



## P5 STATE

**COVID-19: RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON PUBLIC MOVEMENT IN PATNITOP**

In the wake of recent spike in Covid pandemic and occurrence of its new variant Omicron resulting in continuous rise in positivity rate on daily basis, District

## P7 FRIENDS IN TRADE

**WHAT MAKES BANGLADESH INDIA'S LARGEST EXPORT DESTINATION?**

In Fiscal Year 2022, Bangladesh is expected to be India's fourth-largest export destination jumping from the fifth place it is currently holding. This is definitely a landmark for the

## P11 SPORTS

**SUNDAR TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID; MAY MISS SA ODIS**

India all-rounder Washington Sundar has tested positive for COVID-19. His participation in the three-match One-Day International series against South



## Quote!

Contentment is natural wealth, luxury is artificial poverty

— Socrates

## NEWS DIGEST

**Soldier Shoots Himself Dead**

**SRINAGAR:** A soldier on Tuesday allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself dead in Keran sector along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 41-year-old Havaldar Gurjeet Singh on Tuesday evening allegedly shot himself dead using his AK-47 assault rifle in the Kachhal area of Keran along the LoC. **More on P10**

**7 Injured In Army Vehicle, Bus Collision**

**SRINAGAR:** At least seven people were injured on Tuesday in a head-on collision between an army vehicle and a passenger bus in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. The collision between the army vehicle and a video coach (JK02BH-5393) took place in the Tota Gali area of the **More on P10**

**Youth Falls From Tractor, Dies**

**SRINAGAR:** A youth died on Tuesday after falling off a moving tractor in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. 26-year-old Sadiq Ahmed Najjar of Izzat Shah Colony, Sopore died on the spot after he fell from a moving tractor near Tarzoo village on Tuesday evening, a **More on P10**

**Ladakh Reports 125 New Covid cases**

**LEH:** Ladakh's coronavirus caseload surged to 22,686 on Tuesday with 125 fresh infections, while the death toll climbed to 222 as one more person succumbed to the virus, officials said. Of the fresh cases, 118 were from Leh district and seven from Kargil district, they said. The latest death was reported from Leh, the officials said. The number of active **More on P10**

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**Ishad Ahmad: 7006276927**

**R-Day: Forces Step Up Vigil Along IB**

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Security forces have launched a long-range patrolling and area domination operation in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district to keep a vigil on anti-national elements ahead of the Republic Day, officials said on Tuesday.

Several bids to smuggle weapons and infiltrate militants into the Indian side of the border have been foiled by the security forces in Samba in the past.

"We are undertaking long-range patrolling and area domination operation of the area which is close to the border (in Samba district) in a bid to foil any design of the anti-national elements," a senior police officer leading the operation said.

"Anti-national elements who try to disturb peace will not be allowed to succeed", he said.

The officer said the Army, CRPF and special operations group (SoG) of the J-K Police are jointly carrying out the operation.

The border belt of Samba district includes Basantar riverine area along



Youth lift snow to retrieve their car buried by heavy snowfall in Kulgam district of south Kashmir. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

**Uptick In Covid Cases, 1148 More Test Positive**

13 Doctors, 24 Security Personnel Among Those Infected

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Coronavirus cases continued to soar in Jammu and Kashmir as 1148 more people tested positive for Covid-19 on Tuesday, the highest ever spike in recent months, while two more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported 508 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while the remaining 604 were detected from various districts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 346506. Among those who contracted infection



File Photo

included 13 doctors, 12 CRPF personnel and as many as J&K policemen.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered the highest 256 new cases of virus, sixty among them

travellers. Baramulla reported 94, Budgam 59, Kupwara 30, Bandipora 19, Anantnag 18, Kulgam 13, Pulwama 12, Ganderbal 5 and Shopian 2 fresh cases of Covid-19.

In the winter **More on P10**

**Kashmir Lacks Omicron Testing Facility**

5 Cases Of New Covid-19 Variant Detected

Auqib Javed

**SRINAGAR:** In what could be a worrying sign for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory has no facilities to test Omicron cases, five of which came out

positive on Tuesday, setting off alarm bells among the divisional administration.

In the Valley, five cases of the new Covid variant-Omicron came positive on Tuesday and included three non-local travellers, an official told Kashmir Observer. **More on P10**

**Corona Hits J&K Bank, 2 Branches Closed**

At least 25 employees of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank have tested positive for coronavirus forcing the district authorities to shut down two bank branches in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, reports said Tuesday. The two J&K Bank branches including TP and Main branch in main town **More on P10**

**SKIMS Recalls Faculty Members**

The authorities at tertiary care hospital, Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura Tuesday ordered cancellation of winter vacations for faculty members. The faculty members have been asked to resume their duties without any delay. **More on P10**

**GMC Srinagar Suspends Classwork**

Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar on Tuesday suspended all the theory classes in respect of MBBS and B.Sc. Paramedical Courses with immediate effect.

"Pursuant to Government Order No: 03-IK(DMRR) of 2022 dated: 09/01/2022 issued **More on P10**

**Police Crackdown On People 'Misusing' Social Media**

IGP Directs District SSPs To Intensify Anti-Militancy Ops, Act Against OGW Network



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar on Tuesday directed his men to take stringent action against the people, including trouble makers and rumour mongers, who misuse social media platforms for inciting violence.

Kumar passed these directions while chairing a security review meeting at Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir through video conferencing with Range DIsG and district SSPs of Kashmir Zone, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. DIG central Kashmir and SSP

Srinagar also attended the meeting at PCR Kashmir.

The IGP, he said, directed the officers that persons involved in disturbing the prevailing peaceful atmosphere should be dealt strictly under law. He said that Kumar also instructed all District SSPs to enhance anti militancy operations in their respective areas besides, taking strict action against OGW network.

"He said that stringent action shall be taken against such elements who misuse social media platforms for inciting violence including trouble makers and rumour mongers," he added. **More on P10**

**Landslides Again Block Jammu-Srinagar Highway**

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was closed again due to fresh landslides in Ramban district on Tuesday, triggering massive traffic jams on the stretch, officials sources said.

Many truckers, who are stranded on the highway for the past several days, blamed the traffic management authorities for not allowing them to move on, causing them huge financial losses as perishable goods they carry have been damaged.

The highway was closed for

traffic due to a landslide in the Mehar area of Ramban, the official sources said.

The men and machines are working to clear the highway of the debris and shooting stones, which pose a grave danger to the lives of the people, they said.

Massive traffic jams were seen at many places on the highway.

The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway was reopened for traffic on Monday after remaining closed for the past three days owing to heavy snowfall and multiple landslides in Ramban district. **More on P10**

**J&K Govt to Commemorate Maharaja Hari Singh's Birthday With Bang**

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday constituted a committee headed by Principal Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department (GAD) with regard to commemoration of the birthday of the last autocratic Dogra ruler of the erstwhile state Maharaja Hari Singh.

According to an order issued by Principal Secretary to the Government, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, "Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of a Committee regarding issue of Commemoration of birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji and its observance in general/under



the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir."

Principal Secretary to the Government, General

Administration Department has been appointed as Chairman of the Committee while Administrative Secretary, Social Welfare Department Administrative Secretary, Culture Department and Divisional Commissioner, Jammu have been appointed as the members.

The order added that the committee may co-opt any other member(s) as and when required.

Following abrogation of Kashmir's semi autonomous status on August 5, 2019 administration here abandoned the 13 July holiday which had a symbolic value for Kashmiri Muslims who would commemorate it as martyrs day in memory of **More on P10**

**Sub-Zero Temperatures Grip Kashmir**

Sub-zero temperatures returned to the Kashmir Valley as the mercury plunged with Gulmarg and Pahalgam witnessing extreme cold conditions, officials said on Tuesday. Gulmarg, the famous ski resort **More on P10**

**Inmate Dies In Kupwara Jail, 2nd Death In Six Months**

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A 33-year-old accused from Sopore, who was lodged along with his brother, at district jail Kupwara died around midnight, officials said on Tuesday.

They said the accused Khurshid Ahmad Wani of Saidpora Sopore, who was lodged in the jail since October 5, 2021 in a case (FIR no 52/2021 under section 363 498 and 109 IPC of police station Kralgund, fell severely ill and was taken to sub District hospital Kupwara where doctors declared him brought dead.

Sources said that Khurshid was not keep well for quite some time and around midnight, his

brother who is also lodged in the jail in connection with same case, raised an alarm following which health officials of the hospital reached and found him dead.

The jail authorities shifted him to hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. This is the second death in the jail in the last six months as an accused from Brath Kalan Sopore had died there on June 14 last year.

Meanwhile, Superintendent of Kupwara Jail, Shahbaz Hussain in a letter issued to the chairman District Legal Services Authority, Kupwara has stated that the undertrial prisoner was suffering from several ailments and was sent to **More on P10**



**اثر نجات و تگام**  
درخواست منیانب: عبدالغفار قمر ولد غلام قادر در رسا کنه موضع لیر تحصیل و تگام برادر اجرائی وارثان سرفکیت

استهرا برادر آگای بر خاص و عام

معامله مندر بنوان الصدیر میں درخواست سالک دفتر پڈ میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا ت رپکار ڈطلب کے گئے جس سے جہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سالک کی زہد مساتہ راجہ بیکم مورخہ 21-05-2022 کو فوت ہو چکی ہے متواتی کے وارثان بذیل ہے

عبدالغفار قادر شہر متواتی	زمیندار 65 سال
جواہرہ دختر متواتی	شادی شدہ 45
شیراز احمد پرمستواتی	مزدوری 40
طارق احمد پرمستواتی	مزدوری 32
زمیندار دختر	شادی شدہ 30
تویر احمد پرم	مزدوری 26

اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی مذریاعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا مذریاعتراض ساتھ ہی کے اندر پیش کریں۔ مبادا کرنے کے بعد کوئی مذریاعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is inform general public that I have applied for pesticides license. In this regard any person having any objection He/She may contact office of the PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.  
Name: Javid Ahmad Rather S/O: Abdul Rehman Rather  
R/O: Chohan Kapran Anantnag **RNA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I have a Pnb Metlife policy under policy no. 00251564. In the name of SAKEENA BANOO but may correct name is SAKINA AKHTER W/O. AB REHMAN SHSH D/O. GHULAM AHMAD PARREY now I want to correct it if any body have objection may contact Pnb Metlife office Anantnag within 7 days after that no objection will be entertained  
**SAKINA AKHTER**  
R/O. ASHAJIPORA ANANTNAG 192101  
JAMMU AND KASHMIR **RNA**

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE**

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohammad Ashraf Mir S/o: Sulaiman Mir R/o: Nasrullah Pora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 2412 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Humhama .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .  
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5500  
Dated 11/01/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE**

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohammad Afzal Bhat S/o: Mohammad Abdullah Bhat R/o: Chadoora Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Wagon R. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04B - 7731. Chasis number 03211 Engine no. 87155 Model 2012. in favour of Shri.. Showkat Ahmad Bangroo S/o. Bashir Ahmad Bangroo R/o Bangroo Mohalla Maharaj Gunj Sgr. (Tranferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S LIC of India B/U Regal Lane Unit I Srinagar.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .  
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5502  
Dated 11/01/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
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Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979

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

NAME: Javid Ahmad Rather  
S/o: Abdul Rehman Rather  
R/o: Chohan Kapran  
Anantnag **RNA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK22 6876. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Shabena Mushtaq  
D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Wagay  
R/o Pinjora Shopian **ast**

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office Of The Chief Executive Officer Dodhpathri Development Authority**

**FRESH SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS**  
E-NIT No: - 01 of 2022 Dated:- 08-01-2021

Due to Very poor Response to this office Nit no 07 of 2021 dated 31-12-2021, Fresh short term E-tenders,  
For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K UT are invited from registered contractor of J&K UT , MES, CPWD, Central Government and other State Government for the following works :

S No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Amount in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Amount in Rs.)	Earnest Money (Amount in Rs.)	Time of Completion ( Working Days )	Class of Contract
1.	Snow clearance including Frost Removal from Raiyar Dodhpathri Road ( Raiyar crossing upto ( Hutment area 1 <sup>st</sup> 7 Kms ) including Parking Places at Parihas, Dodhpathri & TRC Tangnar, during winter season of year 2022 ( 1 <sup>st</sup> 04 Months ) ( Complete job ) for keeping the double lane road open without any break .	Rs. 10.50 lacs	Rs. 600 /-	Rs. 21000 /-	4 Months	"B,C&D"

Position of Funds = Partly available. Head of Account = SDRF-2021-22  
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, criteria, specifications, , Drawings, bill of quantities, (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	08-01-2022
2.	Date of Publication of Tender Notice (Online)	08-01-2022 (6:00 PM)
3.	Downloading of Bids	08-01-2022 (06:00PM) To 14-01-2022 (4:30PM)
4.	Uploading of Bids	08-01-2022 (06:30PM) To 14-01-2022 (4:30 PM)
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Bids ( Online )	15-01-2022 (10.30 AM)

Executive Engineer  
Dodhpathri Development Authority  
NO:- e-Tendering / DDA/1597-1602 Dated:- 08-01-2022  
**DIPK-NB-6483/21**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR**  
NAAC Accredited Grade "A+" | HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

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

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money In Rs.	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Time of comp	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contr
1.	Supply of Sanitary items and other allied fittings for installation at various locations of University of Kashmir.	7.56	15,120/-	300/-	20-Days	10-01 -2022 to 24-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	25-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	"BEE" & "CEE"
2.	Restoration of Supplementary water supply for various Residential Quarters at Main Campus.	6.38	12,760/-	300/-	02-Months	10-01 -2022 to 24-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	25-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	"BEE" & "CEE"
3.	Construction of Road from PG Department of English to Directorate of Distance Education at North Campus.	6.04	12,080	300/-	02-Months	10-01 -2022 to 24-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	25-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	"BEE" & "CEE"
4.	Renovation of Pending work of office room/ One classroom, in the department of Physics.	4.35	8,700/-	300/-	02-Months	10-01 -2022 to 24-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	25-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"
5.	Repair of Wardrobes, doors and allied works at S.A Boys Hostel Block A and Block B at Zakura Campus.	3.42	6,840/-	200/-	01-Month	10-01 -2022 to 24-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	25-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"
6.	Repair and Renovation of washrooms in Human Resource Development HRDC Department at Naseem Bagh Campus.	0.54	1,080/-	100/-	01-Months	10-01 -2022 to 24-01-2022 (6.00 PM)	25-01-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site [www.kashmiruniversity.net/](http://www.kashmiruniversity.net/) [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).  
NIT No: - F (UCD)(E.Tend)/KU/80/21  
DATED: 10/01/22. **DIPK-NB-6518/21** **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

## 'Parent's Genes Can Influence A Child's Educational Success'

Agencies

According to new research by the University College London, a child's educational success depends on the genes of his parents that have been inherited as well as not been inherited. The study has been published in 'The American Journal of Human Genetics'.

Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the study confirmed that genes a person inherits directly are most likely to contribute to their achievements in education. But parent genes that aren't directly inherited, yet have still shaped parents' own education levels and subsequently influenced the lifestyle and family environment they provide for their children, are also important and can affect how well a person does at school and beyond. Children resemble their parents because of nature (the genes they inherit) and nurture (the environment they grow up in). But nature and nurture effects are intertwined.



Mothers and fathers each pass on half of their genes to their children, and although the other half of their genes are not passed on, they continue to influence the parents' traits and ultimately influence the traits in their children. For example, parents with a higher genetic propensity for learning may have a greater interest

in activities such as reading that, in turn, nurture learning in their offspring. This concept -- when parents' genes influence outcomes for their offspring by shaping the environment that they provide for them -- is called genetic nurture. It describes how parents' genes indirectly their

children's characteristics. For the current paper, researchers reviewed and analysed 12 studies in several countries and used a method called polygenic scoring to study the influence of millions of genetic variants on educational attainment in nearly 40,000 parent and child pairs. The researchers found that genetic nurture had about half as much impact on education success as genetic inheritance. Genetic nurture effects captured by polygenic scores in the studies explained at least 1.28 per cent of the variance in educational outcomes, while direct genetic effects explained at least 2.89 per cent of the variance in educational outcomes. The researchers said that the findings are underestimated given that polygenic scores only capture a fraction of heritability in educational outcomes; the actual genetic effects could be multiple times higher, but direct genetic effects would probably still be roughly double those of genetic nurture effects.

