up of Online Application Forms.

"No offline application or copy of downloaded online application will be accepted by this office. The last date / time for filling up online applications are 20th December, 2021 at 23:59 hours," the official spokesperson said.

For further details aspirants are requested to go through the Circular No. 3 dated: 07 December, 2021 issued by Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, he added.

### LG Pays Tributes

establishing an inclusive and harmonious society will be the guiding philosophy for humanity till eternity.

"This solemn occasion reminds all of us, the Guru's great teachings and supreme sacrifice. He was the embodiment of universal brotherhood, peace, and harmony. His life and teachings are a source of inspiration for all citizens", the LG said.

He called upon people to follow the high ideals of humanism, benevolence, and tolerance.

"On this pious day, we must rekindle the spirit of self-sacrifice and resolve to strive for collective good, uplift individual lives, and achieving greater harmony and compassion in the society," he added.

### BSF Officer Dies

on Wednesday morning, official sources said. Lal was shifted to the Sub-District Hospital Mendhar where he died.

### Electric Shock

An employee of PDD, Bhat was rushed to District Hospital Handwara for immediate treatment.

When contacted, JEE PDD Mawer Ghulam Mohuiddin confirmed the incident and said that the employee is under treatment at DH Handwara and is said to be stable.

"We have initiated an investigation into the incident as the time at which the employee received the shock is a scheduled break time", the JEE said. (GNS)



## J&K Tennis Volleyball Team Leaves For MP



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The J&K Tennis Volleyball team on Wednesday departed for Dhabra, Madhya Pradesh where they will compete in the upcoming Tennis Volleyball Championship scheduled to start from December 10. Jammu and Kashmir Tennis Volleyball Association announced that the team was selected after trials on December 4. "The team comprising of eight men and three women besides one coach and one National level referee has been given warm departure from Indoor Stadium, Jammu by the members of the J&K UT Tennis volleyball association including Shuza Zaffar President, Tarsem Sharma, Sunil Kumar Sawhney, Vice President, Dr. Navneet Gupta General Secretaries and other officials of the Association," the Association said in a press release.

The team: Vansh Dev Singh, Ankush Manhas, Shonit Gupta, Rajjan, Rashid Dar, Adil Farooq Mir, Mussaib Bin Fayaz, Mubasir Hamid Mir, beside Rahul Vansh and Ashima Pathania will be the coaches of the team.

Association President addressed the players and guided them over fair play in the tournament.

The Championship will end on December 12.

## CS Reviews Functioning Of Sports Department

'Establish one multi-purpose indoor stadium and one flood-lit stadium in each district by March 2022'

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Youth Services & Sports Department and take stock of achievements registered so far in the current financial year.

The Principal Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Department, Director Youth Services and Sports Department, Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, and other senior officers of the Department attended the meeting.

It was informed that the Department is organizing various sports activities and undertaking several infrastructural projects across Jammu and Kashmir to promote a sporting culture in the Union territory.

During the current financial year, the J&K Sports Council organized various UT, Divisional, and District level competitions and engaged 8.70 lakh athletes which saw a 600% increase from the financial year 2017-18. The Council also inaugurated a state-of-the-art Gymnastics Academy at M.A Stadium Jammu which is fully equipped

with world-class and international federation-approved apparatuses. It is the first-ever such academy in the country which has international standard facilities for artistic, rhythmic and trampoline gymnastics in one place.

The Department will be organizing 15 national-level events in the next quarter including the National Snow Rugby Championship at Gulmarg, Sub-Junior National Soft Tennis Championship, National Thang-Tha Championship at Srinagar, Junior National Volleyball Championship at Jammu, and Federation Cup Wushu Championship at Srinagar.

Under Khelo India Scheme, 2 Centres of Excellence have been established- one for fencing in Jammu and another for Kayaking & Canoeing at Srinagar. Similarly, 40 Small Khelo India District Level Centers are coming up across Jammu and Kashmir which will be completed by March 2022. These Centres will provide sporting facilities for at least 2 disciplines per district from badminton, basketball, boxing, football, handball, hockey, judo, kabaddi, karate, korfbal, penchak silat, table tennis, taekwondo, thang-ta and wushu.

Further, to promote sports among people with disabilities (PwDs), the Department is organizing various tournaments including Blind National Cricket Tournament, wheelchair race and carom, among others, under the theme 'Know me for my Abilities, not my Disabilities'.



VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

## J&K Lose By 5 Wickets To Gujarat

R. Elahi

**SRINAGAR:** Parvez Rasool's blistering 76 were not enough for J&K as the team lost to Gujarat by 5 wickets in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021 being played at Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai.

Sent in to bat first, J&K were 66 for the loss of 6 wickets in 19.1 overs. However a defiant partnership between Parvez Rasool 76 (77) and Aquib Nabi 27 (44) helped J&K post 171/10 in 42.1 overs. Captain Shubham Pundir 0 (11), vice

captain Abdul Samad 5 (3), Ian Dev Singh 5 (10) were disappointing with the bat. For Gujarat, Chintan Gaja took 4 wickets, while Hemang Patel took 3.

With a low score to defend, J&K made a good start with Aquib Nabi removing Gujarat opener early on. Umar Nazir then made another breakthrough to reduce Gujarat to 36 for the loss of 2 wickets in 8.4 overs.

Gujarat team however held its nerve with Bargav Merai 57 (83) and Ripal Patel

33 (27) top-scoring for their team. Umar Nazir Mir was the pick of bowlers for J&K taking 2 wickets, while Aquib Nabi and Mujtaba Yousuf took 1 wicket each.

J&K XI: Abid Mushtaq, Shubham Khajuria, Shubham Singh Pundir (C), Henan Nazir, Vivrant Sharma, Parvez Rasool, Ian Chauhan (W), Umar Nazir, Aquib Nabi, Abdul Samad, Mujtaba Yousuf.

The J&K team will next play Himachal on Thursday, December 9. w

## Real Kashmir Sail Into IFA Shield Semifinal

Pip Mohammad Sporting in 98th minute of extra time



Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** Defending champions Real Kashmir FC fought hard to beat local heavyweights Mohammedan Sporting 1-0 in the extra time to advance to the semi-finals of the 124th IFA Shield in Kalyani on Wednesday.

RKFC's Mizoram recruit Lalchawnkima struck the all-im-

portant goal in the 98th minute to take them to their second successive semi-finals of the IFA Shield.

Earlier both the teams pressed hard but could not get a decisive goal taking the match into the extra time.

In another quarterfinal at the East Bengal ground, Sreenidi Deccan FC beat George Telegraph, riding on a 70th minute

goal from Lalromawia.

Goalkeeper Bilal Khan and midfielder Farhan Ganai, were the only two homegrown players who started the match for the Snow Leopards.

## Rohit Named India ODI Captain Till 2023 WC

Squad for South Africa test series announced

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Virat Kohli was on Wednesday removed as India's ODI captain with the national selection committee making Rohit Sharma the sole white-ball leader of the team till the 2023 50-over World Cup.

In another significant development, Ajinkya Rahane was removed from Test vice-captaincy, a position which was also given to Rohit.

The BCCI announced the 18-member squad for the three Test series which doesn't include all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, spinner Axar Patel, and opener Shubman Gill due to various injuries.

Hanuma Vihari has made a comeback in the main squad while Ishant Sharma has been able to retain his place despite poor form.



Squad: Virat Kohli (Capt), Rohit Sharma (vc), KL Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Shreyas Iyer, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), Wriddhiman Saha (wk), R Ashwin, Jayant Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Mohd. Shami, Umesh Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Shardul Thakur, Md. Siraj.

Standby Players: Navdeep Saini, Saurabh Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Arzan Nagwaswalla.

## Sajid's Bowling Leads Pakistan Past Bangladesh In 2nd Test



Agencies

**DHAKA:** Offspinner Sajid Khan ended with a match haul of 12-128 as Pakistan broke Bangladesh's stubborn resistance to secure an innings and eight-run victory in the rain-hit second and final test on Wednesday.

Bangladesh was forced to follow-on after being wrapped up for 87 in the first innings and was bowled out for 205.

With the light gradually fading, Bangladesh's last-wicket pair of Taijul Islam and Ebadot Hossain resisted for 34 balls to raise a hope of salvaging the test.

But Sajid broke the partnership, dismissing Taijul leg-before to help Pakistan win the game.

Sajid claimed 4-86, the fourth-best individual total by a Pakistani bowler in an innings, to

follow up his first-innings 8-42.

Pakistan declared its first innings at 300-4 after only 63.2 overs were possible in the first three days because of rain and bad light. The third day was entirely washed out and only 6.2 overs were possible on Day 2.

Resuming on 76-7, Bangladesh was quickly dismissed for 87 and Babar Azam forced the follow-on.

