

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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P5 STATE

## ONE-WAY TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAY TO CONTINUE: OFFICIALS

Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world, shall remain open for only one-way traffic on Wednesday, officials said here.

P7 STOLEN FOCUS

THINK

When he was nine years old, my godson Adam developed a brief but freakishly intense obsession with Elvis Presley. He took to singing Jailhouse Rock at the top of his voice with all the low crooning and pelvis-jiggling of the King himself. One day, as I tucked....



P11 SPORTS

## PAKISTAN PACER M. HASNAIN'S BOWLING ACTION REPORTED DURING BBL

Pakistan pacer Mohammad Hasnain's bowling action has been reported by umpires in the Big Bash League in Australia and he is set to undergo a test.



## Quote!

Nothing ever becomes real till it is experienced.

— John Keats

## NEWS DIGEST

### Policeman Dies of Heart Attack

**SRINAGAR:** A police constable died of a massive heart attack at a training center in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said. "Roop Singh, a resident of Jammu, suffered a heart attack at Sheeri training center and was declared dead shortly after", the officials told GNS. The necessary **More on P10**

### Youth Held Over Militant Links

**JAMMU:** A youth who allegedly had links with militants was arrested in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Tuesday. Anjum Mehmood was arrested on specific information during a joint operation by police and security forces from his Baila village of Mandi tehsil Monday **More on P10**

### Minor Boy Dies Under Snow

**SRINAGAR:** A 7-year-old boy died after getting trapped under snow in remote Marwah area in Kishtwar district, officials said on Tuesday afternoon. The boy Mutarif Shabir son of Shabir Ahmad Lohar, a resident of Talwar village in Marwah, lost his life before he **More on P10**

### Sanjeev Gupta Is Registrar J&K, Ladakh HC

**SRINAGAR:** District Judge Sanjeev Gupta was on Tuesday appointed as the Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. "Pursuant to the High Court order No 19 of 2022/RG dated 14.01.2022 and the approval accorded **More on P10**

## New Land Allotment Policy for Industries

# J&K Govt Receives 4114 Applications

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The industries and commerce department of Jammu and Kashmir government has received over 4,000 online applications for land allotment pledging a proposed investment of Rs 44,327 crore, besides an estimated employment generation potential of 1,84,100 engagements, an official spokesman said on Tuesday. These details were shared in a meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday to review the functioning of the I&C Department.

Under the new land allotment policy, the official spokesperson said that it was informed that the Industries Department has so far received 4,114 online applications for land allotment, pledging a proposed investment of Rs. 44,327 crores with an estimated employment generation potential of 1,84,100 engagements. "It was further informed that all these applications

are being processed under the single window system wherein land is being allotted through a transparent mechanism giving due weightage to the proposed investment per Kanal, proposed direct employment per Kanal, category of industry, environmental impact assessment, and others," he said.

To maintain transparency in the allotment process, he said, the finalized list of allottees along with application and selection details is shared on the Department's official website and objections are called before official allotment.

According to the official spokesperson, the Chief Secretary directed completion of the allotment process in favour of eligible applicants and ensure generation of approximately 2 lakh employment in 18 months, besides submitting a consolidated report on applications processed, and time taken in their processing- land allotment- and establishing the industrial unit along with the respective **More on P10**



## ....Corona III Wave Sweeps J&K

# 4651 People Test Positive In Highest Daily Spike



A health worker takes nasal swab from a tourist for Covid-19 testing in the city outskirts on Tuesday: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a new spurt in Coronavirus cases in the recent months, Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday 4651 fresh cases of virus while three more people succumbed to the deadly

infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, Kashmir Valley registered 3105 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while 1546 were reported from various districts of Jammu division on Monday,

taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 366851.

In the Valley, the officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 957 new cases of virus, Baramulla 633, Budgam 411, Anantnag 253, Kulgam 215, **More on P10**

**6 MOREOVER, 899 MORE COVID-19 PATIENTS** have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 549 from Jammu Division and 350 from Kashmir Division."

## Security Intensified Across Kashmir Ahead Of R-Day

Zaid Bin Shabir

**SRINAGAR:** The government forces on Tuesday stepped up vigil and carried out random search operations in many parts of the Valley amid a spurt in militant attacks just a week ahead of January 26 celebrations.

According to reports, J&K Police and the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have beefed up security arrangements in the Valley to thwart any untoward incident and ensure smooth R-day celebrations.

"Intelligence inputs suggest that militant outfits could carry out attacks in Srinagar to disrupt peace and normalcy, as they've recently tried to do in Khawaja Bazaar, Saraf Kadal and PCR," a police officer told Kashmir Observer on Tuesday.

"In wake of the given intelligence input, the security has been beefed up across the



Security personnel frisk pedestrians at the City Centre Lal Chowk on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Valley especially in Srinagar, as it has once again become a soft target for militants."

He further added, "For now, special nakas, drones, CCTV mounted on security vehicles and buildings, human intelligence, special weapons and

sniffer dogs have been placed to maintain peace in the region especially in the capital city".

As per the official, the route leading to Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium—where R-Day celebrations are scheduled—will be sealed and **More on P10**

### Militants Trigger IED Blast In Kulgam

**M**ilitants triggered off a low-intensity improvised explosive device (IED) under a Bridge at Qaimoh area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday evening but it did not cause any damage, police said. "Militants triggered off a low intensity IED at Ziyarat Qaimoh-Kader Road, an area falling between Yaripora and Qaimooh in Kulgam," a senior police officer said. "There was no casualty in the incident. Police, army and CRPF reached the blast spot and cordoned off the area," he said.

### Govt Orders Creation Of 2nd Line Of Human Resources

**T**he Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday ordered creation of a second line of additional human resources in order to tackle the current wave if existing supporting staff of hospitals gets infected by Coronavirus. These directions were passed by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Tuesday while chairing weekly Covid containment review meeting of Kashmir division through virtual **More on P10**

### Health Dept Scans Inaccurate Vaccine Certificates

**T**he Jammu and Kashmir Health Department has started a special drive to identify people who have received the COVID vaccination certificate despite being administered with only one dose, an official spokesperson said Tuesday. In each case, he said, authorities are collecting inputs from such beneficiaries and ensuring actual administration of vaccines to each at the earliest. At the same time, the Department has **More on P10**

## Cold Wave Eases After Snowfall in Highlands

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The minimum temperature in most parts of Kashmir stayed close to freezing point under the influence of a mild Western Disturbance that has resulted in snowfall in upper reaches of the valley, officials said on Tuesday.

The minimum in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, settled at a low of 1.1 degrees Celsius, almost same as the previous night's 1 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 6 degrees Celsius, down 1.4 degrees from the previous night.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 0.7 degrees Celsius three degrees up from the previous night, they said.

The officials said Qazigund recorded a minimum of 0.2 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius.

The minimum **More on P10**

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**Ishad Ahmad: 7006276927**

## CAG Picks Holes In Implementation Of Himayat Scheme

Only 4,494 Youth Trained Against Target Of 53,547

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** An audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has revealed gaps and loopholes in implementation of Himayat scheme in Jammu & Kashmir.

In its report on implementation of the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), the CAG has said the Jammu & Kashmir State Rural Livelihood Himayat Management Mission (JKSRLM), prepared the three years plan for 2016-19

and 2019-22 without any baseline survey and analysis to map the skill gap.

"Audit noticed (May 2019) that the State Perspective Implementation Plan (SPIP) covering a period of seven years was not prepared and instead the Mission submitted (July 2016) a three-year plan for the first phase for the period from 2016 to 2019, followed by another three year plan in February 2019, for the period from 2019 to 2022. The plans were also submitted without identification of trades to be covered under the programme," reads the report.

The report also states that against 340 sanctioned posts in the **More on P10**

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

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## 6 In 10 Indian Workers Suffering From Pandemic-Led Imposter Syndrome

### Agencies

After going through two stressful years of the Covid-19 pandemic, more than 7 in 10 (71 per cent) of professionals questioned their abilities at work more now than before the pandemic while 63 per cent said they suffer from 'imposter syndrome', a new LinkedIn report showed on Tuesday. The 'impostor syndrome' is a psychological pattern in which an individual doubts his/her skills, talents or accomplishments. According to the report, the self-doubt seems to be a by-product of working in isolation for nearly two years as 33 per cent of professionals say the pandemic has negatively impacted their confidence at work. The findings showed that lack of face-to-face support from supervisors and peers (40 per cent), having to take on new responsibilities (34 per cent), and having to use more technology (31 per cent) are the top three work stressors for professionals in India. Amid the stress, more than 8 in 10 Indian professionals are considering a job change this year and flexible working arrangements are their top-most priority. The report said that the job reshuffle in India is being led by freshers with up to

one year of work experience (94 per cent) and Gen Z professionals (87 per cent), who are more likely to consider changing jobs in 2022. The professionals are leaving their current jobs due to poor work-life balance (30 per cent), not enough money (28 per cent), or greater

employer in 2022 include better salary (42 per cent), more appreciation (36 per cent), and improved work-life balance (34 per cent). "The findings also indicate a glaring disparity in the perception of men and women towards how they are being compensated by their cur-



career ambitions (23 per cent). The report said that professionals in India are confident about their job roles (45 per cent), careers (45 per cent) and overall job availability (38 per cent) getting better in 2022. "In fact, 86 per cent of professionals in India say they are confident about the strength of their professional networks as they enter into the new year looking for new job opportunities," the findings showed. The top reasons that can convince professionals in India to stay with their current

rent employers today," the report mentioned. Working women (37 per cent) are 1.3 times more likely to quit their current job due to poor work-life balance, when compared to working men (28 per cent). They are also more likely (49 per cent) to say they will remain with their current employer if they get better pay, when compared to working men (39 per cent). "This may be a wake up call for employers to revisit their compensation benefits and ensure more inclusivity through their offerings," the LinkedIn report said.

## Bribes In Lunchboxes

## TV Show On China's Corrupt Officials Hooks Millions

Beijing: A huge designer property in Beijing and millions of dollars hidden in seafood boxes -- a state television series on China's anti-graft campaign is captivating viewers and lifting the lid on officials brought down on graft charges. A staggering number of Communist cadres have been caught up in President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption drive in recent years, which critics say has also served as a way to remove political enemies since he came to power in 2013. The ongoing five-part series aired by state broadcaster CCTV shows televised confessions by officials accused of corruption, including former vice public security minister Sun Lijun. Sun -- who oversaw security in Hong Kong during months of unrest -- is facing allegations that include taking bribes, manipulating the stock market, illegally possessing firearms and paying for sex. The TV series claimed Sun received regular bribes worth \$14 million disguised

as "small seafood boxes" from a man he later appointed as police chief in eastern Jiangsu province. "I helped him all this way," said Sun on the programme. It is common practice for



CCTV to air "confessions" by criminal suspects, including former officials, before they have even appeared in court -- something widely condemned by rights groups. Another episode featured imprisoned Chen Gang of the China Association for Science and Technology -- who was said to have built a 72,000-square-metre (775,000-square-foot) private compound complete with a Chinese-style residence, swimming pool and artificial beach with illicit funds.

Others featured were accused of taking millions in bribes. Those convicted of corruption can be stripped of their wealth, party membership, and face a lifetime behind bars or even death. More than a million officials have been punished under the anti-corruption campaign so far, which has been a cornerstone of Xi's tenure. Wang Fuyou, who featured in the second episode of the series, was given a death sentence with a two-year reprieve on Monday -- a day after his confession was aired. Hundreds of millions took to social media in China to dissect the series, most angered by the luxuries the officials had enjoyed. One user complained that the men didn't seem to be remorseful and had, on the contrary, "lived a wonderful life" and were "unable to hide their pride." Some feared the display of excessive wealth was more likely to be appealing.

Agencies

**National Innovation Foundation - India**

Autonomous Body of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India

Grambharti, Annapur, Mahudi Road Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382650

Tel: 02784 261134/ 35/ 36/ 37/ 38 ; Web: www.nif.org.in

**Advt. No. 01/2022**

National Innovation Foundation - India (NIF) invites applications from highly motivated and eligible professionals for engagement as Project Associate I and II in the area of Agriculture/LifeScience/ Engineering for the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh region.

The engagement is purely on temporary and contractual basis. The detailed advertisement is available at <http://www.nif.org.in/join> us. The last date for receipt of applications: 31 January 2022.

davp/36118/12/0003/2122 S/DDirector

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Ishfaq Ahmad Chara S/o Kaliya Chara R/o Shergund Tehsil Shangus got Married Rashida Akhter D/o Bashir Ahmad Chara R/o Sonach Brah Tehsil Shangus District Anantnag on 28-10-2021. Now I have applied for issuance of Marriage Certificate. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tehsil Office Shangus within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

rna

**Public Notice**

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

NAME: Gousia Hassan  
S/o: Ghulam Hassan Bhat  
R/o: Marhama Sangam  
Bijbehara Anantnag

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL**

NIT NO 274 OF RNB/KHANABAL/2021-22 /E-TENDERING/19683-93 DATED 15/01/2022

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in RS)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Position of AA	Class of Contractor
1	Re construction of shopline at Sikh Mohalla Ward No 08 MC Mattan	43.73	1100	87460	250 Days	FC Grants	Accorded vide Order No. MC/M/ Works/12 of 2021, Dated:06.09.2021	AAY & BEE Class Only
2	Beautification of Padshahibagh Bridge by way of installation of PVC flowers, baskets and painting MC Bijbehara	3.80	200	7800	10 Days	Devolution Grants	Accorded vide Order No. MC/Bij/ Works/ 07 of 2022, Dated:07.01.2022	DEE Class Only
3	Beautification of Zirpora Bridge by way of installation of PVC flowers, baskets and painting MC Bijbehara	2.78	200	5560	10 Days	Devolution Grants	Accorded vide Order No. MC/Bij/ Works/ 07 of 2022, Dated:07.01.2022	DEE Class Only
4	Construction of Lane from Main Road upto H/O Mohd Hussain Shah ward no 02 Ganipora at MC Mattan	2.50	200	5000	10 Days	IDMT	Accorded vide Order No. MC/M/03 of 2021, Dated:27.04.2021	DEE Class Only
5	Construction of Lane and drain from H/o Late Mohd Ramzan Sheikh to H/O Bashir Ahmad lone at Ganipora ward No 01A at MC Mattan	2.48	200	4960	10 Days	IDMT	Accorded vide Order No. MC/M/03 of 2021, Dated:27.04.2021	DEE Class Only
6	Construction of R Wall at Pranbawan Masjid Sharief Ward no 09 at MC Mattan	2.00	200	4000	10 Days	IDMT	Accorded vide Order No. MC/M/03 of 2021, Dated:27.04.2021	DEE Class Only
7	Construction of Lane and drain from H/o M Rajab Bhat to H/O Gh Hassan Bhat ward No 3 Lonepora at MC Mattan	1.91	200	3820	10 Days	IDMT	Accorded vide Order No. MC/M/03 of 2021, Dated:27.04.2021	DEE Class Only

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-01-2022
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 17-01-2022 (09:00AM) To 24-01-2022 (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 17-01-2022 (09:00AM) To 24-01-2022 (04:30PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 24-01-2022 (04:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	25-01-2022 (10:30AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal

**2.** Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt( Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender Inviting Authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (Tender receiving Authority).

**3.** All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form and Earnest Money Deposit as per the Circular of Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir Vide No. CE/RRK/HD/32857-92 Dated: 01.01.2022. (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

**4.** The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender receiving authority) within 03 days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.

**5.** The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape CDR/FDR of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.

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

**7.** The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Er Qazi Javed Amin)  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Khanabal

DIPK-16823/21

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost my driving license bearing DL No: Jk0320180006027. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Roouf Ahmad Mir S/O Abdull Rahman Mir** ma

**R/O Tangimullah Chittergull Shangus Police Station Uttersao Dist Anantnag**

**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: Gousia Hassan  
D/O: Ghulam Hassan Bhat rna\_r  
R/O: Marhama Sangam Bijbehara Anantnag

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost the RC of my Scooty Bearing Regd No:- Jk03K-7554. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG. Within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name :- Arif Hassan Mir  
S/o:- Gh Hassan Mir rna  
R/O:- Shamsipora Anantnag

**از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کلترہ**

درخواست منجانب بشیر احمد شاہ ولد حبیب الہ شاہ ساکنہ کلوتھل تحصیل کریری برادرسول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ بکن پیران طاہر بشیر شاہ و تعیم احمد شاہ تحت سی ار 144,294,375 آ

**اشہار برادرا گاہی ہر خاص و عام**

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا تریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ کلوتھل میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ کمپنی کی سالانہ آمدنی 144000 ہے کمپنی بڈیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

1. بشیر احمد شاہ سربرہ	52	زمینداری	12000 آمدنی
2. سلیمہ بیگم زوجہ	50	گھریلو کام	
3. نعیم احمد شاہ پسر	22	زیر تعلیم	
4. رفعت بشیر دختر	20	زیر تعلیم	
5. طاہر بشیر شاہ پسر	18	زیر تعلیم	

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمپنی میں تلاء یا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ یہ عداد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار **fko r**

**از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کلترہ**

درخواست منجانب غلام محمد صوفی ولد عبدغنی صوفی ساکنہ شیچورہ تحصیل کریری برادرسول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ بکن پسر بشیر احمد صوفی

**اشہار برادرا گاہی ہر خاص و عام**

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا تریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ شیچورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ کمپنی کی سالانہ آمدنی 556296 ہے کمپنی بڈیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

1. غلام محمد صوفی سربرہ	55	زمینداری	47358 آمدنی
2. جانت بیگم زوجہ	54	گھریلو کام	
3. حفیظ بانو دختر	36	گھریلو کام	
4. شامیہ بانو دختر	34	گھریلو کام	
5. محمد اشرف پسر	28	ملازم	
6. رفیقہ بانو دختر	26	زیر تعلیم	
7. بشیر احمد پسر	22	زیر تعلیم	
8. راجہ جان دختر	18	زیر تعلیم	

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمپنی میں تلاء یا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ یہ عداد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار **fko r**

**Public Notice**

I want the change the name on electricity Bill bearing No: 15850, Consumer ID No: 0203040001999 from Mohd Ameen Andrabi S/o Noor-u-din Andrabi R/o Mir Mohalla Pandan Nowhatta TO Naseer Ahamd Gandoo S/o Gh Ahmad Gandoo R/O Mir Mohalla Nowhatta Srinagar. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

abko

**The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education**

**BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM**

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

Name : Neelofar Majeed  
D/O Abdul Majeed Dar  
R/O Russu Budgam

**Details of Marks Certificate lost**  
Secondary School Examination (class 10th )  
Roll No 282529 Session /Year Annual 2010

Higher Secondary School Examination (class 12th )  
Roll No 204598 Session /Year Annual 2012

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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary  
bmg Sub Office Magam

**CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES**

**YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE**

*Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.*

Contact:- 0194-3550112  
G-mail- yardimiciuniqu92@gmail.com  
I.G: yardimci\_multi\_venture  
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**ELECTRONICS**

**IOX MOBILE STORE**

*All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories*

Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar  
Contact:- 7889657769

**TECH WORLD**

*All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.*

Sannat Nagar Srinagar  
Contact:- 9149965005/ 9682370979





## KU Asks Covid Infected Employees To Work From Home

Observer News Service

**S**rinagar: After a surge in Covid-19 cases, Kashmir University has asked its 'infected' employees to work from home but be accessible through cell phones and e-mails.