## Study Examines How Fake News Headlines Trigger Emotions

Agencies

A new study looked into how people's emotions are sparked by false political headlines -- and how their reactions determine whether they share those stories with others. The research has been published in the 'Journal of Management Information Systems'. "Emotions do really seem to matter in terms of the spread of fake news," said Christy Galletta Horner (A&S '05, EDUC '13G, '15G), now an assistant professor at Bowling Green State University and the study's lead author. "Emotions get ignored a lot in research, and I think in this case that could be a mistake," she added. Concerned by the increasing presence of misleading news stories in the past few years, Galletta Horner jumped on the chance to study the trend when approached by then-graduate student Abhijeet Shirsat about his thesis on the topic. During the 2020 election season, the team presented 879 participants with online surveys and showed

them one of eight fake news headlines that covered topics from political scandals to candidate health concerns and implicated either Joe Biden or Donald Trump. The survey asked whether they would share the headline or share opposing information, as well as how it made them feel. Participants, the team found, fell roughly into three groups. The first was the most likely to say they would share the fake news headlines. "That's a group that's just high on all emotions, this set of people we called 'hot,'" said Dennis Galletta, co-author, professor of business administration at Pitt's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and father of Galletta Horner. "So we can't just say anger drives it all, or happiness drives it all. It really depends," he added. Another, which the team called "upset" users, had a mostly negative response to seeing the headlines. The majority, though, fit into what the researchers called the "cold" group, which didn't have much of a reaction at all and were less likely to share anything. Participants' political af-

filiations affected how they responded, too: Unsurprisingly, they were more likely to share negative headlines about an opposing party. But the researchers also found differences specific to political parties. "Independents seem to be the most sceptical of all, and Republicans believed the fake headlines more, even if they were about Trump," said Galletta. The researchers noted, however, that participants were recruited online and weren't necessarily representative of the political makeup of the U.S. "It was surprising to see how many people just don't care," added Galletta. He sees this "cold" group as having the potential to be mobilized by appealing to their emotions. "I think that the majority would be people who, if they had their emotions raised, would suppress the fake news" by posting information to counter it, he said. While social media platforms have recently tried to counter misinformation by adding warnings to posts, Galletta Horner noted that this new research indicates this approach may only go so far.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA**  
Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: [phemechsouth@gmail.com](mailto:phemechsouth@gmail.com)

**GIST of E-NIT (SHORT TERM)**  
JSD/PHE/MDSA/ E-NIT No: 60 of 2021-22  
DATED: 11/01/2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir online fresh e-tenders are invited in two Cover System on item rate basis from registered and experienced contractors/firms whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules and are active for execution of the following Works:

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost Rs. Lac	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs)	Time of Comp	Class of Contractor	Programme/ Funds/ AA Accord No/ Technical Sanction No.
1	Shifting of utilities under road widening and providing and laying of rising main for Water Supply Scheme Augmentation Awantipora Stage-Ist	7.50 Lac	700/-	30 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	KLC Programme AA No: 01-DCP of 2021 Dated: 09-02-2021 T.S No: 17 Dated: 10-01-2022

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

01	Publish Date	11-01-2022 (04:00 PM)
02	Start of downloading of tender documents	11-01-2022 (04:00 PM)
03	On line bid uploading start date	11-01-2022 (04:00 PM)
04	Last date of uploading of bid	27-01-2022 (04:00 PM)
05	Date and time of opening of Tech bids (online)	29-01-2022 (11:00 AM)
06	Date and time of opening of Price bid	To be notified

Note: - CDR & Treasury Receipt/e-Challan mentioning ENIT No. and Work shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora as per the format annexed, (Head 0215 – Revenue & Miscellaneous). All other details can be had from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and [www.phekashmir.com](http://www.phekashmir.com)

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**  
**DIPK-16507/21**  
Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division (South) Awantipora  
No: JSD/PHE/MDSA/3375 Date: 11/01/2022





## COVID-19 spike

## SKIMS Conducts Mock Drill To Test Resources

Observer News Service

Srinagar:- For COVID Management Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences on Tuesday conducted mock drill to test all the resources.

According to a statement, the drill was mainly aimed to have better preparations with regard to required resources for COVID management and address deficiencies in advance.

Medical Superintendent SKIMS informed that forty dummy patients were arranged for the drill and the Geriatric ward with 31 beds with all facilities was used for the drill.

Consultants and Resident staff from General Medicine, Critical Care Medicine and Nursing/ paramedic staff was present, the statement reads.

While giving the details he said that the mock drill was conducted in presence of Director SKIMS and all the arrangements were made in advance.

Residents from the Department of Hospital Administration coordinated the drill.

"The drill was conducted right from admission of the patient to the final discharge / death of the patient. Besides, all the resources including



manpower, equipments such as Ventilators, Monitors, High Flow Devices and Infusion Pumps were put to test. Availability of drugs like; I. V. Fluids, Antibiotics, Steroids, Antiviral, Electrolytes, Life saving drugs were also put to test," the statement further reads.

It said, during the mock exercise Senior Residents Anesthesia/ Critical Care Medicine and Geriatric Medicine resuscitated critical patients and ordered for all the neces-

sary logistics.

"Availability was found upto the mark. All the Oxygen Ports were used simultaneously and there was no drop in Oxygen pressure," the statement reads.

It further said, that the functioning of UPS backup was also tested. However, for more effective and smooth functioning availability of Portable ECG Machine, Portable X-Ray Machine and USG Machines need to be addressed on pri-

ority. Other than this more Invasive Ventilators and Invasive Monitors and High Flow Devices need to be arranged, it said.

The statement further adds that Syringe Infusion Pumps need to be arranged and for NIV there is need of bulk stock of NIV masks of different sizes at sales counter. Disposable ventilator tubing's in bulk stock and HFNC accessories also need to be kept available in bulk stock.

## Institute to have Online Payment System to facilitate patients

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director SKIMS Dr Parvaiz A Koul on Tuesday, while taking a detailed review meeting on Hospital Information System (HIS), emphasised on installation & implementation of Online Payment Gateway System at SKIMS on priority to facilitate patients.

According to a statement, he said the facility will make it convenient and easy for patients and attendants to make payment through online system any time and any where using mobile phones and kiosks.

"More importantly it will decongest critical hospital service areas particularly OPD area," he added.

He also instructed concerned officers to explore the possibility of implementing PayGo Payment Gateway of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, as used by AIIMS New Delhi.

He also directed to establish fully developed Electronic Health Records System without delay to facilitate quick transfer of patient information as well as maintaining confidentiality.

He said that it will prevent duplication of services and give instant access to patient information which would go a long way in helping quality research and settling medico legal issues, insurance claims and other issues.

Koul also insisted to make full use of IT System for quick Patient Care delivery which remains the top priority of SKIMS.

## Admin Draws Action Plan For Covid Mitigation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 11:- In wake of present Covid-19 situation, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday chaired a meeting of senior health functionaries and Senior Officers of District Administration to draw an Action Plan to tackle and mitigate the 3rd wave of Covid-19.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Syed Hanief Balkhi, SDM East/ Incharge Nodal Officer Covid-19, Owais Mushtaq, CMO, Dr Jameel, Nodel officers from CD Hospital, Dr Navid Nazir, Dr Saleem, Dr Irfan, besides Deputy CMO, ZMOs and other concerned were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held to formulate a comprehensive action plan to prevent the spread of infection of the deadly corona virus and ensure better management of available resources.

Some medical experts emphasised on utilization of services of final year

MBBS students and ISM Doctors if required at any point of time for providing services like tele-consultation and monitoring of mild Covid cases after due orientation by faculty to reduce the workload on existing system engaged in Covid duty and provide boost to efforts of triaging.

Some senior Doctors also suggested for suspending OPD services except of emergency nature in all Government Hospitals till positivity rate is declined so that upto mark Covid care services are ensured.

With regard to keep adequate back up of staff, the meeting stressed on pressing Red Cross Volunteers on service by giving them proper patient handling training.

One of the Doctors also suggested that strict referral policy should be adopted to lessen the pressure on Tertiary care Hospital for effective covid care mitigation and management. Besides, a Referral Control Room be also established for effective and prompt monitoring of patient referral is managed.

## 'Covid Booster Dose Mandatory For Healthcare Workers'

Srinagar: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday has sought mandatory Covid booster shots for healthcare workers.

"Vaccine mandate will ensure that all people in the healthcare workforce are boosted," said DAK President and Influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The DAK President said we are seeing many doctors, nurses and paramedical staff getting infected and even fully vaccinated are not spared. "They are at the forefront in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic. We need to keep them safe. They need that extra layer of protection," he said.

Dr Hassan said boost-

ers will protect medical staff from getting infected and prevent disruption of healthcare delivery services. "There is a moral imperative for staff to get booster shots to ensure that the hospital environment is safe for patients," he said, adding that patients entrust healthcare workers with their lives and clinicians should not be the ones to make them sick.

"The science is clear now that while two doses of Covid-19 vaccine protects you from severe disease, immunity begins to wane after a period of 6 months," said Dr Nisar, adding that it has been almost 12 months since healthcare workers were vaccinated. That makes boosters shots critically important for them.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR

Health Secretariat, Bemina Bypass, Srinagar-190018

Email: piodhsk2021@gmail.com RTI/Grievance Section

Subject:- Advertisement Notification for hiring for Pharmacists in Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Ashudi Kendra PMBJAKS in District Srinagar for JLN Hospital Srinagar.

Reference:- Govt. Order NO: 442-HME of 2019 Dated:- 24/04/2019

NOTIFICATION

Due to poor response for previous notification which was published through Joint Director information Srinagar vide No: PSA/DHSK/2021 Dated 05-11-2021, stands cancelled with immediate effect.

In order to process the hiring of Pharmacists in Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Ashudi Kendra PMBJAKS in District Srinagar for JLN Hospital Srinagar, eligible Registered Pharmacists/Retired Pharmacist of District Srinagar is once again invited to apply for the post of Pharmacist to work on profit sharing basis in Pradhan Mantri Bharati Jan Ashudi Kendra (PMBJAKS) to be set up at JLN Hospital Srinagar.

The applications should reach Room No: 102 IT Cell Directorate of Health Services Kashmir Health Secretariat Bemina near Hajj House by or before 3:00 PM 30th of January 2022. Or via Email ID pmjaydhsk@gmail.com.

The candidate(s) are invited to apply for:		
Category	Selection Criteria	No of Posts
Pharmacist	Registered with J&K Pharmacy Council	02 (Two)

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The applicant must be a permanent resident of District Srinagar of J&K.

2. Maximum age is 40 Years (Candidate more in age shall be preferred over younger candidates. Even retired pharmacists can apply.

3. The candidate (s) shall be pharmacist registered with J&K Pharmacy council.

4. Retired Pharmacist up to age of 65 years can apply.

5. He/she shall have working knowledge of operating computer for billing purpose.

6. He/she shall be unemployed for which he/she has to give an undertaking to the effect on stamp paper duly attested by the first class Judicial Magistrate.

7. He/she shall have NOC District Industry Centre and District Employment Officer.

DIPK-16532/21

NO:DHSK/IT/2022/1312- 21

Dated: 11-01-2022

S/d

(Dr.M.A Rather) DIRECTOR

GOVT. GIRLS HIGHER SECONDARY INSTITUTE

Kothi Bagh, Srinagar, Kashmir-190001

Phone: 0194-2479963, Fax: 0194-2479963, e-mail: principalghsskb@gmail.com

Provisional Admission

Class HSE-I (11<sup>TH</sup>) Session 2022

GGHSS, KOTHIBAGH SRINAGAR

Desirous students having appeared in recently held 10th class examination (JKBOSE) are asked to seek provisional admission in this Institution, on production of Original Roll No. Slip, from admission department as per schedule.

Issuance of Provisional Form	Time
12-01-2022 to 17-01-2022	11.00am to 2.00pm
Submission of Provisional Form	Time
18-01-2022 to 22-01-2022	11.00am to 2.00pm

NOTE :-

1) Form shall not be issued without original Roll No. Slip.

2) Provisional admission is required to be confirmed after the 5<sup>th</sup> day of declaration of 10<sup>th</sup> class result, failing which provisional admission shall be deemed to have been cancelled.

Sd/-

Principal,

Govt. Girls Higher Secondary Institute,

Kothi Bagh, Srinagar

DIPK-16458/21

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHEIK 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- (Closed)

HIJRI

CALENDAR

08 Jumada al-Sani

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR 6: 08

ZUHR 12:39

ASR 4:04

Magrib 5:45

ISHA 7: 10

## This Day In History

- 475 - Basiliscus becomes Byzantine Emperor, with a coronation ceremony in the Hebdomon palace in Constantinople.
- 1528 - Gustav I of Sweden "father of the nation" crowned King of Sweden. Rules 37 years.
- 1552 - Dutch west coast hit by heavy storm, 100s killed.
- 1806 - French evacuate Vienna.
- 1816 - France decrees Bonaparte family excluded from the country forever.
- 1836 - Battle of Wetumka, Fla.
- 1915 - US House of Representatives rejects proposal to give women right to vote.
- 1916 - Britain proclaims Gilbert & Ellice Islands as a colony in Pacific.
- 1940 - World War II: Soviets bombs cities in Finland.
- 1942 - National War Labor Board created
- 1944 - Churchill & de Gaulle begin a 2-day wartime conference in Marrakesh.
- 1945 - German forces in Belgium retreat in Battle of Bulge.
- 1945 - The Soviets begin a large offensive against the Nazis in Eastern Europe.
- 1948 - Mahatma Gandhi begins his final fast.
- 1950 - USSR re-introduces death penalty for treason, espionage & sabotage.
- 1959 - Rediscovery of the Caves of Nerja in Spain
- 1961 - UN genocide pact goes into effect.
- 1962 - Operation Chopper begins, America's first combat mission in the Vietnam War.
- 1970 - Biafran War ends, Biafra surrenders to Nigeria.
- 1970 - Boeing 747 makes its maiden voyage.
- 1971 - Negotiations over price of petroleum begin in Tehran between 6 OPEC Persian Gulf states and 22 oil companies.
- 1974 - Libya & Tunisia announces they are merging as "Islamic Arab Republic".
- 1976 - UN Security Council votes 11-1 to seat Palestine Liberation Organisation.
- 1977 - Anti-French demonstrations takes place in Israel after Paris released Abu Daoud, responsible 1972 -Munich massacre of Israeli athletes.
- 1986 - 24th space shuttle (61-C) mission-Columbia 7-launched.
- 1990 - Romania bans Communist party (1st Warsaw Pact member to do so).
- 1991 - US Congress gives George H. W. Bush authority to wage war against Iraq.
- 1992-Algeria's general elections canceled after strong gains by Islamic Salvation Front in the 1st round.
- 1992- A new constitution, providing for freedom to form political parties, is approved by a referendum in Mali.
- 1995 - Major earthquake kills 5,092 in Kobe Japan.
- 1996 - Russian troops arrived in Bosnia (joint operation with US).
- 1997 - Space Shuttle STS 81 (Atlantis 18), launches into space
- 1998 - Nineteen European nations agree to forbid human cloning.
- 2004 - The world's largest ocean liner, RMS Queen Mary 2, makes its maiden voyage.
- 2005 - Deep Impact (space mission) launches from Cape Canaveral on a Delta 2 rocket.
- 2006 - A stampede during the Stoning the Devil ritual on the last day at the Hajj in Mina, Saudi Arabia, kills at least 362 Muslim pilgrims.
- 2006 - Turkey releases Mehmet Ali A ca from jail after he served 25 years for shooting Pope John Paul II.
- 2006 - The French warship Clemenceau reaches Egypt and is barred access to the Suez Canal. Greenpeace activists board the ship.
- 2006 - The foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany declare that negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program have reached a dead end and recommend that Iran be referred to the United Nations Security Council.
- 2007 - Comet McNaught reaches perihelion becoming the brightest comet in more than 40 years.
- 2010 - Earthquake occurs in Haiti killing 230,000 and destroying the majority of the capital Port-au-Prince.
- 2010 - Colombia officially leaves the recession after achieving 2% economic growth in the last quarter of 2009
- 2013 A failed attempt to rescue a French hostage in Bulo Marer, Somalia, results in 18 deaths.
- 2013 - Beijing's level of air pollution is declared to be at levels that are hazardous to human health.

From KO Archives

## Mobile Phones In JK soon

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Centre has agreed in principal to extend the mobile telephone service to Jammu and Kashmir. Announcing this at the inauguration of the state's first Software Technology Park (STP) here today, the Union Minister for Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan, dismissed the Idea that security of the state would be adversely affected if the mobile services were allowed here. He said he was not convinced with the argument and had discussed this with the Prime Minister & Ministers of Home & Defence who have all agreed to his suggestion of extending the facility in J&K. He asserted that mobile telephone had nothing to do with the security of the country adding, nobody In the government Of India is saying 'no' to it. He said contrary to the belief of risk to the security, the mobile facilities would help in tracking down the militants.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 12 January, 2001)



## Haridwar Hate Speeches: Imran Wants International Community To Act



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday alleged that minorities in India were being targeted by extremist groups and warned that such an agenda "is a real and present threat" to regional peace.