Fast bowlers Shaheen Shah Afridi (2-31) and Hasan Ali (2-37) then got into act with the new ball, leaving Bangladesh 25-4.

But Bangladesh raised a bit hope as Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das combined for 73 runs in 25 overs before Sajid rattled the stump of Liton for 45.

Shakib Al Hasan joined Mushfiqur Rahim and added 49 runs before the latter was run out for 48 after trying for a risky single.

## ICC Test Rankings: Ashwin Up To 2nd, Agarwal 11th



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Senior India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin climbed a rung to second while his teammate and opener Mayank Agarwal, along with New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel also made huge progress in the ICC Test Rankings issued on Wednesday.

Agarwal's Player of the Match effort in the second Test in Mumbai, where he scored 150 and 62, has helped him gain 30 spots and reach 11th position in the latest update to the men's rankings.

He is just one spot below a career-best 10th position that he first attained in November 2019.

The Mumbai-born Patel, who became only the third player to take all 10 wickets in a Test innings, emulating Jim Laker and Anil Kumble, has moved up 23 slots to 38th after finishing with 14 wickets in the match.

The left-arm spinner's previous best ranking was 53rd and he had started the series in 62nd position.

Others to move up in the rankings after the Mumbai Test, which was a part of the ICC World Championships, are India opener Shubman Gill (up 21 places to 45th), fast bowler Mohammad Siraj (up four places to 41st) and New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell (up 26 places to 78th).

Ashwin has bridged the gap with top-ranked bowler Pat Cummins after finishing with four wickets in each innings in India's 372-run victory.

Ashwin has gained 43 rating points to reach a total of 883 and is 67 points ahead of third-placed Josh Hazlewood.

He has moved up one place to second among all-rounders even as his compatriot Ravindra Jadeja has slipped to fourth in the list led by West Indies' Jason Holder.

Holder has gained one spot to reach 14th among bowlers in Wednesday's update, that also considers performances from the Galle Test that Sri Lanka won by 164 runs to complete a 2-0 series victory and remain atop the ICC World Test Championship points table.

## THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433760, 2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jam)  
Website: <http://www.jkbopee.gov.in>, Email: [helpdeskjkbopee@gmail.com](mailto:helpdeskjkbopee@gmail.com)

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

Reference: i) Notification NO.121-BOPEE of 2021 dated 01-11-2021  
ii) Notification NO.129-BOPEE of 2021 dated 22-11-2021

### NOTIFICATION NO: 143-BOPEE OF 2021 DATED: 08-12-2021.

Consequent upon receipt of shortfall from Prabha Harjilat College of Pharmacy & Preclinical Sciences, Madre-e-Meharbhhan Campus of Health Sciences, Jammu, after the last date of joining of candidates pursuant to Notification No: 129-BOPEE of 2021 dated: 22-11-2021, the candidates figuring in Annexure "A" to this Notification have been provisionally recommended for admission to B.Pharma Courses -2021 at Prabha Harjilat College of Pharmacy & Preclinical Sciences, Madre-e-Meharbhhan Campus of Health Sciences, Jammu.

The provisionally selected candidates figuring in Annexure "A" are advised to report the college for admission along with documents w.e.f 09-12-2021 to 13-12-2021 upto (3:00 p.m):-

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

The Principal of the concerned College shall get above mentioned original certificates of the concerned candidates verified by the In-charge College Admission Committee and countersigned by him/ her before allowing the candidates to complete their admission formalities.

However the Board has annexed Annexure "B" as a waiting list to this Notification against the provisionally selected candidates which shall be operative w.e.f 14-12-2021 to 16-12-2021 with the direction to the College authority that they will admit the candidates against the short fall, if any, for Annexure "A" on the last date i.e 16-12-2021, purely on the basis of Rank mentioned in the annexure "B" to this Notification and not on the basis of first cum first serve.

The College shall submit shortfall of candidates, if any, who did not join the College to BOPEE Office Jammu/ Srinagar on 16-12-2021 upto 05.00 PM

#### NOTE:

- i. As already notified in Notification No.082-BOPEE of 2021 dated 01-09-2021, the seats under TFW category shall be filled up after first/second round, the Board has decided to fill up seats under TFW category only after the last date of admission i.e 16-12-2021 tied by Board.
- ii. Board has received applications from the candidates with Rank 101 & 106 who were selected for B.Pharma course vide Notification No:- 115-BOPEE of 2021 Dated: 01-11-2021 but could not join the college due to various valid reasons. Board has reviewed their applications and included their names in this provisional selection list as per the present status.
- iii. The other terms and conditions shall remain same as notified in various Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time in this regard
- iv. For convenience of candidates regarding admission/fee, they are advised to contact incharge college admission committee at 7006783546/9419225567. The Annexures "A" & "B" shall be available on BOPEE website [www.jkbopee.gov.in](http://www.jkbopee.gov.in) only.