Sources said that over 50 teaching, non-teaching and Research Scholars have been tested positive for Covid-19 from last 4 days.

Joint Registrar Kashmir University today issued an order stating that in view of the recent surge in the Covid-19 positive cases in the University, it is notified for the information of all concerned that all such employees who have either tested positive for Covid-19 or are symptomatic that they shall work from home and shall remain accessible through mobile phones, emails, etc.

"The respective Controlling Officers/ Unit Heads shall accordingly take a call on in-person attendance of staff in their respective administrative units as per the feasibility and requirement.

## LC&MA conducts demolition drive at Saida Kadal

Observer News Service

**S**RINAGAR: The Enforcement Wing of Lakes Conservation & Management Authority today carried out a demolition drive in the areas of Ranger-stop Saida Kadal Ashai-bagh, Habak & Lashkari Mohalla Northern foreshore road.

During the demolition drive, 07 illegal constructions/ encroachments/ earth filling were demolished, including one single storey structure, one 2nd storey over shops, two encroachments by way of fruit vendor on footpath and barbed wire, one wooden shed and a polythene covered wooden khokha were removed.

However, during the demolition at Ashai-bagh, Saida Kadal there was great resentment by the locals of the area followed by stone pelting which resulted in the injuries of two officials of the Enforcement Wing of this Authority. But despite stiff resistance the demolition of illegal construction was done successfully.

Also CCTV Cameras have been installed and barricades have been erected in order to curb the transportation of illegal building material.

Meanwhile, all the public residing within the LDA jurisdiction and in lake are hereby once again directed not to go for any sort of illegal constructions/ encroachments, as the Enforcement wing will continue with demolition of illegal constructions/ removal of encroachments.

# Admin Retrieves 350 Kanals Of Govt Land In City Outskirts

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:-** The District Administration Srinagar on Tuesday launched a massive anti-encroachment operation at Chhaterhama area in Tehsil North of Srinagar District to retrieve the State/Kahcharie land illegally occupied by the Land grabbers.

The anti-encroachment operation was supervised by the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz who remained present on the spot in order

to retrieve the huge chunk of 353 kanals of land under survey number 1096 encroached by the land mafia.

**Anti-encroachment drives will continue in all the parts of the district to retrieve entire State and Kahcharai lands encroached by the land grabbers**

During demolition drive today large portion of the grabbed land under the survey was retrieved by the team of senior Revenue and Police Officers and shall continue over next few days to retrieve entire

353 kanals of the identified encroached land.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commis-

sioner said anti-encroachment drives will continue in all the parts of the district to retrieve entire State and Kahcharai lands encroached by the land grabbers. He said involvement in land encroachment will

be dealt with sternly as per the law. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Revenue Officers to initiate the demarcation process of the retrieved land and install signages(boards) immediately to inform all that the land is government property. He said any encroachment on Government land in the district will be viewed strictly and stern action as warranted under law shall be taken against the violators

## JKSSB Exam Scheduled To Be Held On Jan 22, Rescheduled

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board on Tuesday rescheduled Computer Based Written Test (CBT) examination for various UT, Divisional and District Cadre posts to be held at 18 venues across Jammu and Kashmir in view of weekend curfew.

According to an order, CBT examination which were scheduled to be held on January 22, will now be held on January 24 in view of weekend lockdown in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has scheduled Computer Based Written Test (CBT) Examination for the posts of Junior Assistant, Cadrex Clerk, Cashier, Jr. Assistant /Computer-cum-Jr. Assistant /Clerk/Store Attendant and Welfare Orga-

nizer, UT Cadre, Divisional Cadres and various Districts from 20th to 22nd January, 2022 at 18 venues in Jammu as well as Kashmir Division," reads the order.

It reads that due to surge in COVID-19 cases across Jammu & Kashmir and rapidly changing circumstances/health considerations, the government has imposed complete restrictions on non-essential movement for COVID containment during weekends across all districts in the UT.

"Now, therefore, in view of the above, CBT Examination for the posts of Junior Assistant, Cadrex Clerk, Cashier, Jr. Assistant /Computer-cum-Jr. Assistant /Clerk/Store Attendant and Welfare Organizer, scheduled to be held on 22.01.2022 (Saturday), is hereby rescheduled and shall now be held on 24.01.2022 (Monday)," it reads.

## CPI(M) condemns closure of Kashmir Press Club

Observer News Service

**S**rinagar: While expressing resentment over the closure of Kashmir Press Club by the administration, CPI(M) Secretary Ghulam Nabi Malik has said that closing the club is an assault on the rights of the people.

This act is just a part of a policy which started with putting the registration of the club in abeyance. The administration has finally closed the club.

The closure of the Kashmir Press Club is part of the continuous process to throttle press freedom and democracy in Kashmir. The press/media in Jammu and Kashmir is already working under immense stress and strain.

He demanded immediate restoration of the status quo of the club impeding re-registration, providing atmosphere, where KPC can conduct free and fair elections.(CNS)

## SKIMS Scientist Bags Inaugural Best Paper Award For Influenza Vaccine Efficacy Research

Observer News Service

**Srinagar 18 Jan:** Hyder Mir, Scientist 'C' at the Sheri Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura has bagged the inaugural MENA-ISN Research Award for his research paper on influenza vaccine efficacy.

As per a SKIMS Soura spokesperson, Mir bagged the best research paper award for his paper titled 'Poor Vaccine Effectiveness against Influen-

za B-Related Severe Acute Respiratory Infection in a Temperate North Indian State (2019-2020): A Call for further Data for Possible Vaccines with Closer Match'. He worked on the project titled 'Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network', the spokesperson added.

Mir will present his work at MENA-ISN Influenza Day 2022 on October 7th- 8th 2022 in Istanbul, Turkey and will receive a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh.

He is the first international scientist to receive this award.

The work was conducted in Influenza Lab, SKIMS under the supervision of Director SKIMS, Dr Parvaiz A Koul and funded by GIHSN, Spain.

Director SKIMS congratulated Mir and said, "such acknowledgement at international level is a shot in the arm for researchers at SKIMS".

"Research is going to the top priority in SKIMS," Dr Koul said

## Fire Affected Families From Abikarpura Protest

Demand permission for renovation of their houses

Agencies

**Srinagar:** The fire victims from Abikarpura Nehru Park in Srinagar Tuesday held a protest, demanding authorities to allow them to renovate their houses gutted in a fire blaze in December last year.

According to the news agency, the family from Abikarpura Srinagar whose houses were gutted in blaze appealed to the administration and LCMA to allow them to renovate their damaged houses

so that they could heave a sigh of relief.

According to the family, they have been moving from pillar to post to get permission for renovation of their houses since last month, but unfortunately they are not getting any positive response from departments including LCMA.

They appealed Lieutenant Governor led administration and the concerned authorities to intervene and help in renovation of their damaged home at earliest—(KNO)

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER/ NODAL OFFICE (GRIEVANCE) SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

SMC/TO/NOG/2322-29  
Dated: 15/01/2022.

Subject: Cancellation of e-NIT No. 02 of 2021-22 dated: 09/09/2021 for third party insurance/ Renewal of the insurance policies of the corporation vehicles for the year of 2021-2022.

As approved by the competent authority of SMC the tender invited vide e-NIT No. 02 of 2021-22 dated: 09/09/2021 for third party insurance / Renewal of the insurance policies of the corporation vehicles for the year of 2021-2020 is hereby cancelled due to poor response of submitting documents and as per the codal formalities same shall be floated through fresh tenders.

Sd/-  
Transport Office,  
Nodal Officer (Grievance),  
Srinagar Municipal Corporation  
DIPK-NB-6630/21

### Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir

Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar – 190 025

Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT NO. (48) Of 2021

Dated: 13.01.2022

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST (K), e-tenders (in single-cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Electric contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-12-2022 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S.No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	Providing, fixing and installation of Internal/ external electrification work to Students Facility Centre for Faculty of Fisheries at Rangil SKUAST-K	18.65	A class	1000/-	Along with civil work
2.	Electric renovation of Office of Librarian, Office rooms and repair of Servo Voltage Stabilizer at Main Campus Shalimar SKUAST–Kashmir	01.58	A class	500/-	10 days

- a) Position of AAA: Accorded  
b) Position of T.S : Sanctioned  
c) Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per following schedule:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	13.01.2022
2.	Date of start of downloading	13.01.2022
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start Date	13.01.2022
5.	Bid submission end date	27.01.2022
6.	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid (online)	28.01.2022
7.	Date & Time of opening of Financial bid (online)	31.01.2022

Further information can be had from the Office of the undersigned

No. Au/Estates/E-NIT(48)/571  
Dated: 17.01.2022

Sd/-  
Estates Officer/Chief Engineer

DIPK-NB-6625/21

#### 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

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



#### RAILWAYS

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



#### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
15 Jumada al-Sani  
1443

#### PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 08
ZUHR	12:38
ASR	4:09
Magrib	5:52
ISHA	7:16

## This Day In History

- 379 - Theodosius installed as co-emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire
- 1419 - French city of Rouen surrenders to Henry V in Hundred Years War
- 1493 - France cedes Roussillon & Cerdagne to Spain by treaty of Barcelona
- 1511 - Italian city Mirandola surrenders to the French
- 1795 - Democratic revolution in Amsterdam ends oligarchy
- 1806 - United Kingdom re-occupies the Cape of Good Hope following victory in the Battle of Blaauwberg over French vassal, the Batavian Republic. Establishes British rule in South Africa.
- 1808 Louis Napoleon signs 1st Dutch aviation law
- 1812 - Peninsular War: After a ten day siege, Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, orders British soldiers of the Light and third divisions to storm Ciudad Rodrigo
- 1883 - The first electric lighting system employing overhead wires, built by Thomas Edison, begins service at Roselle, New Jersey.
- 1885 - Battle of Abu Klea, Sudan, between the British Desert Column and Mahdist forces: 76 British and 1,100 Mahdists killed
- 1899 - Anglo-Egyptian Sudan forms
- 1903 - 1st regular transatlantic radio broadcast between US & England
- 1922 - Geological survey says US oil supply would be depleted in 20 years
- 1927 - British government decides to send troops to China
- 1938 - General Motors begins mass production of diesel engines
- 1941 - British offensive in Eritrea
- 1941 - British troops occupies Kassalaf, Sudan
- 1942 - Japanese forces invade Burma
- 1943 - 1st Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins
- 1957 - USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test
- 1960 - Eisenhower & Premier Kishi sign US-Japanese Security pact
- 1966 - Indira Gandhi elected India's 4th Prime Minister.
- 1977 - World's largest crowd gathering - the Hindu Kumbh Mela in India attracts a then record 15 million people.
- 1981 US & Iran sign agreement to release 52 American hostages.
- 1993 - Israel recognizes PLO as no longer criminal.
- 1997 Michelle McGann wins LPGA Healthsouth Inaugural
- Event of interestEvent of interest
- 1997 - Yasser Arafat returns to Hebron after more than 30 years and joins celebrations over the handover of the last Israeli-controlled West Bank city.
- 2006 - The New Horizons probe is launched by NASA on the first mission to Pluto.
- 2013 - Calcium deposits are discovered on Mars by NASA's Curiosity Rover.
- 2013 - Lance Armstrong admits to doping in all seven of his Tour de France victories.
- 2016 - China's economic growth revealed as lowest for 25 years - 6.9% in 2015.

## From KO Archives

## Police detect 150 fake finance companies in JK

Rajinder Singh

**J**ammu: The crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir police has detected 150 finance companies operating in the state allegedly without any registration from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These have defrauded gullible depositors to the tune of Rs 80 crore. Cases have been registered against 40 such allegedly fake companies, mostly in Jammu involving over 200 accused.

Disclosing this to Kashmir Observer, the inspector general of police, crime and railways, Masood Chaudhary, said over 99 per cent of the companies were fake and had defrauded people mostly from rural areas in the name of higher interest on their deposits. Most of these operators are believed to have gone abroad along with their families while some of them have declared themselves bankrupt and closed down their companies.

Chaudhary said the cases were registered on receipt of complaints from the affected people. A special team of senior police officials, headed by the deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, crime and railways, Prem Kumar, has been constituted to investigate the cases. He said some of the accused have been apprehended while some more were likely to be arrested shortly.

In the absence of more stringent laws, Chaudhary said, police were finding it difficult to intervene in the matter. It can take action only after a formal complaint is received. Some of the accused had defrauded the depositors to the tune of Rs 10 crore to Rs 15 crore. He said some special teams had been rushed to places like Mumbai and other major cities across the country to apprehend the culprits.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 19 January, 2001)



## Go For Test For TB, Other Conditions If Cough Persists For More Than 2-3 Weeks: Revised Clinical Guidance For Covid Patients



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Health Ministry has advised Covid patients to go for tests for tuberculosis and other conditions if cough persists for more than 2-3 weeks.

The revised 'Clinical Guidance for Management of Adult Covid-19 Patients' issued by AIIMS, ICMR-Covid-19 National Task Force and Joint Monitoring Group (DGHS) under the health ministry on Monday underlined there is no evidence of injectable steroids benefitting Covid patients not requiring oxygen supplementation or in continuation after discharge.

Anti-inflammatory or immunomodulatory therapy, such as steroids, can have the risk of secondary infection like invasive mucormycosis, when used too early, at higher dose or for longer than required, they highlighted.

If cough persists for more than two-three weeks, one should opt for investigation for tuberculosis and other conditions, the revised guidelines stated.

The revised guidelines continue to recommend emergency use authorisation (EUA) or off-label use of remdesivir in patients with "moderate to severe" disease and those with no renal or hepatic dysfunction within 10 days of the onset of any symptom.

It warned against use of the drug for patients who are not on oxygen support or in home settings.

According to the guidelines, EUA or off-label use of the tocilizumab drug may be considered for use in the presence of severe disease, preferably within 24 to 48 hours of onset of severe disease or intensive care unit (ICU) admission.

Tocilizumab may be considered for patients with significantly raised inflammatory markers, and not improving despite use of steroids with there being no active bacterial, fungal or tubercular infection, they stated.

Coronavirus patients have been classified into those affected by mild, moderate and severe disease, the guidelines stated.

Injection methylprednisolone 0.5 to one mg/kg in two divided doses, or an equivalent dose of dexamethasone, can be given usually for 5-10 days in moderate cases, the guidelines stated. The same drug in two divided doses of one to two mg/kg can be given for same duration in severe cases.

"Inhalational budesonide (given via metered dose inhaler/dry powder inhaler) at a dose of 800 mcg BD for five days can be given in mild cases if symptoms (fever and/or cough) are persistent beyond five days of disease onset," it was stated in the guidelines.

## India Should Use Risk-Based Approach, Not Blanket Bans: WHO On Covid



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**KOLKATA:** Blanket approaches such as complete restriction on the movement of people and travel bans can be counterproductive in containing Covid in a country like India, says WHO's India representative Roderico H Ofri while advocating target, risk-based strategies to counter the pandemic.

Stressing on the need to protect both lives and livelihoods, he said public health action in India and across the world must be continually guided by evidence from four key questions -- how transmissible is the variant, severity of the disease it causes, how well vaccines and prior SARS-CoV-2 infection protect and how common people perceive risk and follow control measures.

"WHO does not recommend a blanket travel ban, nor complete restriction of people's movement. In many ways, such blanket approaches can be counterproductive. India with its diversity in population distribution and geographic spread, the risk-based approach remains the wiser public health practice to counter a pandemic," Ofri told news agency PTI in an email interview.

Depending on the epidemiological situation, available public health capacities and social and economic context, governments should tailor their measures to prevent and control the transmission, the Delhi-based official said as an Omicron driven surge pushed India's Covid tally to 3,76,18,271 (37.6 million/3.76 crore) on Tuesday.

"WHO advises governments to adopt nuanced, targeted and risk-based approaches which involve layered control measures, reducing the risks associated with travel and transmission," Ofri said.

If all the dos and don'ts are followed, there is no need for lockdowns.

"In the current scenario, existing tools and solutions continue to be effective -- expanding vaccination coverage, using masks, maintaining hand hygiene, physical distancing, ventilation of indoor spaces and crowd avoidance help in cutting the chain of transmission. If these are followed, there will be no need for lockdowns," Ofri maintained.