Khan took to Twitter to make the allegations in the wake of alleged inflammatory and provocative speeches against Muslims at an event in Haridwar in Uttarakhand held in December.

On his Twitter handle, Khan also questioned whether the BJP government supports the call for genocide of minorities in India, especially the 200 million Muslim community.

"It is high time international community took note & acted," he further said.

In another tweet, Khan accused the BJP-led government of targeting minorities in India.

Last month, the Pakistan's Foreign Office summoned India's Charge d'Affaires and conveyed its concern over the alleged hate

speeches made at the Haridwar conclave.

Pakistan conveyed to the Indian side that the reported hate speeches were viewed with grave concern by the civil society and a cross-section of people in the country.

Held in Haridwar from December 17-20, the Dharma Sansad was organised by Yati Narasimhanand Giri of the Juna Akhada, who is already under the police scanner for making hate speeches and inciting violence against Muslims.

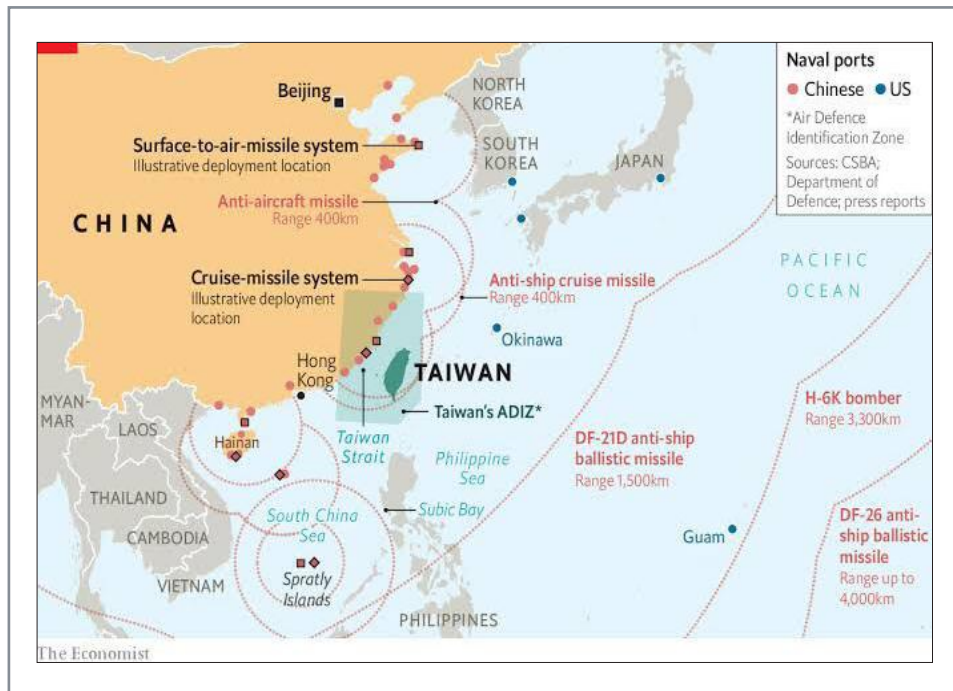
At the event, several speakers allegedly made inflammatory and provocative speeches, calling for the killing of people from the minority community.

Two FIRs have been lodged against 15 people in the case, including Waseem Rizvi who changed his name to Jitendra Narayan Tyagi after converting to Hinduism recently and organiser of the Sansad Yati Narasimhanand, the head priest of Dasna temple in Ghaziabad.

A five-member special investigation team has been constituted to look into the matter.

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking action against those who made hate speeches during the recent conclave.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana took note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal that no action has been taken against those who made the hate speeches despite registration of FIR.



## Amid Tensions With China, Taiwan Starts Rescue Operation For Missing F-16 Fighter

Agencies

**TAIPEI:** Taiwan's air force said it had launched a rescue operation to locate one of its most advanced F-16s after the fighter jet vanished from radar screens on Tuesday.

The jet disappeared around half an hour after taking off for a routine training flight from a base in the southern city of Chiayi, the air force said in a statement.

Taiwan's national rescue centre reported that people saw the F-16V "crashing into the sea," adding that two choppers and one coastguard vessel had been dispatched to find the jet.

President Tsai Ing-wen has ordered an all-out rescue effort and asked for clarity around the cause of the incident, her office said.

Taipei commissioned its first squadron of US-made F-16V fighters in November in an effort to upgrade its ageing fleet as tensions with China continue to heighten. Beijing claims the self-ruled island as part of its territory and has vowed to take it one day, by force if necessary.

The F-16V is an upgraded and much more sophisticated version of the island's other F-16 fighters which date back to the 1990s.

The air force has suffered a string of fatal accidents in recent years as its jets are kept under

**THE LATTER IS A CRUCIAL part, as Taiwan needs to make sure it has the capabilities to deter, and if needed to counter, a Chinese attack now, not five, ten years from now."**

growing pressure from China.

Taiwan also has French-made Mirage jets and its own indigenous warplanes.

Taiwan's parliament on Tuesday passed an extra spending bill of nearly \$8.6 billion in its latest bid to boost defence capabilities against an increasingly bellicose China.

The government proposed a five-year special defence budget of around TW\$237.3 billion from 2022 as Chinese warplanes breached its air defence zone at unprecedented levels last year.

Democratic Taiwan lives under constant threat of an invasion by authoritarian China, which claims the self-ruled island as part of its territory to be seized one day -- by force if necessary.

Beijing's sabre-rattling towards the island has increased considerably since President Tsai Ing-wen came to power in 2016, as she re-

gards the island as a sovereign nation and not part of "one China."

Last year, Taiwan recorded incursions by around 970 Chinese warplanes into its air defence zone, according to a database compiled by AFP, more than double the roughly 380 carried out in 2020.

On Tuesday, Taiwanese lawmakers agreed unanimously to pass the special budget, although cut it by TW\$310 million. The package comes on top of a record annual defence budget of TW\$471.7 billion set for 2022.

It aims to acquire various precision missiles and mass-manufacture high-efficiency naval ships "in the shortest period of time" to boost the island's sea and air capabilities, the government said.

J Michael Cole, a Taipei-based political and military analyst, called the special budget "an encouraging and much-needed development" as Taiwan prioritises "asymmetrical" capabilities, such as unmanned vehicles, anti-ship missiles and air-to-ground cruise missiles.

"Many of those are 'counterforce' capabilities, with ranges that are long enough to hit targets along China's coastline" in line with the direction Taiwan's defence ministry has taken in recent years, said Cole, a senior fellow for Canadian think tank Macdonald-Laurier Institute.

## Taliban FM Meets Ahmad Massoud's Son, Ismail Khan In Iran

Agencies

**KABUL:** The Taliban's foreign minister said on Monday he held talks in Iran on the weekend with Ahmad Massoud, son of the late legendary Afghan resistance leader Ahmad Shah Massoud, and guaranteed his security if he returned home.

Massoud's Panjshir Valley forces provided the last resistance in September to the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, weeks after government troops capitulated.

In a video posted by state media on Twitter, Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said he also met Ismail Khan, a Herat province warlord who surrendered to the Taliban and left the country.

The Taliban had announced Muttaqi's departure to Tehran for talks with Iranian officials but made no mention of any plans to meet exiled leaders.

"We met commander Ismail Khan and Ahmad Massoud, and other Afghans in Iran, and assured them that anyone can come to Afghanistan and live without any concerns," Muttaqi said in the video.

"It's home to all, and we do not create insecurity or other



problems for anyone. Everyone can come freely and live."

The Panjshir Valley is famed for being the site of resistance to Soviet forces in the 1980s and the Taliban in the late 1990s, during their first stint in power.

Its most revered figure is Ahmad Shah Massoud, known as the "Lion of Panjshir", who was assassinated in 2001 by Al Qaeda two days before the 9/11 attacks.

His son has since picked up the mantle, and there have been reports of him organising a resistance with other exiled Afghan leaders.

The Massoud-led National Resistance Front has repeatedly denounced the Taliban -- calling it an "illegitimate government" -- but does not appear to have made any physical attacks.

**WE MET COMMANDER ISMAIL KHAN and Ahmad Massoud, and other Afghans in Iran, and assured them that anyone can come to Afghanistan and live without any concerns."**

## Women's Camel Beauty Contest Makes Debut In Saudi Arabia



Agencies

**Saudi women, in a first for the conservative kingdom, have paraded their camels in a beauty pageant for the prized "ships of the desert".**

"I hope today to reach a certain social standing, Inshallah (God willing)," said Lamia al-Rashidi, 27, who participated at the weekend contest in the Rumah desert northeast of the capital Riyadh.

The event that formed part of the prestigious King Abdelaziz Festival was previously a men-only affair.

"I've been interested in camels ever since I was little," said Rashidi, whose family owns 40 camels.

"Once this event was opened to women, I decided to participate," said the young woman, wearing a black face covering with a colourful shawl over her shoulders.

The top five in the field of about 40 participants in the women's event went home with total prize money of one million riyals (about \$260,000).

The camels' beauty is judged on several criteria, but the shape and size of the lips, neck and hump are the main attributes.

In December, several participants

were disqualified because their animals had undergone botox injections.

In a parade at the event on the red sand track of Rumah, women in black on horseback rode ahead of men in white robes on camels as male musicians, some with swords, danced to the beat of drums.

The oil-rich Gulf state adheres to a rigid interpretation of Islam, but since the rise to power of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in 2017, some restrictions on women have been lifted as the country opens up with sweeping reforms.

The shift has enabled women to get behind the wheel and take part in mixed-gender settings, even as a rigorous crackdown on dissent remains in place.

"Women have always been an integral part of Bedouin society. They owned and looked after camels," said Mohammed al-Harbi, a manager of the festival.

Women's participation was in keeping with "the historical heritage" of Saudi Arabia, he told AFP.

Munira al-Mishkhas, another participant, chimed in: "Camels have been a part of us for a long time, but staging a contest for us (women) is a big step forward."

## US To Give \$300 Million In Humanitarian Aid To Afghanistan



Reuters

**WASHINGTON:** The Biden administration plans to donate an extra \$308 million in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, bringing total U.S. aid for the impoverished country and Afghan refugees in the region to nearly \$782 million since October, the White House said on Tuesday.

The United States is also providing one million additional coronavirus vaccine doses to Afghanistan, bringing the total to 4.3 million doses, the White House added.

The assistance from the United States Agency for International Development will be channelled through independent humanitarian organizations to provide shelter, health

care, winterization assistance, emergency food aid, water, sanitation and hygiene services, the government said.

The United Nations says nearly 23 million people -- about 55% of the population -- are facing extreme levels of hunger, with nearly 9 million at risk of famine as winter takes hold.

Afghanistan's economic crisis accelerated after the Taliban seized power in August, as the former Western-backed government collapsed and the last U.S. troops withdrew.

Last month, the United States formally exempted U.S. and U.N. officials doing permitted business with the Taliban from U.S. sanctions to try to maintain the flow of aid to Afghanistan as it sinks deeper into a humanitarian crisis.

## Omicron Vaccine To Be Ready In March

**Pfizer Chief Executive Officer Albert Bourla Told CNBC That Pfizer Is Already Manufacturing Doses Due To Keen Interest From Governments.**

Agence France-Presse

**NEW YORK:** Pfizer expects a Covid-19 vaccine targeting the Omicron variant to be ready in March, the company's head said Monday.

Pfizer Chief Executive Officer Albert Bourla told CNBC that Pfizer is already manufacturing doses due to keen interest from governments, as authorities contend with huge Covid-19 infection counts, including large numbers of "breakthrough" Omicron cases in vaccinated populations.

"This vaccine will be ready in March," Bourla told the network. "I don't know if we will need it. I don't know if and how it will be used."

Bourla said the existing regime of two vaccine shots and a booster has provided "reasonable" protection against serious health effects from Omicron.

But a vaccine focused directly on the Omicron variant would also



guard against breakthrough infections of a strain that has proven highly contagious, but has also resulted in many mild or asymptomatic cases.

In a separate interview with CNBC Monday, Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel said the company is developing a booster that could address Omicron and other

emerging strains in the fall 2022.

"We are discussing with public health leaders around the world to decide what we think is the best strategy for a potential booster for the fall of 2022," Bancel told the network.

"We need to be careful to try to stay ahead of a virus and not behind the virus."

## US Man Recovering After 'Breakthrough' Pig Heart Transplant



A man with terminal heart disease is responding well three days after being given a genetically modified pig heart in a first-of-its-kind surgery, his doctors reported on Monday.

The surgery, performed by a team at the University of Maryland Medicine in the United States, is among the first to demonstrate the feasibility of a pig-to-human heart transplant, a field made possible by new gene editing tools.

If proven successful, scientists hope

pig organs could help alleviate shortages of donor organs.

"This was a breakthrough surgery and brings us one step closer to solving the organ shortage crisis. There are simply not enough donor human hearts available to meet the long list of potential recipients," Dr Bartley Griffith, who surgically transplanted the pig heart into the patient, said in a statement.

"We are proceeding cautiously, but we are also optimistic that this first-in-the-world surgery will provide an important new option for patients in the future," Griffith added. For David Bennett, a 57-year-old from Maryland, the heart transplant was his last option.

"It was either die or do this transplant. I want to live. I know it's a shot in the dark, but it's my last choice," Bennett said a day before his surgery, according to a statement released by the university.

## Multi-Millionaire Killer Robert Durst Dies In Prison

Agence France-Presse

**LOS ANGELES:** Real estate heir and convicted murderer Robert Durst, who was jailed for life for the killing of his best friend, died Monday in a California prison, his lawyer said.

Multi-millionaire Durst was the subject of an explosive HBO documentary entitled "The Jinx", which ultimately led to his conviction over one of the three gruesome deaths for which he was believed to be responsible.

Attorney Chip Lewis said the 78-year-old died of "natural causes associated with the litany of medical issues we had repeatedly reported to the court over the last couple of years."

Durst was convicted last year of the December 2000 shooting of Susan Berman in her Beverly Hills home.

Crime writer Berman, the daughter of



a Las Vegas mobster, had taken on the role of Durst's spokeswoman after he became a suspect in the disappearance of his wife, Kathleen, 18 years earlier.

Prosecutors said he had murdered Berman to prevent her from incriminating him in a renewed police investigation into the disappearance of Kathleen Durst.

Durst's wife, a medical student, was just 29 when she vanished as the couple's marriage was disintegrating.

He told investigators in New York state she had boarded a train to Manhattan bound for the couple's apartment there -- one of a number of homes they shared -- but had never arrived.

## 72-Year-Old US Man Arrested For Threatening To Kidnap, Kill Trump

Agence France-Presse

**NEW YORK:** The US Secret Service arrested a 72-year-old man in New York on Monday after he allegedly phoned them threatening to kill ex-president Donald Trump, a criminal indictment showed.

Prosecutors in Brooklyn say Thomas Welnick "knowingly and willfully threatened to kill, kidnap, and inflict bodily harm upon" the former US president.

It alleges that Melnick told US Capitol Police during an interview in July 2020 that if Trump "loses the 2020 election and refused to step down" he would "acquire weapons and take him down." Trump is referred to as "Individual-1" in the indictment.

Melnick is also accused of having left two voice mail messages with the Secret Service's office in Long Island, New York in January last year in which he "threatened to kill" Trump as well as 12



unnamed members of Congress.

"Oh yeah that's a threat, come and arrest me. I will do anything I can to take out [Individual-1] and his 12 monkeys," Melnick, who lives in Queens, is alleged to have said.

Melnick is also accused of having called the Secret Service's desk in New York City last November three times from his cell phone, introducing himself by name each time. "He repeatedly referred to Individual-1 as 'Hitler' and stated, I will do everything I can to make sure [Individual-1] is dead," reads the indictment.

### NEWS MAKERS







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OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Third Wave Is Here

In just a matter of a few days, India is right in the midst of a third wave. On Monday, the caseload of the fresh Covid infections spiked to 1,80,000, according to the data published by the Union ministry of health and family welfare. The number of active cases is now over 700,000-mark. Even in Jammu and Kashmir, the fresh cases have surged to 706, taking active cases to 4024 in the UT. The upward trend in the cases is likely to continue for some time. Thankfully so far, India is yet to witness the chaos of the second wave that wrought havoc and led to the death of thousands of people. On a positive note, as of now, only 5 to ten percent of the infected people need hospitalizations

The number of cases of Omicron, the highly transmissible mutant variant, is also growing. The caseload now stands at 4,033, with Maharashtra recording the maximum number of 1,126 infections. The number is likely to increase further given the highly contagious nature of the new variant.

