



**P5 STATE**

## COVID-19: WEEKEND LOCKDOWN CONTINUES FOR 2ND DAY

In wake of the spurt in the Covid-19 cases across Jammu and Kashmir, the restrictions on the non-essential movement continued for the second straight day on

**P7 THINK**

## TV SHOWS THAT YOU DON'T KNOW BUT SHOULD WATCH

Are you the FOMO brand of series binge watchers? Did you watch GOT under immense peer pressure? Have you run out of recommendations and have exhausted all Top 10 lists? Fear no more. We've created a list



**P11 SPORTS**

## BANDIPORA ADMIN FELICITATES PADMA SHRI FAISAL ALI

The District Administration Bandipora on Saturday felicitated Martial Arts coach Fasil Ali Dar after the Government of India conferred Padma Shri award to



**Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see**

— Mark Twain

## NEWS DIGEST

### LeT Module Busted, 3 Held: Police

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Saturday claimed to have busted a module of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) by arresting three militant associates of the outfit from central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Police, army's 24 RR and the personnel of CRPF15 battalion arrested three militant associates on Friday at a checkpoint established in Shuhama area of the [More On P10](#)

### SPO Dies Of Heart Attack

**SRINAGAR:** A special police officer (SPO) guarding a Kashmiri Pandit family in north Kashmir's Baramulla district died on Saturday after suffering a heart attack. Police sources identified the victim as Shakeel Ahmed Rather, son of Ali Mohammad, a resident of Malpora Narwah. They added that [More On P10](#)

### 4 Gamblers Held In Baramulla

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in Binner area of Baramulla district. Acting on an input, a team from police station Baramulla carried out a raid in Binner village and arrested four gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said Saturday. Besides playing cards, he said, an amount of Rs 9900 [More On P10](#)

### Masked Men Loot Gold, Cash

**SRINAGAR:** Four unknown masked men barged into a house in Chichlora area of Baramulla district and looted gold and cash, reports said Saturday. Official sources said that four masked men entered the house of Bilal Ahmad Kutoo and Faizal Ahmad Mir on Friday night and decamped with gold and cash at gunpoint. The family is learnt to have [More On P10](#)

## Only EC Can Decide On J&K Polls: MoS Singh

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The decision about holding assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir is the prerogative of the Election Commission, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Saturday and asserted that the BJP as a party is always in ready mode for any democratic exercise.

He also said that the Narendra Modi-led government has created ample opportunities for the youth to get employment in the country.

But the youth in Jammu and Kashmir did not get exposure to such avenues due to "constitutional barriers" of [More On P10](#)

## 3-Tier Panel To Demarcate Smaller Water Bodies, Canals

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday approved the formation of a three-tier committee to delineate and demarcate different kinds of land, which do not form a part of water channels but have been mentioned in revenue records as such.

The administrative council, which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, approved the procedure for delineation and demarcation of "gair mumkin khads/daryas/nal-lahs", an official spokesman said.

The exercise will be conducted in a phased manner in districts of Jammu, Samba and Kathua in three months and remaining districts in one year, he said.

The spokesman said the decision would give major relief to people who are suffering because of erroneous

# CID To Verify All Employees Appointed After May 2018

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Administration has directed all Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir province to ensure that the CID verification of employees appointed after May 2018 is done at the earliest.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang Pole has directed all ten Deputy Commissioners of the Kashmir division to ensure CID verification of new appointees as per the

directions of the J&K government.

"The chair directed that it shall be ensured that the verification is conducted in respect of the employees engaged after May 2018 as directed by the government," reads a note of the minutes of the meeting chaired by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir.

A senior official while elaborating on the development said that the J&K government has amended service rules which mandate that those who join



government services, their credentials will be verified by the Crime Investigation Department of police.

The government has terminated the services of scores of employees who have been found involved in 'anti-national activities in the last few years. As per the officials, the amendments in the rules of the service have been done to ensure that the credential of new appointees is checked beforehand. As per the rule, the person who is appointed in

government department shall have to provide educational details from age of 15, mobile numbers used in last five years, furnishing information of in-laws and details of loans have been made mandatory for any fresh appointments in J&K and these details will be verified by the CID department of Police.

In case of failure to do so, the candidates will forego their right to appointment. In respect of selection lists already published, the [More On P10](#)

# Policeman Shot Dead In Anantnag

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A day after a policeman had a narrow escape in a militant attack in Srinagar unknown militants shot dead a policeman near his home in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday.

Head Constable Ali Mohammad Ganie was fired upon by militants near his residence in Hassanpora village of Bijbehara around 5:30 pm Saturday leaving him critically injured, a police spokesperson said. Ganie, who received multiple gunshot injuries in the attack, was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries before the doctors could operate upon him.

According to the police spokesperson, Ganie was posted at Police Station Kulgam in the neighbouring district.

Soon after the policeman's killing, government forces reached the spot and launched a cordon and search operation to nab the attackers. Senior police officers also reached the village to take stock of the situation.

"Police have registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and

officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime. Area has been cordoned and search in the area is going on," the police spokesperson said.

Ganie's killing comes a day after a policeman had a narrow escape in a militant attack in Batamalo area of this capital city on Friday afternoon. Constable Munir Meraj was re-

## POLICE HAVE REGISTERED A CASE IN THIS REGARD

under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime. Area has been cordoned and search in the area is going on."

turning home from a market when an unknown pistol-borne militant fired at him from close range in SD Colony of Batamalo. Mehraj got a bruise in his ear and survived miraculously in the surprise militant attack. Meanwhile, several [More On P10](#)

## Encounter in Pulwama Hamlet

Around 2-3 militants are trapped in Naira village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district where an encounter broke out on Saturday evening after government forces launched a search operation. According to officials, police, army and the paramilitary CRPF personnel laid a siege around Naira after receiving information about the presence of militants in the village. When the joint team started advances, they said, the militants hiding in the village opened fire upon them in a bid to [More On P10](#)

## Police Denies Grenade Attack Reports

**Srinagar Police** on Saturday claimed no grenade attack took place in the Maharaj Bazar area of the city here earlier in the day, saying the reports of the incident were a rumour. Earlier, officials had said militants hurled a grenade on security personnel at around 4.30 PM in the Maharaj Bazar area of the city, but there was no immediate report of any casualty. There is rumour about grenade attack in Srinagar today at maharaja bazar/Mehjoor nagar. It is clarified that no such attack has taken place, Srinagar Police wrote on Twitter later in the evening.



or misleading entries of such water bodies in their revenue records.

"This will put to an end to litigations pending in various courts besides allowing owners of such lands to transact and carry out various economic or non-economic activities allowed as per land use

under the master plans of development or local areas," he said.

The approved procedure provides for khasra-wise delineation by the internal departmental committees using GPS for generation of digital maps, conducting actual spot verification [More On P10](#)

## Nights Turn Warmer As 'Chillai Kalan' Ends Today

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** There was some respite from cold wave conditions in Kashmir as the minimum temperature improved across the valley, even as the Meteorological department said there is a possibility of rain/snow at scattered places on Monday.

According to officials, the mercury rose across the Kashmir Valley on Friday night by several notches at some places.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1 degree Celsius, up from minus [More On P10](#)

## Corona Cases Dip Further, 4175 Test Positive

Observer News Service


**SRINAGAR:** Coronavirus cases continued to show a decline for the fourth consecutive day in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday as 4175 more people tested positive for the virus while five others succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, Kashmir Valley reported 2812 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while 1363 were registered from various districts of Jammu division, taking the total

number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 428260.


In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 892 new cases of Coronavirus, Baramulla 475, Kupwara 436, Kulgam 292, Anantnag 234, Pulwama 153, Bandipora 131, Budgam 127, Ganderbal 44 and Shopian 28.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 653 new cases of virus, Doda 186, Ramban 145, Udhampur 104, Kathua 99, Samba 55, Poonch 49, Rajouri 34, Reasi 25 [More On P10](#)




## SPARSH Leprosy Awareness Campaign


30th January 2022 to 13th February 2022



Leprosy is a disfiguring infectious disease caused by a bacteria that affects the skin and nerves and mucous membranes




Leprosy is known to occur at all ages ranging from early infancy to very old age. The way it is thought to be transmitted is through close, extended contact with someone with leprosy.



It usually takes between **2 - 10 years** for symptoms of leprosy infection to appear after a person is infected with leprosy-causing bacteria

**The main signs and symptoms are:**



Faded or discoloured patches of skin, disfiguring skin sores, lumps or bumps that do not go away



Nerve damage that leads to a loss of feeling in the arms and legs, with secondary trauma and infection going unnoticed and leading to deformities of hands and feet.



Muscle weakness and paralysis - especially of the hands and feet




Eyes problems that may lead to blindness


- If you come across people who are experiencing such symptoms, please refer them to the nearest health facility. Incentive will be paid to the community volunteer if the diagnosis for the leprosy is confirmed.
- Free treatment is available at all Government Hospitals.
- Leprosy is completely curable.
- Early consultation, timely treatment cures leprosy and prevents disability.

LET US OWN RESPONSIBILITY TO GUIDE SUCH PATIENTS IN THE INTEREST OF EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND CURE.

The Public is informed to follow the COVID19 appropriate behaviour



**Directorate of Health Services**  
National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)  
Health Secretariat (Sewasthya Bhavan), Bimino Bypass  
Srinagar 190018, Kashmir



Concept and Design : Kadri SM





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KASHMIR OBSERVER™  
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# Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

**Scholarship Name 1: IIT Kharagpur Centre of Computer Science & Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2022**

**Description:** IIT Kharagpur Centre of Computer Science & Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2022 is a research opportunity offered to graduate/postgraduate degree holders.  
**Eligibility:** The fellowship is open for candidates who are below 28 years of age and hold a B.E./B.Tech. degree or equivalent with GATE/NET score, OR M.Tech. degree in CS/IT or related disciplines.

**Prizes & Rewards:** Up to INR 31,000 per month  
**Last Date to Apply:** 08-02-2022  
**Application mode:** Online applications

**Scholarship Name 2: MakeMyTrip Foundation 'Padhte Raho, Badhte Raho' Scholarship 2022**

**Description:** MakeMyTrip Foundation is inviting scholarship applications from students who lost their parent(s) during the pandemic.  
**Eligibility:** Indian students who are currently studying in Class 1 to 12, graduation or post-graduation level are eligible. The annual family income of applicants must not be more than INR 6,00,000 from all sources.  
**Prizes & Rewards:** Up to INR 50,000  
**Last Date to Apply:** 20-02-2022  
**Application mode:** Online applications only  
**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/MMTS1

**Scholarship Name 3: Reliance Foundation Scholarships 2021-22**

**Description:** Reliance Foundation Scholarships 2021-22 aims to enable and propel India's brightest youth, who are uniquely positioned to be the future leaders of tomorrow and to sit at the forefront of India's technologically driven growth, for the benefit of Indian society.

**Eligibility:** Undergraduate and postgraduate students from all universities who are currently enrolled in the first year are eligible. They must be enrolled in degree programmes in Artificial Intelligence, Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Computing, and Electrical and/or Electronics Engineering.

**For Undergraduate Scholarships:** Applicants who secured a rank of 1-35,000 in the JEE Main (Paper 1) Examination can apply.  
**For Postgraduate Scholarships:** Applicants who secured a score of 550-1,000 in the GATE examination, OR applicants who have not attempted GATE and have scored 7.5 or above in their undergraduate CGPA (or % normalised to CGPA) can apply.  
**Prizes & Rewards:** Up to INR 4,00,000 (for UG) & Up to INR 6,00,000 (for PG) over the duration of the degree and development programme for selected students aimed at helping them innovate and create technology for social good  
**Last Date to Apply:** 14-02-2022  
**Application mode:** Online applications only  
**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/RFS5

## صدیقی خاندان کو صدمہ

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ غلام محمد صدیقی ساکنہ راجباغ مورخہ 29 جنوری 2022ء بروز منچہ وار اس دارفانی سے رحلت کر گئیں۔ انا اللہ وانا الیہ راجعون۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو جنت الفردوس نصیب کرے۔ اس سلسلے میں موجودہ حالات کے پیش نظر کوئی بھی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی یا تعزیتی مجلس کا انعقاد نہیں ہوگا۔

سوگوار اس

غلام حسن شاہ (داماد) اعجاز احمد صدیقی (فرزند)  
ڈاکٹر سید منیر، انعام الحق صدیقی، فیضان احمد صدیقی

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## اظہار تعزیت

یہ خبر انتہائی افسوس اور رنج کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ ربینہ زوجہ شبیر حسین منڈہ ساکنہ سید میرک شاہ کالونی جبک 27 جنوری 2022ء بروز جمعرات کو جوانی میں ہی گل ٹکس ذیقینہ الموت کو لیک کر اپنے والدین اور رشتہ داروں کو داغ مفارقت دے کر اس دُنیا سے فانی سے رحلت کر گئیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو کروٹ کروٹ جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام نصیب کرے اور لواحقین بالخصوص والدین کو یہ صدمہ برداشت کرنے کی توفیق عطا کرے۔ مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 31 جنوری 2022ء بروز سوموار کو صبح 7 بجے اُن کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع سید میرک شاہ کالونی جبک میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ اس کے بعد تعزیتی مجلس کا سلسلہ دن بھر جاری رہے گا۔

منجانب مسجد امام مہدی سید میرک شاہ کالونی جبک  
7006603062 9796757558 9596543210

## Sad Demise

We profound grief we want to inform sad demise of Gulam Nabi Wani S/o Ab Ahad wani R/o Kawdara. He was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard at wantapora (Kawkul). There will be Taziyat for 03 days only. Gh Mohd wani brother Nazima Shehnaaz Zahida Mohamad Ashraf Hakak Bashir Ahmad Hakak Nisar Ahmad Hakak Shabir Ahmad Hakak (Nephews)



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## NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

It is information for the general public that in record the spelling of my name and parentage was wrongly entered as (Lateef Ahmad Ahanger) and parentage (Abdul Rahman Ahanger) while my actual Name is (Latief Ahmad Ahanger) and parentage (Abdul Rehman Ahanger). Now i want its correction. If any body having any objection in this record may contact JAKLI Record Office Srinagar within a period of 7 days, no objection shall be entertain after that.

**LATIEF AHMAD AHANGER q**  
**S/O ABDUL REHMAN AHANGER**  
**R/O SHOLIPORA BUDGAM**  
**Ph. 9419841219**

mcb

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that to the general public that I Gulzar Ahmad Hajam S/o Sanaullah Hajam R/o Hardshiva Sopore has lost the original R/C of my vehicle bearing No: JK05B 2692 registered under the name of Ayaz Ahmad Mir S/o Ab Rashid Mir R/o Sagipora Sopore. Now I have to applied for the duplicate R/C of the said vehicle. Anybody having any kind of objection, he/she may approach to the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer Sopore within 07 days. No objection will be entertained after 07 days from the publication of this notice.

inf Gulzar Ahmad Hajam S/o Sanaullah Hajam

## CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

### 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



## (GOVERNMENT OF INDIA) (UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONSTRUCTION DIVISION NO. 1ST SRINAGAR.

### e-TENDER NOTICE FOR STAGE-WISE SNOW CLEARANCE FOR THE WINTER SEASON 2021-22 (Single Cover System).

**13<sup>th</sup> Fresh NIT No: 111 OF 2021-22 R&B/ 14350-66 e-tendering, DATED: 28-01-2022**

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders (in single cover system) are hereby invited on (Percentage basis) for stage-wise snow clearance of roads for the winter season 2021-22 falling within the territorial jurisdiction of this (R&B) Division as per the details given below:-

S.No	Name of (R&B) Sub Division	Name of Stage	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rupees)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	Estates Hospital	Est -1 (Annexure -1)	1000/-	200/-	DEE	3054-(Snow)
2.		Hosp-1 (Annexure -1)	1000/-	200/-	DEE	3054-(Snow)

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28-01-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	29-01-2022, 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	29-01-2022 from 10:30 A.M
4.	Bid Submission Last Date	03-02-2022 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date , time & venue of opening of Bids (Online)	03-02-2022 at 04.30 P.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Sgr./ Budgam

- e-Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (tender inviting authority) and earnest money/ bid security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG Pledged to the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Sgr./ Budgam Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
  - 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 Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Sgr./ Budgam Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
  - The Bids received upto due date and time shall be opened online on the scheduled date in the office of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Sgr./ Budgam Srinagar. In the event the date of opening is declared as a holiday the e-tenders shall be opened on next working date.
  - Only percentage template BoQ shall be followed for the instant work. The intending bidder shall quote rate percentage above/ below or at par corresponding to J&K SSR 2020. The actual work done quantities shall be accordingly paid for depending upon the depth of snow and corresponding to Schedule Rates provided in the SSR 2020.
  - The bids shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening. A bid valid for shorter period shall be rejected;
  - The rates and prices quoted by the bidder shall remain fixed during the currency of contract and shall not be subject to adjustment on any account;
  - Currencies: All payments will be made in Indian Rupees;
  - The bidder among other documents shall upload the following documents with bid which shall form a part of technical bid;
    - Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration with return clearance certificate ( Form GST-3B) for the month of December-2021 or latest or Quarter (October- December-2021) or latest .
    - Scanned copy of Enlistment/Regd. Certificate with current Renewal Certificate .
    - Scanned copy of Verification Certificate from issuing Authority of Registration /Enlistment Card . (Verification certificate from any other Authority will not be entertained).
    - Scanned copy of PAN card. ( as reflected in GST Regd./GST Form -3B).
    - All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Tender document cost) by debit to M.H.0059 in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar ( Tender inviting authority).
    - Scanned Copy of Earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR/BG Pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Sgr./ Budgam (Tender receiving authority).
- Note:- Date of CDR , Treasury Challan shall be after the date of Publishing date of NIT.