The letter was signed by many CEOs, including shipping giants FedEx and UPS. (File)

## US Airlines Warn Of "Catastrophic Disruption" If 5G Service Deployed Near Airports

Agence France-Presse

**WASHINGTON:** The chief executives of America's largest airlines warned of a "catastrophic disruption" to travel and shipping operations if telecommunication firms roll out their 5G technology as planned Wednesday without limiting the technology near US airports.

Verizon and AT&T have already twice delayed the launch of their new C-Band 5G service, due to warnings from airlines and aircraft manufacturers concerned that the new system might interfere with the devices planes use to measure altitude.

"We are writing with urgency to request that 5G be implemented everywhere in the country except within the approximate two miles of airport runways as defined by the FAA on January 19, 2022," the CEOs said in a Monday letter obtained by AFP.

The executives, writing to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and other US government officials, highlighted the risk of "economic calamity" should Verizon and AT&T proceed with deploying the new technology before the necessary upgrades and changes have been made to aviation equipment.

"To be blunt, the nation's commerce will grind to a halt," they said. The Federal Aviation Administration said Sunday it had approved some transponders to

**THE FAA CONTINUES** to work with the aviation industry and wireless companies to try to limit 5G-related flight delays and cancellations."

can, United, Delta and Southwest, as well as the leaders of shipping giants FedEx and UPS.

"Immediate intervention is needed to avoid significant operational disruption to air passengers, shippers, supply chain and delivery of needed medical supplies," they wrote.

"In addition to the chaos caused domestically," the letter continues, the lack of certified planes "could potentially strand tens of thousands of Americans overseas."

The FAA released a brief statement Monday apparently seeking to allay concerns about the 5G rollout's impact on aviation, but it stopped short of declaring any concrete next steps in the process.

"With safety as its core mission, the FAA will continue to ensure that the traveling public is safe as wireless companies deploy 5G," the agency said.

"The FAA continues to work with the aviation industry and wireless companies to try to limit 5G-related flight delays and cancellations."

Verizon and AT&T won contracts worth tens of billions of dollars last February to operate 5G in the 3.7-3.98 GHz frequency bands, and the rollout of the service was due to begin on December 5.

Unless the major telecommunications companies are blocked by federal regulators or reach an agreement with the airlines, they are now scheduled to turn on their 5G service nationwide on January 19.

## Saudi-Led Coalition Launches Deadly Air Raids In Yemen's Sanaa

Agencies

**T**he Saudi-led coalition has carried out air raids in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, killing more than 12 people, according to residents, a day after the Houthi rebel group launched a deadly attack in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Saudi Arabia and the UAE intervened in Yemen's war in 2015 to restore the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who fled after Houthi rebels took over the capital and parts of northern Yemen in late 2014.

The UAE largely scaled down its military presence in the country in 2019 but continues to hold sway through the Yemeni forces it arms and trains.

Early on Tuesday, the coalition said it had begun air raids against strongholds and camps in Sanaa belonging



to the Iran-aligned Houthi group, according to Saudi state media.

The attack that killed about 14 people, according to initial estimates, hit the home of a former military official, Reuters reported. It killed him, his wife, his 25-year-old son, other family members and some unidentified people, a medical source and residents told Reuters.

"Right to respond" But the Houthi group, which claimed Monday's attack, said about 20 people were killed. Coalition attacks around the city had killed a total of about 20 people, the Houthi's deputy foreign minister said on Twitter.

Houthi-run Al Masirah TV said attacks had damaged homes, killed at least a dozen people, and injured about a dozen more.

The UAE said it reserved the right to respond to "terrorist attacks and criminal escalation".

Two Indians and a Pakistani working for UAE oil giant ADNOC died in the Houthi attack that ignited fire near Abu Dhabi's airport.

## China Disinfects Mails, Packages From Abroad Over Omicron Threat



Agence France-Presse

**BEIJING:** China's postal service has ordered workers to disinfect international deliveries and urged the public to reduce orders from overseas after authorities claimed mail could be the source of recent coronavirus outbreaks.

China, where the virus first emerged in late 2019, has stuck to a strict policy of targeting zero Covid cases even as the rest of the world has reopened.

But the country is now battling multiple small outbreaks, including one in Beijing as the capital prepares to host the Winter Olympics.

In recent days, Chinese officials have suggested that some people could have been infected by packages from abroad, including a woman in Beijing whom authorities said had no contact with other infected people but tested positive for a variant similar to those found in North America.

China Post on Monday published a statement ordering workers to disinfect the outer packaging of all international mail "as soon as possible" and requiring employees handling foreign letters and packages to receive booster vaccine shots.

The postal service also asked the public to reduce purchases and deliveries from "countries and regions

with a high overseas epidemic risk" and said domestic mail should be handled in different areas to prevent cross-contamination.

The coronavirus is spread through small liquid particles exhaled by infected people.

Both the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control have said the risk of being infected from contaminated surfaces -- known as fomite transmission -- is low and becomes less likely as time passes.

The CDC has said there is a 99 percent reduction in virus traces left on most surfaces within three days.

But China is not willing to take any risks, even more so ahead of next month's Winter Olympics.

The country uses strict local lockdowns, mass testing and people tracing health apps to stamp out infections as soon as cases are detected.

Millions have been confined to their homes in multiple cities in recent weeks after cases of both the Delta and Omicron coronavirus variants flared.

Recent infections have been detected in areas that receive a high volume of international goods, including in the eastern port city of Tianjin and the southern manufacturing region of Guangdong.

China reported 127 new locally transmitted Covid cases on Tuesday.

## R-Day Tableau Row Intensifies: Now Tamil Nadu CM Writes To PM Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The controversy over the rejection of the Republic Day parade tableaux of some states intensified on Monday with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin joining his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee in seeking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's immediate intervention.

While some leaders from the non-BJP ruled states including Kerala alleged that it was an "insult" by the Centre, sources in the Union government rejected the charge and decried the "wrong precedent" by chief ministers to portray the outcome of an objective process carried by an expert committee as a "flashpoint" between the Centre and the states.

Stressing that the shortlist was not prepared by the Centre, they said the proposals of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal were rejected by the subject expert committee after due process and deliberations.

A total of 56 proposals had come from states and central ministries. Out of these, 21 were shortlisted and a similar process of selection is adopted every year, the sources said and added that tableaux from these states have been approved multiple times in the past under the Modi government.

In a letter to the prime minister, Stalin said that excluding the Tamil Nadu tableau would deeply hurt the sentiments and patriotic feelings of the people of the state.

Terming it as a "matter of grave concern to Tamil Nadu and its people," he sought the prime minister's "urgent intervention to arrange to include the tableau of Tamil Nadu" that will showcase the freedom fighters of the state in the Republic Day parade 2022 in New Delhi.



This came a day after Banerjee shot off a letter to Modi expressing shock over the exclusion of West Bengal's tableau, which focussed on Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary year, and said such a move would cause "pain" to the people of her state.

Banerjee said that exclusion of the tableau, which also featured other icons like Rabindranath Tagore, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo, "amounts to belittling and undermining the freedom fighters".

Her Trinamool Congress party accused the BJP-led central government of "repeatedly" and "systematically" insulting "our history, culture and pride".

### SHORT TAKES

#### MP Mantri Calls PM Modi Baghwan Ram Of Today



**BHOPAL:** Madhya Pradesh Agriculture Minister and BJP leader Kamal Patel termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi an "incarnation of God", saying he was born to end the atmosphere of despair, like Lord Ram and Lord Krishna, created due to the rise in "atrocities" committed by Congress, corruption, and the destruction of the country's culture.

Speaking to reporters in Harda on Monday, Mr Patel said that the tasks accomplished by PM Modi like leading India on the path of becoming "Vishwa Guru", ridding the country of corruption, and ensuring the public welfare wouldn't have been accomplished by an ordinary person.

"Whenever any crisis descended upon India and tyranny increased, then it is said in our religion and culture that God takes avatar in a human form," Mr Patel said. He said Lord Ram had taken avatar in a human form and established 'Ramrajya' by killing demon Ravan and defeating other evil powers, and protecting the people. When Kansa's atrocities increased, Lord Krishna took birth and ended his cruelties thus giving relief to the common people, the minister said. "Similarly, when atrocities of Congress increased...corruption, casteism rose, the culture of the country was destroyed and an atmosphere of despair was prevailing all around, then Narendra Modi was born to end it," Mr Patel said.

#### Bihar Doctor Took 5 Covid Vaccines, Show Records



**PATNA:** The Bihar government has ordered an investigation after records showed that a Patna-based civil surgeon was administered five shots of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The civil surgeon, Dr Vibha Kumari Singh, however, said she had taken the jab thrice as per rules. Dr Singh also claimed that someone else managed to get vaccine shots using her PAN card details, and called for a probe. According to the CoWIN portal, she received the first dose on January 28, 2021 and was fully vaccinated by March last year. Government records showed Dr Singh was also jabbed on February 6, 2021 using her PAN card information, and for the fourth time on June 17 that year. She then took a precautionary dose on January 13, 2022. Patna District Magistrate Chandrashekhar Singh on Monday said the administration has started an investigation. "Strict action will be taken against those found guilty," he said. Earlier this month, an 84-year-old man in the north Bihar district of Madhepura caused a flutter with the claim that he has taken a dozen shots of the coronavirus vaccine. "I have used my Aadhaar card and my voter ID card on different occasions to get myself registered... Every single dose has helped relieve my chronic back pain. I have never caught a cold since I took the first shot 11 months ago," the octogenarian Brahmadeo Mandal had said.

#### Porn Case Accused Actor Gets Protection



**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court Tuesday granted protection from arrest to actor Poonam Pandey in porn films racket case.

A bench of Justices Vineet Saran and B V Nagarathna issued notice to the Maharashtra government on an appeal filed by Ms Pandey against a Bombay High Court order rejecting her anticipatory bail. "Issue notice... In the meanwhile, no coercive action shall be taken against the petitioner," the bench said.

Ms Pandey has been arrayed as an accused in the FIR along with actor Sherlyn Chopra. The high court had rejected her anticipatory bail application on November 25, 2021. In December, the Supreme Court had granted protection from arrest to Raj Kundra in connection with an FIR registered against him for allegedly distributing pornographic videos. Mr Kundra had been booked under certain Sections of the Indian Penal Code, Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act and Information Technology Act, for allegedly distributing/transmitting sexually explicit videos. Fearing arrest, Mr Kundra first sought anticipatory bail from the sessions court, but it was refused, He then moved the high court, claiming that he had been framed.



## Mehbooba Says No Place For 'Deserters' In PDP

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said she is not taking back those leaders who have deserted the party even though many of them are willing to return.

Dozens of senior PDP leaders including former ministers and legislators left the party after the BJP withdrew its support to the Mehbooba-led coalition government in July 2018 and most of them joined the Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari or the Peoples Conference led by Sajjad Lone.

"I have made it a principle that those who have left us will not be taken back. Many of the leaders who deserted the party are eager to return but I am not going to take them back," Mehbooba said addressing a function at party headquarters here.

The function was organised by the PDP to welcome dozens of new entrants including supporters of Bushan Lal Dogra, a former minister who rejoined the PDP last month.

"Dogra is like my younger brother and is a thorough gentleman whom I respect the most. His case of rejoining the party is exceptional," Mehbooba said, expressing hope that he along with other workers would work tirelessly for strengthening the party at the grass-roots level.

Launching a scathing attack on the BJP-led central government, she alleged that the ruling party is using Jammu and Kashmir as a laboratory for experimenting and has destroyed the erstwhile state.

"My request to the people is to



stand up to save Jammu and Kashmir. If you are able to save J&K, you will save the country. They started destruction of the country from J&K," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

Referring to the government's plan to facilitate large scale investment in Jammu and Kashmir, she said "outside investors bring their own labour force along with them while they have their contribution in the apartments planned to be build by the big real estate investors."

She accused the BJP of launching an eviction drive to retrieve land from the hapless poor people, irrespective of their religion, creed or caste.

"Under BJP rule, the rich are becoming richer while as the number of poor had doubled with youth becoming jobless and inflation touching the sky," she said.

Praising her party workers, Mehbooba said it is heartening to see the dream of party founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed becoming a reality with each passing day.

"I am seeing concern for people of Kashmir growing in Jammu. Mufti wanted to see the two regions stand together and understand each other's pain. This is happening today," she said.

## SKIMS Scientist Bags Award For Research Paper On Influenza Vaccine Efficacy

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Hyder Mir, Scientist 'C' while working with Research Project "Global Influenza Hospital Surveillance Network" at SKIMS bagged the 2021 first MENA-ISON Research Award for his paper entitled "Poor Vaccine Effectiveness against Influenza B-Related Severe Acute Respiratory Infection in a Temperate North Indian State (2019-2020): A Call for further Data for Possible Vaccines with Closer Match".

Hyder Mir will present his work at MENA-ISON Influenza Day

2022 on October 7th- 8th 2022 in ISTANBUL, TURKEY and will receive a cash prize of 2.5 lacs. He is the first international Scientist to receive this award, a SKIMS spokesperson said Tuesday.

The work was conducted in Influenza Lab, SKIMS under the supervision of Dr. Parvaiz A. Koul and funded by GIHSN, Spain.

Director SKIMS congratulated Mr. Hyder and said such acknowledgement at International level are a shot in the arm for researchers at SKIMS.

"Research is going to the top priority in SKIMS," he said.

## Man Arrested For Kidnapping, Raping Teen In Reasi

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A man was arrested for allegedly kidnapping and raping a girl from Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, the police said today.

While the 14-year-old girl was rescued from the house of her kidnapper in Poonch district, the accused was arrested from a locality in Jammu within three weeks of the incident, a police spokesperson said.

He said the father of the girl had filed a complaint at the Reasi Police Station on December 28 last year stating that his daughter went outside to buy milk from a shop but did not return, suspecting that she might have been kidnapped.

A case was registered and investigation started which revealed that the minor was kidnapped by Shakeel alias Sonu, a resident of Poonch, the spokesperson said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Shalinder Singh constituted a special team headed by a sub inspector to rescue the girl, the official added.

With the help of Poonch Police,

the team raided several places and rescued the girl from the house of Shakeel who, however, managed to escape, he said.

He said the medical examination of the victim was conducted by a board of doctors and the statement of the minor recorded before the Judicial Magistrate.

"On the basis of statement of the victim, offences under section 376 of the IPC (rape) and section 4 of the Protection of the Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act were established and added in the instant case," the spokesperson said.

He said the girl was reunited with her family after completion of legal procedures.

The police team finally arrested the accused from Belicharana area of Jammu district, the spokesperson said, adding Shakeel is already married to a woman of Pouni (Reasi) and had left her sometime back.

"Police are being regularly briefed to remain sensitive towards crime against women especially minors," the Senior Superintendent of Police said.

## 6 Booked Under PSA, NDPS Act In Bandipora: Police

Observer Monitoring Desk

**BANDIPORA:** In order to keep the "anti-social elements" away from peaceful society, Bandipora police booked six persons under various preventive laws.

The police said in a statement that while four persons whose activities were prejudicial in maintenance of peace and order in the area, were booked under provisions of Public Safety Act (PSA) and two persons were booked under provisions of Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act as they where

actively involved in this illicit trade and responsible for this menace.

"The said persons were booked after obtaining orders from appropriate designated authority," the police said.

Police said these persons were instrumental in disrupting public order, besides some were involved in drug trafficking and were supplying drugs to youth in district Bandipora.

"Many cases were already registered against these persons in different police stations and were repeat offenders," the police said.

### CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

## Div Com Kashmir Takes Stock Of Situation

Directs CMOs To Monitor Referral Cases To Tertiary Care Hospitals

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As Coronavirus cases continue to show an alarming spike, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday directed deputing laboratory technician assistants of microbiology department from different colleges of Kashmir division for further strengthening lab services at the tertiary care hospitals.

These directions were issued by the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir; Pandurang K. Pole on Tuesday while chailing a meeting to take review of the situation arising of 3rd wave of Covid-19 Pandemic in the division at Divisional Covid-19 Control Room Kashmir (DCCRK), here, an official spokesperson said. The meeting was attended by Epidemiologist Kashmir Dr. Talat Jabeen, Public Health Specialist and other senior Officers of DCCRK.

According to the official spokesperson, the Div Com reviewed the progress achieved in controlling the 3rd wave of the Covid-19 and stressed upon the importance of Home isolation management at primary level care as the wave predominantly looks like omicron led and is mild in severity so far which is depicted from the data.

"The Div Com directed all the CMOs of the division to monitor referral cases to tertiary care hospitals themselves and not to refer cases to tertiary care hospitals which can be managed at primary and secondary level hospitals within the district," he said.

Pole, he said, also directed all



**A HEALTH WORKER** taking the nasal swab of a woman for Covid test at TRC Srinagar on Tuesday.

Pic: Abid Bhat/KO

the Medical Superintendents/ Nodal Officers of Covid designated hospitals to take daily meetings on the management of these infected patients along with their team of experts.

"It was brought to the notice of Div Com by the officers of DCCRK that healthcare workers working in the tertiary care hospitals are turning Covid positive off and on, for which Div. Com. passed directions to the officers for making accommodations of these warriors within the city," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the Div Com took serious note of Micro containment Zones and directed all CMOs to follow proper protocol in case identification, contact tracing, testing, isolation, treatment and follow up of these areas.

Pole, he said, also directed all

the district administrations to report fines that have been imposed by the concerned agencies in a time bound manner.

In the meeting, he said, it was also stressed upon by the Div Com to make hassle free distribution of COVID Management kits for home isolation patients at their doorstep.

"It was also emphasized that all the districts will enhance IEC activities in their districts which will help the divisional administration in their efforts of control and mitigation," the official spokesperson said.

"The Div Com also directed deputing Lab. Technician assistants of microbiology department from different colleges of Kashmir division for further strengthening Lab. Services at tertiary care hospitals," he added.

## LG Reviews Restoration Works Of Mubarak Mandi Complex



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday reviewed the restoration and renovation works of the iconic Mubarak Mandi Complex here, an official spokesman said.