E&OE

No:BOPEE/Exam-19/2021  
Dated: 08-11-2021.  
DIPK-NB-5702/21

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

## THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Tele/ Fax: 0194-2433760, 2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)  
Website: <http://www.jkbopee.gov.in>, Email: [helpdeskjkbopee@gmail.com](mailto:helpdeskjkbopee@gmail.com)

Subject: Conduct of Mop-up Round of up-gradation / Allotment of seats for admission to 12th based GNM (Lateral Entry) Paramedical Courses-2021. (Physical Counselling)

References: (i) Notification No. 075-BOPEE of 2021 dated 12-08-2021  
(ii) Notification No. 077-BOPEE of 2021 dated 19-08-2021  
(iii) Notification No. 092-BOPEE of 2021 dated 17-09-2021  
(iv) Notification No. 095-BOPEE of 2021 dated 25-09-2021

### NOTIFICATION NO. 142-BOPEE OF 2021 DATED 08-12-2021

Consequent upon receipt of shortfall in respect of Notification No. 095-BOPEE of 2021 dated 25-09-2021 from various Colleges / Institutions and the seats, which have remained unfilled after conclusion of 2ndround of counselling held from 27-09-2021 and 06-10-2021, it is hereby notified that the Board has decided to conduct Mop-up round of counselling (Physical) for up-gradation/ allotment of seats to the eligible candidates for admission to GNM (Lateral Entry) course 2021 on 11-12-2021 as per the following schedule:-

Date of Counselling	Rank
11-12-2021 (Saturday)	01 to 692

The candidates are advised to report at BOPEE office Srinagar/Jammu on 11-12-2021 at 9:00 am to 10:30 am for registration and subsequent counselling.

**Note 1:** The following shall be eligible to participate in Mop-up round of Physical counselling

a) The candidates, who have been allotted a seat in 2ndround of counselling and have joined the allotted School/ Institution.

b) The candidates, who could not participate in the 1st and 2nd round of counselling for one or the other reason.

c) The candidates, who have opted CNA/ SNA during 2ndround of counselling.

d) The Candidates who have been allotted seat(s) during 1st round of counselling but failed to join against the said seat / College / Institution due to one or the other reason.

**Note 2:** The following shall not be eligible to participate in this round of counselling

a) The candidates, who have been allotted seat(s) in the 2n round of counselling but failed to join the same within the prescribed time limit fixed by the Board.

b) The candidates who have been upgraded during 2nd round of counselling.

**Note 3:** The candidates who have joined the allotted Schools/ Institutions shall have to bring a copy of fee receipt deposited at their respective College/ School/Institution at the time of their Physical Counselling on that day for up-gradation counselling.

**Note 4:** As provided under Section 9 (2) of J&K Reservation Act 2004, the Board shall first conduct the counselling of reserved category candidates and in case any seat(s) under reserved category(s), remain unfilled due to non-availability of eligible candidate(s), these shall be converted into open merit category, and shall be filled on the same day. However, the reserved category candidate(s) if any willing can compete in the counselling as open merit candidate on his / her rank.

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the e-Information Brochure/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time on the subject.

E&OE

No. BOPEE/Exam-10/2021  
Dated: 08-12-2021  
DIPK-NB-5703/21

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



## Farmers' Protests: SKM Discussing Govt Offer On MSP Panel

Agenceis

A five-member committee constituted by the Samkyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) is deliberating upon the government's fresh proposal on farmers' remaining demands in its meeting being held at the All India Kisan Mahasabha office in central Delhi on Wednesday.

Ravneet Brar, the spokesperson of BKU Kadian, said the committee members are also discussing about the panel to be set up by the government on legal guarantee for MSP and other issues.

The SKM, which has been spearheading the protest, is scheduled to hold a meeting later in the day to take a decision on whether they should end their agitation following the government's fresh proposal.

On Tuesday, the SKM had demanded clarification on certain points in the government's

proposal, including on the pre-condition set for withdrawal of "fake" cases against farmers.