But there is also hope now that eventually the daily case-load will progressively reduce like last year. Manindra Agrawal, Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at IIT Kanpur, has predicted third wave peaking in Mumbai and Delhi in mid-January, projecting four to eight lakh cases a day in India. But the consequent improvement in the situation would mean little if there is no corresponding expansion in the vaccination, especially the booster dose to frontline workers and the elderly.

Government also needs to invest in a world class healthcare infrastructure to increase the capacity of the hospitals and the medical personnel to deal with the pandemic. Unlike last year, there is no scope to implement a nationwide lockdown, although some regions have imposed weekend curbs on movement and the night curfews. Delhi has ordered bars and restaurants to shut. Tamil Nadu Govt has extended lockdown restrictions till January 31.

But considering the terrible state of the economy, the state governments across India can hardly afford to impose fresh lockdown. The trick is to upgrade healthcare, expedite vaccination include booster doses, enforce strict adherence to SOPs in public and running an advertisement blitz to create more awareness about the contagion.

In fact, India has already begun administering the 'precaution dose' of the Covid vaccine to frontline workers and senior citizens with comorbidities. Eligible beneficiaries can walk-in to their nearby vaccination centre and get the third dose. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also urges eligible beneficiaries to get Covid-19 'precautionary dose. "As we all know, vaccination remains among the most effective means to fight Covid-19," PM Modi tweeted and the people need to heed him.

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

Insecure State

Counter-insurgency operations are usually understood to target weapon wielding militants, their organisations and their leaders. As reported in this newspaper, in Kashmir, where the sweeping changes of 2019 have failed to end the militancy, COIN operations appear to have changed tack to fold in an increasingly wider swathe of the population. They now cover funders and financiers, and "overground workers", a term that was recently used at an Army-organised seminar at Srinagar's Badami Bagh garrison, as a description that fit young and old, man or woman, scholars, doctors, teachers, businessmen, lawyers, and anyone else "from gunners to runners". Now it is not just the police, the army and the paramilitaries but a plethora of other organisations such as the Enforcement Directorate, and others included in the Terror Monitoring Group such as the two Central Boards dealing with direct and indirect taxes and customs. On the face of it, a case can be made that instead of focusing on the numbers of "kills" of militants, which may end up pushing more young people to take up arms and declare war against the Indian state, focusing on breaking their networks, whether financial, logistical or ideological, is a more intelligent way of dealing with an insurgency. Far too many recent encounters have led to the killings of barely adult teenagers with no training and armed with nothing more than a pistol. Instead, if a crackdown on those who give them money and shelter, and other types of support can lead to arrests and save lives, this new approach may even win community support.

However, the danger in the ever-widening definition of overground workers is that it can end up profiling or labelling an entire population as such, and lead back to the same undesirable result – alienation and a simmering militancy. After thousands of arrests under draconian laws such as the Unlawful Activities and Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Public Security Act over the last three years, the government is no closer to making friends with the people in Kashmir. Add the new rules of conduct for government employees, and several dismissals under constitutional provisions that require no reason to be given, a muzzled press, the barring of dissent to the extent that even the police force says its actions must not be questioned, this feels more like the hatchet arm of a security state bent on othering the people of the Valley.

This heavily securitised approach to bringing back "normalcy" and zero community outreach, the continuing absence of a political process with restrictions on the movement and activities of the former state's political leadership even as the rest of the country is forever in election mode has only served to emphasise the difference.

The Indian Express

Livestock Entrepreneurship In  
Kashmir – Long Way To Go

Ensure Rigorous Training To Budding Cattle And Sheep Farmers



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Some years back, while discussing the potential of sheep and cattle farming in Jammu & Kashmir during a workshop, local entrepreneurs expressed dismay over lack of practical training. They complained that the Government was not providing them enough field training that would make them professional cattle or sheep farmers.

In the summer of 2014, I visited a huge sheep farm in the Tangmarg area. I saw almost 300 sheep with a huge farm built on 10 kanals of land. After a year, I came to know that the farm has been closed down. I have seen many cattle farms, sheep farms or even poultry farms shut down by budding entrepreneurs.

On one hand, the Government keeps advising educated youth to look into business opportunities in sheep and cattle farming but the authorities fail to ensure practical training or proper hand-holding for these budding farmers. The sheep and animal husbandry departments ask youth to set up farms through various centrally sponsored schemes and a lot of awareness is created as well but very few people are aware about the challenges sheep or cattle farmers face especially when there is outbreak of some disease. Last summer, there was an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in sheep which otherwise is attributed to cattle, buffaloes and goats. I was in Pir Panjal meadows that time and I know how desperate the sheep farmers were who had traveled all the way through dense forests of Yusmarg to see their sheep. Some were seen vaccinating the sheep themselves as sheep husbandry department vets were not available in spite of the fact that they have annual summer camps in these areas for 3 to 4 months. Similarly, the cattle farmers also face a lot of problems especially when the cows are unwell. Lack of fodder availability is also a big challenge for them.

Practical Training?

We lack Practical Training Centers (PTCs) in Jammu & Kashmir where budding entrepreneurs especially the livestock entrepreneurs would get trained for a few months. Neither the Government nor any Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) or any other private entity has set up such centers in J&K. In these PTCs, the livestock entrepreneurs would be given a practical exposure where they would live in an atmosphere to undertake training in the cattle

women start their sheep and cattle farms by availing different subsidy schemes of the Government through J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI). I am sure the JKEDI would be taking the trainees to visit dairy farms, sheep farms, and other similar places for which our young men and women are getting trained but without staying in these farms and living in such an atmosphere, I believe such visits won't help to create dedicated and professional dairy

AS OF NOW, THE TRAINING module has been built in such a way that all the focus and thrust during entrepreneurship training is given on theory. PowerPoint Presentations (PPTs), distribution of attractive pamphlets, showcasing films and one field visit cannot help these young men and women shape their future as professional livestock entrepreneurs

or sheep farming for at least two to three months.

It is impossible to create potential entrepreneurs by only making them go through lectures in class rooms or auditoriums. The budding educated MBA graduates or other qualified young men and women might get fascinated by watching videos of Jersey cows or Australian Merino sheep during the training workshops but once they start the livestock units, it is an arduous task. They have to face lots of challenges. This leads to closure of the units they establish.

As discussed above, the sheep are not much affected by FMD across other states in India but in Kashmir this is not an uncommon disease in sheep. This summer, even professional sheep farmers faced huge challenges. One can understand what kind of ordeal the young entrepreneurs would have gone through especially at a time when they had sent their sheep to pasturelands.

JKEDI

Many educated young men and

or sheep entrepreneurs in J&K.

As of now, the training module has been built in such a way that all the focus and thrust during entrepreneurship training is given on theory. PowerPoint Presentations (PPTs), distribution of attractive pamphlets, showcasing films and one field visit cannot help these young men and women shape their future as professional livestock entrepreneurs. They have to live around sheep and cattle farms for months and then only we can expect some good results.

The Entrepreneurship Development Institutes (EDI) and other training centers imparting skill development training in agriculture, horticulture, dairy, sheep, trout farming, floriculture etc must have their own farms where these kinds of activities would be undertaken. In addition, EDI and similar institutions must help the entrepreneurs with market linkages as well.

The JKEDI lays special emphasis on dairy farming but they don't own a dairy farm. The Government spends a huge amount of money on entrepreneurship development. Lot of

IN THE SUMMER OF 2014, I visited a huge sheep farm in the Tangmarg area. I saw almost 300 sheep with a huge farm built on 10 kanals of land. After a year, I came to know that the farm has been closed down. I have seen many cattle farms, sheep farms or even poultry farms shut down by budding entrepreneurs.

money was spent on construction of EDI buildings in Srinagar outskirts near Pampore. I wish the Govt had set up a small practical training center under EDI for sheep and cattle farming at least that could have been established somewhere in Pulwama or Budgam.

National Livestock Mission

The Govt of India launched the National Livestock Mission (NLM). This scheme proposes to bring sharp focus on entrepreneurship development and breed improvement in rural poultry, cattle, sheep, and goat farming including feed and fodder development. National Livestock Mission (NLM) was launched in the financial year 2014-15 which seeks to ensure quantitative and qualitative improvement in livestock production systems and capacity building of all stakeholders. The scheme is being implemented as a sub scheme of white revolution. The department of Sheep husbandry or even animal husbandry have various schemes that are funded under National Livestock Mission. Govt provides support to farmers and entrepreneurs to start sheep or cattle rearing farms. Unfortunately in these cases also no practical training is available.

Conclusion

It must be mandatory for all the beneficiaries of Govt schemes to undergo practical training sessions in sheep and cattle farming especially at designated farms. In summers the budding entrepreneurs should be sent to pasturelands to learn the art of sheep farming and the department of sheep husbandry who are already available in these places must provide necessary assistance to them. With regard to cattle farming the young boys and girls who avail funds from Govt must be attached with some Govt or private dairy farm for at least two months so that they get fully familiar with the cattle farming and challenges cattle farmers face. Unless the budding cattle farmers don't milk the cows themselves or clean the cow-dung or are not able to vaccinate their cows or calves themselves, they can't become promising cattle farmers. Similarly the emerging sheep farmers have to be associated with shepherds and live with them for at least two months in pasturelands. Once they do this practical course then only they will become professional sheep farmers.

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 acumen fellow and RTI activist



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Unnecessary Travel

Yesterday, about 30% of the daily covid positive report were travellers. In Srinagar, out of the 196 positive cases, 60 were travellers. Similarly, in Baramulla, 15 out of the 79 cases were travellers. This number is alarmingly high and must be much higher given that fully vaccinated

travellers aren't required to get tested. Additionally, Omicron cases have also been detected in Jammu & Kashmir. The administration's response has been awkward given that there seem to be two rules for restraint. Those travelling are given a leeway. They aren't even policed for discipline in accordance with Covid-19 SOPs.

On the other hand, the administration has shut down coaching centers unconditionally. There are no leeways for vaccinated or vaccinated children. What explains this contradiction? It is true that the third wave needs to be stopped. All precautionary measures must be taken. However,

no scope should be left for double standards. Covid-19 doesn't heed to any sifarish, it is not going to make travellers any less of super spreaders than students.

Tania Syed  
Tanias@gmail.com



# Friends In Trade

## What Makes Bangladesh India’s Largest Export Destination?

Ozair Islam

In Fiscal Year 2022, Bangladesh is expected to be India's fourth-largest export destination jumping from the fifth place it is currently holding. This is definitely a landmark for the Indo-Bangladesh relations which began on 6 December 1971 with India's recognition of Bangladesh as an independent state. It is a time-honored decision to analyze the factors that have made Bangladesh to be in the list of top five export destinations of India and how both countries can generate more benefits from this economic engagement.

According to the available data till October, during the first seven months of fiscal year 2022, exports from India to Bangladesh increased 81 percent over the same time period in the previous year to USD7.7 billion. This makes Bangladesh the fourth largest export destination of India after the USA, UAE and China respectively. Sri Lanka and Cambodia may also follow Bangladesh's footsteps to make their market more attractive to Indian investors.

If this export trend remains constant, then Bangladesh is most likely to achieve the rank as India's fourth largest export market from the fifth position it is holding from last year. Analysts and experts were surprised, in fiscal year 2020, when Bangladesh directly jumped to the fifth position from the ninth position in India's export profile.

**What makes Bangladesh such an attractive export destination for India?**

This has become possible because of Bangladesh's economic boom which has ultimately contributed substantially to India's export growth to Bangladesh. Bangladesh has demonstrated extreme economic success and growth in the past decades especially among the South Asian countries. The RMG sector, which is responsible for almost 80 percent of the total export earnings, worked as a main engine of economic growth and development. According to the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD),



WORKERS SEW GARMENTS on the production line of a garment factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh. (Photographer: Jeff Holt/Bloomberg)

**INDIA, AS A SOUTH ASIAN GIANT, SHOULD PROVIDE DIFFERENT** types of trade facilities, such as tariff reduction, to create a level playing field for Bangladesh. The countries may undertake a bilateral comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) to address the aforementioned issue and to have greater bilateral engagement. Not to forget, without addressing issues of tariff and non-tariff barriers, the countries cannot expect to sustain the growth in their economic ties for a long time

Bangladesh has become eighth largest remittance earner in 2020. In 2020, the remittance Bangladesh earned from its expatriates accounted for 6.6% of GDP. This remittance inflow ensures stable household income, increased consumption level and improved living standard of the people. Economists also predict that Bangladesh may even surpass India

in terms of per capita income in the coming year. Sri Lanka and Cambodia may learn from Bangladesh's macro-economic policies to manage their economy for further growth.

In the Fiscal Year 2020-21, the Per Capita Income (PPI) in Bangladesh was \$2,554 and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Bangladesh has increased to \$409 billion. If we analyze the GDP and

PPI of Bangladesh over the last 10 years, we will see a growing trend which ultimately indicates that the purchasing power of the people of Bangladesh has increased over this timeframe. When PPI increases, demand for goods and services increases which makes Bangladesh an attractive market not only for internal companies but also for the foreign companies.

**How India penetrated into Bangladesh's market?**

There are a number of factors that helped Indian companies to successfully penetrate into Bangladesh's market. The shared civilizational bonds, common history and cultural and social affinity bought Bangladesh and India closer. People of these countries have similar taste in foods and other day-to-day necessities which made Indian companies read the psychology of Bangladeshi consumers. On the other hand, Indian media is widely broadcast in Bangladesh which also created huge demand for Indian goods in Bangladesh through successful marketing promotion and advertising. Besides, Indian companies grabbed the Bangladesh market perfectly with quality products and affordable prices. Noteworthy to mention here, the major goods exported to Bangladesh from India, during April-October 2021, are cereal, cotton, electricity, vehicle parts, and mechanical appliances.

In Fiscal Year 2019-20, the bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh crossed \$10 billion where India's exports to Bangladesh were \$8.2 billion and Bangladesh's exports to India \$1.26 billion. This data shows that there is a huge trade deficit for Bangladesh which should be addressed immediately by both countries especially by India. Otherwise, these economic ties will be questioned by the critics dubbing it as "trade imbalance". Besides, India, as a South Asian Giant, should provide different types of trade facilities, such as tariff reduction, to create a level playing field for Bangladesh. The countries may undertake a bilateral comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) to address the aforementioned issue and to have greater bilateral engagement. Not to forget, without addressing issues of tariff and non-tariff barriers, the countries cannot expect to sustain the growth in their economic ties for a long time.

*Ozair Islam is a freelance writer and columnist. He can be reached at [ozairislam80@gmail.com](mailto:ozairislam80@gmail.com)*

## World Economy In 2022

Muhammad Ali Nasir

Will 2022 be the year where the world economy recovers from the pandemic? That's the big question on everyone's lips as the festive break comes to an end.

One complicating factor is that most of the latest major forecasts were published in the weeks before the omicron variant swept the world. At that time, the mood was that recovery was indeed around the corner, with the IMF projecting 4.9% growth in 2022 and the OECD projecting 4.5%. These numbers are lower than the circa 5% to 6% global growth expected to have been achieved in 2021, but that represents the inevitable rebound from reopening after the pandemic lows of 2020.

So what difference will omicron make to the state of the economy? We already know that it had an effect in the run-up to Christmas, with for example UK hospitality taking a hit as people stayed away from restaurants. For the coming months, the combination of raised restrictions, cautious consumers and people taking time off sick is likely to take its toll.

Yet the fact that the new variant seems milder than originally feared is likely to mean that restrictions are lifted more quickly and that the economic effect is more moderate than it might have been. Israel and Australia, for example, are already loosening restrictions despite high case numbers. At the same time, however, until the west tackles very low vaccination rates in some parts of the world, don't be surprised if another new variant brings further damage to both public health and the world economy.

As things stand, the UK thinktank the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) published a more recent 2022 forecast just before Christmas. It predicted that global growth would reach 4% this year, and that the total world economy would hit a new all-time high of US\$100 trillion (£74 trillion).

### The inflation question

One other big unknown is inflation. In 2021 we saw a sudden and sharp surge in inflation resulting from the restoration of global economic activity and bottlenecks in the global supply chain. There has been much debate about whether this inflation will prove temporary, and central banks have been coming under pressure to ensure it doesn't spiral.