He directed the officials concerned to expedite the works for early completion of the project, taken up to restore the heritage palaces of Dogra rulers in northern Jammu.

Mubarak Mandi, overlook-

ing River Tawi, was the main seat of power till 1925 after which the last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh moved to Hari Niwas Palace, less than 10 km away.

Few years ago, the Jammu and Kashmir government had prepared a detailed project report, according to which the restoration works would cost Rs 53 crore. This amount was later revised to Rs 150 crore and it further escalated to Rs 253.92 crore in June 2008.

The spokesman said the Lieu-

tenant Governor, who is also the chairman of the Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society, undertook a comprehensive review of various works under execution in view of transforming the Mubarak Mandi Complex as a major tourist attraction.

Sinha was briefed about the amount of works completed at different buildings of the complex, the financial progress achieved under various schemes, and measures to improve connectivity and access to the complex, the spokesman said.

## J&K Parties Demand KPC Premises Be Restored To Journalists' Body

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Political parties Tuesday asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to restore the Kashmir Press Club premises to the journalists' body, and provide an enabling atmosphere for holding free and fair KPC elections.

On Monday, the J&K administration said the Kashmir Press Club has "ceased to exist", and took back the premises allotted to the largest journalists' body in the Valley following "dissensions" between two factions, one of which had tacit support from the government.

The National Conference deplores the closure of Kashmir Press club, party spokesman Imran Nabi Dar said Tuesday, asking the government to work for creating an "enabling environment" for the KPC to hold its elections in a free and fair manner.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JK-PCC) said the closure of Press Club was unacceptable and unfair.

A spokesman of the party said the JKPCCC urged the ad-



ministration to revisit the decision. "JKPCCC unequivocally condemns the closure of Kashmir Press Club by the administration and sought revocation of the closure order in the larger interest of the press freedom."

He said the administration should help settle the issue by paving the way for early elections to the KPC.

While expressing resentment over the closure of Kashmir Press Club by the administration, CPI(M) Secretary Ghulam Nabi Malik said that the closing of the club is an assault on the rights of the people.

"This act is just a part of a policy which started with putting the registration of the club in abeyance. The administration has finally closed the club," Malik said.

"The closure of the Kashmir Press Club is part of the continuous process to throttle the press freedom and democracy in Kashmir. The press/media in Jammu and Kashmir is already working under immense stress and strain," he added.

Malik demanded immediate restoration of the status quo and providing atmosphere, where the KPC can conduct free and fair elections.

## 30 Civilians Stuck In Avalanche In Kupwara Rescued

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Army rescued around 30 civilians after their vehicles came under an avalanche triggered by recent snowfall in border district of Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday.

A vehicle carrying civilians got stuck on the Tangdhar-Chowkibal axis on Monday, following which the nearest Army unit was alerted and a rescue operation launched, they said.

"The civilians, including a child, were evacuated to safety by the Army rescue team," the officials said. One of the civilians told the rescuers that they had a narrow escape as they managed to jump out of the vehicle before it was buried under snow, the officials said.

They said the Army team also recovered the vehicle from the mounds of snow.

Another group of 16 civilians, who were stuck at some distance away on the same road, were rescued by the Army personnel to NC pass, popularly known as Sadhna pass, a defence spokesman said.

He said the rescued persons were provided food, medical care and shelter for the night.

"Twelve vehicles were retrieved during the day on Tuesday after the avalanche and snow slides clearance from the road. BRO GREF played a difficult but stellar role in snow clearance amidst dangerous conditions," the spokesman said.

He said the entire operation took five to six hours.

## One-Way Traffic On Highway To Continue: Officials

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world, shall remain open for only one-way traffic on Wednesday, officials said here.

"On (Wednesday), subject to fair weather and better road conditions LMVs(Passenger)/ private cars shall be allowed from Jammu towards Srinagar (strictly one way) on Jammu-Srinagar highway," a traffic department official said. TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic, he said.

He said cut off for LMVs and private cars from Nagrota (Jammu) is 0800 hours to 1200 hours and from Jakhni (Udhampur) at 900 hours to 1300 hours. "No

Vehicle shall be allowed before and after cut off timings," he said.

Regarding HMVs and load carriers, he said, they shall be allowed to move from Jakhni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar after the tail of up LMVs cross Jakhni (Udhampur).

Meanwhile, Mughal Road, connecting Shopian with Poonch and Rajouri districts, remained closed for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation at Peer Ki Gali.

Also, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road remained shut for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation on Zoji la axis and has been closed till further orders. Kishtwar-Sinthan road also remained closed in view of snow accumulation, the traffic department official said. (GNS)

آقای مرحوم آغا سید مصطفی الموسوی الصفوی  
کوانکی 20 ویں برسی پر انجمن شرعی کا خراج

مرکزی امام باڑہ بڈگام میں پروقار مجلس عزاکا انعقاد



علمدار کرام حضرت ابوالفضل العباسؑ کی ماورگرمی جناب الامین حکیم وفات آقائی مرحوم جنت الاسلام والمسلمین آغا سید مصطفی الموسوی الصفوی کی 20 ویں برسی کی مناسبت سے مرکزی امام باڑہ بڈگام میں پروقار مجلس عزاکا انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں ہزاروں عقیدت مندوں نے شرکت کی مجلس کے آغاز میں آقائی مرحوم کے ایصال ثواب کے لئے قرآن خوانی اور فاتحہ خوانی کی گئی تنظیم کے مرکزی ذاکرین ڈاکٹر سید محمد انیس الموسوی اور ڈاکٹر صدیق حسین نے مرثیہ خوانی کی اور کئی علماء دین نے صدر مرحوم کے خدمات اور کارناموں کو یاد کیا مجلس میں انجمن شرعی شعبان کے صدر جنت الاسلام والمسلمین آغا سید حسین الموسوی الصفوی بھی موجود تھے مقررین نے آقائی مرحوم کو شاندار خراج عقیدت پیش کرتے ہوئے مرحوم کے دینی علمی اور تنظیمی خدمات پر روشنی ڈالی مقررین نے کہا کہ آقا مرحوم ایک مرد درویش متقی اور مدبر دینی رہنما ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ سیاسی اہم اور ادراک بھی رکھتے تھے آقائی مرحوم نے اہلیت نبویؐ کی ہیئت و کردار کو مشعل راہ بنا کر اپنے پیشرہ اور زیم خانوادہ بانی انجمن شرعی شعبان جنت الاسلام والمسلمین آغا سید یوسف الموسوی الصفوی کی اطاعت اور فرمان برداری کا شاندار مظاہرہ کیا اور اس سلسلے میں بانی انجمن شرعی کو بھی بھی شکایت کا موقع نہیں دیا آپ ایک جان نثار سپاہی کی طرح بانی انجمن شرعی کے برہم کو زمینیں سطح پر عملہ لانے کے لئے ہر وقت کمر بستہ رہے آقائی مرحوم نے تنظیم کی تشکیل میں کلیدی رول ادا کیا اور تنظیم کو فعال بنانے کے لئے ہمیشہ مصروف عمل رہے مقررین نے کہا کہ بانی انجمن شرعی کی وفات کے بعد آقائی مرحوم خانوادہ کی سنت اور ابتداء العباد کے مطابق زیم خانوادہ ہوئے تو انہیں ہر طرف حوصلہ شکن حالات کا سامنا ہوا لیکن آقائی مرحوم نے عزم و استقلال استقامت کا مظاہرہ کر کے اپنے اسلاف کے دینی مشن کو کامیاب عروج تک پہنچایا اس موقع پر مقررین نے شہید آیت اللہ باقر الخرنشہ اور شہید حاج قاسم سلہمانی کے کارناموں کو بھی یاد کیا اور انکی عظیم شہادتوں کو عقیدت کا خراج نذر کیا مجلس کے اختتام پر صدر انجمن شرعی شعبان نے دعائیہ کلمات دہرائے اور شرکاء مجلس کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔

FIRDOUS

## CONDOLENCE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the demise of Gulam Qadir Wani S/o Abdul Aziz Wani R/o Mehjoor Nagar Srinagar. He left for heavenly abode on Monday, 17 January 2022. His Fatiha khwani will be held on Wednesday, 19 January 2022 at their ancestral graveyard Malkha near Zind Shah Sahib Masjid at 10:30 am.

**BEREAVED SON**  
**IRFAN AHMAD WANI**  
**7006157461**



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

SOP Is The Key

In a sign that the third wave may not turn out to be so virulent after all, India on Tuesday witnessed a decline in fresh coronavirus cases, reporting 2.38 lakh new cases which is around 20,000 less than the day before. The total tally of Omicron cases rose to 8,891, marking an increase of 8.31 percent since Monday. So the Omicron threat remains. The high transmissibility of the virus could make things worse if the due precautions are not taken. With the cases shooting up, J&K has already imposed the weekend lockdown. Similarly, the governments in other parts of the country have taken swift measures to get a handle on the third wave. That is why despite the caseload of Covid infections witnessing a sharp spike in the recent past, the situation remains well under control. One reason for this is that while the case count has grown, hospitalizations have been minimal, so have been the fatalities. So, there has been no extra load on the hospitals, unlike the second wave which was virulent and led to thousands of deaths across the country. But this is no reason to let down the guard. The World Health Organization has already warned about the devastating potential of Omicron and the mutant is far from fading out anytime soon. Be that as it may, the decline in numbers is a positive development. There is hope now that the daily caseload shows a progressive decline. But there is a need to be careful. Government should continue to invest in a world-class healthcare infrastructure to increase the capacity of the hospitals and the medical personnel to deal with the rise in numbers. At the same time, there is no scope for a lockdown, even if it is limited to weekend only. More so, at a time when the economy is just recovering from the terrible damage inflicted by the extended lockdowns over the last two years. The solution is to upgrade healthcare, enforce strict adherence to SOPs in public and run an advertisement blitz to create more awareness about the contagion. Now the vaccination of the children is on the cards. Children have become a priority as there was apprehension that the third wave could affect the children the most. Besides, the vaccination is very critical if another year of schooling is not to be lost. Similarly, government is also planning booster doses for the elderly as some other countries have done. The US has already widened the scope of booster doses. India also needs to speed up this process. For now, however, the declining case count in the country is a good news and here's hoping it continues to follow this trajectory.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Dance Like A Man

Sam ko pakdo. Kathak mein sam tumhara ghar hai (Catch the first beat of the time cycle. In Kathak, that's home)," the exacting guru in Pandit Birju Maharaj would say to his students. And when there was a mistake, he'd get up and go back to the basics — with that first lesson in tatkaar (footwork). With his hands held together in front, he'd begin, slowly raising the tempo, until his ghungroo and feet blurred together and he seemed to be in a parallel universe. And just when you least expected it, he was back to sam. The artist who inspired generations of men and women to take up Kathak, a temple dance form that thrived when it moved to the Mughal courts, passed away on Monday due to Covid and kidney complications at 83. Maharaj began dancing when he was about four. His father, Achhan Maharaj, who was from the famed Kalka-Bindadin family of Lucknow, began his training at home. He was just about finding his feet, when his father passed away. But the precision in the footwork was his father's gift. And the world of Braj and that of Krishna was his own, where he would be Radha trying to entice his beloved. Maharaj didn't care about gender roles as he presented the sensuality and eroticism of Shringaar Ras. Male dancers have moved more towards Veer (heroism) Ras, among others that were seen as more male-oriented. Birju Maharaj created his own kathas (stories) and looked at social issues through dance. When Satyajit Ray wanted to depict the world of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah in his film Shatranj ke Khiladi, he asked Birju Maharaj to deliver a piece that belonged to 19th century Awadh. Maharaj created the gentle, bhaav-oriented "Kanha main tose haari". In a five-minute piece, Maharaj gave the crux of his world to the audience through the bandish, a world where the first beat of that time cycle began at home.

Indian Express

Correction And Corruption

Efforts Of ACB, Law Department Dashed By Govt?

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

For more than 11 years now, the J&K Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) has been looking into a corruption case in Govt Dental College and hospital (GDC) Srinagar wherein Principal of the institution has been accused of embezzlement of Govt funds by purchasing some dental machinery on very exorbitant rates. As per the information provided under the Right to Information Act (RTI) by Govt Dental College Srinagar to Tanveer Hussain Khan a resident of Mattan Anantnag, the purchase committee headed by Incharge Principal had purchased digital panoramic X-ray machine model and make of ORTHOPOS XG 5 DS CEPH-Single Sensor (AERB approved) for Rs. 46, 80, 000 lakh. The machine was supplied to the GDC, Srinagar by VILLA India, New Delhi. When the information seeker compared the rates paid by the GDC Srinagar with the one being offered by the same company, it was found that there was a difference of Rs 16 lakhs between the actual purchases made and the rates offered. The GDC, Srinagar as per information provided under RTI had purchased eight complete vertical rack sterilization systems from VILLA India, New Delhi from time to time. The difference between the actual price and the amount paid was also huge.

Complaint before Anti Corruption Court

An FIR was registered by Anti Corruption Bureau then called State Vigilance Organisation (SVO) on the direction of Special Judge Anti Corruption Srinagar. A formal complaint was filed before Anti Corruption Court Srinagar by the same activist who had filed the initial RTI application. Tanveer Hussain Khan through his counsel Advocate Shahid Ahmad had filed the case before the designated anti corruption judge in 2012. Tanveer has been alleging that in-charge Principal Govt Dental College Srinagar (GDC) Dr Riyaz Farooq had procured dental machinery for the Dental College hospital on exorbitant rates as he had already sought information under RTI Act from GDC Srinagar which revealed that machinery was purchased on exorbitant rates as the rates were cross checked by him and his colleagues. This was authenticated by the SVO investigation team as well who worked on this case for years. During the last ten years most of the local newspapers have reported this issue but the culprit is still not brought to justice.

After the application was filed before Special Judge Anti-Corruption court Srinagar, the said court directed Vigilance Organisation Kashmir (VOK) for initiating necessary action. Accordingly, verification No. 12/2012 was registered in Police Station VOK Srinagar which finally led to the registration of case vide FIR No. 33/2012 under section 5 (2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120-b of Ranbir Penal Code (RPC). Kashmir Observer has filed several reports on this issue in the past. This author highlighted the issue in the three episodes of Inkishaf.

For many years the Govt failed to take action against the incharge Principal. The sanction for prosecution was also not granted and Dr Riyaz continued to hold the post of Incharge Principal until he challenged the FIR before J&K High Court.

ACB moves to SC

After 3 years, the then In-charge Principal Dr Riyaz Farooq challenged the FIR No. 33/2012, filed against him in Police Station, Vigilance Organization Kashmir, in a



“THE HIGH COURT HAS NOT ADVERTISED the distinct features of the second provision to Section 3. It is submitted that the second proviso does not demand the requirement of giving reasons for conferring authority on a non-designated officer to conduct investigation.”

composite petition filed in J&K High Court vide OWP No. 1259/2015. On Nov 12th 2018 Dr Riyaz Farooq got relief when J&K High Court quashed the said FIR. While pronouncing the judgment Justice M A Magrey said : “I, therefore in exercise of the

Keeping the aforementioned order into consideration and the corruption case against Dr Riyaz Farooq being challenged before the Supreme Court, the J&K Law Department didn't give its con-

“SUCH ACTIONS NOT ONLY demoralize anti corruption crusaders but also dismays and discourages the morale of officers in Anti Corruption Bureau and other Govt organisations who work on corruption cases with utmost zeal for years but at the end Govt's interference spoils the entire case

inherent powers under Section 561-A Cr.P.C. to secure the ends of justice, quash the order passed by the Learned Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, under Section 156(3) Criminal Procedure Code dated 13.08.2012, in FIR no. 33/2012 Police Station, Vigilance Organization Kashmir, as being without application of mind. In the above circumstances, the Preliminary Verification number 12/2012, the impugned FIR No. 33/2012, Police Station, Vigilance Organization Kashmir, and the resultant investigation of the FIR is hereby quashed, as being illegal”

The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) didn't stop here and filed an appeal before the Supreme Court against the High Court order. ACB had already filed an appeal in a similarly situated case in Supreme Court as J&K High Court had quashed another FIR against Dr Saleem ur Rehman former Director Health Services Kashmir (presently posted as Director Health Services Jammu). In that case, Supreme Court double bench of Justice M R Shah and A S Bopana said that the High Court of J&K had committed a “Grave error” in quashing the entire criminal proceedings by holding that a Magistrate has provided authorisation to a non-designated officer to investigate the FIR for the alleged offenses under the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, 2006 was “Bad in Law”.

The SC order dated 29th October 2021 said that authorisation in the present case by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Vigilance Organisation is clearly covered by and falls within the scope of the second provision to Section 3.

“The High Court has not advertised the distinct features of the second provision to Section 3. It is submitted that the second proviso does not demand the requirement of giving reasons for conferring authority on a non-designated officer to conduct investigation,” reads SC order

Confirmation withheld

sent for confirmation of Dr Riyaz as full time Principal in Govt Dental College Srinagar as he has been holding the chair since 2004. The Law Department report submitted before the committee headed by Chief Secretary almost 1 ½ month back said that since the case was pending in the Supreme Court his confirmation as principal can't be considered. The report of the committee reads “From the above it can be seen that Hon'ble High Court has decided the case of Dr Riyaz Farooq and other similar matters on the basis of legal issues which have serious repercussions on the pending investigation and trial of the cases under Prevention of Corruption Act, as such withdrawal of SLP at this stage is not advisable as the matter is being heard by larger bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court. It will be advisable to await outcome of the present SLP filed by Govt. Case of Dr Riyaz Farooq cannot be considered in isolation as it has been clubbed with other similar matters pending before Hon'ble Supreme Court in which similar questions of law have been decided by Hon'ble High Court”

The report further reads:

The committee therefore decided to go by the advice of the Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs department and await the outcome of the decision of Hon'ble SC for considering the regularization of Dr Riyaz Farooq as Principal GDC Srinagar.

