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## State Business Reform Action Plan 2020

# J&K Figures In Last Group In Ease of Doing Business Index

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir has again achieved a disappointing percentage in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Index, a World Bank initiative of ranking states and UTs based on the business environment.

The erstwhile state has been ranked among the worst states/UTs in EoDB as per the State Business Reform Action Plan 2020 (SBRAP-2020). In the fourth edition of the report which was issued for 2019, J&K

was ranked 21, which too was among the worst performers, based on the implementation and feedback scores.

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Telangana are the Top Achievers based on implementation of Business Reforms Action Plan. All the states have scored more than 90 percent in the Centre's ranking of states on ease of doing business, thus leading the table.

Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha,

Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh figure under the Achievers category where the states/UTs have managed to score 80-90 percent. While Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan and West Bengal have been placed in the Aspirers category (50-60 percent), Andaman & Nicobar, Bihar, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Puducherry and Tripura have been clubbed under the

## BRAP Doesn't Reflect True Picture As On Ground Today: Govt

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said that the assessment for Business Reform Action Plan 2020 does not reflect the true picture as on the ground today since the rankings are for reforms taken in 2020 during which the Union Territory was initiating the process of industrialization after the historic administrative changes in August 2019. Jammu and Kashmir has come long way in establishing investment ecosystem in last more than one year and a **More on P6**

Emerging Business Ecosystems category, which is the last group in the EoDB list. This list

also reveals that J&K along with other UTs has scored less than 50 percent.

Pertinently, on June 30, Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, announced the assessment of States/UTs under Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2020, the 5th edition of the BRAP exercise in New Delhi.

The central government started ranking states in 2015 based on the implementation of BRAP, which indicates progress in digitisation, transparency, and investor confidence in the country.

In 2015, J&K had scored only 5.93 percent in **More on P6**

## Govt Shifts Seven JKAS Officers

Observer News Service

**Jammu:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday ordered a reshuffle in the administration.

According to Government Order No.799-JK(GAD) of 2022, issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Sukhdev Singh Samyal, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Nowshera, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Nowshera, is transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department.

Shokat Mehmood, JKAS, Joint Director, School Education, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Rajouri.

Subah Mehta, JKAS, General Manager, DIC, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Joint Director, School Education, Jammu.

Kartar Singh, JKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Rajouri, is transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Nowshera. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Nowshera, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Virender Kumar Manyal, JKAS, Assistant Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department, is transferred and posted as General Manager, DIC Jammu.

Rajeev Kumar Khajuria, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner, Survey and Land Records, J&K, is transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Marh.

He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub[1]Registrar, Marh, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Naser Ali, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Marh, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Marh, is transferred and posted **More on P6**

# Overnight Rains Bring Relief Form Heat Wave

## MeT Dept Predicts More Rains, Cautions Against Flash Floods

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Kashmir Valley received heavy overnight rainfall on Tuesday plunging mercury and bringing much sought relief to the people reeling under the intense hot weather conditions.

According to meteorological department officials, the rainfall started around 3:00 am on Tuesday and continued for several hours bringing down the mercury by a few notches.

Srinagar city received 8.2 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours up to 8:30 morning on Tuesday, the officials said. They said Qazigund received 4.8mm, Pahalgam 11 mm, Kupwara 0.3 mm, Kokernag 1.2 mm, Gulmarg 7.6 mm, Jammu 1.1 mm, Banihal 1.0mm, Batote 0.4 mm and Bhaderwah 0.6 mm rainfall.

Srinagar, the officials said, recorded a minimum temperature of 20.8°C against 24.0°C on the previous night. However, they said, the temperature was around 3.1°C above normal during this time of the year for the

summer capital.

Qazigund recorded a low of 20.7°C against 21.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 4.6°C above normal.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 15.6°C against 18.6°C, 3.8°C above normal, while Kokernag recorded a low of 19.5°C which was against 19.9°C last night and it was 3.8°C above normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 13.0°C against 14.8°C and it was 1.2°C above normal, while Kupwara town saw a low of 22.5°C, 6.4°C higher than usual for this time of the season, the official said.

Jammu recorded a low of 26.8, 1.1°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 21.8°C, Batote 21.0°C, Katra 24.4°C while Bhaderwah had a minimum of 20.5°C, the official said.

Meanwhile, the officials saw more "intermittent" light to moderate rain at many places of Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24hours.

"There's already lots of water in local streams, rivers etc. due to melting of glaciers etc. Addition of rain water in these streams often generate flash flood, mudslide etc," the officials said, adding, "People **More on P6**



It's not about perfect. It's about effort: A man on a lookout for buyers for his Wagu Mat now very rarely used in the households. KO Photo | Abid Bhat

## BJP In Damage Control

# Minority Leader Served Notice Over Party's 'Link' With Militant

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Facing flak over its alleged link with arrested LeT militant Talib Hussain Shah, the BJP on Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to party's Jammu Minority Morcha president Sheikh Bashir after an order purportedly written by him about the appointment of Shah as official of the unit emerged on social media platforms.

On Monday, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of



**Sheikh Bashir**  
President BJP Minority wing JK

Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant **More on P6**

## Raina Seeks NIA Probe Into Militant's Arrest

The BJP on Tuesday alleged a conspiracy by militant outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) against the party and its leaders, and demanded a probe by the National Investigation Agency into the recent arrest of a militant. The demand was made after a top militant named Talib Hussain Shah, who was nabbed in Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir, was reported to have connections **More on P6**

## 'Money Laundering'

# ED Officials Conduct Raids In Srinagar

Agencies

**Srinagar:** The officials of Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at 44 places across the country including summer capital Srinagar in a money laundering investigation against Chinese smartphone manufacturing company Vivo and related firms, officials said.

They told a local news agency KDC that searches were conducted by the central probing agency at the under construction residential house of Dr Mohammad Iqbal Mir, a resident of Madin Sahib Hawal, presently residing at Rajbagh.

Iqbal Mir (BUMS Degree holder) has a dealership of Vivo phones.

Another team along with local police conducted searches at the house of Basharat Khan, a resident of Balgarden. After searches, the same team raided his Micromax outlet near City plaza in Karan Nagar. Khan is said to be the distributor of Chinese mobiles in Kashmir.

During the searches on Tuesday, various incriminating documents were seized from the premises of the 'suspects', sources said, adding that further investigation of the case is on.

The central agency filed a money **More on P6**

## Amarnath Yatra Temporarily Suspended

Agenceis

The Amarnath yatra was temporarily suspended from Nunwan base camp in Pahalgam toward the holy cave shrine on Tuesday in view of the inclement weather. An official said that due to inclement weather, no Yatri was allowed to move beyond the Nunwan base camp in Pahalgam towards the holy cave. He said that the yatra has been temporarily suspended for the **More on P6**

**THERE'S ALREADY LOTS OF WATER** in local streams, rivers etc. due to melting of glaciers etc. Addition of rain water in these streams often generate flash flood, mudslide etc.,"

## PDP Activists Hit Streets, Seek Probe

PDP on Tuesday staged a protest demonstration here against the BJP over alleged association of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant Talib Hussain with the saffron party and demanded a high level probe against the leadership for facilitating his entry without verification of his antecedents. Dozens of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) activists led by General Secretary **More on P6**

# Of Roads, Lakes And 1200 Cameras—In Conversation With SMC Commissioner



Augib Javeed

As Srinagar city is grappling with inadequate roads, traffic snarls, derelict landmarks and stinking wasteland, the inter-departmental coordination has emerged as a crucial factor.

Among the departments, the role of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) as custodian of urban affairs has come under a sharp scrutiny.

"City management is a joint responsibility," said Athar Aamir Khan, SMC Commissioner.

coordinating with all different departments including Traffic and Roads and Building (R&B) Departments in implementing projects in Srinagar. The projects include road redesign, junction improvements, footpaths and cycling spaces, road signages along with IT interventions like Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) under Srinagar Smart City Project. The traffic signals have already been commissioned at 66 junctions and handed over to the traffic department. Under ITMS, around 1200 to 1300 RLVD, PTZ and ANPR

cameras are being installed."

But despite these measures, Athar said, Kashmir's traffic per capita is very high. "Four-wheelers outnumber two-wheelers here, but we're working on it. Once these projects get completed, traffic management will be better."

Under Smart City Project, he said, SMCs also working on introducing water transport systems in Jhelum and Dal Lake as an additional mode of public transport. This will also help in decongesting the roads.

Alongwith Lake Conservation and Management

Authority (LCMA), Smart City and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Departments and civil society partners, SMC is reviving the water circulation system, removing encroachments and improving the water quality of Srinagar.

"There used to be a circulation system between Dal Lake, Nigeen, Nallah Amir Khan, Gilsar and KhushalSar Lakes," he said. "We're trying to restore the water movement mechanism."

In an interview with Kashmir Observer, SMC Commissioner talks about roads and roadmaps of his

department. Edited excerpts of the interview follows.

**SMC is in news for quite a long time for corruption, embezzlement and nepotism. What're you doing to stop it?**

There've been drastic systemic changes done. The services have been digitized. Building permissions, registrations along with other 20 services are all online.

You can track applications in your phone at home. All offices of SMC have been put under CCTV **More on P6**









## Dr Farooq Greets People On The Urs Of Hazrat Shah-E-Hamdan (RA)

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President and MP from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah on Tuesday greeted the people on the annual Urs Observance of Hazrat Ameer-e-Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (RA), hoping the auspicious day augers well for increased prospects of peace and priority in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message, Dr Farooq said, "Shah-e-Hamdan's (RA) role in fashioning the Kashmiri society is immense. It was because of Hazrat Shah-e-Hamdan's vision that Kashmir became a hub of handicrafts of global fame and repute, forming the basis of Kashmir's rise towards economic self-sustenance and well-being."

"His mission was to offer succour and solace to the suffering masses of Kashmir and he didn't discriminate in his mission. He encouraged people to live a life of piety and discipline and stressed that the real devotion of the Almighty was in the service of suffering man. He exhort-

ed people to overcome pride, anger and greed. There is a lot, which the new generation can imbibe from his life and teachings. The young ones should make it a point to study the writing of Hazrat Ameer e Kabir. I extend my warm greetings to people on this auspicious eve and hope the day acts as a harbinger of peace and prosperity in J&K," he said.