According to the farmers' body, the government's proposal said it will form a committee to look into the demand for legal guarantee on MSP for crops and the panel will include farmer organisations outside the SKM, government officials and representatives of states.

The SKM members had objected to this and had decided to meet again on Wednesday to deliberate on these issues and announce the future course of the agitation.

On November 30 this year, Parliament passed the bill to repeal the three contentious agricultural laws at the centre of protests by farmers for over a year, with the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha giving their approval in quick succession amid an uproar on the first day of the Winter session without any discussion as demanded by the opposition.

## Cabinet Nod To Extension Of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Rural) For Another 3 Years



Agenceis

**New Delhi:** The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Rural) for another three years, Union minister Anurag Thakur said.

He told a media briefing on Cabinet decisions that the extension has been granted beyond March 2021, and till March 2024.

The scheme will ensure housing for all in rural areas, he said.

A government spokesperson said the extension of the scheme will help in construction of remaining 155.75 lakh houses. It will help achieve target of 2.95 crore 'pucca' houses.

The total financial implication for the remaining construction stands at Rs 1,98,581 crore, the spokesperson said on Twitter. PTI



Army Chief General Bipin Rawat interacting with the troops in a file photo.

## CCS Briefed About Helicopter Crash Leading To CDS General Rawat's Death: Official Sources

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The prime minister-led Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) was briefed on Wednesday about a military helicopter crash that led to the death of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat and other defence personnel near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu.

Besides Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the meeting was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh,

Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, official sources said.

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister PK Misra and Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba also attended the meeting, in which the CCS members were briefed about the tragic incident.

The sources said the top cabinet brass expressed condolences

on the death of General Rawat.

Separately, Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane briefed the defence minister about the crash and related issues. The defence minister also visited General Rawat's residence and spoke to his daughter.

The CDS was on his way to the Defence Staff College in Wellington when the helicopter crashed near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu. The Indian Air Force (IAF) said a Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the accident.

## Air Crashes Claimed Many Prominent Personalities In The Past

Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Several senior military officials were feared dead after an Indian Air Force helicopter crashed in Tamil Nadu's Coonoor on Wednesday afternoon with Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, his wife and 12 others onboard.

The latest incident brings to our mind several prominent personalities who have perished in air crashes in the past.

One of the first instances was freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 in Taiwan although there has been some controversy over his death.

Another air accident was the crash of a helicopter in which Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy was onboard.

The chopper of YSR, crashed in a forest while flying in a Bell 430 to Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh. His body was traced 27 hours after the helicopter went missing in 2009.

Sanjay Gandhi, the younger son of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was killed in 1980 when a glider he was flying crashed after taking off from the Safdarjung airport in Delhi.

Senior Congress leader, Madhavrao Scindia was killed in a Cessna aircraft crash on in 2001



while travelling to Kanpur to address a rally.

Lok Sabha Speaker and Telugu Desam leader G M C Balayogi also died in a chopper crash in 2002 in Andhra Pradesh.

O P Jindal, Haryana's then power minister and a leading industrialist, and state agriculture minister Surendra Singh were killed when the chopper developed a technical snag and went down near Saharanpur in 2005.

Punjab governor Surendra Nath and nine members of his family were killed when the government's Super-King aircraft crashed into high mountains in bad weather in 1994 in Himachal Pradesh. Nath was then acting Himachal governor also.

Five days after the helicopter that he was using went missing, Arunachal Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu was found dead near the China border in 2011. — IANS

### CDS Rawat Chopper Crash

## Mi17V5 Is Advanced Transport Helicopter With IAF Since 2012

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Mi17V5 helicopter, which crashed with Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Bipin Rawat and 13 other people onboard on Wednesday, is an advanced military transport chopper that has been with the Indian Air Force (IAF) since 2012.

Manufactured by Russian Helicopters' subsidiary Kazan, the helicopter has an onboard weather

radar and is equipped with the latest generation of night vision devices.

It also has the new PKV-8 autopilot system and a KNEI-8 avionics suite. It can carry a maximum take off weight of 13,000 kg and maximum payload weight of 4,000 kg.

India had in 2008 signed a deal with Russia to induct 80 Mi17V5 medium lift helicopters for strengthening its chopper fleet for humanitarian and disaster relief missions and transport operations.

The contract was later expanded for delivery of 151 Mi17V5 helicopters. The first batch of these helicopters came to India in September 2011.