Sd./  
Executive Engineer,  
(R&B) Constr. Divn. No. 1st, Sgr.  
No. 14350-66  
Dt. 28-01-2022

Annexure -I					
Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar					
STAGE EST-1 manual clearance winter season 2021-22					
S.No.	Name of the roads	Total linear length (in Kms)	Stage No.	Concerned Sub-Division	
1.	Road from Nallahmar to Baganwan Pora road	1.75	Est-1	(R&B) Estates Sub-Division	
2.	Road from Nawakadal Sheikh-ul-Alam road	1.10			
3.	Road from Safakadal Gassi Mohalla upto Noorjahan Bridge	3.18			
4.	Govt. G.B panth / Children Hospital Srinagar	0.15			
Total:-		6.18			

Annexure-I				
Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar				
STAGE HOSP-1 manual clearance winter season 2021-22				
S.No.	Name of the roads	Total linear length (in Kms)	Stage No.	Concerned Sub-Division
1	2	3	4	5
1	Inner roads of Bemina Boys Hostel	0.55	Hosp-1	R&B Hospital Sub-Divn.
2	Inner roads of Govt. SMHS Hospital	0.65		
3	Inner Roads and parking place at Kashmir Nursing Home at Gupkar	0.10		
4	Inner road of Govt. Medical College	0.90		
5	Inner roads of Super Speciality Hospital Shireen Bagh Srinagar.	0.20		
6	Inner roads of Govt. Dental College.	0.30		
				Sd./
				Executive Engineer,
				R&B Constr. Divn. 1st Srinagar
DIPK-17279/21				

## Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

**NIT NO 123 OF RNB/QAZIGUND/2021-22 /E-TENDERING 10410-25 DATED:29-01-2022**

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 Union Territory, 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 (Rs.) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Primary Health Sub-Centre at Bumthan.	21.11/=	800/=	42220/=	45 Days	District Sector Health (PRI Grants)	BEE&CEE Class Only

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

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	29-01-2022
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 31-01-2022 To 07-02-2022 (11:00 AM) (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 31-01-2022 To 07-02-2022 (11:00 AM) (04:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 07-02-2022 (04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	08-02-2022 (11:00 AM) In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division QAZIGUND
6	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 3 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Qazigund (tender inviting authority) (Name of work, item No and NIT No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan/Receipt (Refer order No.OM.A/24 (2017)-651 Dated: 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Qazigund Crediting to MH:0059-PW (Revenue). (Tender receiving authority) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Qazigund.
  - All Bidders has to submit Earnest money as per the circular of Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir Vide No: CE/RBK/HD/32857-92 Dated: 01.01.2022.
  - The Performance Security has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (@5% / or as shall be in vogue at the time of award of contract strictly as per circular/instruction from Govt. from time to time in this regard, of the total quoted cost for the work as in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in order the contract fixation is initiated and the same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period of the work.
  - The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through 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 PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND.
  - The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
  - Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
    - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.
    - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
    - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
    - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
    - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
- Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. Scanned copy of, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Qazigund and cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
  - Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
  - Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
  - Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
  - In case of CRF and other specified project, the relevant guideline/ standard bidding document shall be followed.
    - Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
  - The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement as laid down in NIT
  - All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.
- No.10410-25 DATED:29-01-2022
- Executive Engineer,  
PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND  
/M.Ishaq/  
DIPK-17328/21

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## Risk Persists Even Though Covid Cases Plateauing In India: WHO



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Even though some cities or states in India may be beginning to see plateauing of COVID-19 cases, the risk persists and focus must be on reducing transmission and implementing situation-specific measures, senior WHO official Poonam Khetrpal Singh said.

The Health Ministry said on Thursday that early indications of Covid cases plateauing have been reported in certain geographies in the country but the trend needs to be observed.

Responding to a question that coronavirus cases have started plateauing in India, Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region said the risk of COVID-19 remains high and no country, irrespective of their current transmission scenario, is "out of the woods" yet.

"Hence, even though some cities or states may be beginning to see plateauing of cases, the risk persists. We need to continue to remain vigilant. Our focus must be on reducing transmission. Implementing situation-specific public health and social measures and increasing vaccine coverage - that's the way forward for all countries in the ongoing pandemic," Ms Singh told news agency PTI in an interview.

On January 21, the country reported a total of 3,47,254 new COVID-19 cases after which the daily infection count has been reducing. A decline in Covid cases and positivity rate has been especially observed in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Odisha, Haryana and West Bengal.

Asked if the pandemic is entering in endemic stages, Ms Singh said, currently "we are still in the midst of the pandemic and the focus should be to curtail the virus spread and save lives".

"By becoming endemic doesn't

mean that the virus will not be a cause of concern," she said.

Compared to the COVID-19's Delta variant, she said Omicron is able to more rapidly infect the tissues of the upper respiratory tract rather than the lungs, which may also help the spread of this variant.

"There appears to be a lower risk of severe disease and death following Omicron infection as compared to other variants. However, due to the very high numbers of cases, many countries have seen a significant increase in the incidence of hospitalization, putting pressure on healthcare systems," she said.

Data suggests that infection with Omicron may be associated with a lower risk of hospitalization compared to infection with Delta, Ms Singh said, but noted that the severity of illness increases with age and in the presence of underlying medical conditions and among people who are not vaccinated.

She stressed on the need to rapidly accelerate efforts to vaccinate all at-risk populations in all countries.

"There is growing evidence on vaccine effectiveness for Omicron, but we still have a lot to learn. So far, we think that vaccines are less effective against Omicron infection and symptomatic disease compared to Delta. Having a booster shot seems to increase protection," she said.

However, vaccines still seem to remain highly effective at protecting people against serious illness, hospitalization, and death, she said, adding that vaccines remain an effective method to reduce the likelihood of severe disease caused by the Omicron variant.

Ms Singh said the emergence of Omicron means that the protective behaviours remain critical such as keeping a safe distance from others, avoiding crowds, wearing a well-fitted mask covering mouth and nose, cleaning hands regularly, keeping indoor spaces well ventilated, and covering coughs and sneezes.



## India Voted Against Palestine At UN After Pegasus Deal: NYT

Press Trust Of India

**NEW YORK:** The Israeli spyware Pegasus and a missile system were the "centerpieces" of a roughly USD 2 billion deal of sophisticated weapons and intelligence gear between India and Israel in 2017, according to a report in The New York Times.

A massive controversy erupted last year when the NSO Group hit the headlines with the alleged use of its Pegasus spyware by some governments to spy on journalists, human rights defenders, politicians and others in a number of countries, including India, triggered concerns over issues relating to privacy.

The NYT, in a report titled "The Battle for the World's Most Powerful Cyberweapon", said that the Israeli firm NSO Group had for nearly a decade been "selling its surveillance software on a subscription basis to law-enforcement and intelligence agencies around the world, promising that it could do what no one else -- not a private company, not even a state intelligence service -- could

**MEXICO DEPLOYED** the software not just against gangsters but also against journalists and political dissidents.

do: consistently and reliably crack the encrypted communications of any iPhone or Android smartphone." The report also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel in July 2017 - to become the first Indian prime minister to visit the country.

"For decades, India had maintained a policy of what it called 'commitment to the Palestinian cause,' and relations with Israel were frosty. The Modi visit, however, was notably cordial, complete with a carefully staged moment of him and (then Israeli) Prime Minister (Benjamin) Netanyahu walking together barefoot on a local beach," it said.

"They had reason for the warm feelings. Their countries had agreed on the sale of a package of sophisticated weapons and intelligence gear worth roughly USD 2

billion -- with Pegasus and a missile system as the centerpieces.

Months later, Netanyahu made a rare state visit to India. And in June 2019, India voted in support of Israel at the UN's Economic and Social Council to deny observer status to a Palestinian human rights organisation, a first for the nation," the report said.

PTI has reached out to the government for a reaction to the NYT report but there was no immediate response. Last year, a row erupted over Israeli spyware Pegasus allegedly being used for targeted surveillance in India.

The government, however, dismissed allegations of any kind of surveillance on its part on specific people, saying it "has no concrete basis or truth associated with it whatsoever".

In October last year, the Supreme Court set up a 3-member independent expert panel to probe the alleged use of Israeli spyware Pegasus for targeted surveillance in India, observing the state cannot get a "free pass" every time the spectre of national security is raised and that its mere invocation cannot render the judiciary a "mute spectator" and be the bugbear it shies away from

## Illegal Snooping Using Pegasus Amounts To Treason: Congress

Press Trust Of India

The Congress on Saturday attacked the Centre over a New York Times report which claimed that the Indian government bought the Pegasus spy tool in 2017 as part of a deal with Israel, saying illegal snooping using the spyware amounts to "treason".

According to the report in The New York Times, the Israeli spyware Pegasus and a missile system were the "centerpieces" of a roughly USD 2-billion deal of sophisticated weapons and intelligence gear between India and Israel in 2017.

Attacking the government, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said on Twitter, "Why did Modi Govt act like the enemies of India and use a warfare weapon against Indian citizens?"



"Illegal snooping using Pegasus amounts to treason. No one is above the law and we will ensure that justice is served," he said.

PTI has reached out to the government for a reaction to the NYT report but there was no immediate response.

Citing the media report, Congress spokesperson Shama Mohammed said this is "irrefutable proof" that the BJP government used military grade spyware to snoop on the citizens of India,

including former Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

There must be accountability, she demanded.

Rajya Sabha MP and senior Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil alleged that the "reveals" in the report imply that the government "misled" the Supreme Court and Parliament on the issue.

"Why @narendramodi is silent? It is @PMOIndia's duty to clarify. New York Times revelations today that It did indeed subscribe by payment from tax payers money of ₹ 300 crores to spyware Pegasus sold by Israeli NSO company," he tweeted.

"This implies our Govt misled Supreme Court & Parliament," Gohil said.

Youth Congress chief Srinivas B V also cited the media report and tweeted, "Hence Proved! Chowkidar Hi Jasoo Hai."

## Hindu-Muslim Polarisation Won't Work In UP Polls: Farmers Leader Tikait

Press Trust Of India

Voters in Uttar Pradesh would favour only those talking about the welfare of farmers and polarisation on religious lines would not benefit those indulging in it, farmer leader Rakesh Tikait has said.

He claimed farmers were going through "troubled times" in Uttar Pradesh as they were getting less value for their produce and forced to pay "exorbitant" electricity bills.

"The (election) issues are farmers, unemployed youth and inflation for the middle class. But efforts are being made to polarise Hindu-Muslim voters through regular statements on Jinnah and Pakistan. But, this will not work out for those doing it and will instead harm them," Tikait told PTI in an interview here on Friday.

He, however, did not name any party or individual.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has hit out at the Samajwadi Party and its president Akhilesh Yadav, calling them supporters of Pakistan and "worshippers of Jinnah".

Adityanath's remark ostensibly refers to the SP president's recent statements on Pakistan and its founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

Asked if he would campaign against the BJP, the Bhartiya Kisan Union leader, who was a prominent face of the year-long stir against the three farm laws at Delhi borders, said he had no such plans.

"I am not a politician, I stay away from political parties. I only talk about the issues of farmers and urge people to question their leaders. I will continue to raise the issue of farmers," he said.

"In Uttar Pradesh, farmers are going through troubled times. Not only do farmers here get less value for their produce, but they are also forced to pay exorbitant rates of electricity," he added.

Refusing to predict the winner of the upcoming polls, Tikait claimed farmers were not happy with the present dispensation and this will reflect in the results.



"I cannot comment on where the election is headed or which party will come out victorious. However, the farmers I meet are not happy with the current state of affairs. What further troubles them is that their children have no avenues of employment. I think the farmers and locals will keep these things in mind when they vote," he said.

The politically crucial state of Uttar Pradesh will witness seven-phase voting starting February 10. The results will be declared on March 10 along with other poll-bound states of Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Manipur.

Tikait also urged people to keep an eye on the activities of the district magistrates and superintendents of police during counting of votes in the state as "these officers may favour the government in power."

Asked how the BJP would perform in western Uttar Pradesh after the RLD-SP alliance, Tikait said, "I think voters will favour those who are not against farmers. They will support those who are not polarising Hindu and Muslim voters. People will favour those who talk about their issues and not only about Pakistan and Jinnah".

Tikait, who hails from Muzaffarnagar district of western UP, said he was pursuing the Lakhimpur Kheri case in which eight people, including four farmers, died on October 3.

The farmers were allegedly mowed down by a vehicle carrying BJP workers. The other four victims included two BJP workers, allegedly lynched by angry protesters.

## Azam Khan's Son, Wife Samajwadi Candidates From Same UP Seat. Here's Why



Press Trust Of India

**NOIDA:** Jailed Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan's son and wife have filed their nominations from the same assembly constituency as the party's candidates for the Uttar Pradesh polls.

Both Mohammad Abdullah Azam Khan, who was released from jail recently, and his mother Tazeen Fatma have filed their affidavits from the Suar assembly seat in Rampur district, according to the Election Commission (EC) website.

Azam Khan, who was a cabinet minister in the previous Akhilesh Yadav-led government, had on Thursday filed his nomination papers, while being in jail, for the assembly polls from the Rampur seat.

"We have seen the BJP government

framing a former minister, who had developed Rampur, in frivolous cases of goat and cycle theft. They can manipulate even nomination of our candidates and not let them contest the polls and because of political vendetta," Samajwadi Party (SP) spokesperson Abbas Haider told news agency PTI on the dual nomination from Suar seat.

The SP, he said, is resolved to "rooting out" the BJP and its "jungle raj" from Uttar Pradesh in the elections.

According to the SP's list of candidates, Mohammad Abdullah Azam Khan is its nominee from Suar.

Suar goes to polls on February 14 during the second of the seven-phase Uttar Pradesh elections.

While Saturday is the date for scrutiny of nominations for the seat, candidates can withdraw their nomination till January 31, according to the official schedule.

Azam Khan, his son and his wife had surrendered in a Rampur court in 2020 after they were booked under multiple charges, including cases of forgery and land grab.

While Tazeen Fatma got bail in 2020, Mohammad Abdullah Azam Khan was released in January this year after almost a two-year jail term, even as Azam Khan, an eight-time MLA and Lok Sabha MP, continues to be imprisoned.

## Separated During Partition, Indian Man Gets Pak Visa To Meet Brother

Asian News International

**NEW DELHI:** Pakistan High Commission to India on Friday issued a visa to Sika Khan to visit his brother Muhammed Siddique and family members in Pakistan.

"Today, Pakistan High Commission issues a visa to Sika Khan to visit his brother, Muhammed Siddique and other family members in Pakistan. The two brothers separated in 1947 were recently reunited after 74 years at Kartarpur Sahib Corridor. Sika Khan also met with CDA Aftab Hasan Khan and interacted with Mission's officers. He appreciated his interaction and thanked the CDA for the co-operation extended to him,"



tweeted Pakistan High Commission to India.

### SHORT TAKES

#### NGT Seeks Rs 186 Cr Compensation For Water Pollution



**PALGHAR:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered around 100 industrial units in Tarapur MIDC area of Maharashtra's Palghar district to collectively pay around Rs 186 crore as environmental compensation for polluting water bodies in the region by releasing untreated effluents into them.

In the order passed on January 24, despite of the tribunal also pulled up the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for failing to take action under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against the industrial units/fences like releasing untreated pollutants into water bodies, and said this "inaction" has encouraged them to continue with the violations "with impunity".

It said that the ED was taking action under the PMLA in a "narrow sphere" although the scope of the law was widened in 2013 after amendments. Criticising the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) officials for their "extremely negligent and lax approach, careless attitude, non bona fide conduct and lack of devotion to duty", the tribunal also said that the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) has contributed in causing pollution "by failing to ensure its functions of maintenance of pipelines, non clearance of sludge in a regular manner". Apart from the industrial units, the tribunal directed the Tarapur Environment Protection Society's central effluent treatment plant (CETP) to pay a compensation of Rs 91.79 crore, and asked the MIDC to pay to Rs 2 crore...-PTI

#### Man Rapes 18-Year-Old, Posts Video Online



**HOSHIARPUR (PUNJAB):** A man has been arrested in Punjab's Hoshiarpur for allegedly raping an 18-year-old woman and sharing the video on social media, police said on Saturday. The alleged rape took place in a village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district a few months ago, police said, adding the 22-year-old accused had befriended the survivor on a social media site.

The man, who belongs to a village under Chabbewal police station limits, had also recorded an obscene video of the woman and made it viral on social media a few days ago, said Station House Officer (SHO) Sub-Inspector Harpreem Singh.

He said the accused, Vishal Chaudhary, was arrested on Saturday under relevant provisions of the law and further investigations were on. The SHO said Chaudhary called the woman to his house last year on some pretext and allegedly offered her a soft-drink laced with an intoxicant.

As soon as she consumed it, she became unconscious and the accused allegedly raped her and recorded her obscene video.

"Later, Chaudhary started blackmailing her and threatened to make the video viral. When the woman refused to meet his demands, the accused allegedly circulated her video on social media after which the police complaint was lodged," SHO Singh said...-PTI

#### GPS In Sandal Of Woman Passenger



**PATNA:** A female passenger was arrested from Patna airport for carrying a GPS tracking device in her baggage.

The victim was arrested on Friday evening. She had an air ticket of Indigo airlines and was about to board a flight for Bengaluru. The tracking device

was installed in a sandal kept in her baggage. Manavjeet Singh Dhillon, the Patna Senior Superintendent of Police, has confirmed the incident. He said that the girl was intercepted during a security check.

"The CISF personnel detected a GPS device installed in a brand new expensive sandal kept in the baggage. The GPS device was installed in the heel of the girl's sandal. The installer cut the heel, installed the GPS and pasted the heel again," Dhillon added.

The alleged girl was arrested by the airport police on the recommendation of CISF personnel. She is a native of Sultanganj locality in Patna. Patna police has obtained some vital information from the girl who is allegedly linked to a fugitive accused of murder...-IANS



## No Need To Panic Over Neocov Virus: DAK

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** With apprehensions among people about newly discovered coronavirus, called NeoCov, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday said there is no need to panic as the virus is confined to animals and does not cause human infection.

"NeoCov has been found in bats and in its current form there is no threat of the virus jumping from bats to humans," said DAK President and Influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said NeoCov is not a new virus nor is it a variant of Covid-19. It was first identified around 2013 in bats in South Africa, while looking for the origin of MERS, a coronaviral disease that was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012.

"There has been no confirmed case of NeoCov in humans so far," he said.

The DAK President said news reports about NeoCov virus's potential to kill one of every three infected persons are doing the rounds

on the internet for the last couple of days. The news is based on a preprint paper by Chinese researchers.

"However, there is little connection between the paper and inference that have been drawn by news reports," he said.

"The researchers clearly say that the virus which exists in bats cannot infect humans except in case the virus undergoes a particular type of mutation which is a mere speculation," said Dr Nisar.

"The idea that NeoCov may be able to infect human beings is in the realms of theory and should not be a cause of concern," he said.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said coronaviruses are often found in animals, including bats which have been identified as a natural reservoir of many of these viruses.