In his greetings message, Omar Abdullah said, "Sufism is a fascinating chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. The spiritual centers like Khanqas and Darghas associated with such great Sufi's like Hazrat Shah-e-Hamdan (RA) are central to the lives of Kashmiris. These epicentres of faith have been providing much needed reprieve to the people in the face of calamities and oppression," he said.

"He was a personality of great historical importance constituting an indispensable part of spiritual discourse in Kashmir," he added, impressing upon the youth to imbibe the teachings of such great men as Hazrat Ameer-e-Kabeer (RA).

# Police Arrests 4 Drug Peddlers In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday said it arrested four drug peddlers in the city. In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, it said arrests are being made to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society.

They have also seized four vehicles in Srinagar and recovered psychotropic substances from their possession.

Officers from Police Station Nowhatta arrested four drug peddlers and recovered psychotropic substances from their possession. They have been identified as Nasser Maqbool son of Maqbool Ahmad resident of Saida Kadal Rainawari, Mudasir Ahmed Najjar son of Mohd Sadiq Najjar resident of Naid Kadal Khanyar, Aqib Ahmed Shah son of Nisar Ahmed Shah resident of Dar Mohallah Soura and Jaseem Mushtaq son of Mushtaq Ahmed resident of Ranghama Nowhatta. Besides, four vehicles used in the commission of crime have also been



seized.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Nowhatta and investigation has been initiated.

Police urged the community members to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers in their neighborhood.

"Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt with as per law. Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drug menace", Police said.

## EOW Produces Charge Sheet Against Delhi Trio For Cheating Srinagar Lady

Agencies

Srinagar: Economic Offence Wing, erstwhile the Crime Branch Kashmir produced a charge sheet against 3 non-locals for cheating a woman from Kashmir capital Srinagar.

The charge sheet was produced against Santosh Kumar Bhagat son of Sukhdev Bhagat of Gausahala

Kishangarh New Delhi, Lakhin Lal Ahirivar son of Ram Swaroop of Kishangarh New Delhi and Benedict Silvester son of Lawrence D'souza R/O Chattarpur Extension New Delhi before the Court of Sub Judge Special Mobile Magistrate 13th Finance Srinagar.

Spokesperson of the Economic Offence Wing said that it received a complaint from a Srinagar lady which inter alia reveals that the complainant received a phone call from an unknown company claiming to be from IGMs, informing her that she has won a prize of 7 lacs in a contest and in order to claim her prize money, she was asked to deposit an amount of Rs 3000 as registration fee. She deposited and continued depositing more and more money on the

advice of the caller in the bank account maintained in the name of Non-Stop Deals in order to get the prize money but later on it was not provided to her.

The verification conducted in the matter revealed that the contents of the complainant are correct. The complainant was cheated and her hard-earned money was grabbed by a deceitful and fraudulent manner.

It also came to the fore that the bank account number, in which the complainant deposited the money exists in the name of Non-Stop Deals In, operated by one of the accused Santosh Kumar Bhagat. The aforesaid act of Omission & Commission on the part of the alleged accused, prima-facie discloses the commission of offences punishable by U/S 420 RPC r/w section 66-D IT Act.

Accordingly, the instant case was registered and investigation started.

During investigation, it was found that the phone number which was linked with the alleged account numbers was allotted to accused subscriber Lakhin Lal Ahirivar. The said subscriber Lakhin Lal Ahirivar was also working in M/S Non Stop Deals In.

Eid-Ul-Azha 2022

## Admin Intensifies Market Checking Across City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Market checking teams of District Administration Srinagar on Tuesday conducted market checking across the City to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the quality standards with sufficient availability of consumables.

The drive was conducted to curb the practice of illegal profiteering in markets ahead of the upcoming festival of Eid ul- Azha.

The checking squads comprised of senior officials from Revenue, Police, Food Safety, SMC, FCS&CA and Legal Metrology Departments under the supervision of SDM West and Assistant Commissioner Nazool conducted intensive market checking in various Tehsils of Srinagar City and inspected various markets within their jurisdiction.

During the drive a fine to the tune of over Rs 30,000 was imposed on the erring shopkeepers for violating different provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act.

Several erring shopkeepers were also booked, found failing to maintain the quality of food items, not displaying rate lists of essential commodities, selling expired products, besides indulging in practices of illegal profiteering and sale of under-weight products.

During the drive conducted today, the market checking teams inspected hundreds of business units including Bakery, confectionery, grocery, vegetable, fruits, milk, meat and chicken selling shops. They also check several food Processing units to check hygienic conditions. While the Date of Manufacture, Use-by Date, Ingredients, Nutritional information and Temperature Controlled system in the

Display Panels was also checked.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on owners of all Business establishments to maintain quality and standard of essential commodities and ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates. He asked the Market checking teams to continue the drive.

DC Srinagar Aijaz Asad also conducted a surprise visit to Eidgah, Srinagar to inspect the process of sale of sacrificial animals.

He met with the sellers of the sacrificial animals and the buyers coming for the purchasing of these animals.

He also directed the Tehsildar Eidgah who was present on the occasion to ensure Government approved rates for sacrificial animals is implemented in letter and spirit without any deviations so that people do not get fleeced.

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Srinagar | Wednesday | 06-07-2022

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### DIAL-EMMA

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



### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI  
CALENDAR**  
06- Zil- Hajj  
1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 41
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:49
ISHA	9: 29

## This Day In History

- 1044- The Battle of Méné takes place.
- 1189 - Richard the Lionheart is crowned King of England.
- 1253 - Mindaugas is crowned King of Lithuania.
- 1348 - Papal bull of Pope Clement VI issued during the Black Death stating Jews not to blame and urging their protection
- 1415 - Jan Hus is burned at the stake.
- 1483 - England's King Richard III crowned
- 1484 - Portuguese sea captain Diogo Cão finds the mouth of the Congo River.
- 1491 - Opening ceremony of Daitokui's Shinju at sub-temple
- 1495 - Battle of Fornovo, near Parma: French King Charles VIII beats Holy League
- 1560 - England and Scotland sign Treaty of Edinburgh
- 1573 - Pacificatie of Boulogne: new peace treaty with huguenots
- 1573 - Córdoba, Argentina, is founded by Jerónimo Luis de Cabrera.
- 1621- Dutch governor general John Pieterszoon Coen takes Banda islands, 15,000 die
- 1630- Swedish troops under Gustaf II Adolf land at Peenemünde
- 1673- French troops conquer Maastricht as part of the Franco- Dutch War
- 1770- Battle at Cesme: Russian fleet beats Turkish
- 1776-American Declaration of Independence announced on front page of "PA Evening Gazette"
- 1782- British-French sea battle at Negapatam (off India)
- 1801- Battle at Algeiras: French fleet beats British
- 1848- Mexican-American War ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- 1885- Louis Pasteur successfully tests an anti-rabies vaccine
- 1892- Dadabhai Naoroji elected as first Indian Member of Parliament in Britain.
- 1898- US Senate agrees to annex Hawaii

*From KO Archives*

## Country-Wide Security Alert

NEW DELHI - An alert was sounded today in major capitals and sensitive towns across India following the terror attack on the makeshift temple in Ayodhya this morning. Security was particularly tightened around important temples and other place, if worship across the country in view of the targeting of the makeshift shrine where once the Babri Masjid structure stood and the possible repercussions it may have.

In Delhi, security was beefed up near the temples and the RSS headquarters in Jandewalan area in a crowded area in the central part.

Additional personnel of police and para-military forces have been mobilised in Delhi and patrolling has been intensified.

In Mumbai, the scene of serial blasts and riots after the December 1992 demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya, security was beefed-up.

"We have taken special measures outside temples and other religious places in the city following the the Ayodhya incident, Police Commissioner A N Roy, said.

Additional forces have been deployed at prominent temples and other places of worship. Security has also been beefed up an the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) installations across the country, Chief Security Officer of DAE N C Gop, said.

Security was also alerted across West Bengal with special emphasis on communally-sensitive areas.

In Surat, where the RSS is holding a conclave, a security cordon was thrown around the venue of the meeting.

A high alert was also sounded in the Char Dham shrine circuit comprising Badrinath, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Gangotri in Uttarakhand and Krishna Janambhoomi. "Our police force has been put on high alert," Deputy Inspector General of Police R Singh Meena, said in Dehra Dun.

Police have been asked to be on patrol day and night in Badrinath temple area as it is one of the famous shrines in Uttarakhand, he said. Uttarakhand is attracting hundreds of pilgrims as the Chardham Yatra is going on.

(Kashmir Observer, 06 July, 2005)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Sgr

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS  
NIT No: 58/e-tendering of 2022-23/R&B DATED: - 02.07.2022

For and on behalf of the LT Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Electrical 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 (In Rupees/lacs)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of
1	Repairs / Replacement of damaged 630 Amps TPN MCCB along with 630 Sq.mm Cable and 400 Amps TPN MCCB (4 No's) by way of installation of new panel along with required controlling /protection switch gear devices and cabling at L.D Hospital Srinagar	6.86 lacs	13720/-	300.00	25 days	11.07.2022	"A" class Electrical

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-07-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	04/07/2022 10.00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	04/07/2022 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	11/07/2022 up to 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	11/07/2022 at 6.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Sgr

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

02. The bids must be accompanied with Earnest Money @ 2% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR and the EMD of 2% of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security

03. The successful /1st Lowest bidder has to submit Performance security @3% of allotted cost.

AAA/TS = Accorded  
Position of Funds = committed  
M.H. of account = 4210-Med

**DIPK-5526/22**

Executive Engineer,  
(R&B) Electric Division  
Srinagar

No. 58/e-tendering/ERB/1223-30

Regd. No. A-2586

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K O V I E W

Waiting For Polls

With the ongoing revision of electoral rolls paving the way for holding of the elections later this year, political parties in the Valley are tentatively engaging in some political activity. In the recent past, the National Conference held a workers convention at Sanat Nagar which was addressed by the party’s working president Omar Abdullah. Abdullah told the workers that the NC doesn’t look for solutions to the problems in Jammu and Kashmir outside the ambit of the country’s Constitution. Another convention was held by the party at Amira Kadal. The PDP’s activities are still low-key, so are that of the People’s Conference and Apni Party. But the political activities are certain to pick up as the bugle of election is sounded. The Election Commission of India has set a deadline of October for the completion of the revision of electoral rolls. A few days ago, Jammu and Kashmir Governor Manoj Sinha said the first-ever Assembly polls in the Union Territory would be held after the ongoing revision of electoral rolls and statehood would be restored at an appropriate time after the election.