**AS FOR INDIA, WHOSE ECONOMY HAS SEEN** double dips during the pandemic, it is showing a strong positive trend with 8.5% expected growth in the year ahead. I therefore suspect that emerging Asia will shoulder global growth in 2022, and the world's economic centre of gravity will continue to shift eastwards at an accelerated pace

So far, the European Central Bank, Federal Reserve and Bank of Japan have all abstained from raising interest rates from their very low levels. The Bank of England, on the other hand, followed the IMF's advice and raised rates from 0.1% to 0.25% in December. This is too little to curb inflation or do any good besides increase the cost of borrowing for firms and to raise mortgage payments for households. That said, the markets are betting that more UK rate rises will follow, and that the Fed will also start raising rates in the spring.

Yet the more important question regarding inflation is what happens to quantitative easing (QE). This is the policy of increasing the money supply that has seen the major central banks buying some US\$25 trillion in government bonds and other financial assets in recent years, including about US\$9 trillion on the back of COVID.

Both the Fed and ECB are still operating QE and adding assets to their balance sheets every month. The Fed is currently tapering the rate of these purchases with a view to stopping them in March, having recently announced that it would bring forward the end date from June. The ECB has also said it will scale back QE, but is committed to continuing for the time being.

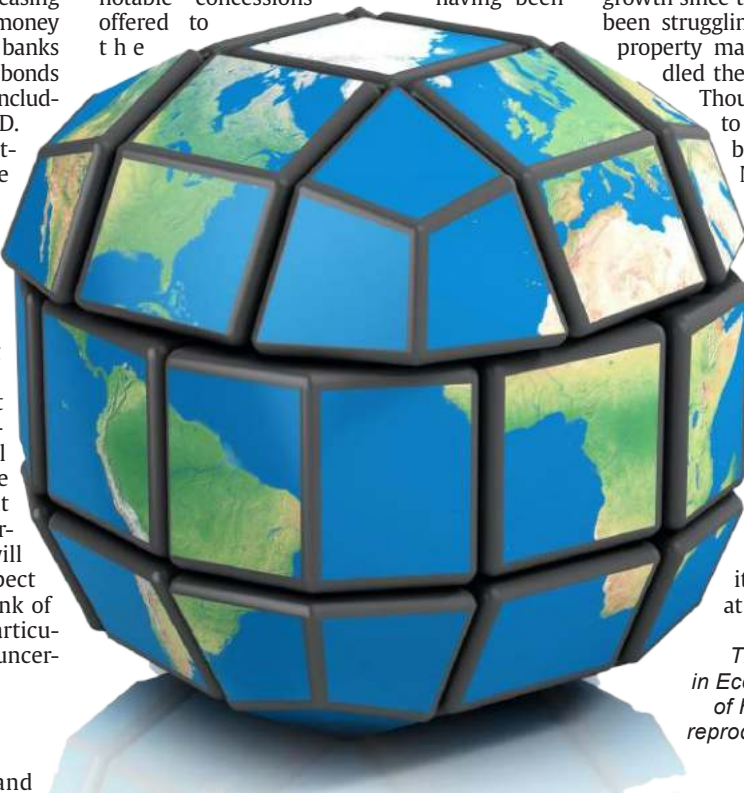
Of course, the real question is what these central banks do in practice. Ending QE and raising interest rates will undoubtedly hamper the recovery – the CEBR forecast, for example, assumes that it will see bond, stock and property markets falling by 10% to 25% in 2022. It will be interesting to see whether the prospect of such upheaval forces the Fed and Bank of England to get more dovish again – particularly when you factor in the continued uncertainty around COVID.

### Politics and global trade

The trade war between the US and

China looks likely to continue in 2022. The "phase 1" deal between the two nations, in which China had agreed to increase its purchases of certain US goods and services by a combined US\$200 billion over 2020 and 2021 has missed its target by about 40% (as at the end of November).

The deal has now expired, and the big question for international trade in 2022 is whether there will be a new "phase 2" deal. It is hard to feel particularly optimistic here: Donald Trump may have long since left office, but US strategy on China remains distinctly Trumpian, with no notable concessions having been offered to the



Chinese under Joe Biden.

Elsewhere, western tensions with Russia over Ukraine and further escalation of economic sanctions against Putin may have economic consequences for the global economy – not least because of Europe's dependency on Russian gas. The more engagement that we see on both fronts in the coming months, the better it will be for growth.

Whatever happens politically, it is clear that Asia will be very important for growth prospects in 2022. Major economies such as the UK, Japan and the eurozone were all still smaller than before the pandemic as recently as the third quarter of 2021, the latest data available. The only major developed economy that has already recovered its losses and regained its pre-COVID size is the United States.

### Economic growth by country since 2015

On the other hand, China has managed the pandemic well – albeit with strict control measures – and its economy has achieved strong growth since the second quarter of 2020. It has been struggling with a heavily over-indebted property market, but appears to have handled these problems relatively smoothly.

Though the jury is out on the extent to which China's debt problems will be a drag in 2022, some such as Morgan Stanley argue that strong exports, accommodative monetary and fiscal policies, relief for real estate sector and a slightly more relaxed approach to carbon reduction point to a decent performance.

As for India, whose economy has seen double dips during the pandemic, it is showing a strong positive trend with 8.5% expected growth in the year ahead. I therefore suspect that emerging Asia will shoulder global growth in 2022, and the world's economic centre of gravity will continue to shift eastwards at an accelerated pace.

*The author is Associate Professor in Economics and Finance, University of Huddersfield. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation*



# How To Remain Youthful And Resilient Despite Stress

Agencies

A bit of stress can be good for your mental and physical well-being, but too much can lead to anxiety, depression and other health problems. It can also make you age faster. So learning to become more stress-resilient is important if you're not in a hurry to grow old fast.

Studies have shown that people who aren't good at managing their stress can increase their risk of dying prematurely by 43 percent. The increase in deaths might in part be due to the effect stress has on DNA.

DNA, which is found in nearly every cell (except red blood cells), contains genes that code for the building blocks (proteins) that comprise your body. DNA consists of two strands woven together in the famous "double helix". Your cells are constantly making copies of themselves, and when a cell divides, the two strands unravel and an identical copy is made of each—well, most of the time.

Sometimes mistakes happen during the replication process, especially at the end of DNA strands. These mistakes can cause mutations in the copied DNA, leading to the cell becoming cancerous. Luckily, cells have protective caps called telomeres at the ends of the DNA strand that are designed to ensure these mistakes don't happen.

Telomere caps are like sequences of beads



(telomeric repeats). Each time the cell divides, the next generation loses one bead of telomeric repeats. Unfortunately, each cell has a fixed number of these repeats, meaning that it can only replicate a certain number of times before the protective telomere caps are eroded.

This number of cell divisions is called the Hayflick limit. Once a cell reaches the Hayflick limit (up to 60 cell divisions, for most cells), it self-destructs (safely). This is the essence of ageing.

Some cells in the body, especially the immune cells that fight infection, possess molecules called telomerase. Telomerase can add the beads back (telomeric repeats) in immune cells (and some others, such as cancerous cells), meaning that ageing can be reversed in these cells. Telomerase can add the beads back, meaning that ageing can be reversed in the cells in question.

This makes sense as immune cells have to replicate many times to fight viruses and bacteria. Without telomerase, they would reach their Hayflick limit and disappear, leaving organisms with no protection. Unfortunately, however, even telomerase stops working properly when people reach their 80s and lose their immune cells to ageing.

It's not all beyond your control

Smoking, excess alcohol consumption, being overweight and stress are all associated with telomere loss. Telomerase does not work as efficiently when a person suffers from excessive stress, and this causes premature ageing.

Adopting a healthy lifestyle, such as eating a plant-based diet, can stop and even reverse the process. And physical activity, especially intense exercise, can also increase telomerase activity. So leading a healthy life can decrease the speed of ageing as can

managing your stress.

As we mentioned earlier, not all stress is bad. In psychology, we differentiate between "eustress" (positive stress), which is necessary for us to succeed at work, in sport and relationships, and "distress" (negative stress), when pressure becomes too much for us to manage. Distress is what most of us mean when we say or feel that we are stressed; it is also what might speed up ageing in your cells.

So there is no need to protect yourself from all stress, only the distress that lasts for a long time, is relentless and prevents you from living your life to the full.

Embracing stressful events and using coping strategies such as seeking help from friends or becoming resourceful when dealing with challenges, can create stress resilience, which in turn is associated with longer telomeres. Also, reappraising an anxiety-provoking event, such


as taking on a public speaking engagement, by perceiving it as exciting can help you to manage stress. These techniques can stop eustress from becoming distress and enhance stress resilience.

Resilience is the ability to bounce back after adversity and become resistant to daily stressors. Besides problem-solving, social support and effective use of coping strategies, mindfulness can also help you become more resistant to daily stressors.

Other techniques include doing things that enhance your positive emotions, such as reading a book, listening to music, or playing a computer game. Experiencing positive emotions broadens your mind, allowing you to perceive and draw from your psychological, intellectual and social resources, especially when experiencing adversity.

We can't yet be sure that these psychological strategies affect telomeres and by extension the ageing process. However, telomere length and telomerase activity in your cells do seem to be negatively affected by stress and positively affected by stress management. So if you have lifestyle changes you can make to help you develop stress resilience, you might want to adopt them. They might not make you live as long as an Arctic shark, but they could add some precious years onto your life.

(The Conversation)



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**Invitation of Quotations for the 3D Printer Filaments**

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, sealed Quotations affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 5/- Quotations are invited from the authorised dealers/suppliers and manufactures for supply of 3D Printer Filaments as detailed in Annexure – A of the Quotation.

The complete document of the quotation can be obtained from the office of **Assistant Registrar (Procurement & Stores)** or can be downloaded from the University website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in). The last date for the submission of the quotation shall be on 20-01-2022 (2.00pm). Terms and Conditions apply **DIPK-NB-6516/21**  
No. IUST/Reg./P&S/Quotation/22/1046 **Sd/-**  
Dated: 10-01-2022 **Assistant Registrar (Procurement & Stores)**

**SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**GIST TO STQ No. 75 of 2021-22**  
**Dated:- 08 /01/2022.**

For and on behalf of Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Short term quotations are invited from Registered Dealers/Distributors/ Authorized Dealers or General order supplier for the following item:-

S. No.	Name of the work	Quantity	Total value of the work (Rs.in lacs)	Time Period of supply
01	Supply of Ignition Coil for Corporation Outboard Motor (Mercury Marine 25Hp Model-2007) (As per sample)	01 No	Rs.21,000/-	10 days

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**Dated: 08-01-2022**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders are invited on percentage rate basis with the bid document uploaded on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from approved registered eligible Civil Contractors for the below mentioned works.

S. No.	Name of the Work	Adv. cost in Lacs	Cost of T/Doc. in Rs.	Earnest Money in lacs	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of contractor
1	Conservation and Upgradation of Two Ghats (Khankha - e - Moula Ghat 16 and 18) along Jehlum River in Shahr e Khas, Srinagar	Rs 105.94 Lacs	Rs 2500/- (Non-Refundable) to be deposited in Account No. 0216010100002252 JK Bank SSI Lal Chowk	Rs 2.12 Lacs	05 Months	SMART CITY MISSION	Class AAY
2	Conservation of (7 No) Heritage Ghats along Jehlum River in Shahr e Khas, Srinagar	Rs 175.80 Lacs	Rs 4000/- (Non-Refundable) to be deposited in Account No. 0216010100002252 JK Bank SSI Lal Chowk	Rs 3.52 Lacs	07 Months	SMART CITY MISSION	Class AAY
3	Conservation of (8 No) Heritage Ghats along Jehlum River in Shahr e Khas, Srinagar	Rs 184.63 Lacs	Rs 4000/- (Non-Refundable) to be deposited in Account No. 0216010100002252 JK Bank SSI Lal Chowk	Rs 3.70 Lacs	07 Months	SMART CITY MISSION	Class AAY

AAA: Accorded (SSCL/CEO/6533-35 Dated: 30/12/2021)  
Technical Sanction:  
1. Accorded (Order No. 381-SSCL of 2021 dated: 17.12.2021)  
2. Accorded (Order No. 383-SSCL of 2021 dated: 17.12.2021)  
3. Accorded (Order No. 384-SSCL of 2021 dated: 17.12.2021)  
The NleT consists of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and Conditions of contract, and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per the date schedule given below.

S.No.	Particulars	Date from to
	Date of issuance/ Publication of NIT	08-01-2022
	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said NleT	10-01-2022 from 02:00 PM
	Date of Uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	10.01.2022 from 03:00 PM
	Date of uploading of bid document/ bid submission Ends	24.01.2022 at 04:00 PM
	Date of receiving of hard copy of documents.	27.01.2022 upto 04:00 PM
	Date of Bid opening	28.01.2022 at 11:00 AM

1. The Employer, Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), invites bids from bidder who shall be an Agency/ Entity/ Company/ Firm incorporated in India under the (Indian) Companies Act 2013/ Firm registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2008 for the work as detailed in table below:  
1. Bids shall be received "on line" on or before [24.01.2022 at 04:00 PM]. The bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and proper used ID.  
2. If any date specified herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same.  
3. The Schedule indicated above is tentative and the Employer may change any or the entire schedule with prior intimation to all bidders.  
4. The Contractor/firm is advised to see the sites before tendering for the work.  
5. After Completion of the entire work under the contractor, the defective liability period shall be minimum Three years and the contractor shall be responsible for rectifying all defects which may be caused till DLP is over. Defect Liability Period shall be Three years after date of completion as per Clause of JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

**Sd/-**  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**Left River Works Division,**  
**Srinagar Municipal Corporation**  
**Srinagar Smart City Limited (Addl. charge)**

**DIPK-NB-6505/21**  
**No.SMC/EELRWD/3502-3512**

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction**  
**State Executive Committee**  
**Civil Secretariat, J&K**

**Sub: Restrictions for COVID containment-regarding**

**Government Order No. 03-JK (DMRR) of 2022**  
**Dated: 09.01.2022**

1. Whereas, a detailed review of the current Covid-19 situation in Jammu and Kashmir was held by the Chief Secretary, J&K, with the ACS (Finance), ACS (Health and Medical Education), Principal Secretary (Home), Principal Secretary (PWD-R&B), ADG/Gs, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police and other officers of Jammu and Kashmir on 09.01.2022;  
2. Whereas, the above review was conducted to assess overall situation pertaining to the spread of COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly focusing on the following parameters-

- Total weekly new cases (per million)
- Total positivity rate
- Bed Occupancy
- Case fatality rate
- Vaccination coverage of targeted population
- The extent of compliance to COVID Appropriate Behaviour

3. Whereas, it was observed that there is a need for additional measures besides continuing with the existing COVID containment measures in all Districts in view of the uneven trend observed in daily Covid cases as well as rising positivity rate.

4. Now therefore, the State Executive Committee, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, hereby orders that the guidelines / instructions on COVID containment in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, already notified vide Government Orders 35 and 36-JK (DMRR) dated 29-05-2021 read with Government Orders 73-JK (DMRR) dated 22-10-2021, 91-JK (DMRR) dated 28.12.2021 and 02-JK (DMRR) of 2022 dated 05.01.2022 shall continue to remain in force till further orders.

5. Enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) is critical in determining the need for additional restrictions. The District Magistrates of J&K shall strictly ensure that there is full compliance to Covid Appropriate Behaviour and defaulters are firmly dealt with under relevant sections of the Disaster Management Act and the Indian Penal Code. The DMs to intensify the campaigns for ensuring Covid Appropriate Behaviour. Dedicated IEC, including public announcements through mobile vehicles must also be undertaken.

6. The DMs shall constitute inspection teams of district officers to check whether the instructions contained herein for enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) are being implemented by the concerned with due responsibility. Further, the DMs shall constitute joint teams of Police and Executive Magistrates for intensifying enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour and ensure no violator is let off. The joint teams shall submit daily report regarding activities carried out by them and their assessment of compliance level.

7. The Home Secretary, Government of Jammu & Kashmir shall monitor the enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour closely and shall submit a Report to the Chairperson of the State Executive Committee (Chief Secretary) on daily basis.

8. The Health and Medical Education Department, Jammu and Kashmir shall closely monitor all relevant statistics and Data in respect of Covid-19 for timely interventions wherever required

9. All the Government Department(s)/Office(s) shall minimise conducting in-person meetings/ interactions etc. All Administrative Secretaries/ Head of the Department(s)/ Institution(s) shall ensure optimal use of virtual mode for conducting official meetings etc.

10. Market Associations to ensure that guidelines related to social distancing and Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) are strictly followed in the markets. Gathering at shops should not be allowed. Furthermore, no shops will cater to customers without mask.