In February 2012, the IAF had formally Mi17V5 helicopters

including, carrying troops and cargo to high altitude areas.

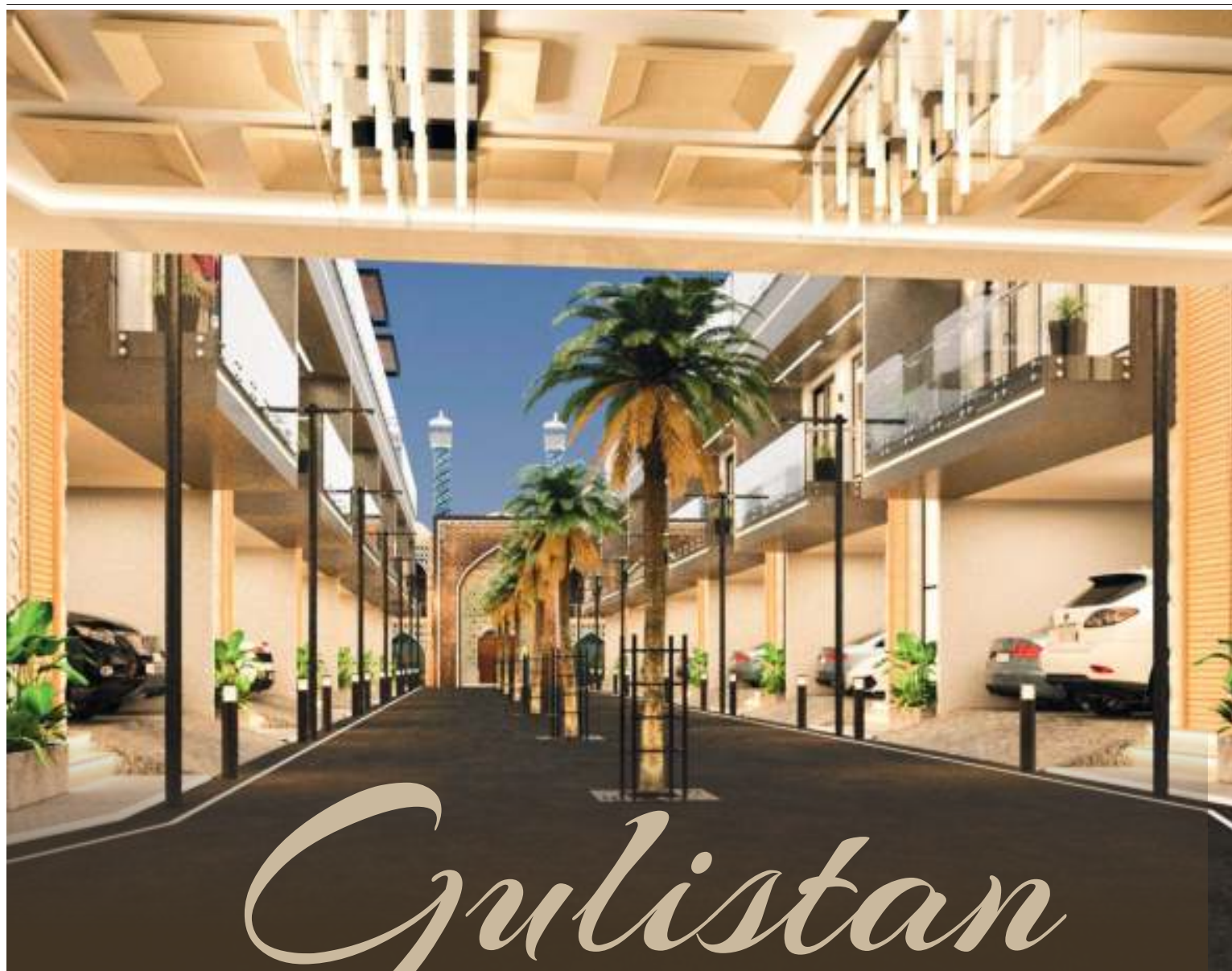
The helicopter is fitted with a self-defence system against heat seeker missiles, heavily-armoured cockpit,

from Russia to enhance its operational capabilities



tal systems and components.

"The Mi-17V-5 military transport helicopter is designed to carry personnel, cargo and equipment inside the cargo cabin or on an external sling, drop tactical air assault forces and reconnaissance and sabotage groups, destroy ground targets and carry the wounded," said Russian government's defence exports company Rosoboronexport.



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