Before LG Sinha, the prime minister Narendra Modi and the home minister Amit Shah have given us the same sequence of steps to restore statehood. If we go by this sequence, the completion of the delimitation exercise would lead to the holding of the elections within the union territory framework. And statehood would be a third step in the process. However, as made clear by the LG, statehood would only be granted at an appropriate time. This means there is no guarantee that statehood would be the next logical step. Or whether the statehood to be granted would be full or a truncated one - one that resembles a Delhi-type arrangement where the real power remains vested with the governor. Such an arrangement would hardly be enough to make a redeeming difference to the existing state of affairs in J&K, as fundamentally there wouldn’t be much that would change on the ground.

As for the election, the completion of the electoral rolls by October would push the exercise to November-December. The winter, however, won’t be the right time to hold the election in Kashmir Valley. Nevertheless, many people would most likely prefer the elections to take place regardless of the season. If for no other reason than at least for approachability, there is a palpable desire to see local politicians return to government. As of now, nothing is certain. However, the coming weeks and months should make things clear.

OTHER OPINION

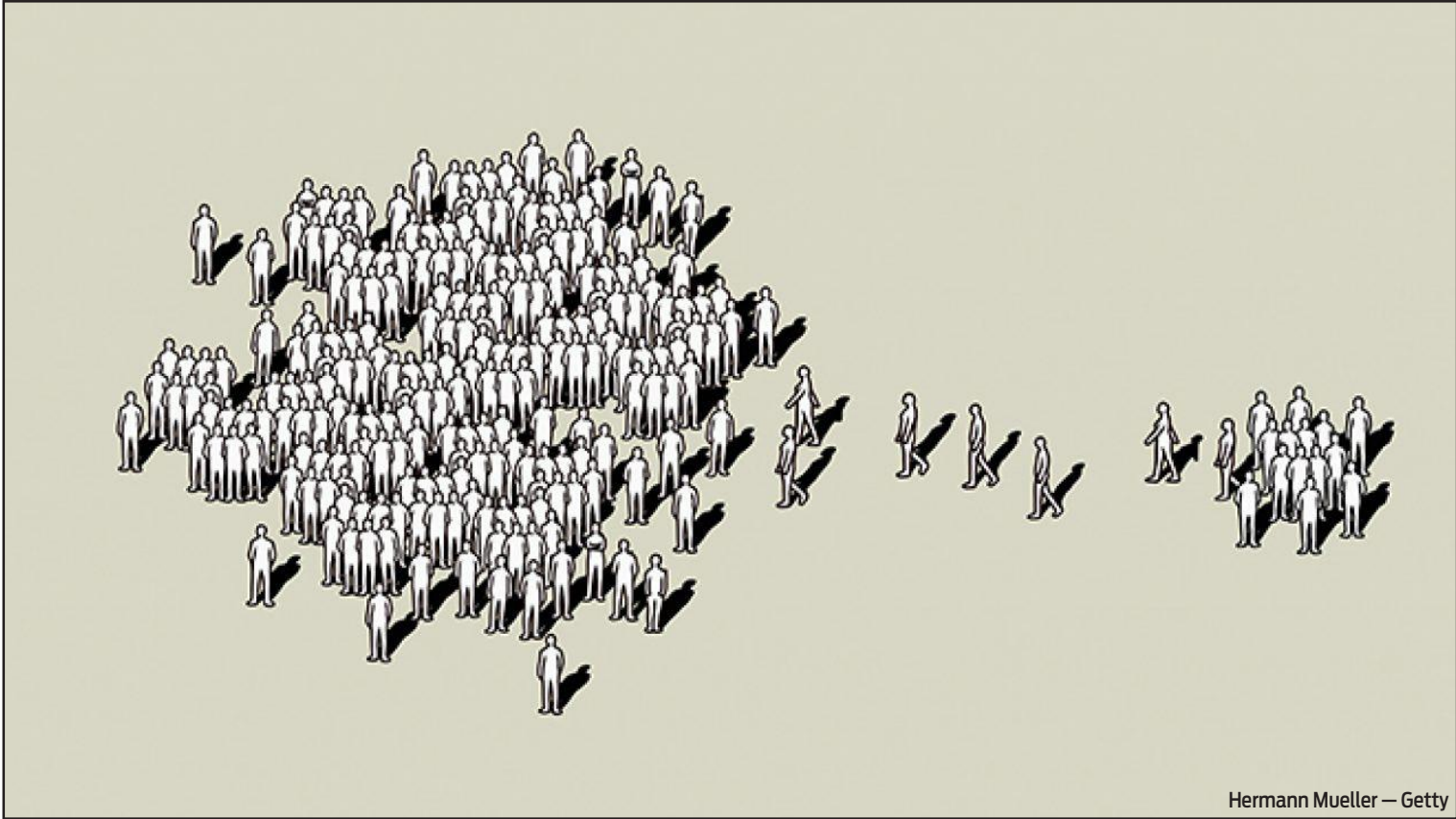
Difficult path

The ban on single-use plastic, which was notified in August 2021 by the Union ministry of environment, forests and climate change, has now come into force. Plastic cutlery items, sweet boxes, invitation cards, cigarette packets, PVC banners measuring under 100 microns and earbuds are some of the items that will no longer be available. The need for measures to restrict the use of this non-degradable synthetic material cannot be overstated — India generates more than 25,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day, more than 40 per cent of which stays uncollected, often choking drainage networks and even posing a risk to livestock. The Centre does not seem to be in a rush: the ban will be implemented in phases. But this could be a sensible approach. That is because rushed legislations, however well-intentioned, has a history of failure in the country. Bihar’s experiment with prohibition is a case in point. As such, the ban will not be enough: it must be accompanied by sensitisation and awareness measures directed both at law enforcement agencies and citizens. Officials may have claimed that a large number of plastic units are switching to packaging alternatives material such as cotton, jute, paper and crop stubble waste. However, the alternatives sector does not produce at a scale that will enable businesses all over India to make the transition to environment-friendly products. Moreover, the current prices of plastic substitutes have the potential of burdening the retailer and the consumer — a kilogramme of fabric bags cost Rs 80 more than plastic ones. The government will, thus, need to be mindful of the cost imperatives of businesses, especially those of small establishments already strained by the economic fallout of the pandemic, during this transition period. In the long run, it must facilitate research and development in viable plastic substitutes and their possible repercussions — for instance, biodegradable plastic, one of the much-publicised alternatives, can be as dangerous because it generates methane while decomposing in landfills.

There are other challenges. Rehabilitating 4.5 lakh people who are expected to lose their jobs as a result of the ban is a cause for concern. The economic imperatives may lead to a subterranean culture of plastic-use. The challenges pertaining to the ban on plastic, therefore, reveal an old fault line — the enduring contradictions between the ties that bind development to ecology

Telegraph India

Primer for Public  
Disqualification Due to Defection



Hermann Mueller — Getty

Sikander Hyaat Khan

Ekknath Shinde led BJP-Sena Rebels alliance took charge of the government in Maharashtra following the upheaval that saw the end of Maha Vikas Aghadi. The defection in Maharashtra is latest in a string of defections that have taken place in the recent past in Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka. This event has revived the discourse on the issue of defection in politics. In this context, it is imperative to take a closer look at defection and how it is situated in terms of the law of the country.

Defection: What and Why

As per the Cambridge English Dictionary, defection may be defined as the “act of leaving a country, political party, etc. to go to another one”. Therefore, in layman terms, defection may be referred to as the act of leaving one political party to join another. Different jurisdictions employ different terminologies for this act. Such terminologies inter alia include party switching and crossing the floor. While defection, understood simply, means leaving a party to join another, for the purposes of this column and discussion in Indian law, defection is referred to in the context of a member of the House. The term House denotes either House of the Legislature of a State or either House of the Parliament, in terms of Paragraph 1(a) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

Research on parliamentary systems has recognized that personal incentives motivate defections from one party to another. G.C. Malhotra, in his treatise on defection law, points out that legislators from a party may be tempted to defect from their party to another one in return for appointments in the other party. In such a scenario, defection is able to provide votes necessary to form a new government. In the current context of defections, this observation holds true.

Malhotra’s research quantifies what he terms “the lure of office” by stating that in a period of 1967 and 1968 when defections became a common occurrence “out of 210 defecting legislators of various states, 116 were included in the Councils of Ministers which they helped to form by defections”.

While appointments are prima facie tangible and serve as evidence of incentive offered for defection, there may be other clandestine

time transactions such as offerings in cash or kind made by a political party to the defector/s. Such corruption is a mere speculation but not entirely unforeseeable.

Reasons for defection cannot be put into watertight compartments. It is possible that defections occur on account of more than one overlapping factors. Defectors may have genuine concerns pertaining to party leadership. This may include aspects such as accessibility to party leadership, effective mechanisms for redressal of grievances and freedom of expression and speech within the organization. This, in fact, was stated as one of the key reasons by the Shinde camp for parting with Uddhav’s Shiv Sena and the Maha Vikas Aghadi.

Consequences of Defection

Legislating to penalize the act of defection primarily stems from

**The final and most contentious issue considering defection in today’s context is that it so happens that most defectors are leaving other parties to join the party ruling at the center. Being a beneficiary of the recent defection ‘wave’, it is unlikely there would be any substantial progress anytime soon towards setting the ball in motion for amendment of the Tenth Schedule**

the rationale that defections undermine basic democratic principles such as representation and accountability. Moreover, defections leading to change in governments also adversely affect consistency in policy thereby leading to wastage of resources.

According to P.M. Kamath (in his Politics of Defection in India in 1980s), “whenever a legislator elected on a party ticket or as an independent change his party affiliation or joins a party, he commits a breach of faith”. He has further stated, “In most elections, party identity has more influence on the minds of the electorate than the personal prestige of the candidate. In fairness to the electorate, a defector should be made to seek a fresh mandate from the individuals”.

In parliamentary democracies, parties are the bridge between voters and politicians. Stability in party memberships is what helps voters in identifying candidates of their choice and thereafter cast their votes. Defection violates this basic electoral pact and undermines the authority of a party-based system.

Penalizing Defection and the Indian Position

In Kenneth Janda’s words (from his 2009 paper on defection), “banning parliamentary party defections, there would be less corruption, more party stability, and more meaningful party labels with less personalism in politics”.