The committee headed by CS advised J&K Health and Medical Education Department to create supernumerary posts if the avenues of promotion of other faculty members in GDC was getting blocked due to Dr Riyaz Farooq's non confirmation as Principal.

Accused confirmed as Principal

It was being assumed that Govt would create supernumerary posts and appoint a full time Principal in Govt Dental College & Hospital Srinagar.

nagar, but all of sudden Health and Medical Education department dropped a bombshell on 27.12.2021 when the accused Dr Riyaz Farooq was appointed as Principal Govt Dental College Srinagar with retrospective effect from March 2010. All the hard-work done by the then State Vigilance Organisation now called Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Govt counsels and activists was dashed. Above all the suggestions made by J&K Law Department (as explained above) was also bypassed which otherwise was taken as gospel truth by the committee headed by Chief Secretary that was looking into regularization of Dr Riyaz Farooq. The Govt through its order No: 805-JK (HME) of 2021 Dated 27.12.2021 issued by Additional Chief Secretary Health & Medical Education appointed Dr Riyaz Farooq as a full time Principal of GDC Srinagar. The order gives reference to a communication made by the General Administration Department (GAD) which means GAD had given its consent to this order. The order reads:

“Sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Dr Riyaz Farooq Professor and Head department of Conservative Dentistry and Operative Dentistry, Govt Dental College Srinagar in pay level -14 (144200-218200) (Pre-revised PB 4: 37400-67000 plus GP 10,000) with effect from 10.03.2010”

Conclusion

On one hand Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and LG Manoj Sinha claim that corruption and nepotism has come down in J&K post article 370 abrogation but on the ground we see a different picture. If the committee constituted by Govt headed by CS had asked to wait for the Supreme Court's decision in this particular case after getting a legal opinion from J&K Law Department, what prompted Govt to issue order on December 27th recently by appointing Dr Riyaz Farooq as a full time Principal in Govt Dental College Srinagar that too with retrospective effect from March 2010?

It is also unclear whether a No Objection Certificate (NOC) or Vigilance Clearance was given by the Anti-Corruption Bureau to Dr Riyaz Farooq? Such actions not only demoralize anti corruption crusaders but also dismays and discourages the morale of officers in Anti Corruption Bureau and other Govt organisations who work on corruption cases with utmost zeal for years but at the end, the Govt's interference spoils the entire case.

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

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Avoid Hospitals

In the context of the rise in covid-19 cases, doctors have asked people to avoid avoidable visits to hospitals. This is because the current third wave of the covid-19 seems highly transmissible. De-

partments and institutes all together are getting infected as clusters.

Therefore, one must try to avoid crowded places. It is better to assume that every other person we meet may be infected. The current wave, for

now, seems to be mild. However, the months of January and February will be decisive. Therefore, it is better to be safe than sorry.

In case you've still not gotten vaccinated, consider getting vaccinated at

the earliest. Additionally, if elders in your family, above the age of 60 have already gotten both doses, they should consider going for a booster shot.

Tanya Syed



# Stolen Focus

Johann Hari

When he was nine years old, my godson Adam developed a brief but freakishly intense obsession with Elvis Presley. He took to singing Jailhouse Rock at the top of his voice with all the low crooning and pelvis-jiggling of the King himself. One day, as I tucked him in, he looked at me very earnestly and asked: "Johann, will you take me to Graceland one day?" Without really thinking, I agreed. I never gave it another thought, until everything had gone wrong.

Ten years later, Adam was lost. He had dropped out of school when he was 15, and he spent almost all his waking hours alternating blankly between screens – a blur of YouTube, WhatsApp and porn. (I've changed his name and some minor details to preserve his privacy.) He seemed to be whirling at the speed of Snapchat, and nothing still or serious could gain any traction in his mind. During the decade in which Adam had become a man, this fracturing seemed to be happening to many of us. Our ability to pay attention was cracking and breaking. I had just turned 40, and wherever my generation gathered, we would lament our lost capacity for concentration. I still read a lot of books, but with each year that passed, it felt more and more like running up a down escalator. Then one evening, as we lay on my sofa, each staring at our own ceaselessly shrieking screens, I looked at him and felt a low dread. "Adam," I said softly, "let's go to Graceland." I reminded him of the promise I had made. I could see that the idea of breaking this numbing routine ignited something in him, but I told him there was one condition he had to stick to if we went. He had to switch his phone off during the day. He swore he would.

When you arrive at the gates of Graceland, there is no longer a human being whose job is to show you around. You are handed an iPad, you put in little earbuds, and the iPad tells you what to do – turn left; turn right; walk forward. In each room, a photograph of where you are appears on the screen, while a narrator describes it. So as we walked around we were surrounded by blank-faced people, looking almost all the time at their screens. As we walked, I felt more and more tense. When we got to the jungle room – Elvis's favourite place in the mansion – the iPad was chattering away when a middle-aged man standing next to me turned to say something to his wife. In front of us, I could see the large fake plants that Elvis had bought to turn this room into his own artificial jungle. "Honey," he said, "this is amazing. Look." He waved the iPad in her direction, and began to move his finger across it. "If you swipe left, you can see the jungle room to the left. And if you swipe right, you can see the jungle room to the right."

His wife stared, smiled, and began to swipe at her own iPad. I leaned forward. "But, sir," I said, "there's an old-fashioned form of swiping you can do. It's called turning your head. Because we're here. We're in the jungle room. You can see it unmediated. Here. Look." I waved my hand, and the fake green leaves rustled a little. Their eyes returned to their screens. "Look!" I said. "Don't you see? We're actually there. There's no need for your screen. We are in the jungle room." They hurried away. I turned to Adam, ready to laugh about it all – but he was in a corner, holding his phone under his jacket, flicking through Snapchat.

At every stage in the trip, he had broken his promise. When the plane first touched down in New Orleans two weeks before, he took out his phone while we were still in our seats. "You promised not to use it," I said. He replied: "I meant I wouldn't make phone calls. I can't not use Snapchat and texting, obviously." He said this with baffled honesty, as though I had asked him to hold his breath for 10 days. In the jungle room, I suddenly snapped and tried to wrestle his phone from his grasp, and he stomped away. That night I found him in the Heart-break Hotel, sitting next to a swimming pool (shaped like a giant guitar), looking sad. I realised as I sat with him that, as with so much anger, my rage towards him was really anger towards myself. His inability to focus was something I felt happening to me too. I was losing my ability to be present, and I hated it. "I know something's wrong," Adam said, holding his phone tightly in his hand. "But I have no idea how to fix it." Then he went back to texting.

I realised then that I needed to understand what was really happening to him and to so many of us. That moment turned out to be the start of a journey that transformed how I think about attention. I travelled all over the world in the next three years, from Miami to Moscow to Melbourne, interviewing the leading experts in the world about focus. What I learned persuaded me that we are not now facing simply a normal anxiety about attention, of the kind every generation goes through as it ages. We are living in a serious attention crisis – one with huge implications for how we live. I learned there are twelve factors that have been proven to



reduce people's ability to pay attention and that many of these factors have been rising in the past few decades – sometimes dramatically.

I went to Portland, Oregon, to interview Prof Joel Nigg, who is one of the leading experts in the world on children's attention problems, and he told me we need to ask if we are now developing "an attentional pathogenic culture" – an environment in which sustained and deep focus is harder for all of us. When I asked him what he would do if he was in charge of our culture and he actually wanted to destroy people's attention, he said: "Probably what our society is doing." Prof Barbara Demeneix, a leading French scientist who has studied some key factors that can disrupt attention, told me bluntly: "There is no way we can have a normal brain today." We can see the effects all around us. A small study of college students found they now only focus on any one task for 65 seconds. A different study of office workers found they only focus on average for three minutes. This isn't happening because we all individually became weak-willed. Your focus didn't collapse. It was stolen.

When I first got back from Graceland, I thought my attention was failing because I wasn't strong enough as an individual and because I had been taken over by my phone. I went into a spiral of negative thoughts, reproaching myself. I'd say – you're weak, you're lazy, you're not disciplined enough. I thought the solution was obvious: be more disciplined, and banish your phone. So I went online and booked myself a little room by the beach in Provincetown, at the tip of Cape Cod. I announced triumphantly to everyone – I am going to be there for three months, with no smartphone, and no computer that can get online. I'm done. I'm tired of being wired. I knew I could only do it because I was very lucky and had money from my previous books. I knew it couldn't be a long-term solution. I did it because I thought that if I didn't, I might lose some crucial aspects of my ability to think deeply. I also hoped that if I stripped everything back for a time, I might start to be able to glimpse the changes we could all make in a more sustainable way.

In my first webless week, I stumbled around in a haze of decompression. Provincetown is a little gay resort town with the highest proportion of same-sex couples in the US. I ate cupcakes, read books, talked with strangers and sang songs. Everything radically slowed down. Normally I follow the news every hour or so, getting a drip-feed of anxiety-provoking facts and trying to smush them together into some kind of sense. Instead, I simply read a physical newspaper once a day. Every few hours, I would feel an unfamiliar sensation gurgling inside me and I would ask myself: what is that? Ah, yes. Calm.

Later, I realised when I interviewed the experts and studied their research that there were many reasons why my attention was starting to heal from that first day. Prof Earl Miller, a neuroscientist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, explained one to me. He said "your brain can only produce one or two thoughts" in your conscious mind at once. That's it. "We're very, very single-minded." We have "very limited cognitive capacity". But we have fallen for an enormous delusion. The average teenager now believes they can follow six forms of media at the same time. When neuroscientists studied this, they found that when people believe they are doing several things at once, they are actually juggling. "They're switching back and forth. They don't notice the switching because their brain sort of papers it over to give a seam-

less experience of consciousness, but what they're actually doing is switching and reconfiguring their brain moment-to-moment, task-to-task – [and] that comes with a cost." Imagine, say, you are doing your tax return, and you receive a text, and you look at it – it's only a glance, taking three seconds – and then you go back to your tax return. In that moment, "your brain has to reconfigure, when it goes from one task to another", he said. You have to remember what you were doing before, and you have to remember what you thought about it. When this happens, the evidence shows that "your performance drops. You're slower. All as a result of the switching."

This is called the "switch-cost effect". It

**ALMOST EVERYONE**  
reading this will have experienced a flow state at some point. It's when you are doing something meaningful to you, and you really get into it, and time falls away, and your ego seems to vanish, and you find yourself focusing deeply and effortlessly. Flow is the deepest form of attention human beings can offer. But how do we get there?

means that if you check your texts while trying to work, you aren't only losing the little bursts of time you spend looking at the texts themselves – you are also losing the time it takes to refocus afterwards, which turns out to be a huge amount. For example, one study at the Carnegie Mellon University's human computer interaction lab took 136 students and got them to sit a test. Some of them had to have their phones switched off, and others had their phones on and received intermittent text messages. The students who received messages performed, on average, 20% worse. It seems to me that almost all of us are currently losing that 20% of our brainpower, almost all the time. Miller told me that as a result we now live in "a perfect storm of cognitive degradation".

For the first time in a very long time, in Provincetown I was doing one thing at a time, without being interrupted. I was living within the limits of what my brain could actually handle. I felt my attention growing and improving with every day that passed, but then, one day, I experienced an abrupt setback. I was walking down the beach and every few steps I saw the same thing that had been scratching at me since Memphis. People seemed to be using Provincetown simply as a backdrop for selfies, rarely looking up, at the ocean or each other. Only this time, the itch I felt wasn't to yell: You're

wasting your lives, put the damn phone down. It was to yell: Give me that phone! Mine! For so long, I had received the thin, insistent signals of the web every few hours throughout the day, the trickle of likes and comments that say: I see you. You matter. Now they were gone. Simone de Beauvoir said that when she became an atheist, it felt like the world had fallen silent. Losing the web felt like that. After the rhetorical heat of social media, ordinary social interactions seemed pleasing but low volume. No normal social interaction floods you with hearts. I realised that to heal my attention, it was not enough simply to strip out distractions. That makes you feel good at first – but then it creates a vacuum where all the noise was. I realised I had to fill the vacuum. To do that, I started to think a lot about an area of psychology I had learned about years before – the science of flow states. Almost everyone reading this will have experienced a flow state at some point. It's when you are doing something meaningful to you, and you really get into it, and time falls away, and your ego seems to vanish, and you find yourself focusing deeply and effortlessly. Flow is the deepest form of attention human beings can offer. But how do we get there?

I later interviewed Prof Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi in Claremont, California, who was the first scientist to study flow states and researched them for more than 40 years. From his research, I learned there are three key factors which you need to get into flow. First you need to choose one goal. Flow takes all your mental energy, deployed deliberately in one direction. Second, that goal needs to be meaningful to you – you can't flow into a goal that you don't care about. Third, it helps if what you are doing is at the edge of your abilities – if, say, the rock you are climbing is slightly higher and harder than the last rock you climbed. So every morning, I started to write – a different kind of writing from my earlier work, one that stretched me. Within a few days, I started to flow, and hours of focus would pass without it feeling like a challenge. I felt I was focusing in the way I had when I was a teenager, in long effortless stretches. I had feared my brain was breaking. I cried with relief when I realised that in the right circumstances, its full power could come back.

At the end of every day, I would sit on the beach and watch the light slowly change. The light on the cape is unlike the light anywhere else I have ever been and in Provincetown, I could see more clearly than I ever had before in my life – my own thoughts, my own goals, my own dreams. I was living in the light. So when the time came to leave the beach house and come back to the hyperlinked world, I became convinced I had cracked the code of attention. I returned to the world determined to integrate the lessons I had learned in my everyday life. When I was reunited with my phone and laptop after taking a ferry back to where they were stashed in Boston, they seemed alien, and alienating. But within a few months, my screen time was back to four hours a day, and my attention was fraying and breaking again.

In Moscow, the former Google engineer James Williams – who has become the most important philosopher of attention in the western world – told me I had made a crucial mistake. Individual abstinence is "not the solution, for the same reason that wearing a gas mask for two days a week outside isn't the answer to pollution. It might, for a short period of time, keep certain effects at bay, but it's not sustainable, and it doesn't address the systemic issues." He said that our attention is being deeply altered by huge invasive forces in wider society. Saying the solution was to just adjust your own habits – to pledge to break up

with your phone, say – was just "pushing it back on to the individual" he said, when "it's really the environmental changes that will really make the difference".

Nigg said it might help me grasp what's happening if we compare our rising attention problems to our rising obesity rates. Fifty years ago there was very little obesity, but today it is endemic in the western world. This is not because we suddenly became greedy or self-indulgent. He said: "Obesity is not a medical epidemic – it's a social epidemic. We have bad food, for example, and so people are getting fat." The way we live changed dramatically – our food supply changed, and we built cities that are hard to walk or cycle around, and those changes in our environment led to changes in our bodies. We gained mass, en masse. Something similar, he said, might be happening with the changes in our attention.

I learned that the factors harming our attention are not all immediately obvious. I had been focused on tech at first, but in fact the causes range very widely – from the food we eat to the air we breathe, from the hours we work to the hours we no longer sleep. They include many things we have come to take for granted – from how we deprive our children of play, to how our schools strip learning of meaning by basing everything on tests. I came to believe we need to respond to this incessant invasion of our attention at two levels. The first is individual. There are all sorts of changes we can make at a personal level that will protect our focus. I would say that by doing most of them, I have boosted my focus by about 20%. But we have to level with people. Those changes will only take you so far. At the moment it's as though we are all having itching powder poured over us all day, and the people pouring the powder are saying: "You might want to learn to meditate. Then you wouldn't scratch so much." Meditation is a useful tool – but we actually need to stop the people who are pouring itching powder on us. We need to band together to take on the forces stealing our attention and take it back. This can sound a bit abstract – but I met people who were putting it into practice in many places. To give one example: there is strong scientific evidence that stress and exhaustion ruin your attention. Today, about 35% of workers feel they can never switch off their phones because their boss might email them at any time of day or night. In France, ordinary workers decided this was intolerable and pressured their government for change – so now, they have a legal "right to disconnect". It's simple. You have a right to defined work hours, and you have a right to not be contacted by your employer outside those hours. Companies that break the rules get huge fines. There are lots of potential collective changes like this that can restore part of our focus. We could, for example, force social media companies to abandon their current business model, which is specifically designed to invade our attention in order to keep us scrolling. There are alternative ways these sites could work – ones that would heal our attention instead of hacking it.

Some scientists say these worries about attention are a moral panic, comparable to the anxieties in the past about comic books or rap music, and that the evidence is shaky. Other scientists say the evidence is strong and these anxieties are like the early warnings about the obesity epidemic or the climate crisis in the 1970s. I think that given this uncertainty, we can't wait for perfect evidence. We have to act based on a reasonable assessment of risk. If the people warning about the effects on our attention turn out to be wrong, and we still do what they suggest, what will be the cost? We will spend less time being harassed by our bosses, and we'll be tracked and manipulated less by technology – along with lots of other improvements in our lives that are desirable in any case. But if they turn out to be right, and we don't do what they say, what's the cost? We will have – as the former Google engineer Tristan Harris told me – downgraded humanity, stripping us of our attention at the very time when we face big collective crises that require it more than ever.

But none of these changes will happen unless we fight for them. Just as the feminist movement reclaimed women's right to their own bodies (and still has to fight for it today), I believe we now need an attention movement to reclaim our minds. I believe we need to act urgently, because this may be like the climate crisis, or the obesity crisis – the longer we wait, the harder it will get. The more our attention degrades, the harder it will be to summon the personal and political energy to take on the forces stealing our focus. The first step it requires is a shift in our consciousness. We need to stop blaming ourselves, or making only demands for tiny tweaks from our employers and from tech companies. We own our own minds – and together, we can take them back from the forces that are stealing them.

*The above is an edited extract from Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention by Johann Hari, published by Bloomsbury on 6 January*



# ‘Men Living Alone At Higher Risk Of Inflammation’

Agencies

According to the findings of a recent study, living alone for several years and experiencing serial relationship break-ups are strongly linked to raised levels of inflammatory markers in the blood, but only in men.