"Not everything jumps to humans and there is no way of predicting anything," he said.

"It is important that we must continue surveillance of zoonotic pathogens as the likelihood of potential spillover events from animals to humans is possible," he added.

## Teen Killed As Truck Rams Into Shop In Udhampur

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** An 18-year-old man was killed and three others injured when a truck crashed into a shop in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

The truck was on its way to Udhampur from Jammu when its driver lost control of the vehicle and it hit a roadside shop before turning turtle late Friday

night, a police official said.

He said four people, including the truck driver, were injured in the accident and were rushed to hospital where one of them succumbed to injuries on Saturday.

An electricity transformer, a parked van and a two-wheeler were also damaged in the incident, the official said.

He said a case was registered and further investigation is on.

## IED Recovered In Poonch

**JAMMU:** An improvised explosive device (IED) was seized in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Saturday, officials said.

The seizure was made by security forces from near Sheendara village on the Jammu-Poonch highway on specific information, and was later neu-

tralised by experts of the bomb disposal squad, they said.

The officials said preliminary investigation suggest that the IED was an old one as it had gathered rust while remaining buried.

Police have registered a case and further investigation is on, the officials said.

## Body Of Another Sibling Retrieved From Jhelum

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Rescuers retrieved body of a man, a day after he along with his brother drowned while extracting sand from river Jhelum in Khawajabagh area of Baramulla district, officials said on Saturday.

They said the brothers—Hilal Ahmad Malla and Naseer Ahmad Malla, sons of Mansoor Ahmad Malla of Larwaghat Bandipora, drowned on Friday morning and soon a rescue

operation was launched by police, SRDF and locals to trace them out.

Body of Hilal Ahmad Malla was retrieved late last evening while operation was suspended last night due to darkness. Early morning, they said, the operation was resumed and met with immediate success as body of Naseer was fished out.

A police officer confirmed the body has been retrieved and said that it will be handed over to the family for last rites.

# COVID-19: Weekend Lockdown Continues For 2nd Day



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In wake of the spurt in the Covid-19 cases across Jammu and Kashmir, the restrictions on the non-essential movement continued for the second straight day on Saturday. The 64-hour lockdown began in J&K on Friday afternoon and will culminate on Monday morning.

The decision to impose weekend lockdown was taken by the State Executive Committee (SEC) headed by Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta.

Witnesses said that all the markets, shops and other business establishments remained closed throughout the day while the public transport was also off the roads.

They informed that the people who were found without face masks or disobeying the government guidelines related to Covid-19 were fined.

Several checkpoints were laid by the policemen today to ensure the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) during which the

commuters violating the norms were fined.

Pertinently, the government had ordered the 64-hours weekly lockdown beginning Friday 02:00 PM to Monday 06:00 AM till further orders.

"There will be complete restriction on non-essential movement in the entire J&K from every Friday 2.00 pm to Monday 6.00 am, henceforth," Chairman State Executive Committee and Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta said in an order, amending the previous order issued last week

## R- Day Celebrations End With Beating Retreat Ceremony In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** To mark the culmination of the R-Day celebrations, the customary Beating Retreat ceremony was held at the Maulana Azad Stadium here on Saturday evening.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was the chief guest on the occasion, an official spokesman said. During the ceremony, marching bands of the armed forces were displayed and the inspiring tunes of brass bands and pipe drum bands of the Army, the BSF and the J-K Police were performed on the slow and quick strathspey, he said.

Later, the Lt Governor facilitated the contingents of pipe drum and brass bands for their mesmerising playing of tunes and outstanding display at the grand event, the spokesman said.



Sinha also awarded several officers from defence forces, J-K Police and civil administration, besides cadets from NCC (boys and girls), marching contingents of schools (boys and girls), ex-servicemen, Bharat Scouts and Guides (boys and girls) and

cultural performers, he said.

The Beating Retreat ceremony concluded with the ever-popular 'Saare Jahan Se Achha' with simultaneous display of spectacular fireworks followed by the national anthem, the spokesman said.

## Husband Held For Killing Wife In Ramban

Press Trust Of India

**BANIHAL:** A man was arrested for killing his 23-year-old wife and trying to mislead the investigators by projecting the murder as suicide in Ramban district, police said on Saturday.

Nishu Devi, a resident of Pasyal Dharalta village of Batote, was found hanging at her house on January 23 and inquest proceedings were initiated to ascertain

the actual cause of the death, a police spokesperson said.

He said the postmortem of the deceased was conducted at district hospital Ramban and the body handed over to legal heirs for last rites.

During the course of inquiry, parents of the deceased alleged that their daughter was murdered by her husband and his family as they had been torturing and harassing her, the

spokesperson said.

Pawan Kumar, husband of the deceased, was detained and questioned. He confessed to killing his wife by strangulating her and later hung her body to pass it as a case of suicide to mislead the police, he said.

The officials said the accused was arrested and booked for murder besides attempting to bribe a public servant to escape punishment.

## Bukhari Opposes Employment To Non-Locals In Chenab Valley's Power Projects

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party chief Syed Mohamud Altaf Bukhari on Saturday strongly opposed employment of non-locals in power projects of Chenab Valley and demanded job protection for youth of Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts.

He also urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his personal intervention in the matter.

We have received certain complaints about the companies running power projects that they have imported non-local labourers and skilled persons from outside Jammu and Kashmir when they have ample manpower in Kishtwar, Doda, and Ramban districts, Bukhari said at a function here.

He said if the companies continue to deny employment to local youth, his party will oppose it strongly.

The youth are the future of Jammu and Kashmir and we are committed to protect their



future with the commitment to develop every region equally, employment to all unemployed youth, electricity to un-electrified villages, and clean drinking water to every village and remote places, he said.

The former minister claimed leaders and workers of the National Conference, People's Conference and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are joining the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) after losing faith in traditional political parties.

We are committed to keep the people united and strongly oppose the politics of hatred, communal division or regionalism, he said.

## Man Detained With 12 Bore Gun In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A man was detained in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday for carrying a 12-bore gun without valid documents, police said. The man, Dewan Chand, a resident of Nanzala Sigdi, was taken into custody for questioning, a police spokesperson said.

"A man with a 12-bore gun was seen moving suspiciously towards the nearby forest and failed to produce any valid document of the weapon. The weapon was seized and he was taken into custody for questioning," the spokesperson said. He said a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at police station Chattroo and further investigation was on.

## JD Info Dept Inam Ul Haq Siddiqui Bereaved

**SRINAGAR:** Joint director Information and Public Relations, Inam-ul-Haq Siddiqui was bereaved after his aunt passed away on Saturday.

A family member said that wife of Ghulam Muhammad Siddiqui of Rajbagh, and Siddiqui's aunt passed away today.

"In this regard, in view of the current situation, no congregational Fateha Khawani or condolence meeting will be held."

## 'AYUSHMAN BHARAT – SEHAT': A Game changer Of Health Services For Poor

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Health has eminence over every other necessity in life and providing free medical care to people is the greatest welfare measure of mankind.

In order to provide this needful welfare measure to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the SEHAT scheme was launched in convergence with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

The AB-PMJAY was launched by Central Government in the year 2018 to provide free health services to economically weaker sections of country. In Jammu and Kashmir, the benefits of the scheme were extended to all the persons of Union Territory under SEHAT scheme. The scheme provides health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to all the residents at empanelled hospitals. The scheme covers up to three days of pre-hospitalization and fifteen days post-hospitalization

expenses including diagnostics and medicines.

Bashir Ahmad, a carpenter from Old town Baramulla, suffered heart attack and was shifted to territory care hospital at Srinagar where doctors suggested for surgery. "The procedure cost was expensive for us," said Bashir's wife. She added that if they had not obtained Golden card, they would have faced lot of trouble. "Golden card saved life of my husband", she said.

Not only Bashir there are several other patients who have got the benefit from the golden card. The people from weaker sections of society who cannot afford better health care facilities and treatment in government or private health care institutions have benefitted from the golden card.

A patient, Manzoor Ahmad from Baramulla district recently went through an open heart surgery at SKIMS Srinagar. This surgery was possible only due to the benefits provided under the scheme.

## MoU Signed Between AIIMS Jammu And CSIR-IIIM Jammu For Close Scientific Collaboration

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on Saturday between All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu and CSIR-IIIM Jammu for close scientific collaboration with Union minister Jitendra Singh expressing confidence in developing the hospital as an artificial intelligence-based medicine hub of north India.

The MoU was signed between AIIMS Jammu director Shakti Gupta and director Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) Jammu D Srinivasa Reddy in the presence of the Union minister during his visit to AIIMS Jammu for the inspection of the upcoming new blocks and inauguration of recently developed facilities.

It is a congratulatory day because AIIMS Jammu and IIIM-CSIR signed an MoU for closer collaboration. Since both the premier institutions are dedicated to medical research and education,

the MoU was signed to bring them closer for the betterment of the people, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office told reporters.

He said he suggested to the AIIMS director that every institution has exclusivity and the collaboration with CSIR-IIIM will help his institute to achieve this goal.

Today, artificial intelligence and digital medicine have taken over in a big way. COVID-19 pandemic showed us the importance of tele-consultation and tele-medicine, while artificial intelligence provided an interface between the patient and the doctor.

I am sure we can develop the AIIMS as an artificial intelligence-based medicine hub of north India which will work as an inspiration for others to follow, Singh said.

Lauding the contribution of CSIR-IIIM Jammu, he said the institute which was set before independence is working on a maiden project to make cannabis based drugs.

The clinical trials of the drug can be started in the AIIMS and Government

Medical College and the co-operation between the two institutions can be very productive, he said.

Singh said the purple revolution and the aroma mission, which was born at CSIR-IIIM Jammu, has provided a new opportunity in the start-ups, agriculture sector and entrepreneurship and the youth across the country are availing it.

The minister said the Out Patient Department (OPD) services will start immediately in AIIMS, Jammu and the first batch will move and operate from the premises from June 1 and the second batch will continue thereafter.

Singh said a 30 member faculty has already been inducted and the entire six-storey AIIMS building will be ready by early next year.


Earlier, addressing the function, he said it is an irony that CSIR-IIIM Jammu and Government Medical College Jammu existed in the close vicinity of just about four kilometers from each other and even though both the institutions were dedicated to medical re-

search, there was hardly any collaboration between the two in the past.


He said every effort would be made to bring in closer integration of IIIM with GMC and also between IIIM Jammu and AIIMS Jammu, both of which happen to be the central government institutions.

Singh noted that IIIM Jammu is one of the oldest CSIR laboratories in the country and even today it is conducting pioneering research in cannabis medicinal products and host of other drugs, which makes the institute a natural ally of the AIIMS which also has the mandate of research and medical education.

While appreciating the progress made during the brief period since Gupta took over as the director of AIIMS, the minister suggested that in order to develop an exclusive identity for the institution, the focus should be on futuristic areas like digital health and artificial intelligence (AI). AIIMS could be a pioneer in north India in developing AI-based healthcare infrastructure, he added.



**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MUFFASIL (R&B)**  
**DIVISION BUDGAM**  
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**E-tendering NIT No.248-MDB of 2021-22/18083-18103 DATED:-28-01-2022**

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

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Rs.)	Eamed Money	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	M.H
1	Upgradation of road from Kumar Mohalla to Malik gund road Upper Mohalla Daji by way of Earth work in cutting/filling including cross drainage pipes ion spots Providing and Laying of WBM G-1 <sup>st</sup> .	8.58 lacs	Rs.600/-	Rs.17160/-	30 days	DEE/CEE	District Capex Budget
2	Construction of link road from Arwah to Yechama Beerwah by way of Providing and Laying of WBM G-1 <sup>st</sup> including Cross drainage pipes	6.18 lacs	Rs.300/-	Rs.12360/-	20 days	DEE/CEE	District Capex Budget

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

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28-01-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 28-01-2022 01.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	28-01-2022 from 03.00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	04-02-2022 upto 3.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	04-02-2022at 4.00P.M in the Office of theExecutive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7 days of receipt of LOA. (The bidder has to provide 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid) in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG

No: EE/MDB/NIT/18083-18103  
**DATED:- 28-01-2022**  
 DIPK-17321/21

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider  
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja  
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Twitter Talks

“Logic fails here to fathom rather puzzle out the modalities and rationale behind the evasively imposed weekend lockdown in Srinagar , which sets apart Gulmarg from Srinagar in containing the spread of Covid”,  
@K\_bazaz  
“Increase in the demand for Oxygen at SRO has abated. Fewer O<sup>2</sup> Cylinders & O<sup>2</sup> Concentrators were dispensed yesterday & today. We hope situation will improve further in the coming week. We are also expecting #COVID week-end lockdown in Kashmir permanently ending tomorrow” ,  
@sro\_kashmir  
“In Kashmir, aside from the two Mirwaiz families: Mirwaiz-i Kalan of Jamia Masjid and Mirwaiz-i Khurd of Khanqah-i Hamdaniya, we also had the tradition of waizin (preachers) in various Pir and Sayyid familes, who were involved in the practice of waizkhani (giving sermons)”,  
@hamdaniSameer

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

NHPC ‘Loot’

The shocking revelations by a civil society group in Kashmir on the highly reprehensible role of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, a central government undertaking could not have come at a more inopportune time when New Delhi is desperately engaged in projecting itself as a peace-maker in South Asia's biggest trouble-spot.

In its knee-jerk response to the bloody unrest the valley witnessed during 2010, which saw the killing of no less than 120 protesters, mostly teenagers, at the hands of police and paramilitary men the government of India had appointed a 3-member team of interlocutors led by the noted journalist, Dileep Padgaonkar, to ascertain grievances of the thoroughly alienated people.

Although the interlocutors met a sizeable number of groups and individuals they failed to rope in those claiming to be legitimate representatives of the estranged populace. Indeed, they desperately tried to get the separatist leaders on board, but, because of their inherent contradictions, they could not succeed. How credible their report, being submitted to the government next month would be, is a matter of conjecture.

Like countless compilations resulting from earlier exercises, this too might eventually end up in the dustbin of history. However, it is beside the point. At the moment, the focus of discussion happens to be the transformation of one of India's public sector giants, the NHPC, into, what appears to be the reincarnation of notorious East India Company, which has always been considered to be the precursor of India's subjugation to British rule.

Addressing a press conference the leader of a recently formed civil society group spearheading the Movement for Return of Power Projects from NHPC and former president of the Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir, Shakeel Qalander, sought a debate in the Legislative Assembly, during ongoing autumn session, over what he termed as “exploitation of the state's water resources by the NHPC.” By the same token, he urged the state government not to force the people to take to streets with a view to restoring the power projects to their legitimate owners.Qalander asked the state chief minister to make a statement in the House.

Luckily, the CPI-M state secretary and MLA, Kulgam, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami, on Tuesday sought a debate over the issue. However, going by the duplicity and deceit both National Conference and Congress are reputed for, one may be skeptical about the coalition's response.

Ever since the NHPC has stepped on to the soil of Jammu and Kashmir, it has plundered the water resources of the state inflicting colossal recurring losses on its fragile economy.

Although the state is chronically deficit in meeting its own energy requirements, both in domestic and commercial sectors, more than 70 per cent of NHPC's total earnings come from the power projects it runs in Jammu and Kashmir, indeed in gross violation of state laws. It is the civil society which has, initially, blown the whistle about the NHPC's ugly role.

However, in response to the RTI query from the civil society group following High Court direction, the state government asserted its stand on entrusting power projects had been formulated and approved by the cabinet through its decision No 328 of June 1975, envisaging execution and management of Salal project by the state itself, availability of 50 per cent of power to it at generation cost, equal sharing of income from remaining 50 per cent, and, more importantly, return of the project to J&K when its depreciated value comes to zero. Without responding to the cabinet decision, duly communicated to it, the centre went ahead with entrusting the project to the NHPC for execution in violation of the State Electricity Act of 1971. Subsequently, even after fresh condition for execution and benefit sharing was conveyed vide cabinet decision No 37 of January 1985 both the government of India and NHPC have, apparently with state government's connivance, transferred the project assets, including its land, to NHPC, without any constitutional or legal authority. On its part, the Corporation has, not only failed to respond to RTI query filed by the civil society group, it has claimed sovereign rights on the land and assets in contemptuous disregard of the state constitution which, in no case, countenances such a transfer. This could stir up a Pandora's box precipitating a constitutional crisis between New Delhi and Srinagar. Before the issue degenerates into a major political controversy with nasty consequences, both the governments would be well advised to come clean on their respective positions. The NHPC, too, should realize the futility of its recalcitrance and desist from arrogating to itself the authority which certainly does not belong to it. Because the Legislative Assembly is in session, it is time for the chief minister, Omar Abdullah, also to make a statement on the sensitive issue in the House.

The article is an editorial from KO Archives  
and was originally published on Oct 16,2011

ECONOMY CENTRAL

J&K's Investment Frenzy  
Of Irrelevance Risks And Implementational Safeguards

Ejaz Ayoub

“Barrier to investment”, that was one of the central arguments around which the narrative of abrogation of the special status of J&K, in August 2019, was spun. There is no denying the fact that, since then, the Union Government of India along with the bureaucratically run Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir, have been working overtime to attract investors to Jammu and Kashmir. After limited success in luring business houses from mainland India to invest in this landlocked Himalayan region for the past two years and more, people at the helm started looking at their affluent friendly Arabian allies.

A flurry of announcements regarding investment agreements between GoJK and UAE based business groups have finally started pouring in since the last few weeks. Investments, as per official reports, will be deployed in real estate, horticulture, tourism, healthcare and other infrastructure. The Govt. claims that it has secured a whopping amount of Rs. 45,000 Crore investment proposals in addition to Rs. 18,300 Crore in real estate sector.

So, how does this investment benefit the local economy?

Being the 4th engine of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investment in capital asset creation is always welcome in any economic system, however, the nature of investor (public, private or external) and the variables of implementation in terms of Men, Material, Money and Management Control determines the effectiveness of its contribution towards the host region's economic growth. The purpose of foreign capital from investor's perspective is always to achieve a higher investment rate or sometimes a foreign policy objective. From host region's point of view, it's the higher rates of national income, impetus to productive capacity and acceleration of economic development in comparison to the development which would be achieved by using only domestic capital.