In India, penalty for defection is provided for under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. As per sub paragraph 1 of Paragraph 2 of the Tenth Schedule a member of the House is liable to be disqualified for being a member of the House if he has voluntarily given up membership of political party to which he belongs or if he votes or abstains from voting contrary to the direction issued by the political party without obtaining prior permission of the party.

In terms of sub-paragraph 1 of Paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule,

disqualification is not attracted in situations where the political party to which the member of the House belongs merges with another political party and the member/s claim that: -

- (a) have become members of such other political party or, as the case may be, of a new political party formed by such merger; or
- (b) have not accepted the merger and opted to function as a separate group.

In terms of sub-paragraph 2, merger of the original political party of member of the House shall be deemed to have taken place only if two-thirds members have agreed to such merger. The Shinde camp finds itself immune to disqualification by virtue of this provision.

Glaring Loopholes

Temporal limit

Paragraph 7 of the Tenth Schedule bars the jurisdiction of courts in respect of matters related to disqualification of a member of the House under the Tenth Schedule. In terms of Paragraph 6, the adjudicating authority to make decisions as to disqualification on grounds of defection is the Speaker

of the concerned House. By virtue of sub-paragraph 2, disqualification proceedings are deemed to proceedings in Parliament as per the meaning ascribed under Article 122 and proceedings in the Legislature of the State under Article 212. Therefore, deciding disqualification challenges lies within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Speaker of the concerned House.

While laying down modalities in respect of deciding disqualification proceedings, the Tenth Schedule lacks in prescribing a temporal limit for deciding such proceedings. Lack of a time-based restriction enables misuse and exploitation of the Tenth Schedule. Disqualification challenges are withheld at the discretion of the Speaker making it a ‘veto’ in the hands of the Speaker. In its recent judgment in Keisham Meghachandra Singh vs. Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly rendered in 2020, the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India opined that Speakers of the State Legislative Assemblies and Parliament must decide disqualification pleas within a period of three month except in extraordinary circumstances.

A corollary question which then begs consideration is: what if the defector is moving to the party which has nominated the Speaker? In such an event, there exists a conflict of interest. In Keisham Meghachandra Singh itself, the Hon’ble Supreme Court has also suggested that disqualification proceedings be presided over by independent tribunals and not the Speaker.

The final and most contentious issue considering defection in today’s context is that it so happens that most defectors are leaving other parties to join the party ruling at the center. A study conducted by the Association for Democratic Reforms revealed that nearly 45% of defecting MLAs who switched parties and contested elections again between 2016 and 2020 joined the BJP. An amendment to defection law is in the nature of a constitutional amendment and not a legislative amendment. The BJP has a majority in both Houses of the Parliament. Being a beneficiary of the recent defection ‘wave’, it is unlikely there would be any substantial progress anytime soon towards setting the ball in motion for amendment of the Tenth Schedule.

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



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Make it Easier to Get Appointments at Super Speciality Hospital

Super specialty hospital is a tertiary care hospital where patients receive advanced treatment for diseases. Patients are referred from other hospitals to this hospital but they are made to wait a pretty long time to get an appointment.

The hospital has many infra-

structural shortcomings not just for patients but for the staff as well. As far as leaves are concerned, as per Govt rules, every employee is entitled to avail any type of leave above all casual leaves when emergency occurs but here it becomes tough to get it sanctioned for most of the employees. Every section should have at

least one extra employee to cover for employees who take an off day due to personal emergencies.

The patients who get referred to this hospital for any speciality have to wait for 2 months. Unfortunately, meanwhile, the patient’s condition deteriorates.

The officers who run the admin-

istration must address everything in a holistic manner so that everything operates smoothly. The space of the appointment dates must be increased so that patients can get an appointment at the earliest.

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# Unfurling Secrets of Covid Brain Fog

Scientists are getting closer to understanding the neurology behind the memory problems and cognitive fuzziness that an infection can trigger.

Maggie Chen

ALLISON GUY WAS having a great start to 2021. Her health was the best it had ever been. She loved her job and the people she worked with as a communications manager for a conservation nonprofit. She could get up early in the mornings to work on creative projects. Things were looking “really, really good,” she says—until she got Covid-19.

While the initial infection was not fun, what followed was worse. Four weeks later, when Guy had recovered enough to go back to work full-time, she woke up one day with an overwhelming fatigue that just never went away. It was accompanied by a loss of mental sharpness, part of a suite of sometimes hard-to-pin-down symptoms that are often referred to as Covid-19 “brain fog,” a general term for sluggish or fuzzy thinking. “I spent most of 2021 making decisions like: Is this the day where I get a shower, or I go up and microwave myself a frozen dinner?” Guy recalls. The high-level writing required for her job was out of the question. Living with those symptoms was, in her words, “hell on earth.”

Many of these hard-to-define Covid-19 symptoms can persist over time—weeks, months, years. Now, new research in the journal Cell is shedding some light on the biological mechanisms of how Covid-19 affects the brain. Led by researchers Michelle Monje and Akiko Iwasaki, of Stanford and Yale Universities respectively, scientists determined that in mice with mild Covid-19 infections, the virus disrupted the normal activity of several brain cell populations and left behind signs of inflammation. They believe that these findings may help explain some of the cognitive disruption experienced by Covid-19 survivors and provide potential pathways for therapies.

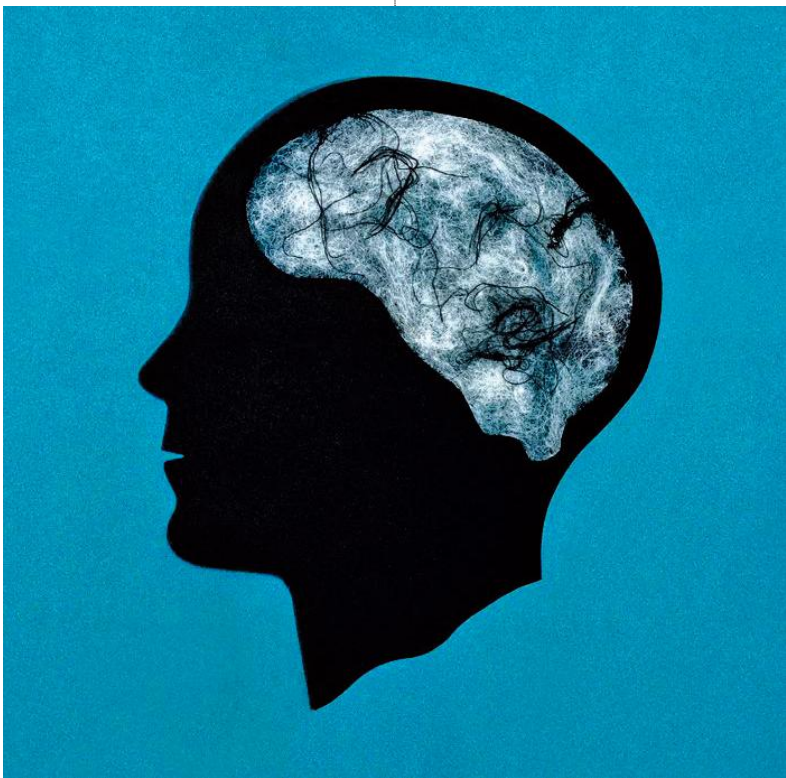
For the past 20 years, Monje, a neuro-oncologist, had been trying to understand the neurobiology behind chemotherapy-induced cognitive symptoms—similarly known as “chemo fog.” When Covid-19 emerged as a major immune-activating virus, she worried about the potential for similar disruption. “Very quickly, as reports of cognitive impairment started to come out, it was clear that

it was a very similar syndrome,” she says. “The same symptoms of impaired attention, memory, speed of information processing, dis-executive function—it really clinically looks just like the ‘chemo fog’ that people experienced and that we’d been studying.”

In September 2020, Monje reached out to Iwasaki, an immunologist. Her group had already established a mouse model of Covid-19, thanks to their Biosafety Level 3 clearance to work with the virus. A mouse model is engineered as a close stand-in for a human, and this experiment was meant to mimic the experience of a person with a mild Covid-19 infection. Using a viral vector, Iwasaki’s group introduced the human ACE2 receptor into cells in the trachea and lungs of the mice. This receptor is the point of entry for the Covid-causing virus, allowing it to bind to the cell. Then they shot a bit of virus up the mice’s noses to cause infection, controlling the amount and delivery so that the virus was limited to the respiratory system. For the mice, this infection cleared up within one week, and they did not lose weight.

Coupled with biosafety regulations and the challenges of cross-country collaboration, the security precautions required by the pandemic created some interesting work constraints. Because most virus-related work had to be done in Iwasaki’s laboratory, the Yale scientists would take advantage of overnight shipping to fly samples across the country to Monje’s Stanford laboratory where they could be analyzed. Sometimes, they would need to film experiments with a Go-Pro camera to make sure that everybody could see the same thing. “We made it work,” Monje says.

Once the mice had been infected with the virus, the scientists assessed the levels of cytokines in their blood and cerebrospinal fluid (the liquid surrounding the brain) at seven days and seven weeks after infection. Cytokines are markers secreted by the immune system, and they are critical in regulating inflammation. Not only were certain cytokines elevated in the cerebrospinal fluid at both time periods, but the scientists saw an increase of microglia reactivity in the subcortical white matter of the brain—the squishy white tissue rife with nerve fibers that makes up over half of the brain’s volume. That was



While the initial infection was not fun, what followed was worse. Four weeks later, when Guy had recovered enough to go back to work full-time, she woke up one day with an overwhelming fatigue that just never went away. It was accompanied by a loss of mental sharpness, part of a suite of sometimes hard-to-pin-down symptoms that are often referred to as Covid-19 “brain fog”

another sign of potential trouble.

Microglia are sort of like the central nervous system’s hungry scavengers. They are immune cells that clean up the brain by chomping on dead and unwanted neural debris, among other important functions. “There’s a unique subpopulation of microglia in the white matter called axon tract microglia,” Monje says. These have a specific genetic signature, she continues, and “are exquisitely sensitive to a wide range of insults,” like inflammatory or toxic stimuli.