11. IEC campaign for containing surge in Covid cases/3rd Wave shall be undertaken immediately by all District Magistrates (Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authorities) in their respective jurisdictions highlighting the necessity of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB). The Department of Health and Medical Education, Jammu and Kashmir shall sensitise people about the Variants of Concern/Variants of Interest (VoC/Vol) of Covid-19 including the new Variant B.1.1.529 (Omicron)

12. The State Executive Committee reiterates that the following measures shall continue to remain in force -

- A maximum number of people permitted to attend any indoor/ outdoor gathering shall be strictly restricted to 25.
- Banquet Halls in all the Districts of J&K are permitted to allow gathering up to 25 vaccinated persons (with verifiable RT-PCR or RAT not older than 72 hours) or 25% of the authorised capacity (whichever is less), preferably in open spaces.
- Cinema halls, theatres, multiplexes, restaurants, clubs, gymnasiums and swimming pools are permitted to function at 25% of the authorised capacity with due precautions such as CAB and adherence to SOP
- As regards the education institutions, following directions shall be adhered to:
  - All Colleges, Schools, Polytechnics, ITIs, Coaching Centres for Civil Services/ Engineering/NEET etc. to adopt online medium of teaching. There shall be no in-person teaching.
  - Educational institutions shall be permitted to direct attendance of vaccinated staff for administrative purposes only. The Head of the institution must ensure that guidelines related to social distancing and Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) are strictly followed.
  - Night Curfew shall continue to remain in force in all Districts from 9 pm to 6 am with complete restriction on non-essential movement.
  - All Deputy Commissioners shall intensify testing and ensure full utilisation of available RT-PCR and RAT capacities. There shall be no drop in testing levels.
  - Chief Medical Officers of all districts shall submit a daily report regarding the utilisation of available RT-PCR capacities to the District Magistrates concerned. Besides, District Magistrates shall also go for capacity expansion of the RT-PCR testing as per the requirement
  - The Deputy Commissioners shall also focus on the positivity rates of the Medical-Blocks under their jurisdictions. Intensified measures related to Covid management and restriction of activities shall be undertaken in these Blocks.
- There shall be renewed focus on Panchayat level/Medical Block mapping of cases and effective micro-containment zones shall be constituted wherever number of Covid-19 Positive cases reaches 3 or above.
- The DCs shall keep active track of the positivity rates in their respective jurisdictions. Strict perimeter control (Micro-Containment Zone) shall be implemented for localities where Covid-19 Positive Cases number reaches 3 and above. This shall be done to ensure no movement of people in or out of these zones, except for medical emergencies and for maintaining supply of essential goods and services. Following Standard Operating Procedure shall be followed for these defined Micro Containment Zones:
  - The Zone shall be confined to either 50 meters or a Single Building. A buffer zone of 150 meters to be put in place between Micro Containment Zone and rest of locality.
  - The District Magistrates shall create as many Micro Containment Zones as needed and as per situation demand on ground, keeping in view the spike of cases.
  - There shall be intensive house-to-house surveillance within the zone by surveillance teams formed for the purpose.
  - Testing shall be carried out as per prescribed protocol.
  - Listing of contacts shall be carried out in respect of all persons found positive, along with their tracking, identification, quarantine and follow up of contacts for 14 days (80 percent of contacts to be traced in 72 hours).
  - Quick isolation of COVID-19 patients shall be ensured in treatment facilities/ home (subject to fulfilling the home isolation guidelines).
  - Surveillance for ILI(Influenza Like Illness) / SARI (Severe Acute Respiratory Illness) cases shall be carried out in health facilities or outreach mobile units or through fever clinics in buffer zones.
  - The three - "T" protocol of testing, tracking and treating, besides vaccination, needs to be strengthened in all Blocks. The proportion of RT-PCR tests in the total mix should be scaled up on best effort basis.
  - All Districts of J&K shall intensify efforts to ensure timely administering of the Second Dose of the Covid-19 vaccination in accordance with the due date for the same.
  - All Districts to ensure the completion of Overdue Second Dose of Covid Vaccinations within a week. Overdue figures should be brought down to minimal levels in All Districts.
  - Positive cases detected because of intensive testing need to be isolated / quarantined at the earliest and their contacts shall also be traced and similarly isolated / quarantined and tested if needed
  - Immediate isolation and treatment of COVID-19 patients shall be ensured in treatment facilities / hospitals / homes.
  - Home Magistrates shall take all necessary measures for enforcement of Testing protocols.
  - District Magistrates shall establish and activate their respective Covid War Rooms to tackle Variants of Concern/ Variants of Interest (VoC/Vol) including B.1.1.529 (Omicron)
  - All District Magistrates and Health Workers shall take all steps necessary to achieve the Overall objective of reducing Covid-19 incidence level.
  - The D/o HME, GoJ, shall ensure adequate availability of COVID-19 dedicated health and logistics (including ambulatory) infrastructure, based on their assessment of the
  - MD, NHM in consultation with the DCs shall take up Panchayat level mapping and data capturing on the specified portal with respect to all tests for tracking the positivity rates in all Panchayats and other areas in a timely manner.
  - The following categories of asymptomatic Incoming passengers by Air/Rail/Road to the UT of J&K shall NOT be required to undergo RT-PCR or Rapid Antigen Covid-19 Test on arrival:
    - If they are carrying a valid and verifiable Final Certificate Report of Covid-19 Vaccination.
    - If they are carrying a valid and verifiable RT-PCR Covid19 Negative report taken within 72 hours of arrival time.
  - RT-PCR or Rapid Antigen Covid-19 Tests shall however be conducted on Symptomatic Incoming Passengers by Air/Rail/Road to J&K
  - Inter State movement of passenger transport of SRTC/ Stage Contract Private Passenger Buses shall be permitted for fully vaccinated person or persons with verifiable RT-PCR not older than 72 hours or based on RAT on-spot with strict compliance with CAB.
  - Entry into Parks shall be permitted to vaccinated persons only with due verification. Surprise checks shall be conducted by inspection teams to assess the implementation and initiate corrective measures.

**By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir**

**Sd/-**  
**Chief Secretary**  
**(Chairperson, State Executive Committee)**

**DIPK-16425/21**  
**No. DMRR/PS/Secy/551 /2020 Dated: 09.01.2022**



## J&K Bank's New Scheme Ray Of Hope For Business Community: KCC&I

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCC&I), President, Sheikh Ashiq Ahmad Tuesday stated that the business community of Kashmir was undergoing a period of unprecedented stress and turbulence and heading towards financial instability.

"The Special One Time Settlement Scheme 2021 announced by Baldev Prakash, Managing Director/CEO, The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd declared on 10th of January, 2022 was a ray of hope for the business community," he said in a statement.

While appreciating the efforts put in by Baldev Prakash for the said Special Scheme. However, at the same time as mentioned the Scheme is valid for 30 working days for which the sanction or otherwise will be conveyed within seven working days of the receipt of application with a maximum repayment period of six months. "The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry requested the Bank Authorities not to make the Spe-

cial Scheme time bound and extend the repayment time of six months as the Covid restrictions started all over India that affects the business community directly."

President KCC&I appealed to the business community to avail this Special One Time Settlement Scheme to settle their accounts and avail this opportunity to get benefitted.

"In this time of crisis, the government has also announced the appointment of Baldev Prakash as the Managing Director/CEO of the J&K Bank. We hope that under your dynamic leadership all the issues related to the business community are looked into and addressed at the earliest."

The business community of Kashmir views the appointment as a positive development to augment the good work done by the management of the bank under the leadership of Baldev Prakash. Now that the Government would be announcing important fiscal interventions aimed at reviving the economy, the role of J&K Bank would be critical in effective implementation of any measure, he said.

## Indian Entrepreneur Ordered To Pay \$131 Million To Barclays

Ellen Milligan, Bloomberg

**DUBAI:** Barclays Plc won a legal fight to enforce an award of around \$131 million against the founder of troubled NMC Health Plc.

The lender turned to a London court after a Dubai judge ordered Ravaguthu Raghuram Shetty to pay the money after his foreign exchange business failed to meet a transaction agreement with Barclays in 2020.

Shetty's lawyers said at a December hearing in the U.K. that he is "financially paralyzed" and asked for the suit to be adjourned so he could get proper legal representation. A London judge rejected that application on Monday.

Shetty, 79, is facing a number of freezing orders, including

in India where he is currently stranded, his lawyers said. As part of this case, Barclays obtained a worldwide freezing order against Shetty, including against a London property.

A lawyer for Shetty said he will be appealing the judgment. Barclays didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

It's not the only legal battle the Indian entrepreneur is facing. He filed a suit in New York last year against Ernst & Young over its auditing work for his NMC Health, in which he's seeking \$7 billion. NMC health was put into administration in 2020 amid allegations of fraud at the health-care provider.

The Barclays legal action against Shetty isn't related to NMC Health

## Exports Up 33% To \$7.63 Bln During Jan 1-7 Period

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The country's exports grew 33.16 per cent to USD 7.63 billion during January 1-7 period on account of healthy performance by various sectors, including engineering, petroleum and gems and jewellery, according to preliminary data from the commerce ministry.

Exports stood at USD 5.73 billion during the same period last year.

During the first week of this

month, imports rose about 33 per cent to USD 11.60 billion as compared to USD 8.72 billion in the same period of 2021.

Imports, excluding petroleum, increased in the period under review by 29.88 per cent over the same period of 2020-21, as per the data.

The ministry has expressed confidence that the healthy growth rate would help in achieving the target of USD 400 billion worth goods exports this fiscal.

# Govt To Get 35.8% Stake In Debt-Ridden Vodafone Idea In Lieu Of Dues Liability

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea (VIL) has decided to opt for converting about Rs 16,000 crore interest dues liability payable to the government into equity which will amount to around 35.8 per cent stake in the company, as per a regulatory filing of the telecom firm.

If the plan goes through, the government will become the biggest shareholder in the company which is reeling under a debt burden of about Rs 1.95 lakh crore.

"...the board of directors, at its meeting held on 10th January 2022, has approved the conversion of the full amount of such interest related to spectrum auction instalments and AGR dues into equity. The Net Present Value (NPV) of this interest is expected to be about Rs 16,000 crore as per the company's best estimates, subject to confirmation by the DoT," Vodafone Idea said in a regulatory filing.

The government has given telecom operators an option of paying interest for the 4 years of deferment on the deferred spectrum instalments and AGR dues by way of conversion into equity of the NPV of such interest amount.

The company's total gross debt, excluding lease liabilities and including interest accrued but not due, as of September 30, 2021 stood at Rs 1,94,780 crore. The amount comprises deferred spectrum payment obligations of Rs 1,08,610 crore, AGR liability of Rs 63,400 crore that are due to the government and debt from banks and financial



institutions of Rs 22,770 crore.

VIL said that since the average price of the company's shares at the relevant date of August 14, 2021 was below par value, the equity shares will be issued to the government at par value of Rs 10 per share, subject to final confirmation by the DoT.

"The conversion will therefore result in dilution to all the existing shareholders of the company, including the Promoters. Following conversion, it is expected that the government will hold around 35.8 per cent of the total outstanding shares of the company, and that the Promoter shareholders would hold around 28.5 per cent (Vodafone Group) and around 17.8 per cent (Aditya Birla Group), respectively," the filing said.

Shares of VIL were trading at Rs 12.55 apiece, down by 15.49 per cent on the BSE.

The shares will be issued to the government on a preferen-

tial basis and relevant date for pricing would be August 14, 2021, the filing said.

"Government, at its sole discretion, may convert any part of such loan to preference shares instead of equity shares and such preference shares may be optionally or compulsorily convertible and/or redeemable and/or participating in nature. The shares may be held through the statutory undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI) on behalf of the Government of India or by any trustee-type or other suitable arrangement," VIL said.

The company is governed by shareholders who hold at least 21 per cent stake in the entity as per the shareholders agreement (SHA).

However, VIL will now amend shareholders' agreement in light of the conversion of interest into equity to reduce the threshold level for governing rights to 13 per cent from 21 per cent.

## Income Tax Returns Filing Deadline For Corporates Extended Till March 15

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government on Tuesday extended till March 15 the deadline for corporates to file Income Tax returns for the fiscal ended March 2021.

The deadline to file tax audit report and transfer pricing audit report for 2020-21 fiscal too has been extended till February 15.

This is the third extension given for filing the income tax return for the 2020-21 fiscal for corporates. The original deadline for filing ITR for corporates was October 31, and those with transfer pricing transactions was November 30.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a statement said that on consideration of



difficulties reported by the taxpayers and other stakeholders due to Covid and in electronic filing of various reports of audit, it has decided to further

extend the due dates for filing of Income Tax Returns and various reports of audit for the Assessment Year 2021-22 (2020-21 fiscal).

## Market Gains Likely To Be Muted In 2022; 9% Upside For Nifty By Dec: Report



Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Dalal Street may not sustain the record run it had from the middle of 2020 as the new year will see bouts of corrections leading to tepid gains given the many downside risks to a sustained rally, says a brokerage report.

Wall Street brokerage Bank of America Securities India expects the market gaining around 9 per cent from the present levels and the Nifty hovering around 19,100 by December. The brokerage does not offer a target for the benchmark index Sensex.

The market rally that began from June 2020 and lasted till October 2021 will not hold this year and the return will be in high single-digit of say up to 9 per cent, Amish Shah, a research analyst at the brokerage, said and expects Nifty at 9,100 by December.

He also noted that despite high valuation -- the highest among EM (Emerging Market) peers by around 28 per cent and also the world stocks by around 22 per cent -- domestic equities continue to be attractive and is second only to Taiwan when it comes to returns.

Shah sees rising COVID cases amidst the threat of newer variants hitting the world economy and stocks in 2022 along with central bank closing the liquidity tap faster than expected due to the spiralling inflation, stronger greenback putting pressure on the rupee and other factors.

According to him, at least four rate hikes of 25 basis points are expected from June and rupee

might touch 77 against the US dollar.

Besides, crude prices are likely to scale USD 120 level in the first half and then fall to an average of USD 85 a barrel, and that will be a recurring threat to a large rally this year, according to Shah.

Further, he pointed out that such short term events may lead to intermittent market corrections throughout the year.

However, the rising share of private sector investments with the government ending apex public sector monopolies to private and foreign capital will see the market holding ground as past experiences have proved that whichever government sector was opened up to the private sector none of them disappointed, he said.

According to Shah, more private participation is expected in the railways, coal mining, airports, defence production, and gas and power grids. The government has set a target of selling its assets worth USD 80 billion by 2025.

Private sector money will also flow into power transmission and generation, telecom, warehousing, mining, building natural gas petroleum pipelines, aviation, urban real estate, ports and stadia.

BoFA Securities expects the economy to clip at 9.3 per cent this fiscal and 8.3 per cent next financial year. The brokerage is overweight on financials, industrials, autos, IT and utilities and underweight on materials, discretionary, staples, healthcare and energy sectors.

## In A First, India Allows Import Of Pork Products From US

Agencies

**WASHINGTON:** The United States announced on Monday that India would allow imports of US pork and pork products for the first time, welcoming the removal of an old block on US farm trade.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and US Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai made the announcement in a statement.

"This new opportunity marks the culmination of nearly two decades of work to gain market access for US pork to India -- and it signals positive movement in US-India trade relations," Vilsack said.

At the Trade Policy Forum between the United States and

India held in New Delhi in November 2021, Tai spoke at the time about the importance of access to the Indian market for American pork.

"We will continue working with the Indian government to ensure that the US pork industry can begin shipping its high-quality products to consumers as soon as possible," she said.

In 2020, the United States was the world's third-largest pork producer and the world's second-largest exporter, with global sales of pork and pork products valued at \$7.7 billion, according to USTR data.

Last year, the United States exported more than \$1.6bn worth of agricultural products to India.

**JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE)**  
**MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA**  
Telefax: 01933/295537; Email Id: phemechsouth@gmail.com

**GIST NIT (SHORT TERM)**

**JSD/PHE/MDSA/ e-NIT No: 61 of 2021-22** **DATED= 11-01-2022**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir online fresh e-tenders are invited in two Cover System, (Technical and Financial) from registered and experienced contractors/firms as mentioned below for execution of the following Works.