There are two main layers of external investment which deserve to be looked at while engaging with a foreign investing entity. Firstly, it is the quantum and control of the economic value created during formation of the capital asset in terms of requirement for human resource, material, finances and taxes earned by the host economy. In case, if for developing the proposed shopping mall or a hospital in J&K, the investor imports majority of engineers, contractors, workers and project managers from outside; imports steel & cement from places like Jamsheedpur & Rajasthan; elevators, electric components and other fittings from China and Korea; finances it from some global bank based in middle east and also gets tax waivers and leased land on throwaway prices from the GoJK, then it makes the entire exercise a very bad bargain for the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. The first layer advantage of this investment in such a scenario will therefore be negligible. Of course, we will be left with the asset at least and that's when the second layer benefit (if any) of investment comes into play.

Essentially, investments that are in line with the economy's productive capacities are considered much effective than those that amplify the existing structural flaws. In other words, it is the relevance of the asset to the underlying economic system that matters. For example, the proposal to develop an inland port by Dubai ports giant DP World in Jammu and Kashmir can prove to be a game changer. It has the potential to exponentially increase the export potential of the region which has been held back because of logistical disadvantages. Counterproductively, the plan to establish a mammoth shopping mall by Emaar Group might aggravate the already toxic consumption driven and rentier laden layer of the UT's economy. In other words, investments that improve the productive capacity in traditionally strong sectors of J&K like Agriculture, Handicrafts, Energy and Tourism, where the quotient of scalability in terms of global market place is very high, deserves to be embraced with open arms. In addition to this, any investment which can harness the sizable

A black and white photograph of a man in a small boat on a body of water, possibly a lake or river. The man is holding a long pole or oar. Overlaid on the image is a map of Jammu and Kashmir, with the word 'INVESTMENT' and 'frenzy' written across it in a stylized font. The map is colored in shades of orange and red, contrasting with the blue and grey tones of the photograph.

supply of qualified human resource towards the 4th industrial revolution and web 3.0 can bring about a paradigm shift in the regions battered economy. Conversely, investing in assets like shopping malls and residential apartments might have limited layer 2 benefits. Eventually investment in such assets creates sales outlets for merchandise which is being manufactured somewhere else. The benefits of which in terms of trading are quite minimal. Moreover, the eligible players to afford such spaces in the region are very limited which further limit the asset's utility in terms of adding any lasting impact on the indigenous economy's productivity. Therefore, the choice of assets created as well as the implementational variables shall determine if the external investment in the host economy is of any value.

What implementational safeguards can amplify the benefits of the proposed foreign investment that J&K is reportedly supposed to receive in coming years?

THE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP an inland port by Dubai ports giant DP World in Jammu and Kashmir can prove to be a game changer. It has the potential to exponentially increase the export potential of the region which has been held back because of logistical disadvantages

Management Control

Since the Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) of this scale are autonomous transactions of long-term capital movements, motivated by economic interests; foreign investors in this case prefer to keep 100 % ownership right and management control of the project unless otherwise stated in the terms of engagement. J&K has had a very bad experience of such investments previously. NHPC, though a domestic PSU, for example, invested billions of rupees over the last many decades in the energy sector in J&K. The benefits in terms of implementational spillovers as well as its relevance are extremely restricted because of the monopolistic management control of the assets that it has created on J&K's water resources. This is where the mechanisms of BOOT, PPP and other variants of distributed management control among foreign investors, regional Govt and even indigenous private players can act as a strong risk mitigant.

Men/Human Resource

The projects of this scale deserve human resource with global expertise of handling big dollar projects. J&K might not have such human resource in abundance, however, ensuring engagement of indigenous contactors, engineers, semi-skilled workers and unskilled laborers at middle level and operational level of projects can be an invaluable investment in future. Besides immediate

ate economic gain, it is projects like these where global expertise, work culture and professionalism pass on from best practices to host economies. The terms of engagement of the MOUs with the investors can be devised in such a way that they take these factors into consideration. Otherwise, the risk of local population's absorption limiting to menial jobs like watchmen, office boys and cab drivers is quiet tangible. This is what happened in business states like Maharashtra and how Maratha Reservation became a big political debate in the region.

Material

These projects can be leveraged effectively to scale-up the local manufacturing base of the battered industrial sector of J&K. This investment, no doubt, is expected to create a huge demand for construction material like cement, steel, construction equipments and various electrical, sanitary, furnishing and other supporting components. Manufacturing escalators and other high-tech machines might be

a portion of this money is raised from the local economy. And when it comes to J&K, a huge pile of its monetary resource is locked up in Bank deposits earning less than the prevailing inflation by over 100 basis points. As much as Rs. 1.43 Lakh crore, of which two thirds sits in J&K bank only, are lying with the banks operating in Jammu and Kashmir as on September 2021. Since the Government of J&K has a unique feather of having its own bank, any lending by this bank towards these projects will end up fetching fat dividends for the UT's exchequer. Thus, giving a shot to dilapidated state finances besides improving the Banks credit portfolio substantially. There might be an argument that this can lead to choking of credit space for regional retail businesses that are solely dependent on these financial institutions. However, the credit absorption capacity of the region over decades has been quiet low. As a result, Banks operating in J&K often end up lending almost 50% less than the amount raised as deposits from the region. Therefore, there is plenty of headroom to accommodate these investment projects from domestic savings.

Putting in place the above mentioned arrangements in the terms-of-engagement with the foreign investing entities, can ensure that the proposed investments have a multidimensional implementation-benefit to the economy. Notably, these benefits will come up even before the assets created are ready to add to the productive capacity of the region.

The Real Test

Securing investment is just the first step, though a significant one. However, the real test starts during the course of the project cycle. The problem with investments is that in order to meet its profitability and wealth maximisation goals, it demands a secure, somewhat predictable and stable macro environment and that too for a long period of time. As an investment destination, these factors do not fit with J&K's turbulent reputation. It's anything but secure, totally unpredictable and frequently unstable. With complete political disenfranchisement and simmering unrest, the fate of these systemically significant investments lies on the shoulders of aristocratic bureaucrats. The host economy can only hope that its interests are secured and a fine balance of give and take is maintained with foreign entities while engaging in the proposed "economic transformation". For investors, it is expected that they have factored all the known and unknown risks before entering into this graveyard of reputations. There is an old Arabic proverb "Ally Bedow Yaleabe Maeal Qati Bedow Yalqaa Kharamishahu" which means "Whoever plays with a cat will have to bear the annoyance of its claws".

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

The author has been working in the BFSI industry in the field of Financial Risk Management, Strategy and Foreign Exchange. He can be reached at:ejaz.ayoub@gmail.com

Money

The stated FDI in the announced projects is about Rs. 63,300 Crores. The investors can avail numerous routes to raise this capital. Another value adding element of this investment could potentially be in case



# Binge Fest

## TV Shows That You Don't Know But Should Watch

KO Web Desk

**A**re you the FOMO brand of series binge watchers? Did you watch GOT under immense peer pressure? Have you run out of recommendations and have exhausted all Top 10 lists? Fear no more. We've created a list of TV shows that you probably haven't heard about but should watch immediately.

**Ethos / Bir Ba kadir (2020) by NETFLIX, 8.5 IMDB**



**A** show of Turkish origin, written and directed by a revered Turkish writer, Borkun Oya, it created quite a stir in intellectual circles upon its release. It explores the intricate and complex lives of people caught between the two failing polar ends of society, i.e., modernity and tradition. The narrative brings forth to us a nuanced and an honest description of how charac-

**THE PLOT FOLLOWS**  
**Durr-e-Shehwar as she recounts her married life to her daughter, who is facing marital problems.**

ters from both ends of society are unhappy and unsatisfied with their lives, owing much to their rigid outlooks of the world. Unlike the infamous stereotypical Hollywood representation of traditional societies, this show breaks the stereotypes and presents the cross-section of society in a much more eloquent and nuanced manner. The candid representation of their behaviours and therefore their psyche brings forth something very profound to ponder upon, which is

essentially asking questions about how exactly do we humans fall in err in a society where our psyches are in a constant perpetuation of making hasty generalisations, and thereby basing our whole worldview on them. The show doesn't give any answers, instead it gives a candid and nuanced representation of characters who are captives of their own insufficiencies, just like we are, and it compels one to 'think' regardless of one's leaning towards modernity or tradition.

**After Life (2019) by NETFLIX, 8.5 IMDB**



**A** truly bittersweet, deeply thought provoking and probably the magnum opus of the British writer and director, Ricky Gervais, 'After life' is an exceptional TV series that focuses on death, existentialism and the force of life. The plot revolves around a guy named Tony, who is devastated after losing his wife to breast cancer, leaving him shattered and contemplating of suicide. Considering to end his life, he discovers a new freedom: to say or act in whatever manner he pleases, knowing that if the consequences become too much, he can always commit suicide since he no longer cares about anything. However, as he alienates his friends, family and co-workers, his interactions with other people in similar situations drive him to question his future. That is how the plot evolves, to subtly address the question of whether he cares about anything. It is often regarded as the '13 reasons why' for mature audience since it puts life, death and suicide in a realistic frame as opposed to romanticising it. It's a fantastic meditation on the long-term impacts of grief and loss, as well as a comedy with at least one episode that makes you laugh out loud.

**Yunus Emre (2015) by TRT, 8.0 IMDB**



**F**rom the director of the famous TV series Dirili : Ertu rul, Mehmet Bozda , this series explores the life of the famous Anatolian Sufi Mystic poet, Yunus Emre of 13th century Anatolia. In this series, Mehmet Bozda , who is recognised for emphasising the importance of traditional and religious ethos in his works, does so by diving thoroughly into the spread and teachings of mysticism in 13th century Anatolia. The show, despite being about a Turkish poet resonates with most of the Asian regions owing to the shared history of Islamic Mysticism across the regions. It explores the journey of a student of knowledge, the traditional education of the sciences of language and religion, to the student of love, owing much to his murshid (spiritual teacher) Tapduk Emre, another famous mystic. The much known relation of mureed and murshid is explored, however in a much detailed and nuanced manner, much of which can be related with our history of mystics. The show is a great effort in materialising and perpetuating the traditional tenets and teachings in the form of films and TV. As instructive and informative as it is, being a historical series, it also proves to be quite an entertaining watch.

**Durr-e-Shehwar/ Dhoop Chhaon (2012) by MD Productions, Six Sigma Plus, 8.7 IMDB**



**W**e are all familiar with popular Pakistani shows like Humsafar (2011), Alif (2019), Zindagi Gulzaar Hai (2012) and so on. However the show Durre-e-Shehwar hasn't found its renown like the others despite being equally as

brilliant, if not more. Durr-e-Shehwar is an Urdu Pakistani drama serial written by Umera Ahmad and directed by Haissam Hussain. It is a beautiful, heart-warming and thought-provoking story that touches the issues of domestic married life in a south-Asian society from a woman's perspective. The plot follows Durr-e-Shehwar as she recounts her married life to her daughter, who is facing marital problems. Shehwar's tale is one of suffering, effort, and perseverance, which her daughter was unaware of. After marriage she had expected to relocate with her husband to his army assigned house, but she was forced to stay with her in-laws. She describes how she was denied the respect she had at her home because his husband saw her through his mother's frigid eyes. The story of her suffering continues, until her husband, because of her perseverance and guidance from her father, recognised her worth and took her with him, which finally made her in-laws respect her. The whole story is told in a beautiful, eloquent manner which really puts the essence of patience and perseverance forward along with the impending emphasis on the problems a typical south-asian household. The story is a testament on the importance of marital preservation through patience and perseverance, as well as on husband's obligation to make his wife's dignity known.

**The Good Doctor by ABC (US), 8.1 IMDB**



**The Good Doctor** features Shaun Murphy, a young surgeon with autism and savant syndrome, relocated from a quiet country life to join a prestigious hospital surgical unit. This series brings the autistic individuals in the focus and differs to tell how they can perform among the normally abled people. Shaun Murphy, who is blessed with an extraordinary medical insight puts his skills to use in saving lives, however his autism is a factor of scepticism for his colleagues. Unlike the most incorrect representation of medicine and surgeries in popular TV and cinema, this show is far accurate in terms of its representation of the surgical units and procedures –which makes it more informative and educational. The show also subtly addresses some issues of discrimination prevalent in the west along with its focus on specially-abled people. This show might not be everyone's favourite but it's a positive step for the representation of specially-abled people.

## What Caught The Web Inside Breathtaking Slopes Of Gulmarg



KO Web Desk

**I**nternet's new favourite this week has yet again been from the forever-in-awe-of-snow genre. Last week, it was the Snow cricket from Gurez and this week it's the skiing adventures from Gulmarg. This week, the internet was blessed with

breathtaking footage of Gulmarg from Kashmir's popular Volgger Imad from the Youtube channel "Imad Clicks". A section of the vlog went viral on twitter which had drone shots of Skiers acing the snow with skill and panache. Snowboarder Farhat Naik had this to say about the clip, "It looks so beautiful from above ,first drone video thank you @Imad-clicks for this amazing video"

### KODAK MOMENT



**KASHMIRI BOYS PLAYING** in front of a mosque on a sunny day after snowfall at Awantipora. Picture credit: Firdous Parray

Want your pictures to get featured? Send them to us on [editpage.ko@gmail.com](mailto:editpage.ko@gmail.com)



# Here’s Why Modern Cars Feel So Lifeless To Drive

People say only enthusiasts care about steering feel, but that's not true.

Jonathan M. Gitlin

In almost every regard, new cars are better than they’ve been at any time in their history. They’re safer than they used to be—though that is less true for women. Powertrains, particularly battery electric ones, are more powerful and more efficient, which helps to compensate for the extra weight of that added safety equipment. Vehicles are far more reliable, at least for their first 100,000 miles, and even cheap cars come with standard equipment that would seem like science fiction to drivers from just a few decades ago.

They ride better; they stop better—so everything’s great, right? The problem is that modern cars almost invariably feel a bit boring to drive. The issue is more acute the longer you’ve been driving, as you might expect, since the cause is technological progression—specifically, power steering.

What happened to steering feel?

For much of the car’s existence, steering was entirely unassisted. The driver turns the wheel connected to a steering column that, through links and pivots and usually a gear, turns the front wheels in either direction. That setup was marvelous for feedback, but it wasn’t great in terms of the effort required to turn the wheel, particularly at lower speeds.

fort required to turn the wheel, particularly at lower speeds.

Drivers of a certain age will tell you that unassisted steering is the purest way to drive—and therefore the best. I am sympathetic to this argument, up to a point.

Steering became more of an issue as cars got heavier and front tires got wider, so cars gained hydraulic power-assisted steering to compensate. Hydraulic pistons reduce the effort required to steer the front wheels, and there’s not much inertia, but the steering system still communicated forces back from the front wheels and through the steering to the driver’s hands.

The problem is that running a hydraulic system requires enough power to be noticeable in fuel efficiency. These days, we have compact and powerful electric motors that can assist in turning the front wheels. There are fewer moving parts, there are no hydraulic lines or fluid to worry about, and the systems are getting cheaper. Being electrically controlled means you can even accommodate features like lane-keeping assistance or autosteering.

The downside is that the motors are also pretty good at filtering out road forces from traveling back up from the front wheels to the steering wheel.

Typically, electric power-assisted steering



ing works via a small motor mounted on the steering column. It responds to a torque sensor that tells the wheels how much to turn and in which direction. That process requires a bit of time for the motor to revolve, which adds just enough inertia to filter out road forces from being directed back up the column to the driver’s hands.

To make matters worse, the suspension geometry often further compromises steering feel in favor of things like putting less load into tie-rods, which allows for smaller and cheaper electric motors.

I’m far from the first to notice this problem, nor the first to say that it’s a bad thing. Where I will differ from my peers is when they


say that steering feel doesn’t matter to anyone but car journalists. Even people who regard a car as just an appliance to get from point A to B will prefer driving a car with good steering.

Perhaps the greatest exponent of this idea was Richard Parry-Jones. He was a long-time Ford employee who rose to become chief technology officer of the company after overseeing a string of products (the Focus, Mondeo, Puma, and Ka) that were a joy to drive, even at the basic trim levels.

Depressingly, the problem is not evenly distributed. Instead of mounting the electric motor to the steering column, it’s possible to fit it to the steering rack instead. This approach requires a larger motor, but there’s less gearing, and it’s easier for road forces to act on the motor, which in turn get relayed back up the steering as feedback.

With sufficient motivation, cars can still be engineered to provide engagement, and an engaged driver is usually an alert one. But good steering takes time and costs money to develop and tune, on top of the increased bill of materials. So for now, an emphasis on steering is the preserve of expensive brands like Porsche. For cars built to a price, we’re still waiting for a 21st-century Parry-Jones to find a way to inject some fun.

(Ars Technica)



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JAMMU AND KASHMIR

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Solina Srinagar, Kashmir - 190001

Jammu: 0191-2565528 (f) 2565530

Srinagar: 0194-2312529 (f) 2312531

**SUBJECT:** Filling up of the Gazetted vacancies of the Department of Skill Development, J&K, under Direct Recruitment quota.

**REFERENCE:** Department of Skill Development’s letter No. Edu/Tech/Gen/I/61/2019, Dated: 30.09.2020.

**NOTIFICATION NO: 06 - PSC (DR-P) OF 2022**

**DATED: 24-01-2022**

Applications through online mode are invited from the eligible candidates who are domiciled in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir possessing the prescribed Academic / Professional qualification and age for the following posts in terms of the “Jammu & Kashmir Education Department (Technical) (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules, 2002 issued vide SRO 328 dated 29.08.2002, “Jammu & Kashmir Probationer (Conduct of Service, Pay & Allowance) and Fixation of Tenure Rules, 2020” notified vide S.O. 192 of 2020 dated 17.06.2020 and Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (Business and Procedure) Rules, 2021 :-

1. Lecturer-I, Civil Engineering,

2. Lecturer-I, Electrical Engineering,

3. Lecturer-I, Electronics and Communication ,

4. Lecturer-I, Automobile Engineering,

5. Lecturer-II, (Non Engineering), Wood Technology,

6. Lecturer-II, (Non Engineering) Food Technology,

7. Lecturer-II, (Non Engineering) Garment Technology,

8. Lecturer-II, (Non Engineering) Medical Lab Technology,

9. Lecturer-II, (Non Engineering) Textile designing,

10. Lecturer-II, (Non Engineering) Travel, Tour & Hotel Management.

11. Programmer.

12. Foreman Engineering.

**IMPORTANT**

> Candidates are advised to update their One Time Registration before filling the application Form.