In response to these stimuli, microglia can become perpetually reactive. One consequence is that they can begin eating away at needed neurons or other brain cells, which further disrupts the brain’s homeostasis. In the case of Covid-19, the scientists found that this reactivity

persisted even at seven weeks after infection. Monje’s team had seen similar elevation in this activity following chemotherapy and in brain samples from human patients who were infected with Covid-19. In the hippocampus (the area of the brain closely associated with memory), this overenthusiastic cleanup effort can deter the creation of new neurons, which are linked to maintaining healthy memory.

To figure out what exactly caused the microglia to become reactive, the researchers looked for the cytokines that had reached elevated levels. Specifically, Anthony Fernandez Castaneda, a postdoctoral researcher in Monje’s laboratory and a study coauthor, found CCL11—a factor that can decrease the generation of new neurons and impair learning or memory.

“The elevated CCL11 result was very interesting, because it could potentially explain why some Covid survivors experience cognitive symptoms,” he says.

In a second phase of the experiment, the researchers gave shots of CCL11 to a separate group of mice. Then they examined tissue from their brains to discover where the microglia had been reactive, and where fewer new neurons had grown. That turned out to be in the hippocampus—indicating that CCL11 acted on very specific cell populations in a memory-related area of the brain.

Next, the scientists decided to investigate the effects of mild Covid-19 infection on myelinating oligodendrocytes—brain cells that generate the myelin “padding” around neurons to provide insulation for better inter-neuron communication. Previously, work done by Anna Geraghty (another postdoctoral fellow in Monje’s lab and study coauthor) had focused on how chemotherapy affects this process. Myelin loss in the mice treated with chemo was found to be directly linked with deficits in short-term memory and attention. “Even minor adjustments in those myelin can actually impact neuronal communication in quite diverse ways,” she says. “Losing that ability to adaptively respond to neuronal activity led to persistent cognitive impairments in these mice.”

Geraghty recalls staying in the lab late at night during the Christmas holiday to finish the analysis of how Covid-19 affected that padding in mouse neurons. The result: The infected mice had lost approximately one-third of their mature oligodendrocytes, and had a statistically significant drop in myelination compared to mice in a control group. The magnitude of myelin loss was almost identical to what the lab had discovered when studying mice and chemo. She excitedly texted the results to Monje. “There was just a big moment in my brain of, ‘Oh my gosh, this data is incredibly interesting,’” Geraghty recalls.

Joanna Hellmuth, a cognitive neurologist at UC San Francisco who was unaffiliated with the study, notes that the “mouse data is very compelling,” and more studies are needed to see how these results translate into treatments for human patients—like Guy or others struggling with long

Covid and cognitive symptoms. Figuring out which drugs to try first, though, could benefit from understanding the biological cause of brain fog symptoms. “‘Brain fog’ is a colloquial term,” says Hellmuth—and it “kind of delegitimizes peoples’ having a neurological disorder.”

Wes Ely, a pulmonary and critical care specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center who was unaffiliated with the study, believes that such studies can lead to future therapeutic development. “This work paves the path towards both pharmacological, neuropsychological, and cognitive rehabilitative mechanisms to rebuild brain power,” he says.

For example, Monje thinks, some drug candidates that already worked in “chemo fog” animal models might be useful for treating Covid-related cognitive symptoms. She hopes to test these candidates on the Covid-19 mouse model to see if they help.

The team would also like to investigate other questions, like whether these neurological effects are different after even longer periods of time, or if they are different following a breakthrough infection after vaccination. They’d also like to compare what they’ve found in Covid-19 mouse models to neurological reactions to another famous virus—H1N1, which causes swine flu. The team had found that in a mouse model of H1N1, the drop in oligodendrocytes and increase in microglial reactivity in the subcortical white matter generally normalized by seven weeks—unlike for the Covid-infected mice. They also found that, in mice infected with either virus, CCL11 was elevated in the cerebrospinal fluid. Monje hopes to study what she calls this “prominent shared mechanism” in further detail.

While Monje and Iwasaki’s work has given researchers a better idea of how Covid might affect the brain, it may take years before there is a working treatment for patients. For Guy, the time cannot come soon enough. In 2022, she got Covid again. “I’m just praying for medicine, praying for treatment,” she says.

*The author is a scientist and science journalist who enjoys watching heart cells beat under a microscope or writing about health, biotech, and history. The article was originally published by Wired*

## Parenting Battles: Never a Win

Jennie Bristow

CAROL DWECK, professor of psychology at Stanford University in California, has criticised “highly educated parents and academic schools” for producing, in the words of a Sunday Times headline, a “generation of no-copers” who achieve perfect grades in school but “cannot cope with the real world”.

“The idea that children have to have a string of A grades is a terrible thing”, Dweck told The Sunday Times, putting the blame for all these A grades on “parental influence”. “In the past few generations we have seen the emergence of highly educated mothers ... They schedule all these activities and advocate for the child.”

Dweck is alluding to the phenomenon of “intensive mothering” – where the rearing of children has come to be seen as a highly skilled, expensive, and challenging pursuit that demands that parents (and particularly mothers) put increasing amounts of time and intellectual energies into ensuring their children’s optimal development. Indeed, the argument that the malaise of today’s youth is down to a generation of parents who are too ambitious and overprotective to allow their children grow up is becoming an increasingly common one.

There is even a label – the “helicopter parent” – which hails from the US but, like many such cultural tropes, has been gleefully adopted over here. The helicopter parent is, allegedly, a product of the Baby-Boomer generation of parents who, indulged and self-indulgent themselves, are now importing their spoiled individualism into their own little “Mini-Me”s.

It is hardly surprising that the Baby Boomers are coming under fire for their alleged parenting styles. My research into the media and policy discussion about the Boomer generation indicates that, in recent years, it has found itself blamed for a bewildering range of social problems: from the global financial crisis to the disintegration of the welfare state. Given



that parents in general seem to be blamed for an awful lot these days, Baby Boomer mums and dads make convenient scapegoats for wider anxieties about child rearing.

But when it comes to the demands of today’s parenting culture, they really can’t do right for doing wrong. The complaint about “helicopter parenting” simplifies a difficult cultural problem – widespread societal anxiety about allowing children to grow up – and presents it as a question of individual parents’ attitudes and behaviours.

### CONCERTED CULTIVATION

It is, of course, a problem that the

younger generation is infantilised by a culture of overprotection. Children are ferried from pillar to post rather than being allowed to play outside with each other. Young adults turn up to university interviews with mum and/or dad in tow. Increasingly, young people seem unwilling or unable to handle ideas or speech that they find offensive, let alone to deal with the harder knocks of life.

In education, it is a problem that the pursuit of top grades is increasingly seen as not only the main goal of education, but a task to be undertaken by parents themselves. The relentless pursuit of what the

US sociologist Annette Lareau has termed “concerted cultivation” speaks to a one-sided approach to growing up, where instrumentalist, individualised concerns about academic and career success often seem to take the place of a wider focus on the good society, or the life well lived.

But can this all be the fault of pushy, highly-educated, helicopter parents? The deeper problem is the “double bind” of parenting culture in which parents are exhorted to protect their children from an expanding range of physical harms, emotional challenges, and perceived slights. When

parents are continually told that their paramount concern should be the safety and success of their children, no wonder kids are scared to venture out alone and parents end up doing their homework for them.

### DOUBLE BIND

The helicopter parent trope presents the parent trying her hardest to meet the impossible demands of child-centred parenting – often involving a significant financial, emotional, and time cost – as a selfish “tiger mother” who is setting her child on the path to anxiety and self-harm. Meanwhile, parents who lack the

economic, cultural or personal resources to engage in helicopter parenting are also frowned upon, for not being involved enough in their children’s education, or concerned enough about their health, safety, or emotional well-being. Just look at the official opprobrium directed at parents who allow their children to get a bit fat, miss a bit of school, fail their exams, or break a limb in an unsupervised playground.

Our culture may sneer at helicopter parents – but it is even less accepting of parents who can’t, won’t, or simply don’t want to hover over their children every minute of the day. Indeed, reading US sociologist Robert Putnam’s new book *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, you would be forgiven for thinking that the only thing standing between a child’s half-decent future and the slough of poverty and despondence is their parents’ ability to invest in an Ivy League education and improving extracurricular activities around the clock, while also finding the time to sit down to a “family meal” every day of the week.

We know, deep down, that such “paranoid parenting” is unnecessary, unappealing, unattainable – and probably unkind. But so great is the fear of what might happen if they don’t do it that many parents find themselves pushed in this direction.

The existence of the double bind of parenting culture indicates that what is at stake here is not simply the alleged failure of some parents to live up to an ideal parenting standard. Rather, the idea that parents can do right by their children – whatever they do – is held in question.

Media and policy circles are filled with people issuing their own contradictory warnings and prescriptions about what children should eat, how they should play and what parents should do – while nobody seems to want to listen to the parents themselves.

*By arrangements with The Conversation*



## Ajmer Dargah Cleric Threatens Nupur Sharma With 'Beheading', FIR Lodged

Press Trust of India

**Jaipur:** Police are on the lookout for a cleric at the Ajmer Dargah after he allegedly offered on camera to gift his house to anyone who beheads now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma for her derogatory remark on Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

The Rajasthan Police registered an FIR Monday night on the basis of a complaint against Salman Chisht, a dargah khadim, over a video clip.

In the video, the cleric purportedly says he would give his house to anyone who brings Sharma's head to him. Chisht is heard saying that he would have shot her dead for insulting Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

"You have to give a reply to all Muslim countries. I am saying this from Ajmer, Rajasthan and this message is from Huzur Khwaja Baba ka Darbar," he said in the video, referring to the Sufi shrine that sees many Hindu visitors, apart from Muslim devotees.

Dargah Station House Officer Dalveer Singh Faujdar said efforts are on trace the khadim. He said the accused has a criminal background.

Recently, four people were arrested in connection with another provocative speech allegedly delivered at the main gate of the Ajmer Dargah on June 17.

Though that video was in circulation earlier, the arrests



were made after the murder of a week back of an Udaipur tailor by two men who said they were avenging an insult to Islam.

Hours after the Udaipur murder that triggered communal tension in the state, the two main accused were caught by police. Three others were arrested later and the National Investigation Agency is now handling the case.

Condemning the latest video, the office of Ajmer Dargah Dewan Zainul Abedin Ali Khan said the shrine is seen as a place of communal harmony. The views expressed by the khadim in the video cannot be considered a message from the dargah, it said.

It added that the remarks were a statement by one individual and were highly condemnable.