The findings were published in the 'Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health'.

Although the inflammation was classified as low grade, it was persistent, and most likely indicates a heightened risk of age-related ill health and death, suggest the researchers.

Divorce and committed relationship break-ups, which are often followed by a potentially lengthy period of living alone, have been associated with a heightened risk of poor physical and mental health, lowered immunity, and death.

But most previously published studies have focused on the impact of one partnership dissolution, and then usually only on marital break-ups.

The researchers, therefore, wanted to find out what impact an accumulated number of partnership break-ups or years lived alone might have on the immune system response in middle-age, and whether gender and educational attainment might be influential.

They drew on information submitted to the Copenhagen Aging and Midlife Biobank (CAMB) study by 4835 participants, all of whom were aged between 48 and 62.

Information on serial partnership break-ups, which included 83 deaths of the partner, was supplied by 4612 (3170 men and 1442 women); and information on the number of years lived alone was supplied by 4835 (3336 men and 1499 women) for the period 1986 to 2011.

Years lived alone were categorised as: under 1 year, defined as the reference group as this is very common and considered normal; 2-6 years; and



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7 or more years.

Information on potentially influential factors was also obtained: age; educational attainment; early major life events (loss of a parent, financial worries, family conflict, foster care); weight (BMI); long term conditions; medicines likely to affect inflammation (statins, steroids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, immunosuppressants); recent bouts of inflammation; and personality trait scores (neuroticism, agreeableness, and conscientiousness).

The inflammatory markers interleukin 6 (IL-6) and C-reactive protein (CRP) were measured in blood samples.

Around half the participants had experienced a partnership break-up, and a similar percentage had lived more than 1 year alone (54 per cent of women, 49 per cent of men).

Around 1 in 5 had 10 or fewer years of education, and around 6 out of 10 had one or

more long term conditions. Around half had experienced early major life events, and half of the women and almost two-thirds of the men were overweight or obese.

Among men, the highest levels of inflammatory markers were found in those who had experienced the most partnership break-ups. They had 17 per cent higher levels of inflammatory markers than those in the reference group. Similarly, levels of inflammatory markers were up to 12 per cent higher in the group who had spent the most years living alone (7 or more).

And the highest levels of both inflammatory markers for years lived alone were observed among men with high educational attainment and 2-6 years living alone (CRP), and 7 or more years spent alone (IL-6).

But these findings were observed only among the men; no such associations were found among the women.

Men tend to externalise their behaviour following a partnership break-up, by drinking, for example, whereas women tend to internalise, manifest depressive symptoms, which may influence inflammatory levels differently, note the researchers.

And the study only included a relatively small number of women (1499) which might also explain the discrepancy, they add.

This is an observational study, and as such, can't establish cause. And the researchers acknowledge that as the average age of the participants was 54, when the full consequences of exposure to inflammatory chemicals may not yet have peaked. Men also generate stronger inflammatory responses than women of the same age, they point out.

But immune system competence tends to tail off with age, often leading to systemic low-grade inflammation which is thought to have a key role in several age-related diseases, such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, and type 2 diabetes, they explain.

"Small numbers of break-ups or years lived alone is not in itself a risk of poor health, but the combination of (many) years lived alone and several break-ups are in our study shown to affect both CRP and IL-6 levels significantly," wrote the researchers.

"The levels of inflammation in our study are low, but they are also significant, clinically relevant, and most likely a risk factor for increased mortality," they pointed out, adding that there are "notable numbers of people living with low-level inflammation."

"Since the number of one-person households has been increasing throughout the past 50-60 years in most high-income countries, this group of people going through relationship break-ups, or who are living on their own for different reasons, are part of at-risk groups," researchers continued.

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Dated: 17-01-2022

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 Shehr 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	SSCL	Class AAY
2	Conservation of (7 No) Heritage Ghats along Jehlum River in Shehr 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	SSCL	Class AAY
3	Conservation of (8 No) Heritage Ghats along Jehlum River in Shehr 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	SSCL	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
1	Date of issuance/ Publication of NIT	17-01-2022
2	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said NleT	18-01-2022 from 02:00 PM
3	Date of Uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	19.01.2022 from 03:00 PM
4	Date of uploading of bid document/ bid submission Ends	07.02.2022 at 04:00 PM
5	Date of receiving of hard copy of documents.	08.02.2022 upto 04:00 PM
6	Date of Bid opening	09.02.2022 at 11:00 AM

1. The Employer, Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), invites bids from bidders 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 [07.02.2022 at 04:00 PM]. The bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and proper user 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,  
(Mr. Sajad Ahmad Kawoosa),  
Left River Works Division,  
Srinagar Municipal Corporation  
Srinagar Smart City Limited (Addl. charge)

No.SMC/EELRWD/3599-3610 Dated: 17 -01 -2022.  
DIPK-NB-6656/21

GOVERNEMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE,  
PRISONS DEPARTMENT J&K JAMMU**

e-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF DIETARY/PULSES/CEREALS / SPICES / TOLITERY / CLOTHING & MISC.ITEMS FOR CENTRAL JAIL SRINAGAR.

e- NIT NO:- 09-OF -2022  
DATED: 14-01-2022

For and on behalf of Lt.Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, online e-tenders are invited from the original firms/ Authorized Distributors /Dealers registered with the Goods & Service tax department for supply of DIETARY/PULSES/CEREALS/ SPICES/TOLITERY/CLOTHING & MISC.ITEMS FOR CENTRAL JAIL SRINAGAR as per terms & conditions mentioned in the tender document. The intending tenderer/s shall have to attach earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR from any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank to be pledged to the Financial Advisor/CAO Prisons Department J&K Jammu for an amount to the extent shown against each below:-

S.No	Particulars	For Central Jail Srinagar	Cost of Tender Documents (Non-refundable)
1.	Supply of Dietary/Pulses /Cereals/ spices /Toiletry/ Clothing & Misc. items to Central Jail Srinagar	Rs. 150000.00	Rs. 5000.00 and for SSI Units Rs.2000.00

The detailed documents, Criteria and other terms and conditions can be seen/downloaded from the governmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

S.No	Description	Date	Time
1	Date of Issue/publishing of tender notice	14.01.2022	10.00 am
2	Date of Downloading of bidding documents or Start date	15.01.2022	10.30 am
3	Bid submission Start date	17.01.2022	10.00 am
4	Bid Submission closing/end date	13.02.2022	3.00 pm
5	Date and time of opening online Bids	14.02.2022	1.00 pm (in the office chamber of DGP Prisons J&K up to 3.00 pm at Prisons Directorate
6	Last date of Receive samples in the office of Prisons Directorate	12.02.2022	upto 3.00 pm
7	Deadline for receiving the hardcopy of Original DD & EMD including all the soft copy of documents in favour of approved firm/Contractor	12.02.2022	
8	Cost of tender documents (Non-refundable)	Rs. 5000.00 and for SSI Units Rs.2000.00	

Instructions:-  
a) The bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender documents in the shape of Demand Draft in favour Financial Advisor/CAO Prisons Department J&K and earnest money/bid in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Financial Advisor/CAO Prisons Department J&K.  
b) The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).  
c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.  
d) Bidders must ensure to upload the scanned copy of all the necessary documents with the bid. Besides original/photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically by hand /registered/courier before the specified in para-1.  
e) Bidders must upload the scanned copy of all the necessary documents including earnest money and tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid and submit the hardcopies of all the uploaded documents duly attested under the hand and seal of the tenderer. No documents which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of Hard copy. However in case any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.  
f) The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful /No-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of hardcopies, failure of submission of tender documents fee by the bidder using the site shall entitle him for blacklisting.  
g) The department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.  
h) The tender shall be in one/single bid cover system.

Sd/-  
Financial Advisor/CAO,  
Prisons Department,  
J&K, Jammu

NO:-Acctts/N/367/8637-41  
Dated: 14-01-2022  
DIPK-16840/21

Office Of The Chief Medical Officer, Budgam  
Convener District Health Society, Budgam  
BETI BACHAO-----BETI PADHAO

Notice for Quotation for  
Flex Banners & Other Items

Sealed quotations affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 5/- are invited dealing with printing work, who are registered, for printing and supply of IEC material, etc. for the year 2021-22, as per details given in the Quotation document, along with terms & conditions, available at office of the Chief Medical Officer Budgam.

Terms and Conditions:  
1. The Quotations shall be submitted in a single sealed cover with the superscription "Quotation No. \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_ for printing and supply of IEC, Printing material. The name of the bidder with contact address and phone number shall also be written on the cover.  
2. CDR/ FDR Format: Received from M/s ..... (Name of the bidder) pledged to the Chief Medical Officer, Budgam amounting to Rs. 4,000.00  
3. Scanned copies of following documents, in-force at the time of submitting the tender, duly self-attested by the authorized signatory, along with seal:  
a) PAN Card of bidding entity viz., Proprietor/ Firm/ Company, etc. and its Authorized Signatory (in case the bidding entity is a Partnership Firm or Company);  
b) GST Registration Certificate;  
c) SSI Registration Certificate issued by the concerned DIC;  
d) ITR(s) of last three financial years  
e) Documentary evidence regarding experience in dealing with Govt. Agencies/ Departments/ PSUs, with respect to similar line of business, during preceding 3 years;  
4. Rates quoted should be FOR for district Stores Budgam, in accordance with the BOQ inclusive of GST/ other taxes and all other charges.  
5. Rates coming into force as the outcome of this NIT shall remain valid for a period of Twelve (12) Months from the date of Issuance of Rate Contract and are extendable upto a period of 90 days, or till such time the new Rate Contract comes into force, whichever is earlier.  
6. Rates coming into force as the outcome of this NIT shall remain fixed during the entire period of Contract, including the extended period, if any.  
7. Specifications in tender should not differ with the actual specifications, otherwise tenders may liable to be rejected.  
8. The quantity may be enhanced/ decreased, if needed, based on user requirements.  
9. The sealed cover shall be submitted to "Chief Medical officer Budgam. The last date and time of submission of tenders shall be 31-01-2022 04.00 Hrs. The tenders shall be sent by registered post or by courier or dropped in a box specifically kept in Chief Medical officer. The said tenders shall be opened on 03-02-2022 at 11.30 Hrs in the presence of the suppliers/dealers or their representatives, who wish to be present, at that time.  
10. The name of the manufacturer shall be clearly mentioned in the offer form as per Annexure I. The rates quoted should be lowest market rates and are not higher than the rates charged to any other Institutions of the State. The certificate to this effect shall be recorded on the body of the bill.  
11. In case if the Office of Chief Medical Officer have any clarification, the bidder shall either clarify through telephone or shall sent its representative to this office.  
12. The Department is not bound to accept the lowest tender and may reject any tender or any part of the tender without assigning any reason therefor.  
13. No Tender shall be accepted/entertained after due date of submission.

CMOB/NHM/21-22/3466-70  
Dated:16-01-22

Dr. Tajamul Hussain Khan  
Chief Medical Officer  
Budgam

List of Items Annexure: I

S. No.	Description of Items	Size	Per Unit
1	Banners of Different Sizes without iron frame	Rate per sq. feet	Per sq. feet
2	Banners of Different Sizes with iron frame	Rate per sq. feet	Per sq. feet
3	Poster – in Hindi, English and Urdu with Multicolour Printing	18" Long x 22" Width	Per Poster
4	Different Types of Registers (200 Pages each Register) with Ledger Paper and Superior Binding	Sample Basis	Per Register

DIPK-16831/21

Chief Medical Officer  
Budgam



## Rs 40 Cr Outlay Earmarked For Dairy And Sheep Units In Tribal Areas In J&K



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Tribal Affairs department has earmarked Rs 40 crore for dairy farms and sheep farms in tribal villages, while an outlay of Rs 15 crore has been earmarked for mini sheep farms, an official spokesman said on Tuesday.

The information was given at a meeting chaired by Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary to review the progress in various livelihood initiatives and formulation of plan for financial year 2022-23 in convergence with Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments, the spokesman said.

He said the progress on establishment of mini Sheep Farms, Milk Villages, Milk Chilling Plants, Dairy Farms and tents for migratory population was reviewed.

Sectoral plan proposals for next financial year were also discussed for timely initiation of developmental works at the beginning of the year, the spokesman said, adding the department has earmarked an outlay of Rs 40 crore for dairy farms and

sheep farms in tribal villages.

Around 750 mini Sheep Farms have been established in various districts including Reasi, Doda, Kathua, Samba, Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region, Kupwara, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Srinagar and Shopian in Kashmir benefiting a population of 3,000.

Meanwhile, Phase-II of the scheme will cover Kishtwar, Udhampur, Ramban and Jammu in Jammu division and Baramulla, Budgam and Bandipora in the valley. An outlay of Rs 15 crore has been earmarked for mini Sheep Farms, the spokesman said.

He said milk villages are being established at 17 locations under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and UT Capital Expenditure, which will benefit more than 1500 families in gainful employment.

The Milk Village scheme has been restructured by adoption of Integrated Dairy Development Scheme notified by the Animal Husbandry Department, the spokesman said, adding the milk villages are coming up with a budget of Rs 15 crore.

## Jewellery Industry Body Urges Govt To Reduce GST To 1.25%

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) on Tuesday urged the government to reduce the rate of GST (goods and services tax) to 1.25 per cent.

In its pre-Budget 2022-23 recommendations to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, GJC has sought a cumulative GST rate of 1.25 per cent based on the revenue equivalence principle on gold, precious metals, gems and articles of jewellery made of such goods, the apex industry body said in a statement.

Currently, the GST rate for gems and jewellery is 3 per cent.

The national industry apex body has also urged FM to raise the PAN card limit to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh, as many households in rural India do not hold PAN cards and face difficulty in arranging minimum required jewellery in times of need, especially post-pandemic.

GJC has urged the government that suitable clarification be issued on the minimum quantity of gold, which an individual can deposit under the gold monetisation scheme (GMS), without being questioned by any departmental authorities.

Further, the industry body requested that the EMI facility for the purchase of 22K gold



jewellery should be allowed to the gems and jewellery industry, which in turn shall lead to a substantial growth of the business of the industry after the pandemic.

"Our industry has suffered a lot during these harsh times of the pandemic, and it is also identified as one of the 'stressed sectors' in K V Kamath's report. Hence, we have proposed changes in Section 40A of the Income Tax Act so that the existing daily cash limit of Rs 10,000 per day be increased to Rs 1,00,000 per day," GJC Chairman Ashish Pethe said.

GJC has also urged the government to waive off the bank commission (1-1.5 per cent) on the purchase of jewellery through credit cards, thus ensuring a good boost to the 'Digital India' for the gems and jewellery industry, he said.

"We are confident and hopeful that there may be good relief announced for our industry during the Budget session," Pethe added.

## DoT Amends Telecom Licences To Allow Key 5G-Enabled Service

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The department of telecom (DoT) has amended telecom licences to enable service providers to roll out machine-to-machine communication - a service which is considered as a key driver of 5G adoption - in the country.

While DoT had issued machine-to-machine (M2M) guidelines in May 2018, the clause related to their provisioning was not part of the telecom licences.

The DoT in the licence amendment has incorporated M2M with pan-India permit, limited to circle level and district level, according to a circular.

Telecom operators interested in providing M2M services across India will have an entry fee of ₹30 lakh, performance bank guarantee (PBG) of ₹40 lakh and financial bank guaran-



tee (FBG) of ₹2 lakh.

The entry fee for the circle-level category has been fixed at ₹2 lakh, PBG ₹2 lakh and FBG at ₹20,000. The entry fee, PBG and FBG for district level will be ₹20,000, ₹10,000 and ₹2,000, respectively.

The DoT has also added a clause for provisioning of audiotext or interactive voice response service (IVRS) as part of telecom licence.

The amendment has been made across all categories of telecom service licences.

## Govt To Use SC Order To Counter Devas Enforcements In International Fora: FM

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government will use the Supreme Court order calling the 2005 deal between ISRO's commercial arm Antrix and privately-owned Devas Multimedia a fraud, to counter seizure of its properties, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday as she launched a blistering attack on the Congress for handing over airwaves used by the defence to the private firm for pittance.

"It is a fraud of Congress, by Congress (and) for Congress," the minister told reporters as she read out paragraphs from the Supreme Court's January 17 decision allowing winding up of Devas Multimedia because of the fraud.

Antrix the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) entered into an agreement with Devas for providing multimedia services to mobile users, for which it was given S-band satellite spectrum without the knowledge of the Union Cabinet, she said. The Congress took six years to cancel the deal and the then government did not initiate steps to fight the arbitration proceedings the private company brought against the cancellation, she added.

The Congress-led UPA did not cite national security to fight the arbitrations brought by Devas, Sitharaman said and called the party "master of corruption".

Devas initiated arbitration against the annulment at the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC). Two separate arbitrations were also initiated under the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) by Mauritius investors in Devas Multimedia under the India-Mauritius BIT and by Deutsche Telekom a German company under the India Germany BIT. India lost all three disputes and has to pay a total of USD 1.2 billion in damages.

Its shareholders are pursuing Indian assets abroad to recover



award and have got a French court order for freezing Indian properties in Paris and got partial rights over funds maintained by Air India in Canada.

The Supreme Court has given a comprehensive verdict upholding the liquidation of Devas ordered by the insolvency court, she said, adding this would be cited in the international courts to challenge enforcement actions of the private firm.

"No country which respects rule of law will ignore these facts," she said, citing the apex court observation that it was a case of fraud of a huge magnitude which cannot be brushed under the carpet as a private lie.

Antrix had approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) seeking liquidation of Devas. Last year, NCLT ordered liquidation of Devas observing that the firm appeared to have been incorporated with fraudulent intentions. Devas appealed against the order before NCLAT which in September 2021 upheld the liquidation. Devas filed an appeal before the Supreme Court which upheld the liquidation, she said.