> The Application Form together with instructions for filling up the Application Forms will be available at the website of the Commission from 24.01.2022.

> Candidates are advised to go through the instructions and all the eligibility conditions prescribed for the post before filling up the online Application Form.

> Last date for filling up of online Application complete in all respects along with the requisite fee (online mode only) is 23.02.2022.

> The last date for receipt of online applications provided in the notification shall be the cut-off date for determining the eligibility including acquisition of requisite educational and professional qualifications.

> The minimum and maximum age will however be reckoned with reference to 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022.

> Candidates can edit some of the fields in their online application form w.e.f 26.02.2022 to 28.02.2022 (upto 11.59 p.m.). Instructions in this regard will be separately made available on the website.

> Candidates are required to upload all the mandatory prescribed / requisite documents alongwith the online applications form.

> In case the mandatory prescribed / requisite documents are not uploaded with the online application form, the application form / candidature of the applicant is liable to be rejected without any further notice.

> Candidates will not be required to submit a Hard Copy of the online application form or any other documents to the Commission at the time of filling up online application form.

> The candidate will however be required to present / produce a downloaded copy of the online application form alongwith the original certificate at the time of interview.

> Candidates are advised in their own interest to submit online applications much before the closing date and not to wait till the last date to avoid the possibility of disconnection / inability to pay fee or failure to login to the online application portal on account of heavy load on the website during the closing days.

2. Details of posts with category wise breakup is given below

Item No.	Name of the Post	CATEGORY			Total
		OM	RBA	sc	
1	Lecturer-I, Civil Engineering	01	-	-	01
2	Lecturer-I, Electrical Engineering	01	01	01	03
3	Lecturer-I, Electronics and Communication	01	01	-	02
4	Lecturer-I, Automobile Engineering	01	01	-	02
5	Lecturer-II (Non Engineering) Wood Technology	01	01	-	02
6	Lecturer-II (Non Engineering) Food Technology	01	01	-	02
7	Lecturer-II (Non Engineering) Garment Technology	01	01	-	02
8	Lecturer-II (Non Engineering) Medical Lab Technology	03	01	01	05
9	Lecturer-II (Non Engineering) Textile Designing	01	01	01	03
10	Lecturer-II, (Non Engineering) Travel, Tour & Hotel Management.	01	01	-	02
11	Programmer	01	01	-	02
12	Foreman Engineering	01	-	-	01
Total Posts		14	10	03	27

3. PRESCRIBED QUALIFICATION

Post	Qualification
Lecturer-I, Civil Engineering Level-9 52700-166700	Bachelor’s Degree in engineering with 55% marks in appropriate branch of Engineering / Technology / Disciplines or equivalent from a recognized University.
Lecturer-I, Electrical Engineering Level-9 52700-166700	
Lecturer-I, Electronics & Communication Level-9 52700-166700	
Lecturer-I, Automobile Engineering Level-9 52700-166700	
Lecturer-II (Non Engineering) Wood Technology Level-6-F-40800-129200	i. Bachelor’s Degree with 55% marks in appropriate branch/discipline or equivalent from a recognized Institution/University.
Lecturer-II (Non Engineering) Food Technology Level-6-F-40800-129200	ii. Bachelor’s Degree in Arts/Science/Commerce/with first class diploma in the relevant discipline from a recognized Institution/University.
Lecturer-II (Non Engineering) Garment Technology Level-6-F-40800-129200	iii. Diploma Holders first class in appropriate branch/discipline from a recognized Institution. Preference shall be given to the candidates from category-I. In case no candidate from this category is available then preference shall be given to the candidates from category-II. In case no candidate is available from this category also then candidates from category-III shall be taken.
Lecturer-II (Non Engineering) Medical Lab Technology Level-6-F-40800-129200	
Lecturer-II (Non Engineering) Textile designing Level-6-F-40800-129200	
Lecturer-II, (Non Engineering) Travel, Tour & Hotel Management. Level-6-F-40800-129200	
Programmer Level-9 52700-166700	Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering with 55% marks in appropriate branch of Engineering (Computer Science and Engineering) or equivalent from a recognized University.
Foreman Engineering Level-9 52700-166700	Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering with 55% marks in appropriate branch of Engineering/ Technology/ Disciplines or equivalent from a recognized University

4. Age as on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022

The age criteria for candidates belonging to Open Merit (OM) & various Reserved Categories is as below:-

S.NO	Category	Age limit in years	Not born after	Not born before
1	OM	40	01.01.2004	01.01.1982
2	RBA/SC	43	01.01.2004	01.01.1979
3	PHC	42	01.01.2004	01.01.1980
3	In service candidate	40	01.01.2004	01.01.1982

5. RESERVATION

i) A candidate seeking his/her consideration under Reserved Categories must ensure that he/she possesses a valid requisite Category certificate and on the cut-off date.

ii) The category certificate should remain valid during the entire process of selection.

iii) The candidature of the candidates will be provisional till the genuineness of the reserved category certificate is verified by the Appointing Authority.

iv) Candidates may note that in case a claim for reservation is made on the basis of false/fake/fraudulent certificate, he/she shall be debarred from the examination(s) conducted by the J&K Public Service Commission, in addition to any other penal action as may be deemed appropriate.

6. DOMICILE

The candidate should be a Domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The candidate must possess the Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority in the prescribed format as on the last date prescribed for submission of online application form.

7. CENTRE OF EXAMINATION

I. The examination will be held at Srinagar & Jammu centres. All the candidates shall indicate the option for examination centre as indicated above. II. The allotment of centres shall be at sole discretion of the Commission and once a centre is allotted to a candidate, request for a change of centre will not be entertained. III. Information about the Examination indicating the time table and Centre of Examination for the candidates will be uploaded on the websites of the Commission about two weeks before the date of examination. If any candidate does not find his/her Roll Number on the website of the Commission, one week before the date of examination, he/she must immediately contact the Commission’s Office at Srinagar/Jammu, with proof of having submitted his/her application. Failure to do so will deprive him/her of any claim for consideration.

IV. Candidate must submit his/her online application form, Email ID and Mobile Number along with his/her Name, Date of Birth and Name of the Examination, while addressing any communication to the Commission.

Communication from the candidates not furnishing these particulars shall not be entertained.

V. Admit Cards will be available for downloading about two weeks before the date of examination on the official website of the Commission i.e. [jkpsc.nic.in](http://jkpsc.nic.in). Candidate must bring printout of the Admit Card/Roll Number Slip to the Examination Hall.

VI. For securing entry into the centre of examination, in addition to the Admit Card/Roll Number Slip, it is mandatory to carry at least two passport size recent color photographs (not taken earlier than 01.01.2021) and any of the original valid Photo-Id proof such as:

i. Aadhar Card/ E-Aadhar,

ii. Voter’s ID Card,

iii. Driving License,

iv. PAN Card,

v. Passport,

vi. School /College/University I- Card

vii. Employer ID Card.

8. REQUISITE FEE

After successful submission of the online application form, candidate will be required to deposit requisite fee through online mode. The amount of fee to be paid is given below:

General Category = Rs.1000.00

Reserved Categories = Rs.500.00

PHC Candidates = Nil.

NOTE:-

1. The application Form submitted without deposition of the fee, which gets substantiated through reflection of the same on the application form, shall be treated as incomplete and candidature shall be deemed to have been rejected without any notice. No representation against such rejection shall be entertained.

2. Submission of multiple applications by way of prefilling Mr/Ms or through generation of multiple User ID’s or any other mode, followed by either non-payment of fee particulars or fee particulars (TID) of one application (RID) being mentioned against another application with a different RID would lead to rejection of the online application. The applicants who are submitting multiple applications should note that only the applications with higher Registration ID (RID) number shall be entertained by the Commission and fee paid against one RID shall not be adjusted against any other RID number. Besides a strict disciplinary action shall be taken including the cancellation of candidature and debarment for future examinations of J&K PSC will be taken against such applicants.

09. DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED

While filing the online application form the applicants are required to upload the documents as per details given below:

a) Documents (Mandatory):-

i) Date of Birth certificate (Secondary School/Matric Certificate- 01 leaf.

ii) Domicile certificate -01 leaf.

iii) Bachelors Degree / Diploma with consolidated Marks Cards.

iv) Post Graduation Degree alongwith consolidated marks card,

v) Ph.D degree alongwith result notification, wherever applicable.

b) Documents (Mandatory) if claiming benefit under that category:-

i) Valid category certificate -01 leaf.

ii) For Physically Challenged Candidates Disability certificate on the prescribed format, if required -01 leaf,

iii) In-Service Certificate Signed by HOD.

C) Any other document for which the candidate is claiming weightage as per Provisions laid down in J&K (Business and Procedure) Rules, 2021:-

i) Certificate of Distinction in Sports in terms of J&K (Appointment of Outstanding Sports Persons) Rules, 1998-01 Leaf

ii) “C” Certificate in NCC activities- 01 Leaf

iii) Gold Medal Certificate for overall first position in the minimum prescribed qualification- 01 leaf. In case the convocation for award of Gold Medal has not been convened, a certificate from the competent authority shall be uploaded to the effect that he/she is entitled to Gold Medal for securing overall first position in the prescribed qualification and shall be awarded the same in the Convocation of the University/Institution.

It may be noted that no further opportunity to upload any document shall be provided hereafter and action under rules including rejecting of application/candidature etc will be taken.

10. SCHEME OF SELECTION

Selection shall be made in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission’s (Business & Procedure) Rules, 2021 as amended from time to time. Candidates are especially advised to apprise themselves with the provisions of Rule-43(i) of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission’s (Business & Procedure) Rules, 2021.

11. SYLLABUS

The Discipline wise Syllabus for the written examination is enclosed as Annexures “A to L” and is available on the website of the Commission ([www.jkpsc.nic.in](http://www.jkpsc.nic.in))

12. PROVISION OF COMPENSATORY TIME AND ASSISTANCE OF SCRIBE.

On request of a visually impaired (Blind) or any other candidate with Locomotors Disability and Cerebral Palsy where dominant (writing) extremity is affected to the extent of slowing the performance or function (minimum of 40% impairment), the candidate shall be provided assistance of an amanuensis (Scribe) on production of a Disability Certificate issued by the Standing Medical Board or Medical Board constituted by the Government. The scribe should have at least one qualification below than the requirement for the post applied for by the candidate(s) and further should be from an academic stream different form that stipulated for the post. The scribe shall be paid remuneration charges by the Commission equivalent to the honorarium paid to the Invigilator.

Provided the concerned Supervisor shall ensure that the scribe provided to the candidate on the day of examination shall not extend any type of help to the candidate in solving the questions.

Compensatory time of 20 minutes per hour shall be permitted for the visually impaired (Blind) candidates and candidates with Locomotor Disability and Cerebral Palsy where dominant (writing) extremity is affected to the extent of slowing the performance or function (minimum of 40% impairment) as certified by a Standing Medical Board.

13. THE NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING FILLING UP OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE GIVEN HEREIN BELOW:-

a) Candidates are required to apply online through the website of the Commission i.e. <http://www.jkpsc.nic.in>. No other means/ mode of application shall be accepted.

b) Candidates are first required to go to the JKPS website [www.jkpsc.nic.in](http://www.jkpsc.nic.in) and click on the link “One Time Registration” or click on Login menu if you have already created your profile with the JKPS.

c) After logging into your account, candidates are required to fill all the requisite fields of One Time Registration (OTR) i.e. personal information, contact information & educational qualification, service details etc.

d) The candidate shall also be required to upload the image of date stamped recent passport size color photograph and signature. The photograph should not be taken earlier than 01.01.2021.

e) Size of the photograph (passport size) and signature must be between 10 KB to 20 KB in “jpeg or “.jpg only.

f) After successful submission of all the details in your OTR account, check the eligibility conditions as mentioned in the advertisement notification before applying for the post.

g) Click on the “show examination” as shown against the respective post/examination you want to apply.

h) On clicking on the “show examination” a window will appear on your computer screen. Select the month of the advertisement notification for which you want to apply, a link(s) for the post(s) will appear on the computer screen.

i) An “APPLY” button is shown against the respective post and the candidates will click on the APPLY button against the post he/she is eligible.

j) On clicking “APPLY” button, an instruction window will appear. Candidates should read instructions carefully before clicking on “APPLY” button at the bottom of the webpage.

k) On clicking “APPLY” button, the system will display all facts/particulars that a candidate may have mentioned while filling up the necessary fields of his/her OTR account. Candidate shall fill up the remaining required fields in the application form and accept the declaration thereof.

l) Once the candidate is satisfied about the correctness of the filled in details, then, he or she may click on “SUBMIT” button to finally push the data into server with successful submission report.

m) On successful submission of the basic details, the candidates will be required to pay the online fee and uploading of the documents, for final submission of the online application form.

n) Candidates can pay the requisite fee through online mode in the “SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS” menu in your account.

o) After successful payment of the fee, the fee status will get reflected on the Online Application form. Candidates can check the fee status by clicking on the Print Application Button in the submitted Applications menu in your JKPS account. In case the payment status shows either “not submitted or under processing or status has not been reflected on your submitted application form”, candidate(s) are advised to contact the JKPS office at Solina Srinagar/ReshamGhar Colony Jammu immediately for clarification. Further where the online fee is paid through other service providers the candidate must ensure that not only the amount of fee is debited from his/service provider’s Account but also credited into the official account of JKPS.

p) The candidate would be able get the printout of his/her submitted application only after the payment of the requisite fee and uploading of requisite documents viz Date of Birth Certificate, Degree Certificate, Category Certificate and Domicile Certificate.

q) The JKPS will not undertake detailed scrutiny of applications for the eligibility and other aspects at the time of written examination and therefore, candidature will be accepted only provisionally. The candidates are advised to go through the requirements of educational qualification, age, etc. and satisfy themselves that they are eligible for the post(s). Copies of supporting documents will be sought at the time of document verification. When scrutiny is not taken, if any claim if made in the application is not found/substantiated by proof, the candidature will be cancelled and the Commission’s decision shall be final and binding.

r) Please note that the above procedure is the only valid procedure for applying. No other mode of application or incomplete steps would be accepted and such applications would be rejected.

14. EDITING OF THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM

Candidates who have successfully submitted the online application form along with requisite fee will be allowed to edit some of the fields in their submitted online application form within three days after the cut-off date i.e. from 26.02.2022 to 28.02.2022 (11:59 PM). Detailed instruction in this regard will be made available on the website.

15. ACTION AGAINST CANDIDATES FOUND GUILTY OF MISCONDUCT

Candidates are advised that they should not furnish any particulars that are false or suppress any material information.

A candidate who is, or has been, declared by the Commission, to be guilty of:

i. obtaining by wrongful support of his/her candidature by any means, or

ii. impersonating, or

iii. procuring impersonation by any person, or

iv. submitting fabricated documents or documents which have been tampered with or

v. making statements which are incorrect, or false or suppressing material information, or

vi. resorting to any other irregular or improper means in connection with his /her candidature for the selection, or

vii. using unfair means during the test, or

viii. writing irrelevant matter including obscene language or pornographic matter, in the script(s), or ix. misbehaving in any other manner in the examination hall, or

x. harassing or doing bodily harm to the staff employed by the Commission for the conduct of their test, or

xi. attempting to commit or, as the case may be, abetting the Commission of all or any of the acts specified in the foregoing clauses may, in addition to rendering himself/herself liable to criminal prosecution.

SHALL BE LIABLE:-

a) to be disqualified by the Commission from selection for which he/she is a candidate, and/or

b) to be debarred either permanently or for a specified period:-

(i) by the Commission from any examination or selection held by them,

(ii) By the Union Territory Government from any employment under them, and

c) if he / she is already in service under Government, disciplinary action can be taken against him / her under the appropriate rules.

No: PSC/DR/Engg-Non Engg /2020/09

Dated: 24.01.2022

DPK-1719721

Sd/-

(R.K. Katoch), IAS

Secretary

J&K Public Service Commission



## Dir Tourism Holds Meeting With Officers Of Outside Offices

Asks them to be in regular touch with local travel fraternities, update them about JK's tourism potential, share their feedback with Deptt

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo Saturday asked the officers of the Department posted across various cities of the country to be in regular touch with the local travel fraternities there and keep them updated about the tourism related activities in Jammu & Kashmir.

Chairing a meeting with Tourist Officers of the Department posted at New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and other cities through video conferencing, the Director Tourism advised them to hold regular webinar meetings with the local travel stakeholders, share all the information about the tourism potential of J&K with them and share their feedback with the Department.

The Director Tourism asked these officers to come up with a plan, based on each city's specifics, so that the promotional events in coming days are planned accordingly. In this regard, he asked them to explore the potential of vernacular media of each region, travel market requirements and the general travel trends in each of their travel markets so that these are utilized to reach out to the potential customers.

Dr. Itoo specifically asked the officers of these offices to popularise among the local tourism markets the varied facets of J&K tourism including cuisine, music, heritage and adventure.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Directors, Registration, Administration and Estates besides all the heads of offices of the Tourism Department outside J&K.

## Bad Bank: Rs 50,000 Cr Of Stressed Assets To Be Transferred By March-End

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) or bad bank has received all approvals to commence operations, and a total of 38 NPA accounts worth Rs 82,845 crore have been identified to be transferred to NARCL initially, State Bank of India Chairman Dinesh Khara said on Friday.

The transfer of 38 stressed accounts will happen in a phased manner, with banks agreeing to transfer 15 NPA accounts worth Rs 50,000 crore in the first phase by March 2022, Khara said.

"In the phase one, about 15 (stressed) accounts aggregating to Rs 50,000 crore are expected to be transferred to the NARCL. We are trying to have these accounts transferred within this financial year after completing all the required processes," Khara told reporters.

He said India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL), which will manage the stressed assets and engage market professionals and turnaround experts, has also received all the requisite regulatory approvals.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget 2021-22 speech had announced that the government intends to set up a bad bank as part of the resolution of bad loans worth about Rs 2 lakh crore in the banking system.

When asked about the lower stressed asset pool as compared to the initial amount, SBI's Man-



aging Director (stressed assets resolution group) J Swaminathan said Rs 2 lakh crore was the universe that was identified earlier and a few accounts have got resolved during this period of one year.

He said the Rs 83,000 crore worth of stressed accounts are where the joint lending forums (JLF) have met and taken a decision to transfer to the NARCL.

"For the remaining accounts, this process is still on in a phased manner and this will happen over the next year. Currently, the target is to transfer at least the initial set of 15 accounts aggregating to Rs 50,000 crore," Swaminathan explained.