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost Rs. Lacs	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs)	Time of Comp	Class of contractor	Programme/Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Supply of Superior Quality Blankets for various Water Supply Schemes (XL Size)	2.50	200/-	05 days	Electrical / Mechanical contractors with GST registration.	M & R

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

01	Publish Date	11-01-2022 (04:00 PM)
02	Start of downloading of tender documents	11-01-2022 (04:00 PM)
03	On line bid uploading start date	11-01-2022 (04:00 PM)
04	Last date of uploading of bid	18-01-2022 (04:00 PM)
05	Date and time of opening of Tech bids (online)	19-01-2022 (03:00 PM)
06	Date and time of opening of Price bid	To be notified

Note: - CDR & Treasury Receipt/e-Challan mentioning NIT No and Work shall be pledged to **Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora as per the format annexed.** Head 0215 - Revenue & Miscellaneous. All other details can be had from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and [www.phekashmir.com](http://www.phekashmir.com)

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division  
(South) Awantipora

No: JSD/PHE/MDSA/3379  
Dated: 11-01-2022  
DIPK-16534/21

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER REVENUE**  
**COLLECTOR LAND ACQUISITION PWD ANANTNAG**

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION NO. 01 DATED 05-01-2022**

Whereas the Hon'ble High Court of J&K on 25-10-2021, was pleased to pass an order in case titled Hameeda Akhter Vs State of J&K & Ors in OWP No 1730/2018, the operative part of which is as under:

In response to the order dated 01-09-2021, the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag is personally present in the court and has filed response to the petition that the compensation is payable to the petitioner by the R & B Department and the process of payment of compensation shall be completed at an earliest probably within a period of two months. We expect that the payment is made even earlier."

Whereas in compliance to the above orders of Hon'ble High Court and directions issued vide no DCA/Lit/021/3148-53 Dated 17/12/2021, by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, the process of land acquisition for the subject land needs to be finalized.

Whereas in respect of the said acquisition, a total of 01 Marla 8 Sirsie land is required in the Village Qasba Baghat Tehsil Anantnag District Anantnag for public purpose, namely widening of Achabal Adda to Forest Junction Road. Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Qasba Baghat Village of Tehsil Anantnag District Anantnag, a piece of land measuring 01 M 8S, whose detailed description is as following, is under acquisition:

S.no	Survey no	Type of title	Type of land	Area under acquisition	Name & address of person interested
1	2520	Proprietary	Malyari/ Gair Mumkin Sadaq	01 Marla 8 Sirsie	Mst Hameeda W/o Mohd Shafi Peer

This notification is made under the provisions of section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (30 of 2013), to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Collector and Tehsildar Anantnag on any working day during the working hours. Tehsildar Anantnag and his staff is also authorized to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil and do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before Collector.

No: 710/16/LA/PWS/ANG  
Place: Anantnag  
Dated: 05/01/2022

Sd/-  
Collector Land Acquisition (PWD)  
Anantnag

**DIPK-16476/21**



## TRI Invites Nominations For First Edition Of Tribal Awards

AGENCEIS

**JAMMU:** Recognizing the contributions made by the individuals, NGOs and institutions in the research and development of Tribals of J&K, Tribal Research Institute, J&K has invited nominations for the first edition of Tribal Awards instituted by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Secretary Tribal Affairs Department, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary who is also holding the charge of Director Tribal Research Institute J&K, while speaking on the occasion said that first edition of Tribal Awards is a remarkable step in recognizing the contributions made by individuals and institutions in tribal research and upliftment of the socio-economic status of tribals in UT of J&K.

Dr. Shahid further informed that UT Government under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha has taken a series of steps for welfare of the tribal communities and recognising their contribution in this field is another milestone. He further informed that under the Best Tribal Achiever category 10 awards shall be conferred (05 Male and 05 Female) carrying a cash prize of Rs 50,000, a citation and a trophy for the outstanding work done in various fields like Sports, Education, Culture, literature, Science, Technology, Entrepreneurship and Bio diversity.

02 Awards have been

earmarked for the individuals, PRIs, NGOs and Community based Organizations for the exemplary Community services rendered by them to the Scheduled tribes. Besides 02 Best performing Gram panchayat/BDC/DDC who have contributed significantly towards improving socio-economic condition of the scheduled tribes shall be awarded with a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a citation and a trophy. The Concerned Panchayat would use the award money for creation of community assets, he added.

Dr. Shahid further informed that the nominations for the awards in all 03 categories shall be submitted by the individuals, NGOs and institutions to District Level Screening Committee (DLSC) constituted under the Chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner concerned and the DLSC shall submit the proposals to the UT Level Screening Committee who shall finalize the awards under each category and submit its recommendations to the Administrative department.

The nominations will be received from 11-01-2022 up to 19-01-2022 in the office of Concerned Deputy Commissioner who shall get the nominations evaluated through the DLSCs based on merit. All the entries shall be screened at the district level and no individual nomination shall be accepted by the Tribal Research Institute J&K. The awards shall be announced by the Tribal Affairs department, J&K on the eve of R-day 2022.

## SC To Hear Plea Today On Alleged Hate Speeches Made In Haridwar, Delhi

AGENCEIS

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Wednesday a petition seeking a direction to ensure investigation and action against those who allegedly made hate speeches during two events held recently in Haridwar and the national capital.

The plea is scheduled to come up for hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli.

The petition, filed by journalist Qurban Ali and former Patna High Court judge and senior advocate Anjana Prakash, has sought a direction for an "independent, credible and impartial investigation" by an SIT into the incidents of hate speeches against the Muslim community.

On Monday, a bench headed by the CJI had taken note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal that no action has been taken against those who made the hate speeches despite registration of FIR by Uttarakhand Police.

"I have moved this PIL in respect of what happened in Dharam Sansad in Haridwar on December 17 and 19 (last year). We are living in difficult times where slogan in country has changed from 'Satyamev Jayate' to 'Shastramev Jayate'," Sibal had said.



The FIR has been filed but no arrests have been made, the senior lawyer had said, adding that no action would be possible without the intervention of this court.

The bench had said that it would take up the matter for hearing.

The plea, which specifically referred to the "hate speeches" delivered between the "17th & 19th of December 2021 at Haridwar and Delhi", has also sought compliance of apex court's guidelines to deal with such speeches.

One event was organised in Haridwar by Yati Narsinghanand and the other in Delhi by 'Hindu Yuva Vahini' allegedly "calling for genocide of members" of a community, it said.

The Uttarakhand Police filed the FIR on December 23 under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code against some persons including Sant Dharamdas

Maharaj, Sadhvi Annapoorna alias Pooja Shakun Pandey, Yati Narsinghanand and Sagar Sindhu Maharaj.

A similar complaint was filed with the Delhi Police for the second event organised in the national capital.

The plea said that no effective steps have been taken by Uttarakhand and Delhi police.

Till date no FIR has been lodged by the Delhi Police despite calls for ethnic cleansing at the event organised here, it said.

Besides this petition, another plea has also been filed in the apex court by the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind to ban anti-Muslim speeches and programmes like the 'Dharma Sansad'.

The petition has demanded stern legal action against those who allegedly threatened to massacre Muslims and said it was not just a matter of religion but of the Constitution, law, unity and integrity of the country.

## Nagaland Firing: Govt Asked To Make SIT Probe Report Public

AGENCEIS

Kohima: Naga civil society organisations on Tuesday demanded that the Nagaland government make public the findings of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by it to probe into the killing of 14 civilians by security forces in Mon district last month.

Following the killing of 14 civilians by army para-commandos in Oting area in a botched up operation and its aftermath, the state government set up the SIT and asked it to submit its report within 30 days that ended on January 5.

A section of the Nagaland media on Tuesday reported that the SIT has submitted a preliminary report to the government.

Police sources said that enquiry of the personnel of 21 para-commandos stationed at Jorhat in Assam was done only on December 30 while investigations into some other issues are also in progress.

These are the reasons the final report is yet to be submitted, the sources said.

Global Naga Forum (GNF), an organisation that works for the rights of the Naga people, said the state government is yet to make the preliminary report public.

GNF Convenor Chuba Ozukum said the findings of the SIT should be made public for all to understand the reality.

Naga Students' Federation, an influential body of Naga students and youths in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland, also said the report should be in public domain.

A Dimapur-based organisation of the Konyak tribe also raised the same demand.

Thirteen of the 14 people killed by army personnel on December 4 and 5 belonged to the Konyak tribe, one of the major tribes of Nagaland.

They were killed in three consecutive episodes of firing by security forces, the first of which has been claimed to be a case of mistaken identity.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had told the Lok Sabha that the army had received information on the movement of insurgents in Mon and '21 Para Commando' unit had laid an ambush. A vehicle was signalled to stop but it tried to speed away. Suspecting the presence of insurgents in the vehicle, the security personnel opened fire, leading to the death of six of its eight occupants, Shah said.

Regretting the death of the civilians, he had said security forces fired in self-defence.

Eight others, including an army man, were killed in subsequent clashes between the force and villagers.

Several political parties have contested the government version that the vehicle was asked to stop.

## Seeking Money For Construction Of House Is 'Dowry Demand': SC

AGENCEIS

**NEW DELHI:** Seeking money for construction of a house is a 'dowry demand' which attracts offence under Section 304B of the Indian Penal Code, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while restoring conviction and sentence of a man and his father in a dowry death case.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said Section 304-B was inserted in the IPC to combat the social evil of dowry demand that has reached alarming proportions.

It cannot be argued that in case of an ambiguity in the language used in the provision, the same ought to be construed strictly as that would amount to defeating the very object of the provision, it said.

"In the light of the provision (Dowry Act) that defines the word 'dowry' and takes in its ambit any kind of property or valuable security, in our opinion, the High Court fell into an error by holding that the demand of money for construction of a house cannot be treated as a dowry demand," the bench, also



comprising Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli, said.

The apex court said interpretation of a provision of law that will defeat the very intention of the legislature must be shunned in favour of an interpretation that will promote the object sought to be achieved through the legislation meant to uproot a social evil like dowry demand.

"In this context the word 'Dowry' ought to be ascribed an expansive meaning so as to encompass any demand made on a woman, whether in respect of a property or a valuable security

of any nature.

"When dealing with cases under Section 304-B IPC, a provision legislated to act as a deterrent in the society and curb the heinous crime of dowry demands, the shift in the approach of the courts ought to be from strict to liberal, from constricted to dilated," the bench said.

It said that any rigid meaning would tend to bring to naught, the real object of the provision.

"Therefore, a push in the right direction is required to accomplish the task of eradicating this evil which has become deeply

entrenched in our society," it said.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Madhya Pradesh government against the High Court judgement which set aside conviction and sentence against husband, father-in-law of a woman, who committed suicide at her matrimonial home, under Sections 304-B (dowry death) and 306 (abetment to suicide) of the Indian Penal Code.

The apex court said that taking into account the evidence brought on record by the prosecution, it has no hesitation in holding that the analysis of the

trial Court was correct and the respondents deserved to be convicted under Sections 304-B and 498-A IPC.

"Accordingly, the judgment of conviction and sentence passed by the trial Court in respect of both the respondents under Section 304-B and Section 498-A IPC, is restored. However, the sentence imposed on them by the trial Court of RI for life is reduced to RI for seven years, which is the minimum sentence prescribed for an offence under Section 304-B IPC," the bench said.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### R-Day: Forces Step Up

the International Border, which has been an infiltration route for militants.

#### Govt Seeks

section 16 of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Men and Public Servants Declaration of Assets and Other Provisions Act, 1983, the Government hereby makes following amendments in the Jammu and Kashmir Public Servants Declaration of Assets and Other Provisions Rules, 1998, the government has also restricted employees from acquiring or transferring moveable property

"Every public servant shall bring to the notice of the prescribed authority the acquisition or transfer of movable property where the value of such property exceeds his two months basic salary in each case," reads the rule 4 of the notification.

#### Uptick in Covid

capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 301 new cases of virus, Udhampur 77, Reasi 71, Kathua 64, Poonch 45, Rajouri 29, Samba 26, Ramban 12, Doda 10 and Kishtwar 4.

"Moreover, 360 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 245 from Jammu Division and 115 from Kashmir Division," officials said.

Also, they said that two more people died of coronavirus related complications in Jammu division, raising the death toll in the pandemic to 4546 in J&K—2211 in Jammu and 2335 in Kashmir.

#### Corona Hits J&K Bank,

Bandipora were closed on Tuesday for public dealing after 15 employees tested positive for Covid-19, reports said.

The reports said that some employees have been asked to undergo quarantine while the contact tracing remains in progress.

#### SKIMS Recalls

"In view of the upsurge of COVID-19/Omicron cases, the Winter Vacation-2022 of faculty members of SKIMS Soura, Srinagar is hereby cancelled. All the faculty members shall resume their duties immediately, without any delay," reads the order issued by Director SKIMS Dr Parvaiz A Koul.

#### GMC Srinagar

under endorsement No: DMRRR/PS/Secy/551/2020 dated: 09/01/2022, all the Theory Classes in respect of MBBS and B.Sc. Paramedical Courses are hereby suspended with immediate effect," reads an order by Principal/Dean Medical College Srinagar.

"However, online teaching and Clinical Postings shall continue as per the roster issued by the respective Departments," the order added.

#### Kashmir Lacks Omicron

The samples of all of them, he said, were taken over three weeks earlier and sent outside for testing.

Spokesperson of Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Mir Mushtaq told Kashmir Observer that first case was from Uri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district while second one was from South Kashmir's Shopian

"Both the patients have recovered and are doing fine. Their samples were taken over 25 days ago and the report came today," he said.

He said that the sample of a pregnant woman from Uri was taken on December 20 last year.

"The report in Omicron cases come after 20-25 days as the samples have to be sent outside the Valley for testing. We don't have such facilities in the valley yet," Mushtaq said.

The Omicron virus is detected by genome sequencing and is conducted by the Institute of Genomic and Integrative Biology (IGIB) in New Delhi.

When asked why the UT lacks such facilities when the virus is spreading rapidly, the health department spokesperson said that it is government to take call such decisions.

"Also such things can't be pre-empted. Omicron testing takes time. However, if the facility comes to Kashmir it will take lesser time then sending the samples to New Delhi," he said.

Mushtaq further said that the three non-local travellers, who have tested Omicron positive, have returned back after their samples were taken in Anantnag last month.

It is pertinent to mention here that earlier three cases of Omicron were detected in Jammu who had already recovered

#### Police Crackdown

Earlier, the police spokesperson said that IGP was briefed by the participating officers about the overall security scenarios in their respective areas and the security measures being adopted to counter the challenges.

Kumar, he said, was also briefed about the security measures and preparations put in place in connection with upcoming January 26 celebrations besides, the measures taken in view of third Covid wave.

"While interacting with the officers, IGP Kashmir discussed the initiatives taken for the maintenance of law and order besides anti-terrorist operations in the valley," he added.

According to the police spokesperson, the IGP appreciated them for their commitment towards their duties and contribution in maintenance of law and order and in conducting successful anti-terror operations with no collateral damage.

Kumar, he said, emphasized upon them that such efforts and coordination with other forces working on ground should continue to ensure a peaceful atmosphere in the Valley.

"He directed the officers to make all necessary and required arrangements in connection with 26th January for ensuring peaceful celebrations of the event. He further directed the officers to personally supervise the arrangements required in connection with the event," he said.

Stressing that the police personnel should be sensitized about adhering to Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB), the IGP, as per the spokesperson directed the officers to ensure that the police personnel who are the frontline workers be provided with Covid-19 booster dose in view of surge in Covid cases & the existing infrastructure including isolation wards etc be got activated to meet any eventuality.

Kumar, he said, also directed the officers to intensify the war against drug peddlers and root out the menace of drugs from the society saying that this menace is spoiling the career of youth.

"He also directed them to personally supervise the probe into the narcotics cases to improve the conviction rate. Besides, he also directed the officers to build up strong police-public relationship at all police levels and conduct regular interactive meetings with general public as such meetings

particularly with youth will not only help in curbing the drug menace but will strengthen the police-public interface," he said.

Expressing concern over the incidents of theft of copper wire along the railway track meant for electrical trains, the IGP, as per the police spokesperson directed the concerned district SSSP in whose jurisdiction the railway track passes to take all possible measures to prevent such thefts as also to identify the culprits involved in the crime.

"The officers were also directed by the IGP Kashmir to ensure timely help to those who require any assistance in view of inclement weather conditions and the special help-lines so established shall remain functional 24x7 with dedicated manpower," the police spokesperson added.

#### Landslides Again

The highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was closed for traffic on Friday afternoon, shortly after it was opened after two days closure, following heavy snowfall and multiple landslides between Chanderkote and Ramsu.

While passenger vehicles and some vehicles carrying essentials were allowed to move towards the Kashmir Valley on Monday, others remained stranded on the stretch.

Some vehicle owners protested over their halt on the highway and said the perishable items in their vehicles have destroyed.