Nupur Sharma was suspended by her party over her derogatory remark on Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) during a television debate that outraged the Muslim community.

## Pendency Of Cases Major Issue, Problem Intensifying In Absence Of Infra: CJI

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana Tuesday said the pendency of cases is a major issue in India and the problem is intensifying in the absence of adequate infrastructure and a sufficient number of judges with the increasing workload.

The CJI said an issue that has been affecting court systems across the world relates to the fact that decisions within the regular courts take a long time.

There is no denying that pendency of cases is a major issue in India. Reasons for this include growth of the Indian economy, population, rising awareness about rights, etc, Justice Ramana said while delivering the inaugural address at a conference on Arbitrating Indo-UK Commercial Disputes in London.

In the absence of infrastructure and the sufficient number of judges commensurate with the increasing workload, the problem is intensifying. This is why I have been strongly advocating for transforming and upgrading the judicial infrastructure in India, as well as filling up of judicial vacancies and augmenting the strength, he said.

Justice Ramana said after he assumed the office of the CJI, in addition to filling up 11 vacancies in the apex court, the collegium could secure the appointment of 163 judges to

various high courts.

23 more recommendations are pending with the government. The central government is yet to transmit another 120 names received from various high courts to the Supreme Court collegium. I have been reminding the government to expedite the process so that the remaining 381 vacancies can be reduced considerably. I am hoping for some forward movement in this regard, he said.

Justice Ramana said another way of reducing the burden of pendency is to promote and popularise other means of dispute resolution, such as arbitration or mediation.

In fact, throughout my professional legal career, I have been a strong advocate of dispute settlement mechanisms that do not require litigants to face traditional litigation, he said.

The CJI said India is rated to be one of the fastest-growing economies and apart from ease of enforcement, another advantage for choosing India as a favoured investment destination is its judicial system.

Both the legal systems in India and the United Kingdom are known for giving paramount importance to the rule of law. Both nations share a similar legal culture, where courts are known and respected as independent institutions. Apart from this, the investors would be entering into a common familiar legal

field as both nations follow the common law system. Laws on important issues are often convergent between both nations, he said.

He said parliament had amended the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996 in 2015, 2019, and 2021 and the main objective was to streamline the dispute resolution process by fixing strict timelines and reducing judicial interference.

The much-appreciated changes were introduced in the form of no automatic stay of the arbitral award upon the challenge to award, recognition of emergency awards, and shift to institutional arbitration, the CJI said during the event which was also attended by Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and others.

He said the courts are pro-arbitration in India and from the reference stage to enforcement, the courts are fostering an environment where arbitral institutions and the autonomy of the arbitrator are respected.

Justice Ramana said different state governments in India are taking active steps in establishing international arbitration centers, keeping in view the global trends.

The aim is to set up professionally run arbitration and mediation institutions in India along the lines of the LCIA or the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, he said, adding, Ultimately, the

presence of modern infrastructure, with a global outlook, will attract both domestic and foreign parties to seek resolution of their disputes.

Justice Ramana said that the presence of international arbitration centers will not only boost India's global position as an investor-friendly nation but also will facilitate the growth of a robust legal practice.

Personally, I think it is the era of institutional arbitration and mediation in India. To catch up to the developed world, world-class arbitration and mediation centres need to be set up and promoted, he said.

The CJI said that London has been the financial hub of the world and the historical trade and commercial ties between India and the United Kingdom need no reiteration.

He said presently, India stands as the UK's 12th largest trading partner and in 2020, the foreign direct investment (FDI) from the UK to India was 14.9 Billion Pounds.

During the same period, FDI in the UK from India was 10.6 billion pounds. The recent India-UK Free Trade Agreement will pave a new path for future investments, he said.

The CJI thanked the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) for hosting the event.

## Court Seeks Presence Of Delhi Police Commissioner On July 29

Observer News Service

**Poonch:** A local court here has issued notice to Delhi Police Commissioner and sought his presence on July 29 in a case titled Javid Mughal Vs Talat Datanvi.

The court of Sub-Judge Surankote issued notice to Delhi Police Commissioner through Home Secretary New Delhi to ensure his presence before the court on July 29th, 2022, Adv Majad Khan representing Javid Mughal said.

The court, he said, also issued non-bailable warrants against the accused lady through Secretary home. Adv Majad Khan further said that the service of repeated processes issued by the court in the name of Delhi Police Commissioner against the accused lady were not implemented by the Delhi Police Commissioner as a result of which the learned Sub-Judge Court Surankote issued notice against him.

## J&K Records 84 New Covid Cases

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir reported 84 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, raising its tally to 4,55,475, officials said. No death due to the disease was reported in the past 24 hours, they said.

Of the fresh case, 64 cases were reported from the Jammu division and 20 from the Kashmir Valley, the officials said here. A total of 4,757 death related to COVID-19 have been reported from the union territory so far.

There are 594 active cases, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,50,124, the officials said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### J&K Figures

Ease of Doing business

The BRAP 2020 includes 301 reform points covering 15 business regulatory areas, such as access to information, single window system, labour and land administration.

118 new reforms were included to further augment the reform process. Sectoral reforms with 72 action points spread across nine sectors like trade license, healthcare, legal metrology, and cinema halls were introduced for the first time to expand the scope of the reform agenda.

Last year, Kashmir Observer in a report titled, "Where's 'Ease of Doing Business' For Locals, Kashmiri Entrepreneurs Ask" had highlighted how young Kashmiri entrepreneurs had asked administration to take immediate steps to re-impose a hassle-free procedure where the local entrepreneurs are given preferences over the non-domiciles that would stay within the broad spectrum of compliance.

The report had also highlighted how a simple analysis of the bleak presence of the first generation industrial level projects and businesses that have come up post abrogation in Kashmir was enough to contradict the official claims which showcased a massive investment pipeline and an increasing employment in J&K

### BRAP Doesn't

multi-pronged plan has been put in place to transform Kashmir into an investment hub in North India, an official spokesperson said.

He said that in the recently released BRAP 2020 report by Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, Jammu and Kashmir has been listed in Emerging Business Ecosystems (EBEs) category along with Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Puducherry, among others.

"The assessment for BRAP 2020 does not reflect the true picture as on ground today since the rankings are for reforms taken in 2020 during which the UT was initiating the process of industrialization after the historic administrative changes in August 2019," he said.

The spokesperson said that the J&K Governments investment initiatives like investment promotion, transparent and robust land allotment process, best in class incentives, Single Window System for smooth clearances with dedicated teams to attend to investor has led to strong impetus for investment across various sectors.

"There has been a fundamental shift in the policy as well as the implementation. UT has come a long way in creating an enabling and entrepreneurial-friendly environment that will facilitate the sustainable growth and development of industrial enterprises," he said.

"Jammu and Kashmir is in fact poised on the cusp of a massive economic push with record investment proposals worth Rs 55,000 crore under consideration. More than 215 services are being provided online with UT of J&K becoming first UT to be integrated with National Single Window System," he added.

The spokesperson further said that with a robust single window system in place, more than 215 services online, 1977 burdensome compliances reduced and 1100+ more to be reduced by 15 Aug 2022, J&K is all set for a quantum leap in proposed BRAP 2022 reforms under DPIIT expected to be released by February 2023.

### Govt Shifts

as Assistant Commissioner, Survey and Land Records, J&K.

### Overnight Rains

are advised to remain cautious and avoid venturing near such places which are

vulnerable to flash flood etc."

### Amarnath Yatra

safety of Yatris and presently around 3000 Yatris are staying at Nunwan base camp. Meanwhile, officials told a local news agency KNO that around 65,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine so far. Amarnath Yatra commenced on June 30 and will conclude on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandan.

### ED Officials

laundering case after taking cognisance of a recent Delhi Police (economic offences wing) FIR against a distributor of the agency based in Jammu and Kashmir where it was alleged that few Chinese shareholders in that company forged their identity documents.

The ED suspects this alleged forgery was done to launder illegally generated funds using shell or paper companies and some of these "proceeds of crime" were diverted abroad or put in some other businesses by skirting Indian tax and enforcement agencies. (KDC)

### Minority Leader

Talib Hussain Shah was briefly associated with a political party and also posed himself as a mediaperson.

A political slugfest erupted between the BJP and the opposition in the Union territory after Shah, overpowered by locals and handed over to the police, was reported to be an active member of the saffron party who was recently selected as its IT and social media cell in-charge of the Minority Morcha in the Jammu province.

J&K BJP disciplinary committee chairman Sunil Sethi served the notice to Bashir, based upon a letter being circulated in the media, which indicates that you had appointed one Talib Hussain as an official of Minority Morcha, who has been found involved in militant activities".

"You (Sheikh) are directed to explain your position on the above issue within 48 hours. Please clarify whether you have issued an order in favour of a person (Talib Hussain Shah), who is not even a primary member of the party as per official records and without checking credentials of the person, Sethi said.

### Raina Seeks

with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

"LeT terrorist Talib Hussain Shah was briefly associated with a political party and also posed himself as a mediaperson," Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said Monday.

"As it is a serious matter, BJP is urging J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha that probe into all aspects of this case should be conducted by NIA to uncover this new terror plan (against BJP and its leaders). They must uncover as to how many more Talibs (militants) are part of this conspiracy and linked with the terror outfit," J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina said.

He said that probe should be held against the terrorist to know about wider terror conspiracy, people involved and links with other such elements.

"We want a full probe into people behind the conspiracy, their links and their targets in BJP. We want to know who are from BJP were his targets", he said.

Raina said that Hussain have clearly tried to target BJP headquarter in Jammu and its top leaders, adding, "The time is to probe it deeply. All persons linked should be arrested."

Ruling out any official relation between the political party and LeT terrorist, Raina said, "Talib Hussain Shah and his other associates were coming to the BJP office to cover press conferences regularly. He was also attending party rallies as a journalist."

He said that it was a new terror plan of the Pakistan-based LeT to set up a module to target BJP and its leaders by planting a terrorist as journalist to carry out recte of its office and track the leaders.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress, which is on the war path against BJP, too, has demanded a high level probe into the case.

### PDP Activists

Amrik Singh Reen came out from party headquarters at Gandhi Nagar and staged a protest to denounce the BJP for facilitating the entry of the dreaded LeT militant and also assigning him a top post.

Hussain along with his associate Faisal Ahmad Dar were overpowered by the villagers of remote Tukson Dhok in Reasi district early Sunday and later handed over to police. Two AK assault rifles, a pistol, seven grenades and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from them.