Khara said while public sector banks have taken a majority stake in NARCL, IDRCL will be majorly owned by private sector banks.

SBI, Union Bank of India and Indian Bank have picked up 13.27 per cent stake each in NARCL. Punjab National Bank has also acquired close to 12 per cent stake in the bad bank.

He said both the companies have their respective boards in place. While NARCL will be managed by Padma Kumar Nair, IDRCL will be headed by Manish Makharia.

## EPFO Onboards Air India For Social Security Benefits

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Retirement fund body EPFO has onboarded Air India Ltd for social security benefits like PF, pension and insurance and has received contributions for about 7,453 employees for the month of December from the airline, a labour ministry statement said on Saturday.

The Tata Group took over the debt-ridden airline from the Government of India.

Air India had applied for EPFO coverage, which has been allowed, the retirement fund body said.

"EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation) onboarded Air India for social security coverage to service the social security needs of their employees. Air India Ltd applied for voluntarily covered u/s 1(4) of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 which has been allowed vide gazette notification on January 13, 2022 -- with effect from December 1, 2021," the ministry statement said.

The social security benefits will be provided to around 7,453 employees for whom contributions have been filed by Air India with EPFO for the month of December 2021, it added.

These employees of Air India now will be entitled to benefits like they will receive extra 2 per cent employer's contributions in their provident fund (PF) accounts



at 12 per cent of their wages.

Earlier they were covered under the PF Act of 1925, where the contributions to the PF was at 10 per cent by employer and 10 per cent by employee.

The EPF Scheme 1952, EPS 1995 (employees pension scheme) and EDLI 1976 (group insurance) will now be applicable to the employees. A guaranteed minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month will be available to employees and pensions to family and dependents in case of death of employee.

An assured insurance benefit in case of death of member will be available in the range of minimum Rs 2.50 lakh and maximum 7 lakh. No premium is charged to the EPFO covered employees for this benefit. The ministry informed that since 1952-53, Air India and Indian Airlines were two separate companies that were covered under PF Act, 1925. In 2007, both the companies merged into one company, Air India Ltd.

Under the PF Act, 1925, benefit of provident fund was available but there was no statutory pension scheme or insurance scheme.

## Dairy Farmers Dump Milk In Drains In Ganderbal Owing Less Demand In Market

District Admin Ropes In JKMPCL For Help



Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** In a heart wrenching scene, dairy farmers in Lar, Repora and its adjoining areas of central Kashmir District Ganderbal dumped milk in drains due to the less demand in the market.

Dairy farmers anguished with the less demand of the milk are dumping it in drains, which they blame on increase in supply of milk by dairy companies.

A farmer of Larr Ganderbal said that it is a top most issue, milk is being thrown away into drains as there are no customers to buy their product

"The issue needs the attention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. People connected with this business have taken loan, and needs amnesty. The concerned DC must take personal intervention in resolving the issue," a local Javid Ahmad said.

A lady milk producer said that she has 20 cows, and her whole family is fully dependent on them, "We sold everything that we had, to feed our cows. If this continues, where we will go, is this what makes India stronger and self-reliant," she said.

They demanded that this is-

sue needs a proper redressal.

Meanwhile, District Administration Ganderbal has decided to rope in Jammu & Kashmir Milk Producer's Co-operative Limited (JKMPCL) in every block of the district to help the dairy farmers market their products.

In a statement, a spokesman of Ganderbal administration said, "A distressed group of progressive dairy farmers especially Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) beneficiaries visited the office of Chief Animal Husbandry this week and reported an unusual issue of surplus milk production to the extent that there are no takers in the market."

He said, "As reported by them, the usual milk supply chain has broken and they are selling their produce in distress on meagre amounts. Before the issue becomes grave and jeopardizes the prestigious IDDS scheme, the department has taken pre-emptive measures."

While listing the measures the spokesman said: "A team of two doctors has been framed from each block of Ganderbal to ascertain the factual position and possible remedial measures. Prima facie, marketing of milk seems to be faltered for

which it has been proposed that JKMPCL may be roped in so that at least one BMC per block is made operational."

He said, "Further value addition and milk processing has to be a way forward. The department is providing 50% subsidy for the establishment of milk processing equipment like Paneer making and curd making machines. The same has been proposed to the concerned farmers as well. The progressive farmers have been stressed to focus on linking the supply and demand areas.

Meanwhile, they have been encouraged to constitute their own dairy cooperative society and supply their fresh farm produce to the demand areas. The department has offered assistance in the constitution of the same and subsidizing the milk vans and BMCs as and when needed at a 50% subsidy rate. It's worthwhile to mention that two dairy cooperative societies have been framed in Ganderbal this year only, one of which happens to be in Lar block. The same society can be helpful in roping in all the progressive dairy farmers of Lar block to make the society self-sufficient and vibrant."

(With Agencies Inputs)

## Agri Deptt Prevents Sale Of 40,000 Ltrs Of TSO/ HMO

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its drive against the distribution and sale of unregistered insecticides, Agriculture Department Kashmir (Enforcement Wing) Saturday inspected some dealers of district Baramulla and prevented the sale of 40,000 litres of unregistered Tree Spray Oil (TSO)/ Horticulture Mineral

Oil (HMO) under various sections of insecticides act 1968.

The Director Agriculture Kashmir (Controller Insecticides) Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal impressed upon the Enforcement Officers that all the provisions of insecticides act 1968 must be followed in letter and spirit. He said that the valley wide campaign against unregistered insecticides will continue in the coming days.

He also asked the monitoring teams already constituted at the directorate level to remain vigilant and work in coordination with the allied departments and give weekly performance reports to the directorate so that a compact mechanism is devised to curb the flow of unregistered products.

## SBI Puts On Hold Circular On Recruitment Of Pregnant Women After Flak

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** After facing criticism from various quarters, the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday decided to suspend its circular on recruitment of pregnant women.

SBI recently reviewed its 'Fitness Standards for Recruitment in the Bank', including norms for Pregnant Women candidates. Under the new rules, a woman candidate with more than three months pregnancy will be considered "temporarily unfit" and can join the bank within four months after delivery.

The move elicited flak from various quarters, including from some MPs, bank unions and the Delhi Commission for Women.

In view of the public sentiments, the bank has decided to keep the revised instructions regarding recruitment of pregnant women candidates in abeyance and continue with the existing instructions in the matter, SBI said in a statement.

In its latest medical fitness guidelines, the bank said a candidate would be considered fit in case of pregnancy which is less than three months.

"However, if pregnancy is of more than 3 months, she will be considered temporarily unfit and she may be allowed to join within 4 months after delivery of child," as per the medical fitness and ophthalmological standards for new recruits and promotees dated December 31, 2021.

Earlier, women candidates with up to 6 months of pregnancy were allowed to join the



bank subject to various conditions. The conditions include furnishing a certificate from a specialist gynaecologist that her taking up bank's employment at that stage is in no way likely to interfere with her pregnancy or the normal development of the foetus, or is not likely to cause her miscarriage or otherwise to adversely affect her health.

Blaming a section of media for interpreting the revised norms as discriminatory against women, SBI said the revised guidelines were intended to provide clarity on various health parameters where instructions were not clear or were very old.

MPs including Binoy Viswam and Priyanka Chaturvedi wrote letters to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman demanding immediate withdrawal of medical fitness circular issued by SBI pertaining to the guidelines for the recruitment of pregnant women.

"It undermines women's rights," said CPI Rajya Sabha MP Viswam in his letter to the finance minister, while Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi termed the guidelines as "extremely discriminatory in

nature" and debilitates the progress made to empower women.

"The new proposed guideline delays the process of recruitment and promotion for women. This comes at a time when the state of India's female workforce has worsened. Such regressive and sexist guidelines will exacerbate the exclusion of women as well as the inequality faced by them," Chaturvedi said in her letter.

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) earlier in the day issued a notice to SBI seeking withdrawal of its new rules wherein a woman who is over three months pregnant will be considered "temporarily unfit" and she may be allowed to join within four months after delivery.

All India State Bank Of India Employees' Association General Secretary K S Krishna had claimed that a similar move was made in 2009 which after protest was taken back.

SBI claimed that it has always been proactive towards the care and empowerment of its women employees who now constitute around 25 per cent of the workforce.

## Reconsider Imposing Lockdown, Allow Economic Activities: KEF



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Stating that fresh 64-hour lockdown has affected the economic activity badly, the Kashmir Economic Forum (KEF) has urged the administration to reconsider the decision and help revive Valley's fledgling economy.

In a statement, President KEF Showkat M Chowdhary said the valley's business units have been badly suffering from the previous lockdowns and had hardly started to recover the losses.

"It is not advisable to enforce lockdown in the Valley. The lockdown decision has also sent alarm to the travellers as a result of which around 50 percent of the tourist influx has come down since weekend lockdown was announced. This has impacted livelihood of many people," said Chowdhary.

Chowdhary said instead of lockdown, the government should ensure that proper health guidelines are followed.

"We will also provide all possible support to the government in ensuring implementation of Covid Appropriate Behaviours. Traders, shopkeepers and res-

taurant owners will also entertain vaccinated customers who are following proper SOPs," he said.

KEF further said most of the population is already fully vaccinated, and government needs to devise strategies for the "new normal" of life with COVID as suggested by many health experts and practiced by many developed countries like USA and UK instead of brining miseries to the people who are earning from hand to mouth.

"Even the health experts and other senior doctors have said that lockdown will not serve purpose. The lockdown has been imposed the past also but the Covid has resurfaced again," he said.

The KEF has urged LG administration to take into consideration the livelihood of lakhs of people associated with business community before continuing with the lockdown.

"The traders, shopkeepers, restaurants should be allowed with proper SOPs for the good health of economy. This will ensure businessmen don't suffer more losses or else they will turn into Non Performing Assets," he said.

## Remote Working New Normal; 82% Employees Prefer Working From Home: Study

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** With the COVID-19 pandemic bringing unprecedented changes in work life, a study has revealed that 82 per cent respondents admitted that they prefer working from home to going back to the office. The remote work trend was initially forced on employees due to the pandemic, however, after two years remote working has become a new normal and as things settled down new habits have formed, according to the Tech Talent Outlook by job site SCIKEY.

The study revealed that 82 per cent of respondents admit that they prefer working from home to working from the office.

The Talent Tech Outlook 2022 study is an analysis of inputs from 100 plus C-suite and human capital leaders across four continents, done by SCIKEY through surveys, social media inputs, interviews and panel discussions.

The study further revealed



that 64 per cent employees said they are more productive working from home and feel less stressed.

The new normal for HR shifted from engaging face to face to engaging with remote employees whom they meet only virtually most of the time, it stated.

More than 80 per cent of the HR managers admitted that hiring employees for full-time office presence is getting more difficult, the study said.

Working from home is no longer a choice but a new normal that every tech talent expects from their employer and the employers not willing to adapt will face challenges in hiring good talent and retaining those already employed, it observed.

## Trade Unions Defer Nationwide Strike To March 28-29

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** A joint forum of central trade unions on Saturday said it has deferred its scheduled February 23-24 nationwide strike against government policies by a month in view of the third wave of the pandemic and state assembly polls.

On Friday, an online meeting of the joint platform of Central Trade Unions (CTUs) and Sectoral Federations/ Associations decided to defer the two-day nationwide strike to March 28-29, a joint statement said.

On November 11, 2021, the National Convention of Workers had decided to organize a nationwide strike on February 23-24 during the Budget Session of Parliament.

According to the joint statement, preparations for the strike have started in several states and sectors, with joint state-level conventions and even district-level conventions having taken place in some states.

However, several states have also reported severe constraints on strike preparations due to



the third wave of the pandemic.

Besides, fourth phase of assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and local body elections in Tamil Nadu, Odisha, West Bengal are scheduled later next month.

Therefore, it has been decided to defer the general strike dates to March 28-29, 2022, when the second phase of the Budget Session of Parliament will actually be in session.

The joint platform of CTUs calls upon the working people and their unions irrespective of affiliations to make the strike a massive success and "save the nation from the destructive, anti-national policy regime," the statement said.

The joint forum comprises INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF, UTUC and Independent Sectoral Federations/Associations.



# JSCL Signs Agreements For Setting Up Smart Traffic Booths In Jammu

## Agenceis

**JAMMU:** Smooth flow of traffic and better pedestrian facilities are on the cards as the Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) on Saturday signed two separate agreements for the development of 23 junctions and for setting up smart traffic booths in different parts of the city, an official said.

The agreement for the development of junctions was signed and exchanged between JSCL Chief Executive Officer Avny Lavasa and representative of RSB Projects Limited, Suresh Gupta, he said.

The official said the contract for setting up smart traffic booths was signed and exchanged between JSCL Additional Chief Executive officer Hitesh Gupta and a representative of Ved Paul Dewan.

Both the projects are being undertaken by JSCL under the Smart City Mission programme of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the official said.

He said the 23 junctions across the city will be developed and equipped with better facilities for citizens.

The major works taken up under the junctions' improvement programme include, geometric improvement, pickup-drop off locations, lighting, street

furniture, tree line, bus top, location of traffic signal, drainage through catchpits, toilets and water ATMs, the official said.

Lavasa said the facelift of junctions would add a neat and clean look to the city of temples.

The completion of the project will provide better facilities to citizens as well as tourists, she said.

Ensuring all possible help to the project executing agency, Lavasa directed officials to complete the project within the stipulated time frame.

In the first phase the smart traffic booths will be established at 25 different locations across the city, she said, adding these locations have been identified in consultations with traffic police at strategically important and critical junctions for smooth traffic movement.

She said the smart traffic booths will be equipped with modern facilities and will be able to maintain pleasant temperature inside according to weather conditions. The booths will also have a single unit pre-fabricated toilet facility, the official said.

Lavasa said these smart traffic booths are equipped with proper sitting arrangements as well as with other facilities to enable Traffic cops to deliver their duties with more dedication.

# Raj govt sacks state school board chairman in REET paper leak case; BJP demands CBI inquiry

## Agenceis

**JAIPUR:** The Ashok Gehlot government on Saturday sacked the chairman of Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education, Ajmer, D P Jaroli, and suspended the Board secretary Arvind Kumar Sengwa as well as two others in connection with the paper leak during the teachers' recruitment exam (REET) in September.

The state government also decided to introduce a bill in the upcoming budget session of the assembly with strict provisions to check paper leaks and cheating in exams.

The development came after a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday night.

Fixing the responsibility of the Board, the chairman has been dismissed and the secretary has been suspended. The state government will take the strictest action against every person found guilty of malpractices, lapses and dereliction of duty in the examination, Gehlot said in a statement on Saturday.

Directorate of College Education's Dr Subhash Yadav, assistant director (HRD), and B S Bairwa, assistant professor (Chemistry), administrative branch, have been also been suspended.

Gehlot, in the meeting, also

decided to constitute a committee headed by a retired judge of the high court to give suggestions for ensuring that papers leak incidents do not take place and exams are conducted in a fair manner, official sources said.

Irregularities occurred in the conduct of the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET) 2021 by the Board in September, leading to protests.

Former chief minister and BJP leader Vasundhara Raje on Saturday renewed her party's demand for a CBI inquiry in the matter.

In a statement, she said that the fairness and transparency of examinations should be beyond every doubt.

It is very worrying that the investigating agencies have brought Shiksha Sankul under suspicion in the REET paper leak case. The criminal corruption exposed in the REET exam is shocking, Raje said.

The offices of the education department are located at the Shiksha Sankul building.

Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria and others from the BJP also demanded a CBI inquiry.

On Saturday, the Additional Chief Secretary (Education) issued the termination order of D P Jaroli, who was appointed as the Board Chairman for

three years in February 2020.

The order mentioned that failing to fulfill duties as the Board Chairman was the ground for termination.

The Department of Personnel issued the suspension order of the Board secretary Arvind Kumar Sengwa, an RAS officer.

Targeting the opposition BJP, the chief minister said that some people are creating an environment for political reasons so that no upcoming recruitment exam can take place.

Such people are playing with the future of lakhs of candidates, he said.

Gehlot said that in many states, gangs are involved in paper leaks in an organised manner which is a matter of concern for all and it is necessary to investigate deeply.

The state government is coming up with a bill for strict provisions regarding cheating (in exams), paper leak, etc. in the budget session, he said.

The chief minister said that the state government has given a free hand to the Special Operation Group (SOG) for the investigation of the paper leak case and action is being taken on the basis of the information revealed in the investigation.

Action will be taken to immediately suspend and dismiss

government employees who are found guilty of malpractices and dereliction of duty, he added.

Raje, however, alleged that the Congress government is not taking any steps to help the struggling students and to maintain the credibility of the examination.

"Now the only option is an investigation by an apex body like CBI to get justice to the candidates," she said.

The SOG has arrested several persons in the case.

It recently arrested Ramkripal Meena, who was employed by the district co-ordinator for the purpose of security of papers at Shiksha Sankul in Jaipur, and Udaram Vishnoi.

Meena allegedly stole the paper from Shiksha Sankul and gave it to Udaram Vishnoi who is accused of circulating the paper.

After it was confirmed that the paper was leaked from Shiksha Sankul, the role of the board chairman, secretary, and other officers came under the scanner.

When the irregularities in the conduct of exams had emerged in September, the state government had suspended one RAS and two RPS officers, 13 personnel of the education department, and three other policemen.

## 2 Arrested For Killing, Burning Man In Haryana Village

**REWARI:** Two street hawkers were arrested on Saturday in Tankri village for allegedly killing a 45-year-old man and setting his body on fire to destroy evidence, police here said.

The deceased was identified as Raju, a resident of Hathras in Uttar Pradesh. In its investigation, police found that the two accused had taken Rs 30,000 from Raju for procuring a bride for his second marriage, and later killed him.

Raju's half-burnt body was found in a room on Friday morning. A case was registered in this regard at Bawal Police Station.

The accused arrested were identified as Ankit (22) and Ajay (20), both natives of Firozabad district in UP.

Bawal DSP Rajesh Chechi said that both accused used to work as street vendors while Ajay had earlier worked in a private company in Bawal. They got in touch with Raju, knowing that his wife had died around one-and-a-half years ago, with an offer of arranging his second marriage to a woman in Haryana and took Rs 30,000 in advance, he said.

Raju had come to Rewari along with his 16-year-old daughter five days ago and was staying in Jaliyawas in Bawal in a rented accommodation, he said.