"We are stranded on the highway for the past five days. We are carrying vegetables and most of them have perished. If they allow vehicles carrying chicken, why they have halted vehicles carrying vegetables. It has caused us a grave loss," a trucker, Sadiq, told reporters.

#### Sub-Zero Temperatures

in Baramulla district, recorded a low of minus 10.6 degrees Celsius. This is for the third straight night that the minimum temperature in Gulmarg has fallen to minus 10 degrees Celsius or below, meteorological officials said.

South Kashmir's Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 10.4 degrees Celsius, a drop of nearly eight degrees, they said. Srinagar, the summer capital of

Jammu and Kashmir, was the only place where the minimum temperature was above the freezing point at 0.2 degrees Celsius last night, the officials said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.7 degrees Celsius, they said.

The mercury settled at a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius in north Kashmir's Kupwara.

The MeT office said the weather is likely to stay mainly dry over the next few days.

The Kashmir Valley is currently under the grip of the 40-day harshest winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' that began on December 21.

During 'Chilla-i-Kalan', a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the famous Dal Lake here, and the water supply lines in several parts of the Valley.

The chances of snowfall are the maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy to very heavy snowfall.

#### J&K Govt

those massacred by the troops of Hari Singh.

It was the first time since Independence and Jammu and Kashmir's accession to the Union of India, that the July 13 ceremony did not take place in Srinagar.

Usually, 13 July would see important government functionaries, including the governor, chief ministers, cabinet ministers, heads of various political parties and even separatist groups, visit the martyrs' graveyard or Mazaare-Shuhada to pay homage to those who had fallen in the struggle against maharaja rule.

The LG administration is now mulling to declare the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh as holiday in Jammu and Kashmir.

#### Inmate Dies

the sub-district hospital (SDH) Kupwara, on several times for treatment.

On 11/01/2022 at 1110 hours said accused complained of chest pain and was immediately shifted to sub district hospital Kupwara for further

evaluation and management. On arrival at sub district hospital Kupwara, doctor on duty declared him dead at 0130 hours," reads the letter.

It further adds that the body was handed over to the legal heir for last rites after completion of legal-medico formalities.

#### Soldier Shoots

reports said. Singh was posted with the army's 6 Rashtriya Rifles.

A local news agency GNS quoted an unnamed official as saying that it was not immediately known what prompted the soldier to take this extreme step.

#### 7 Injured In Army

district on Tuesday afternoon leaving as many as seven people injured, reports said.

The injured identified as Begum Jahan, Ajaz Ahmed, Mahmood Ahmed, Nazir Hussain, Shafqat Ali, Arshad Iqbal and Mohammad Bashir were removed to the army hospital BG Gali for treatment.

According to the reports, the injured were later shifted to the government medical college (GMC) Rajouri for advanced treatment.

#### Youth Falls From

local news agency KNS reported. Quoting an unnamed police officer, the report says that the driver of the tractor has been arrested, while a case in this regard has been registered.

The officer also said that further investigation into the matter has been taken up.

#### Ladakh Reports

coronavirus cases in Ladakh increased to 397. Of these, 373 cases are in Leh district and 24 in Kargil district, they said.

Of the total 222 deaths, 164 were reported from Leh and 58 from Kargil, they added.

Sixty-seven patients -- 60 in Leh and seven in Kargil -- were discharged from hospitals after recovering from coronavirus, taking the total number of recoveries to 22,067. The recoveries account for over 98 per cent of the total cases, the officials said.

As many as 500 samples tested negative for coronavirus in Ladakh, they said. (PTI)



## Tata Group To Replace Vivo As IPL Title Sponsors



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** One of India's largest business conglomerates, the Tata Group, is all set to replace Chinese mobile manufacturer Vivo as the Indian Premier League's title sponsor from this year, the event's governing council decided in a meeting on Tuesday.

"Yes, Tata group is coming in as IPL title sponsor," IPL chairman Brijesh Patel confirmed the development to PTI.

Vivo had a deal of Rs 2200 crore for title sponsorship rights from 2018-2022 but after the 2020 Galwan Valley military face-off between the Indian and Chinese Army soldiers, the brand took a break for a year with Dream11 replacing it.

However, Vivo were back as IPL title sponsor in 2021 even as speculation raged that they were looking to transfer the rights to a suitable bidder and the BCCI approved the move.

## India 223 All Out In 1st Innings of 3rd SA Test



Press Trust of India

**CAPE TOWN:** India were all out for 223 in their first innings on the opening day of the third Test against South Africa here on Tuesday.

Batting first, India's returning skipper Virat Kohli top-scored for the visitors with a 79 off 201 balls, hitting 12 boundaries and a six in the process.

Cheteshwar Pujara made 43 off 77 balls.

Kohli, who had missed the second Test due to a back injury, looked on course for his first Test

century in over two years until South Africa's lead pacer Kagiso Rabada cut short his innings.

Playing in his 50th Test, Rabada finished with impressive figures of 4/73, while Marco Jansen snared 3/55.

South Africa were 17/1 after 8 overs when reports last came in.

Brief Scores:

India 1st innings: 223 all out in 77.3 overs. (Cheteshwar Pujara 43, Virat Kohli 79; Kagiso Rabada 4/73).

South Africa: 17/1 in 8 overs. (A. Makram 8\*; Bumrah ¼)

## Sundar Tests Positive For COVID; May Miss SA ODIs

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** India all-rounder Washington Sundar has tested positive for COVID-19. His participation in the three-match One-Day International series against South Africa, starting January 19, is in doubt.

The 22-year-old Tamil Nadu player tested positive for the virus in Bengaluru and hasn't joined the other white-ball cricketers in Mumbai. The players are scheduled to leave for South Africa in a day or two.

It is learnt that Washington will not be able to travel in the chartered flight along with the other selected players.

Haryana all-rounder Jayant Yadav, who is already in South



Africa, will stay back as Washington's replacement.

The ODI series against South Africa begins in Paarl on January 19. The second ODI is scheduled at the same venue on January 21, following which the team will travel to Cape Town for the series-finale.

## Man Utd Ride Luck To Get Some FA Cup Relief

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Ralf Rangnick admitted Manchester United were far from perfect despite getting a much-needed 1-0 win over Aston Villa to reach the fourth round of the FA Cup.

Scott McTominay headed home the only goal after just eight minutes, but Villa were left to rue a host of missed chances and a controversial VAR review that ruled out an equaliser from Danny Ings in the second half.

Interim manager Rangnick desperately needed a response to a week of unrest in the United camp that followed a dismal performance in losing 1-0 at home to Wolves.

One big decision was taken out of the German's hands as Cristiano Ronaldo was not fit to

feature. United got the start they needed to settle the nerves as Fred's perfect cross picked out McTominay to power in a downward header.

However, all of the shortcomings that have dogged a shambolic season under two managers for the Red Devils were soon revealed as Villa dominated the game.

Villa won at Old Trafford earlier in the season under former manager Dean Smith, but have improved markedly since Steven Gerrard's arrival as boss in November.

The visitors twice had the ball in the net in the second half but were denied the chance to take the tie to extra time by a lengthy VAR review.

A much more straightforward offside call against Ings moments later denied Watkins an equaliser.

## First Ever National Curling Championship Held In Gulmarg



Agencies

**GULMARG:** The first ever National Curling Championship cum National Camp 2022 was organised in Gulmarg.

Curling Federation of India (CFI), the National Govern-

ing body for the sport of Curling, organised this camp cum Championship in association with J&K Curling Association and JKTCDC, from 7th to 12th January in Gulmarg. The event is sponsored by likes of Religare Group, a financial conglomerate, Hamdard Group, amongst others. The Championship was being attended by more than 200 athletes from 20 states teams participating in the games.

Curling also popularly known as "Chess on Ice" has been a medal sport in the Winter Olympic Games since the 1998 Winter Olympics. It currently includes men's, women's and mixed doubles tournaments.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Chief Guest Dr. Rashmi Saluja, Chairperson, Religare Enterprises Limited and also President, Curling Federation India and Yogeshwar Dutt, Olympian & world renowned wrestler.

Senior officials from the J&K Tourism department and Police department were also present to grace the occasion along with Officials from the Indian Curling Federation.

Twenty Teams with around

200 players attended the championship. It is the first time that such type of National Championship was organized in J&K.

Yogeshwar Dutt said that he is thankful to Dr. Rashmi Saluja, President, CFI for inviting him for this event and the sport will flourish under her leadership.

Dr. Rashmi Saluja, President, CFI and Chairperson of Religare Group said, "I am so proud that first ever National Curling Championship is being held at Gulmarg in J&K. This event not only represents the adventure sports spirit of our country but also pioneering spirit of people of Jammu & Kashmir, who made the first ever National Curling Championship, a huge success." (KNT)

## PCB To Propose Quadrangular Series To Revive Indo-Pak Rivalry

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja is set to propose an annual quadrangular series involving India, Pakistan, England and Australia in the next ICC meeting in a bid to play regular international cricket against India, Express Tribune reported.

According to Code Sports Australia, the four-nation tournament will be proposed by the former Pakistan captain in the T20I format.

The arch-rivals Pakistan and India have been deprived of playing bilateral cricket due to worsening political conditions. They last played series in India back in 2012/13.

During Najam Sethi's regime, both cricket boards planned to play six series during the 2015/23 cycle but it didn't happen.

Pakistan and India have only played in ICC (International Cricket Council) and ACC (Asian



Cricket Council) tournaments since 2013.

On the other hand, Ramiz told the publication that there is huge anticipation in Pakistan ahead of the Australian tour and that he has been heartened by recent comments from Pakistan-born Aussie batter Usman Khawaja as he privately urges

teammates to travel to Pakistan, the report said.

Australia are due to visit Pakistan for three Tests, three One-day Internationals and one T20 international starting in early March. Cricket Australia (CA) are committed to the tour going ahead; the first visit of the Aussie side to the country since 1998. (IANS)

## Shane Warne Wants Answers On Novak Djokovic Saga

‘Can someone explain in plain English?’

Press Trust of India

**MELBOURNE:** Feeling "embarrassed" by the drama surrounding Novak Djokovic's entry to Australia, spin legend Shane Warne on Tuesday said he would like answers to some basic questions like whether the Serbian tennis star attended public events despite a COVID-19 infection and who exactly gave him the medical exemption to come here.

World number one Djokovic, who is aiming for a historic 21st Grand Slam title at the Australian Open, has been at the centre of a global controversy after landing here unvaccinated for COVID-19 on the back of a medical exemption given to him by Tennis Australia.

The 34-year-old's visa was cancelled on landing and he was placed in detention. But he fought a court battle to have it reinstated and was seen having a practice session at the Melbourne Park on Monday.

Djokovic submitted that he did not need the vaccine as he tested positive for the virus just last month. Outrage followed when pictures of him at public events at the time of his illness were widely shared.

"Are these facts true? As I've



read so many different reports in this messy embarrassing saga. Novak tested positive to covid Dec 16 & attended a public event on the 17th that inc (included) children. Said he hadn't travelled in 14 days before arriving in Oz but travelled Jan 2 to Spain?," tweeted Warne.

Warne, born in Victoria, represented Australia in 145 Tests and went on to become one of the most successful spinners with 708 wickets, second only to Muttiah Muralitharan's 800 scalps. The 52-year-old wants to know who cleared the medical exemption for Djokovic.

"And did Novak have a medical exemption? If so - has the

person who gave it to him been identified? What was that exemption? Just trying to get the facts as I'm embarrassed as a Victorian at this situation. Vic Govt are quiet? Can someone explain to us in plain English please," Warne's second tweet read.

Top players, including Andy Murray and Australia's very own Nick Kyrgios empathised with the Serbian tennis player even as Rafael Nadal said Djokovic made a conscious choice which had consequences.

Djokovic has stated that he is "opposed to vaccination" and "wouldn't want to be forced by someone" to take it for travelling or competing.

## New Zealand Beats Bangladesh By An Innings To Tie Series



Agencies

**CHRISTCHURCH:** A courageous century by wicketkeeper Liton Das made Bangladesh a hard nut to crack but New Zealand finally broke through on Tuesday to win the second cricket Test by an innings and 117 runs to tie the two-match series.

Das batted almost one-handed for much of his innings after being struck on the glove. He weathered a barrage of short-pitched bowling from New Zealand to post his second Test century from only 106 balls.

Bangladesh rallied around his resilient example to force a match which many thought would be over quickly on Tuesday into the final session of the third day before the last wicket fell 20 minutes from scheduled stumps.

Das finally was out for 102 and the end came swiftly afterwards with Bangladesh losing its last wickets in dimming light at Hagley Oval. When the ninth wicket fell the crowd began baying for the veteran batsman Ross Taylor who will retire from Test cricket after his 112th Test to be given a chance to bowl.

When the light became too poor for the quicks to continue,

captain Tom Latham bowed to the crowd's demand and Taylor's third ball of gentle off breaks brought a false shot from Ebadot Hossain who skied the ball to Latham. That brought the curtain down on Taylor's 15-year Test career in the most unusual fashion and to the reverberating cheers of the crowd.

Taylor had bowled only 16 overs in all of his previous Tests for two wickets, the last time eight years ago. But fate conspired to bring his career to an extraordinary end. First mobbed by his teammates and presented the match ball, he walked from the field through an honour guard formed by Bangladesh, providing one last rich memory of an outstanding career.

It was significant that the final catch was taken by Latham as the New Zealand captain had an outsized influence on this match. He scored 252, his second Test double century, in New Zealand's first innings of 521-6 declared, then took six catches as New Zealand bowled out Bangladesh for 126 and 278 after enforcing the follow-on.

In doing so, Latham became the first player in Test history to score 250 and take six catches in the same match. (AP)

## CA Chief To Players: I'll Go To Pakistan With You

Press Trust of India

**MELBOURNE:** Australian Cricketers Association (ACA) chief Todd Greenberg has assured the country's cricketers that he will travel to Pakistan with them if the tour gets final approval but would respect if "one or two" backs out of the trip. If the team gets security clearance to travel, it will be Australia's first tour to Pakistan since 1998, when Mark Taylor's side won the three-Test series 1-0.

"I've made an assurance to the players that they won't go alone. If they're going to Pakistan, I'll be going with them and I think that's important. It's an opportunity to show the players that we're in this together," Greenberg told The Sydney Morning Herald.

"The ACA accompanied Cricket Australia on a pre-tour of Pakistan late last year, and the reports were all very positive.

"But we'll continue to take the advice of DFAT and other government organisations, as we need to be able to satisfy not just

the players, but their families, that it's safe to tour." International teams have been reluctant to travel to Pakistan since the terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore in 2009.

However, international players have competed in Pakistan Super League (PSL) and the West Indies also travelled to Pakistan in December 2021 for a Twenty20 series.

Greenberg understands that despite security assurances, a few cricketers might be unwilling to travel to Pakistan but he won't force anyone.

"There may be one or two players who won't be comfortable despite the best advice we give, and that's OK, we need to respect that." CA chief executive Nick Hockley is also planning to travel to Pakistan for at least some of the tour, while the interim chair Richard Freudenstein may visit for a period to meet with his counterpart Ramiz Raja, unless a new permanent chair is chosen by then, according to the report in SMH.

## Senegal, Morocco Off To Winning Starts At AFCON

Agence-France Press

**YAOUNDE:** Former Southampton duo Sadio Mane and Sofiane Boufal both scored to give Africa Cup of Nations title contenders Senegal and Morocco winning starts to their campaigns in Cameroon on Monday.

Mane, who switched to Liverpool in 2016 after two years with the Saints, netted a penalty seven minutes into added time to deliver a fortunate 1-0 Group B victory over Zimbabwe in Bafoussam.

A few hours later it was the turn of Boufal, now at French Ligue 1 Angers after four years with Southampton, to score and earn Morocco a 1-0 Group C win over Ghana in Yaounde.

Gabon overcame the absence of captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to beat debutants Comoros 1-0 in the other game in the section.

With Arsenal star Aubameyang sidelined after testing positive for Covid-19, Aaron Boupendza slammed in from an acute angle on the quarter-hour to snap a five-game winless run at the tournament.

Guinea edged Malawi 1-0 through a 35th-minute goal from



Issiga Sylla and they share first place in Group B with Senegal.

The results maintained a run of one-goal victories in a tournament that finally kicked off on Sunday after being postponed by a year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Cameroon came from behind in the tournament opener to beat Burkina Faso 2-1 and Cape Verde struggled to a 1-0 win over 10-man Ethiopia in the other Group A clash.

On Tuesday, record seven-time champions Egypt confront three-time winners Nigeria in the northwestern city of Garoua in what promises to be a high-light of the 36-match first round.



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*Mukammal Hifazat*

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