Calling Congress a "master of corruption", Sitharaman asked if the party's leader Rahul Gandhi had "tore" the Antrix-Devas deal papers in 2011. He and the Congress owes answers to the nation, she said.

The minister was apparently referring to the incident of Rahul Gandhi tearing an ordinance on land acquisition in public in 2013. The ordinance

had been cleared by the then UPA II government that was led by Congress.

The Antrix-Devas deal was a fraud perpetuated by the Congress on the nation where spectrum used by defence forces was given for pittance, she said. "This is the level of shameless corruption."

The 2005 agreement was "a fraud on people of India, fraud against the country," she said, adding the government is fighting in every court so that Devas does not get away with Antrix deal fraud and taxpayers' money is saved.

Sitharaman said the commercial terminal award was for a total of USD 1 billion while USD 93.3 million plus cost and interest was awarded against India under the arbitration brought under the India-Germany BIT. Besides, USD 111.2 million plus cost and interest was awarded in the arbitration under India-Mauritius BIT.

"After nearly 10-11 years of struggle, the Supreme Court has come out with the decision on the case. This indicates how the Congress party has misused its position when in power," the minister said.

She also questioned the Congress party for allowing blatant sale of resources of the government and people of India for pittance.

"We are fighting to save taxpayers' money which otherwise would have gone to pay for the scandalous Antrix-Devas deal," she added.

## Tata Motors To Hike Passenger Car Prices From Today



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Tata Motors on Tuesday said it will increase prices of its passenger vehicles by an average of 0.9 per cent with effect from January 19 (Wednesday), in order to partially offset the impact of rise in input costs.

The Mumbai-based automaker sells various models like Tiago, Punch and Harrier in the domestic market.

Effective from Wednesday, an average increase of 0.9 per cent will be implemented, depending on the variant and model, the automaker said in a statement.

At the same time, the company has also taken a reduction of up to Rs 10,000 on specific variants, in response to feedback from customers, it added.

"While the company is absorbing a significant portion of the increased costs, the steep rise in overall input costs has compelled it to pass on some

proportion through this minimal price hike," Tata Motors noted.

It noted that in line with the company's customer-first approach, it has again decided to offer price protection to all its customers who have reposed faith and confidence in the Tata Motors passenger vehicles range.

There would be no impact of the price increase on the cars booked on or before January 18, Tata Motors stated.

Last week, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) raised prices of its models by up to 4.3 per cent with immediate effect. The company has enhanced prices across its models from 0.1 per cent to 4.3 per cent, owing to rise in various input costs.

Automobile companies have been stating that they have been forced to hike prices due to the increase in the cost of essential commodities like steel, aluminium, copper, plastic and precious metals over the last year.

## 'Third Wave Has Airlines Flying Into Deep-Red With Rs 20000 Crore Net Losses This Yr'



Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Hit by the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and soaring fuel prices, airlines are flying towards record losses with a likely loss of a whopping Rs 20,000 crore for the full fiscal year, warns a report. The airlines are flying towards their steepest-ever net loss of over Rs 20,000 crore this fiscal, which will be 44 per cent more than Rs 13,853 crore they bled last fiscal, Crisil said in a report.

This will push back the industry's recovery beyond fiscal 2023, the report based on three large listed airlines--Indigo, Spicejet, and Air India--which together command 75 per cent of the domestic traffic, warned.

Air traffic had seen a swift recovery after the second wave and reached 86 per cent of the pre-pandemic level in December 2021 compared over December 2019, while regular international flights were expected to start after January 2022.

However, the third wave has already caused domestic air traffic to plummet 25 per cent in the first week of January. A similar trend was observed during the second wave in April-May 2021 when air traffic declined 25 per cent and 66 per cent, respectively, on a sequential basis, the report noted.

According to Nitesh Jain, a director at the agency, the three large listed airlines have already reported a net loss of Rs 11,323 crore in the first half of the current fiscal.

The sharp jump in domestic air traffic would have cushioned the losses in the third quarter, but net loss will increase significantly in the fourth quarter as the third wave has brought back travel restrictions and flight cancellations. As a result, we expect airlines to report the steepest net loss this fiscal.

Passenger load factor, a key operating metric, has improved to 80 per cent in December 2021 from 50 per cent in May 2021.

Although seat utilization level has improved, it was still significantly lower than 88-90 per cent pre-pandemic times leading to recurring losses and the continued suspension of scheduled international flights is only further hurting the sector as international routes are generally more profitable.

Besides the decline in traffic, high fuel prices--which account for a third of the operating cost, is accentuating pressure on profitability. Aviation turbine fuel prices had hit an all-time high of Rs 83 a litre in November 2021, rising from an average price of Rs 44 in fiscal 2021 and Rs 63 in April-June 2021.

### NEWS MAKERS

## J&K Receives KRIBHCO Urea Rake After 30 Yrs

**JAMMU:** To ensure and streamline the supply of quality fertilizer to the farmers, a team of officers led by Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, (who is also Controller of Fertilizer, J & K UT) K. K. Sharma Tuesday conducted intensive inspection at Fertilizer Rake Point, Udhampur. On the occasion the Director received Urea Fertilizer Rake of Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) Company after a period of 30 years.

Controller Fertilizer informed that the Urea rake containing 2652 MTs of Urea has been received at Udhampur Rake point for distribution in Kashmir valley. He said that earlier four companies (IFFCO, IPL, NFL and CFCL) are providing the fertilizers and by starting operation of KRIBHCO, fertilizer requirements of UT will be met efficiently and no shortage will be faced by farmers.

The Director Agriculture stressed on to speed up the process of loading and transportation of fertilizer to valley so as to ensure the smooth and timely supply of fertilizer to the farmers and fruit growers of Kashmir division. He directed the concerned to make adequate arrangements to protect the fertilizer lot in case of sudden hostile weather. He also emphasized for hassle free and equitable supply of fertilizers to the doorsteps of the farmers in time in all the regions and districts of the state.

## Functioning of Cooperative Societies, J&K Reviewed

**SRINAGAR:** The Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K, Shafqat Iqbal Tuesday reviewed the functioning of the department to assess the progress achieved under the approved schemes, activities and works under Cooperative Societies, Capex Budget 2021-22.

In the meeting, the Registrar emphasized on efficient utilization of funds of approved schemes/activities/works under Capex Budget 2021-22. He further reiterated on coordinating with respective Executing Agencies for timely completion of projects and incurring expenditure during the current financial year.

The stress was also laid on increasing awareness among people regarding various schemes and activities of the Cooperative Department. The Deputy Registrars were directed to expedite registration process of new Cooperative Societies/Cooperatives to meet the targets as given by the Advisor Farooq Ahmad Khan in the previous review meeting of the Department.

The Registrar also stated that in order to ensure online hassle free registration of the Cooperative Societies/Cooperatives, training programmes would be conducted for all Deputy Registrars, Assistant Registrars and other concerned Officials in the Department.

## Vikram Dev Dutt Appointed Air India Ltd Chief

**NEW DELHI:** Senior bureaucrat Vikram Dev Dutt has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Air India Ltd as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre on Tuesday.

Dutt is a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre. He has been appointed as the Air India chief in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Chanchal Kumar has been appointed as Managing Director, National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd, it said.

Kumar, a 1992-batch IAS officer, is at present posted in his cadre state Bihar. (PTI)

## Sensex, Nifty Tank Around 1 Pc As Global Equities Sink On Rate Hike Worries

**MUMBAI:** Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty plunged by around 1 per cent on Tuesday due to sharp losses in auto, metal, and realty stocks amid a global rout in equities triggered by rising US bond yields and a spike in crude oil.

The 30-share index slumped by 554.05 points or 0.90 per cent to end at 60,754.86 with 23 of its constituents ending in the red.

The broader NSE Nifty fell by 195.05 points or 1.07 per cent to 18,113.05. As many 43 Nifty stocks closed with losses while six advanced.

Maruti was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding over 4 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank and I&T.

On the other hand, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Bank Dr Reddy's, Titan and Nestle India were the gainers.

"A surge in oil prices and FIIs turning net sellers added volatility in the domestic market. Globally, markets witnessed selling pressure following a surge in US treasury yield amid rate hike worries while oil prices rose on supply tension owing to the drone attack on UAE," Vinod Nair, Head Of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said. (PTI)

## MFI Industry Seeks Higher Credit Guarantee Scheme In Budget

**KOLKATA:** The microfinance sector has urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to increase the limit of credit guarantee scheme in the budget for 2022-23.

In the budget representation to the ministry, the self regulatory body (SRO) of MFIs said the sector is facing a few challenges in terms of higher credit costs and access to low-cost long term funds.

It urged the finance minister to extend the quantum of funds under the credit guarantee scheme to the MFIs

P Satish, executive director of Sa-Dhan, an SRO, said that the microfinance sector plays an important role in steering growth and consumption which are crucial at this juncture.

According to him, the capital of the smaller MFIs has been impacted due to the pandemic and he urged the government to support them with subordinated debt with tenure ranging from five to seven years. (PTI)



# No person can be forced to get vaccinated against their wishes: Centre to SC

New Delhi: COVID-19 inoculation guidelines issued by the Union Health Ministry do not envisage forcible vaccination without obtaining the consent of an individual, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

The Health Ministry in an affidavit filed before the top court submitted that India's vaccination programme is the largest in the world and as on January 11, 2022, a total of 1,52,95,43,602 doses have been administered.

It said that 90.84 per cent of the eligible adult population has received their first dose of the vaccine and 61 per cent has received their second dose as well. "Furthermore, a total of 23,768 doses have been administered to disabled persons who have voluntarily chosen to be identified as such by using their Unique Disability ID Card/Disability Certificate for registration at the time of their vaccination," it said.

On the issue of exempting



persons with disabilities from producing vaccination certificates, the Centre told the apex court that it has not issued any SOP that makes it mandatory to carry the vaccination certificate for any purpose.

The Centre said this in its affidavit filed in response to a plea by NGO Evara Foundation seeking door-to-door, priority

COVID-19 vaccination for persons with disabilities.

"It is submitted that the direction and guidelines released by the Government of India and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare do not envisage any forcible vaccination without obtaining consent of the concerned individual.

"It is submitted that

vaccination for COVID-19 is of larger public interest in view of the ongoing pandemic situation," the affidavit filed by the Health Ministry said.

The ministry said that "it is duly advised, advertised and communicated through various print and social media platforms that all citizens should get vaccinated and systems and processes have been designed to facilitate the same."

"However, no person can be forced to be vaccinated against their wishes," it said.

On the issue of door-to-door vaccination, the affidavit submitted that guidance has been provided to states and union territories to undertake meticulous, need-based planning so that Near to Home Vaccine Centres (NHCVCs) strategy is undertaken at block or urban area level and identification of NHCVC sites done according to guidelines.

The location of NHCVCs is to

be done by district/urban task forces so as to ensure maximum reach of services to the eligible population, it said.

The Health Ministry stressed on the need for continuing the use of face masks or face covers, and said the "Har Ghar Dastak Abhiyan" was being followed for door-to-door vaccination of eligible beneficiaries, including persons with disabilities.

It also apprised the apex court that such persons not having ID cards are also eligible for vaccination since the CoWIN website provides the facility for creation of special vaccination sessions for this purpose.

"It is submitted that the CoWIN public interface is available in 11 regional languages in addition to English. It is also submitted that open files of awareness materials have been shared with the states for translation, publication and dissemination in any language/accessible format," the affidavit said.

## Woman charred to death as bus catches fire in Surat



A woman was charred to death, while a man received severe burn injuries after the private luxury bus in which they were travelling caught fire and exploded in Gujarat's Surat city on Tuesday night, said officials.

The incident took place in the Varachha area of the city.

Primary investigations revealed there were around 15 passengers in the bus when it caught fire, which spread quickly in the vehicle, said Chief Fire Officer of Surat, Basant Pareek.

"While all other passengers managed to alight in time, a woman and a man got stuck in the burning bus. While the woman was charred to death, the man, who suffered severe

burn injuries, was somehow pulled out of the bus by some people," said Pareek.

According to locals, there were very few passengers in the bus when it started its journey towards Bhavnagar from the Katargam area.

When it reached Hirabag Circle at around 9:30 pm to take more passengers, the bus was engulfed in flames after a sudden spark followed by a blast, said Pareek.

"We believe a spark in the engine area started the blaze. The fire spread after it caused an explosion in the AC compressor of the vehicle. Due to presence of foam and other synthetic materials in the bus, the fire spread very quickly," the officer said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### J&K Govt Receives

employment generation potential. "Dr. Mehta further impressed upon the Department to integrate the single window system with the rapid assessment system to enable the applicant to share feedback with the Department," he said.

Mehta, he said, also directed the completion of end-to-end digitization of all services identified under (EoDB) by the end of this month by focussing on the remaining services of a handful of departments.

"Moreover, the Industries & Commerce Department was asked to develop handicraft and handloom haats in all district headquarters to provide readymade market to the local products. The Department was further asked to expedite identifying one product per district that can be taken up for large-scale export to national and international markets," he added.

To boost the handicrafts and handlooms of Jammu and Kashmir, the official spokesperson said that Mehta stressed the linkage of the local market with the e-commerce platforms after suitable certification of product quality.

"Besides, he also emphasized the importance of GI tag of local products and quality testing thereafter to gain consumers' confidence in the quality of products from Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

During the recently held Dubai Expo 2022, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has signed MoUs with various entities to bring in an investment of about Rs 3,000 crore, which includes industry giants like Emaar, Lulu, Matu Investments, Al Maya Group, and Noon e-commerce, among others.

During 2021-22, the industries and commerce department has sanctioned 1,392 cases under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) with a subsidy amount of Rs 19.34 crore. It also sponsored 2,810 cases under Credit Card for Artisans with sanctioned amount of Rs 1.89 crore, established 26 Karkhandars (units) and organised 20 exhibitions for the promotion of J&K's industry and commerce, the official spokesperson said.

### 4651 People Test

Kupwara 209, Ganderbal 172, Bandipora 139, Pulwama 96 and

Shopian 21.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 919 new cases of Coronavirus, Udhampur 184, Samba 109, Kathua 94, Reasi 78, Rajouri 74, Doda 49, Poonch 18, Ramban 15 and Kishtwar 6.

"Moreover, 899 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 549 from Jammu Division and 350 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, they said that three more people, two from Jammu and Division and one from Kashmir Valley died of Covid-19 complications, raising the death toll in pandemic to 4575 in J&K —2228 in Jammu and 2347 in Kashmir.

The officials also said that no new cases of Mucormycosis were reported Tuesday, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains 51 across J&K.

### Govt Orders Creation

mode to assess the progress made to mitigate the impact of third wave, an official spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, Div Com stressed on surveillance and monitoring of home isolated patients and emphasized on regular communication with them and distribution of Covid care kits to them.

"He said that there is complacency in people regarding wearing of masks and stressed upon continuation of enforcement of SOPs," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, Pole also directed enhancement of testing capacity of existing labs besides activation of Panchayat Covid Care Centers and deployment of staff, ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers, Lambardars, Chowkidars for the management of those centers.

The Div Com, he said, also directed for the establishment of neonatal child care facilities to treat the newly born babies in case they contract Covid infection.

"Div Com also directed for creation of second line of additional human resources in order to tackle the current wave if existing supporting staff of hospitals gets infected by the Covid virus," he said, adding "Besides, Pole directed for building stock pile of Covid care kits for further distribution if the rate of positive cases increases during the current wave."

As per the official spokesperson, the Div Com stressed on CMOs of the division to ensure that only critical patients should be referred to tertiary

health care hospitals after proper assessment done at district/sub district hospitals.

During the meeting, he said, Pole also emphasized on the utilization of existing available resources which can help to flatten the curve at this juncture.

"During the meeting all Deputy Commissioners, apprised the meeting about the steps taken to help the covid positive patients and containment measure in their districts," he added.

The meeting was attended by Director SKIMS, all DCs along with CMOs, Principal GMC, CEO J&K ERA; MD, National Health Mission; Principals of SKIMS Bemina, GMC Srknagar, Anantnag, Baramulla; Director Health Services Kashmir; GM J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Kashmir; Incharge Divisional Covid Control Room Kashmir; Epidemiologist, DCCRK; MS SKIMS, SMHS, JVC, Bone & Joint Hospital, Kashmir Nursing Home, JLNMI; Assistant Director, Immunization and Family Welfare Kashmir and other officers.

### Health Dept Scans

issued strict and necessary instructions in this manner to avoid such incidents in future.

"During campaign mode of covid vaccination such isolated incidents of unintentional wrong entries have happened because of the sudden increase in data uploads into the Cowin portal and unintentional mistakes by support staff," he said.

He further said that Jammu and Kashmir has administered close to 2 crore doses and is the forerunner in the country in vaccinating its eligible population. Such cases constitute a microscopic minority, maybe in single digits.

In a recent incident, the official spokesperson said, it was noticed that two beneficiaries aged 51 and 49, belonging to Block Sogam, District Kupwara, were inadvertently marked as vaccinated with second dose as of 11th September 2021, while actually they were yet to receive their second dose physically.

"Upon identification of the cases, immediate arrangements to administer missed vaccine doses at the beneficiaries' home were made," he added.

### 3 Kashmiri Students

The student alleged that the police

weren't taking the matter seriously and the culprits are yet to be booked.

However, Punjab police in a tweet said that the complaint has been forwarded to the concerned police station for the action.

"The complaint is further forwarded to Sasnagar Police station for immediate legal action," police tweeted.

### Security Intensified

fortified with the deployment of paramilitary troops, sharpshooters positioned atop high rise buildings, new bunkers and barricades. The stadium is also being monitored with drones.

"J&K Police is also planning to install face recognition machinery at several strategic points in Srinagar but the decision about it is still to be finalized by the higher authorities," the official said.

On the ground, the measures have also led to a visible disruption in the traffic.

Contingents of police and CRPF troopers in full battle gear were deployed today in this capital city and other major towns of the Valley to prevent further militant attacks and to ensure smooth conduct of January 26 celebrations.