On Thursday afternoon both accused took Raju to Tankri village to meet his bride. They were first roaming around and at sunset, came to a room and lit a bonfire.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### CID To Verify

period of 21 days will be reckoned from the notification of these instructions.

The instruction came into effect as the government on September 27 further amended the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Verification of Character and Antecedents) Instructions, 1997.

As per an order issued by the GAD Commissioner Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, the instruction has been inserted in continuation to the Government Order No 528-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated June 21, 2021, ahead of the "first para of the Instruction 2 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Verification of Character and Antecedents) Instructions, 1997, notified vide Government Order No.1918-GAD of 1997 dated 09.12.1997, as amended from time to time." (KDC)

### Policeman Shot Dead

mainstream leaders condemned the killing of policeman by militants

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and party vice president Omar Abdullah condemned the killing of the policeman.

Violence in any of its manifestations is always unacceptable and will yield nothing except further death and destruction. The vicious cycle of death has caused much loss to human lives in J-K while devastating the socio-economic conditions of the people during the last over three decades. It is high time for such incidents to be stopped now. My heartfelt sympathies are with the bereaved family, Farooq Abdullah said.

Very sorry to hear about the death in the line of duty of HC Ali Mohammad Ganie. I unreservedly condemn this attack while at the same time sending my heartfelt condolences to his family & loved ones. Allah Jannat naseeb karey, Ameen, Omar Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone termed the incident as senseless violence.

Yet another gruesome act of senseless violence. Ali Mohd Ganaif of JK police falls to the bullets of cowardly violent thugs. Salute his sacrifice, Lone said in a tweet.

Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari also strongly condemned the killing of the policeman and termed the attack as cowardly and extremely heart-wrenching.

Bukhari asserted that violence holds no space or legitimacy in any civilised society.

Such acts have only worsened the collective situation in Jammu and Kashmir for a long time now.

How many innocent lives have to be further sacrificed and how many homes are still destined to be devastated? These radical forces have only added to the woes of the people and there needs to be an end to this senseless violence once for all. I utterly condemn this despicable attack and extend my deep sympathies to the family of the slain cop, he said.

Bukhari said one more family has today lost its bread-winner to the reprehensible cycle of bloodshed

He urged the government to disburse adequate ex-gratia to the family of the slain policeman besides putting forth efforts to impede such heinous acts preemptively so that no precious lives are lost.

The PDP also condemned the attack. @jkpdp PDP strongly condemns the killing of @jmuKmrPolice HC Ali Mohd Ganie in a gruesome attack at Hassanpora, Bijbehara. We offer our condolences to the bereaved family, the party tweeted.

### Nights Turn

3.6 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

The famous tourist destination of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 7.5 degrees Celsius up from minus 10.4 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Pahalgam tourist spot in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius an increase of nine notches from the previous

night.

The officials said Qazigund recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.1 degree Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag registered a low of minus 3.3 degrees Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The MeT Office has said the weather is likely to remain dry till Monday when there is a possibility of rain/snow at scattered places. After that, there are chances of a wet spell on February 2 and 3, it said.

Kashmir 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-Khur'd' and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha'.

### Corona Cases

and Kishtwar 13.

"Moreover, 7107 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 1814 from Jammu Division and 5293 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, they said that five more people, three from Jammu and two from Kashmir, died of Covid-19 complications during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll in the pandemic to 4652 in J&K—2271 in Jammu and 2381 in Kashmir Valley.

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

### Pak PM Bats

in South Asia.

It is our common vision that enduring peace in South Asia is contingent on maintaining a strategic balance in the region and all outstanding issues like border questions and the Kashmir dispute should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy and as per norms of international law, he wrote, amidst a chill in bilateral ties between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism.

Prime Minister Khan also gave a clean chit to China over human rights allegations against Uygur Muslims in Xinjiang ahead of his visit to China to take part in the February 4 Beijing Winter Olympics' inaugural ceremony, that faced a diplomatic boycott by the US and allies over the Xinjiang issue, saying his country's envoy after a visit to the province reported that charges were not true.

There is a lot of criticism of the treatment of Uygurs by China in the West. But our Ambassador went there (and) he sent information that it is not actually true on the ground, Khan told Chinese journalists in an interview in Islamabad on Saturday ahead of his visit to Beijing.

While giving the clean chit to China over the restive region of Xinjiang, Khan, however, blamed the "selective silence" of the Western countries on alleged human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir.

India has repeatedly told Pakistan that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country. It also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda.

India has emphasised that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. India has said the onus is on Pakistan to create

an environment free of terror and hostility.

During a previous interview with Chinese journalists in July 2021, Khan deflected criticism of Pakistan's silence on allegations of rights abuses by China against Uygur Muslims.

Khan, according to Pakistan daily Dawn, said that Pakistan had accepted Beijing's version regarding the treatment of Uygurs due to "our extreme proximity and relationship".

Besides taking part in the inaugural ceremony, Khan will be holding the key meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other officials to discuss the state of the all-weather ties, the problems faced by the USD 60 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Chinese loans and investments to shore up Pakistan's sagging economy.

The USD 60 billion CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of China's ambitious multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

India has protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

China currently has launched a diplomatic offensive to mobilise world leaders to attend February 4 opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics as the US, European Union and several western countries announced a boycott of the event by their diplomats to highlight their allegations of human rights violations in Xinjiang, including incarceration of over a million Uygur Muslim men and women in camps.

As per the list released by China, 32 world leaders, including Khan, Russian President Vladimir Putin besides UN Secretary-General Ant nio Guterres will attend the ceremony.

In his article, Khan said the security of the scores of Chinese personnel working in CPEC projects is Pakistan's top priority.

Pakistan has approved an unprecedented USD 11.6 million in compensation for the families of Chinese engineers who were killed and wounded in a terrorist attack last year at the Dasu Dam hydropower project, The Express Tribune reported recently.

Safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan remains our top priority. Our people and state institutions are determined to safeguard CPEC from the detractors of Pakistan-China friendship and bring to justice those responsible for harming our interests, Khan said in his article.

Khan recently directed authorities to remove all bottlenecks for investors in an attempt to address the Chinese investors' concerns of slow pace of CPEC projects.

Khan in his article also said that CPEC has been instrumental in addressing Pakistan's chronic energy crisis and improving connectivity through infrastructure development.

We are also making rapid progress on the development of Gwadar Port and Special Economic Zones which would benefit the entire region, he said.

As the flagship project of the BRI, CPEC has immense economic and strategic significance for our two countries. There is complete consensus in Pakistan on CPEC's indispensability for Pakistan's national development. My government is fully committed to making CPEC a High Quality Demonstration Project of BRI, he said.

Khan in his interview with the Chinese journalists hailed and stressed the "deep relationship" between the two countries, saying it had only strengthened over time.

There is a feeling in Pakistan that China always stood with us in times of need and supported us during difficult times. Similarly, Pakistan also always stood with China," he said.

Asked about Afghanistan, Khan said that foreign forces cannot just leave the country without thinking of its people, and warned the country could see the "worst humanitarian crisis" if everyone abandoned it.

"The international community should just think of the 40 million Afghans. Whether they like the Taliban government or not should be secondary," he said.

### Encounter in Pulwama

escape from the dragnet. The search team, he said, returned the fire setting off an encounter. According to reports, 2-3 militants are trapped in the village Pertinently, today's encounter comes three days after militants escaped from the clutches of government forces in the neighbouring Shopian district after injuring three soldiers in a fierce firefight.

The soldiers identified as Somveer Kumar, Lance Naik Mayank Singh and Lance Naik Sunil Kumar were removed to army's 92 base hospital here for advanced treatment.

"#Encounter has started at Naira area of #Pulwama. Police and security forces are on the job. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Police posted on its official Twitter handle earlier.

### Only EC Can

the past (now abrogated Article 370), Singh said.

"The Election Commission is an autonomous constitutional authority which will decide on the timing of the (assembly) elections in Jammu and Kashmir after getting the final report of the delimitation commission (set up to redraw the assembly seats of the Union Territory)," the Union minister of state in the Prime Minister's office said.

"As an activist of the BJP, we remain ready 24x7 to participate in panchayat, DDC, BDC, assembly and Lok Sabha (polls)," he said.

The minister was speaking to reporters at Vijaypur in Samba district after reviewing the ongoing work on the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu.

Singh said he had nothing to add to the statement of Union Home Minister Amit Shah who has already promised to conduct assembly elections after the completion of the delimitation process and restore statehood at an "appropriate time".

In 2019, the Centre had abrogated Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and reorganised the state into Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"The process (holding of assembly polls) stopped because of the delimitation commission which is an independent body. They will submit their report to the Election Commission and then it is its responsibility to decide the date of the polls," he said.

On employment, Singh said there are a lot of alternative sources of livelihood available to the youth.

"We have the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) Jammu and there are so many opportunities of alternate source of livelihood available for the job seekers. In any part of the world, no government can provide salaried jobs to the youth in the government sector but a responsible government creates job opportunities for the educated youth," he said.

The minister said after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over, the government created a lot of opportunities in various sectors including information technology, agriculture and dairy but "unfortunately, the constitutional barrier (Article 370) created a hurdle for such type of exposure for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir".

He said youth in the states like Gujarat are not inclined towards government jobs because they have other things in mind which help them earn better than the salaried government jobs.

"The government is creating such opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir," Singh said.

### 3-Tier Panel To

to establish desirable width of water course or channels especially in proprietary lands, and removal of illegal encroachments on identified water courses through remedial action, the spokesman said.

The council approved the constitution of a three-tier committee to oversee the exercise at district, division and Union Territory level, headed by deputy commissioner, divisional commissioner and chief secretary, respectively, he said.

The district-level committees would be mandated to conduct khasra-wise survey of all land recorded as 'gair mumkin khads, daryas, nallahs' and prepare maps accordingly, delineate lands which do not form part of any water course or source or annual drainage system as per spot verification, the spokesman said.

He said the district-level committees would also establish a baseline for conducting the delineation exercise as per the status of the land in records of 2010.

This will be vis-a-vis status of the land with respect to the previous settlement of records, 'Misal Haqiat', and recommend and take remedial action for the illegal encroachments or constructions actually obstructing the natural flow of water in the channel or course recorded as 'gair mumkin khads, daryas, nallahs', the spokesman said.

The committees at divisional level would have a supervisory role and will closely monitor and review the exercise to resolve issues of coordination between two districts, inter departmental consultations and any other assistance which may be required by the district level committees, he said.

The progress will be reviewed by the UT Level Committee on a monthly basis, the spokesman said.

### LeT Module Busted

district, a police spokesperson said Saturday. He said two Chinese Pistols, 3 Pistol magazines and 15 rounds of ammunition, two hand grenades and three mobile phones were recovered from their possession.

The police spokesman identified the alleged militant associates as Faqbal Manzoor of Braripora Shopian, Azhar Yaqoob of Zaipora Shopian and Nasir Ahmad Dar of Begam Kulgam.

During preliminary questioning, the police spokesperson said that the trio revealed their affiliation with outfit LeT/TRF and indulged in various militancy related activities in the district.

"In this regard case FIR no 07/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Ganderbal and investigation taken up. More arrests and recoveries are expected in the case," he added.

### SPO Dies Of

SPO was posted as a security guard for a Pandit family in Baramulla.

A police officer said after medico-legal formalities, the body will be handed over to the relatives for last rites. (KDC)

### 4 Gamblers Held

was also recovered from the alleged gamblers.

"They have been arrested and shifted to a police station where they remain in custody," the police spokesperson said.

"Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law stands registered in respective police stations and investigation have been initiated," he added.

### Masked Men

informed the police that masked men were carrying three pistols and took their phones before collecting 2 gold rings and two kada tops besides Rs 52000 cash from the family members. They kept the phones near the house before running away.

A police officer said that a case (FIR No. 11/2022) under section 7/25 IA Act and 382 IPC (committing of theft with an intention to hurt in case of resistance) has been registered in Police Station Kunzer.

He said that investigation has so far revealed that thieves may probably have been carrying toy pistols, however "all angles are being looked into," the officer added. (GNS)



PSL 2022

## Multan Sultans Win Last-Over Thriller Against Lahore Qalandars



Agencies

**KARACHI:** Khushdil Shah's last-over heroics steered the Multan Sultans to a nail-biting victory as smashed four boundaries — three fours and one six — against Lahore Qalandars in the third of the Pakistan Super League's (PSL) seventh edition.

The Sultan's needed 16 from six to win against the Qalandars and reach the 207-run target. And that's when Khushdil charged and punished pacer Haris Rauf.

The groundwork had already been laid by skipper Mohammad Rizwan and Shan Masood as they smashed unbeaten half-centuries. Rizwan played a captain's knock

as he scored 69 off 42 balls, while Khushdil, who played sensationally with the ball, grabbed his side the opening wicket and also took a total of two crucial scalps — Abdullah Shafiq, and Mohammad Hafeez — after they won the toss and put Lahore to bat.

The Qalandar's bowlers could not perform up to the mark in the early over; however, they picked up pace in the last five overtaking back-to-back wickets. Qalandars batters had handed the highest-ever 207-run target to the Sultans.

Lahore Qalandars 206/5 (20.0 OVERS)  
Multan Sultans 209/5 (19.4 OVERS)

## Australia Defeat Pakistan To Reach U-19 World Cup Semis



Agencies

**ANTIGUA:** Australia have become the third team to qualify for the ICC U-19 Men's World Cup 2022 semifinals with a comprehensive win over Pakistan on Friday. They joined England and Afghanistan in the final four with their 119-run success on a day where batting first was the order of the day.

Half-centuries for Teague Wylie and Corey Miller, as well as 47 from Campbell Kellaway, helped Australia to 276 for 7 from their 50 overs and that proved far too much for Pakistan in Antigua.

Barring a 50-run partnership for the third wicket, Pakistan were always behind in their chase and eventually crumbled to 157

all out with the wickets shared among the Australian bowlers.

Opting to field first, Pakistan regretted the decision as Kellaway and Wylie (71) put on 86 for the first wicket. Kellaway was stumped off the bowling of Qasim Akram (3/40), but that just brought Miller to the crease and he accelerated the run-rate on his way to 64.

### UAE defeats West Indies

A sensational knock from Aayan Afzal Khan helped UAE to one of the greatest results in their history as they beat the West Indies by 82 runs in the Plate semifinals in Trinidad. UAE will now take on the winner of Ireland against Zimbabwe in the Plate final, while the West Indies take on the loser in the play-off for 11th.

## 'Didn't Want To Play Cricket At All': Mitchell Starc Reveals

Press Trust of India

**MELBOURNE:** Not long before an incredible turnaround culminated in him winning Australia's men's cricketer of the year award, Mitchell Starc was on the verge of quitting the sport.

Starc was not taking the number of wickets expected of a pacer of his calibre. He was also leaking plenty of runs on the field and, off it, he was losing his father to cancer.

While Starc managed to keep his cricket going despite a below-par outing against India in the 2020-21 Test series at home, he lost his father to the dreaded disease soon after.

"Obviously last year was particularly tough on and off the field," Starc was quoted as saying by foxsports.com.au after winning the Allan Border Medal, the highest individual award in Australian men's cricket.

Looking back at the tumultuous phase, he added, "I probably didn't play the cricket I wanted to and, at certain stages, I probably didn't want to play cricket at all." The pacer was heavily criticised after he took just 11 wickets at 40.72 in the series against India.

His performance in the ICC

T20 World Cup in the UAE too left a lot to be desired, with the pacer conceding 60 runs without taking a wicket in his four overs in the final.

Criticism by spin legend Shane Warne ahead of the Ashes didn't help either and Starc made it

clear that it did not go down well with him. He ended the Ashes as one of the team's key performers in its 4-0 drubbing of England. Starc played in all the five Ashes Tests and finished with 19 wickets at an average of 25.37.

"I think, what was it? It was a straight half-volley on leg stump. I think someone (Warne) said," said Starc on the criticism from the legendary Australian spinner.

"What would you like me to speak to him (Warne) about? It doesn't interest me at all. He's (Warne) entitled to his opinion. I'm just going to go about my cricket the way I'd like to, and I've got my family support networks and I get to play cricket with some of my best mates, so I'm pretty comfortable with where I'm at," said Starc.

Starc, who took 43 wickets across all formats in the 12-month period, edged out all-rounder Mitchell Marsh by one vote.

## Bandipora Admin Felicitates Padma Shri Faisal Ali



Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** The District Administration Bandipora on Saturday felicitated Martial Arts coach Fasil Ali Dar after the Government of India conferred Padma Shri award to him.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad presided over the function while ASP Bandipora, Chief Planning officer Imtiyaz Ahmad, ACP Altaf Mosvi, Youth Services & Sports Officer and

other senior officers were present on the occasion.

All the speakers on the occasion hailed the performance of Faisal Ali in the field of sports and wished him best for his future endeavours. They said the award to Faisal is acknowledgement of the contribution of Faisal Ali in sports.

DC said Faisal gave a flip to sports activities in Kashmir and attracted more youth towards sports. He said it's because of Faisal that youth are opting

sports as a career that was impossible to think about in the recent past.

While praising the talent and efforts, the DC said that Faisal Ali is a living example and inspiration for the entire Nation especially for the youth of UT J&K

On the occasion DC presented Faisal with the memento.

Faisal Ali, a former international martial arts champion, has set up a martial arts training academy in Bandipora.

## China Says U.S. Plans To Pay Athletes To 'Sabotage' Beijing Games

Agencies

**BEIJING:** China's foreign ministry and an official newspaper have accused the United States of planning to interfere with and "sabotage" the Beijing Winter Olympics by paying athletes from some countries to make half-hearted efforts in competition and to criticise China.

The allegations were made a week before the Games start amid tensions between the two superpowers that has included a diplomatic boycott of the event by the United States, which has been joined by several other countries.

Asked about the Chinese allegations, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing on Saturday reiterated a previous position that Washington was not coordinating a global campaign regarding participation at the Olympics.

China Daily, an English-language newspaper run by the ruling Chinese Communist Party's Publicity Department, on Friday evening cited unnamed sources as saying United States has a plan to "incite athletes from various countries to express their discontent toward China, play passively in competition and even refuse to take part".

In return, it said, Washington would provide a large amount of compensation and "mobilise global resources" to help protect the reputation of athletes



of who choose to compete passively.