Some pictures emerged on social media purportedly showing Hussain with BJP leaders. One of the pictures shows J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina purportedly presenting him with a bouquet and a letter issued by party leader Sheikh Bashir on May 9, assigning him the responsibility of new IT and social media incharge of Minority Morcha (Jammu province).

The BJP has denied that Hussain was an active member of the party and claimed that he introduced himself as a reporter of a news portal and visited the party headquarters as part of a Pakistani conspiracy to target the party leaders.

They are misleading the people by making false claims. The reality is that he was a member of the BJP and was heading its IT and social media of its minority community cell, PDP spokesperson Varinder Singh Sonu told reporters.

Sonu questioned Hussain's presence in the meeting with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and said if going by the leaks in the social media, his presence in the BJP was a big threat to the national security.

He said this is the same BJP which was providing nationalist certificates to the people and defaming other parties for being close to militants.

Had the LeT militant been affiliated with any other party, BJP would have gone all out to press for banning of that party and arrest of the leadership. His pictures with Ravinder Raina (J&K BJP chief) and other leaders demand a high level probe and resignation of the party leaders for facilitating entry of such a terrorist in the party, Sonu said.

The PDP leader said while one Hussain was exposed, who knows how many more such terrorists are present in the BJP.

As the protest was going on, a group of PDP youth activists led by their vice president Rajat Gupta made an attempt to march towards the nearby Jammu-Airport road amid chanting of anti-BJP slogans.

However, police personnel who were deployed in strength stopped the protesters at the main road and later pushed them back.

Later, the protesters returned to the PDP headquarters peacefully.

### Of Roads, Lakes

surveillance. We now have a 24\*7 functional control room for grievances. All work and procurement is done following an online process. Weekly review mechanism and progress monitoring has been institutionalized in all wings. Payments, salaries have all been put in the online mode.

We've adopted zero tolerance to corruption and dereliction of duty and suspended around forty employees in the past few months and initiated disciplinary action against them.

Departmental actions which were pending for years have been completed. We're committed to make SMC one of the finest urban governance institutions in the country.

**But while putting home in order, is SMC forgetting its core work? For instance, around 1394 kilometers of road in the city falls under SMC. The road was supposed to be macadamized last year, but so far the department has failed to do so? Why?**

No not at all. The smaller roads in the city were transferred to SMC last year and we completed most of them under the macadamization plan. Around 70 tenders were floated and the blacktopping continued till the month of October before bad weather halted the process.

We had floated tenders well ahead this year, but there was an issue regarding the schedule of rates of certain items between contractors and R&B. So, we did not get a response to tenders.

As soon as the issue was resolved, we re-floated the tenders and works were allotted. The macadamisation in city roads which have been planned for this year is starting in a few days.

**But many roads in the city are largely pathetic and dotted with potholes—leading to massive traffic snarls. The traffic department says that they need cooperation from other departments including R&B and SMC. Do you've any joint plans to ease the traffic mess in the city?**

Yes, they need our cooperation and we're doing that. In fact, SMC has installed traffic lights and handed them over to the traffic department.

Through the Smart City Project, we're installing an Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) which includes 1200 to 1300 cameras. In the next two to three months, work will be commissioned.

At traffic junctions, we're marking zebra crossings, pedestrian parking, etc, in a coordinated effort with R&B and Traffic Department. Even our anti-encroachment wing works with the Traffic Department to clear junctions from vendors and shopkeepers.

We take it as a joint responsibility. Once road projects get completed, traffic management will be better.

We're working together on this.

**You may sound upbeat about your urban plans, but SMC has so far failed to tackle the water-logging situation created by a few hours of downpour in the city.**

The topography of the city is a little peculiar. The storm water doesn't flow with gravity into the river Jhelum. In most of the areas it has to be mechanically pumped out. We've upgraded around 85 dewatering stations in the city under AMRUT and JTPRF. The capacity has been heavily augmented, the control systems, power backup etc in these have been put above the highest flood level, that's the 2014 level. Besides, new networks have been laid in many areas including LalChowk, Mallabagh, Mominabad Bemina, Khomienchowk, Shalteng, etc.

We've also commissioned a consulting firm for preparing Srinagar City's drainage master plan so that henceforth the drainage interventions are done more systematically and in a planned manner. The city needs an additional 1000 kilometers of drainage network and the drainage masterplan will help in planning that.

We've also kept around 120 mobile dewatering units for deployment in rains along with 14 sucker machines and 20 desilting machines.

**Despite these measures, Srinagar's second biggest water body Anchar is on the verge of extinction today. Two of its main wetlands—Khushalsar and Gilsar—are in the right shape either.**

Anchar has been taken up jointly by the Forest Department, LCMA, I&FC, Smart City and SMC for rejuvenation.

The revival of Khushalsar and Gilsar lakes is also going in close partnership with local communities and civil society partners including NLCO.

There has been remarkable improvement in these twin lakes. SMC has lifted around 1400 trucks and dumpers of muck and silt from these water bodies.

**But wasn't the restoration initiated by the civil society?**

Yes, and that's something to emulate. For any successful intervention, public ownership is extremely important. If the local community takes the initiative and the administration joins in, that's the best model. Until and unless both work in tandem, things don't happen.

**So, how much time will it take to restore these lakes to their original form?**

We're removing muck from these lakes as well as reviving springs of Srinagar as of now. Silt deposition is a continuous process in water bodies, but we're cleaning and removing garbage as well and trying to remove encroachments from these lakes.

The aim is to restore the circulation system between Dal Lake, Nigeen, Nallah Amir Khan, Gilsar and KhushalSar Lakes.

But what's the progress on Achan dumping site? We were given to understand that a major compost plant will be established there for scientific treatment of the garbage. How long will the City have to bear with the stench?

Well, we're working on bio-mining that will treat 10 lakh metric tonnes of waste daily dumped at Achan. DPR has been prepared and sent for approval. We are also constructing new scientific landfill cells for safe management of waste.

Right now, the administrative approval has been received and we've sent it for getting the technical sanction.

**You see, Mughals had built Nishat and Shalimar with a lot of aesthetics, but anyone passing by these two iconic tourist attractions of the city feels as if he or she is passing through an old bus adda now.**

We've taken the Nishat and Shalimar garden precincts and the Shalimar canal under a Smart City Project. The works have been comprehensively planned, already tendered and allotted. The Good for Construction drawings are being finalized. The work will start in a few days.

**In many residential city areas, there's mushroom growth of commercial spaces causing a lot of inconvenience to residents. How's SMC allowing them to operate?**

No, I disagree. We're not allowing any illegal construction in the city. Construction happens only when we issue permits. If we receive complaints, we take immediate action.

**In Pazwalpora Shalimar commercial activities in residential areas have increased. How's SMC allowing that?**

I will send a team there and check it out. - Syed Mohammad Burhan contributed in this interview



## Pratik D Punjabi Joins J&K Bank As CFO

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Pratik D Punjabi has joined J&K Bank on 1st July as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) replacing Rajni Saraf, who superannuated on June 30, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

He was appointed as CFO by the Bank's Board of Directors on 10th June for a three year term.

As Chartered Accountant from ICAI and having worked at Kotak Mahindra Group, IDBI Bank, Bank of America and HSBC besides leadership role in First Abu Dhabi Bank and a top rated finance company in Oman, MUSCAT Finance SAOG; Pratik D Punjabi brings a wealth of knowledge and rich experience to the CFO position in the Bank.

With 22 years of professional experience in finance, he has functioned mainly with MNCs Banks with focus on contemporary finance that primarily includes Financial Control, Financial Compliance, MIS, Strategy, Business Finance, Branch Profitability Analysis, Setting-up systems, Process studies and evaluation of projects and viability studies. He has been in Finance-



leadership roles for over 8 years.

Notably, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is a c-suite executive responsible for managing the financial matters of a company and defined among Key Managerial Personnel (KMPs) as per Section 2(51) of the Companies Act 2013. The appointment is in compliance to the regulatory requirements of RBI which prescribe that the CFO should be a qualified Chartered Accountant with professional experience of fifteen years in overseeing financial operations, preferably accounting and taxation matters, in banks/large corporates/PSUs/ FIs/financial services organizations, of which 10 years should be in Banks/FIs (of which five years should be at senior management level).

## TAD Launches Free NEET/JEE Coaching For Tribal Students

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Tribal Affairs Department (TAD) has launched first of its kind initiative for coaching of meritorious and deserving tribal students preparing for National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)/JEE for undergraduate professional courses.

The course fee will be sponsored by the department. Candidates qualifying the examination for selection in professional courses after coaching will also be provided scholarship.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha had recently announced that the Jammu and Kashmir Government according top priority to education of tribal students is launching a number of schemes aimed at providing and supporting their quality education. In line with schemes like Technology-Enabled Education Scheme, enhancement of diet charges and tuition rates in hostels the department has launched NEET coaching scheme with immediate effect.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary informed that in first year of the scheme 100 tribal students are being selected for NEET coaching in Government empanelled coaching institutes, under two different sub-schemes, "Host-50" for hostellers and "Top-50" for other tribal meritorious students. The schemes are being implemented through the Education wing of the Tribal Research Institute.

The coaching fee for NEET at the select institutions will be

sponsored by the department after verification of attendance and evaluation. Further, the candidates selected for courses like MBBS, BVSc&AH, BDS, BAMS, BE, B.Tech and other professional courses of NEET shall be provided an annual scholarship of Rs 70,000-75,000/- totalling around 4.00 Lakh for various professional courses.

Deputy Director (Adm), TRI J&K, Dr Abdul Khabir while giving the details of scheme informed that under "Top-50" applications have been invited from meritorious tribal students and 50 students with highest marks, above 80% in Class-XII board examination will be selected for coaching while under the "Host-50" the students enrolled in hostels will be selected through a screening test.

The department has notified 50% reservation for girl students under hostel category while 25% seats are reserved for girl students in Top-50 scheme for NEET. There is no income bar under the coaching scheme. The coaching will be offered at empanelled institutes at Jammu and Srinagar wherein coaching fee notified by the Government will be sponsored by the department for the selected students. A waiting list will also be maintained. Only online applications before the cut-off date will be considered by the department for selection of students.

Director, Tribal Affairs, Mushir Ahmed Mirza will supervise the screening test in hostels under the Host-50 scheme through respective wardens/ management of hostels.