At several checkpoints across the city, the police and Central forces were seen stopping and checking vehicles. The checking continued on regular intervals at several places here including Ram Munshi Bagh, Indra Nagar, Dalgate, Barbarshah, Munawar abad, Khanyar, Rajbagh, Shaheed Gunj, TRC, Lal Chowk, Kral Khud and several other areas.

A contingent of Special Operations Group (SOG) personnel of police carried out random frisking of commuters and pedestrians around Lal Chowk, the commercial hub of the city.

"Around this time, there are always inputs from the intelligence agencies about a possible threat from the terrorists and this time also they may try to disrupt the peace in the valley," PRO, CRPF Abhi Ram Pankaj told Kashmir Observer.

"So, CRPF alongwith J&K Police has beefed up the security, so that any nefarious designs of terrorists may be thwarted. We have started anti-sabotage checking to thwart any attempt of militants to bring in arms and explosives ahead of the Republic Day. We've also set up surprise nakas and checkpoints."

As per the official, there won't be any additional placement of paramilitary troops and bunkers, as the number of forces currently stationed in the city is enough to maintain the Law & Order situation.

### Cold Wave Eases

temperature in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of 0.2 degrees Celsius.

The MET Office has said under the influence of a feeble Western Disturbance, the weather is most likely to remain generally cloudy with possibility of very light to light rain/snow in plains of J-K up to Wednesday and light to moderate snowfall over the higher reaches.

There is no forecast of any major rain or snow till the end of this month, it said.

Kashmir valley is currently under the grip of the 40-day harshest winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' which began on December 21 last year.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

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

The 'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31, but the cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

### CAG Picks Holes

implementing unit, there was a shortfall of 63 per cent of posts at the apex level and 100 per cent shortfall at district and block levels.

"There were significant delays in the start of projects by 20 Programme Implementing agencies, with respect to the deemed date and actual date of commencement," the report states.

According to the report, against a target of 53,547 youth to be trained, only 4,494 youth (8 per cent) were trained, during the period from 2016-17 to 2018-19.

"Further, out of 4,494 trained youth, only 732 youth (16 per cent) were placed in jobs. The teams were not in

place to monitor the process," it adds.

Himayat is a placement linked skill training programme for unemployed youth of Jammu & Kashmir and is being implemented by the Himayat Mission Management Unit, J&K State Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKSRMLM). The programme is an outcome of the recommendations of Dr. C. Rangarajan committee report submitted to the Prime Minister on 24th February, 2011 which suggested a scheme of skill development for school/college dropouts—(KNO)

### Policeman Dies

medical and legal formalities into the matter have been completed, they further said.

### Youth Held

night, a police spokesman said. He termed as significant the arrest of the youth amid growing militant activities in the Pir Panjal area.

As per sources, he was connected with militants through social media and was quite instrumental in providing information to militants about security forces establishments and sharing seditious material, the spokesman said.

The youth was also trying to engage and motivate youngsters of his area to join militant ranks, he said.

The spokesman said the arrested youth was booked under the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Further investigation in the case is on, he added.

### Minor Boy

could be rescued, they said. A police official said that an incident occurred yesterday and a case has been registered and further investigations have been taken.

Reportedly the official said that the boy died after coming under snow-slide from the rooftop but further investigations are underway. (GNS)

### Sanjeev Gupta Is

by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Sh Sanjeev Gupta, District Judge (Super Time Scale) is appointed as the Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and Mrs. Jeema Bashir, District Judge (Selection Time Scale) is appointed as the Registrar Inspection in Srinagar wing of the High Court," reads an order issued by the J&K and Ladakh High Court.



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OR SCAN





## My Superhero: Siraj Pays Tribute To Ex-Captain Kohli



Press Trust of India

**PAARL:** Fast-rising India pacer Mohammed Siraj considers Virat Kohli his "superhero" and says the batting ace will always remain his skipper despite his captaincy tenure ending in all formats of the game.

Kohli, whose limited-overs leadership stint ended last year, stunned all by relinquishing Test captaincy on Saturday, a day after India lost a three-match Test series to an under-strength South Africa 1-2.

Siraj took to social media on Monday to thank Kohli for "trusting and believing" in his capabilities.

"To my superhero, I cannot be thankful enough for the support

and the encouragement that I got from you. You have always been my great brother.

"Thank you for trusting me and believing in me for all these years. For seeing the great at my worst. You will always be my captain King Kohli @virat.kohli," Siraj wrote in an Instagram post.

Siraj made his debut in Test, ODI and T20 cricket under Kohli and is also the former skipper's teammate in IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The 27-year-old pacer from Hyderabad played eight Tests under Kohli, scalping 23 wickets at an average of 27.04.

Both Kohli and Siraj will be seen in action during the ODI series against South Africa starting Wednesday in Paarl.

## Former IPL Cricketer Claims 'Fixing Approach' During TNPL 2021

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Former first-class and IPL cricketer Rajagopal Sathish was allegedly offered Rs 40 lakh to fix matches during the Tamil Nadu Premier League

The 41-year-old Sathish was part of Chepaug Super Gillies squad that won the TNPL last season. The former Tamil Nadu player has also been part of Mumbai Indians, Punjab Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. A person named Bunny Anand made the offer to Sathish via Instagram.

"He informed us as well as the International Cricket Council earlier this month that he was offered money through social

media. Since we are only facilitators in such cases, we advised him to lodge a police complaint. He has done that and now police will investigate and do the needful," BCCI ACU chief Shabir Khandwawala told PTI.

The complaint has been filed with Bengaluru Police.

The TNPL was played from July 19 to August 15 last year.

Asked why Sathish chose to approach the BCCI only now, the ACU chief said: "Whatever the circumstances were, it needs to be seen by the police.

"We don't want to discourage him. If he has decided to come out, our duty is to show him the way," Khandwawala, who is a former Gujarat DGP, added.

## IPL: Hardik, Rashid, Shubman Are Ahmedabad Draft Picks

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Ahmedabad IPL franchise on predictable lines have signed Hardik Pandya and Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan but preferred young India opener Shubman Gill for the upcoming season of Indian Premier League.

PTI was the first to report on January 10 that Pandya is all set to captain the Ahmedabad franchise for the season and they have also finalised Rashid Khan, who otherwise would have gone for a steep price at the auctions.

However, their third choice Ishan Kishan didn't work out and they have now zeroed in on Gill, who could also be seen as a potential captaincy candidate."Ahmedabad has decided on its players and accord-



ingly informed the BCCI about their draft picks.

Hardik, Rashid and Shubman are the three choices," a senior IPL official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"They wanted Ishan Kishan badly but it is understood that Ishan is more interested in going back to the auction and there is a high chance that MI might buy him at a premium price."

## Deposed Captains Virat Kohli, Quinton de Kock Gear Up For ODI Series

Agencies

**PAARL:** Two deposed captains, Virat Kohli and Quinton de Kock, could play significant roles in a three-match one-day international series between South Africa and India, starting at Boland Park in Paarl on Wednesday.

Both former skippers have the potential to be the leading batters for their respective sides.

For Kohli, it will be the first ODI series since Rohit Sharma was named captain by the Indian selectors in December.

Even though Sharma had to withdraw from the series in South Africa because of injury, the captaincy was not returned to Kohli but was passed to KL Rahul.

Kohli, who captained India in 95 ODIs with a 65-27 win-loss ratio, made it clear after India's Test series defeat last week that he could speak about the coming one-day games purely "from a player's point of view".

Kohli, who subsequently stepped down from the Test captaincy, said: "You are obviously very driven and motivated to perform in any match you play for India. As an individual, I can definitely say that I am looking forward to the ODI series and I am driven to perform in those ODI games."

De Kock was made South Africa's long-term white-ball captain in February 2020 and



was made Test captain for four matches last season. But he did not seem comfortable in the role and a decision was made last March to put Temba Bavuma in charge of the white-ball teams, with Dean Elgar taking over as Test captain.

De Kock, who was already due to miss the last two Tests against India on paternity leave, announced after the first Test, last month that he was retiring from Test cricket, although he remained available for limited-overs games.

The series marks De Kock's return to action for the first time since becoming the father of a baby daughter.

He fell to two indifferent shots in his final Test match and South Africa will be hoping for a return to the free-flowing, motivated batsman who hit three centuries in successive matches against India eight seasons ago.

The series is not part of the

International Cricket Council's World Cup Super League but South Africa, in particular, will be keen to record their first one-day series win since beating Australia 3-0 in March 2020 before cricket was effectively shut down by the coronavirus pandemic.

Since then, series against India and England have been aborted because of the virus, they have lost against Pakistan and Sri Lanka and have had to share the honours against Ireland and the Netherlands.

One match was lost, one won and another rained off in Ireland and the first match of a series against the Netherlands was washed out and the remaining matches postponed because South Africa was placed on a coronavirus travel "red list".

India won the only two ODI series they played in 2021, at home against England and away against Sri Lanka.

## U-19 World Cup: Sri Lanka, West Indies, Pakistan Register Wins

Press Trust of India

**KINGSTON:** Dunith Wellalage led from the front with an all-round show as Sri Lanka defeated Australia by four wickets to register their second consecutive win in Group D of the ICC U-19 World Cup.

Wellalage (5/28) first spun the web around Australia batsmen with his slow left-arm twerkers to bundle out the opposition for 175 runs after opting to bowl at the Conaree Sports Club on Monday.

Opener Campbell Kellaway was the top-scorer for Australia with a 77-ball 54-run knock as Sri Lankan bowlers picked up wickets at regular intervals to make life difficult for their opponents.

Besides, Wellalage, Treveen Mathew (2/32) and Matheesha Pathirana (2/34) picked up two wickets apiece for Sri Lanka.

Chasing a modest target, Sri Lanka suffered early jolts and were reduced to 49 for four at one stage before Wellalage steadied the ship with a 71-ball 52 and stitched two crucial partnerships with wicketkeeper Anjala Bandara (33) and Ran-uda Somaratne (32 not out) to take Islanders home in 37 overs.

Sri Lanka are leading Group D with four points from two games, while Australia are placed third with a win.

In another Group D match in Basseterre, West Indies thrashed minnows Scotland by seven wickets to register their



first win of the tournament.

Electing to field, West Indies first bundled out Scotland for 95 in 35.4 overs and then chased down the target in 19.4 overs by losing just three wickets.

Right-arm pacer Shiva San- kar (3/17) was the star performer for West Indies with the ball, while off-break bowler Onaje Amory (2/26) and left-arm spinner Anderson Mahase (2/16) also chipped in with wickets.

By virtue of a better net run rate, West Indies currently occupy the second spot in Group D standings ahead of Australia.

Meanwhile, opener Haseebullah Khan smashed a brilliant century as Pakistan showed their batting prowess to start their campaign on a positive note, beating Zimbabwe by 115 runs in Group C at the Diego Martin ground.

Wicketkeeper Haseebullah scored 135 off 155 balls, the highest score of the tournament so far, while Irfan Khan made 75

off 73 deliveries to propel Pakistan to 315 for nine after being sent into bat.

Haseebullah and Irfan shared 192 runs for the third wicket to set the platform for the total.

For Zimbabwe, pacer Alex Felao (5/58) picked up a fiver.

Brian Bennett (83) played a lone hand for Zimbabwe but they were never really in the hunt after early dismissals and were all out for 200 in 42.4 overs.

Zimbabwe fell 116 runs short in the chase despite an 83 run eighth-wicket partnership between Brian Bennett and Tendekai Mataranyika.

Pakistan's opener Haseebullah put on the highest score of the tournament so far with 135 from 155 balls as he and Irfan Khan combined for a 192-run third-wicket partnership.

While Pakistan have a positive start, Zimbabwe have registered a win against Papua New Guinea in their opening group match.

## Gurez Locals Hold Cricket Tournaments On Frozen Track To Attract Tourists



Agencies

**BANDIPORA:** To attract the attention of higher authorities and the outside world for promoting winter sports, youngsters from remote Gurez valley in north Kashmir have once again organised multiple snow cricket tournaments on a frozen field.

The youngsters have organised several snow cricket tournaments on a frozen snowfield surrounded by the mountains in the different villages including Markoot, Achoora and Bagtore of the border Gurez valley.

Over the past few years snow cricket on the frozen fields has become popular among the residents in Gurez as the place has the potential to become a hub for winter games.

Locals told news agency KNO that when different winter sports events can be organised in other parts of the valley, why can't similar games be held in Gurez during winter months.

They said that their only intention is to start these tourna-

ments so that the government pays attention to the area as it has a great potential for winter sports activities but unfortunately to date the youngsters have never been encouraged by the government.

"Our brave young men can play in the snow as well and we have to keep our identity alive here no matter how much snow falls," a local Sarpach of the area said, adding that the youth need encouragement, and the area needs the attention of the government.

Mustafa Lone, another local, said that the people of the area are leaving no stone unturned to promote it as a tourism destination.

"We want more tourists to come to our valley that's why we, along with the government, work hard to promote this valley," he said, adding that there is no doubt that we live very close to the border but the situation is very peaceful.

With heavy snowfall across Kashmir during Chillai Kalan, the Gurez valley in Bandipora had received heavy snowfall. (KNO)

## Pakistan Pacer Mohammad Hasnain's Bowling Action Reported During BBL

Press Trust of India

**LAHORE:** Pakistan pacer Mohammad Hasnain's bowling action has been reported by umpires in the Big Bash League in Australia and he is set to undergo a test.

The 21-year-old Hasnain has just finished a productive five-game stint with Sydney Thunder but will now undergo the test at the ICC-accredited biomechanics laboratory in Lahore, according to a report in ESPNcricinfo.

Hasnain, who once bowled a 155kph delivery in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), has played eight ODIs and 18 T20 Internationals after making his Pakistan debut in 2019.

Coming in as a replacement for English pacer Saqib Mahmood, he made a strong impact in his debut season at the BBL, taking seven wickets from five matches at an average of 15.71 and an economy of 6.00 per over.

According to a report by Samaa, the incident occurred during the first innings of the match as Sixers' captain Moises Henriques failed to connect when Hasnain bowled a bouncer.

Words were exchanged between the duo, with Henriques telling Hasnain: "Nice throw, mate".

According to the ICC website, an illegal bowling action is where a player is throwing rath-



er than bowling the ball.

"This is defined by the ICC as being where the player's elbow extends by an amount of more than 15 degrees between their arm reaching the horizontal and the ball being released," the rules state.

Hasnain was due to undergo a test on his bowling action on January 19 in Australia, but because he was due to return to Pakistan at the end of his stint, it was decided he would get tested at the ICC-accredited testing facility here.

If he is found to have an illegal action, Hasnain could be suspended from bowling in international and domestic cricket. In that case, he could be doubtful for the Pakistan Super League which begins in less than 10 days. He plays for Quetta Gladiators in the PSL.

## Iran Poised For AFC Women's Asian Cup Debut Against India

Agencies

**MUMBAI:** The Islamic Republic of Iran will be making their AFC Women's Asian Cup debut after coming through the qualifiers in dramatic fashion with a penalty shootout win over Jordan.

"We are extremely excited, and happy to be a part of the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022. It is a proud moment for us, and we will do our best to be successful," said captain Behnaz Taherkhani at the official pre-match press conference held earlier today (Tuesday, January 18, 2022 - two days prior to the kick-off of the match). "Our aim is to gain a lot of experience from this tournament. We know we have a long way to go, but being here is a good start."

Iran begin their campaign against hosts India in a Group A match on the opening day of



the Continental Championship on January 20. Chinese Taipei, and China are the other two teams in the group.

Nicknamed 'Team Melli Baanavaan' (Ladies National Team), IR Iran played their first International match as recently as 2005, in the WAFF West Asian Women's Football Championship, when they beat Syria 5-0. They have come a

long way since then, and are currently ranked 70th in the world, and 14th in Asia in the FIFA rankings.

IR Iran were clubbed alongside Jordan and Bangladesh in the qualification round for the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022. A five-star performance saw them defeat Bangladesh 5-0 in their opening game, but so did Jordan - thus, setting up a winner-takes-all clash between the two (IR Iran and Jordan) in the final game.

A goalless draw meant the game went into a penalty shootout where goalkeeper Zohreh Khoudaei saved two penalties to book IR Iran's ticket to AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022.

"Despite our lack of experience, the team is motivated, and works hard," said Head Coach Maryam Irandoost. "We have reached this level. We are ready."

One of the players to watch

out for will be forward Afsaneh Chatrenoor, who scored the winning goal against Gokulam Kerala FC in the AFC Women's Club Championship in 2021, and also finished as the tournament's joint top-scorer.

Fellow forward Hajar Dabbaghi also boasts of a good goalscoring record at the age of 22, having netted five times in the AFC Olympic qualifiers, and will be looking to test Ashalata Devi-led Indian defence.

"We have analysed the Indian team, and are aware that they are strong and fast. The opener is one for everyone to look forward to," concluded Irandoost.

Iran begin their campaign against hosts India on January 20, 2021 at 7:30 PM IST at the D.Y. Patil stadium in Navi Mumbai and the match will be broadcast live on the Eurosport channel, and streamed live on Jio TV.

## Lewandowski Wins FIFA Best Player Vote Ahead Of Messi, Salah

Agencies

**ZURICH:** Robert Lewandowski was voted the best men's player in the world, retaining the FIFA award he won last year despite being left off the ballot paper filed by runner-up Lionel Messi.

The Bayern Munich forward on Monday overturned the result last month of the Ballon d'Or prize where he placed second behind Messi, who finally led Argentina to a senior title at the 2021 Copa América. Mohamed Salah of Liverpool placed third.

"I am very honoured to win this trophy," Lewandowski said on a video link from Munich. The trophy was presented by club officials during the online ceremony hosted at FIFA headquarters in Zurich on Monday.

Lewandowski was the overwhelming choice of national team captains and coaches plus selected media in more than 200 countries, yet was almost caught by Messi, who got more than double the number of votes from fans worldwide than the Poland captain.



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