Asked if the Chinese foreign ministry believes the allegation to be valid, a ministry spokesperson told Reuters on Saturday that the report has "exposed the real intention of some Americans to politicise sports and to sabotage and interfere with the Beijing Winter Olympics."

"The spokesperson said he strongly condemned the attempts by some Americans to "buy off" athletes and "cause trouble" during the Games, adding that these attempts are "doomed to fail".

A U.S. Embassy spokesman told Reuters by email on Saturday, "We were not and are not coordinating a global campaign regarding participation at the Olympics." "U.S. athletes are entitled to express themselves freely in line with the spirit and charter of the Olympics, which

includes advancing human rights," the spokesman said.

The United States announced in December a diplomatic boycott of the Games over what it called China's human rights "atrocities", a move that was followed by allies Australia, Britain and Canada but that does not prevent U.S. athletes from travelling to Beijing to compete.

China rejects allegations of human rights abuse and has repeatedly lashed out against the politicisation of the Games.

In a message to convey greetings for the Chinese New Year festival next week, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told China-based foreign diplomats that China "has the confidence and ability to remove the interference" and turn the Winter Games into an event that promotes friendship and mutual understanding.

## Ash Barty Wins Drought-Breaking Australian Open Title



Agencies

**MELBOURNE:** Ash Barty has won the Australian Open final 6-3, 7-6 (2) over Danielle Collins to end a 44-year drought for Australian women at their home Grand Slam tournament.

Barty won the first set with one service break but was down 5-1 in the second set after dropping serve in the second and sixth games. Collins had two chances to serve for the set but was broken both times.

Barty dominated after taking the set to a tiebreaker, racing to a 4-0 lead.

Barty was the first Australian woman into the singles final of the Australian Open since Wendy Turnbull in 1980 and is now the first Australian champion since Chris O'Neil in 1978.

The 25-year-old Barty now has major titles on three surfaces, adding the hard court at Melbourne Park to her win on grass at Wimbledon last year and on clay at the French Open in 2019. "As an Aussie, the most important part of this tournament is being able to share it

## Kyrgios, Kokkinakis Win Men's Doubles Title



Agencies

The "Special Ks" show at the Australian Open ended on a high after Nick Kyrgios and Thanasi Kokkinakis claimed their first major title by defeating compatriots Max Purcell and Matt Ebden in the men's doubles final on Saturday.

Kyrgios and Kokkinakis, nicknamed the "Special Ks" as juniors, entertained the crowd at the Rod Laver Arena with a 7-5 6-4 victory under the lights.

They are the first wildcard

team to win the Australian Open men's doubles title in the professional era.

"What a week! It was a super tough match but a great week all around," said Kokkinakis, who claimed his first ATP title at Adelaide before the Australian Open.

The pair, who thrilled fans throughout the tournament with their entertaining play, are the first all-Australian men's doubles champions at the season's opening slam since Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde triumphed in 1997. (AP)

with so many people," Barty said. "This crowd is one of the most fun I've ever played in front of. You relaxed me, forced me to play my best tennis."

Barty congratulated Collins and told her she "absolutely" belonged in the Top 10, adding: "I know you'll be fighting for many of these in future." (AP)

## Legendary Anand To Mentor Indian Chess Players Ahead Of Asian Games

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Five-time chess world champion Viswanathan Anand has been roped in as a mentor of the Indian players looking to break into the team for the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, where the sport will make a comeback after a gap of 12 years.

The All India Chess Federation (AICF) is eyeing a rich medal haul from its players at the Games, which are scheduled to be held from September 10 to 25.

"Eyeing the four gold medals at stake in the games, the legendary Grandmaster Anand took a different role and will mentor the team and the first session between him and the players will kick start next Thursday," the AICF said in a release.

The AICF is hoping to improve on India's performance at the 2010 Guangzhou Games, where India won two bronze medals.

"The All India Chess Federations started the preparation well in advance by selecting 10 probable each for the men and women's team."

The players have been selected on the basis of their international rating.

The probable for the men's include, Vidit Gujarathi, P Hari-



krishna, Nihal Sarin, S L Narayanan, K Sasikiran, B Adhiban, Karthikeyan Murali, Arjun Erigaisi, Abhijeet Gupta and Surya Shekhar Ganguly.

The women's team probable comprises Koneru Humpy, D Harika, Vaishali R, Tania Sachdev, Bhakti Kulkarni, Vantika Agrawal, Mary Ann Gomes, Soumya Swaminathan and Eesha Karavade.

The selection committee consisting of Abhijit Kunte, Dibeyandu Barua and Dinesh Sharma will decide the final list of five players in April.

The chess event at the Games will start on September 11 and will be played in two formats. The individual event for men and women will be played in Rapid time control from September 11 to 14 September while four board five-member team event will be played under Standard time control from September 16 to September 24.

## Lakshya, Malvika To Lead India At Badminton Asia Team C'ships

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** India Open champion Lakshya Sen and Syed Modi International finalist Malvika Bansod will lead the Indian men's and women's squad in the Badminton Asia Team Championships to be played at Shah Alam, Malaysia from February 15-20.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) announced a new look team for the continental team championship giving importance to the performances in the two All India Ranking tournaments played in Chennai and Hyderabad last month.

The players were selected on the basis of aggregate ranking points scored in the two events.

"We have been considering domestic tournaments for selection for a while now and selecting players in the top-25 world ranking directly. But with most senior players recovering from Covid and injury, it is a good opportunity for us to give the bench strength opportunities to make their mark in the tournament," BAI secretary Ajay Singhania said in a statement.

The men's team had won the bronze medal in the last edition of the tournament in Manila, Philippines while the women's team was withdrawn due to the



pandemic as most players were not willing to travel then.

The men's doubles charge will be led by Kerala's PS Ravi Krishna and Udaykumar Shankarprasad, who also impressed with their performance against the experienced Malaysian combination of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi at the India Open.

The combination of Simran Singh and Khushi Gupta along with the experienced Aarthi Sara Sunil and Riza Mahreen would look to make a mark in women's doubles.

## New Virus Rules Put Djokovic At Risk Of Missing French Open

Agencies

**PARIS:** France is tightening its vaccination rules in a way that could put Novak Djokovic at risk of missing the French Open.

From February 15, anyone who is not vaccinated against the coronavirus will need to show proof they tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous four months -- down from the current six-month window -- in order to enter sports venues in France.

The French law is central to the government's plan for tackling the virus and aims to bar unvaccinated individuals from stadiums, restaurants, bars and other public places.

Djokovic, who is not vaccinated, said he tested positive in mid-December. Under the current rules with a six-month window, he could play in the French Open, which starts May 22. But if the new requirements stay in force until then, they are likely to rule him out unless he gets vaccinated or tests positive again within four months of the start of the clay-court Grand Slam.

The top-ranked Djokovic is the defending champion in Paris. Earlier this month, he was deported from Australia and barred from playing in the Australian Open for not meeting the country's strict COVID-19 vacci-



nation rules.

French Open organizers have previously said it's too early to comment since virus restrictions can change between now and May depending on the situation.

Djokovic was granted an exemption to Australia's strict vaccination rules by two medical panels and the tournament organizer in order to play in the Australian Open based on documents he supplied showing he had recently had COVID-19. He received a visa to enter the country through an automated process. But upon arrival, border officials said the exemption was not valid and moved to deport him.

In the end, Australian authorities revoked Djokovic's visa, saying his presence could stir up anti-vaccine sentiment and that kicking him out was necessary to keep Australians safe. He was deported a day before the tournament got underway in Melbourne. (AP)



## "We Don't Need This Panic": Ukraine President To West Over Russia Tensions



Agenceis

**KYIV:** President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday called on the West to avoid creating "panic" in the face of the Russian troop buildup on Ukraine's border.

"We don't need this panic," Zelenskyy told a news conference with foreign media.

He pointed to the need to "stabilise" Ukraine's already battered economy as he insisted he saw no greater threat now than during a similar massing of Russian troops last spring.

"Because of all these signals that tomorrow there will be war, there are signals even from respected leaders of states, they just say that tomorrow there will be war. This is panic -- how much does it cost for our state?," he asked.

The attempts by the Ukrainian leader to tamp

down tensions come as some Western allies -- spearheaded by the United States -- have warned of a potentially imminent invasion by Moscow.

"The greatest risk for Ukraine... is the destabilisation of the situation inside the country," Zelenskyy said.

The West says Russia has deployed over 100,000 troops and heavy armour along Ukraine's borders and threatened massive sanctions if the Kremlin stages an incursion.

The US, Britain and Australia recently angered Kyiv by ordering the families of diplomats to leave their embassies in Ukraine.

Ukraine has been fighting a conflict with Russian-backed separatists in the east of the country since 2014 that has cost over 13,000 lives. Moscow seized the Crimea peninsula the same year.

## Rejected By New Zealand, Former Al Jazeera Reporter Turns To Taliban For Help

Agenceis

**WELLINGTON:** A pregnant New Zealand journalist says she turned to the Taliban for help and is now stranded in Afghanistan after her home country has prevented her from returning due to a bottleneck of people in its coronavirus quarantine system. In a column published in The New Zealand Herald on Saturday, Charlotte Bellis said it was "brutally ironic" that she'd once questioned the Taliban about their treatment of women and she was now asking the same questions of her own government.

"When the Taliban offers you, 'a pregnant, unmarried woman' safe haven, you know your situation is messed up," Bellis wrote in her column. New Zealand's Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins told the Herald his office had asked officials to check whether they followed the proper procedures in Bellis's case, which appeared at first sight to warrant further explanation.

New Zealand has managed to keep the spread of the virus to a minimum during the pandemic and has reported just 52 virus deaths among its population of 5 million. But the nation's requirement that even returning citizens spend 10 days isolating in quarantine hotels run by the military has led to a backlog of thousands of people wanting to return home vying for spots.

Stories of citizens stranded abroad in dire circumstances have caused embarrassment for Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and her government, but Bellis's situation is particularly striking. Last year, she was working for Al

Jazeera covering the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan when she gained international attention by questioning Taliban leaders about their treatment of women and girls.

In her column Saturday, Bellis said she returned to Qatar in September and discovered she was pregnant with her partner, freelance photographer Jim Huylebroek, a contributor to The New York Times. She described the pregnancy as a "miracle" after earlier being told by doctors she couldn't have children. She is due to give birth to a girl in May.

Extramarital sex is illegal in Qatar and Bellis said she realised she needed to leave. She repeatedly tried to get back to New Zealand in a lottery-style system for returning citizens but without success. She said she resigned from Al Jazeera in November and the couple moved to Huylebroek's native Belgium. But she couldn't stay long, she said, because she wasn't a resident.

She said the only other place the couple had visas to live was Afghanistan. Bellis said she spoke with senior Taliban contacts who told her she would be fine if she returned to Afghanistan. "Just tell people you're married and if it escalates, call us. Don't worry," Bellis said they told her.

She said she sent 59 documents to New Zealand authorities in Afghanistan but they rejected her application for an emergency return. Chris Bunny, the joint head of New Zealand's Managed Isolation and Quarantine system, told the Herald that Bellis's emergency application didn't fit a requirement that she travel within 14 days.

## Afghan People Starving, Forced To Sell Children, Body Part: UN Food Head



Agenceis

**BERLIN:** The UN Head of World Food Program (WFP) has again expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and added that the Afghan people have resorted to selling their children and parts of their bodies to survive.

WFP chief David Beasley has once again urged the international community to expedite aid delivery to Afghanistan as over half of the population is starving in the country.

Afghanistan is struggling with drought, a pandemic, an economic collapse, and the effects of years of conflict.

Some 24 million people are experiencing acute food insecurity. More than half the population will be facing famine this winter and 97 per cent of the

population could fall below the poverty line this year.

"Afghanistan was already one of the poorest countries in the world, with 20 years, at least, of conflict with the Taliban," Beasley told German public state-owned international broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW).

"And now what we're facing is catastrophic. The number of people that are knocking on starvation's door is 23 million people out of 40 million people," he added.

In an interview with DW, Beasley revealed a case of a woman he met in Afghanistan who had been forced to sell her daughter to another family in the hope that they could feed her better.

Although US and allies have left the country in August last year, several international

charities and aid groups continue to have remained to support locals and curtail the exacerbating humanitarian situation in the country.

Beasley called on the world's richest to help solve the current hunger crisis. "During this COVID experience, the world's billionaires have made unprecedented money. Over \$5.2 billion of net worth increase per day. All we need is one day's worth of their net worth increase to really address our short-term crises," he added.

Special Representatives and Special Envoys of the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, the UK, and the US met in Oslo on January 24 to discuss the situation in Afghanistan, including sessions with representatives of the Taliban and civil society actors.

## MBS Allowed Israel to Use Saudi Airspace for Pegasus Spyware: NYT

Agenceis

**Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman** is revealed to have allowed the Israeli flights to use the kingdom's airspace in order to gain Tel Aviv's satisfaction to renew Riyadh's license to use the NSO's notorious Pegasus spyware.

On Friday, the New York Times said that a year-long investigation showed that the Israeli regime had reaped diplomatic gains around the world from the Pegasus spyware.

Tel Aviv approved the sale of Pegasus to Saudi Arabia, in particular to a Saudi security agency under the supervision of bin Salman, in 2017.

But a year later, the NSO shut off the Pegasus system in Saudi Arabia upon a request from an ethics committee, made up of a bipartisan cast of former US foreign-policy officials, after reports revealed that the malware had helped Riyadh spy on the dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi who was killed and dismembered in Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

The NYT said the Israeli firm agreed to turn the Pegasus system in Saudi Arabia back on in early 2019, as then Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in the middle of negotiating



normalization agreements with several Arab states.

Netanyahu signed normalization agreements with Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif Al Zayani during an official ceremony hosted by then US president Donald Trump at the White House on September 15, 2020.

The NYT said the Israeli ministry of military affairs declined to renew the Saudi export license when it expired late in 2020.

Without the license, NSO could not provide routine maintenance on the software, and the systems were crashing.

The report said the crown prince phoned Netanyahu in person, after numerous calls between his aides, NSO

executives, the Mossad and the Israeli ministry of military affairs failed to resolve the issue.

Following the phone call, the report said, Netanyahu's office immediately ordered the ministry of military affairs to have the problem fixed, and the Saudi systems were switched back on.

According to the report, MBS, in return, opened the Saudi airspace, for the first time ever, for all flights to and from Israel, and allowed for a crucial part of the normalization agreement to move forward.

Smartphones infected with Pegasus can be turned to a listening device. In addition, the spyware allows the user to read the target's messages, look through their photos, track their location and even turn on their camera without them knowing.

## Iran Nuclear Talks Pause As Diplomats Confer With Capitals



AGENCEIS

**VIENNA:** Talks to salvage the tattered 2015 nuclear deal with Iran have paused while diplomats return to capitals for political consultations, European officials said Friday.

"January has been the most intensive period of these talks to date," British, German and French negotiators said in a joint statement. "Everyone knows we are reaching the final stage, which requires political decisions."

Russia's representative at

the talks, Mikhail Ulyanov, said the meeting was expected to resume next week.

The United States pulled out of the Vienna accord in 2018 under then-President Donald Trump and reimposed heavy sanctions on Iran. Tehran has responded by increasing the purity and amounts of uranium it enriches and stockpiles, in breach of the accord.

US President Joe Biden has signaled that he wants to rejoin the deal, which is still supported by Russia, the three European powers and China.

## Lebanon Will Not 'Hand Over' Hezbollah Weapons: Foreign Minister

Agenceis

Lebanon will not "hand over" Hezbollah's weapons, the country's foreign minister said ahead of a meeting with his Gulf Arab counterparts to mend ties.

Saudi Arabia and its allies suspended diplomatic ties with Lebanon after the airing of comments by the then Information Minister George Kordahi who criticised the Riyadh-led military intervention in Yemen. Kordahi, an ally of Hezbollah, resigned in December.

"I am not going (to Kuwait) to hand over Hezbollah's weapons. I am not going to end Hezbollah's existence, it is out of the question in Lebanon. We are going for dialogue," Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib told Al Jazeera, referring to a meeting aimed at mending ties between Beirut and Gulf Arab states.

In a nod to Gulf concerns, Lebanon will however say that the country will not be "a launchpad for activities that violate Arab countries", according to sources familiar with a draft government letter responding to Gulf terms for improved ties, Reuters reported.

Lebanon is due at the meeting in Kuwait on Saturday to deliver its response to the terms for thawing relations, which have suffered as the Hezbollah armed group, a close ally of Iran, has grown more powerful in Beirut and the region.

Hezbollah supports Iran in its regional struggle for influence with US-allied Gulf Arab states, which say the group has aided the Iran-aligned Houthis in Yemen.

The Yemen war, which is aimed at restoring the internationally recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, has led to what the UN has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Founded by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in 1982, Hezbollah has a powerful militia. Hezbollah fighters have backed pro-Iran allies in the region, including Syria.

The group and its allies also exercise major sway over Lebanese state policy.

The terms delivered to Beirut on January 22 by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nasser al-Mohammad al-Sabah include setting a time frame for implementing UN Security Council resolutions, among them Resolution 1559 which was adopted in 2004 and calls for the disarmament of non-state militias in Lebanon.

A draft of the government's response seen by Reuters side-steps the issue, expressing Lebanon's respect for UN resolutions "to ensure civil peace and national stability".

But it mentions no specific UN resolution or any steps to implement them.

Bou Habib told Al Jazeera implementing resolution 1559, which would require Hezbollah's disarmament, "will take time".

The Gulf rift has added to the difficulties facing Lebanon as it struggles with a financial crisis that the World Bank has described as one of the sharpest depressions ever recorded. The crisis is rooted in Saudi Arabia's uneasiness over the rising influence of Iran in the region, including in Lebanon, once a traditional Saudi ally and recipient of financial assistance from the oil-rich kingdom.

In early January, the leader of the Shia movement Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, launched a verbal attack against the kingdom, accusing Riyadh of spreading "extremist Islamic ideology".

The visit to Beirut last week by the Kuwaiti foreign minister was the first since the rift. He said Lebanon must not be a platform for hostile acts or words towards Gulf Arab states, and that members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were sympathetic to the Lebanese people.

In the draft letter seen by Reuters, Lebanon commits "verbally and actually" to a policy of dissociation from regional conflicts -- a policy adopted by successive governments even as Hezbollah has deployed fighters to Syria.

It also pledges to strengthen measures being taken by Lebanon in cooperation with other Arab states to prevent drug smuggling to Gulf Arab states.



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