## Woollen Industry Witnessing Massive Revamp Across J&K: Govt

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Government is devising a viable framework to give a massive revamp to Woollen industry across Jammu and Kashmir.

The reformative policies of the UT Government are providing economic growth opportunities to around 50,000 families associated with woollen industry in J&K, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

To give boost to this sector, a Showroom cum Interpretation Centre at Government Woollen Mill, Bemina was established under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTRFP) which was recently inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha. The showroom will provide a direct Market for 80,000 Kgs of locally produced wool annually, benefiting around 1600 sheep rearing families.

The new Showroom cum Interpretation Centre will greatly impact the livelihood opportunities of people working in the mill, besides providing market opportunities for the thousands of wool-producing farmers of J&K.

Notably, J&K is the 2nd largest

producer of wool in the country, producing approximately 70 lakh kgs of wool per annum.

"J&K Industry has tie-up with e-commerce platform 'Amazon' through Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI) as e-marketing channel. Registration on GeM portal was completed and Professional catalogues and brochures were also developed," an official said. "Reputed designers are being roped in to develop new product range in line with present market trends and fashions", he added.

Notably, wool is the only natural fibre in which the nation is deficient. A proper processing, grading, marketing, and value addition will turn around fortunes for farmers dealing with it.

Domestic production of wool in the country is not adequate and the industry is dependent on imports. The wool import to the nation stands at 77 million Kgs per year.

In a recent meeting chaired on revival of wool industry in J&K, Additional Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo said that the considerable wool production amalgamated with the installation of processing units would result in bolstering the economy of UT.

### Eid-Ul- Zuha Preparations

## Pole Orders Movement Of Essentials, Sacrificial Animals On Priority

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Tuesday directed traffic police to facilitate movement of vehicles of fruit, vegetable and sacrificial animals on priority.

The Div Com passed these directions in a meeting convened to facilitate hassle-free movement of perishable and essential commodities laden vehicles on NH44, an official spokesperson said.

Various fruit associations besides mutton and poultry dealers were directed to coordinate with administration for diversion of loaded vehicles through NH44 so that the trucks carrying essential and perishable products are given priority to ply on NH44.

They were asked to contact Whatsapp number-9469807526 of the Divisional Traffic Control Room established for diversion of vehicles through NH44.

The Div Com directed that all Oil and LPG tankers besides FCI empty vehicles shall ply through Mughal Road.

Moreover, he directed that drivers of all eight to ten tyre loaded vehicles shall ensure movement through Mughal road.

While reviewing Eid arrangements, Div Com directed Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and officers of Sheep Husbandry



and Animal Husbandry departments to ensure availability of sufficient numbers of sacrificial animals to the people.

He asked Director Sheep Husbandry to motivate local tribal people to supply large numbers of livestock on Eid so people do not face dearth of sacrificial animals.

He directed officers to ensure that sufficient quantities of sacrificial animals are available at sale sites established by District Administration Srinagar and FCS&CA.

Moreover, he asked SMC to collect skins of sacrificial animals in the city while ULB was asked to collect skins in all forty municipalities for proper disposal.

Div Com said that due to Covid restrictions in the previous couple of years people faced difficulties, so now people will

celebrate Eid ul Adha with enthusiasm.

He further asked the enforcement teams to ensure healthy sacrificial animals are available and asked them to monitor rate and weight.

Further, Div Com directed to conduct market checking and ensure that meat and poultry besides other essentials are available in the market.

The meeting was attended by DIG traffic; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Commissioner SMC; Officers of Legal Metrology, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs besides CE Mughal Road, AC Food Safety and Supplies, Tehsildar Waqf Board; members of various Fruit associations and poultry and mutton dealers.

### Amarnath Yatra

## Mehta Directs Officers To Follow SOPs During Bad Weather

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday chaired a meeting of officers from Civil and Police administration for first hand appraisal from the officers for the smooth conduct of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra 2022.

Principal Secretary Health and Medical Education Department, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Inspector General of Police Kashmir, Secretary Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Principal Government Medical College Srinagar, Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police, Ganderbal /Anantnag, Director Health Services Kashmir and other concerned attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

While enquiring about the arrangements being put in place for pilgrims after the Yatra was suspended on both the routes due to inclement weather, Dr Mehta impressed upon the concerned officers that all the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be followed.

On the occasion, he enquired about the arrangements and other back up plans during the inclement weather conditions.

He directed all the concerned to avoid unnecessary chaos and review the holding capacities of Yatries at the lodgements along the twin Amarnath Cave routes.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary also instructed the officers to ensure cleanliness of tracks so that pilgrims would

## 6,351 Pilgrims Leave From Jammu Amid Tight Security

**JAMMU:** Amid tight security, the sixth batch of over 6,300 Amarnath pilgrims on Tuesday left for the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir, officials said.

A total of 6,351 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here in a convoy of 239 vehicles amid heavy security of CRPF, the officials said.

Of these, 4,864 are males, 1,284 females, 56 children, 127 sadhus, 19 sadhvis and one transgender, they said.

They said 2,028 pilgrims heading for Baltal base camp were the first to leave in 88 vehicles around

3.35 am followed by the second convoy of 151 vehicles carrying 4,323 pilgrims for Pahalgam camp in Kashmir.

The annual 43-day pilgrimage commenced on June 30 from the twin base camps -- Nunwan in Pahalgam of south Kashmir's Anantnag and Baltal camp in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

Till today, over 72,000 pilgrims had offered their prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-Shivling, the officials said.

The Yatra is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

not face any inconvenience during their pilgrimage.

He also directed the health department to ensure round the clock health care facilities along both the tracks to tackle high altitude related problems being faced by yatries. While following protocols, all necessary arrangements to be put in place to immediately shift the yatries facing acute problems.

While discussing the traffic management along the National highway and along the Yatra routes of Baltal and Pahalgam, Dr Mehta directed the Traffic Police to facilitate movements of perishable items, tourists and people alike.

He also maintained that the traffic advisory issued by the

Traffic Department must be adhered to so that people do not face any inconvenience.

While complimenting the Civil and Police administration for the smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra so far, the Chief Secretary assured that all the necessary support would be extended to them for the successful conduct of Amarnath Yatra 2022.

## Seminar On 'Drug Free Baramulla' Held At Govt Degree College



Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** In view of growing menace of drugs and to spread awareness among the students about ill effects of substance abuse, the District Administration in collaboration with Police Drug de-addiction center Baramulla, Municipal Council Baramulla and Global Youth Foundation on Tuesday organized a Seminar on 'Drug Free Baramulla' at Government Degree College (GDC) Baramulla. A large number of students and teachers participated in the seminar.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar presided the seminar as chief guest while as Senior Superintendent of Police, Rayees Mohammad Bhat was the special guest on the occasion. President Municipal Council Baramulla, Touseef Raina was also present on the occasion.

The main aim of the Seminar was to inculcate awareness among the students and people about the drug addiction with the sole objective to eradicate the drug menace from the district.

Students from different schools participated in the Seminar and briefly threw light on the methods of de-addiction, causes and effects.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the Drugs and other narcotics cultivation and related activities are dangerous for the entire society, particularly for the younger generation.

She stressed on creating more awareness so that the drug menace is eradicated completely from the society and a message be conveyed to people that drug use is not only banned by the law, but negated by society and religion too.

The DC said that self introspection is a must for all in order to stay away from such evils and ill habits that lead to drug abuse.

She asserted that youth should not groom themselves with gender bias which leads to sketching of abuses. She further reiterated that Success comes to those who tend to be good humans in their lives.

SSP Baramulla in his address deliberated upon the importance of awareness vis-à-vis drug abuse and the possible remedies available.

The representatives of Global Youth Foundation also spoke on the occasion and threw light on ill effects of drugs in society and stressed upon the civil society among religious preachers, teachers and students to come forward to highlight the causes and consequences of drug abuse.

## Mission Directorate Women Empowerment Holds One Day Seminar On Mental Health Wellbeing

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** One day seminar was organised on Mental Health Wellbeing by Mission Directorate Women Empowerment Social Welfare Department J&K for the functionaries of One stop centres for Women, Mahila Shakti Kendra and Child Protection Services.

Mission Director ICPS/ Women Empowerment Harvinder Kour JKAS in her opening remarks highlighted the importance of Mental Health and the emerging mental health issues among women and children. She also

stressed upon the training of the staff on various emerging issues so that they are well equipped to deal with the survivors. In future more such thematic training shall be conducted for the staff in order to capacity build them.

Dr Anjuman Bains, the expert speaker threw light on the problem solving techniques for dealing with mental health issues and developed the understanding among the participants about the ways to deal with persons approaching them in their centres.

Vote of thanks was presented by Sameena Mir, Gender Specialist, Women Empowerment J&K.

## Online Registration For Recruitment Into Army As Angiveers Begins

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Online registration for recruitment into the Indian Army under the Centre's Agnipath scheme for Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh commenced on Tuesday, officials said.

A recruitment rally will be conducted by Army Recruiting Office, Srinagar, from September 17 to September 30 at Haiderbeig, Pattan in Baramulla district.

"The recruitment rally will be for recruitment as Agniveers

under Agnipath scheme," a Srinagar-based defence spokesman said.

He said all eligible unmarried male candidates born between October 1, 1999 and April 1, 2005 with requisite educational qualifications from J&K belonging to Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Badgam, Kupwara, Shopian, Ganderbal, Bandipora and Kulgam districts and UT of Ladakh can apply for enrolment under categories of Agniveer General Duty, Agniveer Technical, Agniveer Clerk/Store Keeper Technical and Agniveer Tradesmen.

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Dt: 04-07-2022

Subject: Date Extension Corrigendum w.r.t Notice 97 of 2022, dated 14-06-2022.

In view of several requests by the prospective bidders in respect of the "e-Tender" (RFP) for "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Operation, Maintenance and Commercialization of the product of Corporation's Apple Juice Plant at Doabgah, Sopore, Baramulla, J&K, initially for a period of five (05) years and extendable by another spell of five (05) years, based on successful performance", Last Date of Online Bid Submission is extended by a spell of TwoWeek's (07 days) time and as such the Last Date of Online Bid Submission would be up to 19-07-2022. Subsequently the Bid Opening Date would be 21-07-2022.

Other Terms and Conditions will remain the same unless notified otherwise.

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